

## **Private Rupert Francis CHITTICK      07-F-15**

Rupert Francis Chittick was born on 16 April 1907 as son of Frank Thomas and Eva Chittick from Winnipeg, Manitoba. His parents divorced in 1920. He had one brother and two sisters. His brother was discharged from the U.S. Army due to being over the maximum age.

Rupert Francis left school after Grade 11, plus 1 year of Sales Promotion at the University of Los Angeles. He was then 20 years a salesman. He was a very successful businessman and salesman, very intelligent and had a favorable attitude. He was alert, quick thinking and had an attractive manner as well as leadership abilities.

Rupert Francis Chittick enlisted on 25 May 1944 in Toronto with The Irish Regiment of Canada. He came to the UK on 21 November 1944, saw action in Italy from 24 January 1945 till 3 March 1945. His unit was transferred to the Western Front on 4 March 1945.

Rupert Francis died of wounds as a German Prisoner of War. On the night Rupert was wounded, the platoon was hiding in the hay in the barn, awaiting a counter-attack. L/Cpl Ledsham was in the process of relieving the watch in the farmhouse when he saw German's moving past the window. At that time, Chittick was in the loft of the barn on watch when the Germans attacked and he was shot in the abdomen. After a brief firefight the remaining members of the platoon, who were not able to escape, were forced to surrender. They tended to Chittick's wounds before he was evacuated by German ambulance to hospital

in Emden. He was taken into the operation room and then into a private room. He died 18 hours after admission to hospital on 30 April 1945 in the age of 38 years.

