



Corporal Daniel Peter MacKenzie, (service number F60134), born 1918 in Victoria Cross, Prince Edward Island, Canada, son of John and Rachel MacKenzie of Summerville/Victoria Cross in Prince Edward Island, Canada, died in action in April 1945, age 26, and is buried in The Netherlands at The Holten War Cemetery.

Per the newspaper, 'Eastern Graphic' in its May 10, 2006 issue, "*Corporal Daniel P. MacKenzie 1918 - 1945, volunteered for service in May, 1939. He served with the PEI Highlanders before being sent to England in May, 1943. A few weeks later, he was posted to North Africa with the Carleton and York Regiment where heavy fighting was hand-to hand. Then he went to Germany and Holland and while*

*leading his men a sniper got him. He passed away the following day on April 13, 1945."*

*His niece, Carol Burke, provided more information on his life:* Dan MacKenzie grew up on a farm in Victoria Cross, Prince Edward Island, and attended Victoria Cross school. He had 3 brothers Johnny, Billy, and Angus, all deceased, and 3 sisters: Florence Rodgerson, Mabel MacNeill, and Edna Campbell, all living in Prince Edward Island. Dan enjoyed playing hockey and ball with his siblings and working on the farm with his father.

Dan joined the services in 1940, serving in the Prince Edward Island Regiment until May 1943, when he proceeded to England. A few weeks later he was posted to North Africa. In the fall of 1943, Dan was transferred as reinforcement to the Carleton and York Regiment. His regiment fought just north of Ortona, Italy. Under his leadership, he disposed his men so cleverly that several determined counter-attacks by the Germans were rendered abortive and very costly. Immediately after this action, Dan was promoted to L. Cpl second in command of his section.

Within a period of weeks Dan was promoted on the field to the rank of Corporal. Cpl MacKenzie was in the forefront of the assaulting Infantry that bitterly fought Gustro, Hitler and Gothic Line battles. Cpl Dan MacKenzie was wounded in action in Holland (Wilp) on April 13, 1945. The following day he passed away as the result of his injuries in the hospital at Lochem. The fact that Cpl MacKenzie's death came so close to the end of the war and after such a long period of action only added to the sorrow of his loved ones.

Dan's brother, my Uncle Angus, went all through the war also. Angus joined the army in May of 1941 and soon went overseas to England. Angus's regiment served in Southern England for 2 years until they were finally stationed in Bournemouth, England. On June 6, 1944 Angus was in the greatest seaborne invasion on Juno Beach in the middle of it all, picking up the wounded soldiers providing first aid and getting them back safely behind Allied lines. He was a medic, working with the field ambulance in France. His scars were bad memories. Angus married a girl from England that he met during the war and they had 2 children. He passed away March 27, 2006 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

