



Trooper Steve MICHLOSKY

Steve Micholsky's early years were typical of life of a subsistence mixed farm south-east of Lake Winnipeg in that era. He achieved a grade VIII education in a one-room country schoolhouse and in sports baseball was his favourite game to play. He also showed interest in motor mechanics and his trade was listed as "Truck and Tractor Man". He is remembered to have been a very nice person of good character with many friends, a hard worker, and a good dancer, who was a regular at the Saturday night barn dances. He was a gentleman who showed respect to the ladies and they in return adored him.

In 1941 he left home (Ladywood, Manitoba) to join his brother John and sister-in-law Kay (nee Slobodzian) in Red Lake (Ontario). There he worked in the Hasaga Gold Mines until July 1942, when, at the age of 19, he joined the Army. He received his basic training in Dundurn, Saskatchewan and Portage La Prairie qualifying as an armoured car driver – wheeled and tracked – Class III. In March 1943 he embarked from Halifax to England. In October he embarked from Scotland on the American troopship "The Edmund B. Alexander" to Sicily. The convoy was attacked by Luftwaffe JU-88's and one ship sank, though so slowly that there was no loss of life. Among the rescued were 89 nursing sisters. In 1944 in Italy he was in action in the major battles of Liri Valley, The Gothic Line, Lamone Crossing, Missano Ridge and

Fosso Vecchio. His last engagement with German Troops on Italian soil was at the Senio Dykes from December 1944 to January 1945. In March 1945 he landed at Marseilles, France and later cross into Belgium. By the first week of April 1945 he had crossed the Dutch border and the Rhine at Emmerich into German territory. He later re-crossed the German-Dutch border to patrol along the Twenthe Canal with the 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment. While guarding the flank of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division and cutting deep into enemy positions in a powerful attack towards /Zwolle, Trooper Steve Micholsky, in an infantry role, was killed in action by machine gun fire in a fight with the Germans on Sunday. April 8, 1945 at a point approximately eight kilometers north-east of Deventer. He was buried with religious rites on April 14 near where he fell. In March 1946 his last remains were carefully exhumed and reverently reburied on the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten, Holland.

