



Rifleman Melvin Charles SMITH 07-F-09

Rifleman Melvin C. Smith from McCreary of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada was killed on 4 May 1945 at the age of 23.

He was visiting an elder brother in Trail, BC, when he enlisted. He was the son of Raymond and Ada Smith and was survived by his wife Irene Smith and their daughter Edwina.

His brother writes on 9 November 2001:

Melvin was raised on a farm with 10 siblings and attended school in the Royal Oak District. He was a hunter, trapper and enjoyed playing basketball and listening to boxing on the radio. Two years before his death, he gave his sister a letter to be given to his mother "should necessity arise:"

Dear Mum and all. Just a line to let you know that all is fine. I am well and hope this finds you all the same. Well Mum, here is my thought and what I think of fighting for Canada and also what I think of my home.

Let every Canadian fight the last drop of blood in his body. Let him keep the golden fields and the busy streets clean and fresh and let him keep the air he breathes free from the stench of Nazism. I have no regrets of dying. Give this message to my friends and the people of Canada, if it is possible. I would like to thank you Mum and Dad for making my life very happy one indeed, and for giving me possible chance in life to make a success of it. I have no regrets dying for my country; it is a grand country – any man who can call himself a Canadian should be proud to die in the struggle for freedom, which I am sure Canada will always have. I am sure that our troops – the Lucky ones – will march victorious through the streets of Berlin. I am proud of my country and proud of those brave lads of The Tank Corps with whom I had the honour to fight side by side. So I will say good-bye and God bless you all. Love.

Your son Mel.

Smith Esker, east of Nichol Lake was named after him in 1989.

