

Originated 13 Feb 45

40/P & S/1420 (5918) OPA 1

5 Cdn Inf Brigade 2 Cdn Inf Division 3 Cdn Corps

Schedule No. (to be left blank) Unit Calg Highrs (CIC)

Army No. and Rank M-192056 Acting Sergeant

Name Michael MELNYCHANKO
(Christian names must be stated)

Date recommendation passed forward
Received Passed
Brigade 14 Feb 16 Feb
Division FEB 18 1945 MAR 12 1945
Corps MAR 12 MAR 21
Army 23 MAR 1945 1 APR 1945

Action for which commended
(Date and place of action must be stated)

Recommended by

Honour or Reward

(To be left blank)

On 8 February 1945, the Calgary Highlanders attacked and captured the town of WYLER, GERMANY. The establishment of a temporary communication and maintenance route for 30th British Corps depended on the success of this operation.

Sergeant Melnychanko, acting as a platoon commander, under heavy enemy mortar fire, led his platoon through an open field infested with mines to the main enemy communication trench, clearing the enemy from slit trenches as they advanced.

Heavy fire from enemy snipers in a house near this trench was causing casualties and Sergeant Melnychanko left a section of his platoon at a fork in the communication trench to contain this sniper party while he proceeded to the assistance of another platoon which had suffered heavy casualties and were forced to ground by machine gun fire. Sending ten of his

(R.L. Ellis)

Lawrence G. Holt

Lt-Col - Calg Highrs

[Signature]
COMD 5 CDN INF BDE

COMD 2 Cdn Inf Div

[Signature]
Maj Gen

COMD 2 Cdn Corps

[Signature]
Lt-Gen

(G.G. Simonds)

COMD 2 Cdn Corps

17 Mar 45

[Signature]

H. D. G. Crerar, Gen.

G.O.C.-in-C.

First Canadian Army.

PTO

men to reinforce this platoon and taking six men with him, he located and, by sound tactics, succeeded in surprising and capturing three machine guns (MG42s) with their crews.

Now being close to the house from which the snipers were firing he ordered his PIAT into action and made his way with three men along communication trenches, outflanking the house. He charged the position at the head of his little party, killed two of its defenders and captured 18 prisoners.

The job finished, he reorganized his platoon on its objective, enabling another company to pass through.

During the operation, Sergeant Melnychanko's platoon captured approximately 75 prisoners and this NCO's unusual courage and disregard for his own safety, coupled with his cool, good judgment and initiative contributed in no small measure to the success of his battalion's attack.

If a casualty as under, fill in date

Nature of Casualty	Date
Killed in action	
Died of Wounds	
Died	
Missing	
Prisoner of War	

B. L. Don Draney
FIELD MARSHAL
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
21 ARMY GROUP