PTO

Date recommendation passed forward Brigade 2 Cdn Inf Division Received Brigade Unit The Calgary Highlanders (CIC (to be left blank) Army No. and Rank M. 105583 Christian names must be stated Honour Action for which commended Recommended To be (Date and place of action must be stated) left blank) Reward On 26 April 1945 the Calgary Highlanders were ordered to capture GRUPPEN-BUHREN, GERMANY. "A" Company was detailed to secure the first objective to serve as a firm base for the battalion attack. To reach this objective "A" Company had to cross 1200 yards of open, flat ground completely devoid Maj-Gen of cover and to assist them a smoke programme was Comd & Cdn Inf Div laid on. Unfortunately, due to a sudden change in wind, the smoke cleared and the Company, now exposed, was subjected to most intense 20 mm, IMG and small arms fire which killed the platoon commander of number nine platoon, the leading platoon, and caused many other casualties. L/Cpl Rourke, realizing that he was now the senior NCO in the platoon immediately took over command of the platoon and skilfully led the men over the First Cdn Army

remaining 700 yards of open ground, through the barbed wire entarlements and enemy crawl trenches and into the final and successful assault of the objective.

Once on the objective, L/Col Rourke quickly reorganized the platoon and made a further bound to attack an 88 mm gun which was knocked out and the crew captured. A group of enemy now appeared on the platoon left flank an L/Col Rourke immediately moved his men over and engaged them, capturing a further twelve prisoners.

This junior NCO, by his initiative, good judgment and complete disregard for his personal safety, not only was directly responsible for the capture of an enemy gun and sixteen prisoners but also caused by his bravery and splendid leadership the collapse of enemy resistance in the area which resulted in the complete success of the company attack.

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