

Originated 25 October 1944

O.P.A. 1
40/P & S/1420 (5/42)

Date recommendation
passed forward

5 Cdn Inf Brigade 2 Cdn Inf Division 2 Cdn Corps
CIG (The Calgary
Highlanders)
Schedule No. Unit
(to be left blank)
Army No. and Rank Major

Received	Passed
Brigade 28 Oct 44	4 Nov 44
NOV 5 1944	NOV 11 1944
Division NOV 12	NOV 14
Corps 16 NOV 1944	29 NOV 1944
Army	

Name Bruce McKENZIE
(Christian names must be stated)

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

Recommended by Honour or Reward (To be left blank)

On the night of 21/22 Sep 44, The Calgary High-landers were to establish a bridgehead over the Albert Canal, "C" Company doing the initial crossing to the north bank, "D" Company following to extend the bridgehead to the east, "A" Company following to extend the bridgehead to the north.

D.G. MacLauchlan
(D.G. MacLauchlan)
Lt-Col
CO Calg Highrs

Immediately "C" Company had established the initial bridgehead, "D" Company, commanded by Major McKenzie moved across the canal and proceeded toward their objective. They were fighting their way gradually out to the east when, at about 0800 hours on 22 September company headquarters located a machine gun that was dug in nearby, and which was causing considerable trouble. Major McKenzie personally stalked the position and shot three of the crew, the remaining two abandoning the gun and escaping.

W. J. MacLellan
DAG
IMMEDIATE
COMD. 2 CDN. INF. BDE.
W. J. MacLellan
Brig
A/Comd 2 Cdn Inf Div

G. G. Simonds
(G. G. Simonds) Lt-Gen
Comd 2 Cdn Corps
Nov 44

H. G. Crerar
Sgd (HDG Crerar) Lt Gen
300-10-C
First Cdn Army P.T.O.

P.T.O.
B. H. Bond
FIELD MARSHAL
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
21 ARMY GROUP

About 1000 hours the enemy began to infiltrate and a strong counter-attack developed along the Canal bank. Major McKenzie went forward to his right platoon under heavy machine gun fire, and with complete disregard for his own safety, went from trench to trench encouraging his men and distributing ammunition.

An extremely heavy ground fog developed about 1100 hours making it difficult to maintain communication between platoons and impossible to maintain mutual observation or to observe the enemy in the gaps between the platoon positions. Enemy infiltration was becoming serious and heavy machine gun fire was continuous. In order to maintain the continuity and security of the bridgehead Major McKenzie organized the withdrawal of his company to a line of houses 200 yards to the rear. He personally remained in position covering the withdrawal until everyone was clear, so controlling the movement that the withdrawal was accomplished with a minimum of casualties.

When working his own way back to the new company position he discovered a sergeant, seriously wounded, trying to crawl back for medical treatment. Major McKenzie picked him up and half carried him back to where he could get stretcher bearers who evacuated the wounded man. Major McKenzie's gallant act probably saved this NCO's life.

During the entire operation Major McKenzie acted with great valour and a complete disregard for his personal safety. That his company from its new position successfully repelled the counter attack and kept intact their portion of the perimeter of the bridgehead was due largely to this officer's inspiring leadership and coolness under fire. Had "D" Company's defense failed the success of the entire operation involving not only the Calgary Highlanders but the entire brigade would have been prejudiced.

If a casualty as under, fill in date.

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