

HEADQUARTERS
2 CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISION
IN THE FIELD

C I T A T I O N

B-131588 Cpl Hunter, RSW

On the night of 4/5 August 1944, immediately preceding the armoured drive of Canadian forces through the strong enemy positions at CAEN, it was necessary to determine whether there were any new German minefields which would hinder the advance in its early stages.

A reconnaissance party was therefore ordered to proceed forward of our advanced infantry positions in the vicinity of BEAUVOIR FARM between VERRIERES and MAY-SUR-ORNE.

In order that the reconnaissance could undertake its task without detection by an alert enemy, party was limited to three sappers, without infantry support, commanded by Cpl Hunter.

Cpl Hunter took his party forward on this difficult and dangerous mission at 2300 hrs. On reaching a position in front of our own forward troops, the enemy laid down a mortar barrage which was followed by local attack. The party came under heavy small arms and mortar fire but realizing the importance of the search for mines, Cpl Hunter continued his work in an exposed position, leading and encouraging his men in their task. With complete disregard of enemy fire, this NCO made a most thorough job and completed the reconnaissance in two hours. It was then definitely known that the armoured drive would not be held up by mines at the start line.

Cpl Hunter did his work efficiently under difficult conditions displaying outstanding leadership and determination. His gallantry and courage under fire, materially assisted in the successful mounting of the initial attack, which was followed by the Divisional break-through towards FALAISE.