



## **Stephen Joseph Fedak**

**H/77250**

Stephen Joseph Fedak was born on August 18, 1921, in McCreary, Manitoba, Canada, to Peter and Annie Fedak. He was 1.81 meters tall, with gray eyes, brown hair and a solid build. Both parents were born in Ukraine. He had two older brothers, Mike and William, and four sisters. Kate, Tilly, and Pearl (Perry) were older than Stephen, and Minnie was the youngest of the seven children.

From a young age until he was drafted, Stephen worked on his father's farm. He was athletic, playing both baseball and football. His religion was Greek Catholic.

On June 10, 1941, at the age of 19, he voluntarily enlisted in the Canadian Army. His initial training began in August 1941 in Winnipeg. He was assigned to the 18th (Manitoba) Reconnaissance Battalion. During his medical examination, he was described as a strong young man, 6'1" tall, with gray eyes and brown hair. In addition to English, he also spoke fluent Ukrainian and Polish. During his first year in the Canadian Army, he successfully completed various training courses to become a driver of various vehicle types. He was described as a good driver, meticulous in vehicle maintenance, and "a practical man." After successfully completing the final training, he was assigned as a trooper to the 18th Manitoba Armoured Car Regiment.

On August 21, 1942, Stephen departed Halifax for England, and on July 8, 1944, he traveled on to France. On the evening of December 6, 1944, disaster struck. While being sent with two other soldiers to pick up a shipment of coal, they collided with a stationary car/truck near Dinteloord in the dark, after which the vehicle Stephen was in ended up in the adjacent canal, drowning all three occupants.

Stephen was initially buried temporarily in Roosendaal, probably in a separate section of the Roman Catholic cemetery on Kalsdonksestraat. In February 1946, he was reburied at the Canadian Military Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, plot 2, row A, grave 3.

During his time in England, Stephen received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. After his death, he also received the 1939-45 Star, the France-Germany Star, the Defence Medal, and the War Medal.

Source:

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