

THE PERTH REGIMENT OF CANADA

Pte. Ray Saunders (B/144963) MM Citation

MILITARY MEDAL

B. 144963
PRIVATE Ray Derrick SAUNDERS
Perth Regiment

On 31 August 1944, the Perth Regiment had succeeded in consolidating on Feature 111, one of the key positions of the GOTHIC LINE.

At 1000 hours orders were given that "B" Company would lead an attack against Feature 204, a strongly defended position situated NORTH of Feature 111. In the withering fire which was brought down on the leading platoon, the Section Commander was killed and the second-in-command wounded. In spite of the heavy shelling, Private SAUNDERS went forward in an attempt to render first aid to his Section Commander. He then assumed command of the section and led it throughout the attack.

Late that night, after particularly heavy fighting, "B" Company reached its objective. During this attack Private SAUNDERS displayed exceptional courage and leadership in controlling his section. On arrival at the objective, Private SAUNDERS organized the defence of his sector and ensured that his section was ready for any counter attack.

At 0030 hours, 1 September, a determined counter attack was made on the position. In the confused and bitter fighting that followed, Private SAUNDERS and his section put up so fierce a resistance that the enemy was forced to withdraw.

The gallant actions of this soldier were an inspiration to all, and under his leadership the section contributed to the success of the attack.