

## Charlton (Charlie) George Devlin (1913-2004)

Charlie Devlin passed away at Saskatoon City Hospital, on July 3, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Gertrude, a son and daughter, two grandchildren, a great grandson and a brother.

Though born in Cranbrook, B.C., Charlie grew up in the Conquest area of central Saskatchewan. In 1928, he left the family farm for The Pas, Manitoba, then Island Falls, Saskatchewan, where he worked on the construction of the hydroelectric dam. In 1931, Charlie returned to farming at Lucky Lake, Saskatchewan.



At the outbreak of World War II, Charlie joined the South Saskatchewan Regiment, rising to the rank of Company Sergeant Major. He participated in both the Dieppe (1942) and the Normandy (1944) invasions. Wounded at Dunkirk, he was repatriated, and after recuperation and restorative surgery, was discharged in January 1945. Charlie was a charter member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Nutana Branch 362, where he served as Branch President and Zone Commander. One of his proudest moments was to be presented with a Life Time Service Award from the Legion. In the later part of his life, he spent considerable time speaking to children in Saskatoon Schools about Dieppe, his war experiences and the need to find alternative means of conflict resolution.

Charlie had a deep love of sport. He was one of the early organizers and coaches in the Saskatoon Playground Hockey League, receiving life membership in recognition of his contributions. He also coached baseball in the late 1950s and early 1960s and was associated with the Saskatoon Lions Speed Skating Club.

On 1 April 1946, Charlie began a 30-year stint as an entomological technician at the Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Saskatoon, specializing in cutworm biology and control, under the direction of Lloyd Putnam. Charlie was responsible for the operation of light traps, counting and identification of moths, population assessment, and outbreak forecasting. He was also involved in early field trials for chemical control using chlorinated hydrocarbons, testing of bran baits against red-backed cutworm (*Euxoa ochrogaster*), and control of rapeseed pest insects (with Alf Arthur). In one such trial, Charlie's sergeant major experience came to the fore, when he commandeered a highway 'in the name of Her Majesty', to allow the spray plane to land for refuelling, following a sudden outbreak of bertha armyworm (*Mamestra configurata*)!

Charlie retired on 30 December 1976, to enjoy to the full his grandchildren, gardening, fishing, and hunting.

— Cedric Gillott, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan