



# Corporal John Richard Toole

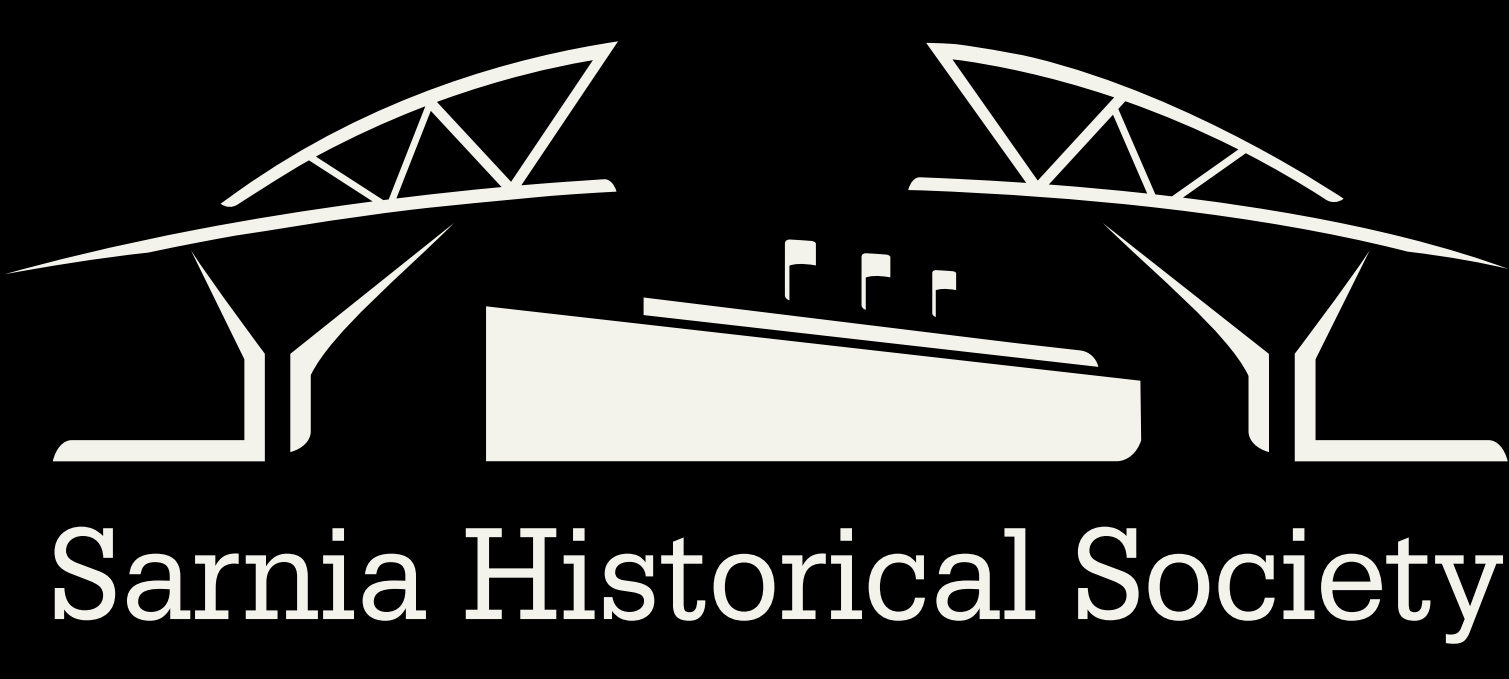
1931 - 1951

THE KOREAN WAR

Army: Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry,  
R.C.I.C., D Company

John was born in Point Edward in 1929, the son of Charles and Ellen Toole. Charles and Ellen had five children together and when John was twelve, the Toole family moved to Hamilton, though many relatives remained in Sarnia. Prior to joining the military, John worked in the Steel Company of Canada. In August 1950, at the age of twenty-one and single, John enlisted in the Canadian Army in Toronto. He became a member of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) R.C.I.C. – D Company. He embarked overseas with the first contingent of Canadians in November 1950. By February 1951, the Patricias were on the move in a general advance against enemy forces south of the 38th parallel.

By mid-1951, UN Command had re-established the 38th Parallel as a stalemate line--the war was becoming positional and more static. On October 11, 1951, Corporal John Toole was killed during fighting on Hill 187. He was part of a patrol that had gone out that night to guard a group of volunteers laying a communication line. The group engaged an enemy patrol early in the morning and John did not receive the signal to retire with the rest of his patrol. Communist soldiers moved into the area and his fellow soldiers heard the firing of his Sten gun and then silence. Four of the Patricias were wounded and two were killed, including Corporal John Toole, age 22. His body was never recovered. He is commemorated on the Commonwealth Memorial in Busan, South Korea.



**THE SARNIA  
WAR REMEMBRANCE  
PROJECT**

by Tom Slater and Editor Tom St. Amand