



# Sapper John O'Hara Wright

1928 - 1951

THE KOREAN WAR

Army: Royal Canadian Engineers

John was born in Sarnia in 1928, the only son of Daniel and Laura Wright. Daniel and Laura had four children together, John being the only son. John was raised and educated in Sarnia, but by late 1940, the Wright family had moved to Stratford, though relatives remained in Sarnia and Petrolia. In April 1948, at age nineteen, John enlisted for service in the Canadian Army in Toronto, during the early stages of the Cold War. Two years after enlisting, in June 1950, the Korean War broke out.

John became Sapper with the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers and departed for Korea in June 1951. By then, the 38th Parallel had been established as a stalemate line, and the two sides had begun to solidify and to dig in with deep defensive positions around this line. The war was mostly fought from trenches into no man's land. The fighting featured endless patrols; night raids against hilltop trench positions; booby traps, minefields, and barbed wire; artillery barrages; long nights standing guard in slit trenches; and repulsing enemy attacks and digging tunnels and trenches. Only two months after arriving overseas, Sapper John Wright lost his life while in action.

On August 28, 1951, while engaged in road clearing, he was fatally injured by an exploding mine. Anti-personnel landmines and booby traps were used extensively by both forces. John Wright, 22, is buried in the United Nations Cemetery in Busan, South Korea.



**THE SARNIA  
WAR REMEMBRANCE  
PROJECT**

by Tom Slater and Editor Tom St. Amand