

So, who were these Six Soldiers from our City who lost their lives as a result of the Korean War?

Corporal Albert R. EHLER

Corporal Albert R. EHLER – Service # SF.45561 – Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. (R.C.A.S.C.)- son of Walter Henry and Annie Lavinia (nee George) EHLER – Died 27 February 1952 – Buried in Christ Church Anglican Cemetery in Queensport, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia, where his parents and several other EHLER's are buried. He was survived by his parents, then living in St. Catharines, and three sisters and a brother. His sister Mildred Opal Eliza EHLER married 1st. John Peter VOTH and 2nd Bartley SLATER. Opal died on Sunday, November 24, 2002 at the Miramichi Regional Hospital and her obituary provides the following information on the family at that time: she is survived by two sisters Vera (VOROSHUK) of St. Catharines and Melba (MURPHY) of Dartmouth, NS; and one brother, Frank EHLER of Queensport, NS.

Corporal John Francis GILL

Corporal John Francis GILL – Service # SB.158933 – member of the First battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment – Enlisted on January 4, 1948 in London, Ontario - died while on patrol duty on New Year's Day, January 1, 1953 at the age of 26 years. He is buried in the UN Memorial Cemetery located in Tanggok, a suburb of Busan, South Korea – grave location 30-10-9, grave 1377 (his cemetery plaque indicates that he was a Lance Corporal). He had been in Korea for about a year. John was born on December 19, 1926 in Hamilton, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor and Gladys GILL of 38 Dufferin Street, Merritton and husband of Jean Elizabeth Capes GILL of Brockville and father of one son Wayne Douglas GILL. He also had three brothers: Richard, Sidney and Ronald. Born in Hamilton in 1926, the family came to Merritton when he was 10 years old. He was an employee of the Provincial Paper Company before

joining the Canadian Army in January of 1945, serving as a Rifleman with Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment and C.I.C. January 10th 1945 to February 22, 1946, remaining in the military service until his death. A photo of Cpl. John GILL can be found on the front page of The St. Catharines Standard issue of Saturday, January 3, 1953. Commemorated on the Merritton Cenotaph and on Page 26 of the Korean War Book of Remembrance.

Private Joseph Leonard Raymond GAGNIER

Private Joseph Leonard Raymond GAGNIER – Service # SB7286 – member of the Royal Canadian Regiment, Second Division - Enlisted on January 10, 1951 in Toronto - died September 30, 1953 at the age of 23 years at the St. Catharines General Hospital. After a 11:00 a.m. Solemn High Mass of Requiem in St. Catherine of Alexandria Church on October 3, 1953, he was buried in Section A, Division N.C.2, Veteran's Plot, Grave 5, 17 in Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines. He was survived by his widow Patricia Ann (née Brunt) Donaghue GAGNIER, his parents Leonard and May GAGNIER of St Catharines, and three sisters Gloria, Donelia and Alma all in St. Catharines, and a brother Roland in Genoa, New York. Joseph was born on September 12, 1930 in Alexandria, Ontario. He was an employee in the stock room of McKinnon Industries. During the Korean War he was seriously wounded in action of June 22, 1951, he was invalided home in early 1953. He was a member of St. Catharine of Alexandria Church, Royal Canadian Legion and the United Autoworkers Local 199. Commemorated on Page 25 of the Korean War Book of Remembrance.

Private Roger Conway LEACH

Private Roger Conway LEACH – Service # SB.41474 - member of ‘C’ Company, 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry - killed in action in South Korea on December 9, 1952 at the age of 30 years – son of Letia LEACH of 48 Chaplin Street, St. Catharines and the late Frank LEACH – survived by one sister Mrs. Robert SMITH of Toronto. He had enlisted on April 16, 1941 at the Niagara Barracks. Born September 12, 1923 in St. Catharines- he had attended Memorial School and was a graduate of St. Catharines Collegiate – had worked for the Public Utilities Commission – previously served as an infantryman in World War II in Canada, the United Kingdom and North West Europe. His death was placed on the front page of The St. Catharines Standard of December 10, 1952 – Buried in the UN Memorial Cemetery located in Tanggok, a suburb of Busan, South Korea – grave location plot 21, row 10, grave 1372 (his cemetery plaque indicates that he was a Lance Corporal).

Private First Class James W. SHEA

Private First Class James SHEA – Service # RA12351815 (US Army-service #19260000) – served in the United States Military – 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division during the Korean War and killed in action in North Korea on November 18, 1950 at the age of 24, just shy of his 25th birthday. He enlisted in Erie County, New York. He was a veteran of World War II, having served with the United States Navy. Born December 6, 1926, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James SHEA, who in 1950 were living at 10 Cosby Avenue, St. Catharines. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Cluster. Interment took place in Arlington National Cemetery (Section 34, Grave 309) on April 28, 1955. He had been previously seriously wounded on August 12, 1950 and returned to duty on August 23, 1950. He was seriously wounded a second time on September 15, 1950 and returned to duty on October 2, 1950. After serving in WW11, he worked for Anthes Imperial Company in St. Catharines and was working there when he enlisted in the U.S. Army and serve in Korea. An announcement of his death along with a

photograph of him appears on page 15 of The St. Catharines Standard issue of Monday, December 11, 1950.

The following is from a news story on page 10 of The Niagara Falls New York Gazette issue of Saturday, September 9, 1950: Koreans Wound St. Kitts Man - Pfc. James W. SHEA Jr., 24 has been slightly wounded in action with the U.S. Army in Korea according to word received by his parents Mr. & Mrs. James SHEA, 10 Cosby Avenue. He himself described the action in a letter he wrote home Aug. 17, "I wasn't going to tell you that I got a bullet in my right arm Aug.12, but it's going to be alright in a couple of weeks. It didn't hurt the bone at all. We were sent out – three squads, there 27 men – with one tank and two weapons carriers to destroy three enemy machine guns on a road block. Instead of only three guns there were two regiments of Communist soldiers on each side. As we started through it was like the end of the world. A couple of guys and myself were the only ones to get through with just slight wounds."

Private Lloyd Stanley ROACH

Private Lloyd Stanley ROACH – Service # SB.13831 - member of the Royal Canadian Regiment – died May 3, 1953 in South Korea at the age of 24 years – buried in the UN Memorial Cemetery located in Tanggok, a suburb of Busan, South Korea – grave location 37-2-10, grave 3190. He enlisted on July 28, 1952 in Toronto. Lloyd was born on June 7, 1928 in Pictou, Nova Scotia, the son of George Hocken and Sadie ROACH. He was survived by brothers Victor and Harold and sisters Margaret, Lorraine and Hazel. A brief story appeared on front page of The St. Catharines Standard issue of May 6, 1953 declaring "St. Catharines Soldier Missing" and stating that he was the son of Mrs. George ROACH of 6 George Street, Pictou, Nova Scotia. There is a digital

collection relating to Lloyd, which includes a portrait of him, on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial web site.

Commemorated on page 63 of the Korean War Book of Remembrance.

Researched and submitted by: William J. Stevens