

Lincoln and Welland Regiment R.C.I.C

John Henry Fischer was born July 3, 1907 in Stavely, a small farming town in southern Alberta. He was the middle child between older sister Henrietta, and younger brother, Anthony to parents Henry Fischer and Catherine (Albrecht) Fischer. His paternal grandparents had emigrated from the farm-rich Swabia region of Germany to the United States, and then travelled north to Canada where they were pioneers around the small town of Trout Creek in Northern Ontario in 1880. They were given Free Land Grants to farm north of town on what is now the Weiler Line.

The family travelled to Alberta where John was born; he was named after his Uncle Hans (German for John) Fischer. The family returned to Ontario a year later. John attended the rural, one room Hummel School near their farm, from age 7-14, where he completed his Junior 4th. When he was only 13, John's mother passed away following a lung infection. As a young boy he loved fishing, and played baseball for the Trout Creek team. When he grew older, John apprenticed as a diesel mechanic, and at age 25, bought a dump truck and set up his own business hauling gravel in the local area. A resident recalls him coming with his truck and giving her a little bracelet trinket. He had black hair and brown eyes, was a slim 5'8", and had a kind heart and a cheerful disposition. John was a creative sort, had beautiful figurative handwriting and enjoyed the intricacies of watch repair. At this time he was living with his father and three uncles, but they found that keeping the house running smoothly, was a challenge. Around 1938, Marie Cecile Charbonneau, from the neighbouring town of Callander, was hired as a housekeeper.

In due time John and Cecile fell in love. Then, in Sept. 1942, at the age of 35, John answered the call and enlisted with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment – Royal Canadian Infantry Corps based out of Toronto; his pay was \$1.50 / day. A year later, on December 27, 1943, Cecile and John were married at St Alphonse Parish in Callander, Ontario; his older sister, Henrietta was one of their witnesses, and John proudly wore his uniform.

After being trained as a rifleman and spending 3 years on Canadian soil in the provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan, he was deployed overseas to England in January of 1945. In April, John was transferred to Germany as a member of a Reinforcement Unit. After only 7 days in the Oldenburg area of Germany, he was shot by a sniper and died on April 29, 1945. Although he was initially buried on a farm in Edewecht, his body was moved in 1946 to the Holten Canadian War Cemetery. He left behind his beloved Cecile and only daughter, Barbara who still resides in Trout Creek. His name appears on Page 514 in the Book of Remembrance housed in the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in Ottawa; on October 31 of each year, the book is open at his page.

