



Morley Raymond Wright was born on August 22, 1922 in North Bay, Ontario. His father was William Raymond and his mother Mona Annette Wright. His parents were married in 1920 and divorced in 1941. At that time Morley does not know where his father lives. The children are assigned to the mother.

His brother William Samuel was two years older and served in the Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and he had two more sisters, Shirley and Patricia.

The maternal family is of Irish descent. In 1930 Morley and his mother travelled to the United States twice. After his high school, he has three years of technical education.

Before volunteering with the Canadian army on June 17, 1940, he worked as a metal worker ('boiler maker') for 13 months. He is then living with his mother and sisters. He is quite tall at 6 feet (1,83m). He has blue eyes and brown hair and weighs 160 pounds (72,5kg). In 1938, his appendix was removed.

He already had quite a military experience at the time. For example, he served with the Algonquins Rifles from 1937-1940 and with the 48th Highlanders of Canada from January to May 1940. There they apparently find out that he is only 17 years old and he is discharged from military service. But not before a picture of him has been taken in the new canteen of the 48th Highlanders of Canada where he is taught first principles of dancing (furthest soldier on the right in the right picture).



**DANCE INSTRUCTORS ARE "ON ACTIVE SERVICE" AT NEW CANTEEN**

The new and more commodious Active Service canteen, provided for the 48th Highlanders of Canada, had its formal opening last night. The Adelaide St. building at once became an entertainment centre for units stationed here. The first evening was filled by instruction in dancing for beginners, and here are some of the boys putting their best foot forward. Merry Burgoyne, at LEFT, is demonstrating the first few steps to J. Braham of the Seaforth Highlanders from Vancouver. At RIGHT, some of the boys are learning the rudiments with the aid of foot diagrams. From the LEFT: George Huson, R.C.A.F.; Hugh McNeill, 48th Highlanders; Robert Beribault and H. Hall, R.C.A.F.; and Morley Wright, 48th Highlanders. The teacher is Mrs. Robert Rankin of St. Catharines. The public is invited to "open house" on Friday.

In 1941 he is finally old enough to join the army and is initially assigned to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada but he is transferred to the Perth Regiment from September 1941.

Training in Canada lasts only a short while because on October 5, 1941 he leaves Halifax, Nova Scotia for Liverpool (UK) to arrive there on October 19.

Further military training in the UK follows and he is promoted to Lance Corporal in March 1942. He will not have been very satisfied with that new role because at his own request he is demoted to the rank of Private at the end of May 1942.

It is striking that during his military career this pattern will repeat itself. He changes rank a few times, whether or not at his own request. For example, we encounter him in the ranks of Lance Corporal, Corporal, A/Lance Sergeant and Private.

After two years of training in the UK, the Perth Regiment is deployed during the invasion and advance by Italy. Morley Wright arrives there on November 8, 1943. For the Canadian army, the campaign in Italy is the longest in the war. For almost two years, they fight a long and arduous road from Sicily to the north of the country. Almost 5,500 men are killed and 19,500 are injured.

Morley is among those who got injured. In his case, twice even, in May and September 1944 and spends time in hospital for that.

From February 22, 1945, the Canadian troops are moved secretly and in a very short time from Italy to France (Operation Goldflake). Most of the journeys to Marseille, France took two days. From there it was a five-day drive to the Belgian border, a distance of 1085 km. By the end of April, more than 60,000 troops and support personnel had been transferred from Italy to Northwest Europe.

Morley and his Perth Regiment are located in the Harderwijk area on April 18, 1945. Three days later, the regiment is moved towards Assen. Around Delfzijl, (province of Groningen) fierce opposition is still offered by the Germans. This despite the fact that large parts of Germany had already been liberated by the Allies. On the night of April 23 to 24, 1945, the Perths come from the north and take the small town of Krewerd. Because the Canadians are too visible during the day, they only fight at night. They are heavily attacked by the German heavy battery Nansum, part of the Atlantic Wall. The Flak battery has four 105 mm guns at its disposal. The Canadians dig in and their tanks cannot reach them to support them. At the beginning of the day, they manage to take Holwierde under cover of a smokescreen. Three Germans are captured and the enemy fire continues all afternoon and causes a number of victims.



On that bright spring day, April 24, 1945, Morley Raymond Wright loses his life along with 7 other Canadian soldiers. Eventually, 44 Canadians are buried on the outskirts of Wirdum. There is now a sign with information.

In the church of Holwierde, Morley, and many other Canadians killed nearby are commemorated on a plaque in the church of Holwierde.



In 1946 Morley Raymond Wright is reburied in the Canadian War Cemetery at Holten in plot III, row F, grave 1.

On his headstone it reads "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them" from the poem "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon, written in September 1914. Now very well-known words that have since been used during commemorations.

Medals:  
1939-45 Star  
Italy Star  
Defence Medal  
War Medal  
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp

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*Sources:*

*ancestry.ca*

*Wikipedia*

*<https://www.cwgc.org>*

