

## Sapper George Alonzo Benner (1921-1944)



George Benner was initially from Toronto and joined the Canadian Army shortly before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was unmarried and listed his civilian trade on his enlistment form as labourer. He received his first training in Petawawa and on qualifying as a sapper was posted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion RCE. In September 1941 he left Halifax for England. He spent the next couple of years with various Engineer and Ordnance Corps units finally being posted into the 6<sup>th</sup> on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1943. Over the next year he qualified as both a plumber and a pioneer.

At the time of D-Day he was a section member of #3 Platoon of the 6<sup>th</sup> and landed in one of the later waves. On the night of 7-8 June he was part of a mine laying party in front of the Canadian positions. George and John Ionel were separated from the 6<sup>th</sup> during a night time German attack. He and Ionel were trapped in no-mans land before being captured. On June 11<sup>th</sup> 1944 he was executed by the Germans.

In 1945 long after the Canadians captured the area where he was murdered his body was recovered. It now rests in the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian Military Cemetery in France.