

## MASTER SERGEANT JOHN WILSON US Army (Deceased)



John Wilson first entered the Army in February 1942. During World War II, he served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater, attaining the rank of Major. He was discharged in 1947, and, a short time thereafter, enlisted in the Army as a Master Sergeant. MSG Wilson was an imposing figure and was known throughout his career as one who seized the initiative.

MSG Wilson, assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) Detachment, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry ("The Wolfhounds"), 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, led a patrol of 30 South Korean police and interpreters to Pangso-ri, Korea, on 13 October 1950 to surprise an enemy guerrilla force before it reached the village. Upon reaching the village and finding it already occupied by the enemy, MSG Wilson first ordered his men to surround it,

then proceeded into the village accompanied by four South Korean police officers. When a group of enemy troops occupying a house refused to surrender and opened fire, MSG Wilson personally led a successful attack on the hostile position. Although a sniper killed him during the action, his patrol dispersed the enemy unit and captured 21 of its members.

A fellow member of MSG Wilson's CIC team later wrote, "John earned many Silver Stars, which he never received, and was one of those who the Corps could truly say was a hero in his own right." MSG Wilson did much to enhance the position of the Counter Intelligence Corps within a military community which never really understood the function and purpose of the intelligence agents being assigned to them. The team member continued, saying that MSG Wilson was very instrumental in helping (former 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Commander) GEN John Michaelis' becoming aware of the importance of the counterintelligence team in combat. "So much, in fact, that several times when attempts were made to withdraw us to division headquarters, General Michaelis would raise all kinds of hell and went as far as to say, and I quote him, 'How can I fight a damn war without counterintelligence people around me?'"

In the course of his military service, MSG Wilson was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, and the American Theater and Japanese Occupation ribbons. On 16 May 1952, a building at Fort Holabird, Maryland, which used to house the US Army Intelligence Center, was dedicated as Wilson Hall, and the above painting was hung there. When Fort Holabird closed in 1974, the painting

moved to Fort Meade, Maryland. In 1976, a suite in Building 4554, which was the headquarters of the US Army Intelligence Agency, was also dedicated in memory of MSG Wilson.

MSG Wilson was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1990. Three years later, Wilson Barracks was dedicated at Fort Huachuca, the location of the Intelligence Center and School since 1972. Wilson Barracks is the headquarters and living space of the Military Intelligence Noncommissioned Officers Academy. The painting of Wilson, which had been missing for many years, was relocated and reinstalled in Wilson Barracks in 2014.



**BG Philip E. Gallagher, Commanding General, Fort Holabird, Joseph R. Wilson, father of MSG John R. Wilson, and COL Henry C. Newton at the dedication ceremony of Wilson Hall, Fort Holabird, on 16 May 1952.**



**Top Picture: CSM Sterling McCormick, CSM Art Johnson, and MG Paul Menoher at the dedication of the NCO Academy's Wilson Barracks in 1993.**

**Bottom Picture: MG Paul Menoher and CSM Sterling McCormick with a photo of Wilson Barracks, during the memorialization ceremony at Fort Huachuca in 1993.**