

# EVELYN DAVIS

## CANADIAN WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS

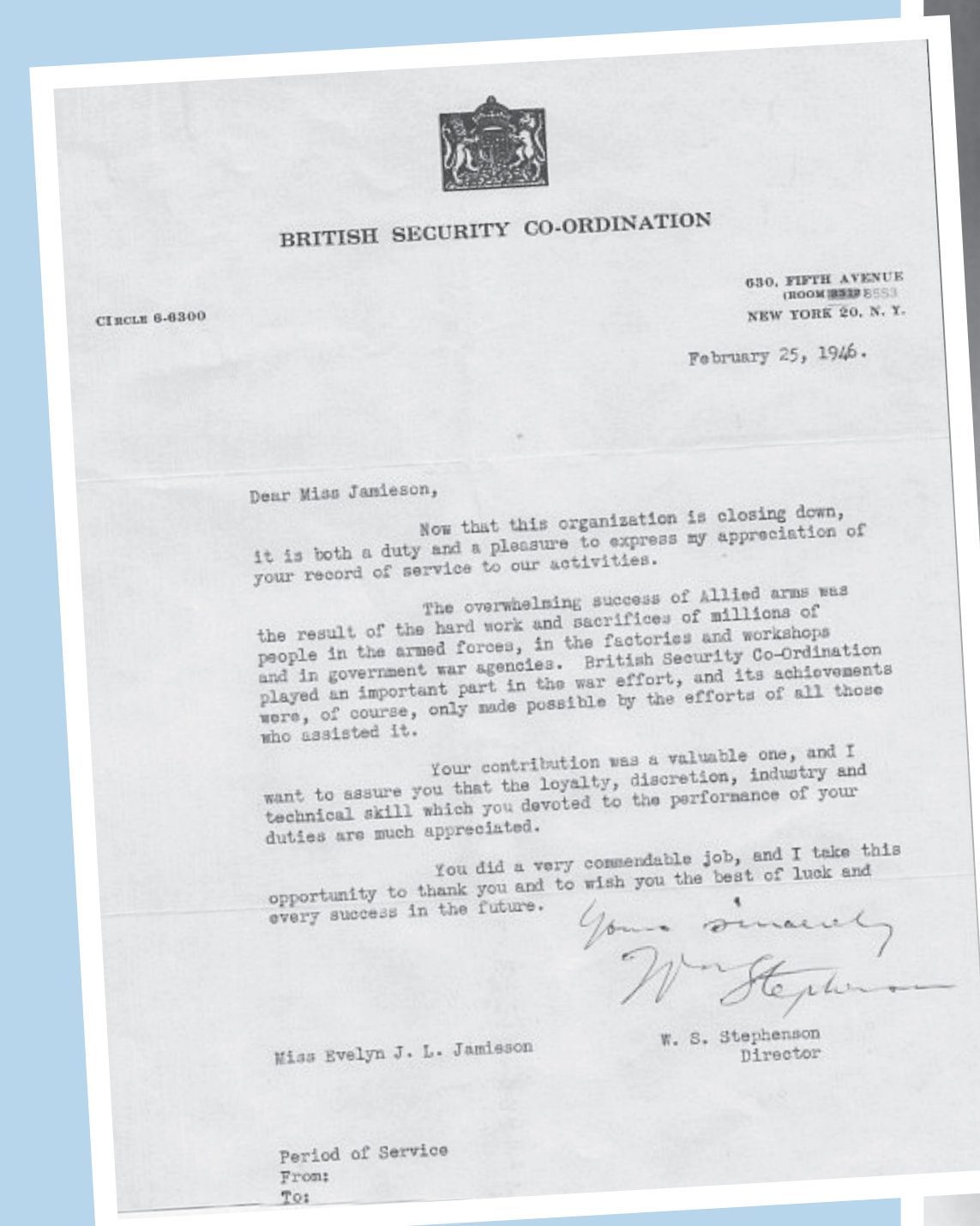
### BALL PLAYER, RADIO OPERATOR AT CAMP X

Evelyn Jamieson was born on a farm just north of Cobourg and attended high school in Port Hope. She decided to join the Canadian Women's Army Corps in response to posters asking for women to join the army so the men could be relieved for front line duty. She was 20 years old when she signed up in March, 1943 as W21244.

Training took place at a barracks in Kitchener, Ontario that housed 70 girls from diverse backgrounds. Upon graduation, Evelyn returned to Toronto's Trinity Barracks (fondly known as "Cockroach Palace"! ) to await her posting. During that time she recalls attending a Victory Bond drive in Toronto with women from all branches of the military, singing wartime songs as they rode street cars with the windows down - much more fun than washing dishes in the barracks!

In early June, Evelyn was sent to #26 Canadian Army Basic Training Centre in Orillia as a stenographer. That was a good time, and even included playing for the local softball team, Bryson's Bread.

Having expressed an interest in wireless radio, Evelyn was sent to Barryfield, Kingston, for further training. Next, she was posted to Camp X near Whitby. Camp X was a former spy training school, at that time being used as a communications centre. This posting fell under the Official Secrets Act and her family had no knowledge, until after the war ended, of where she was stationed or the duties she performed. In October, 1945 Evelyn was discharged from the army, but continued to work at Camp X until her marriage in 1946. In May 2010, she was awarded the Bletchley Park Commemorative Badge from the British government to recognize her work done to help bring the Second World War to a successful conclusion.



Letter of appreciation from  
Wm. Stephenson  
(A Man Called Intrepid)



"The work that we did was very important, which we never realized. But we weren't like the service people fighting in the war. Nobody was shooting at us. We were safe."

Evelyn Davis

"My first job was on a teleprinter as a teletypist. Later, I worked on a Kleinschmidt machine, rather like a clunky typewriter with tape. I spent most of my time working on the Boehme tape puller or undulator. We were sending and receiving traffic to England and to New York and Washington. It was many years after the war, we learned we were sending to Bletchley Park (Britain's Secret Intelligence Headquarters). All traffic was in five letter groups and plain English was never used. My knowledge of Morse code was important."

(Transcript from *The Memory Project* - Historica Canada)



Bletchley Park  
Commemorative  
Badge