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.

Dear Miss Janieson,

Now that this organisation is closing down, it is both a duty and a plasaure to express say appreciation of your record of service to our activities.

The overwholding success of allied arms was the result of the hard work in the factories and workshops and in government war part in the war effort, and its achievements were, of course, only sade possible by the efforts of all those who assisted it.

You contribution was a valuable one, and I want to assure you that the loyalty, discretion, industry and technical skill which you devoted to the performance of your duties are such appreciated.

You did a very commendable job, and I take this opportunity to thank you and to wish you the best of lunk and every success in the future.

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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



Bletchly Park
Commemorative
Badge

"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*)

