



August 13, 1921 was the day Evan was born in Kingston, Ontario.

Son of William D. Johnston and Edith Johnston.

His father was born in Canada; his mother was American by birth.

Religiously they belonged to the Church of England.

When Evan reported for active duty on February 1, 1943, his brother Owen (one year younger than Evan) was already serving his country.

His interests were radio and music.

After primary school, Evan attended Kingston Collegiate Institute and then enrolled in an Arts-Science program at Queen's University in 1939. He studied there for 4 years. According to a report, he scored high on "intelligence".



**University complex**

His good knowledge of the Morse alphabet, his interest in and knowledge of radio and radio technology made him ideally suited for placement in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals (RCCS).

It was also noted that he played trumpet in the college dance band.

He had worked two summers in the maintenance department for the Aluminum Company and had also served a few summers in the Highway Department.

Evan had also volunteered for 7 years (1935-1943) in a cavalry signal unit. In 1940 he had risen to the rank of lieutenant. Probably because of his broad interests and volunteer service he missed his fourth-year exams. It was given that it did not bother him much.

The army considered him suitable as an officer in the RCCS at brigade level.

After being officially assigned to 3-A district depot in Kingston, Evan was soon posted to Brockville at the O.T.C. (Officer Training Center).

In Brockville Evan Llewellyn qualified as a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant on active duty in the RCCS. He obtained several driving licenses, including for motorcycles and wheeled vehicles.

In the meantime, Evan was taken on strength by A7-Canadian Signal Corps Training Centre in Camp Barriefield, Ontario.

In October 1943, Evan had already completed his refresher course and obtained various certificates. At that time, it was noted that his leadership skills could be improved somewhat.

He was given 2 weeks leave and was transferred to Seaforth at the end of October 1943, to the signal service of the 6<sup>th</sup> Division. It was noted that the necessary positions had already been filled in, but Evan was available for active service.

*(Headquarters of the 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division was moved from Esquimalt to Prince George in October 1943, but only coordinated the training and administration of its three component brigade groups which reported directly to Headquarters Pacific Command for operational purposes)*

A transfer followed soon after. As of November 4, 1943, he was assigned to the Pacific Coast Command and became a liaison officer with the Royal Rifles of Canada in Prince George, British Columbia.

Evan was on leave during the turn of the year 1943/1944.

In October 1944, Evan was transferred again. He joined the strength of Liaison-Section at Brigade level in Terrace, British Columbia. When the Pacific Coast Command was disbanded in December 1944, Evan became a liaison officer with the Midland Regiment in Vernon, British Columbia.

In January 1945, this unit deployed to the United Kingdom. According to service records, Evan arrived there on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Royal Winnipeg Rifles (nicknamed the Little Black Devils), to which he would later be assigned, saw significant fighting, including during the Rhineland Offensive.

At Emmerich, the regiment absolved three days of fierce fighting. At Moyland, Germany, they cleared forests where other units had failed.

They were also deployed at Deventer.

The regiment faced particularly heavy losses during the capture of Appingedam, especially at the Langerijp brickworks.



**Brickworks Langerijp**

*Quote: Liberation Route Europe:*

*B Company of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, with more than 80 men, was tasked with attacking the brickworks at Langerijp, where the Germans had established strategic positions.*

*Despite enemy fire, B Company ultimately succeeded in destroying the German positions.*

In Appingedam, a plaque commemorates the fighting the Royal Winnipeg Rifles.

Lieutenant Evan Llewellyn Johnston did not experience any of these battles. According to his army file, he arrived on mainland of Europe well after Victory Europe Day (May 8,



1945), namely on May 23, 1945.

In June 1945, he reported for service in the Far East (Pacific Theater).

Instead Evan was assigned to the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, which were part of the CAOF, the Canadian Army Occupation Force.

Canadian troops who were part of the occupying force that initially remained in Germany. Johnston also remained in Germany.

The last entry we find in Johnston's service records is August 15, 1945:

"Died as a result of injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident."

No information has been found regarding the circumstances of this accident.

Evan Llewellyn Johnston was given a temporary grave in Osterscheps, Germany.

His final resting place was the CWGC Canadian Cemetery in Holten, ref.: 8-A-14.

*He was awarded: 1939-1945 Star; France-Germany Star; 1939-1945 War Medal; and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.*

