

Aircraftwoman II Evelyn (Johnson) Bewley

Royal Canadian Air Force

Family Life:

Evelyn was born on February 10, 1928, to Clara Lumb and Sidney Johnson. Her parents emigrated from the United Kingdom before settling in Etzikom, Alberta, where they took possession of a wheat farm. She had two brothers, Leonard and Derek.

Evelyn recalls walking two miles to the local school where she completed her schooling to grade 9. She was determined to finish her secondary education and moved to Medicine Hat to attend school, while working for room and board. She took 2 years off to work, caring for children in Lethbridge. After receiving a letter from the nuns encouraging her to return to school, she subsequently reenrolled at St. Theresa's Academy in Medicine Hat where she earned a grade 12 diploma.

After graduation, Evelyn worked on the family farm, picked fruit in British Columbia, was a clerk at Kresge Department Store and an elevator operator at the Marquis Hotel in Lethbridge.



After her marriage to Clifton Bewley, Evelyn moved to Toronto where she worked for the T.T.C., delivered newspapers by car, drove a school bus and was employed by Gainsborough Kitchens.

Evelyn and Clifton had two children, Dallas Gene and Barbara Leigh. She has been blessed with five grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Service History:

Aircraftwoman Johnson enlisted for service in Medicine Hat, Alberta, on January 28, 1951. She was sent to St. Jean (St. John), Quebec, for basic training, including learning jujitsu. She was transferred to RCAF Station Clinton where she hoped to qualify as an air traffic controller. Unfortunately, there were not enough recruits to create a class and Aircraftwoman Johnson was alternatively assigned gate duties and sent to London, Ontario. On weekends, she was sent as Military Police, with a fellow sergeant, to have a presence and patrol the streets to ensure good behaviour by visiting RCAF personnel.

Interesting Story:

Evelyn's older brother had volunteered for the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War. She remembers helping put together care packages for servicemen who were posted overseas. Evelyn also collected scrap metal and meat bones for the war effort. These experiences encouraged her to enlist for military service. As she noted, "I was and am very patriotic. At 16, I was not old enough to join during the war so I joined afterwards when I was old enough. I went on leave and met my husband and the rest is history!"