

# Corporal Margaret Ruth Ellis

## Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division

### Family Life

Margaret Ruth Ellis was born in Meaford on December 4, 1915, to Hubert James Ellis and Mary Edith Jay. She had one brother, Ken, and one sister, Pauline. Her father worked as the Express Agent for the CN Rail office in Meaford, while her mother was a homemaker. She completed all but two Grade 12 credits and one year of commercial courses at Meaford High School before completing a refresher course at the Owen Sound Collegiate. After school, she worked as a railway express agent at Meaford, sales clerk and cashier at Kresge's in Owen Sound. At the time of enlistment, she was a bookkeeper at William Kennedy and Sons in Owen Sound and indicated on her Attestation Form that she planned to return there after service. In the 1950s, Margaret moved to the Toronto area. She attended and supported numerous reunions of the RCAF WD for the rest of her life. Margaret died on April 12, 2008 and is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery beside Doris M. Madeley.



### Decorations

- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp

### Military Service

Corporal Ellis enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division in July of 1942. She took basic air force training at Rockcliffe Station and was among the first WDs sent to Trenton to attend the Equipment and Accounting Training School in September 1942. From Trenton, she was transferred to Y Depot, Halifax on October 29, 1942, to continue training. Due to overcrowding and the need for more housing for naval personnel, RCAF Y Depot was relocated to Lachine, Quebec, where Margaret arrived on December 29, 1943. Her next transfer was to Camp Borden on July 17, 1944. She arrived overseas in November 1944 aboard the *Mauritania*. From 1944 to 1946, she was stationed in the back storage area of the Harrods Department Store, where she handled the pay ledgers for airmen and travelling claims for Unit Accounts. In September 1945, she was promoted to Corporal. Cpl. Ellis was released from active service on March 18, 1946 and returned to Meaford.

Margaret enlisted in the Air Force due to the need to "be more independent and a thirst for travel." Of her service she said: "There was a wonderful close feeling among service people which is hard to truly explain to anyone not in the service. To this day I have a number of true friends from the service."