



Ross Eveleigh Johnson

Soldier Profile By: Paul Terrado

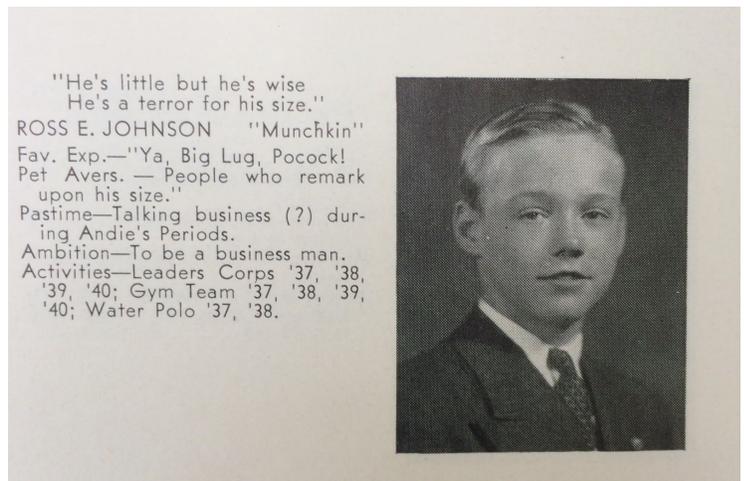


Introduction:

Ross Eveleigh Johnson was a young Flying Officer, born on the 9th of September, 1922 in Montreal. In 1942, during the Second World War, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force, (RCAF). He fought alongside other men around his age as part of the allied effort against the Germans in Europe. Unfortunately he died during active duty on the 15th of July, 1944, during the Battle of Normandy.

Life Before Enlistment:

Johnson was the son of Frederick Ross and Elsie E. Johnson and had a sister named Claire. His father was a businessman, who participated as a bomber pilot in the First World War. Johnson even looked up to his father and followed in his footsteps as throughout his time at high school, specifically...



Westmount High, when he was really active in sports. He was part of the Gym Team from 1937 until his graduation in 1940. He was also part of the Water Polo team from 1937 to 1938. After he graduated in 1940, he went to study Commerce at McGill University, so he could be a businessman like his father. He was there for about two years and was a member of the McGill chapter of Delta Upsilon, until he enlisted to join the fight against the Germans.

Facts During the War:

Johnson enlisted in the summer of 1942 and started his pilot training in Alaska. He received his wings in June of 1943 and was posted to the “Wildcat” squadron, later known as the 438 Squadron of the RCAF. He later transferred to England to continue training. The following year he was promoted to Flying Officer and later started operations against the German targets as part of the Second Tactical Air Force. He and other pilots attacked factories, trains, bridges, and tanks, etc. He later did close support for the army in Normandy, France.



His Death:

On Saturday July 15, 1944, Johnson and four other men were on an authorized run to the Caen sector, in Normandy, to obtain some lumber. However on their way there, the Germans started to lay down a barrage towards their direction. Unfortunately a shell hit next to the truck Johnson and the men were in, The aftermath wasn't positive as Johnson was severely affected by the blast and later died as doctors tried their best to help him survive.

After His Death:

As for other families that lost loved ones at the time the of war, Johnson's family and friends, and especially the ones he met during his time in the air force were devastated by his death, at the young age of 21. He was well liked and got along really well with the people he was with. He was

buried in the Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery alongside other fallen Canadian soldiers. Afterward, a stain glass window was dedicated to him at the Mountainside United Church in Westmount.

Miscellaneous:

- Johnson was given the nickname “Junior” by his squadron mates because of his youthful appearance
- His squadron flew on Hawker Typhoons and Hurricanes fighter-bomber aircraft, they also used P-40 Kittyhawks

More photos relating to Ross E. Johnson:



△ Stain glass dedicated to him at the Mountainside United Church in Westmount



△ Group photo of Squadron 438 (RCAF)

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