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English War Bride  
Rangitata  
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I came under convoy ships. Blackout, 24 war brides in a room, lots of bobbies and children. We went around the Irish coast. Our boats were sighted - it was the maiden voyage for this new ship. Food was delicious after being on rations. It was quite an experience seeing the ships signaling each other. The Salvation Army greeted us on Pier 21 and gave us oranges, apples and bananas. My daughter Diana (18 months, born in an air raid) was given a lovely crochet dress. I was given Blue Ribbon Tea, a cookbook and a magic baking powder cookbook which I still use.

The porters were wonderful on the train. I won a cushion cover, black velvet with a deer on it. One of the porters raffled it at 1 dollar a ticket. We stopped in Jasper and I bought my daughter a Raggedy Ann Doll as big as her. We stopped at Winnipeg for 24 hours. We thought that the women were crazy wearing long johns and fur coats but we were the crazy ones. It was below zero when we saw the men. They were from the mills; we thought they were convicts. We laugh now!

I came to Victoria so I had to catch the ferry and sleep in a state room on the old boat. One other war bride came to Victoria with me. I had a wonderful mother-in-law but it was hard adjusting to the wood stove and out door toilets. My husband started beating me. I bought some land and helped build my house. We had 12 acres. I worked many jobs, dug wells, cleaning septic tank, dish washing, run nursing home. My marriage wasn't good so I walked out with nothing. I was the head of servery butler at Government House where I worked. I had an office and staff. I served the Queen and Princess Alexandria. I loved my work and stayed for 14 years then I bought land and property and retired. I live at Mill Bay. Canada is my home.