

Malcolm S. Joyce
British Evacuee Child
Oronsay
August 19, 1940



My name is Malcolm S. Joyce. I arrived at pier 21 on August 19, 1940 aboard the S. S. Oronsay. I was 7 years old, and was sent to Charlottetown and remained there with Dr. and Mrs. Pierce (who I did not previously know) for 5 years during WW2. They became Mother and Dad to me and that is what I called them for the rest of their lives. I stayed in close contact with my own parents in England and of course also called them Mom and Dad. At age 16, by myself, I returned to Pier 21 and Canada, in August 1949, aboard the S.S. Aquitania. I became a Canadian citizen after the required 5 years residency.

My mother in England is still alive and well at age 93. I visit her often and stay in contact on the telephone and with letters. My English and Canadian parents and relatives have visited back and forth over the years and have bonded as an extended family.

Two of my friends in England in 1940 were sent to Canada on the next ship, the City of Benares. That ship was torpedoed, and Jeffrey (7) and Bruce (11) Hilliard died in the life boats. When I returned to England in 1945 at age 12, Mrs Hilliard could not bring herself to look at me or speak to me. Their house was just 4 doors from our house. Mr Hilliard, on the other hand, was friendly and always went out of his way to say hello. They had lost their only children.

I hope during your reunion this month that you may find a moment to remember my friends and the many other children who were lost on that ship, and did not make it to Pier 21. I live in Winnipeg, and had a career as a jet fighter pilot in the Canadian Airforce and then as a civilian pilot. I am now retired. I married Jessie Bingham from Summerside, PEI. We met while both attending Mt. Allison University. We have two sons and two daughters.