

Karolina Maria
Despotovich nee Videc
Yugoslavian Displaced
Person
General Stuart
Heintzelman
January 17, 1948



20 years old, single female
2 weeks in Bremen Hafen in a camp
for medical purposes before boarding
ship
1 week on the ship before sailed
Over 3000 personnel, single men,
women and families.

My story and reason for coming to
Canada, through Pier 21.
(Date of birth: July 28. 1927, Zrece,
Slovenija)

I was 20 years old at that time, and
single when we sailed from Bremen
Hafen, with other 3000 plus D.P.'s.
Since the ship was a military
transport before, we were treated as
such.

During the German occupation I was
in forced labour camp in Austria -
from 1943-1945. When we were released at the end of war- I stayed in
Austria- where all stateless personel were gathered in D.P. camp - in
Klagenfurt. The camp was overseen by U.N.R.A.

In camp we registered for the country of choice to go to- my choice was
Canada. We departed Klagenfurt in December 1947 - detained in Bremen
Hafen 2 week- on ship 1 week before sailing. All for medical reasons.
Arrived in Halifax January 17-1948. Since it was winter - it was dismal.

From Halifax we were transported to Montreal to another camp. From
there people were send across Canada - to work on farms in mines and
households under 1 year contract with Canadian government. I stayed in
Montreal to work for a family by the name of King.

After my contract I went to Toronto. There I met my future husband; we were married in 1949 (my husband died in 1980), we had 3 children. Today I am a very proud Canadian!

Enclosed are 2 photos - one in Montreal on April 15th 1948 - with my friend (on left), our first shopping. We arrived together in Canada. The other is most recent- my 75th birthday.

