

David Carr
English Immigrant
Ivernia
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CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM
PIER 21



English by birth, I was serving in the Royal Navy during the late '40s and early '50s. My sister had married a Canadian Army Officer during the war, and they were living at Ottawa in the early '50s. They persuaded me to emigrate. So, I transferred from the Royal Navy to the Royal Canadian Navy and arrived in Halifax aboard RMS Ivernia during a snow storm, the likes of which I had never seen before in my life. The other remarkable thing was that King George VI died on 06 February, while we were halfway across the pond.

Upon landing at Pier 21, I spent around 4 hours in a sort of custody because I had no passport or vaccination certificate. Anyway, to make a long story short, two sailors came and got me and drove me in a jeep along Barrington and Gottingen Streets to HMCS Stadacona, all during the snowstorm. I had no overcoat so I really suffered in the cold. It was also a very lonely period in my life. I served in the Navy until 1956 and after a short trip to England and realizing I preferred Canada, I returned and became a Canadian Citizen. I then joined CBC-TV and worked there for 40 years, retiring in 1996.

I still have strong memories of Pier 21.