

Norah Carpenter nee
Hargreaves
English Immigrant
Empress of Scotland
April 29, 1944

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM
PIER 21



It was with great interest that I read in the May/June 2000 issue of the Legion Magazine that you would be greatly interested in hearing from people who arrived at Pier 21 and also who had artifacts to share.

On April 29, 1944 my Mother (Nellie Hargreaves) and I (Ethel Norah Hargreaves) arrived at Pier 21 on the S.S. Empress of Scotland to join my Father (Tom Hargreaves) who was already living in Iroquois, County Dundas, Ontario. We had sailed from Liverpool on April 21st 1944. Our story - in a nutshell.

In 1937 my parents and myself were living in Caracas Venezuela where my Father was working as a textile consultant. Shortly before his contract ended my Mother and I sailed back home to England on the S.S. Colombie on June 20, 1938 to get a home established prior to my Father returning home at the end of his contract in 1939. Unfortunately war broke out and my Mother and I spent the war years in Blackpool, Lancashire while my Father had to stay in South America unable to get passage on a ship to England. In 1940, through family connections in U.S.A. he was able to get a job in Iroquois, Ontario, Canada as a Superintendent at Caldwell Linen Mills. For the next four years he went through government channels to get us out of England and over to Canada. Finally it was done!

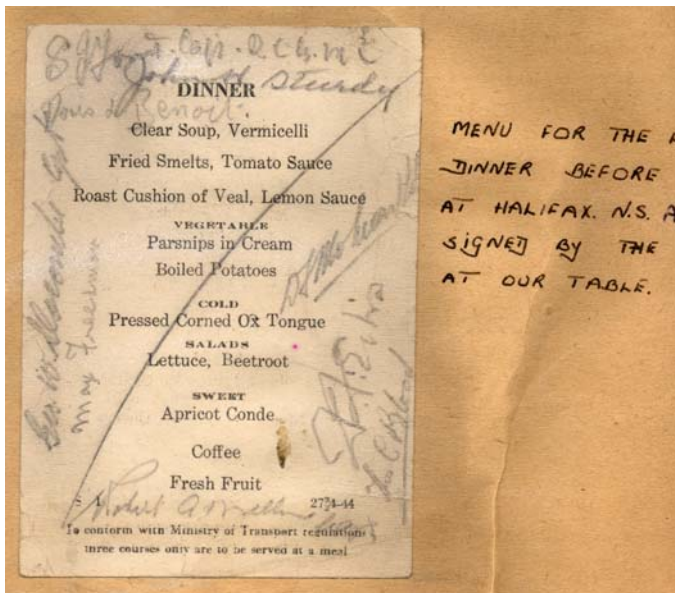
The reason for all this background data is to inform you that I have in my possession the cabin trunk that sailed with me from Venezuela to Plymouth, England in 1938 and from Liverpool, England to Halifax, N.S. in 1944. It is 36 long, 22 wide and 12 deep, and has S.S.

BERTHING CARD.	
NAME	<i>Mrs Hargreaves</i>
FIRST CLASS	
DECK	<i>BOAT</i>
CABIN	<i>14</i>
BERTH	<i>2</i>
This Card must be produced at Gangway.	
<small>*M48399/W.C.D. 11/43 10M (B) L.B. 37/1</small>	

Colombie label still stuck on it. Unfortunately, for security reasons due to German submarines in the Atlantic, no labels were allowed for the trip in 1944. The ship carried returning veterans and war brides and I was the only single girl on the ship. I also have in a scrap book mementos of the voyage, such as the dining room seating card berthing card showing the cabin, berth and deck information, a label from my first Canadian chocolate bar, bought on board, and the menu for the last dinner before arriving at Pier 21, Halifax signed by the people at our table, together with an autograph from a Canadian lieutenant, Charles Gagne wishing me good luck.

April 19th - Received express letter advising us to report to Liverpool Harbour

April 20th - Mum and I caught the 12:13pm train to Liverpool. Booked rooms at the Lord Nelson hotel. Bought a "Winnie" scarf (Winston Churchill). Went to see the movie "This is the Army".



April 21st - Received instructions for sailing. Had luggage censored and cleared, then we were boarded. Had a "Boat Drill". Had dinner then went to bed.

April 22nd - We set sail at noon and watched the sights of Liverpool harbour disappear before we left the deck for a lovely lunch. Spoke with Captain Emry, he was most interesting.

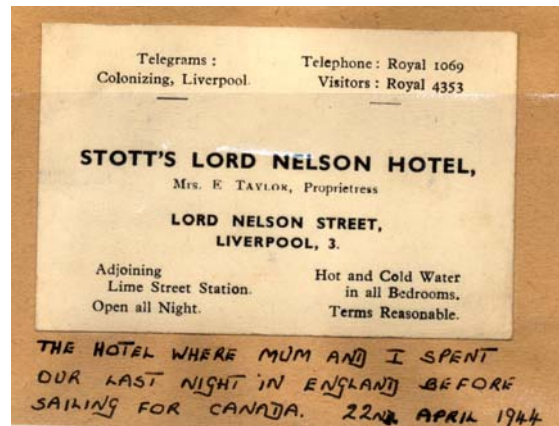
April 23rd - Stayed in our cabin most of the day as I was seasick, went to the smoke room at night and played whist with a military Captain, Mum and Doris, a War Bride.

April 24th - Only managed breakfast as I did not feel good. The Forces had a film show. Mary Cotton, a C.W.A.C. came to the cabin as we had received a genuine alert, unidentified aircraft.

Apr 25th - Queued-up for over an hour for oranges. A Canadian soldier gave me a piece of gum.

Apr 26th - Sat out in the sun and talked to several Canadian Captains. Went for lunch and for the first time I had a grapefruit- the first time in 4 years.

Apr 27th - Went up on deck and sat on the Form, the airman who was on duty was down below. Charlie Gagne played bingo with us in the Officer's Mess. Gave me his autograph.



April 28th - Saw ships and airplanes, we must be nearing land. Very cold near Iceland. Doris, Jerry a navy friend and I played bingo. Andre and Charlie were at the next table.



April 29th - Saw a film show. Arrived Halifax, saw the lights for the first time. Met a Frenchman called Rene Ryan. Walked up and down the deck with him. Said goodbye to Jerry and other Canadian officers we had met.

April 30th - Watched the troops disembark. One threw me an orange. The band was playing. The Red Cross took marvelous care of us. Gave us food and magazines. Caught the train to Montreal. Slept on the top bunk (wood) Oh! Oh!

May 1st - Arrived Montreal 9:15pm. Dad and Mrs. Boardman met us. Had a chocolate ice cream in the station snack bar. Went to see the rooms then went to the shopping center clothes without coupons! Had a Club Sandwich for the first time, griddle cake, etc, etc. What a marvellous evening.



MAY 2ND 1944 - TOM -
TAKEN AT BOARDMAN'S
HOUSE CORNWALL, ONT



AT BOARDMAN'S.
CORNWALL, ONTARIO THE NEXT
DAY ARRIVED AT TROQUOIS,
ONT.





Norah visited Pier 21 soon after it opened and posed with the suitcase that she donated to the museum along with her memories and photographs