

Earl South
WWII Veteran
Lady Rodney
June of 1943



I read with great interest the article "Passage Through Pier 21" in the May/June Legion Magazine. It recalls memories for me of June 1943. I was with the 125th LAA BTY R.C.A. stationed in Saint John, New Brunswick. After embarkation leave, we went by train to Halifax to Pier 21, to await our troop ship, Lady Rodney. We had no idea where we were being shipped to, if you believed the rumors, it could have been anywhere. As it turned out, we went by ship to the Goose Bay Airport in Labrador. Goose Bay was under the control of the U.S. Army Air Force. Our job was, as part of G force, to defend the airport with anti-aircraft artillery guns. As I remember we were only at Pier 21 for a few days. It was quite a shock after normal barracks, to be housed in a cage-like building, with no privacy of any kind. However, after being in the military over a year at this time, one learned to accept whatever happens to you.

I did receive a pass for a few hours on Sunday June 27/1943 and did see downtown Halifax. I'll always remember leaving Pier 21 in the pre-dawn damp morning, with no one watching or waving goodbye.