

Jack Bedford  
WWII Veteran  
Aquitania  
1946



In 1942 I was in a regiment in Vancouver and we were told that we would be sent to England as reinforcements for the Seaforth Highlanders. We were loaded onto antique rail cars with wooden seats with no ventilation and five boring days later we arrived in Halifax. We stood around for hours and eventually were loaded onto the most decrepit English troop ship and allocated places in troop decks away down near the propeller. Of 140 soldiers in our deck, at least 100 were smokers so the air was blue all night long.

In the group with me were Fred Mallet, Reg Arnold, Dick Haggerty, Pete De Ruiter and we stayed together for some time in England and I was a driver in Haggerty in Italy.

In 1946, I left England on a beautiful ship, the Aquitania and the voyage took only four days. We were supposed to work for our passage but a friend and I had very little work to do so we spent most of our days playing cribbage.

After the poor accommodations on the previous voyage, we were disappointed to see Halifax so soon. We left Pier 21 in a very short time and spent a day in Montreal before boarding the train which took us to Vancouver.