

Carol Long
English War Bride
Scythia
January 1953



I came from England on the Scythia in Jan. 1953. I was in the WRAF and married one of the RCAF stationed at Odiham. This was 421 squadron and the first to go overseas after the war. We have never figured out why this draft came back by sea and it was a wild trip in more ways than one! There were ten I think, me, and our six-month-old son.

As far as I know I am the first POST War Bride to come back; there were a few WRAF married to Canadians but they stayed over longer I think.

My memories of Pier 21 are of people so kind. The Air Force Wing took care of me and the baby, while Bill (my husband) got all our trunks through. Then we were taken on a tour of Halifax, truthfully I was not impressed - Feb. 1, all that dirty snow. We were waiting for the train to Montreal, Bill was to be stationed at Rockliffe. (That is another whole story, not too pleasant) Bill's brother met us at Montreal, with his wife and his mother. I will never forget being jammed in the back seat of the car, between these two strangers. With so many clothes on, I had been told must dress warmly, the baby too, they would not let me take anything off (I think that is where I developed claustrophobia). I have to say what with the strange people, the heat, and what to me, was a skating rink to drive on, was the worst car ride I have ever had! Anyway, I am still here, loving Nova Scotia.

My daughter-in-law's father was a customs officer at Pier 21 (he died a year ago). We often wonder if he saw his son-in-law when he was six months old!

