

Jean Jaszek nee
MacKenzie
English war Bride
Lady Nelson
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My single name was MacKenzie. I met my husband in 1945 at the Stage Door Canteen, Piccadilly Circus in London. He was serving with the RCAF and I was in the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) [Territorial units are British Reserve formations]. We married in December '45 and I came to Canada in 1946. It wasn't until travelling by train to the port of Southampton that the full force of what I had chosen to do struck me, and I felt very upset at leaving my family and venturing to a new land.

Once on board, we War Brides received marvelous treatment from Canadian personnel; we all felt very spoiled as we hadn't seen anything like the food we were given in years. On arriving in Halifax, and boarding the train for Toronto, a group of ladies came and wished us a happy life here, and were so kind and considerate it gave us a very good impression of Canadians. I have lived here almost fifty-four years now: they have been good years. We celebrated our 54th wedding anniversary last year, and have raised a family of two sons and two daughters, all doing very well.

I have always felt that I would have liked to thank all those wonderful people who made our journey so pleasant and comfortable; perhaps I can do so through this letter.