

Joan MacNeil
English War Bride
Queen Mary
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I was 18 years old when I left England and being my first time away from my family I was very lonely, we spent a night in a hostel in London. The next morning we went by train to Southampton, boarded the ship and sailed at 4:00 p.m. Bands played on the Pier and everything seemed so far away. The trip was smooth and the troops on board taught us Canadian money. We arrived in Halifax at Pier 21 on the afternoon of the 23rd of July. My husband was waiting, also my brother-in-law, it was strange to see them in civilian clothes.

We came to Sydney by train. The streets weren't paved and not many street lights. The food seemed so plentiful compared to our rations in England. I stayed with my husband's family for 1 1/2 years, until we built our own house. People were friendly and I soon found Canadian friends but also met other war brides here. We used to go out for lunch once a month. My husband being a veteran I soon became involved with the legion and met a lot of nice people. I adjusted really well to life in Canada. The winters seemed very cold. I am proud to be a Canadian but still think very strongly about England, always look forward to a visit back home. Life has been very good here for me and I am not sorry for my big decision. The worst was missing my parents and brother and sister and did I feel home sick. So my reason for coming to Canada was because I married a Serviceman.