

Joyce Paytner nee
Andrews by Son Gary
Paytner
English War Bride
Ile de France
July 13, 1945



Joyce (nee Andrews) Paynter 'English War Bride' and 'Canadian War Veteran' was born in Leicestershire, England on October 18, 1925. She later moved with her mother to Sutton, Surrey, on the outskirts of London. She attended Sutton West Central Girls School. As a young teenager she was on her way home from school when war started in 1939.

In June 1942 at age 16 she met her future husband, Arthur Paynter from Prince Edward Island. Arthur was stationed in her hometown of Sutton with his regiment the 1st Canadian Artillery. They met during a bad air raid, struck up a friendship and were married one year later on July 31, 1943. So at age 17 she became an English War Bride. With Arthur now serving in Italy and 'Conscription' 'Compulsory Enlistment' being in effect. Joyce decided at age 18 she would, as she thought, volunteer for the British Forces. However, she was told she was now a Canadian and advised to join the Canadian Forces. She made application and was accepted in the spring of 1944. After her basic training in England she was posted in 43 Coy (Canadian Women's Army Corps in London.) She was now classified as a Canadian serving overseas. When the war came to an end on May 8, 1945, the repatriation of Canadian troops began, so she along with many other Canadian service personnel were loaded aboard the Troop Ship Ile de France, and sailed from Greenock, Scotland, July 9. They pulled into Halifax Harbour on Friday, July 13, 1945. When the ship docked on Saturday the 14th she was taken by army truck to 106 Army Depot. When they finally realized she was headed to PEI the last train from Halifax was gone so it wasn't until Monday, July 16th that she arrived at Kensington Railway Station in PEI to be greeted by her husband who has returned in June and her new Paynter family.

She was discharged from military service on September 5, 1945, in Halifax, NS.

In 1988 she was appointed as Honorary President of the Charlottetown Branch and held the distinction of being the first female veteran ever appointed to this position in the history of the Branch. As a result, the

Branch and her achievements and appointments were recognized on the floor of the PEI Legislative Assembly.

In 1989 she was selected a Life Member of the Branch and is a recipient of the Certificate Merit award, along with many appreciation awards and certificates for her work with sports, navy leagues and sea cadets, and especially the Poppy Campaign. She also served as an executive member of 201 Wing RCAF Association and held the position of Entertainment Chairman and later as Public Relations and Publicity Chair, along with work on the Wing newsletter.

She has spent many hours working with Meals on Wheels, UNICEF, PEI Cancer Society, The Heart and Stroke Foundation and many other groups too numerous to mention. She is past President of the Women's Auxiliary for the CNIB, Assistant Director of Local 19, PEI Government Retirees, a position she has held since the group was formed in December, 1975, member and Past Board Member of the Seniors Active Living Centre and Honorary Member of the PEI Addiction Foundation. She also is a member of the Speaker's Bureau for the Dominion Institute Memory Project.

She continues her work with the Legion's Poppy Campaign as a speaker in the school system bringing the message of peace to young people at the kindergarten level up to and including the senior high school level. She continues to attend the Remembrance Services at nursing homes and schools and represents the PEI Ex-service Women by laying the wreath during the Remembrance Day service.

She is a recipient of the following medals: Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Bar 'Overseas Service'; the Defense Medal; Victory Medal 1939-45; Diamond Jubilee Medal; 75th Anniversary Medal and the Legions Past-Officers Medal; September 2001, Legions Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding devotion to the aims and objects of the Royal Canadian Legion; December 2001, Senate of Canada Medal for volunteers who have contributed in an exemplary fashion to their communities; November 7, 2002 in Ottawa, Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation medal - Only Islander honored that year for contributions to the care and well-being of veterans or to the remembrance of contributions and sacrifices of veterans; December 01, 2001, Presented with the Queen's Jubilee Medal in recognition of her work on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion; 1985 honored by Big Brothers Big Sisters of PEI for her tireless help in the Agency's creation; 1994 Hillsborough Park Canada Day celebrations for service to legion and community.

