

Mavis Doreen
Falardeau
English War Bride
Letitia
May 21, 1946

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM PIER 21

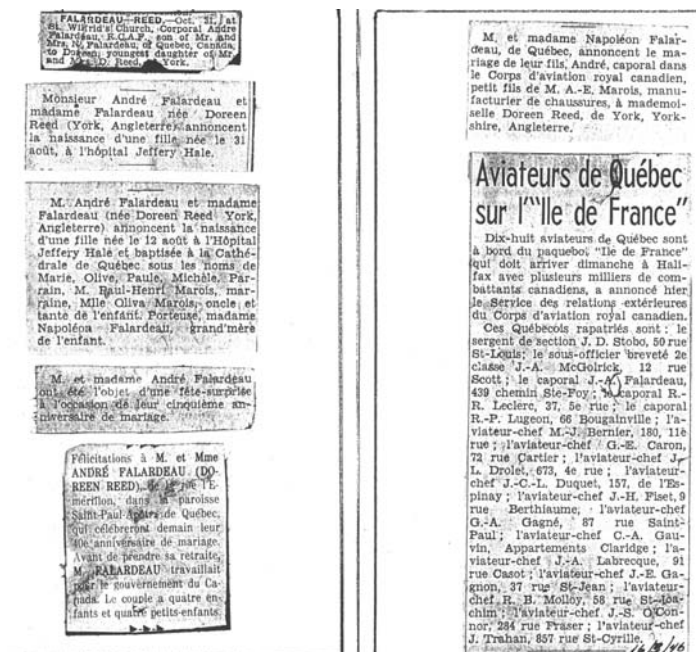



I married my husband Andre, on the 31st of October 1945. He served with the R.C.A.F. during the war as a Military Policeman in the City of York. At the time, I was employed as a sales women at York Coop stores. As my husband was nearly every day on foot patrol on the streets of York, we saw each other often and developed a close relationship, after

three months only, we married. My elder sister said to me at the time: (I don't give you more than two months and you will separate.) Well, it is now close to 55 years and we still are together, happily married and have no plan to separate yet.

My husband was repatriated to Canada on the Iles de France in March 1946. I was left alone with my mother waiting for my notice of departure from the Bureau of War Brides Repatriation. I was about three months pregnant at the time and even with all efforts, I could not find confirmation of acceptance in a local hospital in case I was not scheduled on time for departure for Canada.

After many contacts and



repeated requests to the War Brides Bureau in London, I finally was advised to be ready to depart on a 24 hours notice. I was

I was really relieved as it was just before time limit allowed for a pregnant women to sail.

I sailed on the 'Letitia' from Liverpool on the 12th of May 1946, and arrived at Halifax Harbour on the 21st of May. The journey was pleasant but long crossing the Atlantic.

Arrived at Halifax , I was directed to a special War Brides train headed for western Canada. At this time, I have to mention the marvellous work and assistance provide by personnel of the Canadian Red Cross who did the impossible to make, more pleasant, our arrival in Canada. I found the journey form Halifax to Quebec very long and tiresome but it was worth it.

- 1946 -

MAY 17th 1946
Les épouses de guerre
Le paquebot Aquitania, qui doit arriver à Halifax lundi, et le Letitia, que l'on attend mardi, ont pour passagers les enfants et les femmes de six de nos militaires québécois.
Deux épouses de militaires de Québec, Mme Sheila-W. Howard, épouse du lieutenant John-Henry Howard, avec sa fille Barbara et son fils John-David, et Mme Kathleen-M. Turner, épouse du sergent Hayward-Albert Turner, avec son fils Ronald-A.-Frith, sont à bord de l'Aquitania, qui porte en plus sept épouses de militaires demeurant dans la région de Québec, soit Mme Agnes-E.-S. MacLeod, épouse du mitrailleur Stanley-John MacLeod, d'Arvida; Mme Winifred-M. Willows, épouse du sergent-major Richard-Cyril Carr, d'Arvida; Mme Kamillind-V. Ouellette, épouse du soldat René-Henri Ouellette, de Chicoutimi; Mme Marjorie Montgomery, épouse du bombardier George-Adair Montgomery, de New Richmond Station; Mme Lucy-Anne Fraser, épouse du capitaine Charles-Alexander Fraser, de Richmond; Mme Robina-McKay Bellavance, épouse du sergent d'état-major Louis-Joseph Bellavance, de Rimouski; Mme Peggy-Beryl Patterson, épouse du sergent-major Alexander-John Patterson, de Gaspé.

Sur le Letitia se trouvent quatre épouses de militaires de notre ville. Ce sont Mme Madeline-M. Chouinard, épouse du lance-caporal Roland-Auguste Chouinard, avec son fils Richard; Mme Edith-M. Leahy, épouse du sergent Walter Leahy; Mme Mavis-D. Falardeau, épouse du caporal J.-A.-R. Falardeau; Mme Marie Bolduc, épouse de l'aviateur J.-R. Bolduc, avec sa fille Marie-S.
Ce paquebot porte encore trois autres épouses qui viennent retrouver leur mari dans la région. Ce sont Mme Nora-Mary Caron, épouse du soldat Roland Caron, de Donnacona, avec son fils Jean; Mme Edna Doreen Cassista, épouse du lance-caporal Roméo-Joseph Cassista, de Rivière du Loup; Mme Isobel-W. McLaren, épouse du lieutenant d'aviation A.-J. McLaren, de Kénogami, avec sa fille Alastair-D.
Comme on ne sait encore à quelle date et à quelle heure les deux convois spéciaux passeront en gare de Lévis pour y descendre ces épouses et ces enfants, on prie les intéressés de communiquer avec la Croix-Rouge, 47, rue Saint-Eustache, au No 2-5225.

My husband waited for me at the train station at Lévis, just across the St. Lawrence River to Quebec City. I was also welcomed by his family who could not speak English, so I tried to understand the best I could. (I now understand and speak English, after 54 years, who would not??)

As my husband could not find any decent lodging, we were invited to stay at his grand-father's 24 rooms home situated in a residential sector of Quebec City. His grand-father owned the largest shoe Factory in Canada at the time) no need to say we were

well taken care of.

We lived at my husband's grand-father's house for a year without any charge at all, so it was a good start for us, the only trouble for me at the time, was the language. I could not understand what everyone said, but I managed. I really felt welcomed.



After a year or so trying and trying, we managed to find our own four rooms flat on the third floor of an old building in the center of Quebec. We acquired our own house four years later.

We had a small family of four, two girls and two boys.

I visited my family only once in all that time, I am so afraid of flying - Don't think I'll ever see York again, this was my destiny.

Charges to pay _____ s. _____ d. **PRIORITY** POST OFFICE No. _____ OFFICE STAMP

RECEIVED TET 07-3146.46 2/- 24

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

At 840 m **47** At _____ m

From WAD 5:47. 6:1 PM LONDON R 50 To _____

By _____ By _____

PRIORITY RP 2/- MRS. M. J. FALARDEAU
 24 YEARSLEY CRES HUNTINGTON RD. YORK

YOU ARE HEREBY WARNED TO BE READY FOR DRAFT ON
 TWENTY FOUR HOURS NOTICE AS OF FRIDAY 3 MAY 46

PLEASE WIRE ACCEPTANCE OR NON ACCEPTANCE
 IMMEDIATELY QUOTING REPEAT 46

G.N.P. Co. Ltd. 51-6490

CIVILIAN REPARATIONS SECTION is form B or C

Charges to pay
s. d.
RECEIVED

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM
No. _____ OFFICE STAM.
7 MY 1935

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words
74

From 11/38 m 174 CRP AL 4 QUEBECQUE 20 6 TH m

NLT MR ANDRE FALARDEAU 24 YEARSLEY CRESCENT
HUNTINGTON RD YORK

= HAPPY BIRTHDAY BEST OF LUCK ON YOUR VOYAGE LOVE

= ANDRE

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAPH" or call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by ... and, if possible, the envelope



CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

W.D. NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

RAA33 17 IMP

YORK PO 4

NLT ANDRE FALARDEAU

10

439 CHEMINST FOY QUEBEC

LEAVING YORK FRIDAY MAY 10 SAILING ON LETITIA LOVE

DOREEN

MAY 4 AM 8 35



C.D. 1R

CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

W.D. NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

RAA15 10

1946 MAY 21 AM 10 57 .9

HALIFAX NS 21 NPT

ANDRE FALARDEAU

439 CHEMIN ST FOY QYEBEC QUE

ARRIVED SAFELY WILL ADVISE TIME OF ARIVAL HOME LATER LOVE

DOREEN FALARDEAU