

Violet Giroux
English War Bride
Aquitania
July 1946



I was born in London, England on March 14, 1910. During the war I was in the London Civil Defense as part of the Ambulance Service. We were kept very busy with terrible raids night after night. So in spring 1941 the government gave us a free railway pass to get away from London for a rest. My friend and I decided to go to Inverness, Scotland. It was on the train to Inverness that I met my future husband, Gerald Giroux. He was a soldier in the Canadian Army. He was on leave at the time and was going to Aberdeen, but he changed his mind and came to Inverness with me.

We were married on April 14, 1945 in London, England. I became a 'War Bride'. On June 23, 1946 I left London to go to Southampton to board the Aquitania, which was sailing to Halifax, Nova Scotia where I was to be reunited with my husband who was waiting for me in his hometown of Montreal after being discharged from the army.

I don't remember much about my arrival at Pier 21 except having my name called out and a soldier coming to get me and my luggage to board the train for Montreal.

On the train I was very sick. The doctors and nurses thought I was pregnant but as I hadn't seen my husband for over a year I knew that was impossible.

My husband's family lived near Montreal so we looked for a house there but it was like looking for gold, so we lived with my mother-in-law for a few months. Eventually we built our own house, and lived there until my husband died in March 1977. Then I left Quebec and moved to Victoria, B.C. where I presently live.