

Irene Wotherspoon
nee Ferguson
Daughter of an
English War Bride
Ile de France
October 1944



My Mother, Irene Ferguson McNeil, married a Canadian, Thomas Arthur Clyde McNeil, on January 28, 1943. Irene Cecilia, was born October 26, 1943, at Ruskin College, Oxford, England.

My Canadian Grandmother was concerned due to the bombing in London, England and wanted my mother to bring her Grandchild to Canada. Papers were sent to Mom from Canada and Mom and I came to Canada :arriving in Halifax on the Ship, Ile de France (carrying wounded troops and war brides& children). It took approximately 5 weeks to cross the ocean as the ship had to zig zag due to enemy subs in the north Atlantic. As there were German submarines at the mouth of Halifax Harbour when the ship arrived, they could not open the gates for approximately one week. We arrived in Halifax, October, 1944.