

Audrey Koznick
English War Bride
Aquitania
January of 1947



I met my husband in August 1941. I was introduced to him by two of his army buddies. We were married on October 10th 1942. On September 13th 1943 our son was born and soon after Bill was shipped out to Italy. When he came home on leave the baby was a year and a half old. We didn't see each other again until 1945 when he was being shipped home and I was expecting another child. I was not able to travel to Canada until 1947. My husband had built a house to come to, so I was lucky.

I got my orders to travel at the end of 1946. On January 12th 1947 I left my home for Southampton to board the Aquitania for Canada. I think that was the hardest thing I ever did-standing on deck and watching my homeland disappear as we sailed away. I did have a cabin so I was lucky there. The trip was very rough and it took 9 days to reach Pier 21 in Halifax. It was dark and raining when we landed as we were held up by fog in the harbour most of the day. A couple of soldiers helped us to the waiting train. My children were so tired and cranky but the porter was so good. He had the berths all made up so that they could go to bed. We had 6 days on the train to reach the town where we were going to live and, when we did get there, it was pretty cold-27° F. But there were plenty of people to welcome us and I was glad to be on solid ground here, in Taber, Alberta, where my husband was born.

I was terribly homesick and I didn't like it here at all, but I think the weather had a lot to do with it. Anyway, to make a long story short, I am still here in the same house, with a few changes made over the years. We are grandparents to two grandchildren and great grandparents to three lovely great grandchildren.

I am a member of the Alberta War Brides Association and we meet once a month for lunch at the Legion in Lethbridge. I look forward to that. We have lots to talk about, there is that special bon we have. We will always be War Brides and I am proud to be one.

