

Bronwen Eileen Smith
nee Lewis
by Daughter Susan
Eileen McMullen
Welsh War Bride
Ile de France
November 15, 1944



My Mother, Bronwen Eileen (Lewis) Smith, was a Welsh War Bride and she and my Brother, David Ernest Smith, age 2, came to Canada on November 23, 1944. They sailed from Gourock, Scotland on November 15, 1944 on board The SS Ile De France. They landed at Pier 21, Halifax, Nova Scotia. They came to Canada to be with my Father, Ernest Edward Smith, who was in the Canadian Army. They settled in Quebec near Montreal, Mackayville, Valleyfield area. Then in August 1946 I was born in Valleyfield, Quebec. Over the years my Mother told me many stories about her experiences in England during the War and her trip to Canada. Times were very hard for my Mother and Brother in England as they had to run to the bomb shelters several times a day as soon as the Air Raid Sirens sounded. The bombing of their area was terrible. My Mother and Brother were quite afraid as they were all alone in England at this time. On board the Ile De France they were chased by the German boats. My Mother and Brother were quite courageous during the hard times they both had. Some how as my Mother said God saw them through every step of their journey. As the years passed; my Mother came to love Canada and was very happy.

Later in life, my Brother married a lovely lady, Kathleen Stephenson. They have a beautiful daughter, Cheryl Ann who later married Clarence Prejean of Louisiana, USA. Cheryl and Clarence have two fantastic daughters, Ashlee and Brooke. Unfortunately, my Mother and Father did not live long enough to know their great grand daughters but I know they would have loved them dearly. Also, my Mother would have told them her stories about life in England during the War and her trip to Canada. My Mother always felt it important to pass on information and experiences for history and Family heritage.

As for me, I married a great guy, Bryan McMullen and Bryan and I also have a beautiful Daughter Sherry Eileen. I know my Mother would have loved to of been in touch with other War Brides and or their Families. I too would like to get in touch with anyone who might have similar stories or I hope maybe even have sailed on The Ile de France as my Mother and Brother had done so many years ago.

Susan Eileen McMullen
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