

Hilda Edwards
English War Bride
Letitia
May of 1946



I landed in Halifax in May 1946, leaving Liverpool with a ship full of War Brides. What an experience. About half of the passengers, including me, were sick at the first of the voyage, but recovered enough to enjoy the last part. Most of us wondering what we were going to, but young enough to enjoy the experience.

On Pier 21, we were assigned a soldier to escort us to the trains. My escort happened to be a soldier whose home was near Melfort.

The train journey was long, leaving War Brides off at all train stops. I remember we spent one whole day riding through forests, so it was a treat to find the wide-open spaces. My husband met me in Saskatoon, a civilian, hard to recognize.

Our life for forty years was spent on a farm a few miles out of Melfort. I loved the open spaces, the sunsets, and cloud formations, but it took awhile to get used to it.

One experience was a bridal shower, put on by the community. Never having heard of that kind of shower, it was a bit overwhelming. Different words and expressions, such as boots and trunks of cars, the large families, in those days, feeling homesick at Christmas and special occasions.

The years on the farm were happy years, but now we are living a retired life in a condominium in Melfort.

We have spent many happy holidays in England and toured lots of countries, but we are always glad to get back in Canada away from the crowds. It's a great country, I am a Canadian, but of course part of me will always be British.

I was in the British Royal Air Force and have been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for 42 years.

