

Margaret Eaton nee
Perkins
English War Bride
Franconia
April 11, 1945



Margaret Eaton (born Margaret Perkins) was a War Bride from Great Britain who entered Canada through Halifax on April 11th, 1945, on the ship Franconia.



Marg & Bill
Wedding day November 5/1940
Rushden, England



Marg & Kids (Anne and John)
Rushden, England
Just prior to leaving for Canada
Early 1945



Marg & kids with Helen (Marg's sister in law)
Arrival in Chatham On. April 13/1945

My name is Margaret Eaton, and I was born in the Midlands of England on October 17 1919. I was 19 when war was declared, but was 20 in Oct. 1939. My husband-to-be was with the Royal Canadian Regiment, and landed in England Dec. 1939. Spent his first Christmas at Aldershot. His name was Bill Bristow.

In May 1940 he was stationed in my home town in the midlands and we met at a Sunday afternoon band concert. Whilst he was there we saw each other as much as possible - I discovered he was also born in October 1919 on the 14th, so at this time we were both 20. We were married on November 5th 1940, Guy Fawkes day - bonfire day. He was stationed in different places south of London and I moved to where he was. There

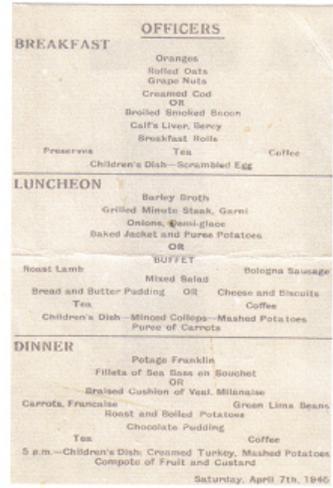
were a number of wives that did this. My daughter Anne was born in January 1942 the 21st.

After the Dieppe raid, he was transferred to the Essex Scottish and we then moved to the south coast - Bognor Regis. My son John was born there on October 28 1943. Bill went to France and was taken prisoner of war by the Germans at Caen. I received a telegram saying missing and killed in action and it was a few months before I knew he was alive. We did correspond, but I'm not sure we really got messages to each other. I had promised him that if he was killed, I would bring the children to

Canada, and if I did not like it, I would return to England. (I have been here 61 years and Canada is a great country and my home). In December the Government contacted me and told me I was to leave England in March on a ship bound for Canada.

Because I had promised, I said yes, even though I hated to leave my family, mother and grandfather, and am an only child. They agreed I should go. I had written to tell Bill but he never got my letters and did not know my decision.

I left home on March 26 with my two children for Liverpool and we boarded the Franconia and sailed on March 29 1945. Because the war was still on, there were a number of ships etc and we traveled in a convoy zig zagging across the Atlantic. Oh, the food on the ship, white bread, bananas, meat, etc, so many things we had not seen for 6 years and I enjoyed them all and was not seasick.



**Officer's Menu
April 7, 1945
S.S. Franconia**
(This menu was for Wives and Children of Officers And Chief Warrant Officers)



We docked at Pier 21 on April 11 1945, or should I say we docked at Halifax on April 11 and then came through Pier 21. My memories are vague as I had two children to look after but the return in 2006 was very emotional. We boarded a train in Halifax and we left for our journey across the country to Chatham, Ontario. Sometimes we were put in sidings for a few hours to let the other trains go through, but I was met in Chatham by my mother and father-in-law and sister-in-law and what a celebration we had. We also had another one when Bill was liberated and arrived home.

P.S. Bill died in 1965. I remarried in 1968 and he died in 1978 so I now am a widow again.

I did start a new life in Canada and have enjoyed it even though I had some heartaches.