

Marjorie G. Eaton
 English War Bride
 Mauretania
 December of 1944

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM PIER 21



I was one of a small group of English War Brides who left Liverpool, England, in December 1944 for Halifax. For the most part I



think we were the wives of servicemen who had already been repatriated - in my case, my husband had completed a tour of 31 trips in Lancaster bombers and was repatriated in October 1944.

Our journey didn't start well at all as we were told that we were to stay overnight in a Red Cross hostel in Liverpool, before boarding the... Mauretania the next day. Because of bad weather we were there for 2 or 3 days and I felt sorry for the girls with babies and small children and they didn't have enough food and clothing for a prolonged stay. Then, the Mauretania was a troop ship and, as the war was still on, was blacked out. Add to this the fact that the North Atlantic in December is not a friendly place to be!

Shortly after boarding and before sailing we were instructed to go to the dining room to get

our reservations. Somebody made a mistake and at the first meal I found myself seated at a long table with about a dozen naval officers who were coming to Canada on some kind of training course. I will never forget that meal, which consisted mainly of foods that hadn't been available in England for a long time, when I said that it was my first voyage, the navy boys said they probably wouldn't be seeing me again and they were right - I was seasick for the whole journey!

OFFICERS		
BREAKFAST		
Orange	Roasted Oats	Grape Nuts
Creamed Cod	OR	Broiled Smoked Bacon
Calf's Liver, Serrv	Breakfast Rolls	Preserves
Tea	Coffee	Children's Dish - Scrambled Egg
LUNCHEON		
Barley Broth	Grilled Minnie Steak, Gravel	Onions, String Beans
Baked Jacket and Parsnips	Potatoes	OR
BUFFET		
Roast Lamb	Mixed Salad	Volaupe Sausage
Bread and Butter Pudding	OR	Cheese and Escallops
Tea	Coffee	Children's Dish - Mixed Collops - Mashed Potatoes
Purée of Carrots		
DINNER		
Potage Franklin	Filets of Sea Bass on Soubise	OR
Strained Cushion of Veal, Miltanise	Green Lima Beans	Carrots, Francaise
Roast and Roiled Potatoes	Chocolate Pudding	Tea
Coffee	5 p.m. - Children's Dish - Creamed Turkey, Mashed Potatoes	Compo of Fruit and Custard
Saturday, April 7th, 1945		

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

What a relief it was to finally arrived in Halifax and walk on dry land. I remember that the Red Cross served coffee and doughnuts to us and after going through immigration we boarded the train for the long trip to Toronto via Montreal. It was December 14, 1944 and I had never in my life seen so much snow before!

I phoned my husband from Montreal to tell him that I would be in



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

Toronto around 7.30am next morning. We will never know what went wrong or who made the call, but after I had called, my husband received another call saying that I wouldn't be arriving until the evening! When there was no one there to meet me, I can't say I was terribly concerned - I just wondered what else could go wrong. The day before, Toronto had received the worst snowfall in recorded history and the city was almost at a standstill. I watched as husbands and relatives greeted the girls until I was the only one left. It just happened that the person in charge of the Red Cross committee to greet the girls was a friend of my husband's mother and she said she knew that the Eaton family were

eagerly looking forward to my arrival. I was taken out to Long Branch, where my husband was with his mother and father, in a Red Cross vehicle!

I was warmly welcomed by not only my husband, but also by his parents. My husband's brother, wife and small daughter arrived for Christmas and it was an exciting time, but memories of Christmases past with my

folks in England were never far from my mind.

The house we lived in, in Long Branch, close to the lake, was owned by my husband, but while he was in England his parents lived there and cared for the place meticulously.

In the coming months I was welcomed by many members of the Eaton family living in Ontario, Niagara Falls, N.Y. and even an aunt and uncle from Wolfville, N. Scotia!

On July 20th we had our 62nd wedding anniversary and whilst I have always been happy in Canada, my love for my homeland has never diminished.

We are blessed with a son, now 51 years of age, who lives quite close to us. He has never married so we have no grandchildren.

Enclosed is a picture of our wedding in July 1944 at the same church where my mother and father were married in Shrewsbury, a beautiful old town in the county of Shropshire. My brother was registrar of marriages at the time and my husband appreciated the fact that he didn't have to pay for the license!

When we were married, my husband still had 5 trips to go to finish his operational tour, so it was an anxious time. His survival made my new life in Canada possible, where caring relatives - and many fine friends have all contributed to a happy life for me in this country.

