



Canadian War Brides and Families

Fall 2013

Greetings from President Jean

First and foremost, I bring greetings to everyone and hope all went well for you since our last newsletter. I've had a busy summer starting in July, when I took a trip to Beauval, Saskatchewan with my daughter Bernice where her daughter Sarah was working. It is northwest in Saskatchewan, farther north than I have been before. Then of course during football season my weekends were in Regina for all of the Roughrider home games. The last weekend in August Margaret Cline and I attended the Memorial Day Service at the City Cemetery and presented a flower wreath which was laid at the old cenotaph there. We helped make the wreaths the day before with flowers donated by florists and nurseries in Saskatoon. I will be laying a poppy wreath on November 11th at the Credit Union Centre, which is Canada's largest indoor Remembrance Day Service. War Brides Margaret Cline and Margaret Henderson and I attended Nutana Legion in October for a ceremony to open the Poppy Campaign for Saskatchewan. My big news is that I will be moving from Saskatoon to Lloydminster mid-November to be closer to family.

I do hope you are planning to go to the reunion in London in August 2014. We had such a lovely time in Victoria visiting, etc. I know the London committee is planning a great program and it will be wonderful to see everyone again. In the meantime, do take care and I wish you all a very *healthy, happy Holiday Season*.

As ever,
Jean

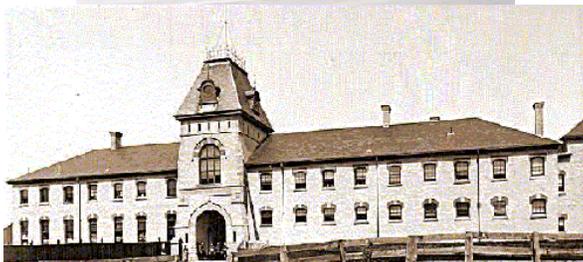
Reunion 2014 – August 8 – 10, 2014



*Canadian War Brides
& Families*

Reunion 2014

Will be held in beautiful
London, Ontario
August 8,9,10, 2014



At the historic Delta Armouries

For more information

Email: Canadianwarbride@netidea.com

or call War Bride Grace

@ (519)285-2617

More information regarding Reunion 2014 will be in the
Winter and Spring newsletters.

The Registration package will go out with the Spring 2014 Newsletter

HESITANT WAR BRIDES

From the rich correspondence between Eswyn Lyster and Melynda Jarratt is part of a WIVES BUREAU microfilm titled "**UNABLE TO PROCEED**"; 13 pages of names running alphabetically from AKER to BOURBONNIE. A complete list would number about 2200 names. Reasons for "not proceeding" hint at dramatic stories and emphasize the resolve and resilience of those war brides who did "proceed".

SAMPLE OF REMARKS:

- HUSBAND DISCHARGED IN UK
- DEFERRED BY HEALTH. DEPENDENT IN HOSPITAL
- NOT CO-OPERATING IN COMPLETION OF DOCUMENTS
- "NOT ENOUGH CLOTHING FOR MY VOYAGE UNTIL COUPONS START"
- M.E. (Anybody know what M.E. might stand for? -twl)
- NOT TRAVELLING TO CANADA FOR CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF TIME
- WIDOW – NOT PROCEEDING TO CANADA
- NOT SATISFIED WITH SETTLEMENT ARRANGEMENTS
- REMAINING WITH PARENTS WHO ARE ILL, HUSBAND RETURNING TO UK
- PRIVATE REASONS
- DEFERMENT UNTIL SPRING '47
- CHILD ONLY; MOTHER INSANE. HUSBAND DEFERRED CHILD'S PASSAGE
- NOT COMPLYING WITH MEDICAL INSTRUCTIONS
- MARITAL DIFFICULTIES
- DEPENDENT NOT INTERESTED IN PROCEEDING TO CANADA
- DEPENDENT WISHES TO VISIT HER FAMILY IN AUSTRIA FIRST
- GRANDPARENTS WILL NOT PERMIT CHILD TO PROCEED
- WISHES INDEFINITE DEFERMENT, HUSBAND WORKING FOR T. C. AIR
- DEPENDENT FEARS TRAVEL BY SEA
- HUSBAND DOES NOT WANT HER
- STARTING DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS
- FAMILY TROUBLE – MOTHER
- NO DESTINATION
- GONE TO GERMANY WITH CCG'S
- HUSBAND REFUSES TO ACCEPT WIFE
- ENLISTED IN A.T.S.
- MOTHER-IN-LAW HOSTILE
- IN PARIS WITH HUSBAND

While there are many unhappy stories here, about half seem positive, husbands rejoining wives in UK, making alternative travel arrangements or other distractions as post-war life moves on.

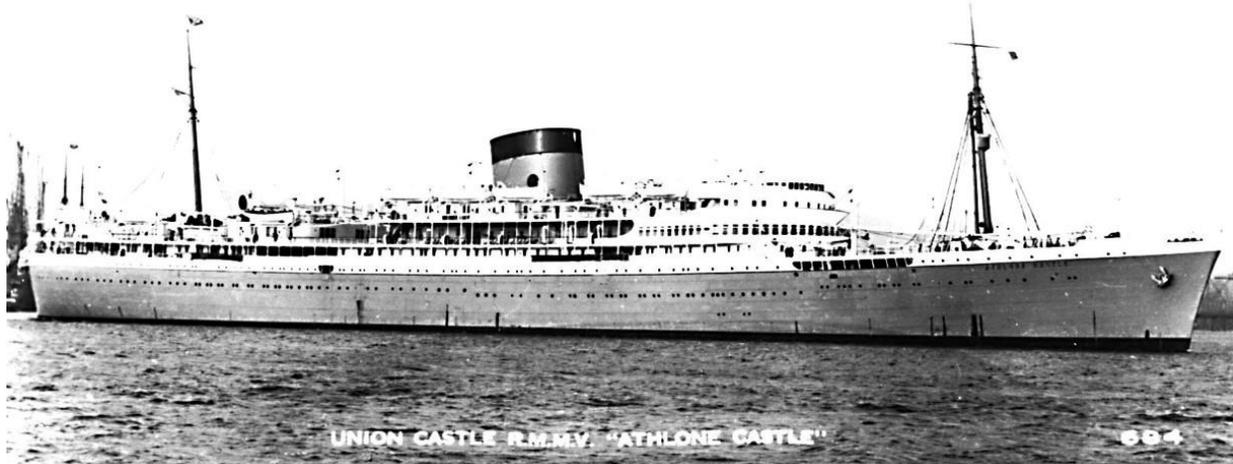
Terry Lyster

Photos from the 2013 Reunion in Victoria

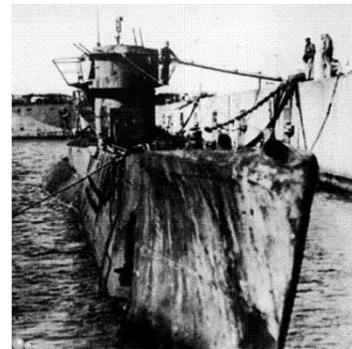
Anyone interested in viewing some of the many photos taken at the Canadian War Brides & Families Reunion held in Victoria, BC this past April can do so on Shutterfly. The link is <http://canadianwarbrides.shutterfly.com/>. As the Shutterfly account for the War Brides is a closed account, please email Anna-Lynn Sanche at asanche@telusplanet.net and she will add you to the list of members.

The ships You came onRMMV ATHLONE CASTLE

War Bride Ship: **RMMV ATHLONE CASTLE**: Sailed in war, landed in peace



Built in 1935 in Belfast with a tonnage of 25564grt, a length of 696ft, a beam of 82ft 5in and a service speed of 20 knots, she was launched by the Princess Alice, wife of the Earl of Athlone, a former Governor General of South Africa. She was a fast mail ship. In 1940 she was the commodore ship of a convoy carrying South African troops to Suez. Starting in 1943, she trooped between the USA and UK carrying some 150,000 troops without any serious incident. Some War Brides were tucked into these wartime sailings. In 1946 she underwent a refit and continued in service until 6th August 1965 when she concluded her 141st voyage at Southampton. Ten days later she sailed for Taiwan where she was broken up by the China Steel Corporation.



**U-977 at Mar del Plata
naval base, Argentina**

War brides who sailed during the war were threatened by submarines, long range bombers and surface raiders. Even after the defeat of Germany, submarines continued to operate. For instance **U-977** (right), near Scotland on VE day, made a 66 day undetected voyage to Argentina.

JESSIE EILEEN MEMBURY nee LANNING is the latest War Bride to fill in a Data Sheet. She reports "I left England on April 29, 1945. When I came to Canada the ship was the Athlone Castle. I spent VE day on the water. I arrived on May 12, 1945 in Halifax and took the train to Guelph."

War Bride **IRENE GRIFFITH** nee GOUGH also sailed on the Athlone Castle, date unknown. We'd like to hear from others.

By a coincidence Shirley MacAlpine-Downie (not a war bride) who had been evacuated to South Africa, remembers "We had VJ Day at sea. The ship, Athlone Castle, was a troop ship, with evacuees on board as well. The men all threw the blackout overboard when VJ Day was announced. The captain thanked all the men for saving the crew from having to do this job and gave them each a bottle of beer, which they had with lunch."

-Terry Lyster

Remember When

Remember when Christmas trees were lit by little candles! In little tin candlesticks that clipped on to the branches! Then we 'cut and pasted' paper chains, and the fancy bells and balls were fold out paper, in red and green? And that round rope, also red and green and probably paper, was festooned from the picture rail? And the real mistletoe was strategically located just inside the door? Apart from the mistletoe and the holly, with all that paper, it is a wonder we didn't all go up in smoke! I think we got our first set of 'Fairy Lights' just before the war. We never had a big tree, I remember it in the centre of the dining room table, decorated with colourful and delicate glass shapes, foil wrapped chocolate and even little parcels.



The year I had just started "Housewifery" at school, I proudly brought home my first baking achievement, Rock Cakes and they were just that! One of the family very cruelly, hung one on the tree, the branch promptly drooped and broke! Then there was the turkey! It arrived, if my memory serves me correctly, featherless but not drawn, and with the head still in place. It would then get hung in the scullery until the day it lost its innards. I can still see my grandmother, who was a small woman, up to her armpit in the turkey as she removed every last bit. I can remember being put to work 'your eyes are better than mine' to pull out the bits of the feathers that remained. The downside of this activity was that the carefully removed innards became Giblet Pie! A Christmas Eve staple - which I did not like! We overdid Christmas - food and every other - wise. Besides the turkey there was a roast leg of pork, and a ham already resided in the larder - no fridge, of course!



Do you remember the crystallized fruit and the dates on the stem, and the chestnuts, and walnuts roasted and eaten with salt? And let us not forget the cake, the pudding, the mince pies, the big flat boxes of chocolates. After we survived that and didn't set fire to the house - or succumb to terminal indigestion, it is no wonder we stood up to the Blitz and all the rest and we are still here telling the tale!

Let me be the first to wish you **Happy Christmas!!!**

Joan Reichardt

If you have a story/photos you would like to share in the newsletter, please email to canadianwarbrides@netidea.com or mail to 215 W. Beasley St., Nelson, BC V1L 3K4