

# Joyce Mary BEZEAU (nee Hillman)

To begin my story I must admit I did not want to be in Quebec without my husband. I could NOT speak French and his family could not speak English. I tried night school to learn but the classes were cancelled after two lessons as there were not enough pupils. My husband was still in Europe, so I refused travel orders – twice. The third time I was told if I refused again, I would have to find my own way.

In January 1946 fortunately Bob was now back in Canada, so I sailed on the Aquitania on February 26<sup>th</sup>. We arrived in Halifax on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We boarded a train the next morning, heading for Rimouski, Quebec. On the train, I received a telegram, my husband could not meet the train. He was in Baie Comeau but he had no way to get to Rimouski on a Monday morning at 2:00 am.



Joyce and Bob Bezeau  
February 5, 1945

The officers wanted to put me back on the train to go to Montreal – I refused. It would only mean I would have to return to Rimouski because Baie Comeau was a tiny village – completely isolated in 1946. No roads in or out. Only boats from the south shore that sailed up and down to the small villages on the north shore. Anyway, the Red Cross sent a Doctor to the railway and he put me in a little hut and I sat alone there until 8:00 am when a young fellow beckoned me to follow him to a VERY ancient little mail plane and I was the only passenger and sat on a box, trembling for 45 miles. Eventually we landed on a field and there was my husband AT LAST. The only person waiting although I had to look more than twice because he looked so different in `civies`. I was so cold, my feet and legs were wet due to the deep snow and the plane of course was not heated. BUT once we got to his home, ALL was well.

Eventually I did learn from his sister and four children to speak my own version of French and everyone was kind.

I would like to say how much we War Brides appreciated the help and welcome that we received.



Joyce Bezeau with Artist and War Bride Daughter, Bev Tosh  
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