

War Bride Edna Davies and
Harry Godin on their Wedding
Day February 2, 1946



Edna Davies Godin, our mother, was an English War Bride who enjoyed many War Bride Reunions in Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa and Peterborough, Ontario. My brother Barry, my sister Gina and I have also attended some of those reunions. They were always such fun, these women who left their families and joined their husbands after the war in various provinces across Canada. They love to sing the old songs and dance. We even met one of the Dutch War Brides who had travelled on the same ship with her.

Our parents met in London in November 1945 at the Hammersmith Palais de Dance, a ballroom dance venue where popular bands would perform to entertain the troops. She was working at the London Post Office "taking telegrams" and he was based at Down Ampney and was in London to find his brother Bus who had been wounded. She wrote about their first meeting and said she was dancing with a tall blonde Belgian soldier when this short dark handsome Air Force Sergeant caught her eye. "Love at first sight!"

They were married in Liverpool in February 1946. He returned to Canada soon after and she moved back home to Liverpool until her passage to Canada could be arranged. In July a Royal Canadian Air Force officer arrived unexpectedly at her parents' home in Liverpool on Picton Road and she was told she had to leave then. A War Bride on the list ahead of her had backed out and she was next. Her father who worked on the Mersey Docks in Liverpool had no idea he might be loading his daughter's trunk on her ship the Georgic. She did not see her family again until 1954 when our Dad was posted to Germany.

She arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax in July of 1946 and travelled to Montreal by train to meet our father. They continued by train to Norwood, Ontario, his hometown where his family graciously accepted her unlike many other War Brides who did not have such a warm experience.

Our father continued to serve in the Air Force until 1962 and it afforded our family travels to England and all over Canada and Europe. It was a good life! We are delighted the remembrance of their romantic journey and those of other War Brides will be continued in this manner and look forward to attending the War Bride and Families Reunion in Ottawa in May 2017.

Denise Godin Scammell, Barry Godin and Gina Godin Collins. February 2017