

Ida M. (Fram) KIRKLAND

Ida was born in McQuades, New Brunswick, about 15 miles north of Moncton on a farm owned by her father. "In 1929, we moved to my grandfather's farm two miles down a side road. By now, I had a brother and two sisters."

"We were fortunate to live on a farm as we always had enough to eat and a roof over our heads during the depression. I don't think we ever knew we were poor because our parents worked so hard and we were taught to work as well."

"We went to a country school where there was usually about 12 pupils. We walked everywhere; 1 1/2 miles to school, church and Sunday School. After I left school, there was often no teacher -- probably because there wasn't enough money to pay one."

"In 1931 another baby was coming and we went to school and told everyone we had a new baby brother. Don't know where we got that idea but when we got home we did have a new baby brother. In 1945, another baby brother came along and in 1937 another sister."

"In 1939, I remember running to the barn to tell my brother that war had been declared. By then we had a radio and whenever there was any news we were expected to be quiet. If we weren't, father just looked at us and we knew we had better stop the noise."



THEN

"In 1941, I went to work in Moncton at house work at \$3.25 per week and board. One place I could have the job if I learned to make bread. I stayed on there for nine months. Then I took a job as a clerk at the Met (department stores). I was only there 5 weeks when I decided to join the army but when I went to the post office where you could sign up, I found that you had to go to Saint John to join the army so I signed up for the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) WDs (Women's Division), on July 8th, 1943. I went home and told my parents. The only comment was 'Now you will have to stay at your job.' I left Moncton on July 23rd, 1943."



NOW

"I had never been on a train before but neither had most of the girls. That was the start of many homesick years. I never did go back to live in New Brunswick."

After basic training at Rockcliffe, Ida was off to Guelph to train as a chef. In October however, there was a choice of postings to Dundas, Ontario or Montreal. "I went to the Wireless School on Queen Mary Road in Montreal. Later, I asked for a posting east and was sent to Lachine, Quebec where servicemen were coming home for discharge. On December 5th, 1945, I was in Rockcliffe for my discharge."

"I returned to Montreal and Lachine where I was married on December 10th on the station in Lachine. We were stationed in Trenton, Ottawa, Aylmer (Ont.), Edmonton and back to Ottawa. My husband was discharged in 1960."

Ida has four sons all of whom have fared well in this world. She also has six grandchildren.

Ida lived in west end Ottawa but spends a lot of time in Richmond where she and her family lived from 1958 to 1968 and she returned to Richmond and stayed active in the Legion until she moved to Southern Ontario in 2013.

Ida passed on October 31, 2016. She was predeceased by her husband Hugh Harold Kirkland, brothers Horace and Ivan and sisters Edith and Florence. She is survived by her sister Dorothy and Brother Alvin and her sons Carl (Cindy) Bruce (Rachel) Douglas, and Derek (Anita), 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.