

Corporal Alice Biggar

Royal Canadian Air Force

Family Life:

Alice was born in Enderby, British Columbia, in July of 1929. At age 17, she moved south to the Okanagan Valley to pick apples for the summer and to Salmon Arm the following summer to do the same.

In 1950, working as a stenographer, Alice was walking to the post office one day to post a letter when a recruiter for the RCAF stopped her on the street. Her brother was already in the RCAF so she followed in his footsteps and signed up right there on the street.

Alice began her initial training in St. Hubert, Quebec, before being transferred to the United Kingdom, and subsequently Metz, France. It was her job to keep track of all the servicemen at the RCAF Air Division Headquarters and the associated 4 Wing Stations in West Germany.

Alice took courses on personnel administration. Each serviceman was assigned a card logging their personal information and all training they had completed. If and when they moved, the card had to be updated and forwarded to their next destination. Alice tracked hundreds of Canadian airmen in Europe and their associated paper trails.



Military Service:

While serving in France she met her husband, Ronald Fredrick Travis Biggar, who had gone overseas to play hockey and decided to stay. He was the Headquarters' driver, chauffeuring RCAF personnel to different locations in Europe.

After her 3 year contract expired, Alice and her now fiancé, Ron, returned to Canada together where they were married in Richmond Hill.

They had four children, Brian, Ronnie, Garry and Kelly.

Alice had her hands full raising four young children as Ronald was a manager at many different auto factories, including the Munro auto factory in Owen Sound.

Unfortunately, Ronald died at a young age leaving Alice to raise her children. She had to rely on the 'nest egg' of banked service income to survive.

Later in life, she sold the family home and is currently a resident of Seasons Retirement Community in Owen Sound.

Lessons Learned:

Alice offered this advice for serving members of the military: "Remember to always salute the officers!"