

## A Journey From London To Barnesville

## From Blitzkrieg to Floods, Doreen Has "Seen It All"

By Michael Stein

It has been a long journey from London to Barnesville for Doreen Peterson, who resides at Golden Manor Assisted Living in Barnesville.

Born in London, Doreen was when German bombers

Deaths in 2017...

began a relentless 57-day "blitzkrieg" on England. Her father was in the British Navy serving on a submarine when Germany declared war on England.

"London was on fire," Doreen recalls. "I remember the fires and the bombings all around us. My

May 1, 1923-October 23, 2017

December 23, 1960-April 8, 2017

September 6, 1952-June 3, 2017

June 24, 1927-August 10, 2017

January 18, 1927-May 11, 2017

Not Available-March 14, 2017

February 26, 1959-May 2, 2017

May 21, 1925-November 8, 2017

November 22, 1930-October 20, 2017

October 10, 1943-December 25, 2017

February 26, 1950-December 19, 2017

January 12, 1919-February 13, 2017

January 19, 1941-March 6, 2017

Not Available-April 11, 2017

March 14, 1944-July 16, 2017

December 7, 1937-February 14, 2017

December 14, 1929-February 16, 2017

grandmother would sit on the roof of our house and douse the burning soot that rained down from the sky. One day I was pushing my younger sister around the block when a German Spitfire flew over. Bullets slammed down against a wall we were walking near. I'll never forget my mother screaming at me to get down."

Although bombs dropped all around her family's house, it never took a direct hit. One day, the ubiquitous sirens sounded and Doreen's mother hollered at her children to run for the nearest shelter.

"That time the bombing created an updraft in our house, shaking up the chimney," she said. "As we ran out, I saw soot shooting out of the house—then our piano flew out of the French doors and slid down to the garden.

"I had never seen a flying piano before," she said with a chuckle. Londoners at the time learned to cope by finding humor in the midst of chaos.

"The girl next door had to climb over a fence every time the sirens sounded. One day she stumbled and fell into the dust bin (garbage can)."

Doreen's family members did their best to keep some semblance of order as the bombing continued. One day an insurance man came around to collect a premium.

"We heard bombing in the distance so my mother made him stay there until it was safe. He tried to be nice and went into the kitchen to make hot chocolate for us. What he thought was cocoa powder was actually red ochre, which we used to polish bricks and brass. It was a nice gesture, but, of course, we had to dump it out."

Post-war recovery lasted well into the 1950s. Food rationing continued long after the war's end. Doreen recalled her sister wanting a pineapple for her birthday, even though she had never actually seen one. Undeterred by the scarcities of the time. Doreen's mother was determined to find a pineapple and she did.

"It took her awhile, but she found that pineapple—on the black market," Doreen said with a twinkle in her eye. "It's funny the things one remembers."

War and recovery took a toll on Doreen's formal education. She left school at 14 and went straight to work and learned the dressmaking

"I was an apprentice for a lady from Paris as a court dressmaker. For the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953, I worked on items for two of the princesses. One day I got carried away and put on one of the ermine robes. I marched all around the work room pretending I was royalty."

Even though she was a court dressmaker, the closest Doreen came to Queen Elizabeth was seeing her riding in a coach on the Buckingham Palace parade grounds. Along with the royal court,

Doreen tailored clothes that were used in the movies.

"I met a lot of celebrities at the time. It was funny, but sometimes they would give us tips on the daily horse races.

And like a scene out of the movies, while leaving a phone booth, she spotted an American serviceman in queue waiting to use the phone. The man also saw her and told a friend who was waiting there with him, "I'm going to marry that girl." He succeeded, and that's where the London to Minnesota connection began.

Richard Peterson hailed from St. Cloud, Minn. Immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, like thousands of young American men, he went down to his local recruiting station and said, "Sign me up!" And into the U.S. Navy he went.

"Pete," as Doreen called him, remained stationed in England after the war. A couple years before they met, he was in a serious auto accident and spent two years in

recovery. When the couple met, Doreen was still a minor and Pete was her

senior by 10 years. "At the same time my sister, Ann, who was seven years younger than me, was very ill with polio," she recalled. "I took another job on Sundays to make money to pay for my sister's medication."

When Richard and Doreen married, England was still rationing commodities like sugar

Dorene Peterson holds a very special photograph of her late husband Richard, taken while he was in stationed in England as a member of the U.S. Navy. The couple met in London by pure chance, and later moved to the Grand Forks Air Base when Richard joined the Army Air Force.

There were 83 deaths recorded in the Record-Review in the year 2017. The deceased names and dates of death are: November 2, 1912-December 27, 2017 Ida Ambers Sherwood Philip Anderson July 7, 1938-April 9, 2017 July 15, 1940-November 13, 2017 David A. Anderson

In Loving Memory

Januay 22, 1921-September 17, 2017 Evelyn Marion Audette Lenora Ardell Bjornson March 19, 1932-August 12, 2017 Nathan John Bohner April 4, 1988-May 13, 2017 Mildred E. Bolgrean August 24, 1932-January 20, 2017 October 22, 1933-February 10, 2017 Estelle Bolgrean Bennett Anthony Borstad March 7, 1944-July 25, 2017 Marjorie Mae Brandt May 6, 1928-May 7, 2017 Roger Alan Butenhoff April 10, 1946-April 29, 2017

Lloyd Arthur Christopherson February 24, 1938-March 7, 2017 July 27, 1943-October 28, 2017 Anita Jean Connelly Kenneth Charles Cook September 14, 1934-February 12, 2017 May 5, 1929-February 7, 2017 Arlene Mae Czichotzki

Dennis Eastman Richard Skip Erdmann

Ida Alice Bye

Joyce Mae Ferris <mark>Jeralyn Jean Fromm</mark> Clint Froslien

Dorothy I. Garven Colin F. Glasgow Odell C. Grant Kenneth D. Griffin Donald Clarence Grondahl

Patricia Ann Hanson Lawrence Thomas Heimark Mildred Adeline Honrud

Elisabeth Bertha Johnk Shirley M. Johnson Donna Mae Johnson

Joseph Leo Kieselbach Elton G. Klug Cleo Avis Koppelman Donald Lewis Krabbenhoft Louis Fredrick Krueger

David Alexander Lamb Jonathan DeLyle Lammers Duane Myron Lass Evelyn Frances Leach Bruce Edward Lewis George Richard Lyon

Gary Alan Martinson Becky Martodam Susan Kay McGough C. Lester Miller

Dean M. Nelson Corrine Lois Nelson Duane Clayton Nelson

George Thomas Olson

Bonnie Rose Packer Arthur Millard Peterson Marian Bernice Prim

Alda Gudrund Raeder Larry Brian Ray David Harold Roesch Adeline Marie Rosenfeldt

Michael Craig Sahlberg Kenneth Dale Sather Lyle Kent Scheffler Glenora Charlotte Schindler Maurice Conrad Schindler Vernon E. Sha Austin Patrick Sherwood Gunner Sieder Beth Simison Gary Lee Sorum Brian Kent Stangeland Joetta Rae Steinke Charles Julius Stender Adrian Albin Stetz David James Stetz Gordon Richard Swenson

Dorothy Maxine Tabatt William Henry Bill Thompson Marilyn DeVaughn Thompson Jerome Thompson Jerome Odin Toso

Marie Eldora Ubben

Mildred Ida Vangerud

Frank E. Wagamon Anton LeeRoy Whitehead November 21, 1931-October 25, 2017 March 8, 1926-December 17, 2017 December 17, 1944-August 13, 2017 December 23, 1941-June 5, 2017 July 19, 1932-October 14, 2017

June 27, 1934-May 12, 2017 February 11, 1960-December 13, 2017 June 26, 1933-December 3, 2017 July 18, 1927-April 30, 2017 May 16, 1948-November 1, 2017 May 16, 1928-June 15, 2017

March 14, 1961-July 31, 2017 September 30, 1955-July 1, 2017 December 29, 1967-May 12, 2017 September 20, 1922-October 2, 2017

June 4, 1934-June 30, 2017 July 15, 1923-June 30, 2017 February 22, 1931-August 4, 2017

September 8, 1933-February 8, 2017

March 28, 1937-June 30, 2017 August 5, 1914-May 16, 2017 March 1, 1924-October 21, 2017

December 25, 1925-November 12, 2017 March 31, 1936-April 14, 2017 May 30, 1973-September 17, 2017 August 15, 2017-November 28, 2017

February 28, 1950-Novmeber 6, 2017 September 19, 1930-April 8, 2017 August 31, 1957-July 29, 2017 March 20, 1927-June 3, 2017 January 29, 1954-October 17, 2017 May 3, 1927-February 28, 2017 February 21, 1992-June 24, 2017 Not Available-December 21, 2017 March 11, 1918-April 22, 2017 August 26, 1957-September 27, 2017 May 4, 1955-April 25, 2017 January 23, 1933-July 30, 2017 August 22, 1934-June 1, 2017 July 2, 1937-July 16, 2017 May 16, 1943-August 9, 2017

March 5, 1915-July 7, 2017 Not Available-Not Available September 20, 1930-July 19, 2017 November 27, 1933-Not Available February 19, 1928-January 8, 2017

February 12, 1938-August 6, 2017

February 28, 1926-November 5, 2017

July 5, 1910-July 19, 2017

Not Available-November 16, 2017 May 10, 1936-July 6, 2017

and confections. "So Pete bought or her flair for design. me a big box of chocolates from the commissary. It was like a box of treasure to me."

Pete made the military his career. He switched to the Army Air Force and was eventually stationed at the Grand Forks, N.D., Air Base.

"When we moved to the base, my mother said, 'How can you live where you might get bombed?' Can you believe it? She was worried about me living on a military base in the states. We had been through 54 straight days of bombing! It was a terrible thing, but I'm still here to talk about it."

The Petersons had three children, DeAnn, Gayle and David. DeAnn Hedland and her husband Dean moved to the Hawley area about 10 years ago. Dean passed away in August 2016. One of DeAnn's sons, Dan Hedland, and his wife Stephanie still reside in Barnesville.

Gayle remained in Grand Forks, where she works as a hairdresser. David lives in Florida

Through the years, Doreen never lost her love for fine fabrics

could do but give it away"

Although Doreen had worked for a Parisian designer, she never made it to Paris. "Pete and I were planning on it, but then his health began to fail."

Doreen took a trip to Duluth the week of August 7 with many of her family members. "It's very beautiful there and a bit like Cornwall, England, where Pete and I spent our honeymoon."

Still making their home in "I collected yards and yards of England are Doreen's brother fabric. But after I had to move from David and sister Ann, who Grand Forks, there was not much I recovered from polio and later opened a dance studio in London

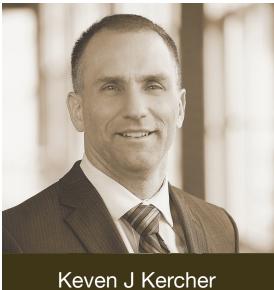
> ago. "I loved the life we had together and I still miss him.' From blitzkriegs and world war to the 1997 Grand Forks flood,

Richard passed away 17 years

Doreen Peterson's life has been anything but dull. "I've also been through a

hurricane," she adds. "I think maybe I have a medal coming that says, 'She's seen it all.""





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