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GLADYS ARNOLD

By ELIZABETH SEITZ

JULY 2010

Biographical Sketch

Gladys Maria Marguerite Arnold was born in Macoun Saskatchewan on 2 October 1905. Her father worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway and the family was constantly on the move. She attended 17 different schools in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba, graduating from Weyburn Collegiate and Normal School.

Arnold taught in various rural schools and briefly at Success Business College in Winnipeg. She joined the Regina *Leader-Post* in April 1930 becoming an editorial assistant to D.B. MacRae, the Editor-in-Chief. Constantly asking for the chance to write, she convinced MacRae to let her do editorial work. Soon Arnold was writing editorials, feature articles, news stories, and doing interviews which, on occasion, were picked up by other newspapers.

Seeking adventure in Europe, Arnold left her job in 1935 and traveled from the port at Churchill to the United Kingdom aboard a grain cargo ship. Soon she found herself in Paris where she intended to study the major “-isms” of the modern age -- socialism, communism, and fascism. Still needing to make a living, Arnold began submitting freelance pieces to the Canadian Press (CP). When her money began to run out, Arnold gave notice that she could no longer continue as a freelancer and would soon stop submitting material. The Canadian Press hired her as their full-time Paris correspondent. In the next four years she reported for CP from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Italy and from the Spanish border during the Spanish civil war.

Gladys Arnold was the sole Canadian correspondent in France at the outbreak of the Second World War and she covered the early days of the conflict, the so-called “phony war”, until the German occupation of Paris in June 1940. Returning to Canada, Arnold served with the CP Bureau in Ottawa and wrote communiques and other items for the Free French on a volunteer basis. She left CP in 1941 setting up the Free French Information Service in Canada with Elizabeth de Miribel. After the war this service was attached to the French Embassy in Ottawa and Arnold served as its Director until her retirement in 1971.

Gladys Arnold passed away in 2002.

Scope and Content

This fonds consists of 2.5 centimetres of textual material.

The writing in this collection ranges from 1939 to 1990.

There are no access restrictions on the records in this fonds.

Related material may be found in 89-61, 98-54, 2005-12 and 2007-42 and 2009-71

Box 1

NOTEBOOKS

- 1 Diary of Vimy Pilgrimage 1936
- 2 1939 – 1990
- 3 1990
- 4 Poems