

A Long and Winding Road

Horst and Ruby Mix were married in the village church in Wallyford, a mining village near Musselburgh, on 8th July 1950. Ruby was born in the village and attended



Musselburgh Grammar School, before becoming a shorthand typist in a law office.

Iron Cross to Prisoner of War

Horst was born in the village of Wuthenow in Germany. When he was three years old his family moved to the tiny village of Gnewikow on the Neuruppiner Lake. Educated in the village school, Horst went on to agricultural college and to work on the large, nearby estate.

In 1943, shortly after his 17th birthday, he was drafted into the elite of the German armed forces - the Waffen SS, which is comparable to the British SAS. On Easter Sunday, 1st April 1945 he was decorated with the Iron Cross, 2nd class, for leadership and bravery.

When the war ended Horst was taken prisoner by the British Army and eventually sailed from Rotterdam to Tilbury on May 6th 1946. After a short spell at a transit camp in Moreton-in-Marsh, Horst was moved to Devon and then to the Scottish village of Kinnell, about 20 miles from Dundee. By 1948 he

was hoping that his time as a prisoner of war would soon be over. On December 28th 1948 Horst was finally discharged as a prisoner and life took on a new meaning. He now knew what it was

like to be free and appreciated the friendliness of the Scottish people.

Diamond for Ruby and Horst

Horst met Ruby when he started playing in a local band and accepted an invitation to tea with a family in a nearby village. There were four daughters in the family, one played piano with the band, but it was Ruby who caught his eye. First though he had to learn to speak English! He became a British citizen and, as long as the Union approved, it was possible to find work, first in a local paper mill and then in order to be allocated a house, in a coal mine near Dalkeith.

In 1966 they left Scotland, with their two small sons and finally settled in Shipton in 1970. It was many years before Horst was able to take his family back to Gnewikow, which was now in East Germany, and to find out what had happened to his family there.

Horst and Ruby will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with their two sons and daughters-in-law, their grandchildren and four great grandsons. We wish them many more happy years together.

Christine Halliday