Windrush
My Letter Home

Insert Address

Create an address based upon the profile you have chosen.

To

In this section, share your experiences as a Windrush migrant with a family member or friend from home.

Profile One:

Florrie Collins

Florrie came on the Windrush from British Guyana (now called Guyana). She left behind her mother, father, two sisters and a brother. Florrie was 26 years old when she left and wanted to become a nurse in the UK - she had a passion for helping others. She arrived in London and then travelled to study to be a nurse in Brighton.

Profile Two:

Herbert Johnson

Arriving in London in May 1962, Herbert was aged 18. He had previously worked in a hardware shop in Jamaica. Herbert was hoping to find a job very quickly and easily. His brother has been living in London for over a year. They planned to share his small room in a rented house with other men until they could find somewhere bigger. Before arriving, Herbert was told by his brother that the food was boring and bland.

Profile Three:

Mabel Thomas

Mabel Thomas was 8-years-old when she travelled from St Kitts to Merthyr, South Wales with her mum. She enjoyed playing with her friends, drawing and dancing. She was very nervous about making new friends. Mabel's dad had arrived in the 1950s and had found a job working in the mine in Merthyr. He often wrote letters to Mabel telling her about how hard his job was, working long hours in a dirty mine. Mabel's dad was really looking forward to having his family together as he missed them so much.

Profile Four:

Harold Oliver

Harold Oliver was born in Barbados and was 22 years old when he arrived at the port of Southampton. He travelled to London to seek work after he was told that London would be the best place to find work as a tailor. In Barbados, he lived in a town near the beach and loved to cook, he lived with his grandmother who taught him to everything he knew about food and his elderly Grandfather who taught him tailoring skills. Harold's grandfather used to tell him that "life is always brighter in a well tailored suit". Harold did worry that he would never see his beloved grandparents again.

Profile Five:

Leona Joseph

Leona Joseph (aged 19) arrived in Liverpool in May 1956 from Trinidad. She had worked as a school teaching assistant in a small town near her home. When she moved to the UK, not only did she leave her job behind but she also had to leave her boyfriend Trevor at home. Her brother Tomas had come to Liverpool a year before her and she planned to live with him. She would write to him weekly and at first he would regularly write back, but she had noticed he had sent less and less letters home the longer he had lived in the UK which concerned her and made her more nervous for her move.