

Sally Landau  
Polish Immigrant  
Alaunia  
May of 1939



We landed in Halifax at Pier  
21 by way of the SS Alaunia, Cunard Line.

In the year 1939, Poland allowed 50 Jewish families to emigrate to Canada. We were among the 50 Jewish families lucky enough to come here. My dear sister Nancy died a couple of weeks ago. I visited her frequently during her growing illness and I promised her that I will follow up our desire to find out the reason for sending back to Poland our little brother once we already landed on Canadian soil.

My brave mother took her son back to Poland, left him in the custody of my Uncle Nathan Landau and by the grace of God returned to Canada in August 1939.

The second option was for the whole family to be sent back. (No one was left alive from our family back in Poland).

As you must have been aware of the fact that in April 1939 there were already rumblings of war. Germany was ready to march into Poland. I'm sure that the Canadian Government was well aware of the fact as was the Immigration Department.

The Polish government gave my little brother a clean bill of health so what was so seriously wrong with him that the Dept. of Immigration of Canada would not allow him to remain with us once we were in Halifax.

As I sit herein mourning for my dear sister, my thoughts hound me why the fate of my brother had to be so cruel. Was there no compassion on the part of Can. Immigration?