

Celina Lieberman
Jewish War Orphan
General S.D.
Sturgis
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Arrival

There was much excitement at seeing Newfoundland. We all became incoherent. We landed in Halifax on February 14, 1948. We all stood in line in this huge hall for passport control. They still had to look at us and approve us. I remember being a bit frightened because of all the authority figures around us and knowing that once again, we had no papers.

By the time we got put on the train we were all rather wild. Some of the children just got off wherever they wanted to. I insisted that Sylvia Ackermann stay and go on with me to Regina as we had been told.

We arrived on a brilliantly, sunny and cold day. We were met by several of the city's "pillars of the community" who took us to breakfast. When we were served half-grapefruits, all we could do is look at them. We had never see grapefruits before. None of us knew what to do with them.

The community was very good to us. Sam Promislow took us to his dry goods wholesale and said to take whatever we needed. I remember picking up a hairbrush and Sam said, "no, no, let me show you where the brushes with the really good bristles are."

Expectations

I do not think that I expected much. I was without a family or a country and very little seemed to matter to me, I felt a certain apathy. I reasoned that since I had already been someone else's child, Helena's, then I could be yet another person's child in Canada. All I was told was that I was going to Regina, Saskatchewan, presumably to a Jewish family but I was not sure.

The Voyage

For those of us who had experienced so much during the war, going across the ocean was not such a big adventure, the big adventure had been our survival. This was just something we had to do. I remember the Steam Ship General Sturgis being an old rusty tub that lumbered

across the Atlantic. We all got sick eating too many hot dogs, which were a novelty for us.