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Jewish War Orphan  
Aquitania  
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### The Voyage

We went from Brussels to London. I was so seasick. We were put in another orphanage that was like a castle to me. It was very drafty, very cold. No one spoke French, only the people looking after us, and I remember I was trying to find paper and no one understood that papier and paper were the same thing. I had wanted to leave a note because everywhere I went I left notes. You learned to leave notes at the underground train station, the bus station - places I knew Sara, my oldest sister, and any family would eventually go and look. In London we took a ship called the Aquitania, and it took us to Halifax. I was so sick the whole time. I was in the sick bay practically the whole trip, but my sister, Esther, said that if you don't get up they won't let you off the ship.

### Arrival

What they put us through in this country was terrible, really it was. They treated us terribly. They tried to examine me like I was a prostitute. I saw this building with bars on the window. It looked like a prison to me, and I thought, what did I do? I am going from one prison to another type of prison.

They said Canada was a free country and we would be welcome, but we were guarded like we were in a camp. Wearing a card with a safety pin on it (name tag) doesn't help much. Also the border patrol and the customs officers took everything we had, and we were too afraid to mention this to anyone. I still had a little diamond ring that my sister Sara had given me and I had managed to hide it. Throughout the entire war I had saved my ring. They took the diamond out of it and my money and loose coins. In all these years I've never said anything about it and I think those people took advantage of us, of all the people who came. We didn't want to rock the boat, to make trouble so none of us ever reported these things and we have never discussed it among ourselves. After we were examined we were put on a train to cross Canada. I had no expectation about what Canada would be, none. The only thing I knew is that I wanted to hide who I was. So, the only expectation I had when I came to this country, and I remember it today, and it's been 50 years, as I didn't want to be with any other survivors. I did not want to be pointed at.