

Where Can We Go?

Contents

Where Can We Go?: Theme Overview	1
Artifacts	
Song: Where Shall I Go?	2
Certificate in lieu of passport	3
Letter by UNRRA worker	6
Newspaper article	7
Privy Council Order	9
Vaccination card	11

Where Can We Go?: Theme Overview

At the war's end, there were 250,000 displaced Jewish refugees in Europe, among them many war orphans. There were very few immigration choices open to these survivors. Most had no homes to return to and there were few countries willing to admit them.

Despite the refugee crisis, western nations were slow to change their restrictive wartime immigration policies. Canada's policies reflected an earlier agricultural vision of Canada and were used as a way of keeping out undesirable or "non-assimilable racial groups" of immigrants.

Many of the displaced persons hoped to rebuild their lives in Palestine, but were prevented from doing so by the British blockade. Others were anxious to leave Europe and hoped to go as far away as possible. Canada, the United States, England and Australia were among the most desired destinations.

During the war, the Canadian Jewish community had tried, with little success, to convince the Canadian government to admit Jewish refugees. Prime Minister Mackenzie King feared that votes would be lost by admitting too many Jews. After the war, Canada was one of the first countries to cautiously open its doors. Of the 65,000 refugees that Canada admitted from 1945 to 1948, only 8,000 were Jews.

In 1947 the Canadian government issued the Order in Council #1647 granting permission for 1,000 Jewish war orphans to enter Canada. The War Orphans Project prompted a search for eligible children in Europe. Members of the Canadian Jewish Congress and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) worked to find orphans under the age of eighteen and to facilitate their immigration to Canada. Other less fortunate survivors remained in orphanages and DP camps for years after the war, waiting for the international community to determine their fate.

The song *Where Shall I Go?* Written by S. Korntayer. Poland.

This song of despair was written before the war and was popular in the ghettos during the Holocaust and in the Displaced Persons camps after the war. It is attributed to S. Korntayer, a Yiddish actor, who died in the Warsaw ghetto in 1942. Music is attributed to Oscar Strock. Variations of this song were sung in other ghettos as well.

Yiddish:

Vu Ahin Zol Ich Geyn?

Der yid vert geyogt un geplogt -
Nisht zicher iz far im yeder tog:
Zayn shtrebn, alts far im iz farmakht.
Farlozn, bloyz mit sonim, keyn fraynd.
Keyn hofenung, on a zikern haynt.

Vu ahin zol ikh geyn,
Ver kon entfernen mir?
Vu ahin zol ikh geyn,
Az farshln z'yede tir?
S'iz di velt groys genug,
Nor far mir iz eng un kleyn -
Vu a blik
Kh'muz tsurik,
S'iz tseshtert yede brik:
Vu ahin zol ikh geyn?

English:

Where Shall I Go?

The Jew's always hounded and plagued.
Not sure of his hour or his day.
His life is in darkness enclosed.
His strivings are thwarted, opposed.
Deserted, no friends, only foe,
No safe place, no safe day to know.

Tell me where shall I go,
Who can answer my plea?
Tell me where shall I go,
Every door is barred to me?
Though the world's large enough,
There's no room for me I know,
What I see
Is not for me,
Each road is closed, I am not free -
Tell me where shall I go.

Certificate in lieu of passport belonging to Regina Feldman. Fulda, Germany 7 January 1948.

494 20/116

Office of the Military Governor № 122112
U. S. Zone of Germany *Karcowicz*

CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY IN LIEU OF PASSPORT

1. BULWIK Regina
(name in full)

born at Bedzin (town) Poland (country)

on 6th (day) of December (month), 1931 (year), Female (sex), Polish (citizenship)

Not applicable (Given & maiden name of wife, if applicable) intends to emigrate to _____

Canada (country of immigration)

2. He (she) will be accompanied by None

(List here all family members, with name, birthplace and date, and citizenship of each)

3. ~~His~~ (her) occupation is Student

4. DESCRIPTION PHOTOGRAPH

Height 156,5 cm ~~inches~~

Hair Dark Eyes Grey

Distinguishing marks or features:
Slight scar on right side of forehead.

Bulwik Regina
(signature of applicant)

5. ~~He~~ (she) solemnly declares that ~~he~~ (she) has never committed nor has ~~he~~ (she) been convicted of any crime except as follows: None

6. He (she) is unable to produce birth certificates, marriage license, divorce papers and /or police record for the following reasons: unable to procure birth certificate


7. I hereby certify that the description of the person(s) whose photograph(s) is affixed hereto is correct and that ~~he~~ (she, they) declare(s) that the facts stated above are true.

Bulwik Regina
(signature of applicant)

Signed 7 (day) Jan (month) 48 (year)

at Strasbourg (location)

Paul J. McCormick
(signature of certifying officer)
Chief, Repatriation and Resettlement
RP BRANCH, CAD. EDROM
(position)



Office of the Military Governor
U. S. Zone of Germany

CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY IN LIEU OF PASSPORT

CANADA
Immigrant Visa

Authority PC 164470 375 08

Issued at Stuttgart Germany

On Jan 9 1948

Valid for presentation at Canadian Port of Entry within Three months from date of issue

1. The (she) will be accompanied by Family

2. The (she) has family members in the (name, birthplace, date of birth, and citizenship of each)

LANDED IMMIGRANT

D. P. O.
Gen S. D. Stanger

4. DESCRIPTION

Height _____ inches

Hair _____ Eyes _____

Distinguishing marks or features _____

5. Signature of applicant _____

6. The (she) solemnly declares that she (he) has never committed nor has she (he) been convicted of any crime except as follows: _____

7. The (she) is unable to produce birth certificates, marriage license, divorce papers and/or police records for the following reasons: _____

8. I hereby certify that the description of the person whose photograph(s) is attached herein is correct and that the (she) (they) (he) (she) is (are) the person (persons) stated above and true.

Signature of official _____
Date _____

After I was liberated from the concentration camp Klettendorf in 1945, I went to a Displaced Persons camp. My cousin Gershon found me there and took me to live with him and his wife in Fulda, Germany. Members of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) asked if I wanted to go Canada and be adopted. What did I know? I was only 14 years old. I thought that nothing could be worse than what I had already experienced in the Holocaust, so I said yes.

In order to land in Canada, I needed identification papers. I needed a document to travel. I didn't have a passport or anything to prove who I was. Gershon took me to Stuttgart, Germany, to help me get this certificate dated January 7, 1948. Gershon, was nine years older than me and was able to help me fill out the information for the passport certificate. He remembered more about our past than I did. I couldn't even remember my own birth date because I had been separated from my family so young. Luckily, Gershon remembered that I was born on December 6, 1931.

After I got this certificate, my cousin's wife took me to a tailor to have some clothes made. Then I traveled to Aglasterhausen DP camp, along with many other child survivors, where we waited for our turn to emigrate. When I landed in Halifax, I was allowed entrance into Canada by showing them this certificate. Canadian immigration officials stamped it with the date 9 January 1948.

Regina Feldman

Excerpt from a letter from Charity Grant, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration worker, to Brooke Claxton. New York, 20 January 1946. Transcription.

UNRRA
APO 757
C/O Postmaster, NYC
January 20th, 1946.

...I don't know how to describe what I feel. To work with people who have no future is the most humbling thing you can imagine. One's own worries and troubles are picayune, childish. Concentration camp survivors are a new race of human beings.

I wish Canada would offer to take a group of Jewish children. So far no country has offered any permanent haven to any of them. Canada says it must play the part of a major power. Well let her show herself. Let her be the first to offer refuge to some of these children. I don't think it would be possible to get Canada to open immigration to large numbers of refugees but it might take some children. We have thousands of orphans all of whom have no better place to go. And of course the sooner we were to offer to take them the better material for citizenship they would be because living in this country is no place to learn good citizenship. I can't tell you what it would mean to thousands of people to think that at long last one country had offered to take even a small group of children. It would give them hope that may some day they could start life again. It would be a really magnificent gesture...

Yours truly.

Charity Grant

*Sent by Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Health and Welfare, to the Prime Minister, Ottawa, 20 April 1946.
NAC, MG26, J4, King Papers, C195216-20*

Charity Grant was a member of a Canadian team of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). Grant wrote this letter appealing for the admission of Jewish refugees, especially children. She added her voice to those urging a change in Canadian immigration policies. This was a very unpopular idea at the time. She wrote this letter to Brooke Claxton, Minister of Health and Welfare and it was then passed on to the Prime Minister.

Open Hearts CLOSED DOORS	<i>Where Can We Go?</i>	Newspaper Article
		Page 1 of 2: description

Victoria Times newspaper article. Victoria, 3 May 1947.

Throughout the war the Canadian Jewish community tried desperately to convince the government to remove immigration restrictions against Jews. On May 3, 1947 the Victoria Daily Times reported on the Canadian government's decision to finally allow 1,000 Jewish orphans of the Holocaust to enter Canada.

The article makes reference to the earlier 1942 Privy Council Order, which came too late to rescue 500 Jewish children from Vichy, France.

The second paragraph explains that the Canadian Jewish Congress was assuming all responsibility for the orphans. This sparked a search for eligible children in Europe and Jewish homes in Canada to receive them.

1,000 Jewish Children, Orphaned By Nazis To Get Homes In Canada

OTTAWA (CP) — Five years after Hitler's absorption of all France prevented it the first time, Canada is going through with a wartime offer to provide sanctuary for 1,000 European Jewish children orphaned by German persecutions, it was learned Friday.

Permission for their entry coincides with the government's broadened immigration policy, announced in the Commons Friday by Prime Minister King, and is based on assumption by the Canadian Jewish Congress of responsibility for them.

STORY OF TRAGEDY

Their story was one of the tragedies of the war.

They are among the survivors of thousands of families of European Jews who were butchered or gassed by the Nazis.

In that period when Hitler had divided France into occupied and unoccupied zones and was dispatching Jews in France to concentration camps in Poland, Canada agreed to permit 1,000 of their orphans from the Vichy or unoccupied sector to enter on a guarantee by the Congress that they would not become public charges.

Ships actually left to pick them

up. But the Allies launched their invasion of North Africa, Hitler took over all France and the gateway to freedom was shut off. The children have been there since.

A Resources Department official concerned with immigration said it was not known how many of the present 1,000 were among the original 1,000. But they now would come from several countries.

He said shipping, the chief barrier to all immigration movements at present, would decide when they would reach here.

Meanwhile, immigration officials said there was no indication that any other set groups such as these children would be coming in under the broadened regulations—allowing in families related to guaranteeing Canadians and providing for admission of "some thousands" of refugees—in the immediate future. But there might well be once immigration inspection teams got into stride into Europe.

Already some 50 of Europe's 850,000 displaced persons and refugees have arrived in Canada and another small party is on the way.

The immigration branch already has on file a master list of 5,000 applications by Canadians for admission of European relatives who until Friday were forbidden admission.

Medical, personal and other reasons are expected to slim the total considerably, but it was estimated unofficially that possibly 2,000 to 3,000 persons could be expected to come in under that list which should grow when news of the widened laws spreads.

Privy Council Order issued by the Canadian government. Ottawa, 29 April 1947.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 21st April, 1947, from the Minister of Mines and Resources, stating that on October 2nd, 1942 authority was given for the entry to Canada of 500 Jewish orphan children from France with the understanding that an additional 500 might later be authorized upon it being ascertained that the second group could be properly placed and cared for;

That the subsequent control of France by enemy agencies prevented the movement of the children; and

That the Canadian Jewish Congress have requested on humanitarian grounds a renewal of the authority issued in 1942.

The Minister, recognizing the fact that approval of such request will contribute in some measure to a solution of the problem of displaced persons and taking into consideration the humanitarian aspects of the matter, recommends that the provisions of Order in Council P.C.695, dated the 21st day of March, 1931, as subsequently amended, be waived in regard to 1000 Jewish orphan children under the age of eighteen years, who can otherwise comply with the provisions of the Immigration Act and Regulations, the term "orphan" to mean a child bereaved of both parents, such admission to be subject to guarantees regarding reception, placement and public charge liability satisfactory to the Minister of Mines and Resources.

The Committee concur in the foregoing recommendation and submit the same for approval.

[Handwritten signature]

Approved

Alexander of Tunis

APR 29 1947

2 M.R. May 1947

During the war Canadian Jews watched the events unfolding in Europe with grave concern and petitioned the Canadian government to help them get relatives out of Europe. Acting through Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), they urged the government to remove immigration restrictions against Jews. Finally in 1942, Privy Council Order #1647 was passed. This gave permission for 500 Jewish refugee children, living in Vichy France, to enter Canada. Sadly, this order came too late. The children were caught up in the war and never made it to Canada.

After the war Prime Minister Mackenzie King feared that admitting too many Jewish refugees would lose votes. Finally in 1947, the government revived the earlier 1942 Privy Council Order, and gave permission for 1,000 Jewish orphans to enter Canada.

Vaccination card belonging to Robbie Waisman. March/April 1946.

**CERTIFICAT
DE**

**VACCINATIONS ASSOCIÉES } ANTIDIPHTÉRIQUE
ANTITÉTANIQUE**

par le mélange d'Anatoxines Diphtérique et Tétanique

Trois injections sous-cutanées dans la région scapulaire (fosse sus-épineuse), de chacune
2 cc. à intervalles de 15 jours.

M. WAISMAN ROMEK âgé de 16 ANS

habitant 12 AV FRANCOIS ARAGO LE VESINET S / O

a reçu le mélange d'anatoxines Diphtérique et Tétanique aux dates suivantes :

2 cc. le 2 - 3 - 46 Le 13 - 4 - 46
2 cc. le 23 - 3 - 46
2 cc. le 13 - 6 - 46
Injection de rappel (2 cc.)
2 cc. le _____

Ce certificat sera délivré, après la 3^e injection de vaccins associés.

Imp. Oberthur. (5364-6-42)

Getting accepted into Canada as an immigrant was tough. Jewish orphans had to be under 18 years old and in good health. They had to express a desire to come to Canada, "have the ability to adjust" and show proof that they were an orphan. Sometimes children who wore glasses or could not read were excluded. The process was a very lengthy one and you had to be absolutely healthy. I had trouble getting approval because I had very low blood pressure at the time. I had repeated blood tests and had all but given up hope. Finally, I got a letter accepting me into Canada. This is my vaccination card proving that I had been vaccinated against diphtheria and tetanus. I was sixteen years old.

Robbie Waisman