

The Page and the Epistle



FEATURES

FEATURE: ESCAPING THE SOVIETS: THE STORY OF A LATVIAN IMMIGRANT

MARCH 8, 2022 | NADIA HJORTSBERG | 85 COMMENTS

Since I was little, I have heard details about and vague summaries of my grandfather's life. I recently interviewed him for a school project, allowing me to hear his full story.

My grandfather, Ojars Lidums, is an immigrant from Latvia. When I tell people I am Latvian, they generally have no idea what that means. Latvia is a small country (about as large as West Virginia) bordering the massive country of Russia. It lies between two other small countries, Estonia and Lithuania, which, together with Latvia, form the Baltic States. Latvia was forcibly absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1944, after having been occupied by the Nazis during World War II.

Ojars was born in 1940 and lived on his family's farm, located only a few miles from the border of Russia. My great-grandfather, Roberts Lidums, was the chief of police in Abrene, Latvia. Having a leadership po-

sition at the time placed him in danger, as the Soviets were known to either exterminate those in power or send them to Siberia to perform hard labor. When his wife Anna, my great-grandmother, went into labor with Ojars, Roberts ordered his troops to protect the family from nearby Soviet soldiers. Roberts fought against the USSR's ever-present threat and advances into Latvia and, therefore, was rarely home with his family. For certain periods of time, he and his fellow partisans lived in the forest surrounding the farm, performing various attacks and sabotages against the Soviet forces on the border.

In 1940, the Soviets officially occupied Latvia and annexed it, together with the two other Baltic countries. Then, in 1941, an occupation by Nazi Germany replaced that of the Soviet Union. Latvia's army and police forces were taken over by Germany and incorporated into its army. The USSR's second occupation of Latvia replaced that of Nazi-Germany's in 1944. Due to the Soviet Union's invasion, my grandfather and his mother had to evacuate their home in November of 1944, taking a ferry to Poland, which was occupied by Germany at the time.

The two soon had to leave Poland, heading further southeast due to the continued advance of Soviet troops. Several hundred miles from the German border, my grandfather and other refugees from the Baltics had no other option but to walk, carrying whatever belongings they could, sewn into their clothing or piled in hand-drawn and horse-drawn carts, as the Allies and Soviets had bombed all public transportation. During this migration, the war continued, and the Allies bombed these walking columns of civilians, which consisted mostly of women and children, as they fled from the Soviet occupiers.

Having escaped the Soviets, my grandfather and his mother reached Germany. Nazi Germany was beginning to fall, and the war was ending. From 1945 to 1950, my grandfather and his family lived in a displaced persons camp in Germany. My grandfather and his mother had also been reunited with Roberts at the camp after Roberts searched the lists posted at the gates of each camp, searching for them. At the camp, the family changed its last name from Trumpmanis to Lidums to prevent communist operatives from finding them.

The camp in which the Lidums family lived was one of a network of such camps established by the Allies after the war, and, thus, was under control of American and British soldiers, all of which my grandfather speaks fondly of to this day. They provided food, clothing, medical care, and education to the displaced citizens and even created a summer camp for the children. Despite some less-than-ideal conditions (my grandfather slept in a crib until he was nine years old and one of the rooms in which the family lived had only three walls, to name a few), the family was safe and lived a relatively normal life with their Latvian friends and people as a whole.

In 1950, my grandfather and his family left Germany for the United States. Countries around the world such as Great Britain, Sweden, New Zealand, and the U.S. agreed to accept a limited number of displaced persons from Soviet-occupied countries. In order to immigrate, refugee families needed a sponsor, who would provide a job, room, and board for the immigrant for two years. The Lidums's sponsor owned a

farm in Virginia, allowing them to move to the United States and start a new and much more peaceful life. My grandfather has lived in the U.S. for 72 years and is now 81 years old. He attended law school and is now a retired circuit court judge.

Images (courtesy of the Hjortsberg family):



10th Cesis (a town in northeastern Latvia) National Guard unit during gas instruction class at Lake Ninieris (lake near Cesis).



Ojars Lidums (child) and his family on their farm in Latvia.

85 THOUGHTS ON “FEATURE: ESCAPING THE SOVIETS: THE STORY OF A LATVIAN IMMIGRANT ”

**Hairstyles**

MAY 4, 2022 AT 9:49 PM

I'm really inspired along with your writing skills as well as with the layout on your blog. Is this a paid subject or did you modify it your self? Either way stay up the nice quality writing, it抰 rare to peer a nice blog like this one nowadays..

**Cortez**

MAY 19, 2022 AT 9:52 PM

That's very good point

**Alina**

MAY 21, 2022 AT 6:00 AM

That's a great point

**Winnie**

MAY 23, 2022 AT 12:57 AM

That's an awesome point

**Linda**

MAY 24, 2022 AT 5:38 PM

Why is it I always really feel like you do?

**Micheline**

MAY 31, 2022 AT 11:40 AM

What's up everyone, it's my first go to see at this web site, and piece of writing is really fruitful for me, keep up posting these types of articles.

**Tuyet**

JUNE 1, 2022 AT 4:50 PM

Interesting blog! Is your theme custom made or did you download it from somewhere? A theme like yours with a few simple tweeks would really make my blog jump out.

Please let me know where you got your design. Thanks a lot



Nydia Teaff

JUNE 17, 2022 AT 8:50 PM

hey there and thank you for your information – I’ve certainly picked up anything new from right here. I did however expertise a few technical issues using this web site, as I experienced to reload the web site a lot of times previous to I could get it to load correctly. I had been wondering if your hosting is OK? Not that I’m complaining, but slow loading instances times will very frequently affect your placement in google and could damage your high-quality score if advertising and marketing with Adwords. Anyway I am adding this RSS to my email and can look out for much more of your respective exciting content. Make sure you update this again very soon..



remote cell phone hackers

JUNE 21, 2022 AT 10:35 PM

You could definitely see your expertise in the work you write. The arena hopes for even more passionate writers like you who aren’t afraid to mention how they believe. Always follow your heart. “We are near waking when we dream we are dreaming.” by Friedrich von Hardenberg Novalis.



cell phone hackers for hire

JUNE 22, 2022 AT 4:20 AM

Thanks for helping out, wonderful information. “The four stages of man are infancy, childhood, adolescence, and obsolescence.” by Bruce Barton.



zorivare worilon

JUNE 29, 2022 AT 4:43 PM

Very well written post. It will be valuable to everyone who utilizes it, including yours truly :). Keep up the good work – for sure i will check out more posts.



Martin

JULY 1, 2022 AT 1:08 PM

Thanks on your marvelous posting! I definitely enjoyed reading it, you can be a great author. I will make sure to bookmark your blog and may come back in the foreseeable future. I want to encourage you to ultimately continue your great job, have a nice holiday weekend!

**Wade**

JULY 1, 2022 AT 2:55 PM

I'm impressed, I have to admit. Seldom do

I come across a blog that's both educative and interesting, and let

me tell you, you've hit the nail on the head. The issue is something that not enough people are speaking

intelligently about. I am very happy I found this in my search for something concerning this.

**Imogene**

JULY 1, 2022 AT 3:49 PM

Hey I know this is off topic but I was wondering if you knew of any widgets I

could add to my blog that automatically tweet

my newest twitter updates. I've been looking for a plug-in like this for

quite some time and was hoping maybe you would have some experience with something like this. Please let me know if you run into anything.

I truly enjoy reading your blog and I look forward

to your new updates.

**Inez**

JULY 1, 2022 AT 4:04 PM

Hi, i think that i saw you visited my weblog so i came to "return the favor".I'm trying to find things to enhance my website! I suppose its ok to use some of your ideas!!

**Annabelle**

JULY 1, 2022 AT 5:30 PM

Hello, Neat post. There is an issue together with your web site in web

explorer, would check this? IE still is the marketplace leader and

a large element of people will pass over your fantastic

writing because of this problem.

**Ada**

JULY 1, 2022 AT 6:08 PM

What i don't realize is if truth be told how you're not really much more smartly-appreciated than you might be

now. You are so intelligent. You know thus considerably when it comes to this matter, made me indi-

vidually imagine it from numerous numerous angles.
Its like women and men aren't interested until it's something
to accomplish with Girl gaga! Your individual stuffs nice.
Always take care of it up!

**Julio**

JULY 1, 2022 AT 6:29 PM

Hello, of course this piece of writing is actually fastidious and I
have learned lot of things from it about blogging. thanks.

**Brigida**

JULY 1, 2022 AT 7:23 PM

Helpful information. Fortunate me I discovered your website accidentally, and I am shocked why this
twist of fate didn't took
place in advance! I bookmarked it.

**샌즈카지노**

AUGUST 15, 2022 AT 6:29 PM

Thanks-a-mundo for the post. Really Cool.

**مويه**

AUGUST 17, 2022 AT 1:48 PM

Im grateful for the post. Really thank you! Fantastic.

**driving lessons**

AUGUST 17, 2022 AT 5:09 PM

Very neat blog post. Thanks Again. Want more.

**visit site**

AUGUST 19, 2022 AT 8:56 AM

Enjoyed every bit of your blog article. Really thank you! Cool.

**live football**

AUGUST 19, 2022 AT 11:38 AM

Im grateful for the blog post.Much thanks again.



stream soccer live

AUGUST 19, 2022 AT 4:24 PM

Great, thanks for sharing this post.Much thanks again.



visit hvactraininghq

AUGUST 20, 2022 AT 6:25 AM

Im grateful for the blog.Thanks Again. Much obliged.



apk pkv qiu qiu

AUGUST 20, 2022 AT 9:41 AM

Enjoyed every bit of your article.Really looking forward to read more. Really Great.



link judi terpercaya

AUGUST 20, 2022 AT 12:37 PM

I really liked your blog article.Thanks Again. Great.



ammbetx

AUGUST 20, 2022 AT 5:43 PM

A round of applause for your article post.Really thank you! Really Cool.



technomantu

AUGUST 21, 2022 AT 2:47 AM

I loved your blog.Much thanks again. Want more.



customer care

AUGUST 21, 2022 AT 5:23 AM

Thanks so much for the article post.Much thanks again. Want more.



LIFE AND RELATIONSHIP COACHING

AUGUST 21, 2022 AT 3:50 PM

Thanks for the article post. Keep writing.



19다모아

AUGUST 21, 2022 AT 6:20 PM

I appreciate you sharing this blog article. Much thanks again.



Send money to Nigeria

AUGUST 22, 2022 AT 10:59 AM

Really appreciate you sharing this article post. Thanks Again. Keep writing.



Whatsapp Marketing

AUGUST 23, 2022 AT 6:32 AM

I value the article. Really Great.



live soccer online

AUGUST 23, 2022 AT 2:20 PM

I think this is a real great article. Really thank you! Really Cool.



goaloo - nowgoal

AUGUST 25, 2022 AT 9:12 AM

I appreciate you sharing this blog post. Really thank you! Much obliged.



big data analytics

AUGUST 25, 2022 AT 4:29 PM

Great blog article. Much thanks again. Fantastic.



I8ve sex

AUGUST 26, 2022 AT 11:54 AM

Looking forward to reading more. Great blog. Thanks Again. Really Great.



DISEASES

AUGUST 27, 2022 AT 3:53 AM

I really liked your post.Thanks Again. Fantastic.



สล็อตออนไลน์

AUGUST 31, 2022 AT 12:58 PM

Im grateful for the article.Thanks Again. Really Cool.



free naughty chatrooms

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 AT 2:12 PM

I am 37 year old female Thank you so much!



video chat cams

SEPTEMBER 2, 2022 AT 5:35 AM

Thank so much for helping me.



hindi live video chat

SEPTEMBER 2, 2022 AT 7:11 PM

I really admire your writing!



pgslot

SEPTEMBER 3, 2022 AT 5:22 PM

Im thankful for the article post. Fantastic.



Ronna Ertley

SEPTEMBER 3, 2022 AT 7:42 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/y3onwzag>



go here

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022 AT 4:11 AM

Wow, great blog.



Rayna Gins

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022 AT 3:59 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/yylgwaht>



Drew Shedden

SEPTEMBER 5, 2022 AT 3:07 AM

<https://freenudez.com/x/freenudez/daddylord11.html>



Caron Corrick

SEPTEMBER 5, 2022 AT 8:01 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/y4csk4dd>



Marg Hyles

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 AT 9:07 AM

<https://freakycrush.com/leathermilf/eirikhooper.html>



Hilde Detommaso

SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 AT 8:14 AM

<https://freenudez.com/x/hotnudes/pietro123456.html>



Charmain Labriola

SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 AT 9:42 AM

<https://freenudez.com/search/13/damber-subba.html>



Cleotilde Youngdahl

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 AT 7:42 AM

How can I contact you? I am interested in more information.



assignment help in the USA

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 AT 8:10 AM

Thank you for your article.Thanks Again. Will read on...



Marquitta Heffler

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022 AT 4:55 AM

Appreciate the helpful info



Lilliana Waterfield

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022 AT 7:04 AM

I just bookmarked your webpage.



Tomasa Krein

SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 AT 7:24 AM

I am 46 year old female Thank you so much! You can see me naked <https://bit.ly/3sRIKDe>



Jacquelynn Novencido

SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 AT 11:05 AM

I am interested in more information. How can I contact you? You can see me naked <https://bit.ly/3sRIKDe>



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SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 AT 12:53 PM

Great, thanks for sharing this post.Thanks Again. Cool.



driving school

SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 AT 7:10 PM

Great article.Much thanks again. Really Great.



kelvin kaemingk eagan, MN

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 AT 6:38 AM

I value the blog article.Much thanks again. Much obliged.



Wanetta Goar

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 AT 1:20 PM

Thank you the help. You can see me naked <https://bit.ly/3sRIKDe>

**best cryptocurrency to invest 2021**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AT 12:38 AM

Well I really liked reading it. This information procured by you is very practical for correct planning.

**Danae Conlogue**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AT 3:50 AM

I just bookmarked your webpage.

**Shawls**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AT 4:59 AM

wow, awesome article post. Much thanks again. Keep writing.

**Filomena Wais**

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 AT 2:43 AM

I just bookmarked your page.

**Cornelia Edlin**

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 AT 2:44 PM

Appreciate the helpful information

**Ellena Dunkley**

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 AT 10:31 PM

Thanks for sharing.

**Spring Goosen**

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 AT 1:09 AM

Thank you the help.

**DeeynenMi**

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 AT 7:34 PM

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Jong Cassisse

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 AT 12:13 AM

<https://xxxmeets.com/s/adult-chat-nude/wafaxawe.html>



Ameer Rise

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 AT 2:29 AM

<https://tinyurl.com/yxguw6wa>



GennieenMi

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 AT 3:42 AM

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free gay webcam chat



top ten video chat app

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 AT 7:01 AM

You are a great writer. Do you have any more sites?



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SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 AT 12:05 PM

You are a great writer thanks.



Clementina Nipper

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 AT 9:11 PM

I am interested in more information. How can I reach you?



ketlinrous webcam

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022 AT 11:21 PM

Interested in more information. How can I contact you?

**cam4 female**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 AT 9:15 PM

I really like your writing!

**random stranger video**

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 AT 5:55 AM

Thanks the information.

**nylaahh nude**

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 AT 1:31 AM

Thank you for sharing the info.

**MarrisenMi**

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 AT 1:49 AM

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**free video calling websites**

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 AT 1:54 AM

I really admire your writing!

**omegle dating chat**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 AT 12:05 AM

How can I reach you? I am interested in more info.

**mature cam recorded**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 AT 9:46 AM

Appreciate the helpful information