

Grandma Anna

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is Jonah and today I am going to be speaking about my grandmother Anna.

I'm going to tell you the amazing story about how my grandmother survived the Second World War in Europe. My grandmother three brothers two sisters and her parents lived in Italy. She is the youngest so she was very young then. Right before the Germans came into Italy my great grandfather decided that there were bad things going on in Italy. He knew the Germans were coming so he started to work his way to leaving Italy. He had family in Poland so he tried to go there. Luckily the Polish Consul did not give them visas to come to Poland. Next he tried to go to South America. Their neighbor was the general Consul of Bolivia. He was trying to get them visas to go there but it was taking too long. He knew that there was no time to wait so he decided to go to Morocco and wait for the visas to Bolivia there. My grandmother was three years old when she left.

There was no flying then so they took a train to Genova then took a cargo ship to Morocco. They were so kosher that during this journey they brought their own food; they ate sardines, tuna and bread and butter. They arrived in Morocco a few weeks later. By then, their old neighbor told them that the Bolivian government was not allowing Jews in so they stayed in Morocco for five years. After five years they got visas to Palestine. The fastest way there would be through the Mediterranean Sea but it was filled with German submarines so they went all the way around Africa, it took a whole six months.

They took a ferry to Gibraltar. Then took a bus to Lisbon. They knew Germans would not attack a Portuguese ship so from Lisbon they took a Portuguese ship to South Africa. Next they took a British ship escorted by battleships with five thousand soldiers on it to Egypt. It was so scary. At night you wouldn't undress just in case of a German attack. There were sudden tests on getting to your safety boat. She couldn't sleep. It was three weeks long.

They arrive in Egypt in a city called Port Said, it is right on the Red Sea. They went into Palestine until the war ended. That is the story of how my grandmother survived the Second World War.

I chose grandma Anna and her story because ever since I heard her story I always asked her more about the story and her brothers and sisters that passed away before I was born. When I heard about the speech contest I thought that my grandmother's story was a great story for the contest. Thank you for listening to my speech I hope you enjoyed it.