

## Dayenu

When a few months before the invasion Mom bought \$300 dollars' worth of American Express travelers' checks "just in case." Dayenu!

When our landlord located him in the Antwerp jail, where he was a volunteer worker, after Dad had been arrested in an Antwerp suburb as an alleged German paratrooper.

Dayenu

When Dad's boss at IT&T obtained his release from jail through his intervention with the military prosecutor who happened to be a university classmate of his. Dayenu!

When a British MP rerouted me at an intersection in Northern France.

Dayenu!

I was riding my bike and my parents were in a taxi on the way to border crossing point near Armentieres. When they were detoured by a British soldier at a checkpoint Dad asked him to be on the lookout for a boy scout. His intervention kept me from being separated from my parents.

When elsewhere in Northern France, I caught up with and jumped onto our moving train after it had restarted without warning while I was shopping for food in a village.

Dayenu!

When Mom hung her hat outside the window of the farm house where she was staying.

Dayenu!

This helped Dad locate her after he was released from a military reception center in Toulouse when the local authorities did not not know where the refugees had been housed.

When the Mayor of Gratenour conveniently "lost" instructions to report foreign Jews for internment and warned us to move away.

Dayenu

Local mayors had been ordered by the authorities to report aliens to the *Prefecture* for possible internment. He stalled the response by blaming his "inefficient" secretary for "misfiling" the papers

When Mom had a bicycling accident, and the local doctor certified (falsely) that her injuries made it impossible to move her.

Dayenu!

The doctor had originally diagnosed a sprained ankle that would would be cleared up in a few days. The mayor "explained" to him that her condition was much more serious and should keep my mother immobilized for at least a month. This delay helped him stall our potential internment

When Mom refused an offer to be smuggled back to occupied Belgium in the Fall of 1940.

Dayenu

At the time the situation for Jews was better in Belgium than in France and some Jews returned to occupied Belgium.

When IT&T and the World Zionist Organization in New York both went to work on getting us a visa to the United States. Dayenu!

When with the help of the mayor and others we were able to move to the temporary safety of Nimes.

Dayenu!

When we finally received our American immigration visa and French exit visa just six weeks shy of my 18th birthday. Dayenu!

I would not have been allowed to leave France or enter Spain after my 18th birthday.

When IT&T paid for our transportation to the States.

Dayenu!

And all the other untold lucky circumstances that we encountered.

Dayenu!