

Contents

1. EASTER SUNDAY	5
My arrival.....	5
How my native country Latvia came to be	5
The third way is the independence way	9
The Latvian delegation at the Peace	10
My early memory snapshots	11
My roots	13
My mother dies	14
2. MY SCHOOL YEARS	18
Transfer to City Riga. Papa and Mama adopt me.....	18
My friendly elementary school.....	18
Summers at Jurmala.....	19
Return from Jurmala to Riga	21
Elite high school	22
Soviet occupation	24
The Second World War. German occupation.....	25
3. INVOLUNTARY JOURNEY	36
“Go West, my son!”	36
Decision time	36
Visiting Grobina	37
Visiting peaceful Denmark.....	38
We are running out of luck	38
“Lucky” day in Königsberg. A receive a chunk of bacon	39
Luxury liner to the rescue in Pillau and escape from Königsburg.....	43
Western powers are shortsighted and/or for war?	44
4. GOING WEST TO ESCAPE RUSSIANS	45
Wittenberg/Lutherstadt. I am found not to be suitable as a soldier	45
In the meantime, Aija is in danger for life in Rhineland.....	45
Dresden after February 13, 1944.....	46
Awaiting the end of war	47
Not everybody expected the end of war	47
The war was ended.....	48
Walking to meet my refugee relatives in Zwickau.....	49
Search for brother Laimonis	54
5. MY LIFE AS A DISPLACED PERSON	56
I become a student at the University of Erlangen and meet Aija	56
Aija studies English language	57

I follow Aija to Bad Kissingen and we both work at IRO Headquarters	58
We get married and apply for immigration in the United States	59
6. INTRODUGTION TO AMERICA.....	62
Meeting old American – Latvians	62
Our studies and first jobs.....	62
US Citizenship	63
Planning a Family. Our Travel.....	64
Pittsburg. Research. Tina and Baiba	71
7. ADDENDUM.....	77
Pittsburg, activities, family, Radio Free Europe and Radio Lliberty broadcasts	77
8. MY LIFE HAD THREE PARTS.....	85
The family life with Aija.....	85
My Ph.D.....	85
The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE)	87
Madrid Conference	88
Actions in Belgrade.....	89
Australia and New –Zeland.....	90
Cultural relations	94
9. MOTIVATION TO SAVE THE LATVIAN NATION.....	100
Getting involved in America's life	100
Latvians abroad become very well organized	101
Our family get involved in voluntary Latvian cultural work.....	102
American Latvian Association	102
The broadcasts from Madrid	103
Radio Free Europe. Radio Liberty	104
10. LATVIANS CELEBRATE 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE	107
Latvia's 50 years	107
Movie to South America Latvian communities.....	107
11. LATVIAN ORGANIZATIONS	112
The world federation of free Latvians (WFFL)	112
Latvian National Fund (LNF).....	114
ADDENDUM.....	116
My family	116
Īsa LNO ģildes vēsture.....	117
ILGVARS –my documents	120