

**MANDIL FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, circa 1920s-1975**  
**2002.158.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
Tel. (202) 479-9717  
e-mail: [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org)

**Descriptive Summary**

Title: Mandil Family photograph collection

Dates: circa 1920s-1975; bulk circa 1920s-1948

Accession number: 2002.158.1

Creator: Mandil family

Extent: 8 folders

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: Mandil Family photograph collection consists of pre-war and post-war photographs of the Mandil family, Konfino family, and the Ben-Yosif family all of Yugoslavia, as well as the Veseli family of Krujë, Albania. The photographs of the Mandil family include photographs of Gavra and Irena Mandil used as advertisement for the family's photograph studio including a photograph of the Jewish children standing in front of a Christmas tree. The photographs also include images of the Italian controlled prison in Pristina, Kosovo, 1942; a photocopy of the document which allowed for the release of the Jews from the Italian controlled prison; photographs of a group of Yugoslavian Jews and a Jewish wedding aboard the SS Kefalos, 1948; and images of Gavra Mandil as an Israeli citizen and in the Israel Defence Force.

Languages: Hebrew, Italian, Polish

**Administrative Information**

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Mandil family photograph collection (2002.158.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Gavra Mandil donated the Mandil family photograph collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2002.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](https://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Related materials: Oral history interview with Gavar Mandil on October 1, 2003 (RG-50.999.0109)

Publications: Mandil, Gavra. *Temunot be-shahor-lavan*. Hertsiyah: Milo, 2001. Archive collections: Jaša Altarac papers (2002.438.1) Photographs in the Photo Archive collection: 08201-08216; 08261; 08273; 24716-24749; 25102-25107; 25109; 59677-59679; 59684-59688; 84184; 84188; 90232; 90234

Processing history: Katelynn Vance, September 2019

### **Biographical note**

Gavra Mandil was born on September 6, 1936 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, to Mosa Moshe Mandil and Gabriela Mandil (née Konfino). Two years later the family moved to Novi Sad, Yugoslavia (now Novi Sad, Serbia) where his father opened a photo studio. Gavra's maternal grandfather, Gavra Konfino, had been the royal photographer of King Alexander in Belgrade. His sister, Irena Mandil was born in 1938. After the German invasion in April 1941, the family fled south to the Italian-controlled province of Kosovo. The Mandils were imprisoned along with several other Jewish families in the city of Pristina, where they remained for ten months. While in prison Mosa Mandil ingratiated himself to his Italian captors by volunteering to take their pictures. Following complaints by the Jewish prisoners regarding the overcrowded prison conditions, half the prisoners were executed. Mosa appealed to the Italians whom he had befriended to save the remaining Jews. In January 1943, the Mandil family and the other prisoners were sent to Kavaja, Albina where they were granted limited freedom. Following the Italian capitulation and the German incursion into Albania, the Mandils moved to Tirana, hoping to find safety in numbers in the capital city. Gavra's father found work in the photography studio of Neshed Ismail, an Albanian who had worked for Gavra's grandfather in Belgrade. Also employed in this studio was a sixteen-year-old Albanian apprentice named Refik Veseli. In the fall of 1943, sensing the growing danger for Jewish refugees living in the capital, Refik sought his parents' permission to hide the Mandil family (along with their cousins, the Ben-Yosif family) in their home in the mountain village of Krujë. From November 1943 until the liberation in October 1944, the Mandils were sheltered by the Veseli family. Seven-year-old Gavra and his five-year-old sister, Irena, lived openly as Muslim villagers during this period, but their parents had to remain hidden during the day in a room above the Veseli's barn. After the war the Mandils returned to Novi Sad, where they re-opened their photo studio. In 1946 Refik Veseli joined the family in Novi Sad and completed his professional training with Mosa Mandil. In 1948, after the consolidation of the communist regime in Yugoslavia and the founding of the Jewish State, the Mandils decided to immigrate to Israel. Refik returned to his family in Albania. Refik was recognized by Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous among the Nations in 1990.

### **Scope and content of collection**

Mandil Family photograph collection consists of pre-war and post-war photographs of the Mandil family, Konfino family, and the Ben-Yosif family all of Yugoslavia, as well as the Veseli family of Krujë, Albania. The photographs of the Mandil family include photographs of Gavra and Irena Mandil used as advertisement for the family's photograph studio including a photograph of the Jewish children standing in front of a Christmas tree. The photographs also include images of the Italian controlled prison in Pristina, Kosovo, 1942; a photocopy of the document which allowed for the release of the Jews from the

Italian controlled prison; photographs of a group of Yugoslavian Jews and a Jewish wedding aboard the SS Kefalos, 1948; and images of Gavra Mandil as an Israeli citizen and in the Israel Defence Force.

### **System of arrangement**

The Mandil family photograph collection is arranged in a single series.

### **Indexing terms**

#### **People:**

Altarac, Jasa.  
Altarac, Majer.  
Altarac, Mimi.  
Azriel, Gita.  
Azriel, Isak.  
Azriel, Marki.  
Ben-Yosif, Finitza.  
Ben-Yosif, Fivitza.  
Ben-Yosif, Rozica.  
Borger, Emil.  
Borger, Irena.  
Gershon, Sabitai.  
Gershon, Stella.  
Hoxha, Enver.  
Ismail, Neshed.  
Jakovljevic, Ralle.  
Komforti, Naftali.  
Konfina, Elisabeth.  
Konfino, Nidja.  
Konfino, Gabriela.  
Konfino, Gavra.  
Konfino, Gizela.  
Komforti, Michael.  
Laszlo, Gyorgy.  
Levy, Michael.  
Mandil, David.  
Mandil, Gabriela.  
Mandil, Gavra.  
Mandil, Irena.  
Mandil, Mosa.  
Mandil, Regina.  
Mandil, Streja.  
Ruchvarger, Ilona.  
Ruchvarger, Yehiel.  
Veseli, Deshire.  
Veseli, Esad.  
Veseli, Fatima.

Veseli, Hamid.  
Veseli, Hiriye.  
Veseli, Lule.  
Veseli, Refik, 1927-  
Veseli, Vesel.

**Topics:**

Children.  
Families.  
Hidden children (Holocaust)  
Holocaust survivors.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)  
Jewish children in the Holocaust.  
Jewish refugees.  
Jews rescue (1939-1945)  
Refugees.  
Wedding.  
World War, 1939-1945.  
World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue.  
World War, 1939-1945--Prisons and prisoners.  
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.

**Geography:**

Albania.  
Krujë (Albania)  
Tirana (Albania)  
Yugoslavia.  
Belgrade (Yugoslavia)  
Novi Sad (Yugoslavia)  
Pristina (Yugoslavia)

**Genre / Form:**

Photographs.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1: Photographs, circa 1920s-1970s**

Folder:	Title:
1 of 8	Mandil family, circa 1932-1948
2 of 8	Jewish families imprisoned at Pristina Prison, 1942
3 of 8	Refik Veseli, circa 1943-1946
4 of 8	Fatima Veseli, circa 1943-1944
5 of 8	Enver Hoxha and the liberation of Tirana, December 29, 1944
6 of 8	Yugoslavia Jews aboard the SS Kefalos, 1948
7 of 8	Unidentified Mandil family, 1920s-1940s
8 of 8	Mandil family, circa 1970s