RG-50.031.0132 Summary

The beginning of the recording describes the events surrounding the steamer ship *Exodus*, when in 1947 it was prevented by the British government from taking European refugees to Palestine.

Avi Livney provides narration of his collection that documents his time in U.S. Navy (entered 18 yrs. old/1945), assigned to dispensary duty N.A.D. (Naval Ammunition Depot) Earlie, N.J.; photographs, e.g. of U.S.N. 122911 Med Dept ambulance, of N.A.D.'s Navy officers and other sailors, of Mike Weiss/Navy carpenter; article re: the steamer ship that Avi was first assigned to Old Bay Line Queen, later renamed SS Warfield, later renamed to SS Exodus; to the public, steamer ship's mission was to sail to China, be sold as passenger riverboat; photographs of ship, close-ups of various decks; revealed that ship would actually sail to the Mediterranean and assist Jewish refugees through British block; photograph Ben Foreman-paratrooper, according to Ari, "Ben died very young in Jerusalem of polio"; newspaper articles, includes archival photographs of ship's maiden launch from Wilmington, Del. 1928, another photo of social party in its main salon 1940, article cites it had "200 staterooms"; many photos of various SS Warfield crew, including Bill Bernstein (killed on Exodus fighting the British), Protestant minister John Grauel, Dave and Bill Millman, Sam Schulman, Ike Arrane, Murray Aronoff; photographs of engine room; according to Avi, "Ship almost sank (in a storm)-we were in water waste high," photographs of crew in flood water; Coast Guard cutters and planes rescue ship, returned it to Norfolk, month of repairs; article/photo-ship sailing to Philadelphia; photos of crewmen-Bill Bernstein, Donny Molorsky (electrician) "Crew was from all over - three Mexicans, one from Egypt"; large classical music record collection onboard (in Europe, "We added to it with Edit Piaf. There were also book readings held on ship."); mention of another crew Harold Leidner (later wrote "Fabrication of the Christ Myth"); photographs of refugees entering ship, photos of British warships that attacked Warfield "100 people injured"; various photos-of UN's Special Committee on Palestine that boarded Warfield to check on refugees, another of ship as it enters Haifa port, of damage to ship "after it was smashed into" (by British destroyer), of Bill Bernstein's coffin and funeral; Ari ordered to France then to Germany; ship by the ship, (by now renamed Exodus), photo of the crew in Romania; various photos of crew at reunions in later years, including one at a premier of French movie made about the Exodus; photograph of French internment camp where some Exodus refugees were placed; letter sent by Ari describing storm that almost sank ship; summary of the ship's various ports.