

Ionel Ghelman
RG-50.106*0026

March 27, 1929 - born in Bucharest, Rumania

Mother died in 1938, raised by maternal aunt

Felt anti-semitism, some students called him "Jidan" (Jew)

1936 - saw boys practicing to be future Iron Guard

1940 - German occupation

January 1941 - pogrom, stores burned, Jews killed and hung in slaughterhouse

Jews' ration card was half of Rumanians' card

German soldiers called him "dirty Jew"

late 1943 - early 1944 - Bucharest bombarded by British and American planes

went into shelter in backyard

August 1944 - saw Russian tanks and troops, felt "in heaven"

1946 - left school, worked in locomotive factory

rejected Communist Youth Party, felt connection to Zionist Hashomer Hatzair

1946 - went to Bukovina to prepare for kibbutz in Israel

1949 - Zionist organization banned, emigration stopped

1948-1950 - draftsman for oil pipeline company

1956 - married a Rumanian woman

1963 - had a daughter, 1967- had a son

Expelled from Communist Party because parents went to Israel

1976 - got visas for Hungary, France and Germany

April 21, 1977 - flew to New York with help of HIAS

Settled in Washington and worked for Bechtel