

Summary of Oral History: Oral History Interview with Ivo Lederer

RG#: RG-50.413.0013

This summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on 03/2022

Ivo Lederer, born December 11, 1929 in Zagreb, Yugoslavia (now in Croatia), was one of approximately one thousand Jews who were rescued and sent to a camp in Oswego, New York. He and his family escaped from Yugoslavia in 1941 and went to Italy. They were detained by Italian authorities for three years. Upon their release in 1944 they made their way to Rome where they hid in a friend's house until liberation. They then went to Naples where they applied and were accepted to sail to Oswego, New York on July 20, 1944. They arrived in Oswego on August 5th. Lederer and his family knew about the Holocaust but were little affected. He found the crossing to America exciting, and enjoyed his year or so in the camp. He even snuck out of the camp with a friend and went to New York City for two days. He was brought before the director of the camp and feared he would be sent back to Europe, but the director just winked at him and said he hoped he enjoyed the city. Lederer also enjoyed school in Oswego, absorbing as much as he could.

After the end of the war Lederer and his family were able to stay in the United States. To him the experience was an American success story. He thinks this is especially important in the light of the refugee crisis in 1993, when he was interviewed.