

Interviewee: RUDLEY, Ida
Interviewer: Ellen Rofman
No. of Audiotapes: 2 English

Date: April 5, 1984
No restrictions
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SUMMARY

Ida Rudley, née Rothman, was born April 22, 1922 in Vienna, Austria, into a middle class family. She encountered antisemitism even before Hitler annexed Austria. Her life changed after the *Anschluss* in 1938, as anti-Jewish measures took effect. She explains why it was almost impossible for Jews to leave Austria. She mentions several instances of help from non-Jews, including an encounter with a German officer who took an interest in her while she and her mother were trying to escape from Austria. They were smuggled across the border to Yugoslavia in 1941 and lived in Zagreb illegally, always on the run, sheltered by both Jews and non-Jews until they were warned that the *Gestapo* was looking for them. Ida and her mother turned themselves in to the *Gestapo* - armed with enough pills to commit suicide - and managed to talk their way out of detention. Using forged papers, they accompanied a group of German-Jewish orphans bound for Palestine to the Italian part of Yugoslavia.

After living briefly in Ljubljana, they were sent to a concentration camp in Ferramonti, Italy. Prisoners included Greek, Italian and Yugoslavian Partisans as well as Jews. The Italians ran the camp in a very humane fashion and even told Jews where to hide from the retreating German troops. Ida and her husband were married by a rabbi in the concentration camp and had a civil ceremony later, after liberation by the Jewish Brigade of the British Army in 1943. After a brief stay in a transit camp in Cinecitta, run by UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) Ida, her husband and her mother went to the United States on a military ship in 1947.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Antisemitism
World War, 1939 - 1945 Personal narratives, Jewish
Anschluss (Austria)
Non-Jewish aid
Illegal border crossing - Yugoslavia
Germany - *Geheime Staatspolizei*
Ferramonti, Italy - Concentration camp
Cinecitta, Italy - Transit camp