

The Immigration story of George Zivontsis (trip in 1951)

[...]I remember when I left on the ship from the port Piraeus in Greece. The ship was a tour ship and they picked us up in Greece. It was a Greek ship with an Italian flag. They departed on Easter Saturday – a very important religious day for all Orthodox Christians. I experienced Easter on the ship, passing Napoli (Naples), Barcelona and we stopped in Naples. Then we passed Gibraltar and over the Atlantic. For twelve days we were all on the ship. We had a nice time on the ship. I had another friend on the ship with me - a relative of my mother's 'Panos'.

There was music on the ship and we had a great journey, dancing and accordion players! One gentleman from Spain was going to New York and we had a really great journey. The food was great and people were singing. We sang Italian and Spanish songs. I remember 'Torna Sorrento'. I spoke many languages being from my city. We also had Romanians in my city and I learned a little German and Italian during the war. I met a Bulgarian on the ship (he was going to Windsor) and I spoke Bulgarian to him also. We had wine with all meals and it was a great time with pleasant memories.[...]

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21