

**NINA MERRICK PAPERS, 1945-1949**  
**1988.70.3**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Nina Merrick papers

Dates: 1945-1949

Accession number: 1988.70.3

Creator: Merrick, Nina, 1929-

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (6 folders)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,  
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The Nina Merrick papers consist of biographical materials documenting Nina Merrick from Rokitno, Poland, her escape from the Borisov ghetto, postwar life at the Eschwege displaced persons camp, immigration to the United States, and American acculturation.

Languages: English, Yiddish, Hebrew, German

**Administrative Information**

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Nina Merrick papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Nina Merrick donated the Nina Merrick papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1988 and 1989. The accession previously cataloged as 1989.277 has been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: Nina Merrick also donated a helmet (1988.70.2), a briefcase (1989.277.1), a medal (1989.277.18 a-b) to the Museum. The Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Merrick on June 17, 1986 and July 18, 1989. An oral history interview conducted with Merrick on December 11, 1996 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](http://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, June 2015

### **Biographical note**

Nina Merrick was born Nechama Szuster in 1929 in Rokitno, Poland (Rokytne, Ukraine) to Yoshua and Masha Szuster. When Rokitno was occupied by German forces in 1941, her family moved to Glinoe to try to escape harsh anti-Jewish measures, but the Germans forcibly relocated them to the Borisov ghetto (Barysaŭ, Belarus). Their ghetto home was raided in August 1942, and Nina escaped. She found her uncle Joseph Szuster and two cousins hiding in the forest, and all four joined the partisans under Sydir Artemovych Kovpak. Kovpak sent her to Moscow in February 1943 to attend technical school. After the war, she was allowed to return to Poland to search for her family, and she moved to the Eschwege displaced persons camp. In February 1947 she immigrated to the United States to join her aunt. She married Leon Merrick, who was also a Holocaust survivor.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Nina Merrick papers consist of biographical materials, a diary, correspondence, photographs, and printed materials documenting Nina Merrick from Rokitno, Poland, her escape from the Borisov ghetto, postwar life at the Eschwege displaced persons camp, immigration to the United States, and American acculturation.

Biographical materials include Merrick's diary, an UNRRA meal ticket for transients, an embarkation card for Merrick's immigration, and a school essay about her first impressions of the United States. The diary consists of eight hand-stitched pages in Yiddish recounting her escape from the Borisov ghetto in 1942. She wrote the diary in 1945 at the displaced persons camp in Eschwege, Germany.

Correspondence includes a 1946 telegram about Merrick's efforts to immigrate to the United States and a 1949 letter about Merrick's award-winning essay on immigrants.

Photographs depict the *SS Ernie Pyle*, a school bazaar, piles of corpses presumably at a concentration camp, Nina at a children's house in Feldbach, a young man named Shemon in Cyprus, a group of young people at the Eschwege displaced persons camp, and a children's procession in Eschwege.

Printed materials include a copy of Merrick's high school's literary magazine, *The Review*, including a copy of her award-winning essay "The Contributions of Our Immigrants," and three clippings about children immigrating to the United States, Merrick, and her American education.

### **System of arrangement**

The Nina Merrick papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1945-1948
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1945, 1949
- Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1946-1948
- Series 4: Printed materials, approximately 1947-1949

### **Indexing terms**

Jews--Ukraine--Rokytne (Rivnens'ka oblast', Ukraine)  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.  
Jewish children in the Holocaust.  
Jewish ghettos--Belarus--Barysaŭ.  
Escapes--Belarus--Barysaŭ.  
Holocaust survivors--Washington (D.C.)

Rokytne (Rivnens'ka oblast', Ukraine)  
Barysaŭ (Belarus)  
United States--Emigration and immigration--20th century.

Photographs.  
Diaries.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1: Biographical materials, 1945-1948**

<b>Folder</b>	
1	Diary, 1945
2	Essay, 1948
3	UNRRA meal ticket and SS Ernie Pyle embarkation card, approximately 1947

### **Series 2: Correspondence, 1945, 1949**

<b>Folder</b>	
4	Correspondence, 1945, 1949

### **Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1946-1948**

<b>Folder</b>	
5	Photographs, approximately 1946-1948

**Series 4: Printed materials, approximately 1947-1949**

Folder	
6	Printed materials, approximately 1947-1949