

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
Finding Aid
RG-10
Small Collections

RG-10.424
1990.198, 1990.154

Title: Werner Goldsmith Papers, 1930-1989.

Extent: 19 photographs.
2 documents.

Provenance: Werner Goldsmith donated the material to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1990.

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on use: No restrictions on use.

Organization and arrangement: Arrangement is in the order in which received.

Language: In English.

Preferred citation: Standard citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Division, Archives Branch.

Scope and content note: The collection contains photographs and documents. The first photograph was taken in Berlin, Germany, and depicts Werner Goldsmith at age 10. A few months after this photograph was taken, Werner Goldsmith departed for France with a group of Jewish children. Other papers contain copies of six black and white photographs taken in the 1930s and 1940s and 12 original photographs taken in the 1970s and 1980s as well as an affidavit from the Consulate of the United States at Marseille, France, and a telegram dated May 25, 1946, to Werner Goldsmith from his mother. The photographs depict Erfurt, Germany, children in France with Oeuvre de secours aux enfants (OSE), the Rothschild orphanage and the graves of Werner Goldsmith's grandparents and father.

Biographical note: Werner Goldsmith was born in Erfurt, Germany, on Nov. 13, 1928. Werner's father, a textile salesman, died in 1938, and Werner and his mother moved to Berlin, Germany. Werner's mother placed him in the Auerbach orphanage for safety while she lived with another Jewish woman in Berlin. Werner's mother arranged for him to be placed on a transport to France, and she, as a widow, was able to travel to England. In 1939, Werner was sent to France with approximately 39 other children. The transport arrived in Cassis, France, near Paris. From the summer of 1939 until the invasion of France in 1940, the children lived in the home of a French count. In 1940, the count was

taken prisoner in Germany, and the Oeuvre de secours aux enfants (OSE) cared for the children. After an unsuccessful attempt to flee to southern France, the children were separated and placed in different shelters. Werner was sent to the Rothschild orphanage in Paris and remained there for nine months. In the spring of 1941, the OSE sent Werner to Marseille, France. Since he had relatives in the United States, Werner received an emergency visa in September 1941, and traveled from Marseille to Portugal. He embarked on a Portuguese freighter and sailed to the United States. He lived in Jewish foster homes until he was reunited with his mother in 1946.

Inventory

1. 1 photoprint: b&w. Photograph was taken in Berlin, Germany, and depicts Werner Goldsmith at age 10. A few months after this photograph was taken, Werner Goldsmith departed for France with a group of Jewish children, n.d.
2. Collection of 18 photographs (copies of six black and white photographs taken in the 1930s and 1940s, and twelve original color and black and white photographs taken in the 1970s and 1980s). Shows scenes of Erfurt, Germany, birthplace of Werner Goldsmith; a group of "O.S.E." children in France; the Rothschild orphanage; and the graves of Werner Goldsmith's grandparents and father, ca. 1930s and 1940s and ca. 1970s and 1980s.
3. Affidavit in Lieu of Passport for Werner Goldschmidt (Werner Goldsmith) Consulate of the United States, Marseille, France, 1941 Aug. 21. Photograph of bearer affixed. The document reads, "...I am the bearer of no valid passport or other document for travel to the United States because the French authorities have stated that they were unable to provide me with an official travel document prior to the date on which I must depart for the United States as arranged by the U.S. Committee (sic) for the Protection of European Children."
4. Telegram, 1946 May 25. Telegram received by Werner Goldsmith from his mother before her departure from England to the United States. Reads, "arriving Gripsholm Monday morning Love, Mother."