

SIMCHA DIMANT PAPERS, 1936-1945

1993.34.13

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive Summary

Title: Simcha Dimant papers

Dates: 1936-1945

Accession number: 1993.34.13

Creator: Dimant, Simcha, 1914-1983

Extent: 0.1 linear foot (1 folder)

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

Abstract: The Simcha Dimant papers, 1936-1945, relate to the Holocaust and immediate post-war experiences of Simcha Dimant (1914-1983), a Polish Jew. The papers contain a letter written by Simcha Dimant to Hela and Karl Wargon in New York describing the fates of various family members after the liquidation of the Czestochowa ghetto, May 1942. Identification documents, travel documents relating to Dimant's work for the Allied Expeditionary Forces, a wedding invitation for Simcha Dimant and Toni Wargon, 1936, a photograph of Simcha Dimant, undated, and a photograph of an unidentified couple, 1936, are also included in the Simcha Dimant papers.

Languages: German, English

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), Simcha Dimant papers (1993.34.13), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Dr. Jacob Dimant donated the Simcha Dimant papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993 and 2014. Dr. Jacob Dimant is the son of Simcha Dimant. The collections accessioned as 1993.34 and 2014.461.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

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

Related materials: Oral histories: Testimony of Ita Dimant (2013.341.2), Testimonies of the 20th Anniversary of the Liberation of Buchenwald (2013.341.1). The Ita Dimant papers (1998.A.0258.2) contain archival materials relating to the Holocaust experiences of Simcha Dimant's second wife, Ita Dimant.

Separated materials: The following items arrived with the 1993.34 accession and are located within the object collection: a striped concentration camp uniform jacket worn by Simcha Dimant (1993.34.1) and three pieces of Buchenwald Standort-Kantine concentration camp scrip (1993.34.6-8). The following objects arrived with the 2014.461.1 accession: a red and white patch with "Buchenwald" stencil worn by Simcha Dimant (2014.461.2), a Reichsadler insignia found by Simcha Dimant after liberation (2014.461.5), a German mine warning cloth flag (2014.461.4), and a white patch stenciled with Simcha Dimant's name and inmate number (2014.461.3).

Processing history: Katelynn Vance, March 2019

Biographical note

Symcho Dymant (later Simcha Dimant) was born on February 18, 1913, in Warsaw, Poland, to a Jewish couple, Aharon and Keila Wislicki Dymant. He had three siblings: Alexander, Hindi, and another brother. Aharon, a watchmaker, died in 1915 and Keila died when Symcho was young. He was raised by his grandmother in Sosnowiec, Poland. Symcho became a carpenter and settled in Częstochowa. On August 23, 1936, he married Tonia Wargon. They had a son, Aaron, in September 1937.

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. They occupied Częstochowa on September 3. Symcho and his family were forcibly moved into the ghetto after it was established on April 9, 1941. Symcho was involved in the underground resistance in the ghetto and he escaped the ghetto. Because he spoke German, he was able to get a civilian job under an assumed identity as a non-Jewish Polish person in a German military installation near the town. In September 1942, the Germans decided to destroy the ghetto. On September 22, Symcho's mother-in-law was shot in the head by Nazi officials. Symcho's wife Tonia, 4 year old son Aaron, and all of his relatives were sent to Treblinka concentration camp. In May 1943, a sympathetic German officer helped Symcho send his sister-in-law, Hela Wargon and her husband Karl, in New York a letter explaining the deportation of the family. The SS discovered that Symcho was Jewish. He was also charged with political crimes and deported to Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany. He arrived on December 24, 1944, and was assigned prisoner number 15349. He was a slave laborer in a nearby military factory. He was active in resistance in the camp. On April 11, 1945, the camp was liberated by American troops.

Just after the war, Symcho worked for the Allied Expeditionary Force, traveling through Germany gathering information on refugees from concentration camps. Symcho moved to the Fulda displaced persons camp by the summer. He joined Kibbutz Buchenwald, which was established on a farm by sixteen camp survivors. He met Ita Rozenczwaig (1918-2010). She had survived by living under an assumed identity as a non-Jewish Polish person and was sent to Germany as a Polish forced laborer in

1943. There were two rabbis associated with the group. One went to the British embassy in Paris to get certificates for emigration to Palestine. On September 8, 1945, eighty young men and women from the Kibbutz arrived in Haifa, one of the first large survivor's group to reach Palestine. Symcho changed his name to Simcha Dimant. In 1946, Simcha and Ita married. The couple had two sons. Simcha, age 70, died in 1983.

Biography written by Amanda Eckstein, 2015.

Scope and content of collection

The Simcha Dimant papers relate to the Holocaust and immediate post-war experiences of Simcha Dimant (1914-1983), a Polish Jew. The papers contain a letter written by Simcha Dimant to Hela and Karl Wargon in New York describing the fates of various family members after the liquidation of the Częstochowa ghetto, May 1942. Identification documents, travel documents relating to Dimant's work for the Allied Expeditionary Forces, a wedding invitation for Simcha Dimant and Toni Wargon, 1936, a photograph of Simcha Dimant, undated, and a photograph of an unidentified couple, 1936, are also included in the Simcha Dimant papers.

The Simcha Dimant papers relate to the Holocaust and immediate post-war experiences of Simcha Dimant, a Polish Jew. The papers contain identification documents including a provisional identification card issued by the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Buchenwald concentration camp, April 1945; a Haftlings-Personal-Karte (Prisoners-Personal-Card); a Mandat-Karte (Mandate Card), July 1945; and a fragment of a Military Government Temporary Registration form. The papers also include travel documents relating to Dimant's work for the Allied Expeditionary Forces. These documents include a D.P. Index Card, G00404254, two-sided pre-printed card issued by the Allied Expeditionary Forces with "Keep this card at all times to assist your safe return home," written on the reverse side, as well as other travel documents issued by the Allied Expeditionary Force offices, valid from July 23-29, 1945.

The papers also include a letter, written by Simcha Dimant to Hela and Karl Wargon (Tonia Dimant's sister and her husband), May, 1942. The letter detailed the fate of various family members following the liquidation of the Częstochowa ghetto. The letter was censored with a false approval stamp and mailed illegitimately by a German officer who was Simcha Dimant's supervisor at a military factory near Częstochowa, Poland.

The Simcha Dimant papers include a photograph of a Simcha Dimant, undated, and a photograph of an unidentified couple, 1936. A 1936 wedding invitation for Toni Wagonówny (Toni Wargon) and Sewkiem Dymanten (Simcha Dimant) is also included in the papers.

System of arrangement

The Simcha Dimant papers are arranged in a single series.

Indexing terms

People:

Dimant, Simcha, 1914-1983.

Wargon, Karl.

Wargon, Hela.

Corporate:

Buchenwald (Concentration camp)

Topic:

Allied Forces.

Concentration camp inmates.

Holocaust survivors.

Holocaust victims.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Jewish refugees.

Jews--Poland.

Refugees.

World War, 1939-1945.

World War, 1939-1945--Civilian relief--Europe.

World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.

Geography:

Częstochowa (Poland)

Fulda (Germany)

Germany.

Poland.

Gene/Form:

Identification documents.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1936-1945

Folder:	Title:
1 of 1	Simacha Dimant biographical materials, 1936-1945