

**LEONARD LIEF CORRESPONDENCE, approximately 1939-1947  
1995.A.0304**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Leonard Lief correspondence

Dates: approximately 1939-1947

Accession number: 1995.A.0304

Creator: Lief, Leonard.

Extent: 0.3 linear foot (3 folders)

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

Abstract: The Leonard Lief correspondence consists of letters, postcards, forms, and receipts exchanged among Leonard Lief in New York, his family in Warsaw, and humanitarian agencies and organizations. The correspondence documents Lief's efforts to assist his family during the early years of the Holocaust and to trace their whereabouts and fates afterwards.

Languages: English, Polish, German, Yiddish, French, Hebrew

**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), Leonard Lief correspondence, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Philip Lief and Susan Osborn donated the Leonard Lief correspondence to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995.

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**

Leonard Lief, son of Abel and Feige Liwzyc, relocated from Warsaw to Montreal in 1929 or 1930 with his twin brother, who died of food poisoning shortly after. He moved to New York City by 1932. His parents remained in Warsaw with his sister Rejsla and brother Jozef. Other family members in Warsaw included sister-in-law Mina Liwzyc, nephews Motek Szkolnikow and Ryszard (Rysza) Liwzyc, niece Irena (Irka) Ryger, and her husband Dawid Ryger. All are believed to have been killed in the Holocaust. The family name is variously spelled Liwzyc, Livskitz, Livshitz, and Liwschitz, and Leonard changed it to Lief in America.

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

The Leonard Lief correspondence consists of letters, postcards, forms, and receipts exchanged among Leonard Lief in New York, his family in Warsaw, and humanitarian agencies and organizations. The correspondence documents Lief's efforts to assist his family during the early years of the Holocaust and to trace their whereabouts and fates afterwards.

Correspondence from humanitarian agencies and organizations includes letters and postcards from the Red Cross, HIAS, Jewish Social Self Help, Central Committee of Polish Jews, and American State Department transmitting requests, facilitating the delivery of money and food packages, and trying to trace the Liwzyc family.

Correspondence from Leonard Lief to his family in Warsaw, to aid agencies, and to relatives and survivors include letters, Red Cross inquiry forms, receipts for money and packages, and requests for news that document Lief's efforts to find and aid his family.

Correspondence from Abel Liwzyc and his family in Warsaw to Leonard Lief includes letters, postcards, and HIAS inquiry forms describing conditions in the Warsaw ghetto and requesting aid.

### **System of arrangement**

The Leonard Lief correspondence is arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Leonard Lief correspondence, approximately 1939-1947

### **Indexing terms**

HIAS (Agency)

Centralny Komitet Żydów Polskich.

American Red Cross.

International Committee of the Red Cross.

Jews--Poland--Warsaw.

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Warsaw.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poland--Warsaw.

Warsaw (Poland)

### CONTAINER LIST

#### Series 1: Leonard Lief correspondence, approximately 1939-1947

Folder	
1	Humanitarian agencies and organizations, 1939-1947
2	Lief, Leonard, approximately 1939-1947
3	Liwszyc, Abel and family, approximately 1939-1941