

**HERSCHKOWITZ FAMILY PAPERS, 1940-1994 [bulk, 1940-1963]
1995.A.0581**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Herschkowitz family papers

Dates: 1940-1994 [bulk, 1940-1963]

Accession number: 1995.A.0581

Creator: Herschkowitz family

Extent: 9 folders

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

Abstract: The Herschkowitz family papers contain primarily Holocaust-era documents related to Bezales Herschkowitz, a furrier in Paris who was imprisoned by the Nazis at Dachau, and his family. The documents relate mostly to his internment, and include political deportee cards, certificates, and repatriation cards. Also included are Bezales' military documents, medical diagnosis, and documents concerning compensation and pension. A brief memoir written by Bezales' daughter, Brenda, details more fully their family's story.

Languages: French, 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: Herschkowitz family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Herschkowitz family papers were donated by Brenda Herschkowitz Levenson to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995, 2001 and 2002. These collections were given separate accession numbers at the time of their donation: 1995.A.0581, 2001.301.1, and 2002.259 respectively. These accessions have since been unified, and can be located under one accession number: 1995.A.0581.

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

Related material: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Photo Archives holds several photos of Brenda Levenson as a child. The USC Shoah Foundation Institute houses an oral history made by Brenda Levenson in their Visual History Archive.

Processing history: Michael Folkerts, June 2015

Biographical note

Bezales Herschkowitz was born in Jerusalem in 1904, and worked as a self-employed furrier in Paris after leaving Palestine in 1928. He married Rose Reisman in 1932, and the couple gave birth to their daughter Brenda in 1933. The family continued life in Paris, but after the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1939, Bezales became worried. He applied for visas to the United States, but his cousins in Detroit refused to provide the necessary affidavits. At the outset of war with France, Bezales joined the French army. At this same time, Rose and Brenda fled Paris and lived for several months near the Spanish border. Once the French army surrendered, Rose was able to locate Bezales, and they decided to move back to Paris. In 1941, life began to be more oppressive for Jews in Paris, and the family lived in constant fear of arrest. Brenda was sent to live in the country through the resistance network in 1944, but she only stayed for several months due to fears by her parents that she was being abused. In the meantime, Bezales worked at a fur manufacturing plant making jackets for Nazi soldiers. In doing so, he was granted protection for himself and his family. That protection ended one day in May, 1944 when all Jewish workers at the plant were arrested. Bezales was sent to Dachau, while Rose and Brenda hid in the homes and attics of resistance network members until Paris was liberated in 1945. Bezales returned home soon after US forces liberated Dachau in the spring of 1945. The family continued life in Paris, and eventually moved to London in 1957. Brenda met her husband and moved to Boston that same year.

Scope and content of collection

The Herschkowitz family papers contain records primarily relating Bezales Herschkowitz and his family. The papers contain primarily documents concerning Bezales' service in the French military, and his internment in Dachau. Included are items such as a census card, political deportee cards, repatriation cards, a medical diagnosis, and military pension documents. Bezales and Rose were members of the "Fédération Nationale des Déportés et Internes Résistants et Patriotes," and included are their membership cards. An identity card for their daughter Brenda, as well as a brief memoir chronicling the family's history during the war is also included.

System of arrangement

The Herschkowitz papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Herschkowitz, Bezales
Herschkowitz, Rose

Levenson, Brenda, Herschkowitz
Herschkowitz, Anne
Herschkowitz, Myriam

Fédération nationale des déportés et internés, résistants et patriotes (France)
Dachau (Concentration camp)

World War, 1939-1945--France--Paris.
Hidden children (Holocaust)--France--Paris.
Jewish children in the Holocaust--France--Paris.
World War, 1939-1945--Underground movements--France.
Jews—France—History
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--France
World War, 1939-1945--Jews--France.
Holocaust survivors.

Paris (France)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Herschkowitz family papers, 1940-1994 [bulk, 1940-1963]

Folder	Title
1	Brief memoir, 1994
2	Census card, 1945
3	Compensation claim, 1961
4	Fédération Nationale des Déportés et Internes Résistants et Patrietes, 1945-1955
5	Identity card – Brenda Herschkowitz, 1949
6	Internment documents, 1944-1952
7	Medical diagnosis, 1962
8	Military documents, 1940-1963
9	Receipt of arrest payment, 1943