OTTO WOLF AND FELICITAS GARDA PAPERS, approximately 1940-1945
1995.A.0917

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Otto Wolf and Felicitas Garda papers

Dates: approximately 1940-1945

Accession number: 1995.A.0917


Extent: 0.5 linear foot (5 folders)

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

Abstract: The Otto Wolf and Felicitas Garda papers consists primarily of a four volume diary describing the lives and activities of the Wolf family from the time they entered hiding in 1942 to escape the Holocaust in Czechoslovakia until their liberation in 1945. The first three volumes are written by Otto Wolf. Otto’s entries describe meals, weather conditions, the state of the family’s shelter, prayer, interactions with rescuers, dramatic developments, and occasional news of the war. After Otto’s arrest, Felicitas took it upon herself to carry on the diary entries. Her entries imitate Otto’s style and describe his arrest, the family’s concerns about his fate, and their liberation, and she lists and thanks the people who helped them survive in hiding. The collection also includes six photographs of Otto Wolf and his family.

Languages: Czech

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), Otto Wolf and Felicitas Garda papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Felicitas Garda donated the Otto Wolf and Felicitas Garda papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995 and 2002. The accession formerly cataloged as 2002.435.1 has been incorporated into this collection.

Related material: Otto Wolf’s story is described in Salvaged Pages by Alexandra Zapruder. His diary was published in Czech as Denik Otty Wolfa: 1942-1945 (1997), edited by Ludvik Vaclavek and Jiri Danicek.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, January 2015

Biographical note
Otto Wolf (1927-1945) was born in Mohelnice, Czechoslovakia to Berthold and Růžena Wolf. He was raised in Olomouc with his brother Kurt (1915-1943) and sister Felicitas (Lici, Licka, 1920-2006). At the outbreak of war, the Wolf family relocated to Tršice. When the Wolf family was ordered to report for deportation in the summer of 1942, they decided to hide in the woods surrounding Olomouc with the help of Jaroslav Zdařil (Slávek) and later Alois Pluhař. When these relationships deteriorated, the family moved into the attic of the home of their former maid, Maria Zbořilová, for about a year, but when her husband became too afraid of discovery, they relocated to the attic of the Ohra family in nearby Zákřov. Otto was arrested and killed in April 1945 following a raid by Soviet collaborators directed by the Gestapo to eliminate Czech partisans. His father, mother, and sister were liberated the following month and learned that his brother had been killed in battle in Sokolovo in March 1943, fighting under General Ludvik Svoboda. Felicitas married Otto Grätzer, and the family changed its name to Garda after immigrating to the United States in 1968.

Scope and content of collection
The Otto Wolf and Felicitas Garda papers consist primarily of four volumes describing the lives and activities of the Wolf family from the time they entered hiding in 1942 to escape the Holocaust in Czechoslovakia until their liberation in 1945. The first three volumes are written by Otto Wolf. Otto’s entries describe meals, weather conditions, the state of the family’s shelter, prayer, interactions with rescuers, dramatic developments, and occasional news of the war. After Otto’s arrest, Felicitas took it upon herself to carry on the diary entries. Her entries imitate Otto’s reporting style and describe his arrest, the family’s concerns about his fate, and their liberation, and she lists and thanks the people who helped them survive in hiding.

The collection also includes five photographs of Otto, Kurt, Felicitas, Berthold, and Růžena Wolf as well as a memorial photograph containing a composite image of men and boys who died during the Holocaust, including Otto Wolf.

System of arrangement
The Otto Wolf and Felicitas Garda papers are arranged as two series:
- Series 1: Otto Wolf and Felicitas Garda diary, 1942-1945
- Series 2: Photographs, approximately 1940-1945

**Indexing terms**
Wolf, Otto, 1927-1945.
Jews--Czech Republic--Olomouc.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.
Hiding places--Czech Republic--Olomouc.
Hidden children (Holocaust)--Czech Republic.
Olomouc (Czech Republic)
Photographs.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1: Otto Wolf and Felicitas Garda diary, 1942-1945**

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Otto Wolf and Felicitas Garda diary, volume II, 1944-1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Otto Wolf and Felicitas Garda diary, volume III, 1945</td>
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<td>4</td>
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**Series 2: Photographs, approximately 1940-1945**

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