

ROMAN HAAR COLLECTION, 1939-1949
1997.104

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: Roman Haar collection

Dates: 1939-1949

Accession number: 1997.104

Creator: Roman Haar, 1935-

Extent: 5 folders

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

Abstract: The Roman Haar collection contains documents from Roman's childhood growing up in Poland. The collection contains photographs of Roman with his parents, Salo and Erna, ranging from 1939-1946. Also included is his father's passport, and a document ordering Roman to be separated from his mother and to live in the Rzeszow ghetto due to his Jewish ethnicity. In addition, the collection includes report cards and a published journal from Roman's stay at the Foehrenwald displaced persons camp.

Languages: English, German

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: Roman Haar collection, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives,
Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Roman Haar collection was donated to the United States Memorial Museum collection by Roman Haar, in memory of his mother Erna. The material which form the collection were given to the museum in separate donations, from 1997, 2002, 2011. The donations were given four separate accession numbers: 1997.104, 2002.362.1, 2004.201, and 2011.153.1. All of these accessions have been merged together to form one collection, under the accession number of 1997.104.

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

Processing history: Michael Folkerts, April 2015

Biographical note

Roman Haar was born in 1935 to Salo and Erna Haar, in the free-city of Danzig (now Gdansk, Poland). Erna had another son from a previous marriage, Joachim Fritsche, as well. Salo was Jewish, but Erna was born into a Christian family. When the Jews were forced to leave Danzig in 1939, the Haar family moved to Rzeszow, leaving Joachim with Erna's father. The family lived in an apartment until 1941, when all Jews were required to live in the newly formed ghetto in Rzeszow. Salo and Roman moved, but Erna stayed in the apartment, as she claimed she was German and unaffected by the law. Erna smuggled Roman into the apartment, but was unable to rescue Salo, who would later be killed in a roundup of Jews to be sent to the Belzec death camp. Erna appealed to the German government to allow Roman to live with her, claiming he was the illegitimate son of a German citizen, but was rejected. Rather than follow the order to send Roman to the ghetto, Erna hid Roman in her apartment until 1944, when they returned to Danzig. After the Russians liberated Danzig, Erna and Roman moved to the Foehrenwald displaced persons camp, where they remained until they immigrated to the United States in 1949.

Scope and content of collection

The Roman Haar collection contains documents from Roman's childhood in Poland. The photographs in the collection are mainly of Roman, but show him posing with his father Salo, Erna, and his half-brother Joachim Fritsche. The larger photograph taken in 1943 is of Roman while he was hiding in Rzeszow, and one photograph from 1946 is of Roman, Erna, and Joachim. Another photo is from a children's Purim holiday play put on while at Foehrenwald displaced persons (DP) camp. Also within the collection is a document ordering Roman to be separated from his mother and to live in the Rzeszow ghetto, and Salo's passport. In addition, the collection includes report cards and a published journal from Roman's stay at the Foehrenwald DP camp.

System of arrangement

The Roman Haar collection is arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Haar, Roman, 1935 –
Haar, Salo, 1909-1942
Haar, Erna, 1904-1987
Fritsche, Joachim

Föhrenwald (Displaced persons camp)
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poland--Rzeszów.
Jewish ghettos--Poland--Rzeszów.
Jewish refugees--Poland.
Refugees--Poland.
Refugee camps--Poland.

Rzeszów (Poland)
Gdańsk (Poland)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Roman Haar collection, 1939-1949

Folder	Title
1	Foehrenwald Almanac / Bamidbar, 1947
2	Order for Roman Haar to take residence in the Rzeszow ghetto, 1942
3	Photographs, 1939-1946
4	Report cards, 1946-1949
5	Salo Haar foreigners passport, 1939