

MINNA ASPLER PAPERS, 1937-1946
1999.267.2

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: Minna Aspler papers

Dates: 1937-1946

Catalog number: 1999.267.2

Creator: Aspler, Minna

Extent: 0.1 linear foot (1 folder)

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

Abstract: Collection consists of three identity cards issued to Minna Aspler at the Landsberg Displaced Persons (DP) Camp, one 1937 photograph a Warsaw classroom, and one postwar photograph of Minna with friends in Wahlwinkel, Germany.

Languages: English, German, Yiddish

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), Minna Aspler papers (1999.267.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Minna Aspler donated the Minna Aspler papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999, 2000, and 2004. The accessions previously cataloged as 1999.267.1, 2000.460.1, and 2004.2223.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: The Museum holds an oral history interview conducted with Minna Aspler on December 17, 1996. There is a scanned photo in photo archives of Minna Aspler in the Yehudya Gymnasium in Warsaw in 1937 (photograph #: 60808). The library also holds a publication titled *Witness Speaks: An Anthology* (call # D804.195).

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

Processing history: Rebekah Valentine, April 2019.

Biographical note

Minna Aspler (1918 or 1922-2018) was born Minna Friedland in Dnipropetrovsk (now Dnipro), Ukraine on June 9, 1918 to Shlomo Mendle Friedland and Feiga Shivski Friedland (an ID card lists her birth year as 1922). Her brother, Baruch, was born in 1924. The Russians considered her businessman father to be “bourgeois,” so he moved to Warsaw to reestablish his business, and she and her mother moved to Vilna, where her brother, Baruch, was born in 1924. They later rejoined her father in Warsaw. During World War II they were imprisoned in the Warsaw ghetto. On June 22, 1942 Minna escaped the ghetto with the help of her Christian friend, Henryk Krueger. With a priest’s help, she obtained a false identity card using the birth certificate of a dead child. She worked in a library under the assumed name Maria Burczysk. During the Warsaw Uprising in August 1944, the library’s basement was turned into a first aid station, and Minna helped bandage the wounded, delivered messages to the outside, and searched burning buildings for anyone who was trapped inside. In 2016, the Polish government awarded Aspler the Pro Patria medal for her heroic acts. Minna was liberated by the American Army on May 4, 1945 in Wahlwinkel, Germany. She moved to the Landsberg DP camp, married its deputy director, Moe Aspler, from Montreal, and moved home to Canada with him. The couple had twins, Carl and Fanya. None of her immediate family survived the Holocaust. In 1987 Yad Vashem honored Henryk Krueger as Righteous Among the Nations.

Scope and content of collection

Collection consists of three identity cards issued to Minna Aspler at the Landsberg Displaced Persons (DP) Camp, one 1937 photograph a Warsaw classroom, and one postwar photograph of Minna with friends in Wahlwinkel, Germany.

System of arrangement

The Minna Aspler papers are arranged as a single folder.

Indexing terms

Personal Names

Aspler, Minna.

Corporate Terms

Landsberg am Lech (Displaced persons camp)

Topical Terms

Holocaust survivors--Germany.

Geographic Names

Landsberg am Lech (Germany)

Warsaw (Poland)

Genre

Identification cards.

Photographs.

ITEM LIST

Item	
1	Identification card; "Landsberg Jewish Center/Residence Card" issued to "Mina Aspler-Fridland" (donor); brown paper printed in black ink, typed and handwritten entries in black ink; black and white photograph of bearer affixed to left side; issued April 25, 1946; Landsberg, Germany; in English.
2	Identification card; "D.P. Identification Card"; printed in red ink with handwritten entries in blue and black ink; issued to "Aspler-Friedland Mina", N° 070023; issued June 1, 1946; Landsberg, Germany; in English and German.
3	Identification card; "Jidiszer/Turn- un Sport-Ferajn "Ichud"" printed in black ink on green paper; issued for "Minna Aspler" circular black ink stamp for "Gymnastic and Sports Club"; July 2, 1946; Landsberg, Germany; in German and Yiddish
4	Photograph of Minna Aspler seated outside with a building and people in the background; inscription on verso reads "Wahlwinkel/Germany/Minna Fryland/as Maria Julina/Burczynsko/after liberation."
5	Photograph of group of 34 girl students in classroom, teacher at the back of the room. Inscribed "Gymnasium/'Yehudya'/Warsaw Poland/Grade 4 (Klasa)/Year 1937.