

**KARLINER FAMILY PAPERS, circa 1909-1951**  
**1999.3.32**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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**Descriptive Summary**

Title: Karliner family papers

Dates: circa 1909-1951

Accession number: 1999.3.32

Creator: Karliner family (Peiskretscham, Germany)

Extent: 0.2 linear foot (3 folders)

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

Abstract: The Karliner family papers consist of wartime correspondence and photographs taken of the Karliner family in Germany before World War II, aboard the MS *St. Louis*, in France while in hiding at Oeuvre de secours aux enfants (OSE) homes, and during the post-war years.

Languages: German, 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: (Identification of item), Karliner family papers (1999.3.32), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Herbert Karliner donated the Karliner family papers to the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999, 2004, and 2006. The collections accessioned as 1999.3, 2004.685.1, 2006.393.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

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

Related materials: Oral history interview with Herbert Karliner was recorded on February 18, 1985 (1995.A.1261.11 / RG 50.431.0067). Additional photographs related to the Karliner family are available in the museum's Photo Archive collection: PN 24787; 31756; 28472; 86205; 24794; 88366; 24786; 24790; 24791; 88364; 31758; 88365; 24172; 22523; 38578; 24801; 24795; 31740; 31757; 49470; 24802; 31802; 28469; 28471; 88361; 88367; 61127; 49459; 02966; 88371; 49462; 49463; 24788; 24797; 28470; 48474; 49460; 21353; 99614; 38577; 01175; 88359; 24798; 24789; 24799; 28100; 49467; 49461; 49465; 49466; 49471; 28473; 49464; 33021; 49468; 33015; 01175A; 24796; 24800; 24792; 24793; 24796A; 88363; 31703; 31741; 31744; 31742; 31743; 88245; 49469; 33022; N03467; 88368; 88369; 88360.

Processing history: Katelynn Vance, April 2019

### **Biographical note**

The Karliner family lived in Peiskretscham (Silesia), Germany, now Pyskowice, Poland. Joseph Karliner (Josef, 1898-1943) married Martha Weissler (d. 1942). They had four children: Ilse (1923-1942), Walter (b. 1924, also known as Paul Kiener), Herbert (b. 1926, also known as Paul Braun), and Ruth (1927-1942). The family owned a grocery store which Martha managed while Joseph also worked in the horse trade. In November 1938, during Kristallnacht, the store was destroyed and Joseph Karliner was sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp. He was released two months later after Martha obtained a visa for him to travel to Shanghai, China. Since the visa was only for Joseph and the family desired to stay together, the Karliners sought alternative ways to emigrate from Germany.

The family booked passage on the MS *St. Louis*. Upon being denied entry to Cuba and the United States, the Karliner family disembarked in France in June 1939. Joseph, Martha, and Ilse were sent to Mirebeau, France. Walter, Herbert, and Ruth were placed in Villa Helvetia an Oeuvre de secours aux enfants (OSE) children's home near Paris, France. Around September 1939, Ruth was reunited with her parents and older sister in Mirebeau. On November 6, 1942, Martha, Ilse, and Ruth Klariner were sent on convoy 42 to Auschwitz concentration camp, where they perished. On November 20, 1943, Joseph Karliner was sent on convoy 62 to Auschwitz concentration camp, where he also perished.

Around September 1939, Walter and Herbert Karliner were sent to an OSE home in Chaumont, France where Walter worked as a cabinet maker and Herbert a baker. In 1941, Walter moved to another OSE home at the Château-de-Montintin, France. In 1943 or 1944, the Eclaireurs Israelites de France underground sent Walter to Saint Julien, France to live at a boys' home managed by the Moissons Nouvelles, where he survived the war.

On August 26, 1942, French gendarmes raided the OSE home at Chaumont and arrested all the children over the age of sixteen, including Herbert Karliner. Hebert was eventually released because he was a week shy of his sixteenth birthday. He was sent to another OSE home at the Château-le-Masgelier. In February 1943, anticipating another raid, Hebert and a friend, Julien Bluchstein, fled south to the Château-de-Montintin, where they hoped to reunite with Walter. Discovering that Walter was no longer there, they attempted to cross the Spanish and later Swiss borders. Unable to successfully cross the French border, Herbert and Julien went to a farm in Tayulers which was managed by Zionist members of the Eclaireurs Israelites. The farm had reach its capacity for refugee children, so the boys were sent to Trèves, France (now Trier, Germany) where they lived until liberation in 1944. After liberation, Hebert lived in several OSE homes including Masgelier, Poulouzat, and Rue Rollin near Paris, France.

After the war, Walter and Herbert Karliner were reunited in Paris. They lived at that the Hotel du Moulin, a home for boys managed by the Eclaireurs Israelites in Moissac, France. Walter worked as a cabinetry instructor. In December 1946, Walter and Herbert Karliner immigrated to the United States.

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

The Karliner family papers consist of wartime correspondence and photographs taken of the Karliner family in Germany before World War II, aboard the MS *St. Louis*, in France while in hiding at Oeuvre de secours aux enfants (OSE) homes, and during the post-war years.

The correspondence is written by members of the Karliner family, many of whom perished in the Holocaust at the Auschwitz concentration camp. Written by Joseph, Martha, Ilse, Ruth, and Walter Karliner, the letters are dated circa 1927-1944.

The Karliner family photographs include photographs of Josef Karliner's store; the family in Peiskretscham, Germany, circa 1909-1930s; the family aboard the MS *St. Louis*; and Ilse Karliner in Mirebeau, France, 1942. The photographs also include Walter Karliner, Hebert Karliner, and other Jewish refugees at various Oeuvre de secours aux enfants (OSE) homes in France, circa 1942-1946.

### **System of arrangement**

The Karliner family papers are organized into two series.

Series 1. Correspondence, circa 1927-1944

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1909-1951, undated

### **Indexing terms**

#### **People:**

Bluchstein, Julien.

Brenig, Theo.

Goodman, Rose.

Haendler, Fritz.

Haendler, Marie.

Hirschberg, Hans.

Hirschhorn, Kurt Siegfried.

Karliner, Gerda.

Karliner, Herbert.

Karliner, Ilse.

Karliner, Joseph.

Karliner, Martha.

Karliner, Ruth.

Karliner, Walter.

Lampert, Laci.

Mandell, Charles.

Polzer, Joseph.

Ring, Erna.

Scheucher, Lutz.

Scheuer, Horst.  
Spitz, Ursel.  
Spitz, Vera.  
Valmy, Charles.  
Weil, Ernst.  
Weissler, Walter.

**Corporate:**

Hamburg-American Line.  
Œuvre de secours aux enfants (France)  
St. Louis (Ship)

**Topics:**

Children.  
Families.  
Hidden children (Holocaust)  
Holocaust survivors.  
Holocaust victims.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)  
Jewish children in the Holocaust.  
Jewish children.  
Jewish refugees.  
Refugees.  
World War, 1939-1945.  
World War, 1939-1945--Civilian relief--Europe.  
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.  
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--Germany.

**Geography:**

Château-de-Montintin  
Château-le-Masgelier  
France.  
Germany.  
Mirebeau (Vienne, France)  
Paris (France)  
Peiskretscham (Katowice, Poland)  
Trier (Germany)

**Gene / Form:**

Correspondence.  
Photographs.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1. Correspondence, circa 1927-1944**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
1 of 3	Karliner family letters, circa 1927-1944

**Series 2. Photographs, circa 1909-1951**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
2 of 3	Karliner family photographs, circa 1909-1939, undated
3 of 3	Karliner family photographs, circa 1940-1951, undated