

**DAWID SIERAKOWIAK DIARY, 1939-1943**  
**1999.93.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
Tel. (202) 479-9717  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Dawid Sierakowiak diary

Dates: 1939-1943

Accession number: 1999.93.1

Creator: Sierakowiak, Dawid, 1924-1943

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 oversize box)

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

Abstract: The collection includes three diaries written in the Łódź ghetto by Dawid Sierakowiak. The diary describes horrific conditions of the Łódź ghetto under the Nazi occupation and Chaim Rumkowski leadership. In his diaries Dawid chronicles political situations, social conditions, family relationships, and his physical and emotional deterioration. He writes in grief about the deportation of his mother; his father's death, disease, exhaustion and starvation; his little sister Nadzia's sufferings; and his own eventual loss of strength and decline towards death. The writing starts on Wednesday, June 28, 1939, and continues through Thursday, April 15, 1943. Dawid died on August 8, 1943, two weeks after his nineteen birthday and four months after the last of his surviving notebooks broke off with the recognition: "There is really no way out of this."

Languages: Polish

**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), Dawid Sierakowiak diary (1999.93.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum acquired the Dawid Sierakowiak diary (numbers 1, 3, and 5) from Konrad Turowski's family in 1999.

Related material: Notebooks #2 and #4 are located at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland. The following collections and publication are related to Dawid Sierakowiak and his life.

Related collections:

Microfilm copies of notebooks #2 and #4 are located in the Pamietniki Żydów (Sygn. 302) collection (1995.A.0867 | RG Number: RG-02.208M); Arie Ben Menachem photograph collection 2005.163.1 ; Dzieci z łódzkiego getta Children of the Łódź ghetto / all tracks composed, arranged and produced by Andrzej Krauze CD-0418

Publications:

*The diary of Dawid Sierakowiak : five notebooks from the Łódź ghetto* (DS135.P62 L64434 1996); *Five Holocaust diaries* (D804.195 .S55 2004); *Dziennik / Dawida Sierakowiaka ; słowo wstępne Adolfa Rudnickiego ; do druku przygotował i przypisami opatrzył Lucjan Dobroszycki* (DS135.P62 L64434 1960); *The diary of Dawid Sierakowiak : five notebooks from the Łódź ghetto* (DS135.P62 L64434 1996); *Dziennik : pięć zeszytów z łódzkiego getta / Dawid Sierakowiak ; redakcja i wprowadzenie: Alan Adelson ; opracowanie i dodatkowe przypisy* (DS134.72.S5473 A3 2015)

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.

Processing history: Morgan Voth, April 2019

### **Biographical note**

Dawid Sierakowiak (1924-1943) was born on July 25, 1924 in Łódź, Poland to Majlech Sierakowiak (?-1942?), a cabinetmaker, and Sura Sierakowiak (?-1942?). He had one sister, Nadzia (?-1944). Dawid was a student in a private Jewish Gymnasium in Łódź, where he was on a scholarship. In 1939 they were forced into the Łódź ghetto. In August 1943 Dawid died in the Łódź ghetto of tuberculosis. His mother was deported to Chełmno concentration camp and his sister was deported to Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944. They both perished. His father died in the ghetto.

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

The collection includes three diaries written in the Łódź ghetto by Dawid Sierakowiak. The diary describes horrific conditions of the Łódź ghetto under the Nazi occupation and Chaim Rumkowski leadership. In his diaries Dawid chronicles political situations, social conditions, family relationships, and his physical and emotional deterioration. He writes in grief about the deportation of his mother; his father's death, disease, exhaustion and starvation; his little sister Nadzia's sufferings; and his own eventual loss of strength and decline towards death. The writing starts on Wednesday, June 28, 1939, and continues through Thursday, April 15, 1943. Dawid died on August 8, 1943, two weeks after his nineteenth birthday and four months after the last of his surviving notebooks broke off with the recognition: "There is really no way out of this."

**System of arrangement**

The Dawid Sierakowiak diary is arranged as single series.

**Indexing terms**

**Person:**

Sierakowiak, Dawid, 1924-1943.

**Topical Subject:**

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Łódź.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.

World War, 1939-1945--Poland--Łódź.

**Geography:**

Łódź (Poland)

**Genre/Form:**

Diaries.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1:** Dawid Sierakowiak diary, 1939-1943

Folder	Title
1.1	Vol. 1, 1939
1.2	Vol. 3: 1942
1.3	Vol. 5: 1942-1943