

**NAUMANN FAMILY PAPERS, 1947- approximately 1998
1999.A.0010**

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

Title: Naumann family papers

Dates: 1947- approximately 1998

Accession number: 1999.A.0010

Creator: Naumann family (Family : Wrocław, Poland)

Added creator: Nothmann, Albert, 1885-1961.

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (7 folders)

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

Abstract: The Naumann family papers consist primarily of correspondence to Ilse Sternberger from her father, Kurt Naumann, documenting his life in Breslau (now Wrocław, Poland) before his deportation, as well as from her relatives Else Hammer, Robert Karpel, and Walter and Ida Naumann documenting their postwar lives in Italy and Germany. The collection also includes a copy of the personal narrative of Albert Nothmann, a former neighbor of the Naumann family in Gross-Strehlitz (now Strzelce Opolskie, Poland). His narrative describes his and his twin brother's survival at Theresienstadt and Auschwitz.

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), Naumann family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Ilse Sternberger donated the Naumann family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999.

Custodial history: Ilse Sternberger donated the original copy of the Albert Nothmann personal narrative and her translation of it as well as the original Kurt Naumann letters and her translations of them to the Judah L. Magnes Jewish Museum.

Related materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds oral history interviews conducted with Ilse Sternberger on July 15 and September 1, 1992.

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, March 2016

Biographical note / Administrative history

Ilse Sternberger (1914-2002) was born in Breslau (now Wrocław, Poland) to Franz Joseph Kurt Naumann (Kurt, 1874- 1942) and Frieda Naumann (nee Weiss). She married Marcel Sternberger (1899-1956) in 1933, their son Peter was born in 1935 in Brussels, and their daughter Patricia was born in 1936 in London. Marcel Sternberger was born in Máramarosziget, Hungary (now Sighetu Marmăției, Romania) to Hermann and Regina Perls Sternberger. Marcel immigrated to the United States in 1939 or 1940, and Ilse and the children followed in June 1940. Frieda Naumann had been institutionalized following a mental illness, was transferred elsewhere, and died in Chełm in 1941. Kurt Naumann was born in Dresden, practiced law in Gross-Strehlitz (now Strzelce Opolskie, Poland), resigned in protest in 1937, and moved to Breslau, where he worked for the Jewish welfare office and the Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland. He was deported to Theresienstadt and murdered at Treblinka in 1942.

Albert Nothmann (1885-1961) was a wholesale merchant and former neighbor of the Naumann family in Gross-Strehlitz (now Strzelce Opolskie, Poland). The Nothmann family fled to Berlin during the Nazi period, hoping to hide under false identities. Albert and his twin brother, Fritz, were deported to Theresienstadt in June 1943, transferred to Auschwitz in May 1944, were subject to examination by Josef Mengele, and were liberated by the Russians in January 1945. Albert eventually immigrated to the United States.

Scope and content of collection

The Naumann family papers consist primarily of correspondence to Ilse Sternberger from her father, Kurt Naumann, documenting his life in Breslau (now Wrocław, Poland) before his deportation, as well as from her relatives Else Hammer, Robert Karpel, and Walter and Ida Naumann documenting their postwar lives in Italy and Germany. The collection also includes a copy of the personal narrative of Albert Nothmann, a former neighbor of the Naumann family in Gross-Strehlitz (now Strzelce Opolskie, Poland). His narrative describes his and his twin brother's survival at Theresienstadt and Auschwitz.

Kurt Naumann's letters describe his desires to hear from his daughter's family in New York and to emigrate, his worries about his wife's whereabouts and the news of her death, and his worries about his own deportation. Also included are Red Cross letters from Marcel Sternberger's sister, Annus Sternberger, who posed as Naumann's daughter to be able to transmit messages to him from Ilse. Else Hammer was Kurt Naumann's cousin and survived the Holocaust in Italy. Her letters describe her memories of her cousin and postwar Italy. Walter Naumann was another cousin of Kurt Naumann and survived the Holocaust in Berlin in part because his wife, Ida, was not Jewish. His and Ida's letters describe Kurt's activities in Breslau before his deportation, postwar life in Berlin under Allied control, and Ida's conversion to Judaism. Robert Karpel was the son of Ilse Sternberger's cousin Lilli Karpel. Lilli's family had fled to Prague and then Istanbul following the annexation of the Sudetenland. Robert's unfinished letter describes his perspective as a four-year-old of his family's expulsion from Istanbul. Nearly all of the letters are accompanied by the donor's translations. Only Else Hammer's letters and one letter from Walter and Ida Naumann are original documents; the rest are photocopies.

Albert Nothmann (1885-1961) was a wholesale merchant and former neighbor of the Naumann family in Gross-Strehlitz (now Strzelce Opolskie, Poland). The Nothmann family fled to Berlin during the Nazi period, hoping to hide under false identities. Albert's personal narrative, presumably written shortly after liberation, describes how he and his twin brother, Fritz, were arrested in March 1943, pressed into forced labor, survived pneumonia, were deported to Theresienstadt in June 1943, survived Theresienstadt, were transferred to Auschwitz in May 1944, were assigned to the Camp Hospital after they identified themselves as twins, examination by Josef Mengele, surviving Auschwitz, being liberated by the Russians in January 1945, and returning to Gross-Strehlitz and then Berlin in June 1945.

System of arrangement

The Naumann family papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Naumann family correspondence, 1947- approximately 1998
- Series 2: Albert Nothmann narrative, approximately 1998

Indexing terms

Mengele, Josef,--1911-1979.

Auschwitz (Concentration camp)

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Jews--Poland--Strzelce Opolskie.

Jews--Germany--Berlin.

Jews--Poland--Wrocław--Correspondence.

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

Human experimentation in medicine--Poland--Oświęcim.

Twins.

Strzelce Opolskie (Poland)

Berlin (Germany)

Wrocław (Poland)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Naumann family correspondence, 1947- approximately 1998

Folder	
1	Naumann, Kurt, German (1933, 1940-1943), approximately 1998
2	Naumann, Kurt, English translations, approximately 1998
3	Hammer, Else, German with English translations, 1947, approximately 1998
4	Karpel, Robert, German with English translations, approximately 1998
5	Naumann, Walter and Ida, German with English translations, 1949, approximately 1998

Series 2: Albert Nothmann narrative, approximately 1998

Folder	
6	Nothmann, Albert, Personal narrative (approximately 1945), approximately 1998
7	Nothmann, Albert, Personal narrative translated (1981), approximately 1998