

Edward C. Haven Collection
2002.156.1 preliminary inventory

Edward Haven was born in Warsaw, Poland, on October 28, 1933 as Edward Karol Rechtszafen. His father, Ludwik Rechtszafen, was a well off businessman, owner of a leather factory and numerous real estate properties. His mother, Bronislawa Rechtszafen nee Bart, who was born in 1904, took care of their son. The family resided at first at 25 Swietokrzyska Street in the center of Warsaw. They lived in an apartment located in a building, which belonged to Edward's paternal grandparents: Ignacy Maksimilian Rechtszafen and Chana Rygier Rechtszafen. In addition the family owned a house in Konstancin near Warsaw. Edward remembers that his father owned a car and that the family lived a comfortable life. In September 1939 Edward's father was mobilized into the Polish Army as an officer and subsequently fled Poland via Romania, Iraq and Egypt to the US. Edward, his mother, his paternal grandparents and his paternal aunt with her husband and daughter tried to flee to the east, but were forced to return to Warsaw. Their house was destroyed in bombing of the city and the family moved to Konstancin. Sometime in the fall of 1940 they were forced into the Warsaw ghetto and after one year Bronislawa Rechtszafen arranged for false papers for herself and her 8 years old son Edward. Bronislawa became Anna Luniewska and Edward became Edward Luniewski. They found a hiding place with Edward's former nanny in the Okęcie area of Warsaw. During that time Edward remembers two significant events. One was an effort to reverse his circumcision and it's subsequent failure and the other one was a journey to Berlin attempting to secure a US visa. Edward remembers that during their short stay in Berlin they experienced an air raid. This memory places their journey in August 1941, during a Soviet lonely attack on Berlin. After their return to Warsaw Bronislawa took security measures not to endanger her small son during necessary trips into the city. She always walked on the opposite side of the street from Edward, who was accompanied by his former nanny or another adult protector. During one of these walks Bronislawa Rechtszafen was caught by the Gestapo and Edward never saw her again. He stayed with his former nanny until the outbreak of the Warsaw uprising on August 1, 1944. Edward was separated from his protector and found himself alone, fighting alongside the AK Home Army scouts in Warsaw. The uprising was suppressed in September 1944 and most of the population was deported out of Warsaw. Edward and a new friend found themselves in Pruszkow, where they made acquaintance with two Polish women, who claimed to be their respective mothers. This ploy enabled them to leave the transit camp in Pruszkow and travel to Krakow. A priest in Biezanow near Krakow found a family, which took Edward in. The Machaczek family lived in Biezanow, where they owned a bakery and Edward became a stepbrother to Jaska and Jozek. Edek, as he was known in Polish, attended the local school. Immediately after the liberation of Poland, Ludwik Rechtszafen, who changed his name to Louis Rex Haven, initiated an intensive search for his son and in the spring of 1946 representative of the Polish Red Cross located Edward in Biezanow. In the fall of 1946 Edward traveled to the US via Stockholm and was finally reunited with his father. Louis Haven tried to compensate his only son for all the years of suffering and created a new reality for him, in which the past did not exist. Edward was sent to best schools but in the process many of his memories as well as his knowledge of the Polish language disappeared. In 1958 Edward married Judith and they have four children. In 1985 Edward renewed contact with the Machaczek family and took his children to visit Poland. Mr. and Mrs. Haven reside currently in Palm Desert, CA.

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.1 **Photostat of a Copy of Birth Certificate;** stating that on 23 of November 1933, in the office of the Tenth Precinct of the Police of the City of Warsaw, at 1PM, appeared Mr. Ludwik Rechtszafen in front of a clerk of the non-Christian denominations registry. Mr. Rechtszafen, who is the son of Ignacy Maksimilian Rechtszafen and Chana Krygier Rechtszafen, is 32 years old. He is a businessman and resides in Warsaw at 25 Swietokrzyska Street as witnessed by Jozef Frenkel, a thirty-six years old businessman, residing at 38 Poznanska Street. The second witness is Gedalia Krygier, a fifty-four years old bookkeeper, residing at 28 Swietojska Street. Mr. Rechtszafen presented a child of male gender, who was born at the above-mentioned address on 28th of October 1933 at 3PM. This child is his and his legal wife's: Bronislawa nee Bart, twenty-eight years old. The child is named Edward Karol and this document is prepared at this late time due to the child's illness. Signed by the head of the 10th Precinct Budzynski, by Ludwik Rechtszafen and by Frenkel and Krygier.

On top of the document appears a stamp stating that a payment of 5 zloty was made for the copy number 6395 on March 17, 1941 in Warsaw.

.2 **Photograph;** portrait of Ignacy Maksimilian Rechtszafen, donor's paternal grandfather, who was born on April 30, 1870 and perished in the Warsaw ghetto.

.3 **Photograph;** portrait of Chana Krygier Rechtszafen, donor's paternal grandmother, who perished in the Warsaw ghetto.

.4 **Photograph;** portrait of Chana Krygier Rechtszafen, donor's paternal grandmother, holding her grandson: Edward Rechtszafen; Chana's other granddaughter stands on right; Konstancin 1937-1938

.5 **Photograph;** portrait of Ludwik Rechtszafen, donor's father – location and date unknown

.6 **Photograph;** portrait of Bronislawa Rechtszafen with her son Edward; Warsaw c. 1940-1941

.7 **School Certificate;** stating that Edward Luniewski, born on 28 October 1933 in Warsaw, Roman-Catholic, attended sixth grade and received the following grades for his mid-term: behavior: excellent; religion: good; Polish language: good; history: excellent; geography: good; natural sciences: good; math: good; drawing: good; shop: good; music: good; gymnastics: good; location: Biezanow on December 21, 1945; in Polish

.8 **School notebook;** kept by Edward Luniewski (Edward Rechtszafen Haven) in 6th grade in 1946 in Biezanow, Poland

.9 **Seven Postcards;** depicting images of Warsaw c. 1956

.10 **Letter;** written on June 18, 1946 by an unidentified friend of Louis Haven (Mr. Szabuniewicz?) in which he reports to Mr. Haven about the results of the search efforts for his son Edek Luniewski Rechtszafen; in Polish

.11 **Statement;** given by Maria Szabuniewicz stating that Edward Luniewski, born on October 28, 1933 is a son of Ludwik Rex Haven from California and resides at that date with Wncenty and Jozefa Machaczek in Biezanow, Poland; dated: August 5, 1946; location: Paris, France; in Polish

.12 **Two letters;** written by Ludwik Rechtszafen (Louis Rex Haven) to his son Edward Rechtszafen in Biezanow, Poland in which he expresses his happiness that he found him and explains the details of the journey to be undertaken by Edward to the US; dated: July 1946; in Polish

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- .13 **Letter;** written by Edward Rechtszafen in Biezanow, Poland to his father Ludwik Rechtszafen (Louis Rex Haven) in Los Angeles in which Edek describes his life in Biezanow and explains the circumstances which brought him there. In addition Edek asks his father to write as often as possible. Dated: August 3, 1946; location: Biezanow, Poland; in Polish
- .14 **Letter;** written by Jaska Machaczek in Biezanow, Poland to Edek Rechtszafen in Los Angeles in which she thanks him for his letter and a picture of Maria, holly mother, and describes a trip to the see shore, where the Machaczek family went to see where their son, Jozek, drowned. Dated: September 21, 1946; location: Biezanow, Poland; in Polish
- .15 **Seven letters;** correspondence between Louis Haven and different offices (the State Department, US Embassy in Warsaw, travel agency) regarding the necessary documents needed for Edward's travel to the US; 1946; in English
- .16 **Letter;** written by Louis Haven in Los Angeles to Wncenty and Jozefa Machaczek in Biezanow, Poland in which he asks them to release his son Edek into the hands of Mrs. Maria Wiensiewicz from Warsaw in order to expedite his leaving Poland for the US. In addition Mr. Haven thanks Mr. and Mrs. Machaczek for all they have done to help his son and asks how can he reciprocate; dated: August 20, 1946; in Polish
- .17 **Two envelopes;** addressed to Louis Rex Haven in Los Angeles