

LITMAN FAMILY PAPERS, 1930-1959
2002.269.2

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Litman family papers

Dates: 1930-1959

Catalog number: 2002.269.2

Creator: Litman family.

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the Holocaust experiences of the Litman family of Zalishchyky, including their survival in Tovste and Jarosław, Poland with the use of false identification papers. Included are false identification papers identifying Olga Litman and her daughters Halina and Eva as Catholics with the last name Lityński, a work permit for Olga to work at a German military camp in Jarosław, DP identification cards, post-war British military papers of Ignacy Litman, marriage certificates, documents used for restitution, clippings, and photographs. The photographs consist of pre-war and post-war family photographs, as well as depictions of Olga, Halina, and Eva in Tovste and Jarosław during the war, including Halina at her first Communion.

Languages: Polish, English, Hebrew

Administrative Information

Access: There are no known restrictions on access to this material.

Reproduction and use: Material(s) in this collection may be protected by copyright and/or related rights. You do not require further permission from the Museum to use this material. The user is solely responsible for making a determination as to if and how the material may be used.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Litman family papers (2002.269.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Halina Peabody donated the Litman family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2002, 2012, 2016, and 2022. The accessions numbered 2002.269.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: The USHMM has three oral history interviews conducted with Halina Peabody (née Litman): 1992.A.0129.26, 1993.A.0095.57, 2002.68.

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, April 2018; updated by Adam Fielding, June 2023

Biographical note

Halina Litman (later Halina Yasharoff Peabody) was born on December 12, 1932 to a liberal Jewish family in Kraków, Poland. Her father, Ignacy Litman (Izak, b. 1902) was a dentist and her mother, Olga Schreiber (1909-1956), was a champion swimmer. They married in Kraków on December 25, 1928. After they married they moved to Zalishchyky, Poland (Zalishchyky, Ukraine) near the Romanian border. Halina's sister Eva was born in 1939.

After the Soviet Union invasion of Zalishchyky in September 1939, Ignacy fled to Romania to avoid conscription into the Red Army. Upon returning, he was arrested, accused of being a spy, and deported to a labor camp in Siberia. He was later released from the camp and joined the Polish Army under General Władysław Anders. At some point he then went to Palestine to live with his sister.

Olga, Halina, and Eva avoided arrest due to the intervention of communist friends, but their house was confiscated. They moved to Tovste. After Germany violated the German-Soviet pact in 1941 and occupied the rest of Poland, the family moved back to Zalishchyky. Olga purchased false identification papers from a priest that allowed them to live as Catholics under the last name Lityński.

The family then moved to Jarosław, Poland where Olga worked as a maid and in the kitchen in a German military camp. Shortly before liberation in 1944, a grenade was thrown at the house where they were staying. Halina lost her thumb and half of her little finger, and their landlady was killed.

Olga, Halina, and Eva were reunited with Ignacy after liberation. The family immigrated to London, England by 1947. Halina represented England in the Maccabiah Games in Israel in 1953 and 1957. She immigrated to the United States in 1968.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the Holocaust experiences of the Litman family of Zalishchyky, including their survival in Tovste and Jarosław, Poland with the use of false identification papers. Included are false identification papers identifying Olga Litman and her daughters Halina and Eva as Catholics with the last name Lityński, a work permit for Olga to work at a German military camp in Jarosław, DP identification cards, post-war British military papers of Ignacy Litman, marriage certificates, documents used for restitution, clippings, and photographs. The photographs consist of pre-war and post-war family

photographs, as well as depictions of Olga, Halina, and Eva in Tovste and Jarosław during the war, including Halina at her first Communion.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series:

Series 1. Biographical material, 1930-1959

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1930-1956

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Litman, Halina.

Litman, Olga.

Litman, Ignacy.

Litman, Eva.

Topical Subject:

Identification cards--Forgeries--Ukraine.

Jews--Ukraine--Zalishchyky.

Holocaust survivors.

Hidden children (Holocaust)

Jewish children in the Holocaust.

Geography:

Zalishchyky (Ukraine)

Kraków (Poland)

Tovste (Ternopil's'ka oblast', Ukraine)

Jarosław (Poland)

England.

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Biographical material, 1930-1959

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	False identity documents, 1939-1944
1.2	Litman, Halina: DP identification card, 1946
1.3	Litman, Halina: Table tennis clippings, 1953-1959
1.4	Litman, Ignacy, 1945-1948
1.5	Litman, Olga, 1946-1953
1.6	Marriage certificates, 1946
1.7	Restitution, 1930-1956

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1930-1956

Box/Folder	Title
1.8	Litman family, circa 1930-circa 1938
1.9	Litman family, circa 1940-circa 1945
1.10	Litman family, circa 1945-1953 and undated
1.12	Litman family, circa 1945-circa 1950
1.11	Litman, Halina: Table tennis, circa 1953-1956