

IRENE ENGELMAN CORRESPONDENCE, 1939-1946

2003.3

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Irene Engelman correspondence

Dates: 1939-1946

Accession number: 2003.3

Creator: Irene Engelman

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (8 folders)

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

Abstract: The Irene Engelman correspondence measures 0.5 linear feet and dates from 1939-1941 and 1946. The collection includes letters to Irene Engelman and her husband in New York from her parents, sister and brother-in-law, and grandfather documenting her family members' lives in the Łódź and Warsaw Ghettos and their emigration efforts. Additional letters from a family friend describe her grandfather's death, her parents' transport to Auschwitz, and her sister and brother-in-law's unknown fates.

Languages: German, 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), Irene Engelman Correspondence, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Irene Engelman correspondence was donated in 2003 by Irene Engelman.

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, August 2012

Biographical note

Irene (Irka) Engelman was born in 1917 in Łódź to textile broker and wholesaler Chaim Leib Lipnowski (1880-circa 1944) and Masza Lipnowska (nee Beatus, 1890-circa 1944). She met Edmund Engelman in Europe, married him, and arrived in the United States with him in 1939 on a student visa. Her parents and grandfather, Herman Beatus, were moved to the Łódź Ghetto in 1940 where Chaim Lipnowski was appointed head of the main purchasing agency. Her grandfather died in the ghetto, and her parents were transported to Auschwitz in August 1944 where they are believed to have been killed. Her sister Halina (Hala) Wolkowicz (1913-circa 1944) was married to Michał Wolkowicz and followed him to Warsaw in late 1939 or early 1940. They lived in the Warsaw Ghetto, and Halina is believed to have been killed at Auschwitz.

Scope and content of collection

The Irene Engelman correspondence measures 0.5 linear feet and dates from 1939-1941 and 1946. The collection includes letters to Irene Engelman and her husband in New York from her parents, sister and brother-in-law, and grandfather documenting her family members' lives in the Łódź and Warsaw Ghettos and their emigration efforts. Additional letters from a family friend describe her grandfather's death, her parents' transport to Auschwitz, and her sister and brother-in-law's unknown fates.

System of arrangement

The Irene Engelman correspondence is arranged as a single series: Correspondence, 1939-1941, and 1946.

Indexing terms

Jewish families – Poland – Łódź.
Jewish ghettos – Poland – Łódź.
Jewish ghettos – Poland – Warsaw.
Jewish refugees – Poland.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945).
Holocaust victims.
Holocaust survivors.
Jews – Poland – History.

Łódź (Poland)

Warsaw (Poland)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence, 1939-1941

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Letters from Chaim and Masza Lipnowski, Herman Beatus, and Halina and Michal Wolkowicz, 1939 |
| 1 | 2 | Letter from Herman Beatus to His Brother, 1940 |
| 1 | 3 | Letters from Chaim and Masza Lipnowski and Herman Beatus, 1940 |
| 1 | 4-5 | Letters from Chaim and Masza Lipnowski and Herman Beatus, 1941 (2 folders) |
| 1 | 6 | Letters from Halina and Michal Wolkowicz, 1940 |
| 1 | 7 | Letters from Halina and Michal Wolkowicz, 1941 |
| 1 | 8 | Letters from Leo Szyper, 1946 |