

IZAC HOLCMAN PAPERS, 1946-1949
2003.440.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Izac Holcman papers

Dates: 1946-1949

Accession number: 2003.440.1

Creator: Izac Holcman (1902-1968)

Extent: 5 folders

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

Abstract: The Izac Holcman papers contain documents related to Izac Holcman, a Polish bookkeeper and veteran of the Polish Armed Forces, who worked in the Traunstein displacement camp before immigrating to the United States in 1949. This collection documents Izac's biographical data and military service and includes his Armed Forces passport, identification testimonies, and his declaration of intent to obtain United States citizenship.

Language: Polish, 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), Izac Holcman papers (2003.440.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Izac Holcman papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2003 by Helene Fishman.

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

Processing history: Colleen Benoit, November 2015

Biographical note

Izac Holcman was born in Warsaw, Poland on February 15, 1902 to Izrael and Lea Holcman (née Grynstejn). He was the youngest of two boys, with an older brother named David (1898-). Izac graduated from a secondary school in Warsaw in 1917 and went on to take a course in bookkeeping - a profession he retained for much of his life.

At the age of 20, Izac joined the Polish Armed Forces as a member of the 8th Regiment of Field Artillery. He served for one year before moving to a reserve unit as a Corporal. In January of 1932, Izac married Felicja Baranowicz (1910-) and had a son named Jerzy on November 11, 1932. The family lived in Warsaw, where Izac worked with a women's clothing manufacturing firm until 1939.

In 1939, just weeks before Germany invaded Poland, Izac mobilized in the First Regiment Artillery Defense against Air Forces. In October of that same year, Izac was taken as a prisoner of war by the Soviet Army in Wlodawa, Poland and was sent to the U.S.S.R. Izac lived in a camp until 1941, when he was given work as a bookkeeper until his release in 1944. After his liberation, Izac rejoined a Polish Armed Forces reserve unit and mobilized with the 2nd Reserve Regiment. Upon his return to Poland, he attempted to locate his wife and child but learned they had been sent to the Warsaw ghetto and then to an extermination camp. Despite contacting the International Tracing Centre, Izac never learned what became of his family.

In 1945 Izac moved to the Military Command Area in Łódź where he worked as a bookkeeper. He was discharged in 1946 as a First Sergeant and eventually made his way to Traunstein, Germany. There, he again worked as a bookkeeper in the resettlement office of the displaced persons camp located in the city. In July 1949, Izac immigrated to the United States sailing on the USS *General C.C. Ballou* and settled with cousins in Brooklyn, New York. He was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in 1955 and passed away in Bronx, New York at the age of 66.

Scope and content of collection

The Izac Holcman papers document Izac Holcman's military career and biographical background. Documents pertaining to his military career include his Armed Forces passport and a translation of the contents within. These materials described Izac's various assignments, posts, and ranks within the military. Also included are two testimonies, one in lieu of oath because he could not obtain a birth certificate from Warsaw and the other a statement regarding the disappearance of his wife and son. Also included is Izac's declaration of the intent to obtain American citizenship and a handwritten timeline of his life prepared in 1949.

System of arrangement

The Izac Holcman papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Holcman, Izac.
Holcman, David.
Holcman, Felicja.
Holcman, Jerzy.

International Tracing Service.

Bookkeepers—Poland.
Prisoners of War—Soviet Union.
Refugees, Jewish--Germany--Traunstein.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.
Warsaw (Poland).
Włodawa (Poland).
Łódź (Poland).
Traunstein (Germany).

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Izac Holcman papers, 1946-1949

Folder	Title
1	Armed Forces passport and translation, 1946 and 1949
2	Declaration of Identity, 1948
3	Declaration of intention to obtain United States citizenship, 1949
4	Statement attesting to the death of family members, 1949
5	Timeline and biographical data, 1949