

KARL AKIVA AND ELLA HUPPERT SCHWARZ PAPERS, CIRCA 1920S-1981 2004.273.1

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: Karl Akiva and Ella Huppert Schwarz papers

Dates: circa 1920s-1981 (bulk 1939-1948)

Accession number: 2004.273.1

Creator: Schwarz, Karl Akiva, 1921-
Schwarz, Ella Huppert.

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 Karl Akiva Schwarz of Vienna, Austria and his wife Ella Huppert Schwarz of Bielsko-Biała, Poland, including their escape from Nazi-occupied Europe aboard the S.S. *Pentcho*, internments on Rhodes and in the Ferramonti concentration camp, and their immigration to Palestine. The collection includes biographical materials such as birth, marriage, and death certificates; documents from Ferramonti and Palestine; and wartime letters from family members in Poland. Photographs include depictions of the S.S. *Pentcho*; Ferramonti; Haifa, Israel; and pre-war family portraits.

Languages: Italian, German, English, Hebrew

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), Karl Akiva and Ella Huppert Schwarz papers (2004.273.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Karl Akiva Schwarz in 2004.

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, October 2016

Biographical note

Karl Akiva Schwarz was born on 21 August 1921 in Vienna Austria to Erich Josef (1895-1949) and Erna (née Flessig, 1896-1942?) Schwarz. His father was a veterinarian. Karl had one brother, Heinrich (1924-1942?) and one sister, Henrietta (1919-1944?). After graduating from middle school Karl became an apprentice in a metal factory and simultaneously attended a vocational school for two and a half years. In 1936 he joined "Betar," a Zionist revisionist movement. Shortly after the German annexation of Austria, Karl left moved to Bratislava (modern day Bratislava, Slovakia) in March 1938, where he worked in a machine shop. He also continued to be involved in Betar activities. In December 1939, he met Ella Huppert, whom would later become his wife.

In May 1940, the couple boarded the S.S. *Pentcho* on the Danube River in Bratislava. Though only 400 Jews were supposed to board the ship, at the last moment 101 additional Jews, who were just released from Dachau concentration camp joined them. In October 1940 a boiler on the ship exploded and the passengers were shipwrecked on the Italian Dodecanese Islands, between Crete and Asia Minor. About ten days later, an Italian warship picked them up and transferred them to a camp on Rhodes. Around February or March 1942, Karl and Ella were transferred to the Ferramonti concentration camp in Tarsia, Italy. On 12 October 1942, Karl and Ella were married by a rabbi in the Ferramonti camp, and their son Peter (1944-1949) was born two years later. In April 1945 they immigrated to Palestine, and settled in Haifa where Karl worked for the electrical company. Peter died from Polio in 1949. Their daughter Ester was born in 1950.

Because of Erich's status as a Czech citizen, Karl's parents, Erich and Erna Schwarz, along with his sister Henrietta and his brother Heinrich all moved to Prague, Czechoslovakia shortly after the German annexation of Austria. In January 1942, upon receiving a deportation order, he obtained a false identity and later joined the underground partisan movement. In December 1944 Erich Schwarz was arrested by the Gestapo, but he managed to escape in January 1945 and was able to participate in the liberation of Prague. After the war he married Elsa Schultz, who helped him hide during the war years. He died of a heart attack in 1949. In June 1942, Erna and Heinrich were deported from Prague to the Theresienstadt concentration camp. In August 1942, Erna and Heinrich were deported to the Maly Trostenets concentration camp near Minsk where they perished. Henrietta and her husband Pavel Beran were deported to Theresienstadt in June 1943, and then transferred to the Auschwitz concentration camp in January 1944 where they perished.

Ella Schwarz (born Elvira Ella Huppert was born in Bielsko-Biala, Poland to Pinchas (d. 1942) and Marie (née Rufeisen, d. 1942) Huppert. She had three brothers, Max, Arthur, and Hugo; and one sister, Gisela. In 1940, her parents were forced to move to the Sosnowiec ghetto, and then in 1942 deported to Auschwitz where they were murdered immediately on arrival. Her brother Arthur, his wife Herta, and

their daughter Ruth were also deported to Auschwitz where they perished. Her brother Max was shot by the Gestapo. Her brother Hugo immigrated to Palestine in 1936. Her sister Gisela, her husband Leo Kulka, and their three children obtained false-identities and survived the war in Bielsko-Biała and the Warsaw area.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the Holocaust experiences of Karl Akiva Schwarz of Vienna, Austria and his wife Ella Huppert Schwarz of Bielsko-Biała, Poland, including their escape from Nazi-occupied Europe aboard the *S.S. Pentcho*, internments on Rhodes and in the Ferramonti concentration camp, and their immigration to Palestine. The collection includes biographical materials such as birth, marriage, and death certificates; documents from Ferramonti and Palestine; and wartime letters from family members in Poland. Photographs include depictions of the *S.S. Pentcho*; Ferramonti; Haifa, Israel; and pre-war family portraits.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as three series:

1. Biographical materials, 1939-1951
2. Correspondence, 1940-1981
3. Photographs, circa 1920s-1948

Each series is arranged alphabetically by folder title. Documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Schwarz, Karl Akiva.
Schwarz, Ella Huppert.
Huppert, Pinchas.
Huppert, Marie.
Huppert, Artur.
Huppert, Max.
Schwarz, Erich.
Schulz, Ester.

Corporate:

Ferramonti (Concentration camp)
Pentcho (Ship)

Topical Subject:

Refugees, Jewish--Greece--Rhodes.
Refugees, Jewish--Italy--Calabria.
Jewish ghettos--Poland--Sosnowiec.

Geography:

Palestine--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Genre/Form:

Correspondence.

Marriage certificates.
Birth certificates.
Postcards.
Identification cards.
Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

1. Biographical materials, 1939-1951

Folder	Title
1	Flessig, Karl: Death certificate, 1944 [Photostat]
2	Schwarz, Ella: Vaccination certificate, 1944
3	Schwarz, Karl, 1939-1951 and undated
4	Schwarz, Erich: Death notice, 1949
5	Schwarz, Peter, 1944-1945
6	Miscellaneous, circa 1940s

2. Correspondence, 1940-1981

Folder	Title
	Schwarz, Ella:
7	1942-1960
8	Huppert, Artur and Herta, 1940-1943
9	Huppert, Max, Edith, and Ruth, 1941-1942
10	Huppert, Pinchas and Marie, 1940-1942
11	Kulka, Gisela, 1941-1943; 1946
	Schwarz, Karl:
12	1981 and undated
13	Pololi (last name unknown), 1954-1960
14	Schwarz, Erich and Else, 1946-1960
15	Schwarz-Schulz, Else: Brod, Max, 1953-1954

3. Photographs, circa 1920s-1948

Folder	Title
16	Ferramonti concentration camp, 1942-1945
17	Flessig, Heinrich and Therese, circa 1920s-circa 1930s
18	Huppert family, circa 1930s; 1941
19	Schwarz, Karl: Bratislava, Slovakia, 1939
20	Schwarz, Karl and Ella: Wedding in Ferramonti concentration camp, 1942
21	Schwarz, Karl and Ella: Haifa, Israel, 1948
22	<i>S.S. Pentcho</i> , 1940
23	Two unidentified women, Milan, Italy, 1947