LEON WELICZKER WELLS NOTEBOOKS, 1943-1946  
2005.277

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

Title: Leon Weliczker Wells notebooks  
Dates: 1943-1946  
Accession number: 2005.277  
Creator: Wells, Leon Weliczker, 1925-2009  
Extent: 0.5 linear foot (3 flat boxes)  
Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,  
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The Leon Weliczker Wells notebooks consists of fourteen volumes and two pages written by  
Wells during his second period of imprisonment in the Janowska concentration camp and while  
in hiding in the basement of the Kalwinski family following his escape. Wells describes the work  
of Sonderkommando 1005 in the Janowska camp, his escape, and his hiding place on the  
Kalwinski family’s farm. These notebooks were widely published as "The Janowska Road" and  
"The Death Brigade."

Languages: 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), Leon Weliczker Wells notebooks, United States Holocaust  
Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC
Acquisition information: Leon Weliczker Wells donated the Leon Weliczker Wells notebooks papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2005.

Related materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Leon Wliczker Wells on 1990 January 8, 1990 (1992.A.0128.130), and an oral history interview conducted with him on December 12, 1996 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum. The Museum’s library holds copies of Leon Weliczker Wells’ notebooks published under the titles *The Janowska Road* and *The Death Brigade*.

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 2016

**Biographical note**
Leon Weliczker Wells (1925-2009) was born Leon Weliczker in Stojanów, Poland (now Stojaniw, Ukraine) and moved with his family to Lemberg (Lviv) in 1936. He was imprisoned in the Janowska concentration camp in 1942, escaped after three months, confined to the Lwów ghetto, and in June 1943 assigned to a Sonderkommando 1005 unit at the Janowska concentration camp. He escaped during the November 19, 1943 Sonderkommando uprising and hid for four months with sixteen other Jews in a cellar under a barn at the home of the Kalwinski family. He was liberated in the spring of 1944 by the Red Army. Both of his parents (Abraham and Chana) and all six of his siblings (Elka, Rachel, Judit, Bina, Aaron, and Jakob) were killed in the Holocaust. Weliczker studied engineering, immigrated to the United States in 1949, and changed his last name to Wells. He was interviewed for the Nuremberg Trial of the Major War Criminals and served as a witness at the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem.

**Scope and content of collection**
The Leon Weliczker Wells notebooks consists of fourteen volumes and two pages written by Wells during his second period of imprisonment in the Janowska concentration camp and while in hiding in the basement of the Kalwinski family following his escape. Wells describes the work of Sonderkommando 1005 in the Janowska camp, his escape, and his hiding place on the Kalwinski family’s farm. These notebooks were widely published as "The Janowska Road" and "The Death Brigade."

**System of arrangement**
The Leon Weliczker Wells notebooks are arranged as a single series.

**Indexing terms**
Wells, Leons Weliczker, 1925-  
Janowska (Concentration camp)  
Jews--Persecutions--Ukraine--L’viv.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Ukraine--L’viv--Personal narratives.  
L’viv (Ukraine)
CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Leon Weliczker Wells notebooks, 1943-1946

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