

LACHTER FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS, circa 1930-1948
2007.76

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Lachter family photographs

Dates: circa 1930-1948

Accession number: 2007.76

Creator: Lachter (Family : Poland)

Extent: 0.1 linear foot (1 folder)

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

Abstract: The Lachter family photographs consist of twenty pre-war and post-war photographs documenting the Lachter family of Turobin, Poland. Prewar photographs depict Izak's uncle Pesach Diamant in Turobin, Mottle Leichter's extended family, a group from Turobin in a horse-drawn wagon, and Izak Lachter's father, Moshe, wrapped in a winter coat and boots. Postwar photographs depict Holocaust survivors, including Izak Lachter, at the Lampertheim displaced persons camp and in Ulm and Heidelberg.

Languages: Polish, Yiddish

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), Lachter family photographs (2007.76), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Moshe Lachter donated the Lachter family photographs to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2007.

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, December 2019

Biographical note

Izak (Yitzchock) Lachter was born in 1921 to Moshe Lachter, who had six siblings: Malka, Breindel, Etl, Mordechai "Mottel," Aryeh, and Bluma. Izak grew up in Turobin, Poland, and had five siblings: Avraham (Avrumcha), Nechama, Yosef, Miriam, and Oyzer. Izak's mother (née Diamant) died around 1932, and his father, Moshe, raised him and his five siblings.

When the Germans invaded Poland in September 1939, Moshe Lachter was living in Turobin with his family. Turobin changed hands several times during the first weeks of the war before the Germans finally took control. Izak worked for about a year at a German factory in Lublin. He escaped and spent the rest of the war in the woods and in hiding. His brother Yosef and their cousin Harry retreated with the Russian army and spent the war as factory workers in Kirovograd, Russia. In the evenings, Harry took courses to become a truck driver and ended up in Tashkent. Yosef joined the Anders Army, deserted in Palestine, and changed his last name to Diamant.

After the war, Izak returned to Lublin and intended to go home to Turobin, but he met an acquaintance who warned him against it. Izak was told that his family had been killed during the war and that local Poles had murdered two other Jewish survivors who had attempted to return. That same night the house where Izak and several Jewish comrades were staying was raided by members of the Polish Home Army. They were saved at the last minute when a Russian patrol appeared on the scene and fired on the Poles. Izak decided to leave Poland forever. He fled to the American zone of Germany, where he took up residence at the Lampertheim displaced persons camp. He met Chava Surah Tropen (Eva Lachter), and the couple married on July 20, 1946.

Eva Lachter was born Chava Surah Tropen on March 24, 1920 in Bełżyce, Poland. Her father was deported from the Bełżyce ghetto to Majdanek in March 1942. On May 8, 1942 the entire ghetto was liquidated. Most of the Jewish population was herded into the synagogue and burned alive or shot on the spot. Chava Surah was one of the few who was spared to perform labor, but the rest of her family were killed. She was deported to the Budzyń concentration camp and transferred to Majdanek and then Auschwitz. In January 1945 she was forced on a death march to Germany. She was liberated at Bergen-Belsen by the British on April 15, 1945.

In 1946 or 1947 Izak discovered his brother Yosef was alive in Palestine. He and Chava planned to join him, but Yosef convinced them to go to America instead. Izak and Chava Lachter immigrated to the United States with their 19 month old son Chaim via Bremerhaven aboard the USS *General Howze* in 1949.

Scope and content of collection

The Lachter family photographs consist of twenty pre-war and post-war photographs documenting the Lachter family of Turobin, Poland. Prewar photographs depict Izak's uncle Pesach Diamant in Turobin, Mottle Leichter's extended family, a group from Turobin in a horse-drawn wagon, and Izak Lachter's father, Moshe, wrapped in a winter coat and boots. Postwar photographs depict Holocaust survivors, including Izak Lachter, at the Lampertheim displaced persons camp and in Ulm and Heidelberg.

System of arrangement

The Lachter family photographs are arranged in a single folder.

Indexing terms

Personal names

Lachter, Izak, 1921-?

Corporate names

Lampertheim (Displaced persons camp)

Topical terms

Jewish families--Poland--Turobin.

Holocaust survivors--Germany.

Geographic terms

Turobin (Poland)

Lampertheim (Germany)

Genre terms

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Lachter family photographs, circa 1930-1948

Photograph	
1 of 20	Studio portrait of Pesach Diamant, a maternal uncle of Izak Lachter, from Turobin, Poland. Pesach Diamant was a prosperous lumber merchant before the war. Following the German invasion of Turobin in September 1939, Pesach and his younger brother were executed. Turobin, Poland, circa 1930s.
2 of 20	Group portrait of the extended family of Mottle Leichter in Janow Podlaski, Poland. The photo was taken on the occasion of the departure of one family member to Palestine. Only three of those pictured survived the Holocaust, including two who left Poland before the war. Janów Podlaski, Poland, circa 1930.
3 of 20	A group of Jews from Turobin travel by horse-drawn wagon to a wedding in a neighboring town. Turobin, Poland, circa 1930.
4 of 20	Moshe Lachter, Izak's father, wrapped in a winter coat and boots returns home from the synagogue after morning prayers. Turobin, Poland, circa 1932.

5 of 20	Jewish survivors from Turobin pose with a memorial plaque commemorating the victims of Nazism from their community. Cantor Iber, pictured in the tallit, trained in the Vilna Conservatory and served as the cantor in the Ulm DP camp. Ulm, Germany, circa 1946 - 1948.
6 of 20	Group portrait of Jewish DPs in the Lampertheim displaced persons camp, some of whom are holding magazines. Among those pictured is Izak Lachter (front row, second from the left, holding a dark covered periodical). In one of the middle rows on the far right, wearing a hat is Chaim Kuperstock. To his right is his wife, Esther (nee Lang) Kuperstock. Lampertheim, Germany, circa 1946-1948.
7 of 20	Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Palestine, Isaac Herzog, poses with Jewish DPs at the Lampertheim displaced persons camp during an official visit. Izak Lachter is pictured wearing a skull cap next to Rabbi Herzog. In the foreground at the right is Dr. Shmarholtz. Lampertheim, Germany, circa 1946-1948.
8 of 20	Group portrait of young Jewish DPs on a street in the Lampertheim displaced persons camp. Lampertheim, Germany, circa 1946-1948.
9 of 20	Jewish DPs pose at the entrance to the Yiddish theater in the Lampertheim displaced persons camp. Among those pictured is Izak Lachter (center, wearing the light trench coat). Lampertheim, Germany, circa 1946-1948.
10 of 20	Jewish DPs pose at the entrance to the Yiddish theater in the Lampertheim displaced persons camp. Among those pictured is Izak Lachter (center, wearing the light trench coat). Lampertheim, Germany, circa 1946-1948.
11 of 20	A group of young Jewish DPs pose on a street in the Lampertheim displaced persons camp. Among those pictured is Izak Lachter (far right). Lampertheim, Germany, circa 1946-1948.
12 of 20	Jewish DPs are wed in a ceremony in Heidelberg, Germany. Pictured are the bride and groom, Toby and Bernard Weitschner. Standing next to them on the right are Chava and Izak Lachter. Heidelberg, Germany, 1948 November 16.
13 of 20	Two boys walking down a street, Polish inscription on verso, 1939
14 of 20	Man woman and child, Polish inscription on verso, 1940
15 of 20	Two women and a man
16 of 20	Woman, man, and two children
17 of 20	Man, Warsaw stamp on verso
18 of 20	Man
19 of 20	Seven women
20 of 20	Large group of children arranged around a seated man