

**EVE PRZEMYSKI PAPERS, approximately 1925-1964**  
**2010.459.1**

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

Title: Eve Przemyski papers

Dates: approximately 1925-1964

Accession number: 2010.459.1

Creator: Przemyski, Eve, 1923-

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (7 folders)

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

Abstract: The Eve Przemyski papers include biographical materials, a handcrafted clandestine diary, and photographs documenting Eve's prewar life in Równe, Poland (now Rivne, Ukraine), her internment in prisoner of war camps at Sandbostel and Oberlangen following the Warsaw Uprising, her service in the Polish armed forces at the end of the war, and her relocation to England and immigration to the United States with her husband, Richard Przemyski, after the war. Her handmade diary includes detailed descriptions and illustrations documenting her internment in two POW camps in 1944 and 1945.

Language: Polish, German, English, Ukrainian

**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), Eve Przemyski papers (2010.459.1) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Eve Przemyski donated the Eve Przemyski papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2010.

Related materials: Eve Przemyski also donated a Polish Home Army Warsaw Uprising commemorative armband (2010.459.2) to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The Museum's library holds copies of the 1996 and 2006 editions of Przemyski's book based on her diary, *Behind Barbed Wire: A Diary of a Year in a German POW Camp 1944-1945*.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, March 2018

### **Biographical note**

Eve Przemyski (Ewa Łada) was born in 1923 in Warsaw, Poland to lawyer and civil servant Tadeusz Łada (1877-1941?) and Maria Horoch Łada (1887-1967). Following Tadeusz's retirement, the family lived on a working farm in Sosenski, Poland, near Równe (now Rivne, Ukraine). Eve and Maria moved to Równe following the Soviet invasion of eastern Poland in September 1939, and Tadeusz rejoined them in June 1941, after the German invasion of the Soviet Union. He was arrested in August 1941 for illegally listening to the BBC news and is presumed to have been executed.

Maria and Eve moved to Warsaw in May 1944 and lived with Eve's maternal uncle, Jozef Horoch, at 12 Mokotowska Street. When the Warsaw Uprising began in August 1944, Eve joined the Armia Krajowa (Home Army), became a stretcher bearer, and met Danuta Szeniawska (1922-2007). The Polish forces capitulated in October, and Eve and Danuta were among 1,000 Polish young women insurgents taken to the Sandbostel POW camp (Stalag X-B). Eve worked cleaning offices and fashioned a handmade diary from German payroll documents and pencil stubs she pilfered. She and Danuta were transferred to the Oberlangen POW camp (Stalag VI-C) in December 1944, where Eve worked digging peat moss. They were liberated by Polish troops in the First Armored Division of the British Army in April 1945 and moved to nearby Niederlangen. When the British authorities announced that they would permit family unifications with Polish soldiers serving with the Polish Second Corps (Anders' Army) in Italy, Danuta decided to join her step father, Captain Rozwidzki, and Eve accompanied her, having invented an uncle in Italy. Eve took a Morse typing course in Mottola and worked as a Morse code telegraph operator for the British Army.

Eve moved to Rome and met her future husband, Ryszard Przemyski (1924-1999). Richard had also fought in the Warsaw Uprising, survived the Luckenwalde POW camp (Stalag III-A), and joined the Polish Second Corps in Italy. The young couple was transferred to England, married in 1946, settled in Herefordshire, and had two children. In 1956 a distant relative in America arranged for the Przemyski family to immigrate to the United States, and they settled in Pennsylvania and Americanized their names to Eve and Richard. Eve had loaned her diary to Danuta Szeniawska while they were in Italy, and Danuta rediscovered it in 1990 and returned it to her. Eve published her diary under the title *Behind Barbed Wire: A Diary of a Year in a German POW Camp, 1944-1945* in 1996 and 2012.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Eve Przemyski papers include biographical materials, a diary, and photographs documenting Eve's prewar life in Równe, Poland (now Rivne, Ukraine), her internment in prisoner of war camps at

Sandbostel and Oberlangen following the Warsaw Uprising, her service in the Polish armed forces at the end of the war, and her relocation to England and immigration to the United States with her husband, Richard Przemyski, after the war.

The biographical materials series documents Eve and Richard Przemyski, Maria and Tadeusz Łada, and Eve's maternal uncle, Jozef Horoch. Eve and Richard Przemyski documents include identification papers, a pay book, and a certificate documenting her residence in Równe, her service in the Polish armed forces, and her relocation to England with her husband after the war. This folder also includes a letter Eve wrote from the Sandbostel POW camp to her mother and uncle in Krakow. Maria Łada documents include identification and registration papers and certificates documenting her Polish citizenship, her relocation to Warsaw, her work for the Red Cross as a medic, and her status as a former political prisoner, and testifying that she did not collaborate with the German occupiers and that she sheltered two Jewish women during the Holocaust. Tadeusz Łada documents include four statements testifying that he was arrested by the Gestapo on August 30, 1941 and that he was never seen again and a court document recognizing Łada as deceased as of May 9, 1946. Two personal narratives by Jozef Horoch describe, first, the murder of a Polish family gathered for a wedding in the village of Zbydniow by an SS-Sturmbahnführer named Fullner and, second, the execution of Fullner.

Eve created her diary clandestinely from pages of German payroll ledgers she pilfered while cleaning offices at the Sandbostel POW camp and tied together with string. Eve wrote her entries on the blank sides of the pages, and names of Ukrainian forced laborers, dates, and amounts paid are visible on versos. She used stolen bits of colored pencils to write and illustrate her entries. Her diary is titled "Za drutami... 1944-1945 rok. Dwie Zaby," or "Behind the barbed wire... 1944-1945. Two frogs." Entries are in prose and in poetry in Polish and describe the Sandbostel and Oberlangen POW camps, work, holidays, and liberation and frequently mention Eve's friend Danuta (Danusia).

Photographs depict Eve Przemyski with her family in Poland before the war, with Polish forces in Italy after liberation, and with her husband and children in England and the United States after the war. Family photographs: images of donor's family and friends in Sosenski, Poland before the war, Italy and UK after the war

### **System of arrangement**

The Eve Przemyski papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1927-1964
- Series 2: Diary, 1944-1945
- Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1925-1956

### **Indexing terms**

Przemyski, Eve, 1923-

Przemyski, Richard, 1924-1999

Sandbostel (Concentration camp)

Oberlangen (Concentration camp)

Jews--Poland--Warsaw.

Jews--Ukraine--Rivne.

Prisoners of war--Germany.  
Holocaust survivors--England.  
Holocaust survivors--United States.

Rivne (Ukraine)  
Sandbostel (Germany)  
Oberlangen (Germany)  
Warsaw (Poland)  
Kraków (Poland)  
Italy.  
England.

Diaries.  
Photographs.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series 1: Biographical materials, 1927-1964

Folder	Title
1 of 7	Horoch, Jozef, approximately 1960s
2 of 7	Łada, Maria, 1927, 1944-1949
3 of 7	Łada, Tadeusz, 1946-1948, 1964
4 of 7	Przemyski, Eve, 1941-1949
5 of 7	Przemyski, Richard, 1951

### Series 2: Diary, 1944-1945

Folder	Title
6 of 7	Diary, 1944-1945

### Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1925-1956

Folder	Title
7 of 7	Photographs, approximately 1925-1956