

SALOMON BERENHOLC PAPERS, 1942-1945
2011.372.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Salomon Berenholc papers

Dates: 1942-1945

Accession number: 2011.372.1

Creators: Salomon Berenholc (1926-)

Extent: 2 folders

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

Abstract: The Salomon Berenholc papers concern Salomon Berenholc, a young French Jew who was arrested with his family after fleeing France and illegally crossing the border into Spain in 1942. After a brief internment in a Spanish prison, the family was released and ultimately immigrated to the United States in 1943 by way of Lisbon, Portugal. These papers are comprised of a diary Salomon kept during his efforts to flee France between 1942 and 1943 and documents from the post-war era regarding his and his brother, Victor's education. The diary details their journey and the conditions of Salomon's cell, daily rations, schedule, treatment, and relationship with other prisoners.

Language: French

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 if item), Salomon Berenholc papers (2011.372.1) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Salomon Berenholc papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2011 by Salomon Berenholc.

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, March 2016

Biographical note

Salomon Jacques Berenholc (now Sal Berenholz) was born to Rachelle and Izak Berenholc in Paris, France. Izak and Rachelle, both Polish-born Jews immigrated to France from Warsaw in 1924, shortly after their first son, Victor was born. The family settled in Clermont-Ferrand, France where Izak worked as a tailor and Salomon was enrolled in business school. Fearing deportation to a concentration camp, Salomon and his family fled France in 1942 and attempted to cross the border into Spain. The family was arrested by Spanish forces and was taken into custody in Figueres, Spain where they detained for a month for "illegally crossing the frontier." In January 1943, Salomon and his family were transferred to Girona, Spain and released. The family then settled briefly in Barcelona until in April 1943 when they illegally crossed the border into Portugal after seeing uniformed Nazis in the streets of Barcelona. With assistance from Izak's brother in New York City, the family obtained visas and immigrated to the United States, arriving aboard the SS *João Belo* from Lisbon in November 1943. Salomon joined the United States Army a year later in 1944 and was sent to Camp Croft in Spartanburg, South Carolina, but did not ever serve overseas. Salomon eventually settled in the greater Philadelphia area.

Scope and content of collection

The Salomon Berenholc papers are comprised of a diary Salomon kept while fleeing France between 1942 and 1943 and of documents from the post-war era regarding his and his brother, Victor's education. The diary begins on December 8, 1942 when Salomon and his family fled Clermont-Ferrand for Barcelona, Spain and describes in detail their journey through France, their arrest, and incarceration in a Spanish prison in Figueres. While interned, Salomon describes the conditions of their cell, their daily rations, schedule, treatment, and relationship with other prisoners. Many of his entries include name lists of prisoners he encountered and in a couple entries, maps of his holding cells. The diary goes on to describe his and his family's release, brief settlement in Spain, and attempts to obtain visas. The diary ends during their journey to Portugal in April 1943. In the back of the journal, Salomon wrote the Hebrew alphabet at a time when he had been having nightmares that he was held in jail and had to read Hebrew to be released. Also included in this collection are four documents from the École Supérieure de Commerce, Salomon and Victor's school in Clermont-Ferrand. These documents confirm the brothers' enrollment in the school and were issued in 1945 so they could continue their education in the United States.

System of arrangement

The Salomon Berenholc papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Berenholc, Salomon (1926-).

Berenholc, Victor (1924-).

Berenholc, Izak (1898-).

Berenholc, Rachelle (1904-).

Tailors--France--Clermont-Ferrand.
Students--France--Clermont-Ferrand.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--France--Clermont-Ferrand--Personal narratives.
Jewish refugees--Barcelona--Spain.
Jews--France--Clermont-Ferrand.
Holocaust diaries.

Clermont-Ferrand (France).
Barcelona (Spain).
Figueres (Spain).
Girona (Spain).
United States-- Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Salomon Berenholc papers, 1942-1945

| Folder | Title |
|--------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Diary, 1942-1943 |
| 2 | Education documents, 1945 |