

**ISIDOR GROSS PAPERS, 1921-1997 [BULK 1936-1945]
2012.433.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Isidor Gross papers

Dates: 1921-1997 [bulk 1936-1945]

Accession number: 2012.433.1

Creator: Isidor Gross (1921-2012)

Extent: 22 folders

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

Abstract: The Isidor Gross papers consist of documents and photographs that concern the family, immigration, and United States Army service of German born Jew, Isidor Gross. After being arrested by the Gestapo in 1938, Isidor and his father Markus fled Aachen, Germany for the United States and successfully rescued his mother and two younger siblings from a holding camp. Included in this collection are several documents from Isidor's childhood in Germany, among them, his birth certificate, school report card, and employment workbook. Also included are papers documenting Isidor's naturalization as a United States citizen, his enlistment, assignments, coursework, and discharge from the US Army, and some material related to restitution claims. Photographs of the Gross family in Aachen and Brooklyn are also comprised in this collection.

Language: English, German, 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), Isidor Gross papers (2012.433.1) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Isidor Gross papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2012 by his daughter, Judith Gross.

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, February 2016

Biographical note

Isidor (later Edward) Gross, was born to Polish-born Jews Markus and Ida Gross in Aachen, Germany. There, Markus worked as a merchant and supported Isidor and his two younger siblings, Lena and Morris. Isidor attended a Jewish school until March 1936 when he graduated from the 8th grade and was no longer allowed to seek higher education. As was the law, he was assigned a job and worked as an apprentice in a men's clothing store owned by Leo Stern. After Kristallnacht in November 1938, Markus and Isidor were arrested by the Gestapo. Isidor was released after he proved he was in the process of obtaining papers to leave the country, though had to report to the local prison every week to demonstrate his immigration progress. Markus, however was sent to a holding camp in Zhebno, Poland until he could prove the same. With the aid of a cousin, Markus and Isidor fled Germany in 1939. Isidor arrived to the United States aboard the SS *Bergenfjord* in December 1939. His father had arrived two months prior in September. They settled in Brooklyn where Markus' brother Irving lived. Isidor obtained employment with the Pennsylvania Handbag Frames Manufacturing Company as a foot press operator and Markus obtained employment in a garment factory. In 1941, Markus and Isidor were successful in rescuing Ida, and the two younger children from a holding camp and the family was reunited in Brooklyn. In 1942 Isidor was drafted by the United States Army where he served in North Africa and Italy as a German translator. After his discharge in 1945, he returned to his family and assisted them in buying a house on New Jersey Avenue in Brooklyn. Later, he married and became a manufacturers' representative in the metal findings business in New York, representing several factories in Providence, Rhode Island. He retired to Palm Beach, Florida where he died in 2012.

Scope and content of collection

The Isidor Gross papers are comprised of documents and photographs pertaining to Isidor Gross, his family, immigration to the United States from Germany, and service in the United States Army. Included in this collection are several documents from Isidor's childhood in Germany, among them, his birth certificate, school report card, and the employment book he received upon his forced introduction into the workforce in 1936 after he completed the 8th grade. Documentation of Isidor's immigration and naturalization include a letter from the Committee for Aid for Jews in Germany confirming his progress in leaving the country, his passage information for the SS *Bergenfjord*, paperwork declaring intent to seek United States citizenship, affidavits of his employment, and his naturalization certificate from 1943. Also comprised in this collection is a letter Markus wrote to the *Morning Journal*, a daily Jewish newspaper, seeking job advice as a recent immigrant to the country, though the letter is signed "Isidor G." These papers also document coursework in English composition and mechanics that Isidor took while enlisted with the United States Army. Information regarding his enlistment and discharge are also included. Some material related to Isidor's restitution claims and attempts to locate family members is also contained in this collection. Several photographs of Isidor, his parents, siblings, and paternal aunts

and uncles are also comprised here within. Most of the photographs depict the Gross family in Brooklyn shortly after the war, though some are of the family in Aachen.

System of arrangement

The Isidor Gross papers are arranged as two series:

Series 1: Documents, 1921-1997

Series 2: Photographs, 1922-1992 and undated

Indexing terms

Gross, Isidor, 1921-2012

Gross, Markus, 1895-?

Gross, Ida.

Gross, Lena.

Gross, Morris.

Gross, Irving.

Gross, Sarah.

United States--Army.

World War II.

Holocaust survivors--Germany.

Merchants--Germany.

Tailors--Germany.

Jews--Germany--Aachen.

Aachen (Germany).

Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.).

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Germany--Emigration and immigration--History--1933-1945.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Documents, 1921-1997

Folder	Title
1.1	Birth certificates, 1921 and 1939
1.2	Committee for Aid for Jews in Germany certifying progress to flee Germany, 1939
1.3	Employment Workbook, 1936
1.4	Letter to the <i>Morning Journal</i> , 1940
1.5	Naturalization papers, 1940-1945
1.6	Nazi registration, 1936
1.7	Report card, 1936

1.8	Restitution papers, 1962-1965
1.9	Ship passage information and passenger list, 1939
1.10	Tracing service correspondence, 1996-1997
1.11	United States Army papers, 1942-1946

Series 2: Photographs, 1922-1992 and undated

Folder	Title
1.12	Aachen synagogue, 1939
1.13	Gross family, 1937-1939
1.14	Gross, Ida and Markus, approximately 1945
1.15	Gross, Irving and daughters, 1948
1.16	Gross, Isidor, 1922-1992
1.17	Gross, Isidor and Lena, 1927
1.18	Gross, Isidor – Service photographs, 1942
1.19	Gross, Lena, 1946
1.20	Gross, Morris, 1945-1946
1.21	Gross, Sarah, 1926
1.22	Krakauer, Anna, undated