

RUTH SALM PERLMAN COLLECTION, 1929-2009

2014.314.1

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

Title: Ruth Salm Perlman collection

Dates: 1929-2009 (bulk 1942-1954)

Accession number: 2014.314.1

Creator: Perlman, Ruth Salm.

Extent: .5 linear feet (4 folders, 1 book enclosure)

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

Abstract: Consists of materials related to the Holocaust experiences of Ruth Salm Perlman, including a 1942 postcard sent to her from her family in Germany, while she was living in Denmark; postcards from the family who had sheltered her in Denmark (Aage and Signe Davidsen), sent to her after her deportation to Theresienstadt; a typewritten memoir by Ruth Salm Perlman; a copy of a document from the Danish Red Cross, attesting to her arrest and interment during the war; and a post-war book with photographs, compiled by Aage Davidsen, and describing their wartime experiences. Also includes pre-war family photographs; postwar photographs of the Davidsens, of Salm, and of friends; postwar identity and restitution documents; and handwritten lyrics to the song "Das Lied von Theresienstadt" [The Song of Theresienstadt], composed in October 1943 by Walter Lindenbaum.

Languages: English, Swedish, German

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), Ruth Salm Perlman collection (2014.314.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Dana Perlman and Jeani Adams in 2014. An accretion was donated also in 2014.

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

Processing history: Rebecca Erbelding, 2013; updated by Adam Fielding, January 2018

Biographical note

Ruth Salm was born on January 22, 1924, in Bruhl, Germany, to Julius and Jeanette Salm. Julius worked as a cantor and an animal broker, while Jenny cared for Ruth and her twin younger siblings, Erwin and Inge. The family lived with Julius's mother, Theresa Salm. The family was arrested on Kristallnacht and imprisoned for hours, but because Julius hid himself, he was neither arrested nor imprisoned, though the family's home was ransacked. After Kristallnacht, Julius and Jeanette arranged for Ruth to leave the country. She said goodbye to her parents and siblings and moved to Denmark, where she lived with family of Aage and Signe Davidsen. In 1942, Ruth was given a spot in a nursing program in Copenhagen and moved into a dormitory. She kept in close contact with the Davidsen family, who warned her about rumored arrests and attempted to hide her when German police came to arrest her. Their efforts were unsuccessful, and on October 1, 1943, Ruth was arrested and sent in a cattle car to Theresienstadt (Terezin). The Davidsens found a way to send her packages. In April 1945, Ruth was taken from Theresienstadt to Sweden as part of an arrangement made by Count Folke Bernadotte. After she recovered, Ruth reunited with the Davidsens. Though she continued her nursing studies, she soon became frustrated by the immaturity of her fellow students, and contacted her paternal uncle Max, who lived in New York. In 1946, she immigrated to the United States. Ruth was the only survivor of her immediate family.

Scope and content of collection

Consists of materials related to the Holocaust experiences of Ruth Salm Perlman, including a 1942 postcard sent to her from her family in Germany, while she was living in Denmark; postcards from the family who had sheltered her in Denmark (Aage and Signe Davidsen), sent to her after her deportation to Theresienstadt; a typewritten memoir by Ruth Salm Perlman; a copy of a document from the Danish Red Cross, attesting to her arrest and interment during the war; and a post-war book with photographs, compiled by Aage Davidsen, and describing their wartime experiences. Also includes pre-war family photographs; postwar photographs of the Davidsens, of Salm, and of friends; postwar identity and restitution documents; and handwritten lyrics to the song "Das Lied von Theresienstadt" [The Song of Theresienstadt], composed in October 1943 by Walter Lindenbaum.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series.

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Perlman, Ruth Salm.
Davidsen, Aage.
Bernadotte, Folke, 1895-1948.

Corporate:
Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Topical Subject:
World War, 1939-1945--Denmark.
Jews--Denmark--History--20th century.
Denmark--History--German occupation, 1940-1945.
Jews--Germany--Brühl (Erftkreis)

Geography:
Copenhagen (Denmark)

Genre/Form:
Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Biographical material, 1939-1952 and undated
1.2	Photographs, 1929-1952
1.3	Postcards, 1942-1943
1.4	Restitution, 1952-2009
BE 1	Scrapbook