

ZBIGNIEW ANTONII PIOTROWSKI PAPERS, 1931-1983
2014.469.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Zbigniew Antonii Piotrowski papers

Dates: 1931-1983

Accession number: 2014.469.1

Creator: Piotrowski, Zbigniew, 1929-

Extent: 0.2 linear foot (2 folders)

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

Abstract: The Zbigniew Antonii Piotrowski papers consist of biographical materials and photographs documenting Zbigniew Piotrowski, his family's life in Toruń and Gdynia before World War II and in Warsaw during the war, his father's furniture workshops, his service on the *MS Batory* after the war, his immigration to the United States, and his service in the US Army Signal Corps in the 1950s.

Languages: Polish, English, German, 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. Photograph negatives are kept offsite in cold storage.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: Zbigniew Antonii Piotrowski papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Zbigniew Antonii Piotrowski donated his papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2014.

Related archival materials: Zbigniew Antonii Piotrowski also donated a forced labor badge (2014.469.2) and an inscribed wooden box (2014.469.3) to the Museum. The Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Piotrowski on August 23, 2013 (2013.350.1).

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, January 2017

Biographical note

Zbigniew Antonii Piotrowski (1929-) was born in Toruń, Poland to Christian parents Antonii and Antonina Piotrowski and had four older siblings: Ryszard (1919-), Halina (1921-), Staszek (1923-), and Jurek (1927-). Antonii Piotrowski was a manufacturer of high end furniture, and the family moved to the port town of Gdynia in 1931. Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, bombed the port of Gdynia, arrested Staszek, and ordered the Polish population to evacuate Gdynia. The Piotrowski family traveled to a small town near Lublin and then to Warsaw (3 Trebacka Street), and Staszek was reunited with the family. Antonina Piotrowski died in 1941, and Mr. Piotrowski hired Małgorzata Luczak as a housekeeper. In 1941 Halina Piotrowska was arrested by Germans, imprisoned at the Pawiak prison, transferred in March 1943 to Majdanek and in April 1944 to Ravensbrück. During the Warsaw Uprising in August 1944, the family's residence was evacuated, Zbigniew was released to the housekeeper who pretended to be his mother, his brother Staszek handed them a loaf of bread containing the family's savings, and Zbigniew witnessed his father's execution. Zbigniew and the housekeeper were taken to the Pruszków transit camp and then a Breslau forced labor camp to work on anti-tank trenches. In the fall, Jakubina Skombska, a woman working on a Red Cross truck that arrived to distribute winter clothing, offered to hide Zbigniew in Trzebinia, so he escaped and stayed with her until May 1945. His brother Staszek survived, joined the Anders Army in Italy, and eventually migrated to Australia. Zbigniew worked on the Polish ship *MS Batory*, disembarked in New York in October 1948, and requested political asylum. He served in the US Army Signal Corp during the Korean War and had a long career in metallography.

Scope and content of collection

The Zbigniew Antonii Piotrowski papers consist of biographical materials and photographs documenting Zbigniew Piotrowski, his family's life in Toruń and Gdynia before World War II and in Warsaw during the war, his father's furniture workshops, his service on the *MS Batory* after the war, his immigration to the United States, and his service in the US Army Signal Corps in the 1950s.

Biographical materials include Zbigniew's birth certificate and student ID card; his parents' marriage certificate; Warsaw shelter instructions; a postcard Zbigniew wrote from his hiding place in Trzebinia to his brother; an arrest warrant for entering America without a valid visa; and photocopied pages from a retrospective publication on Majdanek including Halina Piotrowska's name on a list of political prisoners.

Photographs depict the Piotrowski family in Toruń, Gdynia, and Warsaw; Antonii Piotrowski's furniture workshop in Gdynia and a piece of furniture produced in his Warsaw workshop; a Polish classroom in German-occupied Warsaw; a boy in a Breslau forced labor camp; and Zbigniew's service on the *MS Batory* in the 1940s and in the US Army Signal Corps in the 1950s.

System of arrangement

The Zbigniew Antonii Piotrowski papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Majdanek (Concentration camp)

Batory (Steamship)

Poland--History--Occupation, 1939-1945.

Holocaust victims--Poland.

Gdynia (Poland)

Toruń (Poland)

Warsaw (Poland)

Wrocław (Poland)

United States--Emigration and immigration--History.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Zbigniew Antonii Piotrowski papers, 1931-1983

Folder	Title
1	Biographical materials, 1943-1949, 1956, 1963
2	Photographs, 1931-1963, 1983