

JEREMIAH (JERRY) TAX PAPERS, 1944-1946
2015.425.1

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

Title: Jeremiah (Jerry) Tax papers

Dates: 1944-1946

Accession number: 2015.425.1

Creator: Tax, Jeremiah.

Extent: 1 box, 1 oversize folder (.5 linear ft.)

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

Abstract: Correspondence from Jeremiah (Jerry) Tax to his wife, Deborah, and to his parents, Clara and Ben, while Tax was stationed with the 71st Infantry Division, U.S. Army, in the European Theatre, World War II. Includes correspondence describing Tax's impressions of occupied Germany and Austria and of liberated concentration camps, as well as newspaper clippings, a greeting card, and a booklet titled "The 71st Came to Gunskirchen Lager," commissioned by Maj. General Willard G. Woman, for which Tax authored a piece titled "And Afterwards . . .". Also includes a map of the 71st Infantry Division's movements in Europe, 1944-1945, copies of photographs of Tax, and a cartoon drawing of a soldier, modeled on Tax.

Languages: English

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use.

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), Jeremiah (Jerry) Tax papers, (2015.425.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Judith Tax in 2015.

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

Processing history: Brad Bauer, November 2015, and February 2016. Finding aid updated by Adam Fielding, November 2022.

Biographical note

Jeremiah "Jerry" Tax (1916-1999) was born in Northampton, Massachusetts on 31 January 1916, but raised in Brooklyn, New York. On 2 March 1941, he married Deborah Billig (1917-1997), who he had met when they both were students at the University of Maryland. Their daughter, Judith, was born in 1942. After joining the United States Army, Tax was sent to serve as a radio operator with the Signal Corps of the 71st Infantry Division, which landed in Le Havre, France, and saw action in France, Germany, and Austria between that time and the end of the war. Tax remained in Austria with Allied occupation forces until 1946, when he returned to the United States and was discharged from military service. In the post-war years Tax was a journalist, serving as a writer with the Washington Post, an editor with Reader's Digest, and from 1955 to 1981, he was both a writer and editor at Sports Illustrated, eventually becoming executive editor of that publication. Tax died in Great Neck, New York on 5 June 1999.

Scope and content of collection

Correspondence from Jeremiah (Jerry) Tax to his wife, Deborah, and to his parents, Clara and Ben, while Tax was stationed with the 71st Infantry Division, U.S. Army, in the European Theatre, World War II. Includes correspondence describing Tax's impressions of occupied Germany and Austria and of liberated concentration camps, as well as newspaper clippings, a greeting card, and a booklet titled "The 71st Came to Guns kirchen Lager," commissioned by Maj. General Willard G. Woman, for which Tax authored a piece titled "And Afterwards . . .". Also includes a map of the 71st Infantry Division's movements in Europe, 1944-1945, copies of photographs of Tax, and a cartoon drawing of a soldier, modeled on Tax.

System of arrangement

Arranged as two series.

Series 1. Correspondence, 1944-1946

Series 2. Photographs, printed material, and miscellany, 1944-1946

Materials are arranged in alphabetical order by folder title, with exception of one oversize item (map).

Indexing terms

Corporate:

United States. Army. Infantry Division, 71st.

Gunskirchen (Concentration camp)

Topical Subject:

Jewish soldiers--United States.

Soldiers--Family relationships--United States.

Soldiers--United States--1940-1950.

World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Liberation.

Geography:

Gunskirchen (Austria)

Genre/Form:

Letters.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Correspondence, 1944-1946

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Tax, Clara and Ben, letters sent, 1944-1945
1.2	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1944
1.3	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1945 January-February
1.4	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1945 March
1.5	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1945 April
1.6	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1945 May
1.7	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1945 June
1.8	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1945 July
1.9	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1945 August
1.10	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1945 September
1.11	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1945 October

1.12	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1945 November
1.13	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1945 December
1.14	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1946 January
1.15	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1946 February
1.16	Tax, Deborah, letters sent, 1946 March
1.17	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1945 January-February
1.18	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1945 March
1.19	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1945 April
1.20	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1945 May
1.21	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1945 June
1.22	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1945 July
1.23	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1945 August
1.24	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1945 September
1.25	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1945 October
1.26	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1945 November
1.27	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1945 December
1.28	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1946 January
1.29	Tax, Deborah, letters received, 1946 February
1.30	Tax, Deborah, letters not received, 1944-1946

Series 2. Photographs, printed material, and miscellany, 1944-1946

Box/Folder	Title
1.31	Application for a sugar ration book, Office of Price Administration, 1946
1.32	Cartoon, circa 1945-1946 Image of soldier, drawn by member of Tax's unit, with Tax as the model,
1.33	Newspapers, 1945-1946 Includes clipping, PM magazine, 20 February 1946, containing letter to editor from Tax, signed as "J.T.," regarding the redeployment of American soldiers in peacetime; holiday greeting card from the editor of the Schwäbische

	Landeszeitung, in Augsburg, 1945-1946.
1.34	Photographs, circa 1944-1946 One color snapshot of Jeremiah Tax, with wife Deborah and daughter Judith; and one black and white snapshot of Jerry Tax in uniform.
1.35	Printed material: Booklet, titled "The Seventy-First Came...to Gunskirchen Lager" 28 pages, author not listed, but according to donor, text was written by Jeremiah Tax.
OS 1	Map: "7th Infantry Division, World War II" Map shows movements of division from time of Landing in France in February 1945 through V-E Day, May 1945