

LOUIS RANCIATO COLLECTION, circa 1945
2016.114.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
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Descriptive summary

Title: Louis Ranciato collection

Dates: circa 1945

Accession number: 2016.114.1

Creator: Ranciato, Louis

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 oversize box and 1 folder)

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

Abstract: The Louis Ranciato collection includes a journal, photographs, and newspaper clippings relating to Staff Sergeant Louis Ranciato's experience in the United States Army and as a liberator of the Dachau concentration camp. The journal includes entries and poems recalling his experiences, starting in 1941, and provides a timeline and his comments on the development of the war and returning home. The entries dated May 2-7, 1945 describe his observations of Dachau. The collection also includes photographs of a man believed to be Louis during his time in the military and of Dachau after liberation as well as newspaper clippings about the liberation of Dachau.

Languages: English

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), Louis Ranciato collection (2016.114.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Rosalie Heffernan and Anthony Ranciato, the children of Louis Ranciato, donated the Louis Ranciato collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2016.

Separated material: A portrait of Louis Ranciato, by Georgy Byfield, was cataloged as an object (2016.114.2).

Related material: A self-portrait by George Byfield given to an Australian solicitor (2016.77.1 a-b), a diary and album created by George Byfield (2001.156), a translation of George Byfield wartime diary and album ("Oroszfront, 1942/43") (2017.409.1), and a Portrait of a US soldier by George Byfield, a former camp inmate, after liberation (2006.405.1) are cataloged separately. The Museums encyclopedia also has an entry on George's album: <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/art-and-survival-georgy-beifelds-visual-memoir-from-the-russian-front-1942-1943>.

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

Processing history: Morgan Voth, July 2019

Biographical note

Louis Ranciato served in the United States Army during World War II. Louis began his military career with the 118th Medical Regiment, 43rd Division in 1941. In 1942 he was transferred to the 38th Division. He was deployed to Europe with the 101st Airborne Division in 1943 and participated in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp.

Scope and content of collection

The Louis Ranciato collection includes a journal, photographs, and newspaper clippings relating to Staff Sergeant Louis Ranciato's experience in the United States Army and as a liberator of the Dachau concentration camp. The journal includes entries and poems recalling his experiences, starting in 1941, and provides a timeline and his comments on the development of the war and returning home. The entries dated May 2-7, 1945 describe his observations of Dachau. The collection also includes photographs of a man believed to be Louis during his time in the military and of Dachau after liberation as well as newspaper clippings about the liberation of Dachau.

System of arrangement

The Louis Ranciato collection is arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Person:

Ranciato, Louis.

Corporate:

Dachau (Concentration camp)

United States. Army. Airborne Division, 101st.

Topical Subject:

Soldiers--United States--Diaries.

Genre/Form:

Diaries.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Louis Ranciato collection, circa 1945

Box/Folder	Title
Box 1	Journal, 1945
Folder 1	Photographs and clippings, circa 1945