

NORMAN A. MILLER PAPERS, 1937-2015 (bulk 1939-1941)
2016.203.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Norman A. Miller papers

Dates: 1937-2015 (bulk, 1939-1941)

Accession number: 2016.203.1

Creator: Miller, Norman A.

Extent: 2 boxes

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

Abstract: Correspondence, diary, and documents, belonging to Norman A. Miller (Norbert Müller), and documenting his family's life in Nürnberg, Germany; the effects of Nazi persecution during the 1930s, Miller's immigration to England via a Kindertransport, his service with the British Army during World War II, and his post-war life. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence Miller received from his family in Nürnberg between 1939 and 1941, describing their experiences, conditions there, and attempt to emigrate. Also included is a pocket diary that Miller began in 1939, postwar correspondence from acquaintances in Germany describing the fate of Miller's family, and copied material related to the history of Miller's family.

Languages: German, 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), Norman A. Miller papers (2016.203.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Gift of Norman A. Miller, 2016.

Related materials: Five books that belonged to the library of Sebald Müller, which were seized by the Nazis and made part of Julius Streicher's "Jewish Library," and which in the post-war years were added to the collection of the Stadtbibliothek Nürnberg, were returned to Norman Miller from that library in 2011. He included those with the donation of his family's papers, and these books have been cataloged individually, apart from the Norman A. Miller family papers. In addition, several artifacts, including pins, a patch, and an identification tag from Norman Miller's service in the British Army; a patch from a soccer club in Fürth, Germany; and a small prayer shawl (tallit katan) that belong to Miller as a child, were also donated and cataloged separately as artifacts. In 2013, an oral history interview with Norman Miller was conducted by USHMM staff, and is cataloged separately from this collection, as 2013.61.1 (RG-50.030.0693). A subsequent accretion also included a prayer book, tefillin, and a copy of *Hitler's Mein Kampf* (wedding edition), which was confiscated by Norman Miller during his time as a U.S. soldier in Germany after the war, each of which were also cataloged separately as artifacts.

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

Processing history: Processed by Brad Bauer, May 2016, January 2017.

Biographical note

Norman Miller was born Norbert Müller in Tann in der Rhön, on 2 June 1924, the son of Sebald (1892-1942) and Laura (née Jüngster, 1898-1942) Müller. The family of Miller's mother was originally from Tann, but his father's family was from Themar and Marisfeld, in Thüringen. Miller was raised in Nürnberg (Nuremberg), where his family moved in 1930, and had one sibling, his sister Susanne (1925-1942). Sebald was a teacher and musician, and in Nürnberg, he taught Jewish studies at a Jewish school, also taught religion in the public school system.

After the Kristallnacht pogrom in November 1938, when the family's home was ransacked, the Müllers were forced to relocate to another apartment, and began planning to emigrate. Norbert, who had been attending a Jewish high school in Fürth, began learning how to weld, thinking that this could be a useful skill in emigration. In August 1939, his father travelled with him to Cologne, where with permission from the British consulate, Norbert was able to join a Kindertransport to England that was being assembled there. Arriving in Britain at the end of August 1939, Norbert lived with rabbis in Croydon and London, and used his welding skills working in various machine shops. He received letters from his parents, first directly, and then via an uncle in Belgium, until the time when that country was invaded by Germany in May 1940. In November 1941, his parents and sister were deported from their home in Nürnberg to Latvia, being interned in the Jungfrauohof camp, near Riga. After becoming ill with typhus in early 1942, they were rounded up with other elderly and ill people, and killed in a mass execution on 26 March 1942.

While in England, Norbert wished to enlist in the British Army, and managed to eventually do so, despite being an "enemy alien." In 1945, he was sent to Belgium as an infantryman with the Royal Welsh

Fusiliers, and here changed his name to Norman Albert Miller. Due to his fluency in German, he was soon sent to headquarters to perform intelligence work. On V-E Day, his battalion was in Hamburg, and it was there, when conducting a routine traffic control, that Miller caught Arthur Seyss-Inquart, the former Reich Commissar of the occupied Netherlands, and had him arrested, following which Seyss-Inquart was sent to Nürnberg and tried and convicted as a war criminal at the International Military Tribunal.

Miller became a British citizen in 1947, and although he had returned to England after demobilization, he soon immigrated to Canada, and from there, a year and a half later, he moved to New York, where he had relatives. He subsequently met another German Jewish émigré there, Ingeborg Sommer, and the two married and had two sons, Steven and Michael. In 1955, Norman Miller became a citizen of the United States. [Source: Adapted from biography compiled by Judith Cohen]

Scope and content of collection

Correspondence, diary, and documents, belonging to Norman A. Miller (Norbert Müller), and documenting his family's life in Nuremberg (Nürnberg), Germany; the effects of Nazi persecution during the 1930s, Miller's immigration to England via a Kindertransport, his service with the British Army during World War II, and his post-war life. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence Miller received from his family in Nuremberg between 1939 and 1941, describing their experiences, conditions there, and attempt to emigrate. Also included is a pocket diary that Miller began in 1939, postwar correspondence from acquaintances in Germany describing the fate of Miller's family, and copied material related to the history of Miller's family.

A later accretion to this collection included further biographical documents about Miller, including materials from his school years in Germany, such as report cards and notebooks; documents from his military service with the British Army, including documents pertaining his changing his name and his application for British citizenship; and a copy of his birth certificate. This later accretion also included a substantial group of correspondence related to restitution claims filed by Miller and his cousins between 1955 and 1961, including claims for compensation for the loss of liberty suffered by his parents, the expropriation of their business and personal belongings, the loss of opportunity for Miller to obtain an education in Germany due to his expulsion from school due to anti-Semitic laws, expenses incurred by Miller due to his forced emigration; and losses of personal property suffered by Miller's maternal grandparents and uncle, including the loss of their business through forced sale. A later claim filed in 1974 relates to compensation for the deportation and death of his sister, Susanne.

In addition, donor-provided English translations of the German-language correspondence described above was donated at a later date as well, and added to this collection as a separate series.

System of arrangement

The Norman A. Miller papers are arranged in the following four series: I. Correspondence and diary, II. Miscellaneous, III. Restitution, IV. Translations. The correspondence is in largely chronological, the Miscellaneous files are kept, in part, in a numbered sequence of documents established by the donor, and the Restitution files and the Translation series are arranged in chronological order.

Indexing terms

Name entries

Müller, Sebald (1892-1942)
Müller, Laura (1898-1942)
Müller, Susanne (1925-1942)

Corporate entries

Great Britain. Army. Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Topical headings

Jews--Germany--Nuremberg.
Jewish refugees--England.
Kindertransports (Rescue operations)--Great Britain.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Germany--Nuremberg.

CONTAINER LIST

Box Folder

I. Correspondence and diary

Correspondence

1	1	1939: September
1	2	1939: October
1	3	1939: November
1	4	1939: December
1	5	1940: January
1	6	1940: February
1	7	1940: March
1	8	1940: April
1	9	1940: May
1	10	1941
1	11	Diary of Norman A. Miller, 1939-1951

II. Miscellaneous

1	12	Book dedications (copies)
1	13	Song lyrics compiled by Suse Müller, for Norbert Müller's bar mitzvah, 1937
1	14	Stimmelstiel, Albert: letter to Miller, describing fate of Miller's family in Riga during war, 1946
1	15	Phone directory entries, Nürnberg, 1933 and 1938 (copied)
1	16	Letter from family acquaintance in Nürnberg, 1958
1	17	<i>The Flash</i> , newsletter of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 10 December 1945 (copied pages), with article that describes Miller's role in the capture of Arthur Seyss-Inquart.
1	18	Family history: documents compiled and printed from websites about the former Jewish population of Themar, Germany, 2011-2015

Accretion: December 2016

2	1	Birth certificate (reproduction), 1949
		Education
2	2	Report cards and proof of attendance, 1931-1938
2	3	Notebooks: Algebra, 1937-1938

- 2 4 Notebooks: Drafting, undated
- 2 5 Notebooks: Geometry, 1938
- 2 6 Military service, Great Britain, 1946-1947

III. Restitution files

- 2 7 1955-1956
- 2 8 1957
- 2 9 1958
- 2 10 1959: January-June
- 2 11 1959: July-December
- 2 12 1960: January-July
- 2 13 1961: June-August
- 2 14 1961: September-December
- 2 15 1962
- 2 16 1974

IV. Translations of correspondence

- 2 17 1939: September
- 2 18 1939: October
- 2 19 1939: November
- 2 20 1939: December
- 2 21 1940: January
- 2 22 1940: February
- 2 23 1940: March
- 2 24 1940: April
- 2 25 1940: May, and 1941: February