

SIGALL FAMILY PAPERS, 1939-1949
2017.237.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Sigall family papers

Dates: 1939-1949

Accession number: 2017.237.1

Creator: Loeb, Emmy

Extent: 4 folders

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

Abstract: Correspondence, identification documents, photographs, and related materials, concerning the emigration of Emmy (née Sigall) Loeb, from her home in Darmstadt, Germany, on a "Kindertransport" to Britain in 1939; her settlement in Britain; and the efforts of her parents, Hermann and Natalie Sigall, and brother, Alex, to leave Germany in the years that followed.

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), Sigall family papers (2017.237.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Gift of Harvey Loeb, the son of Emmy Loeb, 2017.

Related archival materials: An oral history interview with Emmy Loeb, conducted by her son Harvey, in Port Charlotte, Florida, on 27 November 1993, has been transferred to the USHMM Film, Oral History, and Recorded Sound branch for further cataloging.

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, February 2017.

Biographical note

Emmy Loeb (1923-2015) was born Emmy Hanna Sigall in Darmstadt, Germany, on 31 May 1923, to Hermann Nathan Sigall (1898-1941), a furrier, and Natalie (nee Kirchhausen) Sigall (1897-1942). Emmy's brother Alex was born 25 July 1926. The Sigall family owned a fur shop in central Darmstadt at Wilheminenstrasse 31 and lived nearby at Ludwigstrasse 13. Their plans to emigrate were accelerated after Kristallnacht, and Hermann and Natalie focused on sending their children out of the country first. In the summer of 1939, Emmy left on a Kindertransport for Britain, where she lived with the Callahan family in St. Annes (Lytham St. Annes), Lancashire. By that time, other relatives were living elsewhere in England, including Julius Kirchhausen and Karolin Kirchhausen, the brother and sister of Natalie Sigall. Emmy's cousins, Walter and Ludwig Buxbaum, also managed to emigrate, with Ludwig finding a relative in the United States who sponsored him, and Walter living in Britain throughout the war. The Sigalls were making plans to send Alex next, but arrangements were not completed by the time that World War II broke out in September 1939, and they were unable to join Emmy in Britain.

Emmy's parents were deported from Darmstadt in early March 1940. Her father was deported to Sachsenhausen, where he died on 24 November 1941, and her mother was sent to Ravensbrück and later killed at Bernburg on 26 March 1942. Her orphaned brother Alex was sheltered by the Jewish Community in Darmstadt and then sent, via Hamburg, to Palestine, where he settled in a kibbutz at Ben Schemen, near Tel Aviv; he has lived in Israel since then. Due to restrictions on enemy aliens, Emmy was forced to relocate to Bolton in June 1940, then Breconshire (Wales) until the restriction was lifted in October 1940. She moved to Wolverhampton, where she found work first as a dressmaker, and then in a die casting plant. She subsequently worked for the United States Forces in the European Theatre, with the Civil Censorship Division, based in Offenbach and Esslingen, Germany, from 1945-1947. She immigrated to the United States in August 1947 aboard the *Marine Hunter*. She worked as a dressmaker and lived with her aunt Karolin and cousins Walter and Ludwig in Brooklyn. She met Harry Loeb at a wedding in New York in December 1947, and they were married in 1950. They had two children, Harvey (born 1952) and Marsha (born 1956) and settled in Yonkers, New York. Emmy Loeb died in Port Charlotte, Florida, on 27 December 2015.

Scope and content of collection

Correspondence, identification documents, photographs, audio recording, and related materials, concerning the emigration of Emmy (née Sigall) Loeb, from her home in Darmstadt, Germany, on a "Kindertransport" to Britain in 1939; her settlement in Britain; and the efforts of her parents, Hermann and Natalie Sigall, and brother, Alex, to leave Germany in the years that followed.

One folder of biographical documents includes the birth certificate reissued to Emmy after the war, in Darmstadt, 1949. Also included are three pieces of identification issued to her during her residency in Britain, including a Certificate of Registration for aliens (1939-1943), a National Registration Identity Card (1943-1947), and a Military Entry Permit issued by the Allied occupation authorities in Germany, valid from 1945 to 1947.

Correspondence consists of one folder of letters received by Emmy from her parents and brother in Darmstadt (and occasionally from other relatives) and one folder regarding attempts to contact American aid groups in order to obtain affidavits. The correspondence from her family extends from July 1939 through January 1940, but also includes a couple of undated letters, and one sent to Emmy from her brother Alex in Palestine in September 1941. The letters, written mostly by her father, discuss the plans to emigrate, efforts to find a way to send Alex to England, discussion of Emmy's arrival in Britain and her initial experiences there, and efforts for her to meet other relatives already living in England. During the course of the letters, Hermann reflects on the difficulties the family has encountered in Germany, and is alternately optimistic and pessimistic about their chances of being able to leave the country. Alex's letter of September 1941 reports on news he had heard about their parents from his uncle Julius, who had been in contact with him, and had conveyed the news that both parents had been sent to concentration camps, and he provided the mailing addresses for them there. The correspondence seeking affidavits includes responses from a representative of Rabbi Stephen Wise in New York, and the National Council of Jewish Women, explaining that they were unable to provide affidavits or support for the Sigall family to immigrate to the United States at that time (February through June 1939).

The collection also includes a photograph of Emmy with her aunt Lin (Karolin Kirchhausen), and cousins Ludwig and Walter Buxbaum, circa late 1940s.

System of arrangement

Collection is arranged in a single series.

Indexing terms

Personal names:

Loeb, Emmy.

Sigall, Hermann, 1897-1941.

Sigall, Natalie, 1898-1942.

Sigall, Alexander.

Topical headings:

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Germany--Darmstadt.

Jews--Germany--Darmstadt.

Kindertransports (Rescue operations)--Great Britain.

Jewish refugees--Great Britain.

Geographic headings:

Darmstadt (Germany)

Lytham St. Anne's (England)

CONTAINER LIST

Box/Folder	Title
1	Biographical documents, 1939-1949
2	Correspondence to Emmy, from parents, brother, other relatives, 1939-1941
3	Correspondence between Natalie Sigall and American aid organizations regarding affidavits, 1939
4	Photograph: Emmy Sigall with aunt and cousins, circa late 1940s