

**GERTRUDE AND WILLIAM NAGEL PAPERS, 1914 - circa 2000
(bulk 1938-1946)
2017.527.1**

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: Gertrude and William Nagel papers

Dates: 1914-circa 2000, bulk 1938-1946

Accession number: 2017.527.1

Creator: Nagel, William, 1914-2001

Additional Creator: Nagel, Gertrude, 1921-2001

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Gertrude and William Nagel papers include photographs, birth certificates, education records, correspondence, and passports documenting Gertrude and William Nagel's prewar experiences in Vienna, Austria as well as their wartime immigration to the United States, William Nagel's service in the United States Army, and their families. Documents include records of William Nagel's education in Vienna, Austria; naturalization as a U.S. citizen; enlistment in the U.S. Army; service as an intelligence officer interrogating German POWs in Germany; and honorable discharge with several commendations. Photographs of William Nagel's parents, Fritz and Helene Nagelberg, are also included. The collection also contains records of the Juris family including birth certificates, photographs and correspondence, as well as an Israeli land registration and Gertrude Nagel's creative postwar writings.

Languages: English, German, Hebrew

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), Gertrude and William Nagel family papers (2017.527.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: This collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Arlene Nagel Bekman in 2017. Arlene Nagel Bekman is the daughter of Gertrude and William Nagel.

Separated Materials: : Arlene Bekman also donated a copy of a magazine, *The March of Evil: A Photo-Record of Axis Crime*, 1945, which was transferred to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Library and cataloged under call number D804.G4 L47 1945.

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

Processing history: Jen Wachtel, February 2019

Biographical note

William Nagel (1914-2001), formerly Wilhelm Nagelberg, was born the only child of parents Fritz (1883-1960) and Helene Nagelberg (née Licht, 1891 - 1959) in Vienna, Austria, on 10 December 1914. Fritz was the proprietor of his own business and the family resided in Leopoldstadt, the 2nd municipal district in Vienna. After completing secondary school William went on to study global trade at university and pursued his PhD in Economics. In July 1938 William submitted his dissertation, *Über Veränderungen in der Baumwollwirtschaft Großbritanniens vom Weltkrieg bis zur Gegenwart*, and became one of the few Jewish students in Austria to be awarded a doctoral degree following the German annexation of Austria (Anschluss). Soon, however, the Nagelberg family decided to flee Austria for Italy. In March 1940 William left Italy for the United States sailing about the *SS Vulcania*. His parents remained in Europe. After his arrival William enlisted with the United States Army. Several months later he met Gertrude Juris, a young Jewish refugee also from Vienna. The couple married on 1942 January 18 in New York. The following year William became a naturalized citizen of the United States and commenced training at Camp Ritchie to become an Army intelligence officer. William would go on to serve in both the Pacific and European theaters of the Second World War. Among other duties his work included interrogation of German prisoners of war in Allied occupied territory. In Late 1945 William was discharged from the Army and returned home. After the war William resumed a career in Economics and later worked for the Department of Commerce. In 1953 his parents, Fritz and Helene, who had survived the war in Italy, joined their son in the United States. William and Gertrude went on to raise a family and later settled in Maryland.

Gertrude Juris Nagel (1921-2001) was born to parents Mendel "Max" (1885-1926) and Anna (née Pollach, 1899-1944?) Juris on 12 March 1921 in Vienna, Austria. She had one sibling, a younger brother, Kurt (1924-1945?). Max was a bookbinder who had fled to Vienna from Galicia in the course of the First World War. In 1926 he suffered a heart attack and died at the age of 42. After Max's death Anna was left to care for their two small children. During this time Anna's mother, Hermine Pollach (née Kohn, 1871-1944), assisted with the children. Gertrude attended school in Vienna, but with the persecution of Jewish students she was unable to continue her studies, and in January 1939 she crossed the border in to Switzerland. Within a year of her arrival in St. Gallen, Switzerland, Gertrude was joined by Kurt and

their paternal uncle Joschi. Soon Gertrude had the opportunity to leave Switzerland for England. After several months working in the home of a family in Blackpool Gertrude was successful in immigrating to the United States. In the United States she joined extended relatives and found work. After arriving, Gertrude made various attempts to assist her mother and grandmother in emigrating from Austria. Unfortunately these efforts were unsuccessful and on October 10th, 1941 Anna and Hermine were deported from Vienna to the Łódź ghetto. For a time Gertrude remained in contact with her loved ones with help from relatives in Switzerland. Hermine Pollack In early 1944 this communication stopped, and Gertrude later learned that Anna and Hermine had both perished. In the immediate postwar period Gertrude also endured the death of her brother when Kurt died unexpectedly in Switzerland. After the war Gertrude settled into family life with her husband William and their children. She continued to honor the memory of her loved ones by maintaining and erecting monuments in their memory and later wrote of her experiences during the Holocaust.

Biography by Kassandra LaPrade Seuthe, November 2017. Revised by Jen Wachtel, February 2019.

Scope and content of collection

This collection documents the lives of Gertrude and William Nagel and their families. Documents include records of William Nagel's education in Vienna, Austria; naturalization as a U.S. citizen; enlistment in the U.S. Army; service as an intelligence officer interrogating German POWs in Germany; and honorable discharge with several commendations. Photographs of William Nagel's parents, Fritz and Helene Nagelberg, are also included. The collection is also composed of records of the Juris family, including birth certificates, photographs and correspondence, as well as an Israeli land registration and Gertrude Nagel's creative postwar writings.

System of arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series. Series 1 pertains to Gertrude Juris Nagel and her family and is arranged by personal surname and document type. Series 2 pertains to William Nagel (Wilhelm Nagelberg), including the marriage of William and Gertrude Nagel, and is arranged by date and document type. Photographs are housed in the last folders of each series.

Series 1: Gertrude (Juris) Nagel and family, 1921- circa 2000

Series 2: William Nagel, 1914-1975

Indexing terms

People

Nagel, William, 1914-2001.

Nagel, Gertrude, 1921-2001.

Juris, Kurt, 1924-1945.

Juris, Mendel, 1885-1926.

Pollack, Hermine, 1871-1944.

Topics

Jews--Austria--Vienna.

Jewish refugees--New York (State)

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Jewish.

Geography

Austria.

Vienna (Austria)

Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)

Genre/Form

Letters.

Photographs.

Personal narratives.

Passports, Refugee.

Visas.

Naturalization records.

Military discharge.

Birth certificates.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Gertrude (Juris) Nagel and family, 1921- circa 2000

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Juris, Kurt, 1924 and 1938-1940
1.2	Juris, Mendel 1983 and undated
1.3	Nagel, Gertrude (Juris), 1921-1939
1.4	Nagel, Gertrude (Juris): creative writings, undated, circa 1986
1.5	Pollach, Hermine (Kohn), 1927
1.6	Zornerstein, Stephanie (?), Israeli land registration, 1961
1.7	Restitution claims forms (blank), circa 2000
1.8	Photographs of family headstones and memorial plaques, undated, circa 1960s
1.9	Family photographs, undated

Series 2: William Nagel, 1914-1975

Box/Folder	Title
1.10	Birth certificate, certificates of residency, U.S. Green Card, and German passport, 1914 and 1933-1940
1.11	Childhood photos, undated, circa 1920-1935
1.12	Education certificates and dissertation, 1932-1946
1.13	William and Gertrude Nagel ketubah (Jewish marriage certificate) and civil marriage certificate, 1942 and 1943
1.14	U.S. Army honorable discharge and corrected copy, 1944 and 1946
1.15	Certificate of naturalization and verification, 1943 and 1975
1.16	Photographs of parents and headstones, undated, circa 1950-1960