

JACK CHERNISS PAPERS, 1944-1945
2017.663.1

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

Title: Jack Cherniss papers

Dates: 1944-1945

Accession number: 2017.663.1

Creator: Cherniss, Jack, 1912-1981.

Extent: .83 linear feet (2 boxes)

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

Abstract: The collection primarily consists of letters written by Jewish American soldier Jack Cherniss to his wife Shirley while he was serving in the United States Army during World War II. His frequent letters describe his training in the United States and his deployment overseas in December 1944. Significant letters include one from 11 January 1945 describing an altercation with an anti-Semitic fellow soldier, and his letter from 27 April 1945 contains his account of the Buchenwald concentration camp shortly after liberation. Also included are administrative papers regarding his military career and one photograph of Jack, his wife Shirley, and his daughters Marcia and Sandra.

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), Jack Cherniss papers (2017.663.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Marcia Marcus in 2017. Marcia is the daughter of Jack Cherniss.

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, October 2018

Biographical note

Jack Cherniss (1912-1981) was born on 18 January 1912 in Nebraska to Jewish parents. He married Shirley Silverman in 1934 and had two daughters, Marcia and Sandra. Prior to World War II, Jack owned and operated an automotive parts shop in Los Angeles. He enlisted in the United States Army in April 1944. He went overseas in December 1944 and served in reconnaissance with the 268th Armored Tank Evacuation Division. His unit were among those who arrived at the Buchenwald concentration camp shortly after it was liberated. He was honorably discharged in November 1945.

Scope and content of collection

The collection primarily consists of letters written by Jewish American soldier Jack Cherniss to his wife Shirley while he was serving in the United States Army during World War II. His frequent letters describe his training in the United States and his deployment overseas in December 1944. Significant letters include one from 11 January 1945 describing an altercation with an anti-Semitic fellow soldier, and his letter from 27 April 1945 contains his account of the Buchenwald concentration camp shortly after liberation. Also included are administrative papers regarding his military career and one photograph of Jack, his wife Shirley, and his daughters Marcia and Sandra.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series.

Series 1. Biographical material, 1944-1945

Series 2. Correspondence, 1944-1945

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Cherniss, Jack, 1912-1981.

Corporate:

Buchenwald (Concentration camp)

United States. Army.

Topical Subject:

Jewish soldiers--United States.

Geography:

Paris (France)

Genre/Form:
Correspondence.
Photograph.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Biographical material, 1944-1945

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Army papers, 1944-1945
1.2	Photograph, circa 1945

Series 2. Correspondence, 1944-1945

Box/Folder	Title
1.3	February, April-May 1944
1.4	June-July 1944
1.5	August-September 1944
1.6	October 1944
1.7	November-December, 1944
1.8	January-February 1945
1.9	March 1945
2.1	April-May 1945
2.2	June-July 1945
2.3	August-September 1945