

ZONLIGT FAMILY PAPERS, 1916-1947
2017.669.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Zonligt family papers

Dates: 1916-1947

Accession number: 2017.669.1

Creator: Zonligt (Family : Brussels, Belgium)

Extent: 1.0 linear foot (1 box, 3 book enclosures, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The Zonligt family papers consist of biographical material, correspondence, and photographs documenting the Zonligt family from Belgium and their Blitz relatives from the Netherlands, their migration to France in 1940, their immigration to the United States in 1940 and 1941, and Gerard Zonligt's work as an UNRRA officer at the Wels displaced persons camp.

Language: Dutch, English, French

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), Zonligt family papers (2017.669.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Natanya Sortland, granddaughter of Gerard Samuel Zonligt, donated the Zonligt family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2017.

Separated materials: Natanya Sortland also donated a pocket mirror and wooden cradle to the Museum.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, January 2019

Biographical note

Gottschalk Levie Blitz and Naatje Blitz were married in Belgium in 1866 and had seven children, including Marcus (1882-1947) and Heintje (1878-1953), born in Amsterdam. Marcus Blitz became a tobacco merchant, married Dina van Mecklenburg (b. Lübeck, 1883-?), and had three children in Amsterdam: Hanna Blitz (June 20, 1909-July 23, 1994), Jules Blitz (b. approximately 1910), and Margot Blitz (September 12, 1912-April 17, 1981). Heintje married diamond cutter Mozes Zonligt (1877-1943, killed at Auschwitz) and had two children in Antwerp: Sientje (Celine) Zonligt (May 28, 1904-November 12, 1995) and Gerard Zonligt (July 26, 1907-August 9, 1982). First cousins Hanna Blitz and Gerard Zonligt married and had two children: Martin (b. Ixelles, November 14, 1934-January 30, 2012) and Deena (b. Brussels, August 22, 1937). Jules Blitz married Josee and had daughter Madeline Blitz in Ixelles around 1940. Margot married Gerry Saenger. Celine married Leopold Blits and had Simon and Yetty Blits. Marie Josephine Blitz-Wigart was born around 1932 in Meemen.

Gerard Zonligt owned a small advertising firm. The Zonligt and Blitz families left Belgium in May 1940 and spent a year in Ambert, France. Marcus, Dina, and Margot Blitz immigrated to the United States in November 1940. In 1941, the Zonligt family made their way through Spain and bribed passage to New York aboard a Spanish ship. They arrived in the United States in June 1941 and spent ten years in Salt Lake City. Gerard returned to Europe in 1945 and worked for UNRRA at the Wels Displaced Persons Camp until 1946.

Scope and content of collection

The Zonligt family papers consist of biographical material, correspondence, and photographs documenting the Zonligt family from Belgium and their Blitz relatives from the Netherlands, their migration to France in 1940, their immigration to the United States in 1940 and 1941, and Gerard Zonligt's work as an UNRRA officer at the Wels displaced persons camp.

Biographical materials include identification papers, banking records, ration cards, and immigration records documenting the Blitz and Zonligt families in Belgium, their migration to France in 1940, and their immigration to the United States in 1940 and 1941. This series also includes student records documenting Margot Blitz's training as a nurse, a family history Deena Zonligt wrote as a high school assignment, records documenting Gerard Zonligt's work as an UNRRA officer at the Wels DP camp and the diary he kept during that time, and two poetry/autograph books Hanna Zonligt used to collect memories from her classmates in Belgium.

Correspondence primarily consists of postcards from Gerard Zonligt to his family including courting his future wife during the 1920s, reporting to his family from business trips during the 1930s and during his UNRRA service from 1945-1946. This series includes additional postcards exchanged among friends and family from approximately 1918-1946. Some of the postcards are accompanied by translations. Most of

the postcards were formerly pasted into a scrapbook, so many bear adhesive and torn backing paper that obscures some of the writing.

Four photographs depict Margot and Dina Blitz, Gerard Zonligt in UNRRA uniform, and a cat and dog on a sofa.

System of arrangement

The Zonligt family papers are arranged as three series:

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1916-1947

Series 2: Correspondence, 1918-1946

Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1930-1946

Indexing terms

Blitz, Dina Mecklenburg, 1883-?

Blitz, Marcus, 1882-1947.

Blitz, Margot, 1912-1981.

Zonligt, Deena, 1937-

Zonligt, Gerard, 1907-1982.

Zonligt, Hanna Blitz, 1909-1994.

Zonligt, Martin, 1934-2012.

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Wels (Displaced persons camp)

Jews--Belgium--Brussels.

Jews--Netherlands--Amsterdam.

Jewish refugees--France--Ambert.

Jewish refugees--Utah--Salt Lake City.

Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Brussels (Belgium)

Salt Lake City (Utah)

Wels (Austria)

Correspondence.

Diaries.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1916-1947

Folder	Title
1.1	Blitz, Dina Mecklenburg, approximately 1917-1940

1.2	Blitz, Gottschalk Levie and Naatje, 1916
1.3	Blitz, Marcus, 1940
1.4	Blitz, Margot, 1926-1942
1.5	Zonligt, Deena, 1951
1.6	Zonligt, Gerard, 1926-1947
BE 1	Zonligt, Gerard, UNRRA Diary, 1945-1946
1.7, OS 1	Zonligt, Gerard, UNRRA material, 1945-1946 (2 folders)
1.8	Zonligt, Hanna Blitz, 1939-1947
BE 2	Zonligt, Hanna Blitz, Autograph book ("Poesiebuch"), 1919-1920
BE 3	Zonligt, Hanna Blitz, Autograph book ("Poesiebuch"), 1925-1928
1.9	Miscellaneous, approximately 1940-1941

Series 2: Correspondence, 1918-1946

Folder	Title
1.10	Zonligt, Gerard, approximately 1920-1941
1.11-1.12	Zonligt, Gerard, 1945-1946 (2 folders)
1.13	Friends and family, approximately 1918-1946
1.14	Blank postcards, approximately 1920-1946

Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1930-1946

Folder	Title
1.15	Photographs, approximately 1930-1946