

RUBIN AND HUNTLY FAMILIES PAPERS, circa 1928-2015
2018.327.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Rubin and Huntly families papers

Dates: circa 1928-2015

Accession number: 2018.327.1

Creator: Rubin (Family : Pásztó, Hungary)

Additional creator: Huntly, Joseph, 1928-2016.

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The collection consists of biographical and identification papers, immigration documents, correspondence, and photographs documenting the Holocaust-era experiences of Tibor Rubin, Emery Rubin and his wife Gloria Baker, Irene Rubin-Huntly and her husband Joseph Huntly. Included is material related to Tibor Rubin receiving the Medal of Honor in 2005 for his service and actions as a prisoner of war during the Korean War.

Languages: English, Hungarian, German, Polish, Yiddish.

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), Rubin and Huntly families papers (2018.327.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Debbie Rosa Huntly-Kessler in 2018.

Related materials: The following object is associated with the Rubin and Huntly families papers: Congressional Medal of Honor button, 2005.

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, July 2018

Biographical note

Ferenc Rubin was a veteran of World War I and worked as a shoemaker with his own store in Pásztó, Hungary. He had six children with three wives. His first wife left him while he was a prisoner of war during World War I and presumed dead. His second wife died of cancer. His third wife was Rosa Appel. His children were Tibor, Emery, Edith, Irene, Ilonka, and Miklós.

Emery and his friend Alex left Pásztó for Košice in early 1944 to avoid conscription into a forced-labor battalion. They were arrested after arriving at the Košice train station and sent to a forced-labor camp. Several months later they were deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp. Ferenc arranged for his son Tibor Rubin (1929-2015) to leave Pásztó for Switzerland in early March 1944 with several Polish men already on the run from the Nazis. After two weeks, they were arrested by German soldiers in Italy near the Swiss border. They were all deported to Mauthausen. During the winter, Tibor discovered that his brother Emery was also imprisoned there. They were liberated by the United States Army on 5 May 1945. Tibor and Emery returned to Pásztó where they were reunited with their sister Irene. The siblings decided that they needed to leave Hungary and went to the Pocking displaced persons camp in Germany.

Tibor immigrated to the United States in 1948 aboard the *SS Marine Flasher* and settled in New York. He enlisted with the United States Army in 1950, rising to the rank of corporal with 8th Cavalry, Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. His unit was deployed to Korea and in October 1950 Tibor was wounded and captured by the Chinese Army. While he was a prisoner of war, he often snuck out of camp to steal food and supplies for his fellow captives despite the risk of getting caught. He also refused offers by the Chinese to be released back to Hungary. Tibor and the other prisoners were freed in late March 1953. He was discharged later that year.

Tibor became a naturalized citizen in 1954 and he worked at his brother Emery's liquor store in Los Angeles. In 1963 Tibor married Yvonne Meijers and they had two children, Frank (b. 1964) and Rosalyn (Rosie, b. 1966). He was awarded the Medal of Honor by President George Bush in 2005 for his bravery and actions during his imprisonment in Korea.

While still in Germany waiting to emigrate, Emery (Imre, also went by Irwin, d. 1984) met Gloria Piekarek (nicknamed Gitta, she later took the name Gloria Baker). She was born in Poland to Hudes Korn-Piekarek and Izrok Piekarek and likely had seven siblings. Gloria was a survivor of Auschwitz. Both her parents perished in the camp. One of her sisters also survived Auschwitz but died shortly after liberation. She immigrated to the United States in 1948, coincidentally on the *SS Marine Flasher* with

Tibor. Emery immigrated to the United States in 1949, and he and Gloria married in September of that year. Emery later opened a liquor store in Los Angeles which he ran with Tibor.

Irene (1924-1973) survived the Holocaust in Budapest. After the German occupation in March 1944, she had a relationship with a Hungarian officer who hid and protected her from persecution. She left him after Budapest was liberated and returned to Pásztó. After visiting with her brother Miklós in Prague, Irene learned about a Czech woman with the same name who likely perished during the war. She used forged papers with this woman's identity to be eligible to immigrate to Canada as a Czech citizen. She immigrated to Canada aboard the *SS Nea Hellas* in November 1948 and settled in Montreal. She married Aron Goldberg (b. 1919 in present-day Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine) in January 1950. They immigrated to the United States in 1951. She and Aron divorced, and she married Joseph Huntly in 1955. They had two children, Debbie and Robert. Irene was killed in a car accident in 1973.

Ferenc, Rosa, and Ilonka all perished at Auschwitz. Edith survived Auschwitz and was among the prisoners freed in exchange for medical supplies with Sweden. She immigrated to Sweden after the war. Miklós was conscripted into a forced-labor battalion, but escaped and joined the Czech Resistance. He lived in Prague after the war, but soon immigrated to Israel and then the United States.

Joseph Huntly (born Jozsef Hugyec, 1928-2016) was born in Nógrád, Hungary to a Christian family. His mother, Erzabet Kralik, was Lutheran and his father, Mihaly Hugyec, was Catholic. He had three siblings, Andras, Mihaly, and Margit. When he was 17 he was sent to Poland, Austria, and Germany as a forced-laborer. After the war, he found work as a cook in the American Zone on several military bases and lived at one point in Wiesbaden, Germany. He immigrated to the United States aboard the *USAT M.B. Stewart* in October 1949 after getting sponsored by the Church World Service, Inc. Joseph settled in Canton, New York with his sponsor family the Huntleys on their dairy farm. After working on the farm for a year, Joseph briefly lived in Detroit before moving to Los Angeles where he studied to become an aerospace technician. When he became a naturalized citizen, he took the Huntley family's name, shortening it to Huntly. Joseph later converted to Judaism after his marriage to Irene.

Scope and content of collection

The collection consists of biographical and identification papers, immigration documents, correspondence, and photographs documenting the Holocaust-era experiences of Tibor Rubin, Emery Rubin and his wife Gloria Baker, Irene Rubin-Huntly and her husband Joseph Huntly. Included is material related to Tibor Rubin receiving the Medal of Honor in 2005 for his service and actions as a prisoner of war during the Korean War.

Tibor Rubin's papers primarily relate to him receiving the Medal of Honor in 2005, including ceremony logistics and programs. Correspondence consists of photocopies of letters regarding his service and efforts by Representative Robert Dorman in 1991 to get Tibor the award as well as copies of letters and telegrams to his brother Emery regarding his capture in Korea. Other material includes clippings and programs from later events involving or honoring Tibor, and a copy of the program and eulogy transcript from his funeral.

Emery and Gloria Rubin's correspondence consists of letters exchanged between them between 1947 and 1949, with the bulk of them exchanged after Gloria immigrated to the United States but Emery was still in Germany. The bulk of the letters are in German. There is a small amount of other letters written to Emery and Gloria from friends and family.

Irene Rubin Huntly's papers include identification documents, immigration papers for Canada and the United States, marriage papers, and a wedding portrait of her with Joseph Huntly. The biographical papers include a typed testimonial document with false information used by Irene to assume the identity of a presumed dead Czech woman in order to immigrate to Canada under a Czech quota. Both the testimonial document and her death certificate display her false birthdate and location.

Joseph Huntly's papers consist of identification papers including DP registration documents and birth certificates, employment papers from Germany and the United States, and immigration papers including ship newsletters from the *USAT M.B. Stewart*. The photographs consist of a prewar image of Joseph's family and a postwar portrait of Joseph.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series.

Series 1. Tibor Rubin, 1950-2015

Series 2. Emery and Gloria Rubin, 1947-1949

Series 3. Irene Rubin-Huntly, 1929-1976

Series 4. Joseph Huntly, circa 1928-2014

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Rubin, Tibor, 1929-2015.

Rubin, Emery.

Rubin-Huntly, Irene.

Huntly, Joseph.

Baker, Gloria.

Corporate:

United States. Army.

Topical Subject:

Medal of Honor.

Jews--Hungary--Pásztó--Biography.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Hungary.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Survivors.

False personation.

Geography:

Pásztó (Hungary)

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Canada--Emigration and immigration.

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Tibor Rubin, 1950-2015

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Correspondence, 1986-2008
1.2	Funeral program and eulogy transcript, 2015
1.3	Medal of Honor ceremony, 2005
1.4	Medal of Honor related clippings and programs
1.5	Photocopies of correspondence and clippings regarding Tibor's capture and release, 1950-1953 and undated

Series 2. Emery and Gloria Rubin, 1947-1949

Box/Folder	Title
1.6	Correspondence, 1947, 1948 January-August
1.7	Correspondence, 1948 September-November
1.8	Correspondence, 1948 December
1.9	Correspondence, 1949 January-March
1.10	Correspondence, 1949 April-July
1.11	Other correspondence, 1947-1949
1.12	Wedding invitation and photograph, 1949

Series 3. Irene Rubin-Huntly, 1929-1976

Box/Folder	Title
1.13	Biographical papers, 1929-1976 and undated
1.14	Immigration papers, 1948-1957
1.15	Marriage papers, 1950-1955
OS 1	Wedding photograph with Aron Goldberg, 1950
1.16	Wedding photograph with Joseph Huntly, 1955

Series 4. Joseph Huntly, circa 1928-2014

Box/Folder	Title
1.17	Employment papers, 1947-1959
1.18	Identification papers, 1946-1949, 2014
1.19	Immigration papers, 1949-1955
1.20	Photographs, circa 1928-circa 1948