

VLADIMIR LEWIN PAPERS, 1937-2018
2018.361.2

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: Vladimir Lewin papers

Dates: 1937-2018

Accession number: 2018.361.2

Creator: Lewin, Vladimir, 1922-

Extent: .3 linear feet (7 folders, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: Documents and photographs related to the Holocaust-era experiences of Vladimir Lewin and his family, originally from Pinsk, Poland (Pinsk, Belarus). Material related to Vladimir consists of identification cards including his Titolo di Viaggio per Stranieri used in 1970 when he left Poland via Italy to immigrate to the United States; military papers including Vladimir's discharge papers and booklets commemorating medals he earned with the Soviet and Polish armies; and a testimony statement by Vladimir related to a restitution claim from the German government. Documents related to Vladimir's father Lazar Lewin include identification papers, a Soviet bond, a copy of a report on the destruction of the Pinsk ghetto, post-war Soviet legal documents returning property to Lazar, a portfolio cover used to store the reparations documents, a 1946 handwritten testimonial statement in Yiddish, and a typed copy of a letter from Lazar written to his wife Judyta's sisters in Israel in 1945. Photographs consist of pre-war family photographs including the Lewin family and Vladimir with his classmates.

Languages: Polish, Russian, Hebrew, Yiddish, 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), Vladimir Lewin papers (2018.361.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Vladimir Lewin in 2018. An accretion was donated in 2019. The collections previously numbered 2018.361.1 and 2019.21.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Separated material: The following objects were also donated.

2019.21.2 Krzyz Walecznych (Cross of Valor) medal

2019.21.3 Silver Medal of Merit

2019.21.4 Silver Cross of Merit

2019.21.5 WWII Victory and Liberty Medal

2019.21.6 Medal for Victory over Germany Awarded by the Soviet Army

2019.21.7 a-c Hanukkah menorah

Existence and location of originals: The original copies of the Meldekarte für Juden for Srul Szyja Kolnierzyk and Lazar Lewin's letter from 1945 (Item ID 163782) are housed at Yad Vashem

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 2019

Biographical note

Vladimir Lewin was born on 29 April 1922 in Pinsk, Poland (Pinsk, Belarus) to Lazar (1891-1967) and Judyta (née Minkowicz, d. 1942). He had one sister, Deborah (d. 1942). After the Germans invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, Vladimir fled Pinsk. He first went to Ukraine where he enrolled in a coal mining school, but left soon after and went to Uzbekistan to join the Polish army under Władysław Anders' command (Anders' Army), but was rejected for being Jewish. He then ended up in Siberia in a labor battalion in early 1943 where he worked in a coalmine in Kopeisk, but soon deserted his post. Vladimir made his way to Chelyabinsk where he contracted typhoid and malaria. He was then conscripted into the Red Army and sent to the 1st Ukrainian Front where he was wounded in January 1944. After his recovery he was transferred to the Polish People's Army. They arrived in Lublin, Poland in July 1944 and Vladimir remained there for the duration of the war. He was reunited with his father in Lublin. Lazar survived the Holocaust in Negin, Ukraine, but his mother, sister, and grandmother Rykel Lewin were all murdered in Pinsk in October 1942. Lazar later immigrated to the United States. After Vladimir finished his military service in 1946, he moved to Warsaw where he became a reporter for the Jewish press agency. He immigrated to the United States in 1970.

Scope and content of collection

Documents and photographs related to the Holocaust-era experiences of Vladimir Lewin and his family, originally from Pinsk, Poland (Pinsk, Belarus). Material related to Vladimir consists of identification cards including his Titolo di Viaggio per Stranieri used in 1970 when he left Poland via Italy to immigrate to the United States; military papers including Vladimir's discharge papers and booklets commemorating medals he earned with the Soviet and Polish armies; and a testimony statement by Vladimir related to a restitution claim from the German government. Documents related to Vladimir's father Lazar Lewin include identification papers, a Soviet bond, a copy of a report on the destruction of the Pinsk ghetto,

post-war Soviet legal documents returning property to Lazar, a portfolio cover used to store the reparations documents, a 1946 handwritten testimonial statement in Yiddish, and a typed copy of a letter from Lazar written to his wife Judyta's sisters in Israel in 1945. Photographs consist of pre-war family photographs including the Lewin family and Vladimir with his classmates.

Additionally, there is a copy of a Meldekarte für Juden for Srul Szyja Kołnierzyk found by Lazar in the Warsaw ghetto around 1946. The Meldekarte has a personal inscription in Yiddish that expresses his doubts that he will survive or ever see his family again. Accompanying the copy is a letter to Vladimir and his wife Elizabeth from Vad Vashem acknowledging their donation of the original in 1992.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series.

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Lewin, Vladimir.

Lewin, Lazar, 1891-1967.

Topical Subject:

Journalists--Poland.

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

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.

World War, 1939-1945--Veterans--Soviet Union.

Geography:

Pinsk (Belarus)

Warsaw (Poland)

Genre/Form:

Photographs,

Identification cards.

Personal narratives.

CONTAINER LIST

Folder	Title
1, OS 1	Lewin, Lazar, 1945 and undated
2	Lewin, Lazar: portfolio cover, undated
3	Lewin, Vladimir: documents, 1948-2018
4	Lewin, Vladimir: identification cards, 1946-1970
5	Lewin, Vladimir: military papers, 1944-1951
6	Meldekarte of Srul Szyja Kołnierzyk (copy) and Yad Vashem donation letter, 1944, 1992
7	Photographs, 1937-circa 1944