

BRONISŁAW ZBIGNIEW BULKOWSKI PAPERS, circa 1929-2005
2018.555.1

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: Bronisław Zbigniew Bulkowski papers

Dates: circa 1929-2005

Accession number: 2018.555.1

Creator: Bulkowski, Bronisław Zbigniew, 1920-1996

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (6 folders and 1 oversize box)

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

Abstract: The Bronisław Zbigniew Bulkowski papers consist of biographical material, correspondence, a diary, photographs, and documents relating to the experiences of Bronisław Bulkowski, a Roman Catholic man, as a forced laborer for the German National Railway Authorities (Deutsche Reichsbahn) in Altena, Germany between 1942 and 1945. The collection also includes documents and photographs relating to his post-war experiences as a displaced person working for the United States Army in the Kassel and Grohn DP camps in Germany.

Languages: German, Polish, 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), Bronisław Zbigniew Bulkowski papers (2018.555.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Bronisław Zbigniew Bulkowski papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2018 by the Bulkowski family.

Separated material: A watercolor portrait (2018.55.2), a leather wallet (2018.555.3), and a textile (2018.555.1) were cataloged as objects.

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

Processing history: Morgan Voth, July 2019

Biographical note

Bronisław Zbigniew Bulkowski (later Bruce, 1920-1996) was born in Ostrowiec, Poland to Władysław Bulkowski and Zofia Noach and was raised Roman Catholic. Bronisław had seven siblings; Zdzisław (Wies d. 1997), Adam, Janek (d. 1999), Helena, Jadwiza, Antonia, and Irena. Bronisław was conscripted as a forced laborer to the German National Railway Authorities (Deutsche Reichsbahn) in Altena, Germany between 1942 and 1945. After the war, he worked as a displaced person in the Kassel and Grohn DP camps in Germany for the United States Army. Bronisław married Wanda and had four sons; David (b. 1954), Richard (b. 1955), Thomas (b. 1957), and James.

Scope and content of collection

The Bronisław Zbigniew Bulkowski papers consist of biographical material, correspondence, a diary, photographs, and documents relating to the experiences of Bronisław Bulkowski, a Roman Catholic man, as a forced laborer for the German National Railway Authorities (Deutsche Reichsbahn) in Altena, Germany between 1942 and 1945. The collection also includes documents and photographs relating to his post-war experiences as a displaced person working for the United States Army in the Kassel and Grohn DP camps in Germany.

Biographical material includes an original and a copy of Bronisław's report card from 1938, his school ID, a certificate to certify that Bronisław attended a class in Americanization, and a certificate of literacy from the University of the State of New York.

Correspondence includes letters from Helena through the Red Cross regarding the health of their family, post-war letters written to Bronisław and Bruce from family members, and letters written to Wanda Bulkowski after her husband's death.

The diary was kept by Bronisław from January 31, 1942 to May 11, 1946. In the diary Bronisław writes about other forced laborers and the abuse they endured, provides descriptions of digging a tunnel, working all night, the lack of food, and overpriced bread, and describes accidents that injured and killed other laborers.

Displaced persons camps material includes identification cards, discharge paperwork, certificates of screening, and certificates of good conduct relating to Bronisław's work as a displaced person for the United States Army at the Kassel DP camp and well as a copy of Bronisław's identification card and certificates of work from the International Refugee Organization. The collection also contains a wartime log which includes a forced labor patch, sketches and drawings, photographs, and entries, dated 1948.

Forced labor material includes a copy of Bronisław's workbook for Altena, an identification card for the Deutsche Reichsbahn, and record cards relating his experiences as a forced laborer.

Photographs include pre-war images of Bronisław and his family including his parents and siblings. Also included are post-war images depicting Bronisław as a displaced person working for the American Army in the Kassel DP camp, aboard USAT *General R. L. Howze*, and life in the United States.

System of arrangement

The Bronisław Zbigniew Bulkowski papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Person:

Bulkowski, Bronisław Zbigniew, 1920-1996.

Corporate:

International Refugee Organization.
Kassel (Concentration camp)

Topical Subject:

Forced labor--Germany.
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives.

Genre/Form:

Diaries.
Correspondence.
Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Bronisław Zbigniew Bulkowski papers, circa 1929-2005

Box/Folder	Title
1 of 6	Biographical material, 1938-1951
2 of 6	Correspondence, 1943-2005
3 of 6	Diary, 1942-1946
4 of 6	Displaced persons camps, 1945-1950
Box 1	Wartime Log, 1948
5 of 6	Forced labor, circa 1942-1946
6 of 6	Photographs, circa 1929-1959