

MAUERSTEIN FAMILY PAPERS, 1945-1955
2018.572.1

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: Mauerstein family papers

Dates: 1945-1955

Accession number: 2018.572.1

Creator: Mauerstein, Israel, 1912-1981

Additional creator: Mauerstein, Yetta, 1908-1955

Extent: .2 linear feet (5 folders)

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

Abstract: Identification papers, immigration paperwork, restitution claims, a testimony, and photographs documenting the post-war experiences of Israel and Yetta (née Friedman) Mauerstein, both originally of Zborów, Poland (Zboriv, Ukraine), in several Italian DP camps, and their efforts to immigrate to the United States.

Languages: German, English, Italian, 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), Mauerstein family papers (2018.572.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Mina Mauerstein-Bail in 2018.

Separated material: Also donated was Israel Mauerstein's briefcase from his time in DP camps in Italy (2018.572.2).

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, May 2019

Biographical note

Israel Mauerstein (1912-1981) was born on 17 February 1912 in Zborów, Poland (Zboriv, Ukraine) to Markus and Taube (née Buchwald) Mauerstein. He had at least two brothers, David and Benjamin. Israel was married to a woman named Fani and they had one daughter, Tova. In September 1941 his family was deported to the Zborów ghetto. At some point, Israel and Yetta's uncle Sigmund Appel were taken to a work camp. They escaped and joined some partisans hiding in the woods. He was wounded several times while he was with them, and was captured by the Germans and tortured in a prison. During one of the several massive killings of the Jews in Zborów, Israel's wife and child were murdered. On 25 February 1944 he was deported to the Buchenwald concentration camp. The camp was liberated by the US army in April 1945. After liberation Israel first went back to Zborów. He then went to the Leipheim and Landsberg displaced persons camps. He was also reunited with his brother David, who survived under a false identity near Crailsheim.

Yetta Friedmann (sometimes spelled Jetty or Jetti, later Yetta Mauerstein, 1908-1955) was born 15 February 1908 in Zalozitz, Poland (Zaliztsi, Ukraine) to Ben Zion Friedmann and Mischa Appel. Her father was a cattle dealer and died around 1938. She had two sisters. When the Germans occupied Zborów in July 1941, Yetta lived in town with her grandfather, and her mother and sisters lived nearby in Zalozitz. After they were sent to the Zborów ghetto, Yetta worked in a labor camp outside the ghetto. Her mother and sisters were murdered when the ghetto was liquidated in July 1943. Yetta fled to the woods and hid with a woman and her two children until they were liberated by the Russians in April 1944. After the war ended, she went to the Leipheim DP camp.

In 1946 Israel and Yetta married in Leipheim. Along with his brother, Israel and Yetta went to Italy where they stayed in several camps including Adriatica and Trani. Israel's brother Benjamin immigrated to the United States in the 1920s and sponsored the Mauersteins for immigration to the United States. On 15 March 1950 they sailed out of Bremerhaven on the USNS *A. W. Greely* to the United States. They settled in New York. Their daughter Mina later worked for the United Nations in the areas of development and health.

Scope and content of collection

Identification papers, immigration paperwork, restitution claims, a testimony, and photographs documenting the post-war experiences of Israel and Yetta (née Friedman) Mauerstein, both originally of Zborów, Poland (Zboriv, Ukraine), in several Italian DP camps, and their efforts to immigrate to the United States.

DP camp papers consist of identification papers and paperwork from the Landsberg DP camp in Germany, and the Adriatica and Trani DP camps in Italy. Additionally there are lists of refugees classified as "invalids" from several DP camps in Italy including Adriatica, Bologna, Caldorna, Cremona, Grugliasco, Rivoli, and Trani.

Immigration papers include affidavits from Israel's brother Benjamin, who immigrated to the United States in the 1920s, and his cousin Max Mauerstein; WHO vaccination certificates; a letter of support from Yetta's cousin Rabbi Kalman Friedmann; and a souvenir booklet from the USNS *General A. W. Greely*.

Photographs consist of depictions of Israel and Yetta Mauerstein, their daughter Mina, Israel's brother David Mauerstein, and Yetta's uncle Sigmund Appel in several DP camps in Italy.

Additionally, there is one restitution form of Israel's from 1955 and a typed, undated testimony from Yetta in German.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series.

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Mauerstein, Israel, 1912-1981.

Mauerstein, Yetta, 1908-1955.

Mauerstein-Bail, Mina.

Corporate:

General A. W. Greely (Transport ship)

Topical Subject:

Displaced persons camps.

Refugees, Jewish--Italy.

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

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

Geography:

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Italy.

Zboriv (Ukraine)

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

Affidavits.

CONTAINER LIST

Folder	Title
1 of 5	DP camp documents, 1945-1949
2 of 5	DP camp lists, Italy, 1947-1948
3 of 5	Immigration, 1946-1950

4 of 5	Photographs, 1947-1949 and updated
5 of 5	Restitution and testimony, 1955 and undated