

BLOGIER, WEKSELMAN, AND WIDES FAMILIES PAPERS, circa 1910s-1969
2019.514.1

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

Title: Blogier, Wekselman, and Wides families papers

Dates: circa 1910s-1969 (bulk 1945-1969)

Accession number: 2019.514.1

Creator: Blogier (Family : Bedzin, Poland)

Additional creator: Wekselman (Family : Bedzin, Poland)

Additional creator: Wides (Family : Ukmerge, Lithuania)

Extent: .25 linear feet (12 folders, 1 book enclosure, 1 oversize box)

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

Abstract: The collection includes documents and photographs documenting the pre-war and post-war experiences of the Blogier and Wekselman families, originally of Bedzin, Poland, and the Wides family, originally of Ukmerge, Lithuania. The collection primarily documents the Blogier and Wekselman families' time as displaced persons in Germany after the war and as immigrants to the United States.

Languages: German, Polish, English

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use.

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), Blogier, Wekselman, and Wides families papers (2019.514.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Mark and Rosalyn Blogier in 2019. They are the children of Abraham Blogier and Betty Wides Blogier.

Separated material: Also donated is a harmonica (2019.515.1a-b) and a pair of soccer cleats (2019.514.2a-b).

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, January 2020; Biography, Scope and Content, and Container List updated by Adam Fielding, January 2022

Biographical note

Abraham Blogier (Abe, 1917-1974) was born in 1917 in Bedzin, Poland, to Moshe Blogier (d. 1924) and Perl Silberfenig. He had three sisters, Edith, Judith, and Chaia, and a brother Chaim. His father Moshe worked as an upholsterer.

His sister Edith (Esther, later Edith Wekselman, 1911-1990) married Benjamin Wekselman (Jumek, 1911-1975) in 1931, and their son Max (Meir, 1933-1951) was born in 1933. The family lived in Bedzin until the German-occupation when they were forced into the Bedzin ghetto. In 1941 Abraham and Benjamin were deported to the Gross Masselwitz forced labor camp. They were both subsequently transferred to Auschwitz, where Benjamin was a kapo and Abraham worked in the kitchen. They survived subsequent interments at Sachsenhausen and Flossenbug before their liberation at Dachau in April 1945.

After Abraham and Benjamin were deported to Gross Masselwitz, Edith began planning to escape the Bedzin ghetto. In 1943 she and her son went into hiding with the help of a Polish Catholic woman she befriended at work. They survived the Holocaust and were reunited with Abraham and Benjamin in southern Germany in summer 1945. They lived as displaced persons in Mindelheim and areas near the Munich area, where Max was active in the Maccabi youth soccer league. They immigrated to the United States in 1949. The family settled in Cleveland where Abraham worked for a time as a furrier. He met fellow Holocaust survivor Betty Wides and the couple married in 1950. They had two children: Mark and Rosalyn. Shortly after arriving in the United States Max was diagnosed with cancer, and he died at the age of 17 in 1951.

Betty Wides Blogier (1923-2014) was born Basia Wides on 22 July 1923 in Ukmerge, Lithuania to Mendel Wides and Reizel Milner. She had three siblings: Sonia, Ben, and Joshua. Her father owned a mill in Ukmerge. In 1940 Betty and her family were forced into the Vilna ghetto. She was later deported to Riga and Stutthof. She was the only member of her immediate family to survive the Holocaust. In 1946 Betty immigrated to the United States with assistance by relatives of her mother who settled in Cleveland prior to World War II.

Biography by Adam Fielding and Kassandra LaPrade Seuthe

Scope and content of collection

The collection includes documents and photographs documenting the pre-war and post-war experiences of the Blogier and Wekselman families, originally of Bedzin, Poland, and the Wides family, originally of

Ukmerge, Lithuania. The collection primarily documents the Blogier and Wekselman families' time as displaced persons in Germany after the war and as immigrants to the United States.

Documents include Abraham Blogier's paperwork related his time as a displaced person in Mindelheim, Germany, immigration to the United States, two letters, and restitution; Betty Wides Blogier's ticket for her passage to the United States aboard the SS *Marine Flasher* in 1946; newspaper clippings regarding Max Wekselman's illness; and post-war Polish receipts of Edith Wekselman.

Photographs include pre-war depictions of the Wekselman and Wides families in Bedzin and Ukmerge, post-war depictions of Max playing soccer in the Maccabi youth soccer league in Germany. Also included are a photograph album and scrapbook assembled by Max primarily documenting his involvement with Maccabi. They include photographs, clippings, and his Moosach-Hartmannshofen membership card. The scrapbook also includes two pins pinned into a page. Also included is a photograph attached to a glass portion of a picture frame depicting an unidentified young man.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series.

Series 1. Documents, 1945-1969

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1910s-circa 1950s

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Blogier, Abraham, 1917-1974

Blogier, Betty Wides, 1923-2014

Wekselman, Edith, 1911-1990

Wekselman, Benjamin, 1911-1975

Wekselman, Max, 1933-1951

Corporate:

Marine Flasher (Ship)

Topical Subject:

Refugees, Jewish--Germany.

Jews--Poland--Będzin.

Jews--Lithuania--Ukmerge.

Soccer.

Geography:

Munich (Germany)

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Bedzin (Poland)

Lithuania.

Genre/Form:

Letters.

Newspaper clippings.
Scrapbooks.
Photographs.
Photograph albums.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Documents, 1945-1969

Folder	Title
1 of 12	Blogier, Abraham, 1945-1951
2 of 12	Blogier, Betty Wides: <i>SS Marine Flasher</i> ticket, 1946
3 of 12	Clippings, 1950
4 of 12	Wekselman, Edith: receipts, 1957-1969

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1910s-circa 1950s

Folder	Title
5 of 12	Blogier, Abraham, undated
6 of 12	Family and friends, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
Box 1	Photograph attached to glass, young man, undated
7 of 12	Wekselman, Max, circa 1945-circa 1949
8-9 of 12	Wekselman, Max: photograph album, circa 1945-circa 1949
10 of 12, BE 1	Wekselman, Max: scrapbook, 1947-1949
11 of 12	Wekselman family, 1931-circa 1950s
12 of 12	Wides family, circa 1910s-circa 1940s