

## **Leonid (Lema) Bernstein collection**

### **RG-31.046**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
Tel. (202) 479-9717  
Email: [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org)

#### **Descriptive Summary**

Title: Leonid (Lema) Bernstein collection

Dates: 1941-1945

RG Number: RG-31.046

Accession Number: 2006.338

Creator: Leonid Bernstein

Extent: 159 digital images; TIFF: 14.4 MB.

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

Languages: Russian

#### **Administrative Information**

Access: No restriction on access.

Reproduction and Use: Publication by a third party requires a formal approval of the Judaica Institute in Kiev, Ukraine. Publication requires a mandatory citation of the original source.

Preferred Citation: [file name/number], [reel number], RG-31.046, Leonid (Lema) Bernstein collection, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition Information: Purchased from the Instytut iudaïky (Judaica Institute), Ukraine. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the photocopied collection via the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Archives Project in April 2006.

## **Custodial History**

Existence and location of originals: The original records are held by the Instytut ũdaïky, Belorusskaya 34-21, Kyiv, Ukraine 04119. Tel. 011 380 44 248 8917. More information about this repository can be found at [www.judaica.kiev.ua](http://www.judaica.kiev.ua).

Processing History: Aleksandra B. Borecka

## **Biographical Note**

Lema Bernstein served in the Soviet Army as a member of its jazz ensemble, and performed both for military and civilian audiences. Throughout his service during World War II, he traveled with this ensemble throughout many cities and regions in Russia, including: Leningrad, Yurev Polskii Oblast, Moscow, Mahachkala, Murmansk, and Warsaw. Some of the letters are written from forest areas, where his unit was sent during periods of heavy fighting in nearby locations. He had a close relationship with his parents, which is evident from the many letters he wrote to him during this five-year span of his life

## **Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection contains letters sent by Lema Bernstein from the Front to his parents who were evacuated from Kiev to Saratov, and later back to Kiev. The letters span the period of 1941-1945. Lema describes his service in the Soviet Army from 1941-1945, including his experiences performing as a member of the Soviet Army jazz orchestra.

## **System of Arrangement**

This collection is arranged chronologically (disregard numbering at the top of each item - one item is missing).

## **Indexing Terms**

Bernstein, Leonid (Lema)

World War, 1939-1945 -- Participation, Jewish -- Ukraine.

Jews -- Ukraine -- Correspondence.

Jews -- Ukraine -- Music.

Jews -- Music.

Jews -- Ukraine -- Memoirs.

## **Inventory:**

### **Folder 1:**

Contains 75 letters, all from Lema Bernstein to his parents (moved from Saratov to Kiev), written from his various posts with the Soviet Army in Leningrad, Yurev Polskii Oblast, Moscow, Mahachkala, Murmansk, and Warsaw, spanning the years 1941-1945.