

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
Finding Aid
RG-68
Israel

RG- 68.087M
Acc. 2007.138

Title: Nathan Schwalb Papers/Hechalutz Office Geneva, 1921-1989 (bulk 1939-1945).

Extent: 39 microfilm reels.

Provenance: From The Lavon Institute for Labour Research, Israel (RG III-37A). According to The Lavon Institute, Mr. Schwalb kept these records for many years in his private apartment in Tel Aviv before they were transferred to The Lavon Institute under a court order) The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Archives Project purchased and transferred the collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives in June 2007.

Biographical and Historical note: Nathan Schwalb-Dror (April 1, 1908 – March 24, 2004) was a union leader and delegate of the Hechalutz movement.

Born on April 1, 1908 in Stanislaw in Eastern Galicia (now Ukraine); his father was a language and religion professor at the local Jewish academic high school (gymnasium), his mother a private tutor. Early membership in Jewish organizations, including Makkabi Hazair, Gordonia, and Hechalutz, a Zionist youth movement founded in Eastern Europe to promote settlement in Palestine. 1929 emigration to Palestine. Participated in the reconstruction of the Kibbutz Hulda after its destruction by local Arabs. Active in the Jewish union movement Histadrut. 1938-1939 delegate of the Hechalutz in Prague and Vienna from where he facilitated emigration certificates to Palestine. 1939 participation in Geneva in the last Zionist Congress before the start of the war and establishment of the new world headquarters of the Hechalutz in Geneva. Until 1945 cooperation with the JOINT and the Swiss Red Cross in rescue and aid operations. 1941 murder of his father and siblings at the hands of the Gestapo in Stanislaw. 1935 return to Kibbutz Hulda as a leading member. From 1946 onwards delegate of the Histadrut union. Died March 24, 2004 in Tel Aviv.

Source of information: Archiv für Zeitgeschichte, Zürich.

Restrictions on Access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on Use: Restrictions on use apply. Publication of documents and duplication of reels/copies of CD-ROMs for third parties require the written permission of The Lavon Institute for Labour Research.

Organization and Arrangement: Arrangement is thematic.

Language: German, Hebrew, English

Preferred Citation: Standard citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Division, Archives Branch.

Scope and Content: The collection contains correspondence, reports and photographs related to the situation and fate of Jews in Europe during the Second World War and the rescue activities of the Hechalutz movement. Mainly includes correspondence with Hechalutz members in the Nazi-occupied territories and the JOINT; reports about the situation of Jews in various countries; reports about the concentration camps Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, and Westerbork; and miscellaneous internal records pertaining to the activities of the Hechalutz headquarters in Geneva.

Note: Additional relevant archival records can be found in the Saly Mayer Papers at the JOINT Archive, New York and the Archiv für Zeitgeschichte, Zürich, which acquired an additional 5.2 linear meters of original Nathan Schwalb Papers between 1994 and 1997.

103 additional files of the Nathan Schwalb Papers/Hechalutz Office Geneva (ca. 6,000 pages) were identified during a survey commissioned by the USHMM in May 2007. These additional records will be added as an accretion to this collection at a later date if they are reproduced.

Inventory is in Hebrew, PDF file and paper copies.

Note: Specific types of documents include:

- correspondence with various Hechalutz offices and Jewish communities in various European countries regarding the emigration of European Jews to Palestine during the Holocaust;
- correspondence with individuals and aid organisations in the DP camps after the Holocaust;
- correspondence with the "Lloyd Auswanderungsbuero" in Poland during the Holocaust;
- correspondence with the Hashomer Hazair in Switzerland during the Holocaust;
- correspondence with the Gordonia group in Bucharest, 1940-1945 and the headquarters of the kibbutz movement in Romania, 1940s;
- correspondence with a whole spectrum of Jewish organizations in Switzerland and other countries during the war;
- photographs of Hechalutz members and their families after the war, f.i. in DP camps, and photos of Hechalutz events in Europe after liberation;

- correspondence on how to encode correspondence sent from occupied Europe so that the information won't fall into Nazi hands, 1942;
- correspondence with Roswell McClelland at the U.S. Department of State regarding the murder of European Jewry, 1944-1945.

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