

Digital Reunification of JDC Archives Fugitive Collections

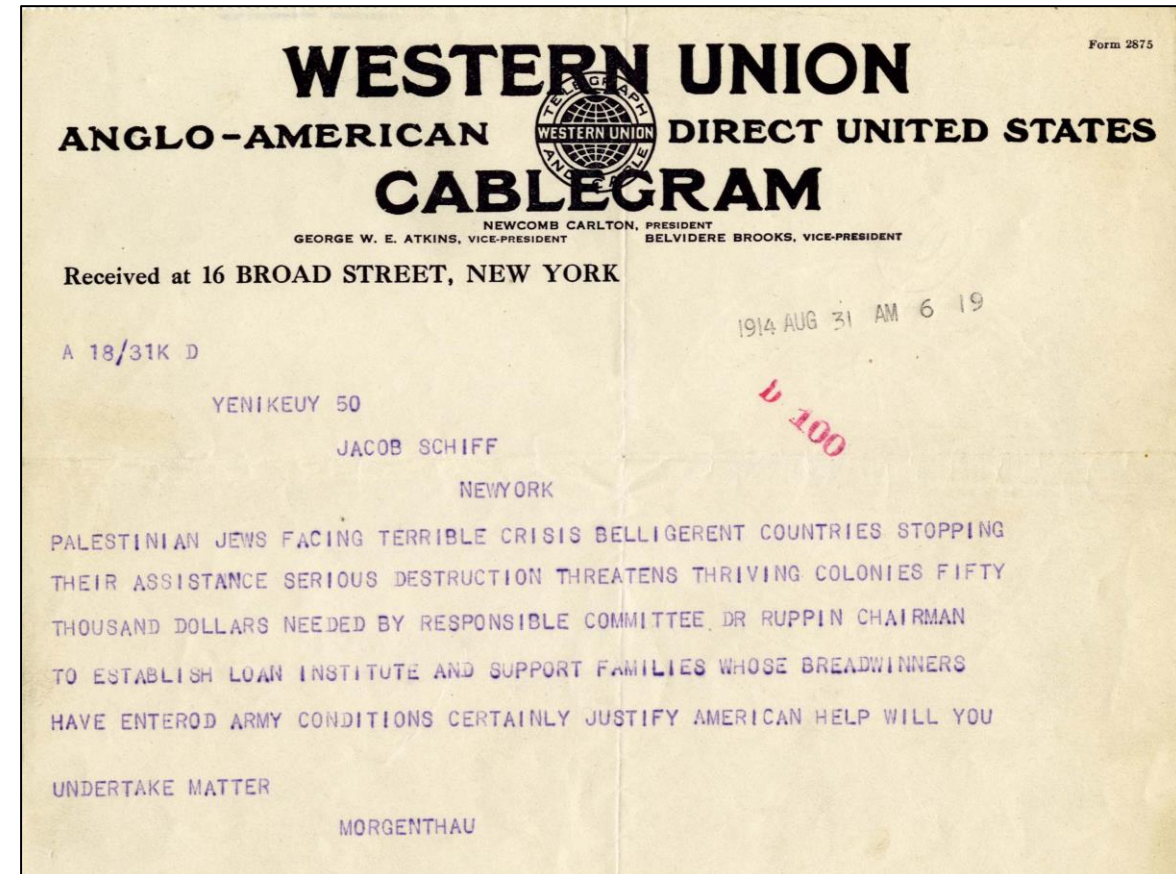
Presented by Jeff Edelstein, Digital Initiatives Manager

MARAC, October 2021

JDC: Context and Background

JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee)

- World's leading Jewish humanitarian agency
- Founded in 1914 at outset of World War I
- Mission of rescue, relief, and renewal: "The 911 of the Jewish people"
- Assists vulnerable Jewish communities in over 70 countries worldwide
- Supports professional development and self-sufficiency initiatives for Jewish communities
- Provides nonsectarian relief to victims of natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies



Cable that prompted the founding of JDC (1914)

JDC Archives Holdings

- 3 miles of document collections (est. at 13,200 linear feet, or more than 40 million pages)
- 150,000 photographs
- 250 oral histories
- Over 1,000 audio recordings
- Over 1,000 films/videos
- 1,000 artifacts

An enduring testament to a historic legacy



Digitized Text Collections

Over 3.6 million pages

NY Headquarters, 1914-1989

Geneva Overseas Headquarters, 1945-1964

Overseas Office Collections:

Istanbul

Stockholm

Dominican Republic Settlement Assn. (DORSA)

Cyprus

Jerusalem

Warsaw

Fugitive Collections

Paris Archives (JDC European Headquarters), 1914-1941

- Looted by Nazis and taken to Germany, then taken by Soviet Army
- Held at Russian State Military Archive

JDC Warsaw Office Records, 1939-1941 and 1945-1949

- Postwar collection confiscated by Polish government
- Wartime collection hidden with other records of the Jewish Community
- Both collections held at Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw

JDC Prague Office Records, 1945-1950

- Confiscated by Czech government (secret police), kept at Interior Ministry Archives
- Transferred to Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (est. 2008)

JDC Budapest Office Records, 1945-1962

- Confiscated by Hungarian government, held at State Archives
- Moved to Archives of the Jewish Community, Budapest

JDC Shanghai Office Records (c.1939-1949)

- Personal files of over 7,500 WWII-era refugees who later emigrated from China
- Held at Shanghai Municipal Archives, missing or hidden

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Collections Donated by JDC

Arolsen Archives (Germany; formerly International Tracing Service)

- Postwar records of survivors and tracing inquiries; includes emigration records
- Originals held at Yad Vashem; copies (now digitized) at Arolsen Archives

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (New York)

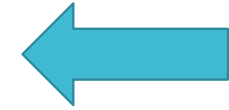
- Records of the American Joint Reconstruction Foundation, 1920-1939
- Records of the AJDC War Orphans Bureau, 1919-1923
- Records of the AJDC Lisbon Office (WWII era)
- Records of the AJDC Landsmanshaftn Department, 1926-1950
- [Others]

Leo Baeck Institute (New York)

- German case files, 1929-1947

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Digital Reunification of the Warsaw Collections

- Background of the collection's history
- Opportunities in the postcommunist era
- Return of JDC to Poland
- USHMM Microfilming Project

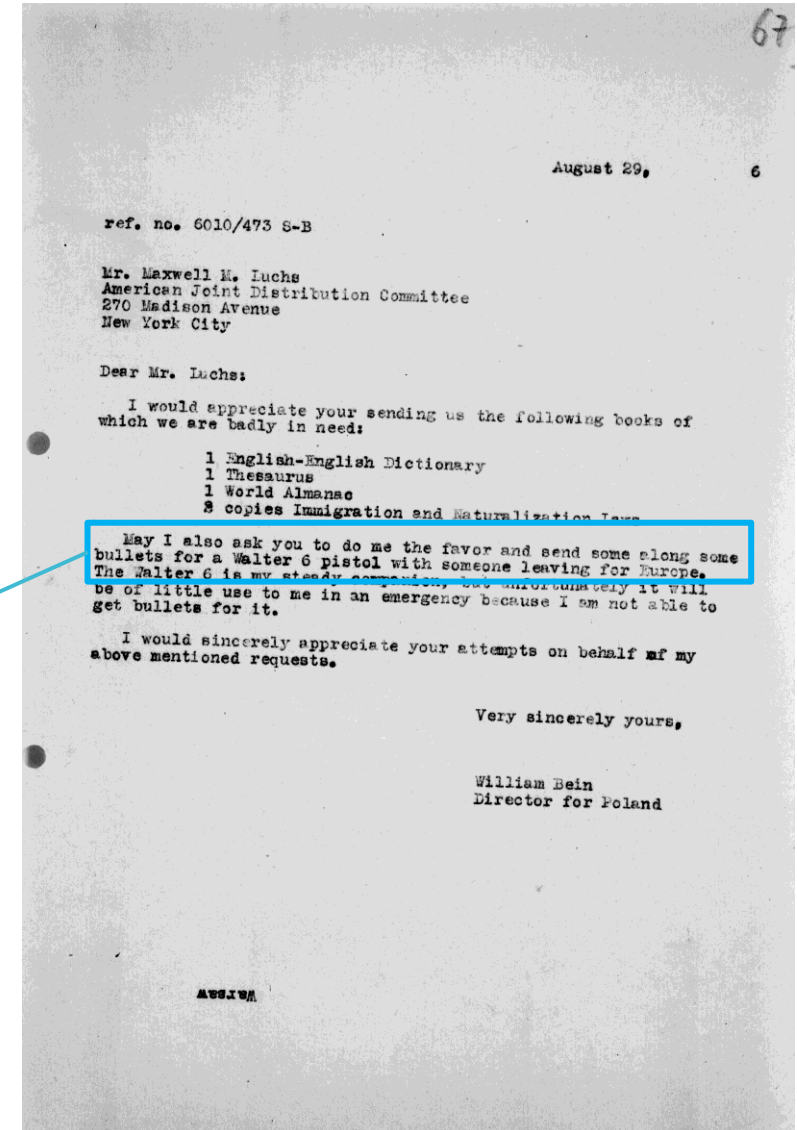
A local fundraising appeal to build the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Memorial (Records of the AJDC Warsaw Office, 1945-1949, file 294)



- Legal: Ownership and Rights
- Technical: Hierarchical Structure

May I ask you to do me the favor and send along some bullets for a Walter 6 pistol...

Letter from William Bein, Director for Poland, to Maxwell M. Luchs, JDC New York, August 29, 1946. JDC Warsaw Office Collection, 1945-1949, file 92.



Standard JDC Archives Text Collections

- ❖ Collection (e.g., New York Office, 1945-1954)
- ❖ <co1>Subcollection (e.g., Administration, Organizations, Subject Matter, Countries & Regions)
- ❖ <co2>Record Group (e.g., Education, Cultural & Religious)
- ❖ <co3>Series (optional)
- ❖ <co4>File
- ❖ <co5>Item

Warsaw Office Collection

- ❖ Collection (Warsaw Office, 1945-1949)
- ❖ [no Subcollection level]
- ❖ <co1>Record Group (e.g., Secretariat, Dept. of Emigration)
- ❖ <co2>Series (optional)
- ❖ <co3>File
- ❖ <co4>Item

Additional Collections Received Digitally

Warsaw Office, 1939-1941

- Also integrated into JDC Archives database
- Detailed records of local communities at start of World War II

Lista
uchodźców z m. Puław

L.p.	Nazwisko i Imię	Ilość osób	1939	1940	1941	inne
1	Ankier Szlama	3	0,25	60	160	120
2	Ankier Moszek	4	0,50	120	20	120
3	Ajzenbaum Frymota	2	-	10	60	40
44	Ajzenman Szmul-Da	5	0,50	120	25	150
5	Ajzajzman Fajszach	5	-	25	150	100
6	Ajzenman Moszek-Frymson	3	0,75	18	15	30
7	Bronsztajn Lejbus	3	-	15	30	60
8	Bronsztajn Jankiel	5	0,75	18	25	150
9	Bojman Hęszek-Aron	5	-	25	150	100
10	Bajgelman Setera	2	-	10	60	40
1	Bajgelman Szlama	5	0,60	12	25	150
2	Bukierman Hęszek-Dawid	6	-	30	180	120
3	Bjglezer Szowa	2	-	10	60	40
4	Bajlander Fajga	2	0,60	12	10	60
5	Bronsztajn Hertz	4	0,50	12	20	120
6	Boruchman Marjam	1	-	5	30	20
7	Bronsztajn Chaim	3	0,25	6	15	90
8	Bukspan Szra	1	-	5	30	20
9	Bronzman Mojżesz	3	0,25	6	15	90
20	Bronsztajn Mechel-Ber	5	0,75	18	25	150

Refugees from Pulawy receiving assistance in Opole. Warsaw Office Collection, 1939-1941, file 527.

Lista osób komunistycznych z bezpłatnych obiadów w Miedzeszynie

Hilfecomite
In Miedzeszyn
Kuchnia (Soup Kitchen)

Lp.	Nazwisko i imię	Wzrost	Lp.	Nazwisko i imię	Wzrost
1	Aberhand	1,70	54	Rozenka	1,50
2	Bronszman	1,70	55	Arangiel	1,50
3	Bronszman	1,70	56	Spinski	1,50
4	Bronszman	1,70	57	Stokier	1,50
5	Bronszman	1,70	58	Szajder	1,50
6	Bronszman	1,70	59	Szajder	1,50
7	Bronszman	1,70	60	Szajder	1,50
8	Bronszman	1,70	61	Szajder	1,50
9	Bronszman	1,70	62	Szajder	1,50
10	Bronszman	1,70	63	Szajder	1,50
11	Bronszman	1,70	64	Szajder	1,50
12	Bronszman	1,70	65	Szajder	1,50
13	Bronszman	1,70	66	Szajder	1,50
14	Bronszman	1,70	67	Szajder	1,50
15	Bronszman	1,70	68	Szajder	1,50
16	Bronszman	1,70	69	Szajder	1,50
17	Bronszman	1,70	70	Szajder	1,50
18	Bronszman	1,70	71	Szajder	1,50
19	Bronszman	1,70	72	Szajder	1,50
20	Bronszman	1,70	73	Szajder	1,50
21	Bronszman	1,70	74	Szajder	1,50
22	Bronszman	1,70	75	Szajder	1,50
23	Bronszman	1,70			
24	Bronszman	1,70			
25	Bronszman	1,70			
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49	Bronszman	1,70			
50	Bronszman	1,70			
51	Bronszman	1,70			
52	Bronszman	1,70			
53	Bronszman	1,70			

101
224
325 porcy
Przewodniczący *Maria Reiff*
Sekretarz
5 STYC 1940

List of Jews who received free meals from the soup kitchen in Miedzeszyn. Warsaw Office Collection, 1939-1941, file 490.

Additional Collections Received Digitally

Prague Office, 1945-1950

- Not yet integrated into JDC database
- Inventory/description exists
- Emigration Case Files (bulk) indexed



A group of young women waiting outside the JDC office. Prague, 1945.

Client Name	Additional Name(s)	Folder
Abeles, Bedrich	Marie Abeles, Jiri Abeles	191_04
Abeles, Bedrich		191_10
Abeles, Ernest	Regina Abeles	4_13
Abeles, Karel		1_02
Abeles, Kurt		1_03
Abeles, Kurt	Alice Abeles, Edith Abeles, Alzbeta (Elisabeth) Abeles, Eva Abeles	4_15, 190_33
Abeles, Otto	Marie Abeles, Marie Abeles, Otto Abeles, Viteslav Abeles, Kitty Abeles, Marceau Abeles, Karel Abeles	1_04
Abeles, Vitezslav	Anna Abeles	190_02
Abelesova, Zuza		4_14
Abisch, Ruzena	Serena Abisch, Salamon Abisch	191_18
Abisch, Salamon		1_05
Abl, Jiri	Aneta Abl, Michal Abl	4_16
Abonyi, Dezider	Ingeborg Abonyi	4_17, 4_35
Abraanyi, Iren		1_01
Abraham, Ignac	Helena Abraham, Malvina Abraham, Samuel Abraham	1_08
Abraham, Izrael		1_06
Abraham, Josef	Edit Sara Abraham, David Abraham	4_51, 4_53

Sample of index of Emigration Case Files, JDC Prague Office Collection, 1945-1950

Additional Collections Received Digitally

JDC material in the Arolsen Archives (ITS)

- Will not be integrated into JDC database
- Mining material for Names Indexing

6930 INDEX CARD • A. J. D. C. EMIGRATION SERVICE PARIS F18-113.

Last Name <u>WEINTRAUB</u>	File No. <u>444 2356</u>
First Name <u>Isak</u> Sex <u>M.</u>	Opening Date <u>13.1.1949</u>
Address <u>43 Av. Ernest Reyer, Paris 14eme.</u>	In transit from <u>Case begins in Fra.</u>
Birthdate <u>5e8:1923</u> Birthplace <u>Poland</u>	Accompanied by
Nationality : Present <u>Stateless</u> Former <u>Polish</u>	
Occupation : Present <u>Knitter</u> Former <u>Same.</u>	
Country of destination <u>Australie.</u>	Closing Date

Emigration Service index card from the JDC Paris office. Digital file received from Arolsen Archives.

F18-164-P

JDC EMIGRATION HEADQUARTERS : ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM # 370 : 30th Jan. 1948.

DEPARTURES FROM FRANCE : 1st to 15th January 1948. 28 JAN 1948

ORIGINATING AINTE OFFICE	PARIS FILE #	NAME:	DESTINATION
January 1st : to USA on SS "MAURITANIA" from Cherbourg.			
Budapest	US 2483	HELJER Amiko	USA
"	"	Robert	"
Munich	US 2534	OFFENBERG Wolf	"
January 2nd : to Great Britain by rail and ship, to Chile via Buenos Aires by plane.			
Zurich	GB 263	ROSENBERG Leo	Great Britain
Budapest	CH 167	TYROLER Bela	Chile
"	"	" Emma	"
"	"	" Ithella	"
"	"	" Andre	"
"	"	" Klara	"
"	"	" Otto	"
January 3rd : to New Zealand via New York on SS "QUEEN ELISABETH" from Southampton.			
Budapest	NZ 9	VIDA Margret	New Zealand
January 4th : to Canada on SS "AQUITANIA" from Southampton.			
Paris	CH CA 293	FREILICH Maurice	Canada
" (Rome)	CH CA 264	GURWICZ David	"
"	CH CA 234	MOSKOWICZ Marcu	"
"	CH CA 250	MOSKOWICZ Joseph	"
"	CH CA 402	SHAPIRO Ben'amin	"
"	CH CA 292	WANDERER Hirsch	"
JANUARY 5th : to South Africa via Brussels by rail and plane.			
Berlin	SA 130	ENGLENDER Sara	South Africa
"	"	" Ruth	"
Munich	SA 166	MAGID Sims	"
"	"	" Ben Ami	"
Berlin	SA 140	BEST Millel	"
"	"	" Mir'iam	"
January 6th : to USA on SS "MARINE FALCON" from Le Havre, to Paraguay via Rio de Janeiro on SS "SANTER" from Le Havre, to Great Britain by rail and ship, to USA on SS "ROTSKI" from Genoa.			
Prague	US 2562	CIN-ova Regina	USA
Warsaw	PAR 12	ZARUCKI Fa'wuss	Paraguay
"	"	" Chans	"
"	"	" Jakub	"
Munich	GB 468	FRANKENSTEIN Simon	Great Britain

Handwritten notes on the right side of the page: "Wants original travel time papers" and "Ad. 2. 49"

List of departures from Europe, JDC Emigration Service, Paris. Digital file received from the Arolsen Archives.

Outcomes

- Successful integration of Warsaw collections into JDC Archives database
- Emphasis on regaining **intellectual control** rather than physical control
- Documents “speak to” materials in other collections from that period
- Enriches our understanding of local JDC activity
- Prague and Arolsen materials have added large numbers to our Names Index



Thank you!

Contact Us: archives@jdc.org

Newsletter signup: <https://archives.jdc.org/about-us/#newsletter>

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Facebook: <https://facebook.com/jdcarchives>

Instagram: https://instagram.com/jdc_archives

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheJDCArchives>