

**PAUL A. STRASSMANN ARCHIVAL COLLECTION, 1940-1986 (bulk 1940-1953)
1989.7.17**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Paul A. Strassmann archival collection

Dates: 1940-1986 (bulk 1940-1953)

Accession number: 1989.7.17

Creator: Strassmann, Paul, 1929-

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (18 folders)

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

Abstract: The Paul A. Strassmann archival collection consists of biographical materials, photographs, and printed materials documenting Strassmann's partisan activities during World War II and the persecution, expropriation, and imprisonment of other residents of Trenčín, Slovakia, during the Holocaust.

Languages: Czech, German

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), Paul A. Strassmann archival collection, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Paul Strassmann donated the Paul A. Strassmann archival collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1989 and 1990. The accession previously cataloged as 1990.168 has been incorporated into this collection.

Custodial history: Many of the documents were preserved in a shoebox that was salvaged by a friend of Strassmann's sister, Ella. The friend gave them to Ella, who in turn gave them to Strassmann.

Related materials: Paul Strassmann also donated two medals to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (1989.7.10 and 1989.7.11). The Museum also holds oral history interviews conducted with Strassmann on July 11, 1990 (1990.423.1) and January 8, 2004 (2004.46). An oral history interview conducted with Strassmann on May 12, 1995 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum. The Museum's library holds copies of Strassmann's books *Paul's war: Slovakia, 1938-1945* (DS135.S553 S878 2006) and *My March to Liberation: A Jewish Boy's Story of Partizán Warfare* (DS135.S553 S878 2011).

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, June 2015

Biographical note

Paul Strassmann was born on January 24, 1929 in Trenčín, Slovakia. His father was an army officer for Austria-Hungary in World War I. He joined the Hashomer Hatzair at a young age. His family went into hiding as Christians in late August 1944. His mother and sister, Ella, were discovered and sent to Ravensbrück. His father, Adolf, was caught by the Gestapo and sent to Sachsenhausen. Strassmann joined the Jegorov Brigade, a partisan group, in September 1944 and then the Czech Army in April 1945. He fought in Bratislava, Slovakia until the end of the war. He left Czechoslovakia just before the Communists took power, living briefly in Paris and London before immigrating to the United States in October 1948. He studied engineering, worked in information system, and served as a government advisor.

Scope and content of collection

The Paul A. Strassmann archival collection consists of biographical materials, photographs, and printed materials documenting Strassmann's partisan activities during World War II and the persecution, expropriation, and imprisonment of other residents of Trenčín, Slovakia, during the Holocaust.

Biographical materials document Gejza Fried, Marek and Moric Grünfeld, Ernest Haas, Rozaliá Krčíková, Paul Strassmann, Jozef and Mária Tiso, Valerie Tausová, and Alica Pfeifferová. Gejza Fried materials include a release from the Žilina concentration camp, a working permit, and a postcard describing conditions at the Nováky concentration camp. Marek Grünfeld materials include his last will and testament and his death certificate. Moric Grünfeld materials include correspondence documenting the liquidation of his hotel business. Ernest (Arnost) Haas materials include receipts for identification papers and property handed over to the government; permissions to work, travel, avoid wearing the yellow star, and avoid deportation; and a requirement to register as a Jew. Rozaliá Krčíková materials include an exemption certificate allowing Krčíková to avoid wearing the yellow star and a work permit. Paul Strassmann materials include identification cards, permissions, and certifications documenting Paul Strassmann's wartime service as a partisan. Jozef Tiso materials include notice of a special tax against Jewish property, coupons for installment payments, and a letter exempting Tiso from the tax because he

was not Jewish. Mária Tisová materials include correspondence from the Central Office for Jews denying Mária Tisová's requests to delay or be exempted from paying a special tax against Jewish property. This series also includes Valerie Tausová's declaration of Jewish property and Alica Pfeifferová's identification booklet.

Photographs depict a Jewish labor battalion working on a military installation at Liptonska Hradok in 1940, a train ambush site near Opatová in 1945, and Paul Strassmann in 1945 and 1984.

Printed materials include announcements of Holocaust-era anti-Jewish measures, Slovak periodicals, a memorial book including reproductions of documents and photographs, and excerpts from a history of armed Jewish resistance to the Holocaust.

System of arrangement

The Paul A. Strassmann archival collection is arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1940-1953
- Series 2: Photographs, 1940-1984 (bulk 1940-1945)
- Series 3: Printed materials, 1940-1986 (bulk 1940-1949)

Indexing terms

Nováky (Concentration camp)

Žilina (Concentration camp)

Jews--Slovakia--Trenčín.

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

Jews--Persecutions--Slovakia.

Jewish property--Slovakia.

World War, 1939-1945--Confiscations and contributions--Slovakia.

World War, 1939-1945--Jewish resistance--Slovakia.

World War, 1939-1945--Underground movements--Slovakia.

Trenčín (Slovakia)

Bratislava (Slovakia)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1940-1953

Folder	
1	Fried, Gejza, 1942
2	Grünfeld, Marek, 1942, 1953
3	Grünfeld, Moric, 1940

4	Haas, Ernest, 1940-1944
5	Krčíková, Rozaliá, 1942-1944
6	Pfeifferová, Alica, 1942
7	Strassmann, Paul, 1944-1947
8	Tausová, Valerie, 1942
9	Tiso, Jozef, 1941-1942
10	Tisová, Mária, 1941-1942

Series 2: Photographs, 1940-1984 (bulk 1940-1945)

Folder	
11	Labor battalion, 1940
12	Strassmann, Paul, 1945, 1984
13	Train ambush site near Opatová, 1945

Series 3: Printed materials, 1940-1986 (bulk 1940-1949)

Folder	
14	<i>6 Rokov: Tragédia Slovenských Židov</i> , approximately 1949
15	<i>Anthology on Armed Jewish Resistance 1939-1945</i> , 1986
16	<i>Pokyny pre dočasných správcov židovského domového majetku</i> , 1941
17	<i>Slovenský zákonník</i> , 1941
18	<i>Úradné Noviny</i> , 1940-1941