



## Shoah-Era Lists in the JDC Archives Names Index and Other Online Offerings for Jewish Genealogists

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### About JDC

Since its inception in 1914, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), popularly known as “the Joint,” has been dedicated to rescue and relief for Jews in need and to reconstruction and renewal of Jewish communities overseas. Operating in over 70 countries worldwide, JDC has borne witness to the greatest events of twentieth-century Jewish history.

The extensive holdings in the JDC Archives—including correspondence, reports, speeches, telegrams, eyewitness accounts, press releases, logs, passenger lists, emigration cards, and photos—document more than a century of operations and activities and serve as a record of life in Jewish communities throughout the world.

### What can we offer the genealogist?

Names of individuals, often with additional data, are scattered throughout our extensive **text collections**, which are organized chronologically. Our text collections, of which more than 3 million pages have been digitized (available online at <http://search.archives.jdc.org> [select Advanced Search]), include files on geographical areas and localities, *landsmanschaften*, loan *kassas* (credit cooperatives), internment camps, DP centers, and more, providing rich background material.

Our **Names Indexing Project** has made it possible to search over 500,000 names in our database (<http://names.jdc.org>).

In addition, we are digitizing our vast **photo collection** of some 100,000 images. More than 75,000 photos have already been scanned and imported into our searchable database (<http://search.archives.jdc.org> [select Advanced Search]). A set of photo galleries from the World War II era and an exhibit, “Everything Possible: Children of the DP Camps,” may be found on the JDC Archives website:

<https://archives.jdc.org/our-collections/photograph-collection/photo-galleries/>  
<https://archives.jdc.org/exhibits/jdc-and-the-children-of-the-dp-camps/>

## **Shoah-Era Lists and Index Cards in the Names Database**

A large percentage of the material that has been indexed for inclusion in the Names Database relates to the period of the Shoah and its immediate aftermath. This material includes lists of refugees receiving assistance, ship passenger lists, recipients of food parcels and CARE packages, and JDC Emigration Service Index Cards and departure lists. A complete directory of the documents indexed may be found on the JDC Archives website under “Lists in the Names Index” (<https://archives.jdc.org/our-collections/names-index/lists-in-the-names-index/>) in the section “Lists from the Nazi Period and Its Aftermath.”

Below are some categories of the lists with notable examples:

### **REFUGEES IN EUROPE**

- Refugees in Polish Border Areas, 1938-1939. These lists include Jewish of Polish origin living in Germany and Czechoslovakia who were forced out of those countries. The lists were compiled as part of an effort to help them contact relatives in the U.S.
- Vilna Refugees, 1940. After the Nazi invasion of Poland, many Jews continued to flee eastward, to Vilna, then under Soviet control. This list include more than 9,000 names.
- Children in Holland Whom JDC Is Trying to Assist to Emigrate to the U.S., 1940
- Jewish Refugee Children Receiving JDC Aid in France, Including Information on Overseas Relatives and Friends, 1940
- Barcelona Refugee Case Cards, 1943-1945. After the fall of France, tens of thousands of Jewish refugees seeking to flee Nazi Europe streamed into Spain from France. JDC set up an office in Barcelona and provided support, housing and emigration assistance to these refugees. JDC also assisted refugees waiting for emigration papers and passage on transatlantic vessels. This collection contains index cards from 1943-1945 for 8,220 refugees supported by JDC.
- Jewish Orphans from Buchenwald Brought to France by JDC, 1945
- Jewish Refugees in Italy Receiving Aid, 1946
- Jews in Berlin Seeking Relatives in America, 1946
- Jewish Refugees Finding Safe Haven in Sweden, 1946-1947
- Jewish Orphans Who Emigrated from Warsaw to France with JDC’s Help, 1947-1948. These children from a JDC-supported home in Warsaw were transported to France pending permanent resettlement elsewhere.
- Polish Jewish Repatriates following World War II, 1948. This list from the JDC Location Service details Polish Jews who had fled to the Soviet Union during the war and were now repatriated back to Poland.

### **REFUGEES IN JAPAN AND CHINA**

- Ship Sailings of Refugees from Japanese Ports to the Western Hemisphere, 1940-1941
- Jewish Refugees Escaping to Shanghai, China via Yokohama, Japan, 1941
- Jewish Refugees Leaving Japan for Other Safe Havens, 1941
- German Refugees Receiving JDC Aid in Japan, 1941
- European Refugees Receiving JDC Aid in Japan Including Information on Overseas Relatives, 1941
- Yeshiva Students Receiving JDC Aid in Wartime Japan, 1941
- Refugees Arriving in Japan and Receiving JDC Aid, 1941

- Rabbinical Students in Shanghai, 1947
- Shanghai Clients Registering for Emigration to Canada, 1948
- JDC Shanghai Refugee Client List, 1950
- Jewish Residents of China Seeking to Emigrate, 1955

## **PARCELS**

- Individual Recipients of JDC Food Parcels in Poland, 1941-1943
- Beneficiaries of JDC's Free Parcel Service in the Soviet Union, 1943-1945. The recipients included Jewish refugees who had fled east to Soviet Asia (Samarkand, elsewhere) who received packages via an overland route from Tehran.
- Lists of Jews in Europe Who Received Parcels As Per Orders Via JDC's Jerusalem Office, 1945-1947
- CARE Packages to DP Camps, 1946-1948

## **SURVIVORS: EMIGRATION ASSISTANCE and PASSENGER LISTS**

- Refugees on the SS *St. Louis* Who Received JDC Aid, 1939
- German Jews in Lisbon for Whom JDC Covered Emigration Costs, 1941
- JDC Lisbon List of Polish Jewish Passengers to Cuba or Jamaica, 1942
- Lists of Passengers Who Sailed on the SS *Serpa Pinto*, 1941-1944
- Jewish Refugees in Spain Who Received Visas to Canada, 1944
- Refugees Children in Spain and Portugal Whom JDC Is Helping to Emigrate, 1944
- JDC Emigration Service Index Cards: Warsaw Office, 1945-1949 (about 6,300 cards)
- JDC Emigration Service Lists of Departures from Europe, 1947-1953
- JDC Emigration Office: Munich and Vienna Cards, 1945-mid-1950s (about 85,000 cards)
- Jewish Displaced Persons Who Immigrated to Australia with Help from JDC, 1951
- Jewish Refugees Arriving in Australia via Melbourne, 1946-1954
- **\*\*In Progress:** JDC Emigration Service Index Cards, Paris Office (about 30,000 cards; digital files received from International Tracing Service, now being indexed at JDC)