Overview of the Bohdan Kleczyński papers, 1939-2009

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2009
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Collection Summary
Title: Bohdan Kleczyński papers
Dates: 1939-2009
Collection Number: 2009C43
Creator: Kleczyński, Bohdan, 1902-1944
Collection Size: 1 manuscript box, 1 oversize box (0.8 linear feet)
Repository: Hoover Institution Archives
Stanford, California 94305-6010
Abstract: Diary, letters, military and personal identification documents, printed matter, and photographs, relating to an alleged assassination attempt on General Władysław Sikorski, prime minister of the Polish government-in-exile, in 1942, and to Polish air operations during World War II. Includes posthumous collected material.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
Languages: English Polish
Access
Collection is open for research.
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Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Bohdan Kleczyński papers, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.
Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 2009. An increment was added in 2011.
Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog Socrates at http://library.stanford.edu/webcat . Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in Socrates is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.
Biographical Note
Wing commander, Polish air force.
Despite wounds suffered in September 1939, Kleczynski made his way to the Polish forces in Allied France. A few months later, he and his comrades witnessed the collapse of France; evading advancing Germans they boarded a British coal ship in the southwest of France, arriving in Liverpool a week later. In England, Lieutenant Colonel Bohdan Kleczynski was given command of the Polish 305 bomber squadron, named after Marshal Jozef Piłsudski. Wounded again during a raid over Cologne, Kleczynski was appointed air attaché in the Polish embassy in Washington. After a few months in the United States, Kleczynski returned to Britain. Hurting both physically and emotionally, Kleczynski, no longer able to fly, spent the
final months of his life lecturing in the Polish Air Force Academy in Scotland. He died in March 1944, at the age of forty-one.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

Diary, letters, military and personal identification documents, printed matter, and photographs, relating to an alleged assassination attempt on General Władysław Sikorski, prime minister of the Polish government-in-exile, in 1942, and to Polish air operations during World War II. Includes posthumous collected material.

The Kleczynski diary, which covers the period September 1940 through March 1943 and is handwritten, is in the form of long, melancholic letters to his beloved wife, Helena, who remained in German-occupied Poland and thus was unable to read the diary until long after her husband’s death. The photo album details life in the 305 bomber squadron, with several photographs from the French episode of the Polish pilot’s saga.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

Sikorski, Władysław, 1881-1943.
Poland. Polskie Siły Powietrzne.
World War, 1939-1945--Poland.
World War, 1939-1945--Governments in exile.
World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations.

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Box: 1-2

The collection has not yet been described. Please let the Hoover Institution Archives know if you would like to see this material described. Contact us at hooverarchivesinfo@stanford.edu