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# Lipski Family Collection

Digital

1927-1990

1 box (0.25 linear foot)

Call no.: MS 357



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Antoni Lipski emigrated from Grodno, now Belarus, in 1907, and settled in the Oxbow neighborhood of Northampton, Mass. An employee of the Mount Tom Sulphite Pulp Company, he and his wife Marta had a family of twelve, ten of who survived to adulthood. Their oldest child Stanley Walter Lipski graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1935 and was killed in action aboard the USS *Indianapolis* in July 1945.

The slender record of two generations of a Polish immigrant family from Northampton, Mass., the Lipski collection includes two documents relating to Antoni Lipski and four photographs, two letters, and news clippings relating to his eldest son, Stanley Walter Lipski, a naval officer who was killed in action aboard the USS *Indianapolis* during the Second World War.

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## Background on Lipski family

After emigrating to the mill town of Northampton, Mass., in 1907, Antoni Lipski adjusted to his new American life quickly. Born in Grodno (now Belarus) on March 6, 1882, Lipski settled in the Ox Bow neighborhood of Northampton looking southward toward Mt. Tom and began a long career working at Mount Tom Sulphite Pulp Company. In July 1909, he married 18 year-old Marta Maciejewska, a fellow immigrant and mill operative herself, and began a large family. When Martha died in 1928, just 37 years old, she left Antoni to care for ten children. Antoni died of leukemia in the Westfield State Sanitorium on Sept. 14, 1953.

A graduate of Northampton High School, the Lipskis' eldest son Stanley Walter Lipski was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1935. Multilingual and an expert in the Russian language, Lipski served briefly at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla., before assignment to a succession of highly sensitive posts. He served in the American legation in Berlin until the German invasion of Poland in September 1939, and then went on to posts in Moscow, Riga, and Helsinki, where he served as assistant naval attache to Finland and Sweden.

In March 1943, Lipski was ordered to sea duty aboard the Portland-class cruiser USS *Indianapolis*, the flagship of the Fifth Fleet serving in the central Pacific. In 1945, the *Indianapolis* was designated to deliver Little Boy, the atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima, from Honolulu to the staging site on Tinian island. Four days after delivering the bomb, the ship was struck by two torpedoes from a Japanese submarine and sank in only 12 minutes, and in the greatest loss of life at sea in a single incident in American history, 880 members of the crew of 1,196 were killed in action. Lipski was severely injured in the initial blast, but died after a day in the water. He had earned nine battle stars, a Purple Heart, and Silver Star during his service.

## Scope of collection

The slender record of two generations of a Polish immigrant family from Northampton, Mass., the Lipski collection includes two documents relating to Antoni Lipski and four photographs, two letters, and news clippings relating to his eldest son, Stanley Walter Lipski, a naval officer who was killed in action aboard the USS *Indianapolis* during the Second World War. Among other interesting items in the collection are two pieces salvaged from the Polish embassy in Riga, Latvia, when the Russians entered the country in 1940: a print of Polish President Jozef Pilsudsky and a Polish military photograph album.



Stanley Walter Lipski (center) at the Finnish front, 1940

# Inventory

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Antoni Lipski: Official documents

1927-1953

Folder 1

Certificate of naturalization; death certificate

Stanley W. Lipski: News clippings

1980-1989

Folder 2

Also includes newsclippings relating to Stanley Lipski, also a naval officer.

Photographs

ca.1944

4 photos

Folder 3

**Lt. Stanley W. Lipski (center), U.S. Military Attache to Finland George Edward Huthsteiner (2d from left), and Finnish officers with large gun**

ca.1940

**Lt. Stanley W. Lipski: half-length studio portrait in naval uniform**

ca.1942

**Commander Stanley W. Lipski in naval uniform and wife Sigrid Johnson Lipski outside a residence**

ca.1943

**Lt. Comdr. Stanley W. Lipski (far right) and other naval officers**

ca.1943

Condolence letters on death of Cdr. Stanley Walter Lipski

1945 July

Folder 4

**Telegram from Randall Jacobs to Stanley Walter Lipski**, informing Antoni Lipski that Stanley is missing in action

ca.1945 Aug. 12

**Letter from James Forrestal (Secretary of the Navy) to Stanley Walter Lipski**, informing Antoni Lipski that Stanley Lipski has been killed in action

ca.1945 Oct. 26

USS Indianapolis Survivors Memorial Organization: Constitution and reunion information

1990

Folder 5

USS Indianapolis: Correspondence on documentary film

1990

Folder 6

USS Indianapolis: Correspondence with Silvio Conte on exonerating Capt. Charles McVay

1984

Folder 7

Jozef Pilsudski [portrait]

ca.1940

Folder 8

Note affixed to the back of the Pilsudski portrait reads: "This could be a very valuable item. As Stan told me the story, when the Russians came into Riga, he was in the office of the Polish Minister (I don't think that is the correct title) and this picture was on his desk. Stan said he just couldn't see the Russians come in and destroy it, so he took it. It could be an original but it looks to me as a duplicate of a hand-charcoal drawing. It should be taken apart and cleaned. I didn't do it because it is so well put together, and I didn't want to ruin it." Unsigned.

Polish military photograph album

ca.1939

Folder 9

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Anthony Lipski, Oct. 1991.

## Digitized content

The photographs and letters have been digitized and are [available online through Credo](#).

## Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Aug. 2017.

## Language:

English

## Copyright and Use ([More information](#))

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## Search terms

### Subjects

Polish Americans--Massachusetts

United States. Navy

World War, 1939-1941

World War, 1939-1941--Poland

### Contributors

Lipski Family [main entry]

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