

Guide to the Holocaust Photograph Collection

MS 1854



compiled by Christopher Geissler

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1854

TITLE: Holocaust photograph collection

DATES: 1943-1951

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of photographs of Holocaust atrocities, concentration camps liberated by the armies of the United States and Great Britain in 1945, and subsequent war crimes trials.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1854>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1854>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Judaica Collection Curator, 2005.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Holocaust Photograph Collection (MS 1854). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Scope and Contents

The collection is comprised of 152 photographs of concentration camps liberated by the armies of the United States and Great Britain in 1945 and the war crimes trials that followed. The bulk of the photographs date from April - May 1945, though many were released at a later date. Most of the photographs have caption labels. Only a few photographers are mentioned by name. The collection is organized in alphabetical order under three headings: Concentration camps and other sites of atrocities, Individuals, and Trials. The location of the image(s) is given, followed in brackets by the country, liberating army if known, number of photographs, and relevant information.

The majority of the photographs are included under the first heading and focus primarily on the liberation of concentration camps in Germany, although there are photographs taken in Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, the Netherlands, Poland, and the Soviet Union. These photographs portray the atrocities of the camps including images of the dead, the workings of the camps, and the reactions of liberated prisoners and liberating soldiers. Many of these photographs depict German civilians compelled to witness the atrocities of the camps and to act as gravediggers and pallbearers for the victims. There are five photographs of General Eisenhower reviewing the camps at Ohrdruf (related to Buchenwald) and Gotha and several which include a delegation from the U.S. Congress to Buchenwald.

Under the second heading, Individuals, there are four photographs depicting two American P.O.W.s rescued from German camps. The Trials contain images of the war crimes trials in Germany and Italy after the war. These are photographs of the judicial process. Although focused on the Nazi defendants, they include images of judges, lawyers, witnesses, and the evidence introduced. There are fifteen photographs from the Nuremberg trials, April - May 1947, and one photograph from the trial of Adolf Hitler in Munich, October 1948, in which the verdict is read to an empty chair.

Arrangement

Photographs are arranged in three series: I. Concentration camps and other sites of atrocities. II. Individuals. III. Trials.

Collection Contents

Concentration camps and other sites of atrocities

b. 1, f. 1	Altendorn [Germany, 2 photographs, commandant of liberated camp led away]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 2 - 3	Bergen Belsen [Germany, British Army, 21 photographs]	1945 April-May
b. 1, f. 4	Berlin [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 October
b. 1, f. 5	Buchenwald [Germany, U.S. Army, 16 photographs, including several with U.S. Congressional delegation]	1945 April-May
b. 1, f. 6	Ohrdruf [Germany, 8 photographs, 2 of General Eisenhower reviewing the camp]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 7	Weimar [Germany, 3 photographs]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 8	Dachau [Germany, U.S. Army, 2 photographs]	1945 May
b. 1, f. 9	Kaufbeuren [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 July
b. 1, f. 10	Dortmund [Germany, 3 photographs]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 11	Dossel [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 12	Essen [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 13	Falkenau [Czechoslovakia, 1 photograph]	1945 May
b. 1, f. 14	Gardelegen [Germany, 4 photographs]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 15	Gotha [Germany, U.S. Army, 5 photographs, including 3 of General Eisenhower reviewing the camp]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 16	Gusen-Mühlhausen [Austria, 3 photographs]	1945 May
b. 1, f. 17	Hadamar [Germany, 1 photograph, insane asylum]	1945 May
b. 1, f. 18	Hemer [Germany, 3 photographs]	1945 April-May
b. 1, f. 19	Immergrath [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 20	Katyn Forest [Russia, 2 photographs]	1943 May
b. 1, f. 21	Lambach [Austria, U.S. Army, 2 photographs]	1945 May
b. 1, f. 22	Landesberg [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 May
b. 1, f. 23	Leipzig [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 24	Limburg [Germany, 3 photographs]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 25	Lodz [Poland, 1 photograph, execution of a Jew]	[1945 Dec]
b. 1, f. 26	Ludwigslust [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 May

b. 1, f. 27	Malmedy [Belgium, 3 photographs]	1945 Jan, 1946 April
b. 1, f. 28	Natzweiler-Struthof [France, 5 photographs]	1944 December 2
b. 1, f. 29	Heppenheim, hospital near [Germany, 1 photograph of wounded Allied soldiers]	1945 April 7
b. 1, f. 30	Nordhausen [Germany, 12 photographs, slave labor camp liberated by U.S. 3rd Armored Division]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 31	Nuenberg [Germany, 4 photographs]	1945 May 12
b. 1, f. 32	Oswiecim [Germany, 1 photograph, remains from a mass grave buried in Buffalo, NY]	1948 February
b. 1, f. 33	Schwerin [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 May
b. 1, f. 34	Stavelot [Belgium, 2 photographs]	1945 January
b. 1, f. 35	Suttrop [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 May
b. 1, f. 36	Vught [the Netherlands, 1 photograph]	1944 December
b. 1, f. 37	Wobbelin [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 May
b. 1, f. 38	Zeitheim [Germany, Soviet zone, 1 photograph]	1946 September
Individuals		
b. 1, f. 39	Abrams, Pvt. Alvin L. [1 photograph, P.O.W.]	1945 April
b. 1, f. 40	Demler, Pvt. Joseph [3 photographs, P.O.W.]	1945 May-July
Trials		
b. 1, f. 41	Ahrweiler [Germany, 2 photographs]	1945 June
b. 1, f. 42	Dachau [Germany, 1 photograph]	1945 November
b. 1, f. 43	Italy [3 photographs]	1946 Jan, 1948 May
b. 1, f. 44	Landsberg [Germany, 1 photograph, military court]	1951 September
b. 1, f. 45	Munich [Germany, 1 photograph, Adolf Hitler tried in absentia]	1948 October
b. 1, f. 46 - 47	Nuremberg [Germany, 15 photographs]	1947 May
b. 1, f. 48	Ruhr-area [Germany, 1 photograph, 13 Ruhr magnates arrested by British Army]	1945 December
b. 1, f. 49	Wiesbaden [Germany, 2 photographs, military trial]	1945 October

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) -- Photographs
World War, 1939-1945 -- Concentration camps
-- Liberation

Genres / Formats

Photographs