

GERDA SCHILD HAAS PAPERS, 1940-1946
1989.048

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Gerda Schild Haas papers

Dates: 1940-1946

Accession number: 1989.048

Creator: Haas, Gerda Schild

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Gerda Schild Haas papers include Gerda's notes on her experiences of Jewish persecution in Berlin from 1940-1943 and correspondence among Gerda's family members documenting their efforts to leave Germany from 1939-1941 and to trace Gerda's mother and sister from 1945-1946.

Languages: 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), Gerda Schild Haas papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Gerda Haas donated the Gerda Schild Haas papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1989 and 2000. The collection previously cataloged as accession 2000.28 has been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds four oral history interviews with Gerda Haas, conducted between 1993 and 1998. An additional oral history interview from 1996, which forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive, can be accessed onsite at the Museum. The United States Holocaust Museum Library holds two edition of Gerda Haas's book *These I Do Remember: Fragments from the Holocaust* and copies of two volumes containing an essay by Gerda Haas: *Remembrance, Repentance, Reconciliation: The 25th Anniversary Volume of the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches* and *Confronting the Holocaust: A Mandate for the 21st Century*.

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, December 2012

Biographical note

Gerda Schild Haas was born in 1922 in Ansbach, Germany to Siegfried and Paula Schild. Her family was forced to sell their home after Kristallnacht, and they moved to Munich. Siegfried left Germany for the Kitchener Camp in England with a group of Jewish refugees in 1939, and he immigrated to the United States in 1940. Gerda moved to Berlin in 1939 for nurse's training, met Adolf Eichmann, Rolf Günther, and Alois Brunner while working at the Jewish hospital there, and was deported to Theresienstadt in March 1943. She was liberated as part of an exchange transport to Switzerland in February 1945 and joined her father in the United States in 1946. Her mother and her sister Elfriede (Friedl) Schild are both believed to have been deported to Riga and killed in 1941.

Scope and content of collection

The Gerda Schild Haas papers include Gerda's notes on her experiences of Jewish persecution in Berlin from 1940-1943 and correspondence among Gerda's family members documenting their efforts to leave Germany from 1939-1941 and to trace Gerda's mother and sister from 1945-1946.

Gerda Haas compiled her notes "Das Leben der Juden in Berlin in den Jahren 1940 bis 1943" in 1945 after arriving in Switzerland from Theresienstadt. The notes describe her memories of life in Berlin during the Holocaust, the Jewish hospital where she worked as a nurse, the organization of transports to Theresienstadt, and the cruelty of SS-Obersturmführer Alois Brunner.

Correspondence includes letters dated 1939-1941 from Paula Schild in Munich, Gerda Schild in Berlin, and Friedl Schild in Frankfurt to Siegfried Schild in New York City describing their lives in Germany and documenting their efforts to join him. Letters dated 1945-1946 are primarily between Siegfried and Gerda Schild and document their efforts to locate Gerda's mother and sister and to bring Gerda to the United States. Some of the letters are undated or have been separated from their first or last pages.

System of arrangement

The Gerda Schild Haas papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Notes on Jewish persecution in Berlin, 1945
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1940-1946

Indexing terms

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Personal narratives.

Jews – Germany – History – 1933-1945.

World War, 1939-1945 – Deportations from Germany.

Holocaust survivors.

Jewish nurses – Germany – Berlin.

Jewish hospitals – Germany – Berlin.

Jewish refugees – Germany.

Jewish refugees – Switzerland.

Jewish refugees – America.

Germany – Emigration and immigration – Government policy – 20th century.

United States – Emigration and immigration – Government policy – 20th century.

Berlin (Germany)

Munich (Germany)

Les Avants (Switzerland)

Lucerne (Switzerland)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Notes on Jewish persecution in Berlin, 1945

Box	Folder	
1	1	"Das Leben der Juden in Berlin in den Jahren 1940 bis 1943," 1945

Series 2: Correspondence, 1940-1946

Box	Folder	
1	2-6	Letters from Paula, Gerda, and Friedl Schild to Siegfried Schild, 1939-1941 (5 folders)
1	7-12	Letters from Gerda Schild to Siegfried Schild, 1945 (6 folders)
1	13-15	Letters from Gerda Schild to Siegfried Schild, 1946 (3 folders)
1	16-22	Letters from Siegfried Schild to Gerda Schild, 1945 (7 folders)
1	23-25	Letters from Siegfried Schild to Gerda Schild, 1946 (3 folders)
1	26	Letters to Siegfried Schild from Friends, 1945-1946
1	27	Postcards to Gerda Schild from Friends and Family, 1944-1946