

CLINTON GARDNER PAPERS, 1945

1994.25.3

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Clinton Gardner papers

Dates: 1945

Accession number: 1994.25.3

Creator: Clinton Gardner

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (5 folders, 2 oversized folders)

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

Abstract: The Clinton Gardner papers contain documents collected by Clinton Gardner, who served as executive officer of the U.S. Army's administration team to Buchenwald concentration camp. Included in the documents are a report on the history of the camp, worker requests, a cigarette distribution report, an SS soldier's identification book, and two letters from Clinton to his parents. Also included are a newspaper clipping and an oversized map of Buchenwald.

Languages: English, 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: Clinton Gardner papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Clinton Gardner papers consists of two separate donations made to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Clinton Gardner. The first donation was received in 1993 and was given the accession number 1995.A.0152. The second donation was received in 1994 and was given the accession number 1994.25. These two accessions have since been merged together, and can be located under the accession number 1994.25.3.

Related archival materials: The Papers of Clinton Gardner, 1942-1945, Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth University.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Michael Folkerts, June 2015

Biographical note

Clinton Gardner was born in 1922 in New York. He attended Exeter Academy in New Hampshire before enrolling in Dartmouth University in 1940. With the prospect of war looming, he volunteered for service with the U.S. Army. He attended Officer Candidate School, and was placed in an anti-aircraft unit, and eventually reached the rank of First Lieutenant. Gardner served as part of the D-Day Operation on June 6, 1944, and was wounded by a nearby mortar explosion. After recovery, he returned to his unit, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. As the war continued, the Army took over administration of towns they had liberated, creating military government teams to aid in their management. Due to his fluency in French and German, Gardner volunteered to join an administration team. His team was placed in charge of the Cologne and Wetzlar displaced persons camps. Soon after its liberation, Gardner was part of the first camp administration team for the Buchenwald concentration camp. Serving as executive officer for the team, Gardner was placed in charge of managing the camp a week after their arrival to Buchenwald. His fluency in German greatly assisted his administration, and aided prisoners in return to their homes. After turning Buchenwald over to the Soviets, he worked for another army administration team for several towns in Germany, before returning back to Vermont and re-enrolling in Dartmouth University.

Scope and content of collection

The Clinton Gardner collection contains several items collected by Clinton Gardner during his time administering the Buchenwald concentration camp. Included in this collection are a report on the history of Buchenwald, worker requests, and a record of cigarette distribution to the prisoners. The correspondence was written by Clinton Gardner to his parents, and describe his responsibilities and the conditions of the camp. The SS soldier identity card belongs to Adam Theis, who was killed by prisoners after the liberation of the camp. Also included are two oversized documents. The newspaper clipping is an article from the *White River Valley Herald* of Vermont, and quotes Gardner's descriptions from his letters to his parents on the horrors of Buchenwald. The other document is a large map of Buchenwald, with pencil additions denoting places within the camp.

System of arrangement

The Clinton Gardner papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Gardner, Clinton

Theis, Adam

Buchenwald (Concentration camp)

Waffen-SS.

Concentration camp guards--Germany.

World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Liberation--Germany.

Jewish refugees--Germany.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Germany.

World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Germany.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Clinton Gardner papers, 1945

Folder	Title
OS 1	Buchenwald map, 1945
1	Correspondence to family members, 1945
2	History of Buchenwald report, 1945
OS 2	Newspaper clipping, 1945
3	Record of cigarette distribution, 1945
4	SS Soldier's identification book, 1945
5	Worker requests, 1945