

**PETER CLAPHAM COLLECTION, 1933-1984 (bulk 1945-1950)
1994.A.0022 (RG-10.232)**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Peter Clapham collection, 1933-1984 (bulk 1945-1950)

Dates: 1933-1984 (bulk 1945-1950)

Accession number: 1994.A.0022 (RG-10.232)

Creator: Clapham, Peter

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (9 folders)

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

Abstract: The collection consists of photocopies of hand written personal letters, prison documents, and memorabilia relating to accused Nazi war criminals for crimes committed at Bergen Belsen, Auschwitz, and other concentration camps as well as to other major war criminals in the British zone who were imprisoned, tried, and/or hanged at Lüneburg, Hameln Zuchthaus, and Werl Zuchthaus and Allied National Prison.

Languages: English, German, French, Polish

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), Peter Clapham collection (1994.A.0022), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Major R.K. Malott, Executive Director of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada, donated photocopies of the Peter Clapham collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993.

Custodial history: Major Peter Clapham took the documents from his office following the trials they document and donated them to the Canadian War Museum in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Location of originals: Canadian War Museum

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, August 2017

Biographical note

Major Peter Clapham, British Army, served as a postwar governor of penal institutions that housed Nazi war criminals. From June 1 to December 12, 1945, he served as governor of Lüneburg, which held accused Belsen S.S. war criminals for pre-trial and trial. On December 13, 1945, he was appointed governor of Hameln Zuchthaus, where convicted Belsen S.S. war criminals were executed. From January through September 1949, Clapham served as Penal Inspector for Land Niedersachsen, and from October 1949 through August 1952, he served as Deputy Governor of Werl Zuchthaus and Allied National Prison, which held the major war criminals in the British zone, including the highest-ranking officers and S.S. war criminals of all nationalities. Clapham immigrated to Canada in the late 1950s.

Scope and content of collection

The collection consists of photocopies of hand written personal letters, prison documents, and memorabilia relating to accused Nazi war criminals for crimes committed at Bergen Belsen, Auschwitz, and other concentration camps as well as to other major war criminals in the British zone who were imprisoned, tried, and/or hanged at Lüneburg, Hameln Zuchthaus, and Werl Zuchthaus and Allied National Prison.

System of arrangement

The Peter Clapham collection is arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Auschwitz (Concentration camp)
Bergen-Belsen (Concentration camp)
Ravensbrück (Concentration camp)

Aurdziej, Antini.

Bini, Louis.

Borrmann, Johanna.

Bruchhardt, Reinhold.

Clapham, Peter.

Ehlert, Hertha.

Falkenhorst, Nikolaus von, 1886-

Gallenkamp, Curt.

Grese, Irma, 1923-1945.
Herrmann, Wilhelm.
Hoessler, Franz, 1906-1945.
Hoessler, Maria.
Klein, Fritz.
Klieger, Bernard.
Kopper, Helena.
Kramer, Josef, 1906-1945.
Maelzer, Kurt.
Manstein, Erich von, 1887-1973.
Mengele, Josef, 1911-
Meyer, Kurt.
Montgomery of Alamein, Bernard Law Montgomery, Viscount, 1887-1976.
Muhlan, Else.
Olatzky, Kurt.
Schmitz, Oskar.
Simon, Max.
Tomczyk, Wiktor.
Volkenrath, Elisabeth.
Von Mackensen, Eberhard.
Wolff, Kurt, 1887-1963.

Concentration camps.
Concentration camps--Germany.
Criminal justice, Administration of.
Executions and executioners.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
War crime trials.
War crimes--History--20th century.
War criminals--Germany.
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities.
World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps.
War (International law)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Peter Clapham collection relating to war crimes, 1933-1984 (bulk 1945-1950)

Folder/Item	
1.1	Newspaper clipping from the Montreal Gazette (letter to editor). The writer of the letter asks that the world "Call off the hunt for German War criminals" and lauds the Hitler youth as "a fine organization". Dated 31 January 1984. In English. 1 page.
1.2	Trial of Belsen camp staff; Meeting at town gymnasium, Lüneburg, 18 August 1945, agenda. 9 pages.
1.3	Memo dated 21 August 1945, with subject line "Belsen Camp Guards" detailing the presumed date of trial, the custody of the prisoners, the feeding of the prisoners, and prisoner transfers. 2 pages.

1.4	Memo to the Oberbürgermeister, Lüneburg, dated 24 August 1945 ordering accommodations for the prisoners. 1 page.
1.5	Nominal roll call of Belsen war criminals dated 29 August 1945. 3 pages
1.6	Nominal roll call of Belsen war criminals (revised) dated 31 August 1945. 3 pages.
1.7	Certificates of discharge for prisoners Johanna Borrmann, Elisabeth Volkenrath, and Franz Hossler, dated 1 September 1945. 6 pages.
1.8	Memo dated 4 September 1945, setting forth the conditions under which the prisoners will be held while at Lüneburg. German-language copy of same. 3 pages.
1.9	Memo dated 7 September 1945 with subject line "Wardress for special duty". 1 page.
1.10	German language memo dated 7 September 1945, listing the housekeeping staff at the Lüneburg prison. 1 page.
1.11	Telegram with typed transcription dated 11 September 1945 ordering a wardress to Lüneburg. 1 page.
1.12	Handwritten and typescript registers of prisoner transfers dated September 1945. 8 pages.
1.13	Telegram dated 16 September 1945, calling for extra rations at Lüneburg. 1 page.
1.14	Belsen war crimes trial, Lüneburg telephone directory. 1 page.
1.15	Belsen trials defense team assigning lawyers to prisoners. 3 pages.
1.16	German-language handwritten letter dated 24 September 1945 of indeterminate significance. 1 page.
1.17	Telegram dated 18 September 1945, ordering witness transfer together with telegram dated 21 September 1945, forbidding a named British officer access to the prison. 1 page.
1.18	Telegram dated 24 September 1945, ordering the payment of allowances. 1 page.
1.19	Handwritten and typescript registers concerning food provisioning for the prisoners. 18 pages.
1.20	Handwritten letter from Kramer's barrister requesting that Kramer be permitted a visit from his wife to settle domestic matters, dated 25 October 1945. 1 page.
1.21	Typescript memo, together with illegible handwritten note dismissing a member of the female staff at Lüneburg, dated 31 October 1945. 1 page.
1.22	German-language affidavit from Charlotte Duchennes identifying herself as an interpreter. 1 page.
1.23	German-language letter dated 13 November 1945 from a woman requesting help in her search for her children who were sent to Auschwitz. 1 page.
2.1	Witness list for Belsen concentration camp. 2 pages.
2.2	Illegible handwritten letter in German. 1 page.
2.3	Typewritten and handwritten testimonies and affidavits of Helena Koppel, witness for the prosecution. 13 pages.
2.4	Typewritten testimony of Lindegarde Lohbauer, witness for the prosecution. 1 page.
2.5	Typewritten exculpatory testimony of SS guard Elizabeth Volkenrath. 3 pages.
2.6	Typewritten exculpatory testimony of SS guard Hertha Ehlert. 3 pages.
2.7	Typewritten exculpatory testimony of SS guard Irma Grese. 3 pages.
2.8	Typewritten exculpatory testimony of SS doctor Dr. Fritz Klein. 2 pages.
2.9	Typewritten exculpatory testimony of SS camp commandant Josef Kramer. 2 pages.
2.10	German-language translation of the script to an Auschwitz film. 2 pages.
2.11	Typewritten and handwritten exculpatory testimony of SS Obersturmführer Franz Hessler. 23 pages.

2.12	Typewritten and handwritten corroborative testimony of witnesses for the prosecution. 2 pages.
3.1	8 black and white copies of photographs of prisoners and British guards.
3.2	Permit to enter prison in the cavalry barracks issued to Private Peter Lungley, together with handwritten letter in German of indeterminate significance. 1 page.
3.3	Typewritten letter in German from the Hamburg prison dated 10 December 1945 concerning the Interim Committal Order. 1 page.
3.4	Telegram from Lüneburg ordering the dismount of the guard, dated 11 December 1945. 1 page.
3.5	Handwritten letter in English dated 11 December 1945, concerning the prisoner's graves and how they are to be buried three to a grave. 1 page.
3.6	Typescript letter from the commander of the 123 Military Government Detachment ordering the drawing up of a list of prisoners, dated 12 December 1945. 1 page.
3.7	Handwritten list of 11 prisoners. 1 page.
3.8	German-language handwritten farewell letter of condemned prisoner Irma Grese together with English translation. 3 pages.
3.9	Copy of the Officer's Club menu for the evening of the execution day bearing the signatures of those in attendance, together with the business card of the executioner advertising his pub in Manchester, England, called "Help the Poor Struggler". Dated 13 December 1945. 2 pages.
3.10	Handwritten and typescript registers and correspondence relating to the disposition of the personal property and death certificates of the executed, 14 December 1945, to 24 February 1946. 18 pages.
3.11	Handwritten and typescript correspondence regarding the acquitted Belsen prisoner Oskar Schmitz, 27 December 1945 to 24 March 1946. 4 pages.
3.12	Temporary registration card in English for Waffen SS prisoner Franz Hössler together with handwritten pages in German of indeterminate subject. n.d. 4 pages.
3.13	Arrest file with mug shots for SS Officer Reinhold Bruchhardt together with typescript letter from Bruchhardt to the Commandant of the Allied National Prison Werl requesting the interview of two exculpatory witnesses in order to clear his sentence of life imprisonment. 17 July 1946, to 28 June 1949. In English. 4 pages.
3.14	Handwritten letter in German from Kurt Olatzky to the leadership of the Nazi Party expressing his regret at being physically unqualified for service in the SA but noting his service to the Nationalist Socialist cause by his service as a supporting member of the SS. 5 November 1933. 1 page.
3.15	Prison release form and correspondence related to Generaloberst Nikolaus Von Falkenhorst, German Commander in Chief, Denmark and Norway. In English and German. 12 February 1946, to 2 May 1949. 14 pages.
3.16	Case file for prisoner Curt Gallenkamp. In German and English. 28 April 1947, to 20 September 1948.
4.1	Handwritten and typescript correspondence in German related to and from Field Marshal Albert Kesselring. 25 October 1946, to 21 June 1953. 26 pages.
4.2	Certificate of (temporary) discharge and correspondence related to prisoner General Eberhard Von Mackensen. In German. 30 November 1946, to 14 July 1949. 6 pages.
4.3	Documents and photograph related to the death of General Kurt Maelzer while in prison. In German. 22 October 1942, to 16 June 1952. 10 pages.

5.1	Handwritten and typescript correspondence and documents related to the prisoner General (Fritz) Erich von Manstein / von Lewinski. In German and English. 19 December 1949, to 29 March 1951. 14 pages.
5.2	Typewritten documents concerning the disposition of prisoner General Kurt Meyer. In English. 1951. 8 pages.
5.3	Typewritten and handwritten documents concerning the disposition of prisoner General Max Simon. In German and English. 1945, to 2 April 1948. 4 pages.
5.4	Typewritten and handwritten documents concerning the disposition of prisoner General Kurt Wolff. In German and English. December 1945, to 19 June 1948. 11 pages.
5.5	Typewritten legal documents pertaining to prisoner Wiktor Tomczyk. In German and English. 11 November 1945, to 1 October 1946. 5 pages.
6.1	Typewritten testimony of Antini Aurdziej confessing to crimes as a kapo in Bergen-Belsen. In German. 1 page.
6.2	Typewritten and handwritten testimony of an unnamed accused. In German. 2 pages.
6.3	Handwritten fragments of testimonies of former camp inmates describing the crimes perpetrated there, particularly by the medical staff. Mengele is mentioned. In German. 14 pages.
6.4	Typewritten verdict sheet for 32 defendants at the Belsen trials. 16 November 1945. In English. 1 page.
6.5	Telegram to the Military governor of Hannover Region informing him of the verdicts passed. In English. 16 November 1945. 1 page.
6.6	Typewritten interim committal orders for prisoners Bormann, Dorr, Francioh, Grese, Hoessler, Pinchen, Stofel, and Volkenrath. November 1945. In English. 8 pages.
6.7	Telegram to the Military Governor Hannover informing him of the sentences passed on the guilty. 17? November 1945. In English. 1 page.
6.8	Typewritten sentencing sheets for 45 prisoners found guilty of war crimes, together with typewritten sheet identifying the religious affiliation of some of the convicted. 30 November 1945. In German. 3 pages.
6.9	Typewritten letter from Maria Hoessler pleading for the reversal of her husband's death sentence. 28 November 1945. In German. 3 pages.
6.10	Typewritten sheet identifying officials who have experience in C.C. (Concentration Camp?) duties. In English. n.d. 1 page.
6.11	Typewritten prisoner transfer forms for 22 of the convicted. 11 December 1945. In English and German. 22 pages.
6.12	Typewritten sheet identifying the religious affiliations of 11 of the prisoners. In German. n.d. 1 page.
6.13	Typewritten order from Clapham locking down the prison and restricting access to a few named officers. n.d. In English. 1 page.
7.1	Handwritten letter from convicted prisoner Helena Kopper to her daughter in law Krystiana? Kopper in Krakow, Poland. 21 November 1945. In Polish. 4 pages.
7.2	Handwritten memo on official message form ordering the particulars of transfer of the acquitted to a civilian internment camp. 29? November 1945. In English. 1 page.
7.3	Typewritten orders giving instructions on how the executions are to be handled by the 229 "P" Military Government Detachment, Hannover. 1 December 1945. In English. 3 pages.
7.4	Handwritten hour by hour accounts of what each of the condemned was doing in the days leading up to their executions. In German. 56 pages.

8.1	Typewritten Nazi-court decision sentencing to death Frenchmen accused of endangering German military operations. 28 July 1943. In German. 22 pages.
8.2	Handwritten letter to Louis Bini from his wife including two photos and one religious card. 14 May 1944. In French. 6 pages.
8.3	Handwritten letter from (fnu) Richert to Field Marshall Montgomery offering his services as a scientist. 29 August 1945. In German. 3 pages.
8.4	Handwritten register of the grave location of executed Axis war criminals, together with a physical description of the deceased and their positions within the grave (buried three to a grave). 8 October 1946. In English. 4 pages.
8.5	German newspaper clipping concerning a Dr. Schneller. n.d. In German. 1 page.
8.6	Typewritten register of the grave location of executed Axis war criminals, together with a physical description of the deceased and their positions within the grave (buried three to a grave). 22 January 1947. In English. 1 page.
8.7	Typewritten testimony of Wilhelm Herrmann attesting to the wartime situation in Hameln prison and his duties there. 6 January 1946. In English. 6 pages.
9.1	Public handbill notice of the impending execution of war criminals. November 1947. In German and English. 1 page.
9.2	Typewritten report from a German civil health official explaining the lice epidemic in the Hannover prison. 12 August 1948. In German and English. 4 pages.
9.3	Typewritten list of the prisoners brought before the war crimes court between 13 December 1945, and 31 August 1949. In English. 4 pages.
9.4	Table of General-ranking officers tried and convicted at the war crimes trials (includes their sentences, birth dates, home addresses, and name of court passing judgment). 27 March 1952. In English. 1 page.
9.5	Photograph of Allied officers and men (presumably the Hannover prison staff). 20 August 1952. 2 pages.
9.6	Christmas card from the Spandau prison, 1954, with photo inset of four Allied governors. December, 1954. 2 pages.
9.7	Typewritten letter from the administrative inspector of the Hameln prison reporting on the unruly behavior of prisoners Grese and Staretska. 18 May 1945. In German. 3 pages.
9.8	Handwritten letter from Bernard Klieger, a former concentration camp inmate, defending SS prisoner Hoessler as a good man. n.d. In German. 4 pages.
9.9	Photographs of Hoessler's prison cell. ca. 1945. In German. 6 pages.
9.10	Nazi issued identification documents issued to Else Muhlan together with photographs of a guillotine. 1941. In German. 4 pages.
9.11	Blank forms used by the SS to examine "volunteers". n.d. In German. 7 pages.