

**United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Finding Aid
RG-10
Small Collections**

RG-10.254
Acc. 1995.A.108

Title: Oskar Mendelsohn Collection, 1940-1991 (bulk 1940-1948).

Extent: 23 microfiche.

Provenance: Donor Oskar Mendelsohn photocopied the bulk of the collection at the Norwegian Resistance Museum [*Norges Hjemmefrontmuseum*] and other archival repositories. The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in August 1992 together with printed booklets and articles Mendelsohn authored, and copies of several extracts from wartime diaries, memoirs, and histories.

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on use: Restrictions on use. Previously published material under protection of copyright.

Organization and Arrangement: The collection is organized into thirteen series:
RG-10.254*01: Lists of anti-Jewish legislation and actions in Norway. RG-10.254*02: Printed materials regarding the Holocaust in Norway. RG-10.254*03: Anti-Semitic legislation promulgated by the Quisling Government. RG-10.254*04: Police lists of Norwegian Jews (1942). RG-10.254*05: Official government forms and certificates inventorying Jews and their possessions. RG-10.254*06: Documents regarding anti-Jewish police actions. RG-10.254*07: Civil, governmental, and ecclesiastical responses to the persecution of Jews in Norway. RG-10.254*08: Copies of Nazi documents related to Jews in Norway. RG-10.254*09: Post-war affidavits from Norwegian Jewish Holocaust survivors to the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Police (1947). RG-10.254*10: Name lists of Norwegian victims of the Holocaust. RG-10.254*11: Postwar litigation against the Gestapo and the Quisling Government by Holocaust victims. RG-10.254*12: Excerpts from two published diaries detailing wartime experiences in Norway. RG-10.254*13: Excerpts from Norwegian wartime memoirs and histories.

Language: Norwegian, English, Yiddish, and German.

Preferred Citation: Standard Citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Division, Archives Branch.

Biographical/Historical Note: Commencing with the German occupation of Norway on April 9, 1940, discrimination against the nation's small Jewish population steadily increased. In his recent short history The Persecution of Norwegian Jews in WWII,

donor and noted historian of Norway Oskar Mendelsohn estimates the Jewish community of Norway at the time of the invasion numbered 1800, many of them refugees of the Third Reich. Many Jews resisted the invasion and ensuing occupation, even as Nazi Germany and its infamous puppet regime under Vidkun Quisling sought to restrict Jewish autonomy. Beginning with the confiscation of radios in 1940, Quisling-sponsored action against the Jews escalated to arrests and confiscation of property in 1941, and culminated in late 1942 with the mass detention of Jewish men, women and children in Falstad, Grini, Berg, and Bredtveit Prison in Oslo. From there, the first transport of approximately 530 Norwegian Jews departed for Auschwitz via Stettin on the prisoner-ship 'Donau' in November 1942. This first mass deportation was quickly followed by another on the prisoner-ship 'Gotenland' early in 1943, transporting another 158 Norwegian Jews to Auschwitz. According to Mendelsohn, the treatment of Norwegian Jews in Auschwitz may have been exacerbated by their inability to speak German; Mendelsohn estimates that only 25 Norwegian inmates survived the Holocaust.¹

Other Norwegian Jewish survivors include those who escaped Norway, many finding refuge in Sweden. Donor Oskar Mendelsohn was among this group, fleeing Norway in 1942 along with 900 other Norwegian Jews. Born in Trondheim on March 29, 1912, Mendelsohn served as leader of both the Trondheim and Oslo Jewish communities.

Scope and Content Note: The collection comprises photocopies and printed material relating to the fate of Norwegian Jews during World War II. Central to the collection are many documents that illustrate the experience of Norwegian Jews under the Quisling Government, including police lists, official forms and certificates, Anti-Semitic legislation, and extracts from several memoirs and diaries detailing daily life. The collection also contains copies of Nazi documents related to the Jews of Norway, lists of Norwegian Holocaust victims, and postwar survivor testimonies and legal initiatives.

Note: Monographs by Oskar Mendelsohn available in the Museum library include: DS135.N8 M4 1969: Jødernes historie i Norge gjennom 300 år (1969), DS135.N8 M462 1977: Norwegian Rescue of the Jews (New York: Thanks to Scandinavia, Inc., 1977), DS135.N8 M46 1991: The Persecution of the Norwegian Jews in WWII (Oslo, Norway: Norges Hjemmefrontmuseum, 1991), DS135.N8 M39 1992: Jodene i Norge: historien om en minoritet (Oslo: Universitetsforlaget, 1992).

Inventory:

RG-10.254*01: Folder 1 of 1:

Lists of anti-Jewish legislation and actions in Norway.
Primary language: English

¹ Oskar Mendelsohn's The Persecution of the Norwegian Jews in WWII (Oslo, Norway: Norges Hjemmefrontmuseum, 1991), pgs. 5-27.

1. Inventory of Norwegian laws and ordinances enacted by the Quisling Government against Jews.
2. Inventory of police lists.
3. Inventory of official forms.
4. Inventory of police actions.
5. Inventory of reactions against the persecution of Jews in Norway.
6. Inventory of German documents.
7. Inventory of recorded statements of Norwegian Jews to the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Police, 1947 ("*Justisdepartementets Rundskriv*").
8. Inventory of lists of Holocaust victims.
9. Inventory of lawsuits.
10. Inventory of diaries by Odd Nansen and Myrtle Wright.
11. Photocopy of Mendelsohn's notes from the Nansen diary.
12. Inventory of smaller extracts from wartime memoirs / histories.

RG-10.254*02: Folder 1 of 1:

Printed materials regarding the Holocaust in Norway.

Primary languages: Norwegian, English, Yiddish, and German

1. Mendelsohn, Oskar. The Persecution of the Norwegian Jews in WWII. Oslo, Norway: Norges Hjemmefrontmuseum, 1991.
2. Mendelsohn, Oskar. Jødeforfølgelsene Under Hitler-Veldet: Sett Med Norske Dikteres Øyne. Bilag til Jødisk Menighetsblad nr. 2, 1991.
3. Mendelsohn, Oskar. Wolfgang Benz, ed. Dimension des Völkermords: Die Zahl der jüdischen Opfer des Nationalsozialismus. Munich: R. Oldenbourg Verlag, 1991.
4. Mendelsohn, Oskar. "Actions Against the Jews in Norway During the War." *Särtryck ur Nordisk Judaistik* nr. 2, 1981.
5. Mendelsohn, Oskar. The Norwegian Rescue of Jews. New York: Thanks to Scandinavia, Inc, 1977.
6. Algemeyne Entsiklopedye in Yidish. New York: Shulsinger Bros., 1966.

RG-10.254*03: Folder 1 of 1:

Anti-Semitic laws and ordinances enacted by the Quisling Government.

Primary language: Norwegian

1. January 10, 1942. Order from Norwegian security police regarding Jewish identity cards.
2. March 12, 1942. Constitutional revision to prohibit Jews from entering Norway.
3. October 24, 1942. Extension of police power to arrest Jews.
4. October 26, 1942. Law regarding the confiscation of Jewish property.
5. November 17, 1942. Law obliging Jews to report their presence to local authorities.
6. Regulations concerning law of October 26, 1942.
7. May 21, 1943. Letter to Ministry of Finance regarding the dissolution of the Jewish community of Oslo.

RG-10.254*04: Folder 1 of 1:

Police lists of Norwegian Jews.
Primary language: Norwegian

1. Copy 1: Lists of Jews in Norway over the age of fifteen, taken from 41 police districts. 130 children also listed. Generated as part of the order of January 1942 which required every Jew over the age of fifteen to carry an identity card stamped with a 'J.'
2. Copy 2: Duplicate of above lists, annotated by Oskar Mendelsohn.
3. Lists of Jews in hospitals in October 1942.
4. Jewish prisoners in the Falstad camp (Trondheim) before November 26, 1942.
5. List of Jews arrested by the Germans in 1941 or 1942.
6. Jews arrested in October 1942 and detained at Berg through November 1942.
7. 7 police lists of Jews who were believed to have evaded arrest, many of whom likely escaped to Sweden.

RG-10.254*05: Folder 1 of 1:

Official government forms and certificates inventorying Jews and their possessions.
Primary language: Norwegian

1. 4-page questionnaire to be filled out by Jews in Norway in conjunction with the police, per the January 1942 ordinance requiring 'J' stamped identity cards.
2. 2-page form regarding valuables / property in Norway and abroad.
3. 2-page form connected with November 17, 1942 order requiring Jews to report themselves to local authorities.
4. Medical certificate for Jews in Norwegian hospitals in October and November 1942.

RG-10.254*06: Folder 1 of 1:

Documents regarding anti-Jewish police actions.
Primary language: Norwegian

1. October 24, 1942. Arrest announcement.
2. October 25, 1942. Secret police arrest order.
3. 2 examples of transport orders.
4. November 27, 1942. 6-page police report regarding 'evacuation' of Jews on November 26, 1942, submitted to the Police Ministry.

RG-10.254*07: Folder 1 of 1:

Civil, governmental, and ecclesiastical responses to the persecution of Jews in Norway. Primary language: Norwegian and German

1. November 10, 1942. Protest from the Norwegian Lutheran Church to Quisling.
2. January-April 1943, Berlin. Official correspondence in German regarding the Jews in Norway, issued by the Swedish embassy in Berlin.
3. January 8, 1943, Stockholm. Letter sent to Norwegian government in London by Norwegian Jews in Sweden, seeking the release of Jews deported from Norway.

RG-10.254*08: Folder 1 of 1:

Copies of Nazi documents related to Jews in Norway.

Primary language: German

1. November 26, 1942. Order from Gestapo Chief Reinhard to German prisons and camps in Norway regarding prison types and the treatment of prisoners there.
2. November 1942 – January 1943. 3 German police reports describing conditions and attitudes in Norway.
3. November 1942. German telegraphs regarding the deportation of Jews from Norway on the prisoner-ship 'Donau.'
4. November 26, 1942. List of 'Donau' deportees.
5. February 1943. German telegraphs regarding the 'Gotenland' deportation.
6. "Hefte von Auschwitz." Record of the selection and assignment of numbers to Jews arriving from Norway on the 'Donau.'

RG-10.254*09: Folder 1 of 1:

Post-war affidavits from Norwegian Jewish Holocaust survivors to the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Police (1947).

Primary language: Norwegian

1. Circulars issued by the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police, recording the official statements of survivors of the deportation of Jews from Norway.

RG-10.254*10: Folder 1 of 1:

Name lists of Norwegian victims of the Holocaust.

Primary language: Norwegian

1. Complete list of Norwegian Jews, per Oskar Mendelsohn.
2. Oslo: monument list.
3. Oslo: additional list.
4. Trondheim: monument list.

RG-10.254*11: Folder 1 of 1:

Postwar litigation against the Gestapo and the Quisling Government by Holocaust victims.

Primary language: Norwegian

1. Extracts: Quisling Criminal Case.
2. Extracts: Ernst Flesch, German Commandant, Trondheim.
3. Indictment: Hellmuth Reinhard, Head of Gestapo in Norway.
4. Extracts: Bergfald, Odd. Hellmuth Reinhard: Soldier or Murderer? 1967.

RG-10.254*12: Folder 1 of 1:

Excerpts from two published diaries detailing wartime experiences in Norway.
Primary language: English

1. Extract: Nansen, Odd. Dag etter dag [Day after Day].
2. Extract: Wright, Myrtle. From Day to Day.

RG-10.254*13: Folder 1 of 1:

Excerpts from Norwegian wartime memoirs and histories.
Primary language: Norwegian

1. Extract: Fjellbu, Arne. Minner Fra Krigsarine [Memories from the War Years].
2. Extract: Griniboken, vol. 2. Oslo: 1947.
3. Extract: Borgen, Johan. Dager på Grini [Days at Grini]. Oslo: 1945.
4. Quislings Hønsegård: Berg Interneringsleir. Oslo: 1948.
5. Norges krig: 1940-1945 [The Norwegian War: 1940-1945], vols. 2 & 3. Oslo: 1948.
6. Kersten, Felix. Jeg var Himmlers lege. Oslo: 1947.