

ALEXANDER PRIMAVESI PAPERS, 1951-1997 [bulk 1987-1997]
1995.A.0110

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Alexander Primavesi papers

Dates: 1951-1997 [bulk 1987-1997]

Accession number: 1995.A.0110

Creator: Alexander Primavesi

Extent: 2 boxes

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

Abstract: The Alexander Primavesi papers contain German reports written by Alexander Primavesi relating to activities of the Gestapo and municipal police in Dortmund, Germany between 1933 and 1945. The papers include records relating to the development of the Westphalian state police office in Dortmund, Arnsberg, forced labor, persecution of Jews, religious communities and other minorities in the district of Arnsberg.

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: Alexander Primavesi papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Alexander Primavesi papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Otto Leib, in 1994 and 1997. These two donations were given separate accession

numbers: 1995.A.0110 and 1997.A.0085. These two accessions have since been unified, and can be located under 1995.A.0110.

Existence and location of originals: [Polizeiarchiv, Markgrafenstraße 102, 44139 Dortmund, Germany](#)

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, July 2015

Biographical note

Alexander Primavesi was born in 1928 and grew up in Arnsberg, Germany. Having Jewish friends as a child, he was disturbed by the events of the Kristallnacht, and witnessing the burning of synagogues in his town. He completed an apprenticeship in photography, but was then conscripted into the German army in 1944 and sent to the Soviet Union to fight, and he was wounded and captured as a prisoner-of-war in 1945. Upon his return to Germany and he trained as a police investigator, initially working for the regional police in the province of Nordrhein-Westfalen, before joining the police force of the city of Dortmund in 1951. He transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department of that force in 1953, and remained there until his retirement in 1996. Along with his official police service, he also researched the history and role of the city's police department during the Third Reich, using the department's archives to do so. He passed away in 1996.

Scope and content of collection

The Alexander Primavesi papers primarily contain German reports written by Alexander Primavesi concerning Gestapo activity in Dortmund Germany from 1933-1945. The contents of each report are as follows:

Folder 1) Translation: The Gestapo and Jews in the district of Arnsberg. Primavesi provides information about Jews in the district of Arnsberg, ranging from the *Berufsverbot*, or occupation prohibition, for Jews, Jewish associations, and Jewish school children to the treatment of Jews in German hospitals, the expropriation of Jewish property and the deportations to Lublin and Theresienstadt.

Folder 2) Translation: The development of the Westphalian state police office in Dortmund, Arnsberg. Primavesi describes the historical development of the Gestapo in Dortmund in 1933, the administrative structure of the district of Arnsberg and its *Gauleitung*, or administration at the district level.

Folder 3) Translation: Documentation on the Military Police Corps. This report concentrates on the SA Feldjägerkorps, their organization chart, their responsibility and the actions they carried out in 1933.

Folder 4) Translation: The use of the Gestapo in the prosecution of forced labor in the administrative district of Arnsberg. Primavesi discusses how the Gestapo was in charge of the persecution of forced laborers; ranging from orders and decrees it executed to correspondence and reports on deportations to several camps.

Folder 5 & 6) Translation: Primavesi enumerates all the different regulations, decrees, and documents associated with the *Ordnungspolizei* of the Third Reich and its *Sondereinheiten* between 1933 and 1945.

Folder 7) Translation: A chronological list of measures and guidelines related to the persecution of Jews through the Reich government and the Dortmund Gestapo in the district of Arnsberg. Primavesi provides information on how the Jewish population was persecuted through a very well organized apparatus.

Folder 8) Photocopies of obituaries and photographic prints of Alexander Primavesi.

Folder 9 & 10) Translation: Police reports and diary records of air strikes in the area of Dortmund. Primavesi gives an overview on all the reports by the local police and its sub organizations on air attacks along with their diary entries.

Folder 11) Translation: Persecution of religious communities and other minorities as well as the decline of the Gestapo in 1943 in Arnsberg. Primavesi describes the persecution of the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church, Roma and Sinti, and Jehovah's Witnesses through the Dortmund Gestapo.

System of arrangement

The Alexander Primavesi papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Primavesi, Alexander

Germany. Geheime Staatspolizei.
Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei.

Police--Germany--Dortmund--History--20th century.
World War, 1939-1945--Confiscations and contributions--Germany.
Jews--Germany--Dortmund--Politics and government.
War victims--Legal status, laws, etc.--Germany.
National socialism--Social aspects--Germany.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Germany--Dortmund.

Dortmund (Germany)--History.
Arnsberg (Germany)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Alexander Primavesi papers, 1951-1997 [bulk 1987-1997]

| Box | Folder | Title |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | 1 | <i>Die Gestapo und das Judentum im Regierungsbezirk Arnsberg, 1933-1945, approximately 1993</i> |
| 1 | 2 | <i>Die Entwicklung der westfälischen Staatspolizeistelle Dortmund im Regierungsbezirk Arnsberg, 1933-1945, approximately 1993</i> |
| 1 | 3 | <i>Dokumentation SA Feldjägerkorps, 1933, approximately 1990</i> |
| 1 | 4 | <i>Einsatz der Gestapo bei der Verfolgung von Zwangsarbeitern im Regierungsbezirk Arnsberg, 1933-1945, approximately 1993</i> |

| | | |
|---|-----|--|
| 1 | 5-6 | <i>Nachschlagewerk einer Sammlung von Anordnungen, Verordnungen, Verfügungen und Erlassen für die Ordnungspolizei und deren Sondereinheiten im Dritten Reich, 1933-1945, 1933</i> |
| 2 | 1 | <i>Nachschlagewerk einer Sammlung von Maßnahmen und Richtlinien über die Verfolgung der Juden durch Reichsregierung und die Gestapostelle Dortmund im Regierungsbezirk Arnsberg, 1933-1945, 1992</i> |
| 2 | 2 | <i>Obituaries and photograph prints, 1951-1997</i> |
| 2 | 3-4 | <i>Polizeiberichte und Tagebuch-Aufzeichnungen über Luftangriffe im Bereich Dortmund, 1939-1945, 1987</i> |
| 2 | 5 | <i>Verfolgung von Religionsgemeinschaften und anderen Minderheiten sowie Niedergang der Gestapo 1945 im Regierungsbezirk Arnsberg, 1933-1945, 1993</i> |