

ILSE LOEWENBERG PAPERS, 1938-1993
1995.A.0589

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Ilse Loewenberg papers

Dates: 1938-1993

Accession number: 1995.A.0589

Creator: Loewenberg, Ilse

Extent: 4 folders

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

Abstract: The Ilse Loewenberg papers primarily contain identification papers, imprisonment documents, correspondence, and clippings related to Ilse Loewenberg's experiences as a member of an underground resistance group and her imprisonment in Berlin, Germany from 1943-1945. Included is a photograph and identification card for her husband Gerhard Grün, government documents related to Ilse's imprisonment in Berlin, a list of the names of those who helped her hide in Berlin, post-war correspondence, and clippings related to Elisabeth Bornstein receiving the Medal of the Righteous for helping hide Ilse in her house during the war.

Languages: German, English

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use.

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), Ilse Loewenberg papers (1995.A.0589), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Ilse Loewenberg donated the Ilse Loewenberg papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995.

Related archival materials: Oral history interview, 1995, USC Shoah Foundation.

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, September 2015

Biographical note

Ilse Loewenberg (1908-2001) was born to shop owners Simon Berghausen (1870-1943) and Hannchen (Goldschmidt) Berghausen (b. 1880) in Büren, Germany. She had three sisters, Margarete (1906-1943) Carla (b. 1911), and Lieselotte (1921-1943). Ilse lived in Büren until 1938 when her parents were forced to sell their store due to persecution by the Nazis. Ilse and her family moved to Berlin, Germany shortly after. She tried to immigrate to England, but was not successful. In the early years of the war, she was a forced labor worker at a Siemens factory. During this time, she met and married her second husband, Gerhard Grün (1906-1943). They joined the underground resistance group Gemeinschaft für Frieden und Aufbau (Association for Peace and Development), and survived with the help of Germans who helped them hide and procure false identification papers. Ilse was arrested and sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp in February 1943. While on the train, she escaped by jumping out of the car near Ruda, Poland. She went back to Berlin and continued to hide. Gerhard was arrested and sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Berlin, where he was shot on March 16, 1943. She was arrested again on October 19th, 1944 and remained in prisons in Berlin until 1945 when she was liberated by Russian troops. She immigrated to the United States in 1948 and settled in Forest Hills, New York. She later married Ludwig Loewenberg (d. 1971).

Simon Berghausen was transported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp on June 17, 1942 and he was killed on July 27, 1943. Lieselotte, Margarete, and her mother were all transported to Auschwitz in 1943 where they perished. Her other sister, Carla, immigrated to England prior to the war, and later immigrated to the United States.

Scope and content of collection

The Ilse Loewenberg papers primarily contain identification papers, imprisonment documents, correspondence, and clippings related to Ilse Loewenberg's experiences as a member of an underground resistance group and her imprisonment in Berlin, Germany from 1943-1945. Included are a photograph and identification card for her husband Gerhard Grün, government documents related to Ilse's imprisonment in Berlin, a list of the names of those who helped her hide in Berlin, post-war correspondence, and clippings related to Elisabeth Bornstein receiving the Medal of the Righteous for helping hide Ilse in her house during the war.

System of arrangement

The Ilse Loewenberg papers are arranged in chronological order.

Indexing terms

World War 1939-1945--Underground movements.

World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prison, German.
Holocaust survivors--Germany.

Büren (Germany)
Berlin (Germany)

CONTAINER LIST

Folder	Title
1	Identification papers; photograph of Gerhard Grün; copy of birth certificate, 1938-1946; 1971
2	Imprisonment documents; list of names of those who helped Ilse, 1944-1945; circa 1960s
3	Correspondence, 1989-1993
4	<i>Der Weg</i> ; clippings, 1946; 1984