Descriptive summary

Title: Albert Rosenberg papers

Dates: 1944-1983 [bulk 1945]

Accession number: 1995.A.0606

Creator: Albert Rosenberg (1918-2014)

Extent: .4 linear feet (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Albert Rosenberg papers contain documents concerning Albert Rosenberg, a German born veteran of the United States Army’s Psychological Warfare Division who led an extensive investigation of the atrocities at Buchenwald concentration camp in the days and weeks immediately following its liberation in 1945. The bulk of this collection is comprised of the original Buchenwald Report typescript prepared by Albert, his Intelligence team and Eugen Kogon in May 1945, along with numerous testimonies and statements contributed by former prisoners.

Language: German, English, French

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.

Acquisition information: Albert Rosenberg donated his papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995 with assistance from his nephew, Mr. Cahn.

Custodial history: The material comprised in the Rosenberg papers were given as a gift to the United States Holocaust Memorial museum by David Hackett on behalf of Albert Rosenberg on April 4, 1995. Along with the manuscript, Albert donated some personal correspondence, copies of Feldpost, and other United States Army documents. These materials were presented to the Museum during an event held for the release of David Hackett’s book The Buchenwald Report.


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

Processing history: Colleen Benoit, February 2016

Biographical note
Albert Rosenberg (1918-2014) was born in Gottingen, Germany. Brought up in a well-to-do Jewish family, he attended school and went on to study at the local university. In the late 1930s, Albert was attacked by a Nazi soldier. After he recovered, he fled Germany for the United States with assistance from his cousins, Edmond and Lenore Cahn. Albert arrived in New York City in November 1937. He later enrolled in law school at the University of Miami but in 1942 was drafted by the United States Army before he finished his studies. He was initially assigned to the air corps and armored branch and later joined the US Army’s Psychological Warfare Division, an intelligence unit. There, Albert used his fluent German, French, and English language skills to interrogate German prisoners and prepare materials that would demoralize German soldiers. As a Second Lieutenant with the division, Albert led an extensive investigation into the establishment, organization, and daily operations of Buchenwald concentration camp, a study he conducted just days after the camp was liberated in April 1945. Known now as the The Buchenwald Report, the investigation sought to study the camp and prepare an official report for the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF). Through the course of the investigation, Albert and his Intelligence team enlisted the help of ten former prisoners, chief among them, Eugen Kogon, a notable Austrian political prisoner held by the Nazis in Buchenwald for nearly six years. With the help of these former prisoners, Albert and the Intelligence team systematically interviewed over 100 detainees regarding their experiences under the order of the SS just days after their liberation. The interrogation period spanned from April 16th until May 11th, 1945 when the report was completed. Due to the fact that the vast majority of interviewees did not speak English, the report was compiled in German, but was never translated to English for use by SHAEF. As a result, the report was never published in its entirety and was only referenced by Kogon in his 1947 work The Theory and Practice of Hell (Der SS-Staat). In the late 1980s, Albert rediscovered his copy of the report in a bedroom closet and donated it to his colleague at the University of Texas El Paso, David A. Hackett, who translated and published it in 1995 as The Buchenwald Report (Westview Press).
After the war, Albert went on to earn a master’s degree in community organization from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. He used his skills to quell race issues in Chicago, Baltimore, New Orleans, and Detroit, among others. He also served the U.S. government as an urban renewal expert in Austria and Belgium and was part of a United Nations Economic Council in Switzerland. In 1980, Albert took a position at the University of Texas El Paso and established a community organization curriculum. Upon retirement in 1990, Albert worked as a therapeutic caseworker with Hospice of El Paso. Albert passed away in December 2014 at the age of 96. 28 members of Albert’s family perished in the Holocaust.

**Scope and content of collection**

The Albert Rosenberg papers is comprised of materials collected by Albert Rosenberg of the United States Army Psychological Warfare Division during his deployment to Europe during World War II. The bulk of this collection is comprised of the original Buchenwald Report typescript prepared by Albert, his Intelligence team, and Eugen Kogen in May 1945, along with numerous testimonies and statements contributed by former prisoners. Correspondence related to the creation of this report is also included in this collection, some of which is between Rosenberg, his colleagues and superiors regarding his mission to compile the Buchenwald report and the repatriation of Eugen Kogon in 1945. Later correspondence details the provenance of this report and publication information. Among the testimonies recorded for the report are several lists documenting survivors of the camps, their nationalities, and situations before the outbreak of war. The prisoner lists include United States Army Air Forces, Royal Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force, politicians and artists, and antifascists. Additionally, there are lists documenting SS camp personnel, executions in Buchenwald, subcamps, and camp statistics. Some lists are in English. Several photographs of Buchenwald in the days immediately after liberation are also contained here within. Also comprised in the collection are materials presumably collected by Albert during his deployment. This includes propaganda leaflets, some of which he may have prepared for use by the Psychological War Division to be directed at German soldiers and civilians, a residence card issued by the Nazi party in 1944, and a press release detailing Kogon’s testimony during the Buchenwald Trials in 1947.

**System of arrangement**

The Albert Rosenberg papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 2: Collected materials, 1945-1947

**Indexing terms**

Rosenberg, Albert (1918-2014).
Kogon, Eugen (1903-1987).

Buchenwald (Concentration camp).
Allied Forces. Supreme Headquarters.
United States--Army.
United States. Army. Psychological Operations Company (Fort Bragg, N.C.)

World War II.

Propaganda, German.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.
Holocaust survivors.
Political prisoners.
World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Liberation.

Gottingen (Germany).

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Buchenwald report and related materials, 1945-1983

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1945-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Correspondence regarding provenance and publication, 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Liberation photographs, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Prisoner identification cards, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Prisoner lists, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Report typescript, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>Testimonies, 1945 (3 folders)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series 2: Collected materials, 1944-1947

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Notebook cover, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Press release, approximately 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Propaganda leaflets, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Residence certificate, 1944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>