

SELMA WIDEROFF PAPERS, 1945-1949
1995.A.1189.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Selma Wideroff papers

Dates: 1945-1949

Accession number: 1995.A.1189.1

Creator: Wideroff, Selma, 1913-2011

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (11 folders)

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

Abstract: The Selma Wideroff papers consist of correspondence, reports, and photographs documenting Selma Wideroff's work for the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in Germany from 1945-1946 in the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp and later at the Blankenese children's center on the Warburg Estate near Hamburg.

Languages: English

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), Selma Wideroff papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Selma Wideroff donated the Selma Wideroff papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995, 2001, and 2004. Accessions previously cataloged as 2001.61.1, 2001.86.1, and 2004.316.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Related material: Selma Wideroff also donated a raincoat (2001.61.2) and a journal (2001.61.3) to the United States Holocaust Memorial 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, December 2014

Biographical note

Selma (Sally) Wideroff (1913-2011) was born Selma Bendremer in New York City. She obtained degrees in child growth and development and joined the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in November 1945. She served first in the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons (DP) camp as the liaison between representatives of the JDC, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and the DP camp's Central Jewish Committee. She also worked to establish educational, recreational and cultural programs. Later she supervised renovation of the Warburg Estate near Hamburg which became the Blankenese children's center for children from Bergen-Belsen without families. She served as the JDC's child welfare specialist at the center. In April 1946 she escorted a group of orphans to Marseilles on the first leg of their journey to Palestine as part of the first postwar Youth Aliyah transport. After she returned home in December 1946, she worked as a field representative for the JDC.

Scope and content of collection

The Selma Wideroff papers consist of correspondence, reports, and photographs documenting Selma Wideroff's work for the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in Germany from 1945-1946 in the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp and later at the Blankenese children's center on the Warburg Estate near Hamburg.

Correspondence and reports include descriptions of Wideroff's work in Europe, the use of the Warburg estate, activities in the British Zone, displaced communities in cities around Germany, directives for education programs. This series also includes JDC letters of introduction and of recommendation for Wideroff, her movement orders, and her reports on her radio interviews about her activities in Europe.

Photographs depict Selma Wideroff and other staff members and children at the Bergen-Belsen DP camp and the Blankenese children's center.

System of arrangement

The Selma Wideroff papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Correspondence and reports, 1945-1949
- Series 2: Photographs, 1945-1946

Indexing terms

DP-Camp Bergen-Belsen.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Child welfare workers--Germany.

Holocaust survivors--Germany.

Refugees--Germany.

Belsen (Bergen, Celle, Germany)

Blankenese (Hamburg, Germany)

Marseilles (France)

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence and reports, 1945-1949

Folder	Title
1	Correspondence and reports, 1945
2	Correspondence and reports, 1946
3	Correspondence and reports, 1947-1949

Series 2: Photographs, 1945-1946

Folder	Title
4	Bergen-Belsen, 1945-1946
5	Bergen-Belsen, Zionist march, 1946 July 4
6	Berlin, 1945-1946
7	Blankenese, 1945-1946
8	Blankenese, before the Marseilles/Palestine trip, 1946 April
9	Marseilles before Youth Aliyah transports, 1946 April
10	Youth Aliyah transport aboard the <i>Champollion</i> in Marseilles just prior to departure for Palestine, 1946 April 17
11	Wideroff, Selma, with children and staff, 1945-1946