

JOE FRIEDMAN PAPERS, 1945-1982 (bulk 1945-1946)
1996.A.0251.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Joe Friedman papers

Dates: 1945-1982 (bulk 1945-1946)

Accession number: 1996.A.0251.1

Creator: Friedman, Joe

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Joe Friedman papers consist of military records; occupation, military, and displaced persons camp life materials; photographs; and printed materials documenting Joe Friedman's work with displaced persons for the Third Army and Military Government, life as part of the occupation force and in the displaced persons camps, the repatriation displaced persons, and Holocaust memorial events held between 1978 and 1982.

Languages: English, 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: (Identification of item), Joe Friedman papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Joe Friedman donated the Joe Friedman papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1996 and 1997. The accession previously cataloged as 1997.A.0037 has been incorporated into this collection.

Related archival materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds a carved wooden block and a carved walking stick donated by Friedman, a written testimony under Friedman's stage name, Joel Frederick, within the 1981 International Liberators Conference collection, and an oral history conducted with Friedman on October 3, 1996. A digital copy of the photograph in this collection depicting the Palestinian Brigade can be viewed on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's website as image 19586, and an oral history conducted with Friedman on April 27, 1998 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive, can also be accessed onsite at the Museum. The Museum's library holds copies of Kathryn Hulme's *The Wild Place* and Fritz Maier-Hartmann's *Die Bauten der NSDAP: In der Hauptstadt der Bewegung*, which were also donated by Friedman.

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, May 2013

Biographical note

Joe Friedman (1920-) was born in St. Joseph, MO. He joined the Army in 1942, was assigned to the Medical Administrative Corps, and landed at Le Havre in December 1944. His unit fought in the Battle of Bastogne and participated in the liberation Ohrdruf. After the German capitulation, Friedman volunteered to remain in Europe to work with displaced persons. He received training at Bamberg, spent two weeks at Wildflecken, and then was sent to Coburg where he witnessed the Soviet forced repatriation of eastern European displaced persons through Lichtenfels. He was then sent to Ansbach and put in charge of several DP camps and the exchange point at Hof. He worked discreetly with the Jewish underground to bring eastern European Jews into the American zone until he was caught and sent home. He worked first as a podiatrist before changing careers, becoming an actor, and adopting Joel Frederick as his stage name.

Scope and content of collection

The Joe Friedman papers consist of military records; occupation, military, and displaced persons camp life materials; photographs; and printed materials documenting Joe Friedman's work with displaced persons for the Third Army and Military Government, life as part of the occupation force and in the displaced persons camps, the repatriation displaced persons, and Holocaust memorial events held between 1978 and 1982.

Military records include correspondence, memoranda, reports, bulletins, and authorizations documenting Friedman's work with displaced persons for the Third Army and Military Government. They include records documenting Friedman's work as a supply officer for the Coburg displaced persons camp, a German truck battalion composed of members of a surrendered Panzer division, payments for disarmed German forces working for the allies, communications from Third Army headquarters, and Friedman's military commendations.

Additional records documenting occupation, military, and displaced persons camp life include the notebook Friedman used to record notes about supplies and tasks, lists of hospital medical personnel and Polish officers, a patch labeled "DPTA 10 Staff Officer Poland Camp Administration," a supplement to a German shopkeeper's denazification questionnaire, and a humorous memorandum guiding the behavior of American soldiers returning home.

Photographs primarily date from approximately 1945-1946 and depict Friedman; the displaced persons camps at Bamberg and Coburg; children, sports, entertainment, supplies, hospitals and a wedding at the camps; UNRRA, Russian, and French personnel; Russian facilitation of the repatriation of eastern European displaced persons through Lichtenfels; and members of the Palestinian Brigade of North Africa. They are accompanied by pages of description provided by Friedman and are arranged according to those page numbers. An additional photograph depicts Joe Friedman and other liberators at a Holocaust remembrance event in 1982.

Printed materials include a handout from the International Military Tribunal, a map tracing the Third U.S. Army's actions during World War II, a U.S. Army publication about Nazi history, and a *Chicago Sun* supplement containing World War II maps, dated 1945-1947, and correspondence, programs, and clippings documenting Holocaust memorial events and Friedman's participation in some of them, dated 1978-1982.

System of arrangement

The Joe Friedman papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Military records, 1945-1946
- Series 2: Occupation, military, and camp life, 1945
- Series 3: Photographs, 1945-1982 (bulk 1945-1946)
- Series 4: Printed materials, 1945-1982

Indexing terms

United States. – Army. – Army, 3rd.

Holocaust survivors – Germany.

Jewish refugees – Germany.

Refugee camps – Germany – History – 20th century.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Forced repatriation.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Anniversaries, etc.

Bamberg (Germany)

Coburg (Germany)

Lichtenfels (Germany)

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Military records, 1945-1946

Box	Folder	
1	1	German truck Battalion attached to the Coburg displaced persons camp, 1945
1	2	Memoranda and bulletins from Headquarters, Third United States Army, 1945
1	3	Payments for Wehrmacht disarmed forces, 1945
1	4-5	Request for transfer to Military Government, commendations, and separation, 1945-1946 (2 folders)
1	6-7	Supplies and requisitions, 1945 (2 folders)
1	8	Miscellaneous, 1945

Series 2: Occupation, military, and camp life, 1945

Box	Folder	
1	9	"Indoctrination for Returning Personnel," approximately 1945
1	10	List of hospital medical personnel, 1945
1	11	List of Polish officers, 1945
1	12	Notebook maintained by Joe Freidman, 1945
1	13	Patch, "DPTA 10 Staff Officer Poland Camp Administration," 1945
1	14	Supplement to Johann Haeutle's denazification questionnaire, 1945

Series 3: Photographs, 1945-1982 (bulk 1945-1946)

Box	Folder	
1	15-17	1-16, Coburg, Lichtenfels, Bamberg, UNRRA, Russian and French personnel, 1945-1946 (3 folders)
1	18	17-20, UNRRA, Coburg, and Lichtenfels, 1945-1946
1	19	21-25, Children, sports, entertainment, and supplies, 1945-1946
1	20-21	26-37, Russian facilitation of Polish repatriation through Lichtenfels, 1945-1946 (2 folders)
1	22	38-41, Coburg, entertainment, and hospital, 1945-1946
1	23	42-46, Coburg and supplies, 1945-1946
1	24	47-53, Wedding, 1945-1946
1	25	54-60, Vehicles, UNRRA, hospital, Russian and French personnel, 1945-1946
1	26	61, Members of the Palestinian Brigade of North Africa, 1945-1946
1	27	Friedman, Joe, with other liberators, 1982

Series 4: Printed materials, 1945-1982

Box	Folder	
1	28	Clippings, 1978-1982

1	29	Handout form the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, 1945
1	30	Map of the Third U.S. Army's actions during World War II, 1945
1	31	Memorial events, 1981-1982
1	32	<i>The Nazi Record</i> , by Information and Education Headquarters, Theater Service Forces European Theater, 1945
1	33	"World Atlas and History of the War in Maps," special supplement to <i>The Chicago Sun</i> , 1947