

FRITZ WEINSCHENK PAPERS, 1912-1998
1999.A.0291

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Fritz Weinschenk papers

Dates: 1912-1998

Accession number: 1999.A.0291

Creator: Weinschenk, Fritz, 1920-2012

Extent: 4.5 linear feet (9 boxes)

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

Abstract: The Fritz Weinschenk papers primarily consist of case files documenting his assistance obtaining witness testimony related to war crimes proceedings in Germany. The case files contain correspondence, witness lists and testimony transcripts, court records, billing records, clippings, and notes. The papers also include Weinschenk's writing files related to articles he wrote about the war crimes trials, and Gestapo Bremen and Abwehr files, which contain guidelines and regulations related to the Gestapo and government security.

Languages: German, 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), Fritz Weinschenk papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Fritz Weinschenk sent part of the Fritz Weinschenk papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1994 and donated the rest in 2001. The accession previously cataloged as 2001.172 has been incorporated into this collection.

Separated material: A dictabelt related to the Josef Mengele file is described separately (RG-91.0120).

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, November 2012, revised October 2019

Biographical note

Fritz Weinschenk (1920-2012) was born in Mainz, Germany but left in 1935 because of Nazi persecution. He volunteered for the U.S. Army immediately after Pearl Harbor and became a naturalized citizen while undergoing his military training. His unit landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day and later served in the Pacific. After the war he returned to Germany to serve in the U.S. Counter Intelligence Corps and worked with the U.S. prosecution team in the trial of German war criminals at Nuremberg. In New York he became one of the "attorneys of confidence" to the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, and from the 1960s to the 1990s he was frequently appointed commissioner by West German courts and prosecutors in proceedings against war criminals. He published articles about the German trials and served as counsel for Nazi victims in hundreds of restitution and indemnification claims.

Scope and content of collection

The Fritz Weinschenk papers primarily consist of case files documenting his assistance obtaining witness testimony related to war crimes proceedings in Germany. The papers also include Weinschenk's writing files related to articles he wrote about the war crimes trials, and Gestapo Bremen and Abwehr files, which contain guidelines and regulations related to the Gestapo and government security.

The war crimes case files document Weinschenk's work with the West German government and West German courts and prosecutors in the prosecution of war criminals from the 1960s to the 1990s. German judicial authorities elicited the help of American lawyers such as Weinschenk to obtain the testimony of the thousands of survivor witnesses who lived in the United States because foreign courts are not allowed to exert subpoena power, many witnesses refused to travel to Germany or were reluctant to testify at all, and German law required that testimony acquired abroad be obtained through hearings conducted according to local procedures.

The case files contain correspondence, witness lists and testimony transcripts, court records, billing records, clippings, and notes. Some of the witness testimony is included in formal reports while other testimony remains in the form of handwritten notes. The Martin Fellenz files contain nine black and white photographs of unidentified Nazi officials. The Weinrich file does not provide Weinrich's first name.

The case files series also contains files documenting research into available aerial photographs of the Auschwitz complex and files documenting Hans Buchheim's expert testimony on the topic of duress. Please note that the files on Auschwitz aerial photography do not contain any photographs.

Case

Augustin, Hans
Brunner, Alois
Czerwinski, Horst
Eichelis, Albert
Fasold, Walter Hermann
Fellenz, Martin
Gerhard, Michael
Grams, Alfred
Härtel, Herbert
Hildebrand, Friedrich

Littschwager, Gerhard
Maywald, Gerhard
Mengele, Josef
Michalsen, Georg
Nehring, Joachim
Niemeier, Heinrich
Rauca, Helmut
Rischke, Robert
Schleef, Hermann
Soltau, Hans
Staatspolizei-Leitstelle in Breslau
Ulbrich, Karl
Von Dollen, Johannes
Wallenschuss, Christof
Weinrich

Location of Crimes

Bilograj, Poland
Salonika deportations and camp at Sered bei Pressburg, Slovakia
Auschwitz sub-camps Golleschau and Lagischa
Rezneke, Latvia
Hasag Pelzery works near Tschenstochau
Przemysl Ghetto
Bilograj, Poland
Hannover-Mühlenberg (subcamp of Neuengamme)
Kolomyja Ghetto
Forced labor camps Boryslaw, Kamionki, Borki Wielki, Mosty Wielki (Poland)
Czortkow and Buczacz, Poland
Riga Ghetto
Auschwitz
Old Airfield Camp at Lublin
Kamionka Strumilowa, Poland
Janinagrube labor camp (subcamp of Auschwitz)
Kaunas, Lithuania
Biesiadka, Dęba, and Huta-Komorowska labor camps
Schaulen (Šiauliai) ghettos (Lithuania)
Ghetto at Opatów and labor camp at Sandomierz (Poland)
Breslau (Germany)
Langenbielau (subcamp of Gross-Rosen)
Gestapo chief of Bilgoraj (Poland)
Torczyn and Luzk Ghetto (Poland)
Poland

Writing files include articles and drafts by Weinschenk, clippings and articles about the Holocaust and war crimes trials, correspondence with publishers and colleagues about his articles, notes, and programs and announcements for events and publications. A March 1979 letter encloses black and white photographs of Weinschenk at a Jewish War Veterans event.

Gestapo Bremen files including Gestapo and Abwehr training course notes, guidelines, and regulations regarding topics such as police powers, technical services, counter-intelligence, espionage, criminal classifications, German émigrés, protection of government leaders, finger printing technology, and homosexuality. These files also include two letters to Dr. Gustav W. Rogge about such regulations. These files are believed to have been acquired by Weinschenk during his service in the U.S. Counter Intelligence Corps.

System of arrangement

The Fritz Weinschenk papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Case files, 1951-1998
- Series 2: Writing files, 1968-1998
- Series 3: Gestapo Bremen and Abwehr guidelines and regulations, 1912, approximately 1935-1942

Indexing terms

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Germany--Geheime Staatspolizei.
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Boryslaw (Concentration camp)
Deba (Concentration camp)
Golleschau (Concentration camp)
HASAG Czestochowianka (Concentration camp)
Huta-Komorowska (Concentration camp)
Janinagrube (Concentration camp)
Kamionki I (Concentration camp)
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Lagischa (Concentration camp)
Langenbielau (Concentration camp)
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War crime trials--Germany (West)
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Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
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CONTAINER LIST

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