

ALZEN FAMILY PAPERS, 1922-1953
2001.205.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Alzen family papers

Dates: 1922-1953

Accession number: 2001.205.1

Creator: Alzen family

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (6 folders)

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

Abstract: The Alzen family papers measure 0.5 linear foot (6 folders) and date from 1922, 1935-1953. The collection includes identity papers, correspondence, and court papers documenting a Catholic farming family's life in Nazi Germany, August Alzen's forced sterilization, Johann Alzen's death at Dachau, and the family's efforts to receive compensation after the war.

Languages: 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), Alzen Family Papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Alzen family papers were purchased by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum from Melcher de Wit in 2001.

Related archival materials: Digital images of the photograph in August Alzen's 1936 *Wehrpass* and of the May 1937 summons and decision regarding his forced sterilization are available on the Museum's website as photographs N09938, N09940-N09942, and N09472.

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, August 2012

Biographical note / Administrative history

Johann Alzen (1885-1945) and his wife, Katharina Baldus Alzen lived in Wieselstein, Germany (today Loučná, Czech Republic) with their four children: Benedikt, August, Agnes, and Albert. In May 1937, August Alzen was summoned to appear before the Hereditary Health Court who ordered his forced sterilization on the grounds of congenital feeble-mindedness. In November 1941, Johann Alzen was convicted of undermining German morale and sentenced to ten years in prison. He was incarcerated in Münster, transferred to Neuengamme in May 1943, to Natzweiler, and then to Dachau in September 1944 where he died in January 1945.

Scope and content of collection

The Alzen family papers measure 0.5 linear foot (6 folders) and date from 1922, 1935-1953. The collection includes identity papers, correspondence, and court papers documenting a Catholic farming family's life in Nazi Germany, August Alzen's forced sterilization, Johann Alzen's death at Dachau, and the family's efforts to receive compensation after the war.

Documents include Agnes Alzen's *Arbeitsbuch*; Albert Alzen's Military Government questionnaire, *Freie Deutsche Liga* membership card, and statement about what happened to his father; August Alzen's *Deutsche Arbeitsfront* membership book, military papers, court summons and sterilization decision; a certificate declaring Benedikt Alzen unfit for military service; Johann Alzen's 1922 passport and letters he wrote to his family from the prison in Münster and from Neuengamme and Dachau; and Katharina Alzen's *Vereinigung der Verfolgten des Naziregimes* membership card and correspondence regarding her efforts to obtain compensation.

System of arrangement

The Alzen family papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Alzen Family Papers, 1922, 1935-1953

Indexing terms

Dachau (Concentration camp)

Neuengamme (Concentration camp)

Political prisoners – Germany.

Involuntary sterilization – Germany.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945).

Farmers – Germany.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Alzen Family Papers, 1922, 1935-1953

Folder	
1	Agnes Alzen, 1935
2	Albert Alzen, 1946-1948, 1953
3	August Alzen, 1935-1940
4	Benedikt Alzen, 1939
5	Johann Alzen, 1922, 1941-1945
6	Katharina Alzen, 1946-1950