

DINO A. BRUGIONI COLLECTION, 1944-2001
2003.433.2

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Dino A. Brugioni collection

Dates: 1944-2001

Accession number: 2003.433.2

Creator: Brugioni, Dino A.

Extent: 4 boxes, 8 oversize boxes, 17 oversize folders

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

Abstract: The collection documents C.I.A. photograph interpreter Dino A. Brugioni's work on the research and analysis of aerial photographs taken of Auschwitz II (Birkenau) by reconnaissance planes in 1944-1945, as well as other Holocaust-related locations. The collection includes prints and negatives of the aerial photographs, correspondence, writings, articles and publications, clippings, and scrapbooks.

Languages:
English

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use.

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), Dino A. Brugioni collection (2003.433.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Dino A. Brugioni in 2003. An accretion was donated in 2014. The collections were unified in December 2022, and the collections previously cataloged as 2003.433.1 and 2014.563.1 comprise this collection.

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, November-December 2022

Biographical note

Dino Antonio Brugioni (December 16, 1921 – September 25, 2015) was a former senior official at the CIA's National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC). During World War II, Brugioni flew in 66 bombardment missions, as well a number of reconnaissance missions, over North Africa, Italy, Germany, Yugoslavia and France. He received the Purple Heart, nine Air Medals and a Distinguished Unit Citation. After the war, he received BA and MA degrees in Foreign Affairs from George Washington University, and joined the CIA in March 1948 and became an expert in Soviet industries. In 1955, he was selected as a member of the cadre of the newly formed Photographic Intelligence Division that would interpret U-2, SR-71 and satellite photography. During his 35-year career, Brugioni helped establish imagery intelligence (now called geospatial intelligence) as a national asset to solve intelligence problems.

In 1979, Brugioni co-authored an article with Robert G. Poirier entitled “The Holocaust Revisited: A Retrospective Analysis of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Extermination Complex” which documented their interpretation and analysis of aerial photographs of the I.G. Farben factories located near Auschwitz III (Buna/Monowitz) taken by the Mediterranean Allied Air Force in 1944-1945. Their research into the photographs revealed that in addition to capturing images of the factories, the cameras were also able to document the layout of Auschwitz II (Birkenau), including evidence of gas chambers and crematoria. Brugioni went on to author numerous other articles related to this topic, as well as the book *Photo Fakery*, an authoritative text on altered and contrived photography.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents C.I.A. photograph interpreter Dino A. Brugioni's work on the research and analysis of aerial photographs taken of Auschwitz II (Birkenau) by reconnaissance planes in 1944-1945, as well as other Holocaust-related locations. The collection includes prints and negatives of the aerial photographs, correspondence, writings, articles and publications, clippings, and scrapbooks.

Series 1. Photographs includes prints and negatives depicting aerial reconnaissance photographs taken by the Mediterranean Allied Air Force of Auschwitz I, Auschwitz II, Auschwitz III, I.G. Farben factories, and other Holocaust-related locations in 1944-1945. Most include the date the photograph was taken, and some also include annotation identifying specific buildings.

Series 2. Correspondence includes letters received by Brugioni after the publication of "The Holocaust Revisited" in 1979, and ongoing discussions regarding the debate around whether or not the Allies could or should have bombed Auschwitz.

Series 3. Writings consists of copies of writings by Brugioni regarding photograph interpretation of aerial photographs taken during World War II, including some drafts, notes, and memorandums. Included is material regarding "The Holocaust Revisited: A Retrospective Analysis of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Extermination Complex," "Aerial Photography: Reading the Past, Revealing the Future," "The Last Days of the Bergen-Belsen Camp," "Why the World War II Photo Interpreters Failed to Identify the Auschwitz-Birkenau Extermination Camp," as well as a copy of his book Photo Fakery.

Series 4. Articles and clippings includes copies of articles, publications, and clippings regarding the Auschwitz bombing debate and different facets of the Holocaust. Additionally, there are photocopies of interrogation reports after reconnaissance flights and several fold-out maps of Germany, Poland, and Austria.

Series 5. Scrapbooks consists of two scrapbooks of clippings and correspondence assembled by Brugioni documenting "The Holocaust Revisited" article.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series.

- Series 1. Photographs, 1944-1945, circa 1979
- Series 2. Correspondence, 1978-2001
- Series 3. Writings, 1978-1999
- Series 4. Articles and clippings, 1944-circa 1990
- Series 5. Scrapbooks, circa 1979

Indexing terms

Person:

Brugioni, Dino A.

Corporate:

- Auschwitz (Concentration camp)
- Dachau (Concentration camp)
- Bergen-Belsen (Concentration camp)
- Sobibor (Extermination camp)
- Treblinka (Concentration camp)
- Ebensee (Concentration camp)
- Belzec (Concentration camp)
- Buchenwald (Concentration camp)
- Majdanek (Concentration camp)
- Westerbork (Concentration camp)

Auschwitz-Birkenau (Concentration camp)
Monowitz (Concentration camp)
Mittelbau-Dora (Concentration camp)
I.G. Farbenindustrie Aktiengesellschaft.

Topical Subject:
World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations.
Aerial photography.
Photographic interpretation (Military science)
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Geography:
Amsterdam (Netherlands)
Poland.
Germany.

Genre/Form:
Correspondence.
Clippings.
Photographs.
Negatives.
Scrapbooks.
Publications.
Articles.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Photographs, 1944-1945, circa 1979

Box/Folder	Title
1.1-1.2, OS 1-OS 2	Auschwitz I: Aerial photographs, prints
8.1-8.4	Auschwitz I: Aerial photographs, negatives
1.3-1.4, OS 3-OS 4, 7.1	Auschwitz II: Aerial photographs, prints
8.5, 9.1-9.5, 12.1-12.2	Auschwitz II: Aerial photographs, negatives
1.5	Auschwitz III: Aerial photographs, prints

9.6	Auschwitz III: Aerial photographs, negatives
1.6	Auschwitz: I.G. Farben complex, prints
9.7	Auschwitz: I.G. Farben complex, negatives
1.7	Auschwitz camp photographs, prints
10.1-10.4	Auschwitz camp photographs, negatives
7.2	Amsterdam: Aerial photographs, prints
10.5	Amsterdam: Aerial photographs, negatives
12.3	Amsterdam: Anne Frank House, negatives
1.8	Belzec: Aerial photographs, prints
12.4	Belzec: Aerial photographs, negatives
1.9, OS 5-OS 7, 7.3	Bergen-Belsen: Aerial photographs, prints
11.1	Bergen-Belsen: Aerial photographs, negatives
1.10	Bergen-Belsen: British troops setting camp on fire, print
1.11	Buchenwald: Aerial photograph, print
7.4	Dachau: Aerial photographs, prints
11.2	Dachau: Aerial photographs, negatives
OS 8, 7.5	Ebensee: Aerial photographs, prints
11.3	Ebensee: Aerial photographs, negatives
1.12	Majdanek: Aerial photographs, prints
11.4	Majdanek: Aerial photographs, negatives
OS 9, 7.6	Mittelbau-Dora: Aerial photographs, prints
11.5	Nuremberg: Rallies, negatives
OS 10, 7.7	Sobibor: Aerial photographs, prints
11.6	Sobibor: Aerial photographs, negatives
1.13, OS 11	Treblinka: Aerial photographs, prints

1.14, OS 12	Unidentified camps, prints
11.7	Unidentified camps, negatives
7.8	Westerbork: Aerial photographs, prints
11.8	Westerbork: Aerial photographs, negatives
7.9	Aerial photographs, enlarged photocopies
7.10	Bombers, prints
11.9	Bombers, negatives
11.10	Brugioni, Dino and Robert G. Poirier, negatives, circa 1979
1.15	"Interpretation of Underground Factories" report
1.16	Maps, prints
11.11	Maps, negatives
11.12	Slides of other images in collection
7.11	Empty envelope

Series 2. Correspondence, 1978-2001

Box/Folder	Title
1.17	Correspondence, 1978-1979
1.18	Correspondence, 1981-1987
1.19	Correspondence, 1990-2001
1.20	Hodges, Robert H., 1979-1990

Series 3. Writings, 1978-1999

Box/Folder	Title
2.1	"Aerial Photography: Reading the Past, Revealing the Future," 1984
2.2	"The Holocaust Revisited: A Retrospective Analysis of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Extermination Complex," 1978-1979
2.3	"The Last Days of the Bergen-Belsen Camp," 1985
2.4	<i>Photo Fakery: The History and Techniques of Photographic Deception and Manipulation</i> , 1999
2.5	"Why the World War II Photo Interpreters Failed to Identify the Auschwitz-Birkenau Extermination Complex," 1982-1983
2.6	Articles, drafts, and notes, circa 1978-circa 1990

Series 4. Articles and clippings, 1944-circa 1990

Box/Folder	Title
2.7-2.10	Auschwitz bombing debate, articles and publications
2.11, OS 13	Auschwitz bombing debate, clippings
3.1-3.6	Holocaust, articles and publications
3.7-3.9, OS 14-OS 17	Holocaust, clippings
4.1	Interrogation reports, 1944
4.2	Interrogation reports, 1945
7.12	Interrogation reports, enlarged photocopies
4.3	Maps of Germany, Austria, Poland

Series 5. Scrapbooks, circa 1979

Box/Folder	Title
5	"Holocaust Revisited" Clippings
4.4	"Holocaust Revisited" Clippings, loose material
6	"Holocaust Revisited" Correspondence
4.5	"Holocaust Revisited" Correspondence, loose material