

LOUIS PAPAGEORGE PHOTOGRAPHS, 1945 2004.34.2

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Louis Papageorge photographs

Dates: 1945

Accession number: 2004.34.2

Creator: Papageorge, Louis, 1917-1978

Extent: 0.3 linear foot (3 folders)

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

Abstract: The Louis Papageorge photographs consist of 10 photographs, 16 enlarged photographs, and 8 negatives taken by Papageorge depicting victims of the "Abtnaundorf massacre" at the Leipzig-Thekla subcamp of Buchenwald in April 1945; two street scenes in Hof, Germany, including a group of captured German troops being escorted past the office where Papageorge was stationed in May 1945; and two buildings in Leipzig identified as the city hall and justice building. Leipzig-Thekla was a subcamp of the Buchenwald concentration camp established in 1943 to supply labor for the German war effort. As American troops advanced into Germany, the commandant of Leipzig-Thekla began evacuating the camp in April 1945. The approximately 300 prisoners who were too ill or weak to be transported were sealed into barracks number 5, and the SS guards set the barracks on fire. Those who escaped were shot, electrocuted on the electrified fences, or caught and killed by a Hitler Youth Squad. The 69th Infantry Division uncovered the camp on April 19 and immediately began providing for the fewer than 100 survivors. US Army Signal Corps photographers arrived at the site soon after to document the atrocities, which were referred to as the "Abtnaundorf massacre." Two photographs are mislabeled "Camp Schoenfeld Tetlier-Leipzig," confusing the Leipzig-Thekla camp with the nearby Leipzig-Schönefeld (HASAG) slave labor camps.

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), Louis Papageorge photographs, 2004.34.2, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Elizabeth Mancini, daughter of Louis Papageorge, donated the Louis Papageorge photographs to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2004. Collections accession as 2004.34.1 and 2004.127.1 have been incorporated into 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: Processed by Julie Schweitzer, July 2018.

Biographical note

Louis Papageorge (1917-1978) was born in Washington, DC, to Peter and Elizabeth Papageorge. He served in the US Army during World War II.

Scope and content of collection

The Louis Papageorge photographs consist of 10 photographs, 16 enlarged photographs, and 8 negatives taken by Papageorge depicting victims of the "Abtnaundorf massacre" at the Leipzig-Thekla subcamp of Buchenwald in April 1945; two street scenes in Hof, Germany, including a group of captured German troops being escorted past the office where Papageorge was stationed in May 1945; and two buildings in Leipzig identified as the city hall and justice building. Leipzig-Thekla was a subcamp of the Buchenwald concentration camp established in 1943 to supply labor for the German war effort. As American troops advanced into Germany, the commandant of Leipzig-Thekla began evacuating the camp in April 1945. The approximately 300 prisoners who were too ill or weak to be transported were sealed into barracks number 5, and the SS guards set the barracks on fire. Those who escaped were shot, electrocuted on the electrified fences, or caught and killed by a Hitler Youth Squad. The 69th Infantry Division uncovered the camp on April 19 and immediately began providing for the fewer than 100 survivors. US Army Signal Corps photographers arrived at the site soon after to document the atrocities, which were referred to as the "Abtnaundorf massacre." Two photographs are mis-labeled "Camp Schoenfeld Tetlier-Leipzig," confusing the Leipzig-Thekla camp with the nearby Leipzig-Schönefeld (HASAG) slave labor camps.

System of arrangement

The Louis Papageorge photographs are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Leipzig-Thekla (Concentration camp)

World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Liberation--Germany.

World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities--Germany.

Prisoners of war--German--Germany--Hof (Hof)--1940-1950.

War damage--Germany--Leipzig--1940-1950.

Dead persons--Germany--Leipzig--1940-1950.

Leipzig (Germany)

Hof (Hof, Germany)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Photographs, 1945

Folder	Title
1 of 3	Abtnaundorf massacre, Leipzig-Thekla camp, April 1945
2 of 3	Hof, Germany, May 1945
3 of 3	Leipzig, Germany, 1945