

**CARL ATKIN PAPERS, 1944-1969 [BULK 1945-1946]
2007.162**

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: Carl Atkin papers

Dates: 1944-1969 [bulk 1945-1946]

Accession number: 2007.162

Creators: Carl Atkin (1903-1976)

Extent: 19 folders

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

Abstract: The Carl Atkins papers comprise documents and photographs related to the his work as the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration director of the Deggendorf displaced persons camp between 1945 and 1946. Materials include an illustrated song book, clippings from the camp's newspaper, *Deggendorf Center Revue*, and a memory book created by members of the camp for Carl upon his departure in 1946. Several of Atkin's identification cards are also included here, as are biographical materials, including a resume and partial memoir. The photographs in this collection include images of General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General Joseph T. McNary's visit sometime around 1945.

Language: 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 if item), Carl Atkin papers (2007.162) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Richard Katz donated his stepfather's collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on April 30, 2007 with the assistance of Sharon Koon.

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

Related materials: The collection also includes a pinned ribbon for a reception for David Ben-Gurion (2007.162.2), a set of UNRRA scrip (2007.162.3 - 2007.162.8), and a watercolor (2007.162.9).

Processing history: Colleen Benoit, April 2016

Biographical note

Carl Atkin was born in Kings, New York in 1903, where he attended public schools and completed high school in 1922. He worked as a newspaper reporter for the Standard News Association for a period of time before taking a job with the Office of Emergency Management and the U.S. Treasury Department. In 1944 he applied for a job at the newly formed international aid organization, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and accepted a position on the day President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died, April 12, 1945. By July 1945, Atkin arrived in Heidelberg, Germany and was appointed the director of UNRRA Team 55, which took over the management of the Deggendorf displaced persons camp. Deggendorf, located in Bavaria, was established in the former Wehrmacht barracks and housed primarily survivors from Theresienstadt. Upon the UNRRA's arrival, the camp lacked nearly all basic necessities including adequate housing, clothing, food, and medical care. Under Atkin's direction, the camp established a hospital, a home for the elderly, a synagogue, kosher kitchen, and a number of schools, including an elementary school, kindergarten and a *Talmud Torah*. The camp also boasted an active social life, two camp newspapers, and a Jewish representative body. Atkin departed the camp in 1946 and returned to the United States and left the UNRRA in 1947. Atkin took on a number of jobs after leaving the UNRRA, though he stayed active in humanitarian causes by participating in speaking engagements. He died in Los Angeles, California at the age of 73.

Scope and content of collection

The Carl Atkins papers comprise documents and photographs related to the his work as the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration director of the Deggendorf displaced persons camp between 1945 and 1946. Materials regarding the camp include an illustrated song book, clippings from the camp's newspaper, *Deggendorf Center Revue*, and a memory book created by members of the camp for Atkin upon his departure in 1946. The book is titled "A Memory of Good Friendship in Hard Days" and includes several illustrations and chapters describing Atkin's contributions to improving the camp conditions and bettering the refugees' quality of life. The book describes in great detail the various mechanisms that he had put into place to aid the survivors as well as many statistics about the survivors themselves. Several of Atkin's identification cards are also comprised here within, including a military entry permit and his certificate of registration. Correspondence relating to his assignment and departure as the director of Deggendorf is also included, as is a statement that he made regarding the specific needs of Jewish Holocaust survivors in the period immediately following their liberation. The photographs in this collection depict the camp, presumably during Atkin's tenure as director, and include images of General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General Joseph T. McNary's visit sometime

around 1945, children in the camp, and other visitors. Among the biographical materials in this collection are awards Carl won, clippings about him and his humanitarian work in the years beyond his service with the UNRRA, his resume, and one page of a memoir he started.

System of arrangement

The Carl Atkin papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1944-1969 and undated
- Series 2: Deggendorf displaced persons camp and UNRAA materials, 1945-1947
- Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1945

Indexing terms

Atkin, Carl (1903-1976).

Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969--Military leadership.

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp).

Dachau (Concentration camp).

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Holocaust survivors--Germany--Deggendorf.

Jewish refugees--Germany--Deggendorf.

Refugee camps--Germany--Deggendorf.

Deggendorf (Germany).

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1944-1969 and undated

Folder	Title
1	Awards and certificates, 1947-1951
2	Clippings, 1969
3	Israeli Prime Minister visit ribbon, invitation, and clipping, 1951
4	Job appointment, 1944
5	Memoir and related correspondence, 1963 and undated
6	Resume, approximately 1960

Series 2: Deggendorf displaced persons camp and UNRRA materials, 1945-1947

Folder	Title
7	Artwork (illustrated diary), 1945
8	Correspondence, 1946-1947
9	<i>Deggendorf Center Revue</i> clippings, 1945
10	Identification cards, 1945
11	Immunization records, 1945-1946

12	Memory book dedicated to Carl Atkin, 1945
13	Song book, approximately 1945
14	Statement regarding needs of Jewish refugees, 1946

Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1945

Folder	Title
15	Carl Atkin and camp visitors, approximately 1945
16	Children in the camp, approximately 1945
17	Dachau crematory, approximately 1945
18	General Eisenhower visit, approximately 1945
19	Jewish Congress, approximately 1945