

**SYDNEY GOODMAN PAPERS, approximately 1944-2005 and undated (bulk 1944-1999)  
2011.148.2**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Sydney Goodman papers

Dates: approximately 1944-2005 (bulk 1944-1999)

Accession number: 2011.148.2

Creator: Goodman, Sydney, 1917-2005

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Sydney Goodman papers include a diary, correspondence, subject files, and photographs relating to Sydney's experiences as a Jewish American soldier who was captured as a POW during the Battle of the Bulge and sent to Stalag IX B and Berga an der Elster as a forced laborer.

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), Sydney Goodman papers (2011.148.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Grace Goodman and Karen Goodman donated the Sydney Goodman papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2011 and 2018, respectively. The accessions previously numbered 2011.148.1 and 2018.425.1 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](https://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Processing history: Morgan Voth, April 2018. Edited by Morgan Voth, October 2018.

### **Biographical note**

Sydney Goodman (1917-2005) was a Jewish American soldier born in Detroit, Michigan where he owned a body shop. In 1940 he married Grace Goldberg and they had three daughters, Karen (b. 1941), Judith, and Barbara. In November 1943 Sydney enlisted into the U.S. Army and was deployed to Germany in August 1944 with the 110th Infantry Regiment of the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. During the Battle of the Bulge on 17 December 1944, Sydney was captured by German forces in Luxenberg and was sent to Stalag IX B, a German prisoner-of-war camp, in Bad Orb, Germany. He was one of 350 American soldiers sent to the forced labor camp Berga an der Elster, a sub-camp of Buchenwald concentration camp. During his time as a POW, Sydney wrote on the back of family photographs he had with him documenting his experiences as well as keeping a list of those who were killed. After the camp was liberated by American troops in 1945, Sydney spent several months in a hospital in England before returning home to Michigan.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Sydney Goodman papers include a diary, correspondence, subject files, and photographs relating to Sydney's experiences as a Jewish American soldier who was captured as a POW during the Battle of the Bulge and sent to Stalag IX B and Berga an der Elster as a forced laborer.

Sydney began his diary shortly before he was captured in 1944 and continued writing until liberation in 1945. He wrote on the back of 36 family photographs about his experiences as a POW at Stalga IXB and Berga and kept a list of those who died.

Correspondence includes telegrams and letters from the War Department to Grace Goodman notifying her that Sydney was missing in action, a POW, and of his return to the United States as well as Sydney's correspondence with the War Department regarding the list of names he kept while a POW and information regarding his honorable discharge from the Army. This series also includes correspondence with Charles Vogel, an attorney building a case against two Berga commanders, as well as miscellaneous correspondence with others about their POW experiences and search for answers.

Subject files include testimonies from survivors of Berga, including Sydney Goodman, restitution files for Sydney seeking reparations for his time as a POW, and wartime and postwar newspaper clipping and articles relating to American soldiers imprisonment in Berga, the trial against German commanders at Berga, and articles about Sydney and his experiences.

Photographs include a photograph of Sydney with his daughter, Karen, prior to the war and a photograph of Sydney on a visit back to Berga.

### **System of arrangement**

The Sydney Goodman papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Diary, 1944-1945 and undated
- Series 2: Correspondence, approximately 1945-1995

- Series 3: Subject Files, approximately 1944-2005 and undated
- Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1940s

### **Indexing terms**

Goodman, Sydney

Goodman, Grace

Vogel, Charles

Berga (Concentration camp)

Stalag XI B

United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 110th

United States. Army. Infantry Division, 28th

Forced labor--Germany.

World War, 1939-1945--Reparations.

World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons, German.

World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives.

Jewish soldiers--United States.

Bad Orb (Germany)

Berga (Thuringia, Germany)

Luxemburg (Germany)

Diaries.

Correspondence.

Photographs.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Series 1: Diary, 1944-1945 and undated**

Box/Folder	Title
1.1-1.2	Diary, 1944-1945 (2 folders)
1.3	Copy prints, undated

### **Series 2: Correspondence, approximately 1945-1995**

Box/Folder	Title
1.4	War Department, 1945-1946
1.5	Vogel, Charles, approximately 1946-1950
1.6	Miscellaneous, approximately 1985-1995

### **Series 3: Subject Files, approximately 1944-2005 and undated**

Box/Folder	Title
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1.7-1.8	Restitution files, 1995-1999 (2 folders)
1.9	Berga testimonies, approximately 1945 and undated
1.10-1.11	Newspaper clipping and articles, approximately 1944-2005 (2 folders)

**Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1940s**

Box/Folder	Title
1.12	Goodman family, approximately 1940s