

H. FRANK BRULL PAPERS, 1922-1951
2013.377.1

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: H. Frank Brull papers

Dates: 1922-1951

Accession number: 2013.377.1

Creator: Brull, H. Frank, 1921-2011

Extent: 1.1 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The H. Frank Brull papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and printed materials documenting H. Frank Brull's infancy in Berlin, his immigration to the United States without his parents in 1933, his military service during World War II, and his visit to the liberated Mauthausen concentration camp.

Languages: German, 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), (Folder title), (Box number), H. Frank Brull papers, 2013.377.1, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Gift of Ellen Brull, 2013.

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 Brad Bauer, 2013, revised by Julie Schweitzer, 2018.

Biographical note

H. Frank Brull (1921-2011) was born Hans Frans Brull in Berlin to Victor and Ellen Brull. After the Nazis came to power in 1933 and began implementing anti-Jewish measures, his parents sent him to live with relatives, Blanche and Sigurd Nathan, in New York. When this arrangement did not work out and he was on the verge of being sent back to Germany in early 1934, the wife of Rabbi Stephen Wise arranged for Brull to live with a foster parent in New York. Brull's father was arrested after Kristallnacht and sent to Dachau. Following his release, he and Brull's mother immigrated to Australia, and Brull did not see them again until the late 1940s. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army in military intelligence, interrogating captured German prisoners-of-war. Following the war, he remained in Europe, serving as an aid worker with UNRRA. Upon returning to the United States, he attended City College in New York, earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania, and worked as a social worker in Minneapolis, for Jewish Children's Services Chicago, and for thirty years at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois.

Scope and content of collection

The H. Frank Brull papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and printed materials documenting H. Frank Brull's infancy in Berlin, his immigration to the United States without his parents in 1933, his military service during World War II, and his visit to the liberated Mauthausen concentration camp.

The collection contains correspondence, photographs, maps, travel brochures, printed materials, documenting the immigration of Hans Frans Brull (later H. Frank Brull) to the United States as a child, correspondence from his parents in Berlin, travel itineraries and brochures from the cruise ship line on which he traveled to the United States; photographs of Brull as a child, his parents, and classmates in Berlin; and booklets and printed material from his military career, as well as a transcript of opening statements at one of the Allied military tribunals held in Nuremberg, 1947.

Biographical materials include a diary that Ellen Brull wrote about her infant son in the first couple of years of his life, circa 1922-1923, a 1931 Berlin swimming certificate, and travel records related to H. Frank Brull's immigration to the United States in 1933 and his trip to Australia in 1951, presumably to see his parents.

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence, mostly from 1933-1934, that relates to the departure of Hans Brull for the United States, and includes letters and cards from family, friends and classmates; correspondence to Brull from his parents during his trip and in the year following his arrival in the United States; correspondence with various guardians of Brull, including Sigurd and Blanche Nathan, Gerda Stein, and those who sought to help Brull, such as Anna Nathan and Mrs. Stephen Wise. An aunt and uncle living in Tianjin, China, Leo and Grete Brull, also wrote to Hans to encourage him during this difficult time, and to offer the possibility of eventually moving there to live with them. The correspondence reflects the difficult circumstances of Hans Brull's life with his first foster family in New York, and the perception that he felt his parents had abandoned him by sending him to New York. The section of the correspondence that summarizes these events best is the file from Brull's second guardian, Gerda Stein, as she relays events back to Brull's parents in her correspondence to them (see letter of 29 May 1934).

The series of photographs includes images of Brull from his childhood and adolescence, photos taken in Europe during Brull's military service there, including images from a visit to the Mauthausen concentration camp, photos from a family photo album documenting a trip to Austria in the 1920s, and a portrait of Victor and Ellen Brull.

Printed material and reports include a German film magazine that he discussed with his friends in his correspondence, news clippings, and a copy of a transcript of the opening statement of the prosecution in the International Military Tribunals at Nuremberg, from case 8, the RuSHA (Rasse und Siedlungshauptamt) case, dated 20 October 1947.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series:

- I. Biographical materials, 1922-1951
- II. Correspondence, 1933-1945
- III. Photographs, approximately 1926-late 1940s
- IV. Printed materials and reports, 1933-1947

Indexing terms

Brull, H. Frank, 1921-2011

Mauthausen (Concentration camp)
International Military Tribunal.
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Jews, German--United States--Correspondence.
Jews--Persecutions--Germany--Berlin.
Jews--Germany--Berlin.
Jewish refugees--New York (State)--New York.

Germany--Emigration and immigration.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical material, 1922-1951

Folder	Title
1.1	Diary: Ellen Brull, writing about infancy of Hans, 1922-1923
1.2	Swimming certificate, Wellenbad Luna Park, Berlin, 1931
1.3	Travel: Hans Brull's trip to U.S., 1933, general documents
1.4	Travel: Hans Brull's trip to U.S., 1933, ship brochures and schedules
1.5	Travel: H. Frank Brull's trip to Australia, 1951

Series 2: Correspondence, 1933-1945

Folder	Title
1.6	Berendsen, Henny (maternal grandmother), 1933
1.7	Brull family, Vienna (paternal grandmother, Uncle Julius), 1933
1.8	Brull, Frank (Hans), to Gerda Stein, 1945
1.9	Brull, Frank (Hans), to Beatrice Steegmiller, 1945
1.10	Brull, Leo and Grete, Tianjin, (includes letter to Gerda Stein), 1933-1934
1.11	Brull, Victor and Ellen, Berlin, to Hans, 1933-1934
1.12	Brull, Victor and Ellen, Berlin, to caregivers (Mrs. Wise, Gerda Stein), 1933-1934
1.13	Brull, Victor and Ellen, Berlin, to Anna Nathan, 1933-1934
1.14	Brull, Victor and Ellen, Berlin, to Sigurd and Blanche Nathan, 1933-1934
1.15	Friends and family: aunts, 1933-1934
1.16	Friends and family: farewell greetings, 1933
1.17	Friends and family: general, 1933-1934
1.18	Heller family, Berlin, 1933-1936
1.19	Maier family, Heidelberg, 1933
1.20	Nathan, Anna, 1933-1934
1.21	Nathan, Sigurd and Blanche, 1934
1.22	Pick, Ilse (shipmate on Brull's journey to U.S.), 1933
1.23	Stein, Gerda, 1934-1938
1.24	Wise, Mrs. Stephen, 1934

Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1920-late 1940s

Folder	Title
1.25	Hans Brull as child, circa 1926-1933
1.26	Hans Brull as child, large format photo album pages
1.27	Hans Brull with father, Uncle Julius, other family, circa early 1930s
1.28	Hans Brull, with school class, Berlin, undated, circa 1933
1.29	Hans Brull, as adolescent, circa early 1940s
1.30	H. Frank Brull, as UNRRA officer, circa 1945
1.31	H. Frank Brull and others visiting Mauthausen, circa 1945
1.32	H. Frank Brull, various scenes from service in U.S. Army or UNRRA, undated
1.33	Hans Brull, undated, circa late 1940s
OS 1	Vacation photographs, 1920s
1.34	Victor and Ellen Brull, 1944 and undated
2.1	People, unidentified (Europe, 1940s)
2.2	Places, unidentified (Europe, 1940s)

Series 4: Printed materials and reports, 1933-1947

Folder	Title
2.3	Magazine: <i>Illustrierte Film Kurier</i> , 1933 [feature article about film, "S.O.S Eisberg," referenced by Brull in letters to friends]

2.4	"Military Tribunal I, Case No. 8: The United States of America against Ulrich Greifelt, et.al., defendants. Opening Statement for the United States of America. Nurnberg [sic], 20 October 1947." Mimeographed, 47 pp.
2.5	News clipping: "Garden Rally Indicts Hitler..." [features Rabbi Stephen Wise], New York Herald Tribune, March 8, 1934
2.6	Newspaper: Welscher Zeitung, Wels, Austria, 8 May 1945