

**DR. JOHN D. SINGER CORRESPONDENCE, 1944-1946**  
**2016.283.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Dr. John D. Singer correspondence

Dates: 1944-1945

Accession number: 2016.283.1

Creator: Singer, John D.

Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear foot)

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

Abstract: Correspondence from John D. Singer, M.D., during the period when he served in Europe with the United States Army, Third Army, 773rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, as a surgeon and commanding medical officer, 1944-1945. The letters, addressed to his wife Genise in Illinois, describe various experiences, including the first post-liberation Jewish New Year's celebration at a synagogue in Nancy, France, in September 1944; and his experiences visiting and working as a doctor at the newly-liberated camp of Buchenwald in April 1945. Collection also contains a copy print photograph of Singer in his army uniform, and photocopied documents pertaining to his military service.

Languages: 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 of item), Dr. John D. Singer correspondence (2016.283.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Gift of Deborah Silvestri and Susan Siegel, daughters of John D. Singer, 2016.

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

Processing history: Processed by Brad Bauer, August 2016.

### **Biographical note**

John David Singer was born on 25 December 1904, near Mogilev, in the Russian Empire. When he was around 7 or 8 years old, he immigrated to the United States with his mother, and they settled in Chicago. They lived on the northwest side of Chicago, where he attended Tooley High School. He obtained a degree as a doctor of medicine (MD) from the University of Illinois in 1931, and after that, both had a general medical practice in Chicago, where he focused on internal medicine, and he served as a lecturer in the medical school at the University of Illinois from 1939 to 1942. In 1935, he married Genise Adler, and the Singers had three children: Loren, Susan, and Deborah. During World War II, he volunteered to serve in the medical corps of the United States Army, entering service in November 1942. He was assigned to the Third Army, 773rd Tank Battalion, in the European Theatre, initially as a surgeon at the rank of captain, and subsequently as commanding medical officer in that battalion, at the rank of major. He saw action with the 773rd in France and Germany, including heavy fighting in the region of the Moselle and Saar Rivers, where he participated in the capture of a German fort and administered a hospital that treated wounded German prisoners-of-war. In April 1945, he was present at the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp, and supervised the treatment of liberated prisoners and displaced persons. He was honorably discharged from active service in November 1945, and was honored by the French government with a Croix de Guerre for his service with the 773rd in 1946. Returning to Chicago, he resumed his medical practice, working at Edgewater Hospital, where he practiced medicine for close to fifty years, including several years as chief of staff.

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

The Dr. John D. Singer correspondence consists of letters sent from John D. Singer, M.D., during the period when he served in Europe with the United States Army, Third Army, 773rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, as a surgeon and commanding medical officer, 1944-1945. The letters, addressed to his wife Genise in Illinois, describe various experiences, including the first post-liberation Jewish new year's celebration at a synagogue in Nancy, France, in September 1944; and his experiences visiting and working as a doctor at the newly-liberated camp of Buchenwald in April 1945. Collection also contains photographs of Singer in his army uniform, photocopied documents pertaining to his military service, samples of German propaganda leaflets directed at Allied forces, and a report from the 773rd Tank Battalion, September 1944, summarizing their landing at Normandy in August 1944, and subsequent engagements with German forces.

### **System of arrangement**

The John D. Singer correspondence is divided into two series: I. Correspondence, II. Other documents. The first series is arranged in chronological order, the second in alphabetical order by folder title.

### **Indexing terms**

#### *Corporate headings:*

United States. Army. Tank Destroyer Battalion, 773rd.

#### *Topical headings:*

United States. Army--Medical personnel--Correspondence.

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

Buchenwald (Concentration camp)

World War, 1939-1945--Medical care--United States.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--Western Front.

World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns--France.

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

Jews--France--Nancy.

Propaganda, German.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### Series 1: Correspondence

1944

1	1	January-February
1	2	March
1	3	April
1	4	May
1	5	June
1	6	July
1	7	August
1	8	September
1	9	October
1	10	November
1	11	December

1945

1	12	January
1	13	February
1	14	March
1	15	April
1	16	May
1	17	June
1	18	July-August

### Series 2: Other papers

1	19	Documents related to military service and honors (photocopies)
1	20	Photographs of John D. Singer
1	21	Propaganda leaflets, German
1	22	Report: U.S. Army, 773 <sup>rd</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion, "Report after Operations Against the Enemy," 9 September 1944.