

**DRANCY: NOTES DE SERVICE ET
NOTES DU COMMANDANT DU CAMP, 1943-1944
RG-43.148M, Acc. 1998.A.0107**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Drancy: Notes de Service et Notes du Commandant du Camp.

Dates: 1943-1944.

Accession number: 1998.A.0107, RG-43.148M.

Creator: Drancy (Concentration camp)

Extent: 5 microfiche sheets.

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

Abstract: The collection consists of *notes de service* from the Jewish camp commandants covering a period from the assumption of direct administrative control of the camp by the Germans in early July 1943 to the winding down of camp operations in August 1944.

Languages: French.

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use, but may be 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), Drancy: Notes de service et notes du Commandant du Camp, RG-43.148M, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Microfilm copies obtained from the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine (CDJC) of the Mémorial de la Shoah, 1998.

Existence and location of originals:
Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine
Mémorial de la Shoah
17, rue Geoffroy l'Asnier
75004 Paris
FRANCE
tel. +33-(0)1 42 77 44 72
www.memorialdelashoah.org

Related archival materials: Archives de Drancy (1998.A.0106) contains additional material which more broadly documents the internal workings of the camp.

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

Processing history: Joel Horowitz, June 2013.

Administrative history

Drancy was established in August 1941 as an internment camp for Jews in France, and later developed into a transit camp for deportations. Initially overseen by the French police, in early July 1943 the camp was taken over by the SS through Alois Brunner. He continued to oversee it until the Germans withdrew in August 1944.

Much of the camp administration was staffed by Jewish inmates, who in exchange were granted some protection against deportation. Inmates were grouped into 22 escaliers in five blocs (bloc 1 had escaliers numbers 1-5, bloc 2 numbers 6-9, bloc 3 numbers 11-12, bloc 4 numbers 13-17, and bloc 5 numbers 18-22). Over this ruled a hierarchy of chefs de chambre, chefs d'escalier and chefs de bloc.

At the top of this structure and overseeing the chefs de service was the "commandant juif," claiming the title of "Commandant du Camp Drancy." Three individuals served in this capacity during the period of German administration:

- Jul. 5-Nov. 11, 1943 Robert-Felix Blum (Lieutenant-Colonel Blum)
- Nov. 22, 1943-Apr. 18, 1944 Georges Schmidt
- Apr.-Aug. 1944 Emmanuel Langberg

A rough outline of the camp services is included in a related collection:

- Commandant
 - Liaisons: Missions Exterieures
 - Chancellerie Effectifs
 - Liaison: Autorités Allemandes
 - Service Social
 - Service Postal
 - Magasin: Equipe Individuel

- Régie-UGIF Achats
 - Ateliers et Charbon
 - Cordonnerie
 - Tailleurs couturiers
 - Ouvroir
 - Charbon
 - Travaux et Matériel
 - Approvists
 - Magasin Collectif
 - Recuperation
 - Service Electricité Plomberie
 - Peinture Vitrierie
 - Menuiserie
- Economat
 - Alimentation
 - Pain
 - Epicerie
 - Legumes
 - Boucherie
 - Cuisines
 - Epluches
- Service Médical
 - Hygiène
 - Douches
 - P. et G.
 - Couiffeurs
 - Vidanges
 - Baunderie
 - Dispensaire
 - Infirmeries
 - Nourrissons
 - Service Dentaire
 - Pharmacie
- M.S.
- Encadrement
 - Corvées

Camp services included the “missionary service” which encouraged the families of internees to join them in Drancy voluntarily, only to be deported together on their arrival, and the M.S. an “internal surveillance service” staffed by internees created in Sep. 1942 under the command of the police.

Brunner defined the status of inmates through a coding system:

- **A:** Aryans, conjoint d’Aryans et demi-Juifs
- **B:** Détenus hors categories (priority for deportation)
- **C1:** Cadres du Camp

- **C2:** Resortissants de nationalités protégées (nationality of a country not occupied by Germany including Britain and the United States)
- **C3:** Femmes et POWs
- **C4:** People awaiting the arrival of family being sought by missionaries

Later in July this was revised further:

- **A:** Travaileurs á l'Ouest
- **B:** Travaileurs á l'Est
- **C1:** Travaileurs du Camp (non-deportable)
- **C2:** Nationaux Reconnus (non-Algerians with French citizenship from before 1936)
- **C3:** Femmes de Prisonniers
- **C4:** En attente de decision (as above, people awaiting the arrival of family for deportation)
- **C5:** Roumains (subject to deportation)

Scope and content of collection

The collection consists of *notes de service* from the Jewish camp commandants covering a period from the assumption of direct administrative control of the camp by the Germans in early July 1943 to the winding down of camp operations in August 1944.

For reasons that are not entirely clear, the first sleeve, "Notes de Service", covers only the periods when Robert Blum and George Schmidt were commandants du camp. "Notes du Commandant du Camp" covers the administrations of all three Jewish commandants.

System of arrangement

The sheets in the first sleeve were numbered backwards, with the first 53 notes being on sheet 3, the next group on sheet 2, and the final group on sheet 1.

Although the collection is divided into "Notes de Service" and "Notes du Commandant du Camp," both are actually the same type of documents. They cover overlapping periods of time and the "Notes de Service" are labeled as having been issued by "Le Commandant du Camp."

The "Notes du Commandant du Camp" contain duplicates of many of the documents in the "Notes de Service" section in addition to original documents. Although arranged somewhat out of order, the "Notes du Commandant" are roughly in reverse chronological order.

Indexing terms

Drancy (Concentration camp)
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--France.
World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--France.

CONTAINER LIST

Sleeve	Cote	Sheet	No.	
1	DLXII (562)			
1	DLXII (562)	3	1-53	"Notes de Service" 1-53; 6 Jul.-4 Aug. 1943
1	DLXII (562)	2	54-138	"Notes de Service" 54-138; 5 Aug.-11 Oct. 1943
1	DLXII (562)	1	139-221	"Notes de Service" 139-221; 11 Oct. 1943-18 Apr. 1944
2	DLXII (562)			
2	DLXII (562)	1		"Notes du Commandant du Camp"; 8 Oct. 1943-10 Aug. 1944
2	DLXII (562)	2		"Notes du Commandant du Camp"; 6 Jul.-7 Oct. 1943