

**FONDS SERGE KLARSFELD (MDCII), 1964-1994**  
**2017.23.1, RG-43.163**

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

Title: Fonds Serge Klarsfeld (MDCII)

Dates: 1964-1994

Accession number: 2017.23.1

Record Group Number: RG-43.163

Creator: Serge Klarsfeld

Extent: 41,817 digital images (JPEG)

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

**Abstract:** Personal archives of Serge Klarsfeld, is a French activist and Nazi hunter known for documenting the Holocaust in order to establish the records to enable the prosecution of war criminals

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.

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Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Fonds Serge Klarsfeld (MDCII), 1964-1994. RG-43.163, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information:

Source of acquisition is the Memorial to the Shoah, Jewish Contemporary Documentation Center (Mémorial de la Shoah, Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine), France. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum received the filmed collection via the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Archival Programs Division in February 2017.

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](http://www.memorialdelashoah.org)

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

Processing history: Aleksandra Borecka, February 2017. The French inventory and aiding aid (Guide) provided by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Archival Programs Division.

**Biographical Information**

Serge Klarsfeld (born 17 September 1935) is a French activist and Nazi hunter known for documenting the Holocaust in order to establish the records to enable the prosecution of war criminals. Serge Klarsfeld was born in Bucharest to a family of Romanian Jews. They migrated to France before the Second World War began. In 1943, his father was arrested by the SS in Nice during a roundup ordered by Alois Brunner. Deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp, Klarsfeld's father died there. Young Serge was cared for in a home for Jewish children operated by the OSE (Œuvre de secours aux enfants) organization; his mother and sister also survived the war in Vichy France, helped by the underground French Resistance beginning in late 1943. Since the 1960s, he has made notable efforts to commemorate the Jewish victims of German-occupied France and has been a supporter of Israel. He helped found and have led the Sons and Daughters of Jewish Deportees from France (Association des fils et filles des déportés juifs de France) or FFDJF. It is one of the groups that has documented cases and located former German and French officials for prosecution such as Klaus Barbie, René Bousquet, Jean Leguay, Maurice Papon and Paul Touvier, who have been implicated in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of French and foreign Jews during the Second World War. The Klarsfelds were among organized groups who filed cases decades after the war, sometimes as late as the 1990s, against such officials for their crimes against humanity.

In the years before 1989 and the break-up of the Soviet Union, the Klarsfelds (Serge Klarsfeld and his wife Beate) frequently protested against the Eastern Bloc's support for the PLO and anti-Zionism. Recognition for their work has included France's Legion of Honor in 1984. In 1986, their story was adapted as an American television film starring Tom Conti, Farrah Fawcett and Geraldine Page. In 2008, a French television movie was made about them.

On 1 January 2014, the Klarsfelds' Legion of Honor ranks were upgraded: Serge became Grand officer. On 26 October 2015, the UNESCO designate the Klarsfelds as "Honorary Ambassadors and Special Envoys for Education about the Holocaust and the Prevention of Genocide". Source: Online-Wikipedia

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

Personal archives of Serge Klarsfeld, including are correspondence (personal, legal, administrative, telegrams), handwritten and typewritten notes, administrative documents, partial or complete reproductions of works, colloquia, collections of documents, collection of original or reproduced testimonies, collection of press articles and photos gathered by Serge Klarsfeld, and his research on the deportation of Jews from France. The collected administrative documents were themselves produced by the different organs of the Reich, its occupying authorities in France, the administration of the Vichy government, and Belgium under the occupation. Collected archives also relate to trials of Nazi criminals and their collaborators (contains files of Nazi criminals), anti-Semitism, Holocaust denial, and children in the Holocaust.

### **System of arrangement**

Arranged in two series:

1. Personal archives
2. Collected archives.

### **References**

Oral history interview, USHMM, RG-50.498\*0011, Acc. 2001.5.11: The interview was conducted with Beate Klarsfeld in France on June 24, 1997. Beate Klarsfeld, born in 1939 in Berlin, Germany, describes her family background; her early years of schooling; her lack of knowledge of the Holocaust until she studied in Paris, France as an adult; meeting her husband in 1960 and learning about the Holocaust; the beginnings of her activism against former Nazis; her work on the Kurt Kiesinger case, including her decision to slap the Chancellor; her work on other cases including the ones for Klaus Barbie; Kurt Waldheim, Alois Brunner, Rene Bousquet, and Paul Touvier.

### **Indexing terms**

#### ***Personal Name***

Klarsfeld, Serge, 1935-  
Klarsfeld, Beate, 1939-  
Hedgehog, Lilian.  
Trocmé, André, 1901-1971.  
Trocmé, Magda, 1901-1996.  
Barbie, Klaus, 1913-1991.  
Waldheim, Kurt.  
Brunner, Alois, 1912-2010?  
Bousquet, René, 1909-1993.  
Kiesinger, Kurt Georg, 1904-1988.

#### ***Corporate Name***

Auschwitz (Concentration camp)  
Beaune-la-Rolande (Concentration camp)  
Croix-Rouge française.  
International Committee of the Red Cross.

Drancy (Concentration camp)  
France. Commissariat général aux questions juives.  
France. Ministère de l'intérieur.  
France. Ministère des affaires étrangères.  
Friends Relief Service.  
Germany. Botschaft (France)  
Gurs (Concentration camp)  
Noé (Concentration camp)  
Œuvre de secours aux enfants (France)  
Pithiviers (Concentration camp)  
Récébédou (Concentration camp)  
Saint-Sulpice (Concentration camp)  
Salvation Army--France.  
Septfonds (Concentration camp)

***Topical Term***

World War 1939-1945--Atrocities--Europe.  
World War 1939-1945--Concentration camps--France.  
World War, 1939-1945--Collaborationists--France.  
World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue--France.  
Jews--Persecutions--France--History--20th century.  
Jewish children in the Holocaust--France  
Antisemitism--France.  
Righteous Gentiles in the Holocaust--France.  
Communists--France--History--20th century.  
Nazi hunters--France.  
Nazis--Legal status, laws, etc.--Europe--History--20th century.  
War criminals--Europe--History--20th century--Registers.  
War crime trials.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--France--History.

***Geographic Name***

Camp de Châlons (France)  
Évaux-les-Bains (France)  
France--History--German occupation, 1940-1945.  
France--Politics and government--1940-1945.  
Haute-Garonne (France)  
Le Chambon-sur-Lignon (France)  
Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux (France)  
Septfonds (France)  
Sisteron (Alpes de Haute-Provence, France)  
Tarn-et-Garonne (France)  
Toulouse (France)  
Vernet (France)  
Vichy (France)--Politics and government.

***Genre/Form***

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

Correspondence.  
Letters.  
Notes.  
Photographs  
Registers.  
Telegrams.  
Testimonies.

## CONTAINER LIST

**NOTE:** French inventory provided by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Archival Programs Division.

Mémorial de la Shoah, Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine), France  
Fonds Serge Klarsfeld (MDCII)

See two additional documents: RG-43.163\_02\_fnd\_fr, and RG-43.163\_03\_fnd\_fr