

Dachau Concentration Camp Photograph Collection

Collection Summary

Repository:	Adelphi University
Creator:	War Crimes Investigation Team 6823
Title:	Dachau Concentration Camp Photograph collection
Inclusive Dates:	1945
Quantity:	.5 linear feet (1 box)
Abstract:	The Dachau Concentration Camp Photograph collection contain 51 photographs taken by the War Crimes Investigation Team 6823 after the liberation of the concentration camp at the end of April 1945. The photographs were duplicates or material unused in preparing the Dachau report as evidence of war crimes to be used at the Dachau trials in December of 1945.
Language:	Collection materials are in English

Biographical History

The Dachau Concentration Camp, located about 10 miles northwest of Munich, operated from 1933 until the camps liberation in 1945. The camp, originally meant to hold political prisoners, became a model for other Nazi camps. After the enactment of the Nuremberg Laws (1933) and Kristallnacht (1938) the camp received an influx of new inmates that included Jews, homosexuals, emigrants, ordinary criminals, and a large number of Catholic clergy. After 1938 the prisoners of the camp were mostly Jews. The camp is infamous for its inhumane treatment of prisoners including medical experimentation, standing cells, tree hangings, crematoriums, and mass execution. Klaus Schilling, a doctor at Dachau, was one of many Nazi physicians who practiced involuntary humane experimentation. He primarily experimented with malaria treatment. His experiments resulted in the death of between 300 and 400 prisoners. Schilling stood trial in December of 1945 and was sentenced to death by hanging. 31,951 prisoners are reported to have died in the camp.

On April 29th, 1945 the camp at Dachau was liberated by U.S. Seventh Army's 45th Infantry Division. Days before the liberation 7,000 prisoners were forced to leave the camp on foot at the hands of the camp guards. Most did not survive the journey. 30,000 prisoners were liberated from the camp by American soldiers. Beginning in December of 1945 and continuing for years after liberation, trials were held for those involved with the camp accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Trials were held both at Nuremberg, and at Dachau.

The War Crimes Investigation Team 6823 was assigned to the camp at Dachau in April of 1945. A member of that team, Dr. Marvin Kuschner, took part in the organizing and assembling of evidence to be used at the Dachau trials in December of 1945. Dr. Kuschner went on to become the Dean of the School of Medicine at SUNY, Stony Brook. The team was commanded by Colonel David Chavez of New Mexico, who later became a Federal District Court Judge.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Dachau Concentration Camp Photograph collection contains 51 photographs taken by the War Crimes Investigation Team 6823 after the liberation of the concentration camp at the end of April 1945. The photographs were duplicates or material unused in preparing the Dachau report as evidence of war crimes at the Dachau trials in December of 1945. These include photographs of exhumation and of remains as part of the investigation of execution of captured fliers and paratroopers by the Nazis, as well as photographs of Klaus Schilling, the doctor who performed experiments on inmates, the interior and exterior of the camp, communal showers, "Brausebad" (gas chamber), crematory and women, who were consorts for the Schutzstaffel (Nazi Party's "Protective Squadron") and the babies born at Dachau.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Material donated by Dr. Marvin Kushner in 1981. Dr. Kushner was Dean of the School of Medicine at SUNY, Stony Brook.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific items; Date (if known); The Dachau Concentration Camp Photograph Collection; Box and folder number; Adelphi University Archives and Special Collections, Garden City, NY.

Processing Information

This collection was processed in September 2014 by David Ranzan.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

The Dachau Concentration Camp Photograph Collection is open to research. Photocopies of fragile materials are provided for researchers in lieu of the originals.

Use Restrictions

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from Adelphi University Archives and Special Collections. Researchers are responsible for copyright compliance.

Subject and Genre Headings

People:

Kushner, Marvin
Schilling, Klaus

Organizations:

Dachau Concentration Camp
War Crimes Investigation Team 6823

Subjects:

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
Concentration camps - Germany
World War II

Arrangement of the Collection

Each photograph is housed in its own folder.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: "The Best Years of Your Life" (1952)

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	SS headquarters, 1945
	2	SS headquarters, 1945
	3	SS headquarters, 1945
	4	Camp living quarters, 1945
	5	Camp living quarters, 1945
	6	Camp living quarters, 1945
	7	Communal showers, 1945
	8	Communal showers, 1945
	9	Outside of camp and camp perimeter, 1945
	10	Outside of camp and camp perimeter, 1945
	11	Outside of camp and camp perimeter, 1945
	12	Outside of camp and camp perimeter, 1945
	13	Outside of camp and camp perimeter, 1945
	14	"Brausebad" (gas chamber), 1945
	15	"Brausebad" (gas chamber), 1945
	16	"Bausebad" (gas chamber), 1945
	17	"Brausebad" (gas chamber), 1945

- 18 Incisions for abscesses experimentally induced- search for antibiotic, 1945
- 19 Transport trains, 1945
- 20 Transport trains, 1945
- 21 Transport trains, 1945
- 22 Transport trains, 1945
- 23 Women at Dachau (consorts for SS), 1945
- 24 Babies born at Dachau, 1945
- 25 Crematory, 1945
- 26 Crematory, 1945
- 27 Hospital, 1945
- 28 Hospital, 1945
- 29 Hospital, 1945
- 30 Hospital, 1945
- 31 Undisposed bodies, 1945
- 32 Undisposed bodies, 1945
- 33 Undisposed bodies, 1945
- 34 Undisposed bodies, 1945
- 35 Washroom, 1945
- 36 Street scenes, 1945
- 37 Street scenes, 1945
- 38 Records of prisoners, 1945
- 39 Records of prisoners, 1945
- 40 Records of prisoners, 1945
- 41 Records of prisoners, 1945
- 42 Autopsies of executed parachuting fliers, 1945
- 43 Autopsies of executed parachuting fliers, 1945
- 44 Autopsies of executed parachuting fliers, 1945
- 45 Autopsies of executed parachuting fliers, 1945

- 46 Inscription on cross-“Here lie 8 English soldiers fallen in battle for their fatherland,” 1945
- 47 Cemeteries where British and American fliers were buried, 1945
- 48 Cemeteries where British and American fliers were buried, 1945
- 49 Cemeteries where British and American fliers were buried, 1945
- 50 Klaus Schilling, doctor who performed experiments, 1945
- 51 Klaus Schilling, doctor who performed experiments, 1945