Register of the UFA motion picture newsreels

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Hoover Institution Archives
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Title: UFA motion picture newsreels
Date (inclusive): 1933-1945
Collection Number: 48007
Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives
Language of Material: German and Spanish
Physical Description: 450 motion picture film reels, 3 envelopes (45.1 linear feet)
Abstract: The UFA motion picture newsreels depict German military operations and conditions in Germany during World War II, mainly during the 1939-1942 period. Includes a few pre-war newsreels of Nazi leaders and rallies, and a few photographs. Most newsreels were distributed in Spain.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
Creator: UFA (Firm)
Access
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Preferred Citation
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Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1948.
Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at http://searchworks.stanford.edu. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the library catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.
Related Collection(s)
Ernest D. Rose papers, Hoover Institution Archives

Historical Note
Universum Film AG (UFA) is a German film production company that was founded in 1917. At its inception, UFA was envisioned as a state-controlled vehicle for military propaganda films, but the company greatly expanded its output in 1918 to include feature films, documentaries, newsreels, and public service films. With a broadened focus that was further spurred on by the 1921 privatization of the company, UFA made an especially significant impact on world cinema during the Weimar Republic era (1919-1933), most notably through its German Expressionist films.

In 1937, all German film companies were nationalized under the Third Reich (1933-1945). UFA and its competitors were brought under the oversight of the Third Reich's propaganda ministry, and Joseph Goebbels, in his role as propaganda minister, oversaw production. Initially, UFA maintained some autonomy and continued success with production and distribution of feature films, but under Goebbels's increasing control, the propagandistic appeal of newsreels ultimately dominated the company's focus. Wartime news films favoring a National Socialist point of view were widely distributed to both German and international audiences.

In 1940, prompted by the Nazi invasion of Poland and efforts to sway public opinion in support of the German war effort, the Third Reich combined newsreel companies Ufa-Tonwoche and Deulig-Tonwoche (both under the broader UFA umbrella), as well as Tobis-Woche and Fox-Tönende-Wochenschau, into a single weekly war newsreel titled Die Deutsche Wochenschau (DW). With reports that doors were often closed and even locked in many German theaters during DW screenings, German audiences were literally held captive by the footage.

As the single DW newsreel emerged, the foreign weekly newsreel, or Auslandtonwoche (ATW), was restructured and refocused, again in support of the German war effort and particularly in support of the Polish campaign. ATW was distributed to occupied and neutral countries alike. Initially, ATW and DW newsreels differed only by language. As ATW operations grew, the newsreels were customized to their respective target audiences. Although ATW and DW reels contained similar content, scenes were often edited and German nationalism toned down in ATW reels to appeal to wider...
Regional ATW editorial offices were also set up in select countries, including Belgium and Spain. Shortly after merging all German newsreels into a single war newsreel, Goebbels combined all German film production companies into a single, state-run film monopoly called UFA-Film GmbH (UFI). UFA, Tobis, Terra, and other film companies were assimilated into UFI. This overarching state control of German film production resulted in censorship and selectively edited scenes in newsreels. In DW and ATW reels, scenes of dead German soldiers, as well as scenes of significant military failures on the Eastern Front, such as in the Battle of Stalingrad, were cut from final versions.

Though selectively edited to support the broader Nazi agenda, the combined efforts of DW and ATW generated a cinematic product unlike any other. With a drive to influence audiences from across Europe and beyond, these newsreels employed compelling and dramatic cinematic techniques, which set them apart from their American and European counterparts. American newsreels were modeled on newspapers that led with headline news stories, followed by news segments of decreasing importance. DW and ATW films, in contrast, were edited in a fashion similar to narrative movies, featuring seamless fades and dissolves between scenes and a build-up of story and action to a climactic turning point or conclusion. War scenes captured by cameramen at the front lines of battle were also central to the drama and action of Nazi-era newsreels. Sound was likewise used for cinematic effect. Voice-over narration conveyed a sense of continuity and authority, while dramatic music amplified the intensity of the visuals and narration.

These newsreels serve as significant historical documentation of World War II and a National Socialist perspective of the world. In addition to the UFA and Tobis newsreels at the Hoover Institution Archives, other known collections of these newsreels exist at the University of California at Los Angeles Film and Television Archive, the Library of Congress, the Imperial War Museum in London, and the Bundesarchiv in Berlin.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The UFA motion picture newsreels, produced by the Third Reich, depict German military operations and conditions in Germany during World War II, mainly during the 1939-1942 period, in the form of the German weekly newsreel, or Die Deutsche Wochenschau (DW), and the foreign weekly newsreel, or Auslandtonwoche (ATW). Includes a few pre-war newsreels of Nazi leaders and rallies, and a few photographs. Most newsreels were distributed in Spain.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

- Propaganda, German--Spain.
- World War, 1939-1945.
- World War, 1939-1945--Campaigns.
- World War, 1939-1945--Germany.
- Germany--History--1933-1945.
- National socialism.
- Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei.
- Motion pictures.

**Film shelf**

**Motion Picture Films, 1939-1945**

Scope and Content note

Motion picture newsreels produced by the Nazi government. The majority of the reels in the collection were produced by Universum Film AG (UFA), with a small amount coming from Tobis Wochenschau. Includes reels intended for domestic and international audiences. The bulk of this series covers the years 1940 to 1942. The overall content of the films varies greatly, including special political and military events, civilian life from all parts of Europe, and combat footage. Important figures present in the film include Adolf Hitler, Joseph Goebbels, Herman Göring, Heinrich Himmler, Benito Mussolini, and Francisco Franco.

**Tobis, 1939-1945**

Scope and Content note

The films in this subseries were produced by Tobis and include 16mm and 35mm films. Gaps in sequence represent films that were never received by the archives.

**Reels 1-4**

**Reels 6-16**
Reels 18-19
Reels 21-29
Reel 31

UFA, Inland, 1939-1945

Scope and Content note
The Inland versions of the reels were released domestically in Germany with German language soundtracks and include 16mm and 35mm films. Ausland versions also exist for the following reels: 519-521, 523-550, 555, 557-560, 562-572, 576-578, 581, and 586-587.
The followings reels have not yet been described: 517, 518, 520, 521, 523, 555, 571-572, 576-578, 581-582, 586-587, 589, 596, 615, 621-622, 626, 628, and 633.
Reel descriptions come from ledgers in the Ernest D. Rose papers.

Reel 519
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 522
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 524, 1940 September
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Reel 525, 1940 September
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 526, 1940 October
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of acetate 35mm and 16mm reels.
Part 1:

Reel 527
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Parts 2:
Reel 528
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 529
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 530
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:
Reel 531
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:

Reel 532, 1940 November
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
1. Belgrade, King Paul and wife Olga, German architecture exhibit; 2. Albania, workers building bridges and streets; 3. Italy, Mussolini inspects 8th Army of Italy; 4. Munich, Rudolf Hess represents Hitler at memorial ceremony for Nazi martyrs killed in 1923; 5. Prague, Axman dedicates new banner to youth; 6. Prague, Goebbels, Baron von Neurath, Burckel in the city to talk about German culture.
Part 2:

Reel 533, 1940 November
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 534
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1 has no description available.
Part 2:
Reel 535
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
1. Tokyo, Emperor Hirohito on white horse reviews parade for 2,600th anniversary of Japanese royal family; 2. Italy, Vesuvius erupting; 3. Italy, workers construct power plant; 4. Romania and Austria, German repatriates arrive in Germany; 5. Production of wooden chess figures, among others.
Part 2:

Reel 536
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 537
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Complete reel
Part 1:
Reel 538

Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.

Part 1:
1. Burma Road, Japanese planes bomb road and factory; 2. Spain, Spanish kids return and are cared for by nurses; 3. Warsaw, retrospect of occupation and new roads, sign on car says "Only for Jews"; 4. Poland, German border guards patrol mountain pass; 5. Norway, German soldiers build new airfields with planes protecting from above; 6. Berlin, Hitler gives reception for industrial, party, and army leaders; 7. Steier, factory workers making rifles.

Part 2: Christmas Week

Reel 539

Scope and Contents note
Ausland version only.

Reel 540

Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.

Complete reel

Reel 541

Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.

Complete reel
Reel 542
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Complete reel

Reel 543
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.
Complete reel; names of 9 cameramen

Reel 544
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 545
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
1. Budapest, state funeral for Hungarian; 2. Hitler, Kurusu, farewell visit to Hitler; 3. Japan, German Shepherd dogs with Japanese troops on maneuvers; 4. Oslo, Axmann inspects Hitler Youth unit; 5. Oslo, civilians and soldiers leave by train for winter sports.
Part 2:
Reel 546
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Incomplete
Part 2 only:

Reel 547
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 548, 1941
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:
Reel 549
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.
"Special Report of the German Weekly Newsreel": German troops enter Bulgaria with the civilian population greeting them; regular reels resume.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 550
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:

Reel 551
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Incomplete reel
Reel 552, 1941
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
1. March 30, 1941, Berlin, Hitler Youth and BDM youths initiation of new members; 2. Berlin, March 27th, Matsuoka, Japanese Foreign Minister, visits for official state visit with Hitler and all top Nazi officials, von Ribbentrop, Keitel, Yamashita, Goering. This scene continues for the rest of the reel
Part 2:
3. Matsuoka continues visit with Hitler and others; 4. Bulgaria, troops work on tanks; 5. King Boris visits Stuka field to review troops and planes; 6. Tripoli, soldiers relax on supply ships and Rommel takes pictures of tanks being unloaded; 7. German troops move toward front line; 8. Shot down spitfire and RAF pilots taken prisoner and interrogated; 9. Weather balloon is launched and planes take off; 10. In Atlantic, multiple scenes of German naval activities across the Atlantic are shown.

Reel 553
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:
Part 3:
1. April 6, Berlin, Goebbels reads Hitler’s proclamation to the people; 2. Ribbentrop reads notes to the press; 3. Infantry advance over Greek border; 4. Serbian prisoners; 5. German troops and tanks advance; 6. Greece, Stukas take off and bomb fortifications; 7. Italian planes bomb storage dumps.

Reel 554
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Incomplete reel
Part 2:
1. Yugoslavia, engineers work on railroad; 2. Large number of Serbian prisoners; 3. Stukas and infantry advance; 4. Bombs dropped on targets; 5. Motorized troops advance; 6. German soldier smokes and smiles at camera; 7. Large numbers of Serbian soldiers surrender to German troops; soldiers advance and take British consulate; 8. Map of Greek front; 9. German artillery shelling front line; 10. Artist from propaganda company sketches war scenes; 11. Stukas bomb fortifications as infantry and tanks advance.

Reel 555
Scope and Contents note
Part 1: [missing content]
**Reel 556**

**Scope and Contents note**
Comprised of 35mm reels.

**Part 1:**

**Reel 557**

**Scope and Contents note**
Comprised of 35mm reels.

**Part 1:**

**Part 2:**

**Reel 558**

**Scope and Contents note**
Ausland version only.
Reel 559
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Complete reel

Reel 560
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 561
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Reel 562
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
1. Brenner Pass, Hitler, Mussolini, von Ribbentrop, Ciano, Kietel meet on train for talks;
Part 2:

Reel 563
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:
Reel 564, 1941
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.
Reels shows first action on invasion of Russia.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 565
Scope and Contents note
This reel only has Part 1 on the inventory list. Scenes in this reel were only numbered in the beginning, with the reel describing all manners of military activities on the Russian Front.
For full description, see Ernest D. Rose papers, Box 1, Book 2.

Reel 566
Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.
Part 1:
1. Map of Eastern Front; 2. Observation plane takes photos of Russian troop movements; 3. Planes then bomb Russian troops; 4. Map of Lviv (Lemberg), German troops enter city, civilians carry bodies out of Soviet prison set on fire by retreating Russians, bodies piled outside of building, civilians turn over Jews to Germans, beaten and killed by people of Lviv; 5. German planes bombing Russian positions; 6. Tanks, artillery, infantry advancing; 7. Small groups of Russian soldiers surrender then a large group surrenders as Wehrmacht advances; 8. B-110 attacks Russian airfield and shoots down bomber; 9. Map of Kovna, Kalvria, Vilna, Dunaberg, Riga; 10. Infantry enters Vilna and advances.
Part 2:
11. Riga, soldiers and tanks move into city, greeted by crowds; 12. Stukas take off and bomb retreating Russian troops; 13. Map of Libau and Ionava, tanks and infantry advance into town, heavy fighting; 14. Infantry advances, groups of Jews pushed into streets from houses; 15. Shaulyai, troops, artillery take out Russian fortification, German soldiers smile at camera; 16. Lepaja, infantry advances; crowds welcome, give flowers and cigarettes to troops; artillery blows up munitions depot; montage of advancing troops.
Reel 567

Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:

Reel 568

Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.
Part 1:
Part 2:
Reel 569

Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels.

Part 1:

Part 2:

Reel 570

Scope and Contents note
Comprised of 35mm reels and 16mm reels.

Part 1:

Part 2:

UFA, Ausland, 1939-1945

Scope and Content note
The Ausland film versions of the collection were intended for a specific foreign audience. These reels are primarily in Spanish and include 16mm and 35mm films. These versions differ from their Inland counterparts.

The followings reels have not yet been described: 519-521, 523-547, 549-550, 555, 557-560, 562-581, 583-588, 590, 597.
135 unidentified reels

Photographs

Envelopes A-B
130 photos of German military forces on maneuvers, in military parades, and during invasions of the low countries, France, North Africa, and Russia, 1940
Scope and Contents note
Includes photos of munitions factory workers.

Envelope C
21 photos of Nazi leaders (including Hitler, Hess, Goering, Goebbels, Donetz, and Rader), as well as photos of Mussolini, undated