
Inventory of the Klaus Barbie pre-trial records

Finding aid prepared by Josh Giglio.

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Title: Klaus Barbie pre-trial records

Date (inclusive): 1943-1985

Collection Number: 95008

Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives

Language of the Materials : In French and German.

Physical Description: 8 manuscript boxes(3.2 linear feet)

Abstract: Trial instruction, including depositions and exhibits, in the case of Klaus Barbie before the Tribunal de grande instance de Lyon, relating to German war crimes in France during World War II. Photocopy.

Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives

Creator: Barbie, Klaus, 1913- , defendant.

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Acquisition Information

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1995.

Accruals

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Klaus Barbie pre-trial records, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.

Location of Originals

Originals in: Tribunal de grande instance, Lyon, France.

Biographical note

Born to a Roman Catholic family in Bad Godesberg, Germany, Klaus Barbie joined the SS (Schutzstaffel) in September 1935. By 1940, he was posted to Holland where his main task was to arrest Jews and German émigrés. In 1942, Barbie arrived in recently captured Lyon as head of the Gestapo, commanding a force of 25 officers. There, Barbie prevented sabotage and persecuted Jews, for which he was presented the military award, "First Class Iron Cross with Swords," by Adolf Hitler. After the war Barbie escaped prosecution in France and relocated to Bolivia in 1950. He lived in Bolivia as a businessman until 1983, when the Bolivian government extradited Barbie to France to stand trial for war crimes. In 1987 Klaus Barbie was sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity. Nine jurors and three judges found Barbie, known as the "Butcher of Lyon," guilty of the 341 separate charges that were brought against him at the court in Lyon. While in prison Klaus Barbie died of cancer in 1991.

Scope and Content of Collection

The trial records for the head of the Gestapo in Lyon include trial instruction, depositions, and exhibits in the case of Klaus Barbie before the Tribunal de grande instance in Lyon, relating to German war crimes in France during World War II. Photocopy.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

France. Tribunal de grande instance de Lyon.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

War crime trials--France.

World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities.

Box/Folder 1 : 1

Introductory indictment October 9, 1981

Box/Folder 1 : 2

Verbal Trial, in French May 28, 1984

Box/Folder 1 : 3
Box/Folder 1 : 4
Box/Folder 1 : 5
Box/Folder 2 : 1

Verbal Trial, copies in German November 1982
Letter of instruction for the judge March 17, 1983
Final indictment July 15, 1985
Special hearing of Ferdinand Palk December 1964
Lischka, Hagen, and Heinrichsohn trial proceedings February 1982

Summary

Kurt Lischka was the head of the Gestapo in Cologne in 1940, and in 1943 he became chief of the department overseeing internment camps and executions. In 1971, Serge Klarsfeld, a French/Jewish lawyer and holocaust survivor, found Lischka living in Cologne, West Germany and by the late 1970s he and his wife Beate were able to get him to trial. Herbert-Martin Hagen was a personal assistant to the SS police chief in France and head of a department in the Paris Gestapo, and Ernst Heinrichsohn worked in the Gestapo's Jewish affairs department in Paris. Both were integral parts of Lischka's work, and both were arrested in 1980. These records are the proceedings from the trial.

Box/Folder 2 : 2-4
Box 3

Indictment against Lischka, Hagen, and Heinrichsohn February 1982
Judgment of the Lischka, Hagen, and Heinrichsohn case, in French and German February 1982

Box/Folder 2 : 5

Report to the U.S. Attorney General August 1983

Summary

Report to the Attorney General regarding the status of the investigations and proceedings in the Klaus Barbie trial.

Box 4 - 5,
Box/Folder 6 : 1

Rogatory letters, in French and German 1982 - 1984

Summary

Rogatory Letters for evidence requests from the French to the Germans, as well as services of process from the Germans to the French with regards to the Klaus Barbie investigation.

Box/Folder 6 : 2-4

Gendarmerie Nationale witness hearings and statements February 1983 - May 1984

Summary

Interviews and hearings conducted by the national police force of France on witnesses involved in the Klaus Barbie investigation.

Box/Folder 7 : 2
Box/Folder 7 : 3

Inventory record of proceedings against Klaus Barbie and Knob Werner March 1981
Information regarding the raid of the general union of Jews in France December 1984

Summary

Information regarding the Gestapo actions to hunt down French Jews in their streets and houses with intentions of sending them to concentration camps or extermination sites.

Box/Folder 7 : 1
Box/Folder 7 : 4
Box/Folder 8 : 1
Box/Folder 8 : 2

Military intelligence summary of the investigation against Klaus Barbie April 1980
Final witness hearings and statements 1985
"Activities of Jewish Organisations in France During the Occupation" 1947
"Les Fils et Filles des Deportees Juifs de France" and Serge Klarsfeld 1943, 1946, 1981

Summary

Serge Klarsfeld founded the association of "Sons and Daughters of Jewish Deportees from France" in 1979, consisting of descendants of French-Jews who endured concentration camps during World War II. These files contains publications written in conjunction with the organization.

Box/Folder 8 : 3

"Memorial of the Deportation of French Jews" by Serge Klarsfeld 1978