

**Guide to the
Weingarten P.O.W Camp Collection
1943-1974 [1944-1945]**

0.5 linear feet.

1998.136



Abstract

Materials relating to the World War II Weingarten Prisoner of War (P.O.W) Camp located in Weingarten, a small town in Southeast Missouri. Includes photographs, negatives, camp publications, newspaper clippings, and microfilm.

Processed by Anna Powell, Fall 2008

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Descriptive Overview

Provenance: Materials in the collection were donated at various times by multiple individuals.

Helmuth Schulz Jr, a German-American private first class stationed at Weingarten, donated 87 bound photographs, 5 loose photographs and 33 negatives, camp stationary, "Weingarten MO war" (1945 Sep 15) news clipping, memo (1945 Sep 15), guard roster (1944 Jul. 22), and The Weingarten (1945 Jul. 12);

Quintus Bianco, a sergeant serving as a Military Police officer (MP) at Weingarten, donated 2 news clippings: "Weingarten: A Camp to Remember" and "The Weingarten Front" (27 Jun.1974) and booklet "History and Travel of 408th M.P.E.G. Co. (18 Nov. 1986);

3 copies of *L'Attesa* (1943-1945) are marked with the name L.M. Koetting, Ste. Genevieve, Mo, but no further information about their origin is known.

Citation: Weingarten Prisoner of War Camp Collection, Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University.

Restrictions: Photographs may be under copyright. Microfilmed materials require a special reader. This device may not always be available. Please contact Special Collections and Archives in advance for arrangements.

Languages: English and Italian

Historical Note

Camp Weingarten was established as Prisoner of War (POW) camp in 1943. Weingarten is a small town in southern Missouri, outside of St. Genevieve. The town was chosen for its relative isolation and small population of ninety-nine. Acreage was purchased from local farmers and the camp was constructed for 1.6 million dollars. Weingarten became one of the largest POW camps in the United States. By September of 1943 the camp held over 5000 people, 992 Italian officers and 3,515 enlisted men.

The camp became an important source of income for the local area and provided much needed labor for agriculture and industry. In return the POWs had access to education, the arts, religion, and excellent facilities. The camp primarily housed Italian prisoners. At the end of World War II, the US returned the prisoners to their countries of origin and the disassembled the camp.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of photographs, negatives, microfilm, camp publications, and other materials. The materials are arranged according to material type. The microfilm includes copies of the records of Office of the Provost General U.S. Army and *L'Attesa*, a POW published newsletter.

Rules or Conventions: This Finding Aid prepared using DACS.

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Container List

Box 1062

Folder 001	Camp publications: <i>L'Attesa</i> and <i>The Weingartener</i>	1943-1945
Folder 002	"History and Travels of the 408 th M.P.E.G Co., 1942-1944" by Sgt. Quintus Bianco	1986 Nov 18
Folder 003	Miscellaneous materials donated by PFC Helmuth Schulz Jr.	1945
Item 001	POW transfer order	1945 Sep 15
Item 002	Guard Roster	1944 Jul 22
Item 003	Enlisted men barrack roster	1945 Aug 7
Item 004	Camp Stationary	Undated
Folder 004	News clippings	1945, 1974
Folder 005	Photograph Album by PFC Helmuth Schultz Jr.	1944-1945
Folder 006	Photograph Album by PFC Helmuth Schultz Jr.	1944-1945
Folder 007	Slides	1944-1945
Folder 008	Negatives on images from folders 5 and 6	1944-1945

Box MF031

MF031/04	Microfilm of Office of the Provost General U.S. Army	1942-1945
MF031/05	Microfilm of <i>L'Attesa</i>	1944

Appendix 1
Images from the photo album in folder 005

Item 001	Weingarten Camp Library and Officers Club	Undated
Item 002	Barracks	Undated
Item 003	Camp Offices	Undated
Item 004	Tracks and fuel yard outside camp	Undated
Item 005	Tracks through Weingarten, Mo	Undated
Item 006	Guard Tower	Undated
Item 007	Guard Tower	Undated
Item 008	Camp theatre	Undated
Item 009	Prisoner's Barracks	Undated
Item 010	Interior of camp theatre	Undated
Item 011	Barracks in winter	Undated
Item 012	Prisoners sandbagging for flood control	1944
Item 013	Interior of prisoner barracks	Undated
Item 014	Camp obstacle course	Undated
Item 015	Camp post office	Undated
Item 016	Italian POW	Undated
Item 017	Italian POW	Undated
Item 018	Ste. Genevieve Railroad station during flood	1944
Item 019	Schultz's Company, 632 nd Headquarters detachment	Undated
Item 020	Two GIs with Italian POWs in bakery	Undated
Item 021	Company march to theatre for lecture	Undated
Item 022	Camp gate and G.I.	Undated
Item 023	Corporal Malik at north gate of the camp	Undated
Item 024	Company formation	Undated
Item 025	Military police unit	Undated
Item 026	GIs with POW kitchen crew	Undated
Item 027	POWs leaving the theatre	Undated
Item 028	Military Police and camp guards	Undated
Items 029-31	Ste. Genevieve during flood of the Mississippi River	1944
Item 032	Camp water tower	Undated
Item 033	Prisoners sandbagging for flood control	1944
Item 034	Dike built by POWs for flood control	1944
Items 035-36	Ste. Genevieve during flood	1944
Item 037	Historical Bolduc House in Ste. Genevieve	Undated
Item 038	Mississippi at flood stage	1944
Item 039-40	Ste. Genevieve during flood	1944
Item 041	POW graves	Undated
Items 042-43	House during Mississippi flood	1944
Items 044-47	Limestone quarry where POWs worked	Undated
Item 048	POWs at Limestone quarry	Undated
Item 049	Weingarten Camp officers	Undated
Item 050	Downtown Ste. Genevieve	1945
Item 051	Contact prints of select photographs from album pages	Undated

Appendix 2
Images from the photo album in folder 006

Item 001	POWs with an American soldier	undated
Item 002-03	Barracks	undated
Item 004	Company Commander McClaskey	undated
Item 005-07	Army dining hall decorated for Christmas	1944
Item 008	POWs and horse drawn supply wagon	Undated
Item 009	Guard tower	Undated
Item 010	Road leading to camp entrance	Undated
Item 011-13	Jack, the guard dog, with trainers	Undated
Item 014-15	POW graveyard	Undated
Item 016-17	Views of the camp	Undated
Item 018	POW camp orchestra	Undated
Item 019-20	POW theatre group	Undated
Item 021	Camp administrative office	Undated
Item 022-27	POW chapel at Weingarten	1944
Item 028-32	Limestone quarry where the POWs worked	Undated
Item 033	POW Barracks	Undated
Item 034	Postcard of Weingarten camp	Undated
Item 035	POW marching to the train station on the way home to Italy	1945
Item 036	Unidentified collie (dog)	Undated
Item 037	Guard tower	Undated
Item 038	View of camp	Undated
Item 039	Orderly room	Undated
Item 040	Guard tower and barracks	Undated

Appendix 3
Images from the slides in folder 007

Item 001	Hospital Mess	Undated
Item 002	Main wing of camp hospital	Undated
Item 003	Hospital X-ray equipment	Undated
Item 004	Camp theatre and gym	Undated
Item 005	Camp library	Undated
Item 006	Mess hall	Undated
Item 007	Officer's mess	Undated
Item 008	Service club	Undated
Item 009	Quarter master office and warehouse	Undated
Item 010	Compound	Undated
Item 011	Catholic chapel	Undated
Item 012	Middle road	Undated
Item 013	PX and service club	Undated
Item 014	Soft drink bar and camp exchange	Undated
Item 015	Motor pool	Undated
Item 016	Fire station	Undated