



STEWART MEMORIAL LIBRARY GEORGE T. HENRY COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Benjamin DeWayne “B.D.” Silliman Collection



COLLECTION SUMMARY INFORMATION

Repository - George T. Henry College Archives, Stewart Memorial Library, Coe

College Title - B. D. Silliman Collection

Date - 1897-1980

Extent - Linear feet 6

Language - English

Restrictions on Access - Unrestricted

Collection Abstract

Benjamin DeWayne “B.D.” Silliman, a 1917 graduate of Coe College, served in both World War I and II, and was involved in the Nuremberg Trials serving on the staff of Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson. The documents in the collection include interrogations from the Nuremberg Trials, prisoner information, and trial notes made by Silliman as well as personal memorabilia and photographs from Hitler's personal photographer.

Biographical Note

Benjamin DeWayne Silliman was born in Ardmore, Indian Territory (now southern Oklahoma) in 1895 and graduated from Boone High School in 1913. While at Coe, he majored in social science and was active in many student organizations including the debate team, Beta Phi Omega, oratorical societies and *Cosmos* staff. He graduated in June of 1917 and enlisted in the United States Army and served for a short time. He then taught at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids for two years before entering the University of Iowa College of Law. He received his degree and passed the bar in 1923 and practiced law in Cedar Rapids and instructed at Coe part time.

In 1942 he was called to active duty in the US Army and served with troops. He became Judge Advocate of the Northwestern Sector, Western Defense Command and then served on the staff of Justice Jackson at the Nuremberg Trials and was awarded the Bronze Star. He aided in transporting several high profile defendants to the Nuremberg Jail without incident including: Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Hjalmar Schacht, Fritz Sauckel, Karl Donitz, and Albert Speer. He personally discovered Walter Funk in a German hospital, trying to avoid trial, and brought him into custody. He was responsible for transporting thirty-one German witnesses to Nuremberg and also obtained a detailed confession from Fritz Sauckel. After the trials Silliman returned to the Cedar Rapids area and was active in various community events and served on the Board of Trustees of Coe College until his death in April of 1988.

Series 1- Nuremberg Trial Documents –

Includes personal notes made during the trials by Silliman about the trial, transcripts of interrogations (organized alphabetically by last name of POW), interrogation reports, intelligence reports, exploitation reports, memoranda, prisoner information and Silliman's diary

1.1 Correspondence -

- Folder 1 –September 1945
- Folder 2 – Williams, Curtis L. – 1945
- Folder 3 – Yancey, Clarence – 1945

1.2 Diary –

- Folder 1 – Diary and Bound Diary - 1945
- Folder 2 – Complete Diary – Dick Hedges Archive, Rice University

1.3 Interrogations –

- Folder 1 - Bohle, Ernst Wilhelm –Final Interrogation Report – 7 September 1945
- Folder 2 – Brandt, Dr. Karl – 15 October 1945
- Folder 3 – Butefisch, Heinrich – Examination – 27 July 1945
- Folder 4 – Doenitz, Karl – Interview – 24 July 1945
- Folder 5 – Hans, Frank – 7 June 1945
- Folder 6 – Frydag, Heinkel – 9 July 1945
- Folder 7 – Funk, Walther – 16 July 1945
- Folder 8 – Giesing,m Dr. Erwin – 15 October 1945
- Folder 9 – Goering, Hermann – Postscript to Report – 19 July 1945
- Folder 10 – von Hassel Bach, Dr. Hanskarl – 15 October 1945
- Folder 11 - Haushoffer, Prof. Dr. Karl – 22 September 1945
- Folder 12 – Hess, Rudolf – Interrogation, Diary and Notes – 9 October 1945

Folder 13 – von Hessen-Nassau, Prince Phillip -25 September 1945
Folder 14 – Himmler, Margaret – N.D.
Folder 15 – Hitler, Adolf – Report as seen by his doctors -15 October 1945
Folder 16 – Keppler, Wilhelm – 24 July 1945
Folder 17 – Liedig, Franz Maria – 4 October 1945
Folder 18 – Lindow, Kurt – 30 September 1945
Folder 19 – Martin, Benno – 3 September 1945
Folder 20 – Meissner, Otto Lebrecht – 25 Septmeber 1945
Folder 21 – Milder, Rudolf – 5 September 1945
Folder 22 - Morell, Dr. Theodor – 14 September 1945
Folder 23 – Papenfuss, Thea – 4 September 1945
Folder 24 – Peiper, Joachim -25 September 1945
Folder 25 – Reinecke, Hermann – 14 September 1945
Folder 26 – Riecke, Hans Joachim Ernst - 21 July 1945
Folder 27- von Ribentrop, Joachim –N.D.
Folder 28 – Rosenberg, Alfred – 25 July 1945
Folder 29 – Sauckel, Fritz – August and September 1945
Folder 30 – Saur. Karl – 3 August 1945
Folder 31 – Schacht, Dr. Hjalmar – August and September 19445
Folder 32 – Schwartz, Framz Xaver – July 1945
Folder 33 – Schwerin Von Krosigk, Graf Lutz – September 1945
Folder 34 – Seldte, Franz – 12 September 1945
Folder 35 – Skorzeny, Otto – 6 September 1945
Folder 36 – Stuckart, Wilhelm – 13 September 1945
Folder 37 – Speer, Albert – Evaluation report -27 July 1945
Folder 38 – Speer, Albert – Examination report – September 1945
Folder 39 – Speer, Albert – Exploitation report – May - June 1945
Folder 40 – Speer, Albert – Intelligence reports – August - September 1945
Folder 41 – Speer, Albert – Interrogation report – May – July 21945
Folder 42 – Springer, Hildegard – Interrogation and biography - 1945
Folder 43 – Stahl, Dietrich – 20 August 1945
Folder 44 – Stenbracht, Baron lGustav Adolph – 16 September 1945
Folder 45 – von Schirach, Baldur – 19 July 1945
Folder 46 – Zschintzch, Werner – N.D.

1.4 Memoranda –

Folder 1 – Miscellaneous
Folder 2 – Regarding Buchenwald and Dr. Eugene Rogen – September 1945
Folder 3 – “Tesch, Brund” 29 October 1945
Folder 4 – Trial Organization 22 October 1945
Folder 5 – Wiesbaden War Crimes Branch – 1945
Folder 6 – Williams, Curtis – October and November 1945

1.5 Prisoner Information – may include

Movement of Prisoners

- Records of Property belonging to Prisoners at time of intake
- Prisoner Location of Otto Meissener, Paul Schmidt, Kurt Von Schroeder, Seclie Muller
- Receipt of Prisoners
- Permission to Transport Prisoners
- Request for Priority on Prisoners (2 separate lists)
- Removal of Prisoners to Nuremberg
- Certificate of Receipt of Prisoners
- Request for Movement of Prisoners to Nuremberg (2 separate lists)
- Schedule of Transportation for Transfer of Prisoners
- Movement to Nurnberg

POW Army Forms for prisoners Bodenschatz, Sperrle, and Westhoff

- Clothing & equipment record
- Dental Treatment card
- Medical examination card
- POW index intake cards

Roster of Internees

Folder 1 – Boldenscatz, Karl – 1945

Folder 2 – Brandt, Dr. Karl - N.D.

Folder 3 – Movement of Prisoners

Folder 4 – Roster of Internees 29 October 1945

Folder 5 – Spoerle, Hugo - 1945

Folder 6 – Westoff, Adolf – 1945

1.6 Reports and Miscellaneous –

Folder 1 – Miscellaneous

Folder 2 – Incident report – September 1945

Folder 3 – International Military Tribunal 1945

1.7 Trial Notes -

Folder 1 – Detailed notes 1945

Folder 2 – People

Folder 3 – Trial Outline 1944

Series 2 – Printed Material-Articles, Brochures, Pamphlet - *WWII documents*: Series includes government publications pamphlets and booklets providing information to Americans on what's happening in Europe, information on Concentration camps, maps from the war department of POW & concentration camp locations, US Office of War Information pamphlets. Also includes clippings from Iowa newspapers, magazines (*The New Yorker, Life, The Retired Officer, Time*), some clippings are individual but others are located inside scrapbooks (noted)

2.1 – Magazine Articles -

Folder 1 – Life Magazine – “A Man on a Mountain” – 23 June 1941

Folder 2 – Life Magazine – “Eva Braun’s Album” - 21 July 1947

Folder 3 – Life Magazine - “Executed Nazi Leaders” – 4 November 1946

Folder 4 – Life Magazine – “The Goebbels Diaries” – 20 March 1948

Folder 5 – Life Magazine – “Goering Proudly Defends Nazi Record – 1 April 1946

Folder 6 – Life Magazine - “Goering Art Treasures” – 11 June 1945

Folder 7 – Life Magazine - “Hitler” – 23 April 1945

Folder 8 – Life Magazine - “The Hitler Bomb Plot” – 23 May 1945

Folder 9 – Life Magazine - “Hot Heirlooms” = 24 June 1946

Folder 10 – Life Magazine – “The Interrogation of Albert Speer” – 17 December 1945

Folder 11 – Life Magazine – “The Last Days in Berlin” 21 May 1945

Folder 12 – Life Magazine – “The Last Days of Hitler” – 17 March 1947

Folder 13 – Life Magazine – “The Last Prussian” – 25 December 1944

Folder 14 – Life Magazine – “Nazi Poison Vials” - 4 June 1945

Folder 15 – Life Magazine – “Nazis are Hanged” – 25 October 1946

Folder 16 – Life Magazine – “Occupied Germany” – 10 February 1947

Folder 17 – Life Magazine – “Shall I remarry?” – 15 April 1946

Folder 18 – Life Magazine – “Wet Winter Fog” – 24 February 1941

Folder 19 – Life Magazine – “The German People – 7 May 1944

Folder 20 – Life Magazine – “Most Decorated Soldier – 16 July 1945

Folder 21 – Life Magazine – 10 December 1945

Folder 22 – Life Magazine – 16 September 1946

Folder 23 – Life Magazine – 14 October 1946

Folder 24 – New Yorker – 30 March 1946

Folder 25 – Retired Officer – “Prelude to Nuremberg” - February 1972

Folder 26 – Saturday Evening Post - “Backstage Battle at Nuremberg” - 19 January 1946

Folder 27 – Saturday Evening Post – “Our Two Tries to Kill Hitler” – 22 July 1946

Folder 28 – Time Magazine – “ 30 July 1945
Folder 29 – Time Magazine – “ 6 August 1945
Folder 30 – Time Magazine – 15 October 1945

2.2 - Governments

Folder 1 – Governments – England – Germany Basic Handbook July 1945
Folder 2 – Governments – England – Who’s Who in Germany and Austria 1945
Folder 3 – Governments – United States – Army Service Forces Transportation Certificate 1945
Folder 4 – Governments – United States – Army Identification Cards 1975-1976
Folder 5 – Governments – United States – Department of Commerce – Census record 1966
Folder 6 - Governments – United States – Office of Strategic Services – “Dachau” – 1945
Folder 7 - Governments – United States – Office of Strategic Services – German Concentration Camps map – 1944
Folder 8 – Governments - United States – US Geological Survey – Mt. Vernon
Folder 9 – Governments - United States – War Department – “What Should be done with War Criminal?”
Folder 10 - Governments - United States – War Department – Map – Ft. Lewis Washington – 1939
Folder 11 - Governments - United States – War Department – Map – Ft. Lewis Washington – 1940
Folder 12 - Governments - United States – War Department – Map – Ft. Lewis Washington – 1942
Folder 13 Governments - United States – War Department – Procedures for Military Executions - 1944
Folder 14 Governments - United States – War Information – “Photo report from five concentration camps” – 1945
Folder 15 - Governments - United States – War Information – Notes on War Criminals and Leipzig Trials -
Folder 16 – Promotional Material
Folder 17 – Business – Michelin Tires Map of West Germany – 1944
Folder 18 – Business – Seiberling News Bulletin – September 1946
Folder 19 – Miscellaneous – American Red Cross – Map – Prisoners of War Bulletin POW Locations – February 1945
Folder 20 – Miscellaneous – National Geographic Map Central Europe 1939
Folder 21 - Miscellaneous – National Geographic Map Central Europe 1944

Folder 22 - Miscellaneous – National Geographic Map World - 1939

Folder 23 - Miscellaneous – Thomas H Barry – “Home Run” newsletter - 1945

Series 3 – Newspapers & Clippings – Clippings and papers about Nuremberg trials and Silliman’s speaking engagements and time in Nuremberg.

Folder 1- The American Traveler – October 1945

Folder 2 – Amtsblatt – 10 November 1945

Folder 3 – Scrapbook – 1945--1946

Folder 4 – Nuremberg Clippings Binder

Folder 5 – Miscellaneous Nuremberg Clippings 1940’s

Folder 6 – New York Times – 8 June 1945

Folder 7 – Cedar Rapids Gazette – August 1945 – September 1961

Folder 8 – Minneapolis Sunday Tribune – 3 September 1945

Folder 9 – Reports on Silliman- 1945

Folder 10 – The Stars and Stripes - 1945

Folder 11 – Nuremberg War Data – 1945

Series 4 – Artifacts and Ephemera - Series includes army insignia of Silliman’s and other members of German military, Silliman’s high school yearbooks & personal photographs

Tray 1 –

1.1 – Coast Artillery Corps Insignia pin 2” gold

1.2 – European/African/Middle Eastern Campaign ribbon

1.3 – WWI Victory Ribbons

1.4 – Brass Belt Buckle

1.5 – Bronze US Army Officer pin

1.6 – Western Defense Command patch

1.7 – WWI Victory ribbon

1.8 – US Grey Army Officer pins

1.9 – BDS initial pin

1.10 - World War I Victory ribbon, American Campaign Medal ribbon, European/African Middle Eastern Campaign ribbon (all in one)

1.11 – E Pluribus Unum cuff links

1.12 - Liberty Bell Medal

1.13 – Silliman WWII Dog Tags

1.14 – Major Rank Insignia

1.15 – WWII US Army Eagle Hat Badge (smaller)

1.16 - WWII US Army Eagle Hat Badge

1.17 – U.S. gold pins

1.18 – Coast of Arms Silliman College patch

1.19 – Judge Advocate General Insignia

1.20 -

1.21 -

1.22 – 18th Coast Artillery Harbor Defense pins

1.23 – WWII Victory ribbon

1.24 - Army Services Force patch

Tray 2 –

2.1 – 9th Coast Artillery patch

2.2 –

2.3 – Coast Artillery Corps Insignia pin 1 1/4" bronze

2.4 – Captain Insignia pin silver

2.5 – Western Defense Command patch

2.6 -

2.7 –

2.8 – Coast Artillery Corps Insignia pin ``11/4x 2/3" gold

2.9 – 4th Army Clover patch

2.10 –

2.11 – U, S, Army pins grey

2.12 – Coast Artillery Corps

2.13 – Bronze Star Medal

2.14 –

2.15 – US Lieutenant Colonel Insignia (Silver)

2.16 – 6th Air Defense Artillery Unit Pin, “I Aim with a Sure Blow

Tray 3 – German Artifacts –

3.1 -

3.2 – Panzer Badge

3.3 – Passive defense pin

3.4 -

3.5 – Guderian’s WWI Iron Cross

3.6 – Blaskowitz WWI Iron Cross

3.7 - Guderian’s: Soldbuch, International driver’s license, Wehrpass

3.8 - Guderian’s Militaer Fuehrerschein (military driver’s license)

3.9 – Skorzeny Honor Roll Clasp

Tray 4 – Empty Boxes (those which Silliman kept the artifacts)

Plain white

Small green

Small tan Labeled “Army Insignia”

Fanny Farmer Candy box labeled “Army Insignia”

Folder 1 – Japanese Paper Balloon

Folder 2 – Correspondence – Personal – Iron Cross & Clasp

Folder 3 – Blaskowitz, Johannes

Folder 4 – Guderian, Heinz

Series 5 – Personal files and Memorabilia - includes family biography & correspondence, Legal documents - includes marriage liscence & army documents

Box 1 - Files

- Folder 1 – General – Boone High School Commencement invitation – 1913
- Folder 2 – General – Boone High School Year book – 1913
- Folder 3 – General – Correspondence – by date 1940's
- Folder 4 – General – Correspondence – by date 1978*1980
- Folder 5 – General – Correspondence – by name - Silliman
- Folder 6 – General – Correspondence – by name –United States
- Folder 7 – General – Family information - biography
- Folder 8 – Legal Documents - Cedar Memorial Park
- Folder 9 – Legal Documents – Honorable Discharge Papers -1918 and 1946
- Folder 10 – Legal Documents – Living Will - 1978
- Folder 11 – Legal Documents – Oak Hill Cemetery - 1935
- Folder 12 – Legal Documents – Record of Marriage -1966
- Folder 13 – Legal Documents – Rent Contract - 1897
- Folder 14 – Legal Documents – Silliman, Faye – information for funeral home
- Folder 15 – Miscellaneous

Box 2 – Memorabilia –

- Scrap book – about Silliman – 1945-1946
- Blue Binder – Nuremberg newspaper clippings
- Blue Binder – Notes and trial instructions
- Who's Who I Germany and Austria – 1945
- Germany Basic Handbook – 1944

Box 3 – Memorabilia

- Scrap book – Coe College years – 1913-1917

Series 6 – Photographs - Series includes photographs from Adolph Hitler's photographer Heinrich Hoffmann, photographs noted and labeled with individuals (when known), activities (when known) and location (when known) and Silliman photographs.

Box 1 – Silliman

- Folder 1 – Portraits of Silliman
- Folder 2 – Western Defense Major General (Harold Nichols?)
- Folder 3 – Western Defense Major General Birthday Party
- Folder 4 – With Trial Evidence
- Folder 5 – Silliman infant through adult
- Folder 6 – Family and trips
- Folder 7 – Hannah Faye Nelson Silliman

Box 2 – Hoffman photos – 124 photographs – Including, Hitler, Mussolini, Goring, Goebbels, Himmler, Bormann, Kaltenbrunner, Frank, Von Papen, Von Bohlen, Halback, Donitz, Jodl, Frick, Hess, Guderian and others

Heinrich Hoffmann was born in Furth, Germany in 1885; he was Hitler's personal photographer and took over two and a half million photos of Hitler during his lifetime.