

SMS 846

26 June 2023

Schreck, Christopher J.

BARNETT, JOHN R.
1936-1953
LINEAR FT.: 0.1
APPROX. NO. PGS.: 100

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Camp King is a site on the outskirts of Oberursel, Taunus, Germany that was home to the University of Frankfurt's school for agriculture. At the beginning of World War II, the land below the school was adapted to military use and given the title Auswertstelle West (Evaluation Center West), though it was also called Dulag Luft due to the post initially serving the functions of both the Dulag (transfer facility) and the interrogation center. Captured allied air crews were brought to the post for interrogation, after which they were transferred to long-term detention facilities known as Stalag Lufts.

Following Germany's defeat, the United States Army took control of the site and used it as an interrogation center for the purpose of collecting information from former German intelligence officers on the Soviet Union. They re-named the facility "Camp King" after Colonel Charles B. King, an intelligence officer who died in the line of duty two years earlier. In 1952 the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) used the site to test the effects that drugs, including LSD, had on prisoners as part of Project BLUEBIRD. In 1953 the 513th Military Intelligence Group was activated and moved into the camp, and its purpose to gather intelligence continued.

In 1968 the United States Army Movements Control Center - Europe (USAMCAEUR) was assigned to Camp King, which was inactivated in 1991 during the post-Cold War drawdown. In the spring of 1990, the headquarters of the 22nd Signal Brigade moved to Camp King but after only three years the post was completely deactivated and returned to the German Government. It has since been redeveloped into a housing area. More details regarding Camp King and its unique history can be found in the album included in this collection, which was compiled by the camp's commander, Col. Franz H. Ross, during his tenure between June 1958 and December 1962. It was likely donated to the Air Force academy in 1991.

This collection is named for Lt. Col. John R. Barnett (USAF), a US Army Air Corps pilot who was shot down over Germany during World War II and held prisoner at the Stalag Luft III prison camp. However, the existing donor paperwork is unclear on how he came to possess this album and does not describe the circumstances surrounding its transfer to the Air Force Academy. This album does not include any information regarding Barnett himself.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a single folder containing a one-hundred-page album. This album includes photographs and a typed historical narrative of Auswertstelle West/Camp King from 1936 to 1953. Most of the photos and narratives pertain to the World War II years, 1939-1945.

Names: Barnett, John; Ross, Franz H.; Day, H.M.A. (British Wing Commander); Buckley, J.; Bushell, Roger; Scharff, Hanns Joachim (German interrogator); von Werra, Franz (Luftwaffe Ace pilot); Killinger, Erich (German camp administrator)

Keywords and terms: Camp King; Auswertstelle West; Prisoners of War (POWs); Dulag Luft; Interrogation; Intelligence gathering; World War II; World War, 1939-1945; Luftwaffe; Royal Air Force (RAF); Escape and evasion; War crimes trials; French POWs; British POWs; Oberursel, Taunus; Germany; 1940s

For information on how to cite the materials in this collection, see the Clark Special Collections Citation Guide at <https://usafa.libguides.com/spc>, or contact Clark Special Collections at (719) 333-4674.

ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE: ALBUM

Folder 1 Album titled “Dulag Luft,” written by someone with the initials J.C.S. This album is organized like a book, with photographs interspersed throughout a typed narrative. It covers most of the history of Auswertstelle West/Camp King from 1936 until 1953, when the 513th Military Intelligence Group moved into the camp. Most of the detail covers the World War II years when it was under the control of the German Luftwaffe. Many of the Allied prisoners who passed through the camp are named, and some are even pictured. Many of the camp’s buildings are also pictured, with captions. Specific topics include:

- German soldiers
- Allied prisoner information
- Treatment of prisoners
- Camp buildings and their purposes
- German interrogation methods
- Escape attempts
- Collaborators
- Post-war trials
- List of German prisoners (post WWII)
- Camp administrative documents

This album also includes an account from “inside” the compound when it was under control of the Luftwaffe (p. 55). The account comes from a former Nazi interrogator named Hanns Joachim Scharff, who provides a 25-page detailed account of interrogation methods employed by the Germans during the war.