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## The Holocaust Center for Humanity Presents: The Wilsey Collection

Digital repository of 280+ letters and other artifacts from Captain David B. Wilsey, M.D., liberator of Dachau.



**SEATTLE, WA** — The Holocaust Center for Humanity announces its new online repository for the collection of Captain David B. Wilsey, M.D. The collection features 280+ letters, photographs, and more from Wilsey's time in the U.S. army, including his experiences as a liberator of Dachau. This collection allows the public to read and research these letters for the first time. **Access the collection at:** <u>http://hchwilsey.omeka.net</u>

A physician and anesthesiologist, Wilsey joined the military during World War II to serve as an Army physician, eventually rising in the ranks to become a Captain. At age 30, he was one of very few doctors who entered Dachau concentration camp during its liberation in late April of 1945. These doctors spent the next month giving medical care to former prisoners. This collection of letters, written home to his wife Emily, chronicle his journey through France, Germany, and ultimately, Dachau concentration camp. They serve as a reminder of WWII and its many horrors.

In 2009, Dr. Wilsey's children found a box containing these letters. In 2016, David's daughter Clarice donated the collection to the Holocaust Center for Humanity, which has transcribed, digitized, and now published these letters online. In several letters, Dr. Wilsey asked his wife "to tell thousands so that millions will know what Dachau is and never forget the name of Dachau." This digital collection, which will allow researchers, students, librarians, and teachers to access the letters for the first time, does just that. Clarice Wilsey also continues to spread her father's legacy as a member of the Holocaust Center's Speakers Bureau.

Special thanks goes to University of Washington Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) 2019 graduates Leslie Denning, Conor Doyle, and Rachel Ramey for their tireless Capstone Project work, which made this site a reality. Thanks to the Peck Stacpoole Foundation and 4Culture/King County Lodging Tax Fund for their generous support of this project.

## **ABOUT THE CENTER**

The Holocaust Center for Humanity is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that teaches the lessons of the Holocaust, inspiring students of all ages to confront bigotry and indifference, promote human dignity, and take action. Established in 1989, the Center works directly with thousands of Pacific Northwest teachers, students, and community members to provide educational materials, curricula, programs, and interaction with local Holocaust survivors. In 2015, the Henry and Sandra Friedman Holocaust Center for Humanity museum opened its doors to the public. The Center's new exhibit, *Finding Light in the Darkness,* features an Anne Frank Annex, an Eternal Light memorial, and survivor testimony clips on screens throughout.

The Center is located at 2045 Second Avenue in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood. Open to the public Wednesdays and Sundays, and to school and community groups by appointment Monday-Friday.

Find out more at <u>HolocaustCenterSeattle.org</u>.