



Victor E. Clark Collection (S0014)

Collection Number: S0014

Collection Title: Victor E. Clark Collection

Dates: 1935-1970, bulk 1968-1969

Creator: Clark, Victor Earl Jr., 1919-2001

Abstract: The Victor E. Clark Collection contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs documenting Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Clark's attempt in 1968-1969 to create a "Hitler Museum" of the former Nazi buildings and bunkers in Obersalzberg, Germany.

Collection Size: 0.02 cubic feet
(8 folders, 64 photographs)

Language: Collection materials are in English and in German.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information and about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Victor E. Clark Collection* (S0014); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Saint Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Saint Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection by Victor E. Clark on July 24, 1974 (SA0410).

Alternate Forms Available: Digital images of this collection are available online at the State Historical Society of Missouri Digital Collections: <https://digital.shsmo.org>.

Processed by: Processed by WHMC staff, date unknown. Finding aid updated July 2022 by Erin Purdy.

Historical Note:

In April of 1945 Allied forces targeted the residences of Adolph Hitler, Kehlsteinhaus (The Eagle's Nest) and Berghof, along with other Nazi buildings in Obersalzberg near the town of Berchtesgaden, Germany. The Allied forces captured the Nazi base and they subsequently used the property as a military command post before it became part of an Armed Forces Recreation Center, the Berchtesgaden Recreation Area (BRA). The BRA was open to for active-duty and retired military members, Department of Defense civilians, and their families. The BRA included a variety of resort facilities and recreational activities such as sports, hiking, and skiing.

During Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Victor E. Clark's time as Director of the BRA from September 1968 to 1969, he opened parts of the property, including a bunker, to paying tourists (who had previously been paying to visit the bunkers via a nearby privately-owned hotel). The funding from the visitors helped to balance the lagging budget of the BRA. However, the "Hitler Museum" was controversial even before its opening, and as many feared there were problems with Neo-Nazis visiting the bunker sites. Clark ordered the museum exhibits to be stripped and closed the bunkers to tourists.

The difficulty of the museum was Clark's secondary problem during his time as director. As soon as he arrived at the BRA, he discovered that service members were embezzling funds from the budget. In 1969, Clark transferred away from the BRA so that he could participate in the investigation and eventually testified in court against the offenders.

Lt. Col. Victor Earl Clark was born on January 9, 1919 in Selma, Alabama and died on October 29, 2001. He is buried in Kirkwood, Missouri. In 1986, Clark began the publication of a journal called the *Argyll Colony Plus* to further interest in the history of North Carolina. The North Carolina Scottish Heritage Society was established in 1992 to continue publishing the journal and continues to the present.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into a single series.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection includes correspondence, clippings, and photographs documenting Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Victor Earl Clark's attempt in 1968-1969 to create a museum of the former residences of Adolph Hitler, Kehlsteinhaus (The Eagle's Nest) and Berghof, and other Nazi buildings in Obersalzberg near the town of Berchtesgaden, Germany.

The correspondence includes letters from members of the German public both for and against the idea of the museum, and for and against Hitler himself. The collection includes the original letters with German translations. Also included are similar newspaper editorials about the museum. Two magazines from a later date have articles about the Obersalzberg area's connection to Hitler.

The photographs in the collection include reproductions of photographs of Hitler and the property taken from 1930 to 1945, after the property was damaged during World War II, and photographs of the property as it appeared when it was a post-war attraction. The photographs include images of the 1968-1969 exhibits. Other photographs include other parts of the BRA,

including the Platterhof complex, SS barracks, Hotel Eingang (Hotel zum Türken), the Evergreen Lodge, and the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, which was built as a an American-styled resort for Americans.

Container List:

- f. 1 Correspondence and newspaper clippings, 1968-1969. German and English.
- f. 2 Press clippings of Hitler's Bunker, 1968-1969. German and English.
- f. 3 Photographs 14.01-15, 1935-1969
- f. 4 Photographs 14.16-30, 1935-1969
- f. 5 Photographs 14.31-46, 1935-1969
- f. 6 Photographs 14.47-64, 1935-1969
- f. 7 *Look* magazine with article "The Insane World of Adolph Hitler." January 6, 1959
- f. 8 *Life* magazine with article "The Private World of Hitler, Unique history by the Fuhrers' photographer and by a member of his inner circle." April 24, 1970

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Armed Forces Recreation Centers--Germany	1-8	Yes
Berchtesgaden Recreation Area (Germany)	1-8	Yes
Berghof (Obersalzberg, Germany)	1-8	Yes
Clark, Victor Earl	1-2	
Hitler, Adolf, 1889-1945	1-8	Yes
Kehlsteinhaus (Germany)	1-8	Yes
Nazism	1-2	
Neo-Nazism	1-2	
Scherret, Ursula	1-2	
Soldiers--Recreation	1-8	Yes
World War, 1939-1945	1-8	Yes