

# Guide to the Ernest Warren Lefever Papers

MS 953



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

July 1983

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 953

**CREATOR:** Lefever, Ernest W., 1919-

**TITLE:** Ernest Warren Lefever papers

**DATES:** 1947-1948

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Research materials collected largely in connection with the preparation of Ernest Warren Lefever's Ph.D. dissertation at Yale University, 1956. The bulk of the papers consist of memoirs, reports, and articles about German prisoners of war who had returned from Russia. These were collected in Bremen in 1948. The remainder of the papers contain correspondence and printed matter concerning the re-education of German youth after World War II as produced by the German Youth Activities Section of the Training and Education Branch of the United States Army.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0953>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0953>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box  
f.        folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Ernest Lefever, 1951-1952.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Ernest Warren Lefever Papers (MS 953). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ernest Warren Lefever was born on November 12, 1919, in York, Pennsylvania. He was educated at Elizabethtown College, where he graduated with an A.B. in 1942. In 1945, he received a B.D. from Yale University, where he continued to study, receiving a Ph.D. in 1956. Lefever has worked in international affairs for nearly his entire life, beginning in the years following World War II, when he was a field secretary in Europe for the World's Alliance of YMCAs. Over the course of the next two decades, Lefever worked in international affairs at the National Council of Churches (1952-1954), Johns Hopkins University (1955-1956, 1960-1961), the University of Maryland (1956-1957), the Library of Congress (1957-1959), and for Senator Hubert Humphrey (1959-1960). Between 1964 and 1976, he was a member of the senior staff of foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institute. In 1976, he helped found and became president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center. He remained president until 1989, when he became a senior fellow. He has been an adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Reagan. Lefever has written, co-authored, or edited twenty books and has frequently written articles for many of America's leading newspapers and magazines.

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## Scope and Contents

The Ernest Warren Lefever Papers are made up of research materials concerning the treatment of German civilians and prisoners of war after World War II. There is a small amount of material about the German Youth Activities (GYA) Section of the Training and Education Branch of the United States Army, established in 1945 to reorient German youth. Included are two items of correspondence with W. P. Shofstall of the GYA, notes, and statistics on United States Army assistance to German youth groups. Lefever was collecting this material for use in writing his Yale Ph.D. thesis, *Protestants and United States Foreign Policy, 1925-1954: A Study of the Response of National Protestant Leaders to the Issues and Directions of the United States Foreign Policy and of the Theoretical Assumptions Which Underlay That Response* (1956).

The bulk of the papers consists of materials on the treatment of German prisoners of war in Russia, which Lefever collected in Bremen, Germany, in 1948. These include first-hand histories of returning prisoners of

war, reports and articles about prisoners of war, and notes and printed matter. Most of these papers are in German.

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## Collection Contents

### German Youth Activities Section

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	1948
b. 1, f. 2	Notes and statistics	1947-1948
German prisoners of war		
b. 1, f. 3	Histories of prisoners of war returning from Russia	1947-1948
b. 1, f. 4	Articles about prisoners of war in Russia	1947-1948
b. 1, f. 5 - 6	Reports on prisoners of war in Russia	1947-1948
b. 1, f. 7	Reports on prisoners of war in France, England, and Egypt	1947-1948
b. 1, f. 8	Notes and printed matter	[ca. 1947-1948]

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prisons,  
Russian  
Youth -- Germany (West)

### **Geographic Names**

Europe  
Germany -- History -- 1945-1955  
Soviet Union

### **Names**

Lefever, Ernest W., 1919-

### **Corporate Bodies**

United States. Army  
Yale University -- Students