

THE CHILDREN

Sergio de Simone

Sergio de Simone

Sergio de Simone was born on 29 November 1937 and lived with his parents in Naples, Italy. His father, Edoardo de Simone, was a Catholic naval officer, and his mother Gizella, née Perlow, was Jewish.

Edoardo de Simone was deported to Dortmund for forced labour. In the summer of 1943, Gizella de Simone and her son Sergio moved in with relatives in Fiume in northern Italy because Allied bombing raids on Naples made staying in the city seem unsafe.

On 21 March 1944, six-year old Sergio, his mother and seven other members of the family including his cousins Alessandra and Tatiana were arrested in Fiume. They were taken to the Risiera di San Sabba concentration camp near Trieste, from where they were deported to Auschwitz on 4 April 1944. In Auschwitz, Sergio had to work as an errand boy until he was taken to the Neuengamme concentration camp as a subject for Heißmeyer's medical experiments. On 20 April 1945, Sergio de Simone was murdered here on Bullenhuser Damm aged 7.

In the spring of 1945, Sergio's mother Gizella de Simone was taken to the Ravensbrück concentration camp, where she was liberated. She was in very bad health and did not return to Italy until November 1945, where she rejoined her husband. The de Simones began looking for their son and learned in the late 1940s that he had been taken from Auschwitz to a concentration camp in the west. Edoardo de Simone died in 1964 without ever learning of his son's fate. Gizella de Simone heard of the murders on Bullenhuser Damm in 1983 and attended the commemorative event in Hamburg on 20 April 1984. However, she did not want to believe that Sergio was dead and held on to the hope that he was still alive until she died.

A street in the Hamburg district of Burgwedel is named after Sergio de Simone.

Sergio de Simone

Sergio de Simone, undated

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 1995-1157*



Sergio de Simone

Sergio de Simone with his mother, undated

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
2002-0949*



Sergio de Simone

Sergio de Simone (front centre) with his mother (left), an aunt, a friend of his mother's and his two cousins in Pompei in the spring of 1941.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 2002-0959*



Sergio de Simone

Sergio de Simone (left) with two of his aunts, his grandmother and his cousins in September 1943.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 2002-0964*



Sergio de Simone

Sergio de Simone with his cousins Tatiana and Alessandra in September 1943.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 2002-0965*



Sergio de Simone

Sergio de Simone with his cousins
Tatiana and Alessandra on his sixth
birthday, 29 November 1943.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 2002-0966*



Sergio de Simone

DP registration record for Eduardo de Simone, 1945

This index card, issued in July 1945 by the American Expeditionary Forces, lists the personal details of Sergio's father, Edoardo de Simone, and classifies him as a Displaced Person.

ITS, Bad Arolsen, 66874561

A.E.F. D.P. REGISTRATION RECORD												For coding purposes																											
(1) REGISTRATION No. <u>P. 01489741</u> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	H.	I.	J.																		
(2) Family Name <u>De Simone Edoardo</u>			(3) Sex <u>M.</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/>			(4) Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>			(5) Claimed Nationality <u>Italian</u>																														
(6) Birthdate <u>9.11.1902</u>		Birthplace <u>Napoli</u>		Province <u>ITALIA</u>		Country <u>ITALIA</u>		(7) Religion (Optional) <u>Cattolica</u>		(8) Number of Accompanying Family Members <u>-</u>																													
(9) Number of Dependents: <u>2</u>		(10) Full Name of Father <u>De Simone Salvatore</u>				(11) Full Maiden Name of Mother <u>Filomena Cocchia</u>																																	
(12) DESIRED DESTINATION <u>Napoli</u>				(13) LAST PERMANENT RESIDENCE OR RESIDENCE JANUARY 1, 1938. <u>Napoli</u>																																			
City or Village <u>Napoli</u>		Province <u>ITALIA</u>		Country <u>ITALIA</u>		City or Village <u>Napoli</u>		Province <u>ITALIA</u>		Country <u>ITALIA</u>																													
(14) Usual Trade, Occupation or Profession <u>capo meccanico R. Manini</u>				(15) Performed in What Kind of Establishment				(16) Other Trades or Occupations																															
(17) Languages Spoken in Order of Fluency <u>Italiano francese tedesco</u>				(18) Do You Claim to be a Prisoner of War <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				(19) Amount and Kind of Currency in your Possession <u>Lit. 1000 = RM 1000 =</u>																															
(20) Signature of Registrant: <u>De Simone Edoardo</u>				(21) Signature of Registrar: <u>Ernest Femi</u>				Date: <u>1.7.45</u> Assembly Center: <u>Wuppertal</u>																															
(22) Destination or Reception Center:																																							
(23) Code for Issue <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> </tr> </table>												1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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(24) REMARKS																																							

Sergio de Simone

Sergio de Simone's case file with the ITS, 1948

This index card lists the activities undertaken by the ITS to find the missing child Sergio de Simone.

ITS, Bad Arolsen, de Simone file

3002

I. T. S.

CHILD SEARCH



CASE COVER SHEET

Surname (DE) SIMONE,
Given or christian names SERGIO
Other names used

Missing child
Located child
Registered child
Relatives located

Nationality ~~UNDETERM.~~ ^{italienischer Jude.} Birthdate 29. 11. 37 Birthplace NAPLES - Italy.

Lists on which name appears 9/H/116, 180, 193,
9/9/93, 158,

Checked with children's index yes
Card entered into index yes
Date case received 10. 8. 48

Action of Correspondence unit	Date sent out	Initials
1) Letter to Ministry of soc. Welfare Prague	11. 8. 48	
2) " " Polish Red Cross, Warszawa	12. 8. 48	
3) " " J. D.C. Frankfurt	30. 12. 48	
4) " " to Czechoslovak R. C. S. Prague	1. 3. 49	A Z
5) Letter to A. J. D. C. Frankfurt	24. 3. 49	
6) Letter to I.R.O. Austria	24. 3. 49	
7) " " to Com. of Lib. Jews Munich	5. 5. 49	Z A
8) " " I.R.O. Rome	26. 8. 49	V. S.
9) C.I.S. to I.R.O. Rome and A. J. D. C. Munich	R 30. 12. 49	Z
10) Letter to Volkshilfe Deutsches Krieger-Fernnetz	24. 2. 50	Sa
11) Reminiscence World Jewish Congress London	R 20. 4. 50	SP
12) Letter to I.R.O. Rome	R 20. 4. 50	SP
13) " " " "	R 5. 7. 50	HE
14) Letter to JAFIP, Israel	R 1. 8. 50	SH

Documents Intelligence: SUMMARISED by 55 Date 28-7-50
Mikrofilm John

Date case closed

Basis for closing

Authority

Statistically Recorded M. Jung

1809 1066 1155 1322 1500 1500

I. T. S.

CHILD SEARCH



CASE COVER SHEET

Surname DE SIMONE
Given or christian names SERGIO
Other names used

Missing child V
Located child
Registered child
Relatives located

italienischer Jude

Nationality UNDETERMINED Birthdate 29.01.37 Birthplace Naples- Italy

Lists on which name appears 9/H/116, 180, 193
9G93, 158

Checked with children's index yes
Card entered into index yes
Date case received 10.8.48

Action of Correspondence unit

Date sent out

Initials

Action of Correspondence unit	Date sent out	Initials
<i>see old cover sheet</i>		
<i>Letter to IRO Rome</i>	<i>22. XI. 50</i>	<i>J.J.</i>
<i>" " ITALIAN consul bombing</i>	<i>23. XI. 50</i>	
<i>Letter to R. K. Simon</i>	<i>14. XII. 50</i>	<i>J.B.</i>
<i>Letter to Miss. Brindley</i>	<i>14. 12. 50</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Letter to ... de Simone</i>	<i>7. 2. 51</i>	<i>J.B.</i>
<i>Inter-office memo to Records Branch</i>		<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Letter to IRO, Rome</i>		<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Letter to Centr. Com. of Jews in Poland</i>	<i>8. 3. 51</i>	<i>R.A.</i>
<i>Letter to Miss T. Allen, US Committee for Care of European Children</i>	<i>12. 6. 51</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Letter to IRO Italy</i>	<i>9. 8. 51</i>	<i>J.J.</i>
<i>Letter to National Catholic Welfare Conference in Frankfurt/alt.-Hochst</i>	<i>5. 3. 52.</i>	
<i>Letter to Italian Consulate in Hamburg</i>	<i>2. 7. 52</i>	
Documents intelligence: <i>Mikrofilm</i>		

Date case closed

Basis for closing

Authority

Statistically Recorded

M. J. W. /

Letter to Station Red Cross		1.9.50.	SS
Cart to Gurn, Ind. Hants,	R		SS
Letter to Ch. S. Army Unit	R		SS
Letter to British R. Cross, Prague	R	1.9.50.	SS
Letter to Radio Frankfurt/Main	R		
Letter to F.R.O, Rome, Italy	—		

Sergio de Simone

Request for information on Sergio de Simone from the Italian consulate in Hamburg, June 1952

Sergio de Simone's parents sent out requests for information as to their son's whereabouts to various institutions in Germany. The Italian consulate in Hamburg wrote to the Red Cross's tracing service in Hamburg about Sergio, but the service was unable to provide any information.

The consul writes that he is acting on behalf of Sergio's father and gives details of Sergio's deportation to Auschwitz, his appearance and the number that was tattooed on his arm.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 3.14 Sergio de Simone*

Consolato d' Italia

Hamburg 13
Feldbrunnenstr. 54

2686
N. 3703

610. 1952

Pos.: c.6/1

Betr.: DE SIMONE Sergio - geboren am 29.11.1937 in
Napoli - Eltern : Edoardo und Gisela ge-
borene Perlow

Der Obengenannte wird noch von seinem Vater der in Napoli, via Morghen 65 bis wohnt, gesucht; die bisher durchgeführten Ermittlungen führten zu keinem Erfolg. Dieses Konsulat möchte deshalb der Bitte des Vaters entsprechen und ersuchen, höfl. jedmögliche Nachforschungen einzuleiten um etwas über den weiteren Verbleib des Kindes zu erfahren. Anhaltspunkte sind folgende anzuführen :

- De Simone Sergio wurde mit seiner Mutter die eine Jüdin war, in das Lager Auschwitz eingeliefert; er war noch dort mit Sicherheit am 25.12.1944 während seine Mutter Anfang November 1944 in ein anderes Lager im Westen kam.
- Die Einlieferung in Auschwitz erfolgte im Jahre 1944; Eintetowierte Nummer (auf dem Arm des Kindes) : N. 179614, weitere Kennzeichen : Augen schwarz, Haare und Hautfarbe : braun.
- spätere Andeutungen lassen vermuten, daß der Gesuchte auch nach dem Westen transportiert worden ist.

Zwecks weiteren Ermittlungen wird ein Lichtbild des Gesuchten das ungefähr 1943 aufgenommen wurde, beigelegt.

Für die freundlichen Bemühungen spricht dieses Konsulat schon im voraus den verbindlichsten Dank aus.

An den Suchdienst
des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes
Hamburg

Der Konsul
Frederic

Sergio de Simone

Gizella de Simone (right) and Margarete Wilkens in 1984

Sergio's mother Gizella travelled to Hamburg in 1984 to attend the commemorative event for the Bullenhusser Damm children. At the event, she met Margarete Wilkens from Hamburg. The two women had arrived at Auschwitz on the same day, on 4 April 1944, and had been tattooed consecutive prisoner numbers. In this photograph, the two women are showing their numbers to the camera.

Günther Schwarberg had contacted Margarete Wilkens in 1983 after stumbling upon her story. Wilkens had been separated from her son in Auschwitz, but found him again in 1947.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 2002-957*



