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Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division of Deutsche Kinemathek - Museum für Film und Fernsehen <http://www.deutsche-kinemathek.de> .

If you want your fellow fans to receive this newsletter or if you just want to add information write to mccb@deutsche-kinemathek.de . If you want to support the work of the Deutsche Kinemathek of which Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division you can do so by joining the "Association of Friends & Patrons of Filmmuseum Berlin". Just go to <http://www.fk-mff.de> . You'll find us on the web at www.marlene.com .

May 1945

After more than a year entertaining the US troops Marlene entered German territory early 1945. In spring 1945 she followed General Patton's 3rd Army which had advanced into the West of Czechoslovakia mid April and freed Pilsen May 6th where they met the Russian Army approaching from the East.



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Near Pilsen, Marlene noted on the back side "We play for the Russians – Fun and Vodka"



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"Near Teplitz, May 1945"

Marlene tried to find out the whereabouts of her family and friends. Being in Bohemia she could get to Aussig (Usti nad Labem) to Rudi Sieber's family.



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Marlene found her mother and father in law (on Marlene's right side) and some members of their family – the last meeting before the Siebers had to leave Aussig in August 1945.

She then went to Bavaria performing in Regensburg and Munich



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A break in between shows in Regensburg



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Feldherrenhalle Odeonsplatz Munich
 "KZ Dachau – Velden – Buchenwald. I am ashamed to be a German"

Isaac Deutscher, British correspondent for *The Observer* and the *The Economist* reports that he saw the inscription on May 28th 1945.

It was in Munich where she got the information that her sister had been found in Bergen Belsen. New York Daily Mirror reports May 21st 1945:

Marlene Tries to Get News of Aged Mother in Berlin

By Charles Chamberlain

Belsen, Germany, May 20 (AP).- German-born Marlene Dietrich, branded by the Nazis as a saboteur for becoming an American citizen, is attempting to learn the fate of her aged mother in Russian-occupied Berlin, the movie actress' sister said tonight.

Marlene's sister, plump 50-year-old Mrs. Elizabeth Will[s], said their mother's big watchmaking firm in the star's native Berlin was seized by the Gestapo a year ago after their mother had been charged with sheltering Jewish refugees.

Mrs. Will's husband, Georg[e] was a theatrical producer in Berlin, but she said in 1937 he was no longer permitted to continue this work because of his many Jewish friends. Later he became cinema manager at Belsen where he and his wife have lived since 1941.

Her identity as Marlene's sister was disclosed when British soldiers went through her apartment recently and noticed large

photographs of the star. Marlene was flown from Munich to Belsen in Gen. Eisenhower's personal plane for a reunion. Mrs. Will[s] has a 17-year-old son drafted last February into a military labor battalion. She said she had not heard from him since she visited him April 1 at Muenster where he had been ordered with others to defend the city or to be shot by the Gestapo.



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Jean Gabin came to Bavaria in 1945 with the French Division Leclerc. Near Landsberg he and Marlene reunited; both went to Traubing.



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With Jean Gabin in Traubing, May 1945

She decided to visit with Jean her old colleague actor Hans Albers who lived nearby in Garatshausen. His house was occupied by U.S. officers but after Dietrich's visit he could live there on his own again.



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With Hans Albers in front of his house in Garatshausen

Friend and Actor Hubert von Meyerinck nicknamed "Hupsi" recalls in his autobiography "Meine berühmten Freundinnen" meeting Marlene in Berlin, September 1945. For those who don't understand German. "Hupsi" noticed a Russian medal on Marlene's jacket and wondered: "What made you win a Russian medal?" – "Drinking vodka with the Russians." "Viele Jahre hatten wir uns nicht gesehen, Marlene, da flatterte eines Abends ein Brief in

meine Garderobe ... ,Hupsi, bitte komm in die Wohnung meiner Mutter – ich bin hier -, aber sag es niemandem, Deine Marlene' Zu der Zeit war noch ,No Fraternisation'-Befehl. In einer Art Taumel spielte ich den letzten Akt zu Ende. Und dann fuhr ich mit dem Rad zu Dir – ganz Berlin fuhr zu dieser Zeit Rad. Deine Mutter, Frau von Losch, öffnete mir selbst. Ich wartete eine Weile in dem kleinen möblierten Zimmer, in dem Deine Mutter wohnte, denn auch sie hatte alles verloren. Und mein Herz klopfte, denn es war so viel geschehen, seit wir das letztmal in Paris Abschied genommen hatten. So viel Grauen, so viel Brand und Verbrechen – wie würdest Du mich dieses Mal begrüßen? Und dann war es wie immer. Nur trugst Du diesmal Uniform, Du reistest mit der amerikanischen Armee und sangest den Soldaten Deine Lieder vor, Du sangest auch ,Lilli Marlen'. Wir küßten uns lächelnd und ich fragte Dich: 'Wo hast Du denn die vielen Orden her? Sogar einen russischen, wo hast Du denn den errungen?' Und Du lachtest: ,Weil ich mal Wodka mit ihnen getrunken habe.'"



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The Russian гвардия medal, an ensign of guard soldiers, on Marlene's Eisenhower jacket is on display at the permanent exhibition of Deutsche Kinemathek – Museum für Film und Fernsehen in Berlin.