

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
Finding Aid
RG-10
Small Collections

RG-10.420
Acc. 1990.111

Title: Barbara and William Farkas Photograph Collection, 1945-1966.

Extent: 6 photoprints: b&w (1 folder)

Provenance: The Bergen Belsen photographs were taken by an unknown photographer for the Red Cross in April 1945 and a hospital worker gave them to Barbara Marton Farkas in May 1945 in Sweden. The photograph of the memorial at Bergen Belsen was taken by an unknown photographer. The photograph of Dr. Erich Cohn was taken by an unknown photographer in 1966 and was sent to Barbara Farkas by Dr. Cohn's wife. William and Barbara Farkas donated the collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1990.

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on use: No restrictions on use.

Organization and arrangement: Arrangement is in the order in which received.

Preferred citation: Standard citation for U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Division, Archives branch.

Biographical /Historical note: Barbara Marton Farkas was born on May 4, 1920, in Beliu, Romanai, where her parents owned a grocery store. Her family lived in Beliu until 1937 when they sold their house and store and moved to Oradea, Romania. In 1940, Barbara was refused entrance into the university because of the anti-Jewish laws implemented by the Hungarian government, which then controlled northern Transylvania. Barbara trained in a hospital laboratory and worked there until the German invasion of Hungary in March 1944. She left the hospital, which was occupied by the SS, and started to work at a photo company. Beginning Apr. 1, 1944, she had to wear a Star of David, and in May, the Oradea ghetto was established. She and her family were soon deported to Auschwitz, a concentration camp in Poland where her parents were killed. Barbara was sent to C Lager, Block 15. After some time, she was taken to B Lager, and after a selection, she was taken to Weisswasser, a sub-camp of Gross Rosen in Germany. First, she worked in a chemistry lab and then in the Cathode Workshop. She worked there from Oct. 1944 until the end of Feb. 1945. In March 1945, they were transported through many camps to avoid the approaching Soviet Army. She ended up on the German-Danish border at Padberg. The Red Cross assisted the survivors with food and shelter. The next day she was taken to Malmö, Sweden. After spending some

time in a hospital in Landskrona, Sweden, Barbara returned to Romania and studied in Cluj from 1946 to 1951. She graduated as an industrial pharmacist. In 1961, she emigrated to Israel, and in 1968, she moved to the United States.

Inventory

1. Four original black and white photographs taken by the Red Cross at Bergen Belsen at the time of liberation, 1945.
2. Original black and white photograph of a memorial at Bergen Belsen.
3. Original black and white photograph of Dr. Erich Cohn testifying at the trial of Dr. Fischer in East Berlin, 1966.