

## **LILLY ISAACS DIARIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS, 1940-1946** **1995.88.5**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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### **Descriptive summary**

Title: Lilly Isaacs diaries and photographs

Dates: 1940-1946

Accession number: 1995.88.5

Creator: Isaacs, Lilly, 1920-2012

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 folder, 1 oversize box, and 2 book enclosures)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: This collection includes three diaries created and written by Lilly Isaacs while imprisoned in the Sömmerda labor camp from 1944 until after liberation in 1945. During her imprisonment Lilly worked in a munitions factory where she used materials from the factory, such as paint and paper, to make her diaries. In the diaries Lilly writes about being separated from her family at Auschwitz, missing her family, air raids, the development of the war, her experiences in Sömmerda, and liberation. The diaries also include poetry. The collection also includes photographs taken in 1940 of Elizabeth Engel and her two children, Goti and Judith, who perished at Auschwitz, and two photographs of Lilly and her husband, George Isaacs, before the war in Hungary and after the war in a DP camp in Austria.

Languages: Hungarian

### **Administrative Information**

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Physical access: The diaries in this collection are unavailable for request because of conservation concerns. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Lilly Isaacs diaries and photographs (1995.88.5), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Lilly Issacs donated the Lilly Isaacs diaries and photographs to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995 and 2009. The accessions previously numbered 1995.88, 2009.109.1 and 2009.109.2 have been incorporated in this collection.

Related material: An oral history interview with Lilly Isaccs was conducted by the Shoah Foundation.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](https://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Processing history: Morgan Voth, October 2018

### **Biographical note**

Lilly Isaacs (born Livia Klein, 1920-2012) was born in Berehove, Czechoslovakia (now Ukraine) to Herman Klein and Bertha Klein (b. 1893). Lilly had a brother, Gabriel (later Gene, born c. 1929), and a sister, Olga (b. 1922). They lived in Berehove where Herman owned a hardware store. Lilly attended school in Prague, but returned home in 1939 after Germany annexed the Sudetenland because of concerns for her safety. In 1944, Lilly and her family were sent to the Berehove ghetto. They did not attempt to leave because they wanted to stay together, but in 1944 they were sent to Auschwitz and were immediately separated. Lilly was sent to Sömmerda, a labor camp outside of Buchenwald, where she was forced to work in a munitions factory until liberation in 1945. While in Sömmerda, Lilly kept a diary she made out of supplies from the factory. After liberation, she returned home and was reunited with her mother, sister, and brother. Herman was killed at Auschwitz. Gabriel decided to leave Berehove, but Bertha and Olga decided to stay. Lilly married George Isaacs (born Gyorgy Iczkovitz in Berehove, Czechoslovakia) in 1945. George survived the war in various forced labor camps in Hungary. Lilly and George lived in DP camps in Austria until they immigrated to the United States. They had a son, Thomas, and a daughter, Debby.

### **Scope and content of collection**

This collection includes three diaries created and written by Lilly Isaacs while imprisoned in the Sömmerda labor camp from 1944 until after liberation in 1945. During her imprisonment Lilly worked in a munitions factory where she used materials from the factory, such as paint and paper, to make her diaries. In the diaries Lilly writes about being separated from her family at Auschwitz, missing her family, air raids, the development of the war, her experiences in Sömmerda, and liberation. The diaries also include poetry. The collection also includes photographs taken in 1940 of Elizabeth Engel and her two children, Goti and Judith, who perished at Auschwitz, and two photographs of Lilly and her husband, George Isaacs, before the war in Hungary and after the war in a DP camp in Austria.

### **System of arrangement**

The Lilly Isaacs diaries and photographs are arranged as a single series.

### **Indexing terms**

Isaccs, Lilly.

Sömmerda (Concentration camp)

Concentration camp inmates' writings.  
Women concentration camp inmates--Germany--Sömmerda.  
Forced labor--Germany.

Berehove (Ukraine)

Diaries.  
Photographs.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Series 1: Lilly Isaacs diaries and photographs, 1940-1946**

Box/Folder	Title
1	Diary, 1944
BE 1	Diary, 1944-1945
BE 2	Diary, 1944-1945
1 of 1	Photographs, 1940-1946