

**VERA HERZ PAPERS, 1947-1951  
1999.92**

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

Title: Vera Herz papers

Dates: 1947-1951 (bulk dates: 1947-1948)

Accession number: 1999.92

Creator: Herz, Vera, 1929-2011

Extent: 0.1 linear foot (2 folders)

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

Abstract: The Vera Herz papers include two ORT documents. The first, issued to Vera Spitz and dated April 15, 1947, is an ORT identification document that states she was working as a teacher at the ORT school in Eggenfelden, Germany. The second is an ORT certificate issued to "Jewish Displaced Person" Bela Spitz by the World ORT Union. Also included in the collection are sixteen black and white photographs of Vera Spitz with her father, Bela Spitz, and friends in Germany, likely at the displaced persons camp in Eggenfelden, circa 1948.

Languages: English.

**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.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Vera Herz papers (1999.92), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Vera Herz donated the Vera Herz papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999.

Separated materials: 1999.92.1. A dress pattern book written in Yiddish with the inscription "Spitz Vera 1948 Eggenfelden."

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: Katelynn Vance, January 2019

### **Biographical note**

Vera Herz (né Spitz, 1929-2011) was born on October 1, 1929 in Debrecen, Hungary to Bela (b. December 31, 1898) and Irene Spitz (né Rosenfeld). Prior to 1944, her parents owned a wholesale grocery business. Vera was initially educated at a Jewish school but she later transferred to a vocational school where she learned dress and pattern making. With the German invasion of Hungary in March 1944, the family lost their grocery business and Vera was forced to stop attending school. On May 9, 1944, the ghetto of Debrecen was created and the boundaries incorporated the Spitz's house. Sometime between May and June 1944, Bela was separated from the family and sent to do forced labor. On June 20, 1944 the Debrecen ghetto was liquidated and the Spitz family, along with all the other Jews from the ghetto, were sent to the Serly brickyard. Vera, her younger brother Andrew, and their mother Irene were deported on either June 26<sup>th</sup> or June 27<sup>th</sup> and transported to Strasshof, near Vienna, Austria. For a week, the family was forced into physical labor at a stone quarry before they were sent to Vienna to work in a munitions factory where they constructed anti-aircraft weapons. The Spitz family was in Vienna for ten months before being transported back to Strasshof in April 1945. The family was eventually liberated by the Russians and traveled to Rothschild Hospital in Vienna which served as an initial gathering place for displaced Jews. With help from Jewish organizations, the Spitz family returned to Debrecen where they discovered their home and business were gone. However, they received notification that Bela had survived and was located at the Eggenfelden displaced persons camp in Germany. The family was reunited at Eggenfelden in 1946. Vera taught dress and pattern making at the Eggenfelden ORT school. While at Eggenfelden, Vera and Andrew took English lessons. Apparently, their tutor developed a crush on Vera but she rejected him. In retaliation, the unnamed tutor reported to the Occupational Forces that her father was a Communist. As a result, her parents were denied their request to immigrate to the United States. Despite her parents being unable to emigrate, Vera and Andrew Spitz immigrated to the United States in March 1950. Vera worked in the garment district of New York. In 1955, after continual appeals, Bela and Irene Spitz were granted permission to join their children in the United States. In 1954, Vera married Eugene Herz. Together they had two children, Martin and Dan Herz. Vera died in Illinois on June 17, 2011.

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

The Vera Herz papers include two ORT documents. The first, issued to Vera Spitz and dated April 15, 1947, is an ORT identification document that states she was working as a teacher at the ORT school in Eggenfelden, Germany. The second is an ORT certificate issued to "Jewish Displaced Person" Bela Spitz by the World ORT Union. The certificate reveals that he reported to ORT Vocational School in Munich for a test of his professional knowledge of tailoring, and he had a working knowledge of this trade. A stamp indicates that the certificate was issued for submission to the proper emigration authorities.

Also included in the collection are sixteen black and white photographs of Vera Spitz with her father, Bela Spitz, and friends in Germany, likely at the displaced persons camp in Eggenfelden, circa 1948. The photographs include images of the Spitz family, unidentified young adults, likely from the Eggenfelden displaced persons camp, and images of Vera participating in a commemorative march for victims of a Nazi death march, circa 1948.

### **System of arrangement**

The Vera Herz papers are arranged in two series:

- Biographical materials, 1947, 1951
- Photographs, circa 1948

### **Indexing terms**

#### **People:**

Herz, Vera, 1929-2011.

Spitz, Bela.

Spitz, Irene.

Spitz, Andrew.

#### **Corporate Name:**

Eggenfelden (Displaced persons camp)

#### **Subject:**

Holocaust survivors.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Jewish children.

Refugees.

World War, 1939-1945.

World War, 1939-1945--Civilian relief--Europe.

World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.

World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--Germany.

#### **Geography:**

Eggenfelden (Germany)

Germany.

#### **Gene/Form:**

Photographs

### **CONTAINER LIST**

<b>Box / Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1 of 2	Biographical materials, 1947, 1951
2 of 2	Photographs, circa 1948