

**SERAFINA AND BOLA FRIEDLER PAPERS, APPROXIMATELY 1930-1966
AND UNDATED
2011.158.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Serafina and Bola Friedler papers

Dates: 1937-1966

Accession number: 2011.158.1

Creators: Serafina and Bola Friedler

Extent: 1 box (27 folders)

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

Abstract: The Serafina and Bola Friedler papers comprise documents and photographs concerning Serafina and Bola Friedler, a mother and daughter from Borysław, Poland (now Boryslav, Ukraine) who survived the Holocaust after being liberated from Auschwitz in 1945. Among the documents collected by the Serafina and Bola are Red Cross identification cards issued to them after their liberation, an autograph book used by Bola while living at the Bad Reichenhall displaced persons camp, correspondence, and documentation of Serafina's role as a witness in the trial against Nazi high official, Fritz Hildebrand in 1966. The photographs include images of family before the war, many of whom perished. The majority depict Bola and her friends participating in numerous activities while living in the Bad Reichenhall displaced persons camp, and include images of their trip to the United States and life in Omaha, Nebraska.

Language: German, Polish, 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 if item), Serafina and Bola Friedler papers (2011.158.1) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Serafina and Bola Friedler papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2011 by Bella Friedler Miller.

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

Processing history: Colleen Benoit, February 2016

Biographical note

Serafina Friedler was born Serafina Sigulim in Drohobych, Poland in 1904. She married Egon Friedler of Borysław, Poland. Together, they had two children, Edek and Bola (later Bella Miller), both born in Borysław, Poland (now Boryslav, Ukraine). Egon, a businessman, owned a women's boutique at which Serafina would sometimes work. The family had a comfortable life in city-center of Borysław, where they owned an apartment building. Upon the German invasion in 1939, Egon's shop and all his goods were confiscated because he was Jewish. Shortly after, the Russian army took over the city and the family's lives returned to relative normalcy with Egon working in the oil fields and Edek and Bola attending public schools. In 1941, the Germans reentered the city and instituted a series of pogroms, during which time Bola and her family hid with Christian neighbors and later, in a wine cellar. Eventually the family was arrested and deported Auschwitz. Egon and Edek were later deported to Mauthausen where they are presumed to have perished in 1945. Serafina and Bola survived and were liberated from Auschwitz in 1945. After the war, they traveled from Jewish home to Jewish home around the Silesian region of central Europe. In late 1945, they were sent to a displaced persons camp in Bad Reichenhall, Germany through arrangements made by the UNRA. Serafina and Bola stayed in that camp for nearly four years until 1949, when they were sent to the Aschau transit camp. From there, the mother and daughter traveled to Boston Harbor, arriving December 1949 aboard the USS *General C. H. Muir*. As they had no family in the country, Serafina and Bola were sent to Omaha, Nebraska where members of the Jewish community there assisted them in procuring housing and employment. Once settled, Bola finished high school and got a job with Continental Grain Company. In 1952 they decided to move to New York, where Bola kept her job with Continental Grain. Both Serafina and Bola were naturalized in 1955.

Scope and content of collection

The Serafina and Bola Friedler papers are comprised of documents and photographs collected by Serafina and Bola, before, during, and after the Holocaust. Among the documents collected by the Serafina are two Red Cross identification cards issued to her a month after her liberation from Auschwitz and her certificate of registration with the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Also included is official documentation of Serafina's participation as a witness in the trial against Nazi high official, Fritz Hildebrand in 1966. Restitution claims filed by Serafina are also comprised herewith in. Among the documents collected by Bola are numerous postcards and letters written to her while living in the Bad Reichenhall DP camp from friends and family in Italy and Australia, among other places. Also comprised is an autograph book Bola kept while living in Bad Reichenhall and her Red Cross identification card, issued in 1945. The photographs include images of family members who perished in the Holocaust, but

are primarily from Serafina and Bola's time in Bad Reichenhall and other camps in central Europe. They depict life in the camps and include many images of youth activities, friends, and celebrations in Bad Reichenhall, the Aschau transit camp, their journey to the United States aboard the *General C.H. Muir*, and their life in Omaha. Most of the photographs are of Bola with friends participating in a number of activities, including skiing, gymnastics, and biking.

System of arrangement

The Serafina and Bola Friedler papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Serafina Friedler, 1945-1966 and undated
- Series 2: Bola Friedler, 1945-1949
- Series 3: Photographs, 1930-1952 and undated

Indexing terms

Friedler, Bola (1932-).

Friedler, Serafina (1904-1986).

Friedler, Egon (1893-1945).

Friedler, Edek (-1945).

Hildebrand, Fritz.

Auschwitz (Concentration camp).

Mauthausen (Concentration camp).

Bad Reichenhall (Displaced persons camp).

Rosenheim (Displaced persons camp).

Jewish Businesspeople--Poland.

Holocaust survivors--Poland.

Holocaust victims--Poland.

Jewish refugees—Poland.

Hiding places--Poland-- Boryslaw.

Jewish children in the Holocaust--Poland.

Boryslav (Ukraine).

Omaha (Neb.)

Bad Reichenhall (Germany).

United States--Emigration and immigration--20th century.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Serafina Friedler, 1945-1966 and undated

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society correspondence, 1950
1	2	Hymn lyrics, undated

1	3	Invitation and summons to appear as a witness in the Fritz Hildebrand trial, 1952 and 1966
1	4	Jewish Agency for Palestine certificate of registration, 1948
1	5	List of camps and destinations attended, 1949
1	6	Polish Red Cross identification cards, 1945
1	7	Postcards, 1949
1	8	Restitution paperwork, 1949

Series 2: Bola Friedler, 1945-1949

Box	Folder	Title
1	9	Autograph book, 1945
1	10	Handwritten document, 1945
1	11	Letters, 1949
1	12	Polish Red Cross identification card, 1945
1	13	Postcards, 1948-1949

Series 3: Photographs, 1930-1952 and undated

Box	Folder	Title
1	14	Activities outside Bad Reichenhall, 1946-1949
1	15	Aschau transit camp, 1949
1	16	Bad Reichenhall – friends, 1945-1949
1	17	Bad Reichenhall – Jewish Youth Groups, 1947
1	18	Bad Reichenhall – weddings, 1949-1952
1	19	Family members in Boryslaw, 1930s
1	20	Family members who perished in the war, undated
1	21	Friedler, Bola, 1945-1949
1	22	Friedler, Edek, 1930s
1	23	Friedler, Serafina, approximately 1945-1949
1	24	Friends in Israel, 1950-1952
1	25	Omaha, Nebraska, approximately 1950
1	26	ORT School group, 1946
1	27	USS <i>General C. H. Muir</i> , 1949