

## **Summary of Oral History: Rosalie Schiff**

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**This summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on 03/2022**

### Tape I

Rosalie (née Baum) Schiff, born December 20, 1922 in Kraków Poland describes how much she enjoyed her early family life; describes her siblings; her father's ownership of a factory making insulated walls; her father's death from a heart attack in 1939; the family fleeing to a rural farmhouse where her mother withstood typhus before returning to the Kraków ghetto; her mother's fight with breast cancer; describes her last memories of her family when they disappeared while she was with her husband; her life in the ghetto; the hangings and abuses she witnessed at unnamed camps; the beatings she received from the husband of her capo, named Paworska; describes her feelings during captivity; the abandonment of a newly born baby by a prisoner.

Schiff describes her time at the second camp, Skarżysko-Kamienna and the prevalence of tuberculosis, especially in the ammunitions factory; her lack of information about the war or the extermination camps; her liberation on December 17, 1944 when she was left behind after the Nazi's final deportation as troops approached; her actions immediately following liberation and treatment by the Russians; her travel back to Kraków to her parents' apartment and treatment by the occupants; her lingering nightmares about the killing of children; her reunion with her husband who had been in Auschwitz and Buchenwald; their departure to a DP camp in Austria, the birth of their son, and the type of treatment there; their departure to the U.S. in 1949; concluding with describing the after effects of her treatment in captivity.

### Tape II

Schiff begins by describing her father's characteristics; the effect of her Holocaust experience on how she raised her children; her son's reluctance to identify as Jewish; her return trip to Poland in 1982; the lingering emotional adjustments of Holocaust children; describes her husband's account of a meeting of Holocaust survivors at Carnegie Hall; offers advice to other survivors and their children; describes her recent charitable works; and her lingering physical ailments from her captivity and the emotional damage to her sister and uncle.