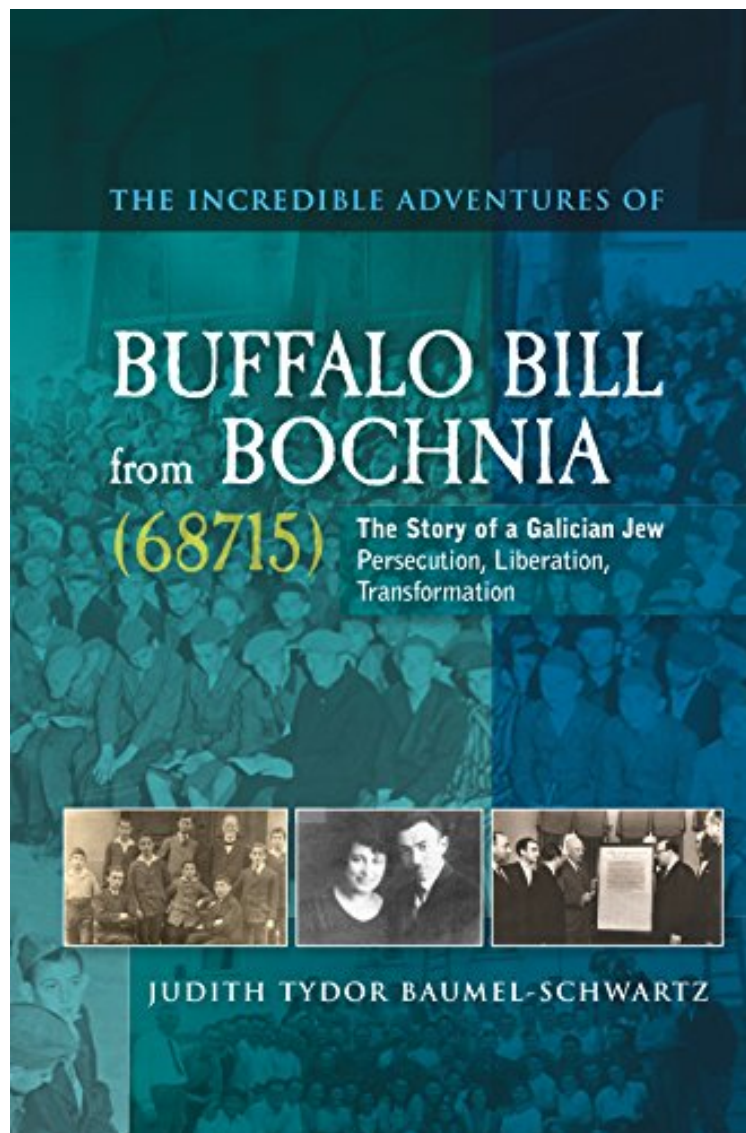


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The Incredible Adventures of Buffalo Bill from Bochnia (68715): The Story of a Galician Jew - Persecution, Liberation, Transformation

Judith Tydor Baumel-Schwartz
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Judith Tydor Baumel-Schwartz : The Incredible Adventures of Buffalo Bill from Bochnia (68715): The Story of a Galician Jew - Persecution, Liberation, Transformation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Incredible Adventures of Buffalo Bill from Bochnia (68715): The Story

of a Galician Jew - Persecution, Liberation, Transformation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding historical biography
By Hannah B. Fischthal
In "The Incredible Adventures of Buffalo Bill from Bochnia (68715): The Story of a Galician Jew: Persecution, Liberation, Transformation," the author, a notable Holocaust historian, skillfully weaves historical information into this tale centering on her late father, Chaskel Tydor. The cast of characters includes Elie Wiesel, Primo Levi, scores of Rabbis, President Eisenhower, and other important and regular people. She covers life in prewar Germany, Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Palestine/Israel, and the U.S.A. (New York, South Dakota, Montana). Chaskel, as she calls him, was indeed a real hero during impossible conditions. What's different about this book? I believe this is the first time I learned what it was like to be an Orthodox Jew throughout the Holocaust. Apart from that, Prof. Judith Tydor Baumel-Schwartz's grasp of history is better than anyone else's I've read. My favorite chapter was "Buchenwald-Auschwitz-Buchenwald." I learned about tattoo numbering, about the history of Buchenwald, more about Nazi camp life, and the clock was always ticking because the author provides as many dates as possible. Well-written and well-researched.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful combination of history and memoir
By Efraim Zuroff
This book should be of great interest to any person curious about Jewish history during the twentieth century. By telling the story of her father Chaskel Tydor, whose life spanned practically the entire 20th century, who lived on three different continents, and who experienced the terrible upheavels and tragedies of contemporary Jewish life on the one hand but the redemptive events as well, the author gives us insight into many important topics: the life of Galician Jewry prior to World War I; the uprooting of many Polish Jews during that war and their flight to Germany; the life of the Ostjuden [Jews of East European origin] in Weimar Germany; the Holocaust; the travails of the postwar rehabilitation of survivors; the struggle for Israeli independence; Jewish life in America during the fifties and sixties; and life as a new immigrant in Israel in the post-Yom Kippur War era. What makes the book especially interesting and insightful is its main protagonist Chaskel Tydor, a man of many talents, unique character, particular fortitude and deep faith whose experiences, especially during the Holocaust, and his amazing story of survival for more than five years in Buchenwald (twice) and Auschwitz truly merit a volume of this kind. His story is truly inspirational and this labor of love by his daughter, Holocaust historian Judy Tydor Baumel-Schwartz, is a valuable addition not only to Holocaust literature, but to the annals of Orthodoxy in the 20th century as well.

This is a book about Chaskel Tydor, an Auschwitz and Buchenwald survivor, who was at various times a bookkeeper, metallurgist, kibbutz founder, Hebrew book publisher, uranium mine manager, and travel agent. Spanning close to 90 years of life, his story takes the reader through three continents, two marriages, and the Holocaust. It is also the story of Jewish people during the 20th century who found themselves wandering between countries, learning to function in new languages and societies, building and joining various Jewish communities, and continuously adopting different outward ways of life while trying to maintain their Jewish beliefs and practices. Through the story of one, albeit unique, man, we learn the history of an era: Jewish life in Eastern Europe before the First World War, events in Weimar and Hitler's Germany during the 1920s and 1930s, the struggle for survival in Nazi camps, the creation of the State of Israel, Jewish life in the US after the Second World War, and events in Israel following the Yom Kippur War. This is a book of Jewish survival and triumph, chronicling the transformation and rebirth not only of one man but of an entire Jewish world. Throughout, the book provides substantive "Further Reading" lists and bibliographic information which allows readers to source and compare other scholarship and writings on the places and historical circumstances presented.

The author's father Haskel Tydor and I were together in Buna and Buchenwald. Her absorbing and moving biography of him communicates his commitment to the Jewish people and its tradition, his warmth and his wisdom. Author Elie Wiesel