

MOLHO, Lily  
Greece Documentation Project  
English  
RG-50.426\*0003

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview Lily Molho, wife of merchant Saul Molho, narrates how she, her husband, and her son Antonakis (Anthony) survived the Holocaust in Thessaloniki by going into hiding. She talks about changing their family name and having to leave their baby son, while she was working as a cook and maid and her husband joined the Greek Partisan Party (EAM). She also talks about immigrating to America after the liberation and how their life there evolved for them and their children.

**[01:] 00:00:00 – [01:] 04:11:59**

She presents herself as Dr. Lily Saul Molho, born in Salonica in 1916, a member of the Spanish family Alcalá, from the city of Alcalá in Spain; talks about her primary and secondary education in the Lycée Français de Thessalonique and her studies in the American College Anatolia, from which she got a degree in music; talks about her father being a merchant and her mother a housewife; describes the Jewish community of Thessaloniki as facing no difficulties except the Campbell incident, which she puts around 1932<sup>1</sup>, when she was a student at Anatolia and the depression that followed for the Jewish community; talks about her marriage in 1937 to Saul Molho, a merchant like her father; recalls the war starting in Europe when she was expecting her first child in 1939.

**[01:] 04:12:00 – [01:] 13:50:59**

She talks about her brother going to the war in **1940** at the Albanian front and his coming back in good health, although many soldiers were returning with frostbitten feet; remembers the bombardment of Thessaloniki and the German troops with their tanks in Niki Avenue (Νίκης) and Russian prisoners walking under German guards in Egnatia Street (Εγνατία); comments on a German Wehrmacht officer taking a room at her parents' home when they were living at Evzonon Street (Ευζώνων) right across from the lycée (back then named Mission Laïque Française); remembers him disappearing without saying a word after receiving a letter, because staying at Jewish houses was not allowed anymore; recalls the Jewish community being divided in ghettos and her family staying in their own apartment, but sharing it with more families; discusses German officers entering Jewish houses to take whatever they wanted; comments on the Greek press

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<sup>1</sup> Refers to the burning of the Jewish settlement of Camp Campbell in June 1931.

starting to be openly antisemitic in February 1943 and the prohibition for the Jews to go downtown to the stores; comments on her decision to give her child away; talks about a Greek couple, relatives of her sister-in-law, who offered to take the child, but brought it back after eight days because they were scared; narrates how a Greek couple, **Elpida** and **Yorgos [Giorgos] (Ελπίδα and Γιώργος)**, friends of her brother Richard, decided to keep her son Antonakis (Anthony; **Αντωνάκης**) who was then three years old; remembers how **Yorgos** gave her the identity card of his wife, so that she could walk with him to their flat in Tsimiski Street (Τσιμισκή) to see her son.

[01:] 13:51:00 – [01:] 21:46:59

She talks about the meeting of her brothers-in-law Isaac and Rafael Molho with an Armenian friend and two Jewish friends, one of which was Alfredo **Beza**; comments on how they paid a German officer to take them to Athens in a truck and how they asked Saul to go with them; discusses how she talked them into taking her with them; narrates the last time she saw her family; remembers going from her parents-in-law's apartment on Evzonon with Egnatia (Ευζώνων with Εγνατία) to her parents to ask their opinion; remembers her father blessing her; talks about how her father was counting on his other children Richard and Marcela, who had been married within the ghetto to Pepo **Carasso**; discusses their ride in the truck with the **Beza** family and their two children; remembers the driver of the truck leaving them after a two-hour ride close to Katerini (Κατερίνη); discusses how the **Beza** family decided to go back; comments on Saul, Isaac, Rafael, herself, a member of the **Beza** family and a friend of his being left behind; comments on how she and Rafael found the team a shelter for the night and how in the morning they left the town in a cart; discusses how they were taken to the headquarters of the Greek Resistance or National Liberation Front, "**Εθνικό Απελευθερωτικό Μέτωπο**," (EAM), and how they were given a guide from one village to another; comments on how they stayed in the villages of Mount Olympus from March 20, 1943, for about two weeks; talks about how they arrived in Larissa (Λάρισα), at the other side of Mount Olympus, which was under German occupation; discusses spending the night at a Greek friend of Saul's.

[01:] 21:47:00 – [01:] 28:42:59

She describes how in the morning some Greek friends brought them false identity cards with the names Eleni **Panayotidou (Ελένη Παναγιωτίδου)** and **Savas Panayotidis (Σάββας Παναγιωτίδης)**; talks about their taking the train to Athens and how she rescued herself from arrest by the German authorities; recalls meeting Saul's friend **Menahem Nash [Menahem Nas; Menahem Nasch]** outside the station and spending the night at his house; discusses how the next day she went to her aunt Madame **Nahama**, mother of Jacques **Nalbert Nahama** and stayed there for a couple of days; comments on how they rented a room as refugees from Macedonia (Macedonia Trust); talks about their stay in Athens without problems until June; discusses how in June they heard that her family had been betrayed and their fearing for their child; talks about how they paid an employee of the Greek Railways to go and bring Antonakis to Athens; comments on the arrest of their family in June: father **Nesim Alcalá**, mother **Auriette**,

sister **Marcela** with her husband Pepo **Carasso**, his parents and his two brothers who were hiding all together in an apartment someone had rented out to them in Harilaou (Χαριλάου) close to 25th March Street (25<sup>ης</sup> Μαρτίου); mentions the arrest of her brother **Richard** in May while he was walking downtown in **Nikis Street**; discusses their deportation with the last convoy from Thessaloniki.

[01:] 28:43:00 – [01:] 34:56:00

She talks about the train trip of Antonakis to Athens and how he was spoiled by his “new family”; remembers the incident of his wanting to leave their room in Galatsi to go back to Thessaloniki and how Lili’s friend, **Fofi Vafiadou (Φώφη Βαφειάδου)** brought him back; recalls the day **Menahem Nash** was arrested; talks about the fall of Italy on September 9, 1943, and the Germans taking control of the city; mentions the order for all Jews to report and how she and Saul did not obey; discusses her fear for the child and how she asked her friend Madame **Callinus**, the wife of the Belgian Consul in Thessaloniki, for help in order to put Antonakis in a monastery; narrates how he was accepted at the Hospital (Monastery of Divine Providence) in Agios Loukas in the center of Athens by Sister **Eleni Kapar [Capar] (Ελένη Καπάρ)** who was of Belgian origin.

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Box 2, Tape 1

[02:] 00:00:00 – [02:] 12:57:59

She narrates how Sister **Eleni** gave Antonakis to Mrs. **Kalkou (Κυρία Κάλκου)**, a woman who used to live right opposite the monastery with her five children; describes how Saul was sent to the mountains to join the EAM partisans in the car of the Athens Archbishop **Damaskinos**; discusses how she was placed by Sister **Eleni** at the summer estate of the **Fix** family in Iraklio (Ηράκλειο), a suburb in the north of Athens, to work as a cook; mentions walking to Athens to see Antonakis once a week; describes Antonakis’s life with his new family; talks about the **Fix** family moving to their permanent home in Athens and her promotion as a second maid; remembers that some months later she was sent by the **Fix** family to a relative couple to become an only maid; narrates how she became a governess at the **Tzartos** family (**Τζάρτος**), who were refugees from Xanthi (Ξάνθη); discusses how she was sleeping in the same bedroom with the mother-in-law who saw the two gold pieces she was hiding in her stockings; comments on how Mr. **Tzartos** asked her to keep teaching them, but to move out and helped her find a room; talks about the new job Sister **Eleni** found her at the International Red Cross; describes how she was paid in goods and how she had to pay the landlady two liters of oil every month in order to keep Antonakis with her; remembers a telephone call of Mr. **Tzartos** telling her about the invasion in Normandy by the Allies; describes the day of the

liberation in Pagrati; narrates how she saw an Allied Officer in Akadimias Street (Ακαδημίας) and how she told him that she was Jewish and asked for help to find her husband; comments on how she was taken to the Allied Headquarters and sent on a motorcycle to the location of the EAM; remembers Saul returning and being dressed as a partisan and being in a terrible condition.

[02:] 12:58:00 – [02:] 22:01:59

She recalls Saul wanting to go back to Thessaloniki to see what happened to the store and their property; repeats the details of Saul's transport to the mountains in Archbishop **Damaskinos's** limousine, organized by Sister **Eleni Kapar**; talks about all the work done by Sister **Eleni Kapar** and how after the war she took her granddaughter to meet her, but Sister **Kapar** was already paralyzed; narrates the return of Saul to Thessaloniki in November 1944; describes how the stores of both Saul and her father had been emptied and how Saul stayed back in Thessaloniki from November to March, waiting for the Jews to return back from the camps; comments on how his mother, Flora Molho, had survived hidden in a house somewhere in Miaouli Street (Μιαούλη) with a woman called **Katina (Κατίνα)**; talks about the death of Flora Molho in 1969 at the age of 93; narrates how during the Greek Civil War Antonakis and she were at the Headquarters of the International Red Cross in Kolonak and how she saw Winston Churchill; talks about her return to Thessaloniki with Antonakis in a boat full of refugees and how they were waiting for the return of her family; comments on how no one believed the first news that the Jews were burnt in Auschwitz; recalls the return of Pepo **Carasso** who was remarried to a Hungarian survivor, while Marcela had died; remembers her work at the store with Saul; discusses her being nervous that no one from her family was coming back; talks about a miscarriage she had and the birth of her second child in 1948; comments on their naming her second child after her lost sister Marcela.

[02:] 22:02:00 – [02:] 36:33:00

She narrates her proposal to Saul to leave Thessaloniki in 1951 and his refusal; comments on their leaving for the United States in 1955; recalls how she used **Bertha Morley**, a former headmistress of Anatolia College, as a contact point and got permission to go to Cleveland; discusses the recommendation letters from Anatolia College that helped her to be hired as a language teacher; comments on getting a job offer from the Laurel School in Cleveland; remembers their arrival in Cleveland on August 13, 1956, and leaving Saul's relatives behind; talks about her first impressions of America; discusses her interview at the Laurel School with a Mrs. **Lake** who hired her as a French and Spanish teacher and accepted Marcela as a student at the school; talks about how she and Antonakis enrolled at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, from which she got a BA degree in 1958, a master's in 1960 and a PhD in 1963; recalls earning \$4,000 at the Laurel School; comments on her request for a raise after Mrs. **Lake** retired and was replaced by a Mrs. **Watermeier [Watermeyer]**, who offered her \$500 more; talks about her decision to go work for the public schools in Cleveland for a salary of \$6,500; mentions Saul's job in a women's clothing factory and comments on their way of life; describes Saul's death on

March 11, 1967, of a stroke, after a performance of the Bach Symphony in B Minor by the Cleveland Orchestra with some fellow university professors; comments on the question of Saul's activities with the EAM; talks about Saul's stay in the mountains from September 1943 to October 1944 and his surviving typhoid fever; answers the question about how Saul found her and Antonakis; talks about her work in the United States as a teacher, then coordinator for languages for Cleveland Public Schools and being responsible for the summer language courses at Western Reserve University until her retirement in 1990; mentions her learning Hebrew and her involvement with Judaic studies during her retirement; talks about her son Antonakis who is a professor at Brown University and in Florence, Italy; mentions his wife's disease; talks about her daughter Marcela who is married to a Jew born in Alexandria who left Egypt along with all Jews in 1958; mentions their profession as teachers in Cleveland; talks about her life now, spending the winter in Thessaloniki and going to her children in Thessaloniki for the high holidays Rosh Hashanah and Pesach (Passover).

## Time-Coded Notes Version 2

**Molho, Lily**  
**RG-50.426\*0003**  
**Two video cassettes**  
**In English**  
**Recorded June 17, 1996**

### Abstract

Lily Molho was born in Salonica (Thessaloníki) in 1916. She, her husband Saul, and her son Antonakis (Anthony) survived the Holocaust in Thessaloníki by going into hiding. After Germany invaded Greece in 1941, the Jewish community of Thessaloníki was divided into ghettos. German officers entered Jewish homes to take whatever they wanted. Lily and Saul were forced to leave their baby son, first in Thessaloníki and then in a monastery in Athens, while she worked as a cook and maid and her husband joined the Greek Partisan Party (EAM). Lily was protected by Sister Eleni Kapar from the monastery in Athens, who found employment for Lily, and arranged weekly visits with Antonakis. She and Saul were reunited after the war. They returned to Thessaloníki and found that their stores had been plundered. They waited for relatives to return, and tried to rebuild their lives. Their daughter Marcela was born in 1948. In 1955, they left for America, moving to Cleveland. Lily became a language teacher, went to college, and obtained advanced degrees.

### Tape 1

**00:00:00** Dr. Lily Saul Molho was born in Salonica in 1916. She was a member of the Spanish family Alcalá, from the city of Alcalá in Spain. She talks about her primary and secondary education in the Lycée Français de Thessalonique and her studies in the American College Anatolia, from which she received a degree in music. Her father was a merchant and her mother was a housewife. She describes the Jewish community of Thessaloníki as facing no difficulties except for the Campbell incident (this refers to the burning of the Jewish settlement of Camp Campbell in June 1931), which occurred when she was a student at Anatolia. After this incident, the Jewish community fell into a state of depression. Lily talks about her marriage in 1937 to Saul Molho, a merchant like her father. She recalls the war starting in Europe when she was expecting her first child in 1939.

**04:12:00** Lily talks about her brother going to the war at the Albanian front in 1940. He returned in good health, although many soldiers were returning with frostbitten feet. Lily remembers the bombardment of Thessaloníki and the German troops with their tanks in Niki (Νίκης) Avenue and Russian prisoners walking under German guards in Egnatia (Εγνατία) Street. A German Wehrmacht officer took a room at her parents' home when they were living at Evzonon (Ευζώνων) Street right across from the Lycée

(which was then named Mission Laïque Française). Lily remembers him disappearing without saying a word after receiving a letter, because staying at Jewish houses was not allowed anymore. The Jewish community was divided in ghettos and her family remained in their own apartment, but shared it with more families. German officers entered Jewish houses to take whatever they wanted. The Greek press started to be openly anti-Semitic in February 1943. Jews were not allowed to go downtown to shop in stores. Lily decided to give her child away – she talks about a Greek couple, relatives of her sister-in-law, who offered to take the child. But they brought the child back after eight days because they were scared. Another Greek couple, Elpidia (Ελπίδα) and Yorgos (Γιώργος, Giorgos), friends of her brother Richard, decided to keep her son Antonakis (Anthony; Αντωνάκης), who was then three years old. Yorgos gave Lily his wife's identity card, so that she could walk with him to their flat in Tsimiski (Τσιμισκή) Street to see her son.

**13:51:00**

Lily's brothers-in-law Isaac and Rafael Molho, along with an Armenian friend and two Jewish friends, one of whom was Alfredo Beza, paid a German officer to take them to Athens in a truck. They asked Saul to go with them, and Lily talked them into taking her with them. Lily went to her parents-in-law, and then to her parents, to ask their opinions. She remembers her father blessing her - he was counting on his other children Richard and Marcela, who had been married within the ghetto to Pepo Carasso. Lily discusses their ride in the truck with the Beza family and their two children. After a two-hour ride, the driver of the truck left them close to Katerini (Κατερίνη). The Beza family decided to go back. Saul, Isaac, Rafael, Lily, a member of the Beza family, and a friend were left behind. Lily and Rafael found the group a shelter for the night and in the morning they left the town in a cart. They were taken to the headquarters of the Greek Resistance or National Liberation Front, "Εθνικό Απελευθερωτικό Μέτωπο" (EAM), where they were given a guide from one village to another. They stayed in the villages of Mount Olympus for about two weeks in March 1943. They arrived in Larissa (Λάρισα), at the other side of Mount Olympus, which was under German occupation. They spent the night at the home of a Greek friend of Saul's.

**21:47:00**

In the morning some Greek friends brought them false identity cards with the names Eleni Panayotidou (Ελένη Παναγιωτίδου) and Savas Panayotidis (Σάββας Παναγιωτίδης). They took the train to Athens, where she avoided arrest by the German authorities. She met Saul's friend Menahem Nash outside the station and spent the night at his house. The next day she went to visit her aunt Madame Nahama, mother of Jacques Nalbert Nahama, and stayed there for a couple of days. They rented a room as refugees from Macedonia (Macedonia Trust). They stayed in Athens without problems until June, when they heard that her family had been betrayed, and they feared for the welfare of their child. They paid an

employee of the Greek Railways to go and bring their son Antonakis to meet them in Athens. In June, some members of Lily's family were arrested - her father Nesim Alcalá, her mother Auriette, her sister Marcela with her husband Pepo Carasso, Pepo's parents and his two brothers. They had all been hiding together in an apartment in Harilaou (Χαριλάου) close to 25th March Street (25<sup>η</sup> Μαρτίου). Lily's brother Richard was arrested in May while he was walking downtown in Nikis Street. They were all deported with the last convoy from Thessaloníki.

**28:43:00**

Lily recounts her son's journey to Athens and that he was spoiled by his "new family." He wanted to leave their room in Galatsi to go back to Thessaloniki and Lily's friend, Fofi Vafiadou (Φώφη Βαφειάδου) brought him back. Lily recalls the day Menahem Nash was arrested. She talks about the fall of Italy on September 9, 1943, and the Germans taking control of the city. There was an order for all Jews to report, but she and Saul did not obey. She feared for her child and she asked her friend Madame Callinus, the wife of the Belgian Consul in Thessaloníki, for help in order to place Antonakis in a monastery. He was accepted at the Hospital (Monastery of Divine Providence) in Agios Loukas in the center of Athens by Sister Eleni Kapar [Capar] (Ελένη Καπάρ) who was Belgian.

## **Tape 2**

**00:00:00**

Sister Eleni gave Antonakis to Mrs. Kalkou (Κυρία Κάλκου), a woman who lived opposite the monastery with her five children. Saul was sent to the mountains to join the EAM partisans in the car of the Athens Archbishop Damaskinos. Sister Eleni placed Lily to work as a cook at the summer estate of the Fix family in Iraklio (Heraklion, Ηράκλειο), a suburb north of Athens. Lily remembers walking to Athens to see Antonakis once a week. She describes Antonakis's life with his new family. She talks about the Fix family moving to their permanent home in Athens and her promotion as a second maid. She remembers that some months later she was sent by the Fix family to their relatives to become an only maid. Lily became a governess for the Tzartos (Τζάρτος) family, who were refugees from Xanthi (Ξάνθη). Lily slept in the same bedroom with the mother-in-law who saw the two gold pieces she was hiding in her stockings. Mr. Tzartos asked Lily to keep teaching them, but he wanted her to move out and he helped her find a room.

Sister Eleni found Lily a job at the International Red Cross. At this job, she was paid in goods, not money. She had to pay the landlady two liters of oil every month in order to keep Antonakis with her. Mr. Tzartos called to tell her about the invasion in Normandy by the Allies.

Lily describes the day of the liberation in Pagrati. She saw an Allied Officer in Akadimias (Ακαδημίας) Street and how she told him that she

was Jewish and asked him to help her find her husband. She was taken to the Allied Headquarters and sent on a motorcycle to the location of the EAM. Saul returned dressed as a partisan, in terrible condition.

**12:58:00**

Saul wanted to go back to Thessaloníki to see what happened to their stores and property. Lily repeats the details of Saul's transport to the mountains in Archbishop Damaskinos's limousine, organized by Sister Eleni. Lily talks about all the work done by Sister Eleni. After the war, Lily took her granddaughter to meet her, but Sister Eleni was already paralyzed.

Saul returned to Thessaloníki in November 1944. He found that both his and Lily's father's stores had been emptied. Saul stayed in Thessaloníki from November to March, waiting for the Jews to return from the camps. His mother, Flora Molho, had survived hidden in a house somewhere in Miaouli (Μιαούλη) Street with a woman named Katina (Κατίνα). Flora Molho died in 1969 at the age of 93

During the Greek Civil War, Lily and Antonakis were at the headquarters of the International Red Cross in Kolonak (in Athens) and she saw Winston Churchill. Lily returned to Thessaloníki with Antonakis in a boat full of refugees, and they waited for the return of her family.

Nobody believed the first news that the Jews were burned in Auschwitz. Pepo Carasso, whose wife Marcela had died, returned married to a Hungarian survivor. Lily worked at the store with Saul. She was worried that no one from her family would come back. She had a miscarriage, and her second child was born in 1948. They named the child Marcela, after Lily's sister who had died.

**22:02:00**

In 1951, Lily proposed to Saul that they leave Thessaloníki, but he refused. They left for the United States in 1955. Through Bertha Morley, a former headmistress of Anatolia College, they got permission to go to Cleveland. Anatolia College provided recommendation letters from that helped her to find a job as a language teacher. She received a job offer from the Laurel School in Cleveland.

They arrived in Cleveland on August 13, 1956, leaving Saul's relatives behind in Greece. Lily recalls her first impressions of America, and her interview at the Laurel School with a Mrs. Lake who hired her as a French and Spanish teacher and accepted Marcela as a student at the school. Lily and Antonakis enrolled at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where she received a B.A. degree in 1958, a master's degree in 1960, and a Ph.D. in 1963. She earned \$4,000 at the Laurel School, and requested a raise. After Mrs. Lake retired, she was replaced by a Mrs. Watermeier, who offered Lily \$500 more.

Lily decided to work for the public schools in Cleveland for a salary of \$6,500. Saul worked in a women's clothing He died of a stroke on March 11, 1967, of a stroke, after attending a performance of the Bach Symphony in B Minor by the Cleveland Orchestra with some fellow university professors. Lily discusses the question of Saul's activities with the EAM, and his stay in the mountains from September 1943 to October 1944, where he survived typhoid fever.

Lily answers the question about how Saul found her and their son Antonakis. She talks about her work in the United States as a teacher, and then as a coordinator for languages for the Cleveland Public Schools. She was responsible for the summer language courses at Western Reserve University until her retirement in 1990. She learned Hebrew and became involved with Judaic studies during her retirement. Her son Antonakis is a professor at Brown University and in Florence, Italy. Her daughter Marcela married a Jewish man born in Alexandria who left Egypt along with all Jews in 1958. Marcela and her husband are teachers in Cleveland.

Lily now spends the winter in Thessaloníki and goes to her children in Thessaloniki for the Rosh Hashanah and Passover holidays.