

VILLALBA, Carmen
France Documentation Project
French
RG-50.498*0006

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Carmen Villalba, former Spanish prisoner at Gurs camp, talks about her political emigration from Spain to France in 1939. She comments on her deportation to several camps and focuses on her internment in Gurs, the living conditions and the background of the other inmates there. She describes her contact with these other inmates and their daily routine in the camp. In addition, she shows some documents and photographs from the period of her internment in Gurs.

[01:] 00:45:00 – [01:] 08:15:00

She comments on her personal background and her father's profession before the war; discusses her home town in Asturias in Spain; focuses on her father's profession and education; discusses her arrival in France on a ship in Bordeaux; explains her leftist political orientation and mentions Franco as a reason for her immigration to France; comments again on her route of immigration to France via Barcelona; talks about her arrival in France with her mother, the death of her other family members and how Spanish people were received in France; discusses again her political orientation; talks about her mother and her being in an internment camp in Belle-Isle; comments on the duration of their internment there; comments on the German invasion of France and their being deported by Germans and ending up in Gurs.

[01:] 08:16:00 – [01:] 13:35:00

She discusses her arrival with her mother in Gurs; describes seeing other women there; comments on the Jewish inmates, the inmates' duties in the camp and the separation of the different groups of inmates in the camp; discusses the number of children she saw there; focuses on the housing in barracks, the sleeping conditions, the food supply, the daily routine and supervision by French guards; *[shows copies of her entry and exit papers from Gurs]*.

[01:] 13:36:00 – [01:] 21:28:00

She comments on her contact with the Jewish women in the camp and the challenge to communicate in different languages; discusses the fate of the Jewish women and the deportations; describes her stay in another camp around Blagnac; discusses the liberation of this camp; talks about her future husband's status as a foreign worker there; mentions their marriage after the war in 1945; comments on her friendship with Ms. Dachary *[see*

*RG-50.498*0005*]; discusses contact with employees in Gurs and her mother doing housework for some of them; describes their return to Spain after Franco's death and joining their family there; comments on returning to Gurs to visit the cemetery and on her friendship today with Spanish women who were in the camp with her and stayed in France; discusses again the other inmates of her block and their nationalities; talks again about the fate of Jewish women of her block.

[01:] 21:29:00 – [01:] 33:28:13 *[end of recording]*

[She shows a letter written by her mother, a work permit with her maiden name Rodriguez on it and her vaccination certificate from the hospital in Gurs.]

She comments on herself never being ill in the camp and her mother dying right after the war; discusses giving other interviews for a book; *[shows photographs of her mother, her husband and herself and pictures of other Spanish inmates and the barracks in Gurs:]* she comments on one specific picture which proves the story of a child named **Marie-Lou** who was born in the camp of Gurs; discusses some “enjoyable” moments in Gurs; talks about religious traditions and discussions on politics in the camp; comments on the guards taking pictures of them and having no contact with them after the liberation; discusses her husband and her grandchildren.