

INTERVIEW IN TEL AVIV November 29, 2000

M – Asks question in Hebrew (not translated)

L – In the end of 1942 they did a round up of Jews in Antwerp. They came to our house they discovered we were Turkish and they said everything will be fine you will not be taken. Then we were invited to the Gestapo. We came to the Gestapo and they said “Sit down put your keys on the table, you’ll be a couple of hours, nothing terrible will happen, we understand you are Turkish.” At that point they took us off to the transit camp of Malenz. Malenz we had a very good atmosphere among the inmates, we sang , we danced we thought it was going to be over in a short period of time and then one day the Gestapo came and they put the men to one side and the women to the other that was the last time we saw my father, my father went to Buchenwald and my mother and I went to Ravensbruck. We never saw my father again.

M – Asks question in Hebrew (not translated)

L – My brother, my mother and I were taken to Ravensbruck. One cannot describe the conditions there. It was cold, we were hungry, it was difficult, I developed typhus. I was five years old, my brother was eight years old. We didn’t do anything. My mother was taken to work, she was involved in building roads and doing other hard labor. One cannot depict the conditions that Ravensbruck and the harshness of the situation.

M – Asks question in Hebrew (not translated)

L – The reason we were not taken to be killed was probably we were of Turkish extraction. On my father’s side conditions were a little better for us because we were considered refugee prisoners from a neutral country and of Turkish citizenship. Perhaps that is the reason why we survived.

V – Excuse me, that she and her mother survived but the father didn’t?

L – I, my mother, and my brother in the concentration camp.

M – Why do you think you survived?

L – My mother is work in the camp.

M- Do you think your Turkish citizenship, your Turkish origins helped you?

L – (speaks in Hebrew) They took the children of the Gypsies directly to the crematoria, and they did not take us there. Maybe the reason is because we were Turkish.

V – About the Turkish passport, when she was five years old does she know if other family members had a Turkish passport? Did the father have a Turkish passport? Did the Gestapo take the Turkish passports?

M – (Translates to Hebrew)

L – I am certain they took the passports I am certain they took the Turkish passport.

V – Was there any other family members or friends that you were taken could have gone to the Turkish consulate and told them you had been taken?

M – (Translates in Hebrew)

L – No. My father had a family in Belgium, it appears they were not in contact.