

RG-90.033.0001

Summary of Oral History Interview with Fela Perelman—ENGLISH

Fela Perelman, born in Lodz, Poland in 1909; née Fajga Estera Liwer — from a rabbinical family; speaking of her love for Torah; speaking of her father in Lodz; her father was a Zionist, and preferred Hebrew over Yiddish — was at the forefront of modernizing Hebrew language; her maternal tongue — Polish, although was conversant in Hebrew and Yiddish; arrival in Brussels to pursue her studies in Polish literature at the Université Libre de Bruxelles; discussing the difficulty that Jewish intellectuals experienced in Poland; political opinions; on the left politically; anti-Semitism; Nuremberg laws; her husband Chaïm Perelman; working for the children on behalf of the CDJ — Comité de défense des Juifs; life as a Jew in Brussels; the school "Nos Petits" in Uccle; Max Gottschalk; the Zionist movement; diverse Zionist factions; socialism in Israel; speaking of Dr. Polichaud (sp); Estelle Goldstein; her husband in the resistance and enlisted; speaking of the Breendonk prison in the Willebroeck quarter; hiding people such as Mr. Furstenberg, a chemist; speaking of the Gestapo; Mr. Feldman; Henri Buches (sp); legal issues; the Perelman name and the Gestapo; Joseph Kivots; Willem Heskowitz; Maxime Steinberg; refugees at the home; Victor Martin, a non-Jew who warned the Belgian resistance of the existence of Auschwitz, a death camp; Maurice Mandelbaum — Solidarité Juive; Mr. Konkofski (sp); listening to Brussels radio and BBC; assimilation issues of children placed in convents; Father André; Robert Epstein; Mrs. Allard; MNB — Belgian National Movement; clandestine activities; Albert Steinberg and the Bund; Rabbi Salomon Ullmann and the Belgian Jewish Association — his arrest by the Gestapo; Salomon van den Berg — originally from Holland; Albert Taub (sp); Léon Kubowitzki — CDJ — Conseil des associations juives de Bruxelles; Myriam Goldstein-Kubovy; Mrs. Yosheva; Bette Jacobovitch; Hertz Jospa; not many denunciations among Jews; Jacques Souvenine (sp); speaking of her childhood, her arrival in Belgium, her schooling, geographic points; speaking of her in-laws, her husband Chaïm Perelman; armistice and the Belgian army; her husband leaving the army with a friend from Liege and his return to Brussels; Fela and her return; speaking of Linkebeek; her old apartment which was totally emptied — Avenue des Hospices in Uccle; finding her husband safe and sound; Chaïm Perelman returning to the University; Elie Kubowitzki, Leon Kubowitzki's brother; the Jewish situation; David Adamski — Association of Jewish Universities, before the war; Fela Perelman's interest in creating Jewish schools for the children; Jewish Association of Belgium; her husband's activities concerning the underground and post-war issues; resistance and underground work; collaboration; speaking of her husband Chaïm Perelman's great masterpiece; Fela Perelman's fear of being denounced by anyone that they came into contact with, including the underground; Chaïm and Fela Perelman's role vis-à-vis various Belgian authorities and the Royal family in relation to the creation of the State of Israel; the day in which the State of Israel was created; speaking of Chaïm Weizmann; recalling Queen Elisabeth of Belgium; Leopold III; remembering the Queen of Belgium and her friendship with Professor Chaïm Weizmann; Belgium's political policies