

SIMÉON (SHIMÓN) HASSÓN

His Emotional Recounting of the Holocaust from Rhodes to Birkenaü

*Emmanuel Levy donated the original Ladino letters of Simeon Hasson
to the Rhodes Jewish Historical Foundation (RJHF) Archives*

Translation by J. S. Nemirovsky 2016



**Center: Rosa Tarica and Simeon Hasson, Rhodes 1935.
Photo courtesy of Mati Franco & Gregori Viens/RJHF Archives**



Left photo: Rosa and Simeon (right), Bologna 1946. They were the only married couple deported from Rhodes who survived Auschwitz-Birkenau. Right photo: Simeon in his backyard, August 1959.
Photographs courtesy of Mati Franco & Gregori Viens/RJHF Archives

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Casson (Hassón) Siméon
c/o Hospital of Saint Anna
Department of Male Medicine
Como – Camerlata - Italy

Como li 29 – 12 - 1945
The Honorable House of “Toledano & Lévy”
Casablanca – Morocco

To our dear ones from Casablanca: Uncle (Mr.) Lévy, and Aunts: Marie and Rifká.

You'll probably be very curious to receive this bit of news from us. In reality we are returning from the other world. From the country of **Hell and Death**. After having spent (4) four years of war, and bombings, and particularly everything in the Concentration camps in “*Haute Silesie, Poland*,” we send you this letter. On the 16th of December, 1945, we abandoned Poland. And on the 23rd of December, 1945, we arrived in Como, Italy, where for the present time we are recovering. We don't know where our new destination will be. We can't go to Rhodes until there is a new order.

Because of the events that have come to pass, we find ourselves in a very sad situation. During the first days of July 1944, when we were still in Rhodes, a small part of our house was bombed by aircraft. Rhodes underwent numerous bombings. Many neighborhoods were destroyed and uninhabitable. We had the store that was going well. Our house was full. We had gold, silver, a few valuable objects, modern furniture, oriental carpets. All in all, we weren't lacking anything. Everything was snatched by the Germans.

Presently we are penniless, without a suit of clothes (torn & frayed), without shoes (with holes), no mattresses, bed linen and covers. **Just the two of us**, without any other relatives. We have no one else more dear to us than the two of you, to whom we can direct ourselves. We find ourselves in the most critical moment of our life. As you already must know, the destiny that was awaiting the Jews, as a whole, and the fate of all of us Jews in Rhodes and Cos. It was the same fate for all the Jews of Europe.

In regard to the German occupation, I am remitting and including a small resumé on this subject, and please read it carefully.

Dearest ones. The purpose at the present time, is to request assistance from all of you. Financial assistance in the form of a loan, and we hope that you will express deep sentiment.

We have been liberated. Saved by the Russians on the 27th of January, 1945. It was a miracle for us. It's as if we have come back to a new life. Like an infant being born naked, completely naked. And it's necessary to begin this life. Its total beginning, starting with nothing, from zero! And the consequence, of coming to grips with this life, in recreating for ourselves a new situation,

with all the courage, all the strength, that unfortunately, so many experiences that we suffered. But thanks to our youth, we will have the ability to reunite with the hope of a better life. And this time, without that horrible, painful nightmare that we have come to pass.

We are certain, dear Uncle Levy, and Aunt Rifká and Aunt Marie, that our urgent request being put forth, will not pass without action, and that you will contribute to our material and moral recovery. And that the future will certainly justify the assurance that we deserve, not to mention our profound gratitude, to which we are indebted.

And with this hope, we beg of you, dear Uncle Levy, and Aunt Rifká and Aunt Marie, to have faith from our expected gratitude. The assurance of our sincere, devoted feelings.

Your beloved nephew (and niece),
Rosa and Siméon Hassón

Attached Document: Résumé

P.S. Hugs to all of our dear ones. Not forgetting to send our regards to all of our dear ones in Tangier. *Rosa and Simeón*

Hassón (Cassón), Siméon
c/o S. Anna Hospital
Department of Male Medicine
Como - Camerlata, Italy

Como - the 29th of December 1945

To our dearest relatives of the "House of Toledano & Levy," Casablanca, Morocco

Resumé:

Subject matter of the Jews of Rhodes and Cos, who were arrested and transported by the German S.S. in "Haute Silésie", Poland.

The 20th day of July, 1944

Official orders were published on all the streets of Rhodes, stating, that all Jewish men of 16 years of age, must immediately appear at the Town Hall on that same day. Each one with his personal documents for positive identification, with the exception of Jews of Turkish citizenship. So, the Rhodian men, married to Jewish women of Turkish citizenship, being in regulation with their (Turkish) consulate, were fortunate and were not arrested. Therefore, as soon as we were

notified, we did not fail from appearing. As soon as we presented ourselves, we were arrested and put in custody. The same day, another notice was published, stating that all Jewish women with their children, the invalid, blind, crippled, sickly, etc., must present themselves right away to the same place. For each person who did not show up, (4) four men would be shot by a firing squad, every one of them. We observed and paid close attention. What a misfortune! Like little goats, we were detained and put in custody.

I have to tell you, that beginning on the 8th of September, 1943 (the German occupation of Rhodes), until the day of our arrest, we experienced no harm, nor foresaw what was going to follow afterwards. On the contrary, they had always presented themselves as being very kind. They would come to our stores, make lots of purchases, leaving us with good profits. Following those sales, we decided to sensibly increase our merchandise. We therefore confined to our homes in Rhodes, for (3) three days. In those (3) three days, the Germans had nothing to do with us. Thanks to the Greek and Turkish communities, and to the City Town Hall who supplied us with bread, fruit, and cans of condensed milk. During our detainment in Rhodes, they took everything that we had: gold, silver, bank receipts, furniture, clothes, merchandise. Ultimately, everything! Everything! Everything! Everything! Even our bank deposits. And not to forget the abundant of wealth (riches) in our synagogues. Everything disappeared. Everything was exported.

After that, the voyage began. We were put on board (3) three small ships. In all, we were 2,055 persons. We were put into accommodations, where coal was stored, and full of filth. It may be impossible for me to recount the infernal voyage for you. Going from Rhodes to Piraeus lasted (8) eight days (a usual trip of 36 hours). The reason for the lengthy duration, was because we had to evaluate the situation carefully, and travel by night along the coast, to avoid mines and submarines. There's no need to tell you, that being on board with the sickly, we had to plan for many deaths during the trip. We economized, using good judgment, and we touched land in Piraeus on August 1, 1944.

From Piraeus we were taken by bus to Athens. We got off at a Kamp called "Haïdar (Turkish: "Haydar"). It was in this camp that grandmother died on August 1, 1944. In this camp we were left out in the burning sun for 3 to 4 hours. The heat was terrible, without any water, and dying from hunger. After all that, they locked us up (men only) in small rooms with 200 persons per room. Without windows, air, water, or food. And we remained (30) thirty hours in those conditions. We were suffocating. Many people had died, from thirst, hunger, or lack of air. The women were taken to quarters that had ventilation.

After that sad episode, the men were taken to the same apartments, only after having been cruelly beaten. Many thanks to the Swedish Red Cross, who were in charge of feeding us. After that, we continued our trip by train. Recounting the trip, which lasted 15 days, fifteen long days

like centuries, will be impossible for me to do. It appears to me that there is no language that has the proper words, to put into writing, the cruel, detestable sufferings that we endured. Even today I ask myself, without exception, "How is it possible that we all didn't die, long after having experienced such a frightful life?"

It was a train made up of cattle cars. We were piled up, 60 to 70 persons per car, without air, enclosed with chain locks and full of filth. The heat was suffocating. Very little upkeep (of the train and wagons) was provided. This too was provided by the Red Cross. We were hungry and dry from thirst. As if this wasn't enough, we were also covered and devoured by lice, that were as big as ants. Every day 5, 6, or 8 persons would die from starvation or disease. It was on this trip that Uncle Rahamím died, following a severe case of enteritis, on the 12th of August, 1944.

If any great harm to us was reduced in any way, we owe it to various sympathizing Italian soldiers, who took part in the army surveillance of our internment. In the same manner, we had some help from the Zionist Red Cross, on the way to Czechoslovakia. And how many deliberate cruel acts we had to endure at the hands the German SS.

Finally, on the 16th of August, 1944, we arrived at that dreadful, infernal place. An unfortunate place we will never forget during our entire existence. A place, that across the world, and across history, will make the most insensitive man tremble from fear, for a long time.

The name of this camp "Birkenaü," is located 66 kilometers from Krakow, Haute Silésie, Poland. We disembarked from the train. The men were barefoot, without shoes. They divided us up into (3) three groups:

The 1st group: "Young Men and Women," which was made up of 475 males (of the masculine sex) and 330 females (of the feminine sex).

The 2nd group: "Women" with their infants and children," up until 15 years of age.

The 3rd group: "The Remainder." Men, women, the disabled, crippled, blind, sickly, elderly men and women.

After that, we were separated and we never saw each other again. We went into the first group in question, and there they separated us. This immense camp was partitioned into many different sections. Sections A, B, C, D, up to Section Z.

Our sons were put into Section A.

Our daughters were taken to Section B.

Afterwards, we were directed to the bathhouse for disinfecting. They shaved us from head to foot, and we washed ourselves with gasoline. When we finished bathing, they gave us another set of clothes. For the men, a pair of pants, a jacket, a shirt, and wooden shoes. For the women, just a robe and nothing else (without underwear).

The uniforms in question, on the left side was a triangle made of cloth. The color yellow signifies their hatred of us. Then they tattooed our left arms, showing a serial number and an alphabetical letter.

The camp in question, was covered by thick smoke, day and night. And every day there was the smell of roasted meat. Days later we had come to learn that in that evil, cursed place, were (5) five crematoriums. It was also called a “**Death-Camp.**” Every day we would see (1) one, (3) three, or (5) five carts full of cadavers going towards the crematoriums, as if it they were piles of fish.

It was the same way in all parts of this enormous camp. In this camp, in question, there were people from all of the European countries. 80% were Jews, and the rest were 20% Aryans, who were arrested as resistance fighters. Every day we saw our children, and we would talk to each other from a distance of 20 meters. Separated by electric wires.

Nourishment:

One liter of vegetable soup a day, without any fatty matter; 225 grams of dark bread, accompanied by 25 grams of margarine, or 25 grams of sausage, or 25 grams of marmalade.

Soup:

In the soup, they would always add something special called “bromide,” in order to halt the menstrual cycle of the women. And it never failed to do its effect. Rosa was in this state of condition, up until the 20th of July, 1945.

Eating:

On the ground without spoons, like animals.

Sleeping:

In wooden barracks, on boards without blankets.

Water:

There was no portable water. The water was from the river.

Climate:

The summer in “Haute Silesie” is three months long: August, September and October. Equivalent to the winter in Rhodes. They would wake us up with clubs every morning at 4 am, to

make roll-call. The fog was terrible. The coldness would reach down to our bones and heart. You haven't the slightest idea of the atrocious suffering we had to endure and resist. And many boys and girls died in the camp, just because they couldn't endure the weather and harsh life. They beat us cruelly, treated like dogs, and considered as animals.

Winter: The winter in "Haute Silésie" was very difficult. The fog, snow, and light rains begin in November and continue until the end of April. The thermometer stays for many weeks at 15° below zero, and it even goes down to 30° (below zero). And with the freezing cold, comes a strong blowing wind which causes a terrible snow storm, which is known by its name, as a "blizzard." The rest of the months, from May to July, causes torrential rains.

After 40 days of our temporary stay in the camp, they told us that we would be departing on a Military Transport to work. They lined us up for roll-call. An SS Captain Medical Doctor arrived, and examined us all from head to foot, to see if we were capable of doing hard labor. As a result of the examination, he selected (65) sixty-five young men for Motive "X." In that same hour, they were taken to the crematorium ovens (and gassed to death and cremated). In the same manner, (35) thirty-five young girls had the same fate (only the Jews were selected). In short, on September 27, 1944, we departed and were transported to different destinations. Diana, Feliçi and Jeanette were transported. When Rosa was staying at the infirmary in Birkenau, the reason being that she had a small pimple in her thorax, of minor importance, everything worked out for the best.

After (12) twelve hours of direct traveling, without making any stops, we arrived in the city of Rydeltaü "Haute Silésie." The next day they put us to work. We were taken to the top of a mountain. We began transporting, rocks, iron, quick-lime, marble, large logs (3 to 4 meters long in diameter), from the bottom of the mountain to the summit. Ten days later, we were given shovels and picks. They made us work 11 (eleven) hours a day non-stop, working in the rain and cold weather. All of our muscles had frozen because of the harsh coldness and our bodies became hard like ice. There were even moments where we weren't able to move. The coldness attacked our ribs and lungs. Our mouths were always twisted and crooked. Our uniforms consisted of: wooden shoes, pants, a jacket, a shirt and nothing else. And we were always wet from the rain. And from an even greater misfortune, they would beat us with a thick piece of rubber, and the consequences from all of this was, every day, one or two persons would die from pleurisy and pneumonia.

Five kilometers from Rydeltaü there is a coal mine. The place is called "Charlottegrube." On the October 18, 1944, a commission arrived with an SS Medical Doctor. He examined us, in order to see if we were capable of working in the coal mines. It turned out he selected (52) fifty-two persons for Motive "X." They were immediately transported, by order of the SS Medical Doctor, to the crematorium at Birkenau, where they were gassed to death. The

remaining were separated into two groups. One third as construction workers and two thirds as coal mine workers. I was destined to go to the mines. We were awakened at (3) three in the morning. We would make our beds, and do all the necessary things we had to do. They only gave us black coffee without sugar. It was like black, bitter water. They would have roll-call, and then we would go to the mines. We would march 5 kilometers, and would arrive at the mines. We would go into the elevators and go down to a depth of 470 meters. Then we would exit from the elevators and get into electric wagons. We would make a subterranean trip lasting 3/4 of an hour and then arrive at the work station. There they would give each of us a shovel, a pick, a saw, and a 5-kilogram electric lantern, a 20-kilogram coal-drill, and a pair of kneepads. Then we would go to our work station, walking on our knees for almost an hour. And with all those instruments, inside underground tunnels (no more than 80 to a 100 centimeters). And after all that, we would do manual work. To recount the extreme hard work and suffering in the mines, would be impossible for me to do, not forgetting how mercilessly they use to beat us. In general, we begged every day, all of us, for death to come.

Always singing the song of exile, "Volga, Volga." Many of the prisoners had thrown themselves down the elevator shafts. It's too lengthy to describe for you, the unfortunate and disgraceful life I spent in the coal mines. Each day 5 to 7 persons would die from an accident. We worked 8 (eight) hours without breaks. One time, I was feeling very tired and tried to relax for (5) five minutes during my work hour. At that moment, the fore-man walked by. He grabbed me, took off my pants and gave me 25 (twenty-five) lashes.

At three in the afternoon, we would make the return trip back. We came out of those mines "black", like the ones of Africa. They would take us to the bathhouse to wash ourselves. This was an everyday occurrence. Then, we would have roll-call. So, by the time we returned to our station, from where we departed, it was already 7 in the evening. We would arrive half dead. An hour later, they would give us a litre of watery soup with black bread. There was so little food, in relation to the work that we were doing. Each day that passed, our strength would lessen and our bodies weakened.

And so, after having worked there 51 days, I fell ill. And on December 8, 1944, I was transported to the Birkenau Hospital." Thankfully, after 29 days, I was completely changed. On January 7, 1945, I was transported to another hospital in the same area. This hospital was called the "Convalescence Block." While I was staying at that "Block", the Russians began their attack in that direction. The sirens and alarms went off frequently. We saw groups of bomber aircraft overhead, and they were bombing just outside of Birkenau. The Germans were not able to resist the attacks, and abandoned Birkenau. But before pulling out, they began evacuating the endless number of barracks of this enormous camp, and transporting everyone to Germany, with the exception of the sick, who were in the hospital.

Mixed Hospitals: Jews and Aryans:

Only in the last (4) four barracks of the camp, in question, a total of 2,000 (two thousand) Jews who volunteered, did not succeed in being transported out. In order that they shouldn't fall into the hands of the Russians, the Germans locked the Jews into their barracks, and set them on fire. The screams could be loudly heard, like the roaring of lions. None of them could be saved. They were all burnt alive. Our eyes witnessed many massacres. Then, they cut off the electrical circuits. They cut the electrical wiring and separated the boys from the girls. They destroyed the (5) crematoriums and also executed (250) two hundred and fifty Jews, who were part of the internal work force at the crematoriums. Only a Jewish dentist and one other Polish person, who also serviced the crematoriums, were able to miraculously save themselves. **They conveyed to us the following message:** From the convoy that arrived from Rhodes, on August 16, 1944, (1,018) one thousand and eighteen of them went to the gas chambers, on that very same day. They were of the 2nd and 3rd Group-Category. Before throwing them into the crematoriums, they were told that they must first shower in order to disinfect themselves. They were taken into the (antechamber) and they removed all of their clothing. Then they went into another large area, where they were locked inside. In the interior of this room, there were (4) four openings in the corners. And through these openings they would release the toxic gases. And in (8) eight minutes, they all suffocated to death from the toxic gases. Afterwards, the Jewish dentist entered the room, where he opened up each of their mouths, and extracted all of their gold dental work. Then they were thrown into the furnaces. **Therefore, all of our dearly beloved relatives, from in Rhodes, departed to their eternal resting place, on the 16th of August, 1944.**

All of the Jewish convoys that were arriving, was in the same manner. More than 50% of them went directly from the trains to the gas chambers. This was only done to the Jews. It was in this camp where they burned 5 to 6 million Jews. For many days we felt starvation.

In short, the 21st of January, 1945, the Russian Army entered Birkenau. Thus, today I am safe and free. After a few days of Russian occupation, I said to myself: "Maybe Rosa had the same luck as I had." Like a madman, I left the hospital thinking, "Maybe I'll find her." The snowfall was continuous. The height of the snow was 70 to 80 centimeters. The cold weather was terrible. I was courageous. I put on a pair of boots and very heavy clothing, that I had borrowed from a fellow worker. I went searching for her in all the hospitals in this immense place. Finally, after having walked more than (2) days in the cold and snow, I went into the 30th hospital, shouting, "Are there any Italians here from Rhodes?" She immediately recognized my voice and shouted: "Shimón!" I went close to her side. She weighed (30) thirty kilos and I weighed (45) forty-five kilos. Without uttering the slightest of a word to each other, we fainted. Immediately, a nun came to our aid and gave us a sedative. You can't imagine the emotion we felt. Tears, like fountains, began falling from our eyes. It's truly incredible. It's a Miracle! I asked her how it came to be that she stayed behind in Birkenau. She replied, that after taking

her medications, the small abnormal growth in her thorax, had disappeared. So, they put her to work in the barracks, making rubber and cellophane ropes. There were many Aryan women with her. She was the only one from Rhodes. Every day they had to make (25) twenty-five meters (of rope) per person. If they didn't, they were severely beaten. Unfortunately, they didn't reach their quota, and only 10 to 12 meters were made. Seeing that the job had not been completed, they took them outside of their barracks, and left them standing in the snow for (2) two hours. After that, they were brought back inside and beaten. Every day, (3) three to (5) five women would die, following prolonged exposure to the freezing conditions. For that reason, Rosa fell ill, and was transported to a hospital in the same area of "Birkenaü."

And so today, we find ourselves, the two of us, newly reunited.

Therefore, I am concluding my very small resumé.

Your nephew,
Siméon Hassón

Como, li 29/12/1945

Dear relatives of Casablanca,

We beg of you to come to our aid, in the best and fastest way possible. It would be best to do it through the Jewish Community of Casablanca, and make the request to the Jewish Community of Milan.

The address is the following:
Israelite Community of Milan
Via Guastalla, 19
Milan, (Italy)

We have no news as to what could have happened to Diana, Felici (Alegra), and Jeanette. We are the only ones here from Rhodes.

As soon as you receive the following, please send us a telegraph, so that we may begin to find some comfort and solace. We are desperate!

We hug you,
Rosa and Siméon Hassón

A 24 Day Journey from Rhodes to Haute Silésie July 24, 1944 to August 16, 1944



The Return from Poland (7 Day Journey) December 17, 1945 to December 23, 1945



(The journey from Switzerland was on a clean and sanitary train)

Casson Limeone
cp ospedale S. Anna

I reparto Medicina Maschile

Como - Camerlata (Italia)

Como, li 29-XII- 1945

A nuestros Queridos parientes
de la Casa Tolentino & Levy
Casablanca (Marte)

I

→ Résumé ou supt de los judios de Rhodes i de Kos, ke
fueron arrestados i transportados por los almanes
S.S. en "Haute Silésie - Pologne."

El día del 20-7-1944, disposiciones fueron publicadas
en todas las Kalejas de Rhodes diciendo: Ke, todos los
ombres judios de 16 años in sequito, deven presentarse
al municipio en el mismo día. Cada uno kon sous
dokoumentos personales por ciertos controllos. (A l'excepti
de los judios de nacionalidad Tourka, ansi ke
los Radiotas Kazados kon mujeres Tourkinas. Ke, estando
en regla kon su Konsolato, tuvieron la chance, no
fueron arrestados.) - Gounkoué, visto ke fuemos
avizados, no mantimos de presentarnos. - Apenas
nos presentimos nos Blokaroh. = El mismo día,
oun otro aviro foué publicado diciendo: Ke, todas las
mujeres judias kon sous Kreatours, ansi ke los
invalidos, siegos, Kochos, enfermes, etc., deven de
presentarse pichin al mismo lugar. - Por kada
persona mantante, (4) kon otros ombres van ser
fuzilados. - Todos i todas suvivimos, ke malor! Como
Kavutos, todos fuemos Blokados.

Tengo la desirvos, ke, a partir del 8/9/1943
(okupacion de Rhodes por los almanes) fin al día
de nuestra arrestacion no subimos ningoun mal,
ni prevedimos loke iya suvir despues. Al Kontrario,
eyos se mostraron siempre muy bien: venian a
nuestros magasenes, arian buenas kompras,
dechandonos buenos profitos; a sequito de estas
venditas arivimos a pouja sensiblemente nuestro
bien. = Fuemos dounkoué blokados en Rhodes (3)
tres dias; en estos (3) tres dias, los almanes no se
okuparon nada de nosotros; gracias a las
Komunidades Greca i Tourka, tambien al Municipio

Ke nos suministraron pan^{III}, frutas, i Koutis de lait
Condensé. - Mientras nuestro deteniimiento en Rhodes,
nos tomaron todo lo ke teniamos: oros, platas, bilietos
de banca, mobiliyas, vestidos, marchandises, en fin
todo, todo, todo, todo; sin a nuestros depôts en
Banta. - Sin olvidar las rikeras de nuestras
sinagogas. - Todo desapareció, todo foué emportado.
Después empezó el viaje.

Embarcados en (3) tres vaporitos, eramos en
todo 2.055 personas; gouemos alojados en los lugares
onde meten charbon, yenos de soziedad. - Fakontamos
este viaje infernal, me va ser imposible. - Esto
touró (8) ocho dias para arivar de Rhodes a Pireo.
(viaje en tiempo normal 36 oras). - Razon de la
detrata: prudencia ke nos obligaba de viajar
de noche por las Kostas, para evitar miras i
sotomarineros. - No es menester dezirnos, ke embarcados
kon hazinos touvimos a plegnar mounçios mouerte
dourante el viaje. - La Pruidencia nos ekonomizo;
i toukimos tierra a Pireo el 1º/8/1944. - De Pireo nos
yevaron kon kamiones a Athènes i abachimos en
oun Kampo ke se yama "Haïdar". (Es en este
Kampo ke la gran Mamma murió 1º/8/1944). - En
este Kampo, nos decharon 3, 4 oras en oun sol
ardiente, la Kaler era terrible sin agua i
moriendonos de hambre. - Después de esto todo
tiempo nos engeraron solamente a los ombres
en kamaretikas a 200 personas por kada kamareta.
sin ventanas sin ayre, sin agua, sin nourriture.
I estouvimos (30) treinta oras en estas kondiciones; nos
estavamos atabajando mounçias personas touvieron
la mouerte sea de la sikia, o de la hambre,
sea de mankansa de ayre. - a las mujeres
las yevaron en apartamentos aeroroz.

Despues de este triste episodio, nos yevaron tambien a los
ombres en los mismos apartamentos; despues de avernos
ahorcados krobablemente. - Gracias ke la Croix Rouge Suedeise
se oshupo de darnos a kómer; despues de esto kontinuámo
el viaje por el train. - Rakontavos este viaje ke touro
15 dias, 15 dias loungos kómo sieklos, me va ser
impossible. - Dingoun plingouaje me parece no tiene
palabras Kapácses de rakordar las figuras de las
sopienças krouelas detestables ke l. Proportiones. - Komo
no nos morimos todos sin excepción, me demando
ayinda oy; loungamente despues de aver pasado una
vida tanto affloza. - Era un treno kómpuesto de
wagones des Bestiaux. - Estavamos amassados 60 a 70
personas por wagon, sin ayre, engerados kon Kadenado
i estavan yenos de souzidad. - La Kolor era etoufante
suffokante. - Mouy poko de mantenimiento, i tambien
esto recevido de la Croix Rouge Suedeise. - Ambiertos,
sitiozo, no era suficiente solo esto demas divorados por
los plazos ke estavamos korridos, grandes kómo los
ourmilgas. - Kada dia 5, 6, 8 personas morian de
ambie o de malatia. (Es en este viaje ke l'oncle
Rahamin mourit a la suite de une fouete
Entérite el 12/8/1944). - Si no kono proporziones mas
dezastozas lo devernos a siertos soldados Italianos
sympathizantes, ke azian parte de la surveillance
kahmada, donde estavamos entornados. - De
mismo tuvimos un ayundo de parte de la
Cibix Rouge Sioniste en el Kómino de la Tcheco. -
Ma Kóchantas Kroueldades tuvimos a soubir
de parte de los S. S. almanes. - Enfin, arivimos
al lugar infernal el 16/8/1944, lugar malorezo,
donde no nos vamos olvidar toda nouestra
egzistencia, lugar ke a traverço el moundo, i
la traverço la estoria, va ser loungamente
tremblar di espanto el ombre el mas

Shoagines

IVi
Insensible. El nombre de este campo "BIRKENAU"
Ke se topa a 66 Km. de Cracovie. Haute Silésie, Pologne.
Salimos del treno (Los ombres estavamos diskalços, sin zapatos)
i mos dirigaron en (3) tres Kategorias.

- 1.ª Prima Kategoria "La Jeunesse" Ke era Kompuesta di
= 475 = du sexe masculin i 330 du sexe féminin.
- 2.ª Segunda Kategoria "Las mujeres Kon sous Kreatours fin
de la idade de 15 años."
- 3.ª Tercera Kategoria: el resto. - ombres, mujeres, invalidos, siegos,
infumēs, viejos, viejas, i mujeres en pizigion.

Despues de esto, mos separaron i mas no mos
vimos. La prima Kategoria entrinos al Kampo in Kestion,
i ayi mos separaron. - Este immenso Kampo, era dividido
en Inmouziens repartos. - Reparto A. B. C. D. fin a reparto Z.

A Los ipos mos mtieron reparto A.

A Las ipas las jeron reparto B.

Despues de esto, mos Kondizieron al bagno para
dezenfektarnos; mos arañaron de la kaveja a los piēs, i
mos lavamos Kon petrolio. Terminado el bagno mos
dieron otros vestidos. - A los ombres, un pantalon, una
veste, una chemise, i zapatos de tavola. - A las mujeres
solamente une robe i mas nada. sin culotte.

Los vestidos in Kestion, la parte siedo, eran
de un triangle de ropa kolo amaria. La kolo amaria
signifika detestarnos. - Despues de esto, mos igieron
Tatouage al brazo siedo, inditando un numero
d'ordre i una lettre alphabetique.

El Kampo in Kestion, era dia i noche en un
forno muy espejo, i todos los dias, era de un
gouezmo de carne rôtie. - Despues de dias, venimos
a laver, ke ay en este maldicio lugar (5) cinco
Crématoires. - Lo yomavan tambien Kampo para Morir.
Kada dia viamos pasar para los Crématoires 1, 3, 5 charrettes
de Kadavres kono se fuera rimas de Pichkados.

De mizmo era en todos los repartos de este inmenzo campo.

En este campo en Kestion, avia de todas las naciones Europeas el 80% eran judios, el resto 20% eran sirianos, ke fueron arrestados como Partizantes. - Kada dia nos viamos kon las ijas i nos avlavamos a una distançia de 20 metros, separados a mezo di filos elektritos.

Nourriture. - Un litro de soupa de verdoura al dia, sin ninguna matiere grasse, 225 gr. de pan preto aкомпаниado de 25 gramos de margarine, o 20gr. de saucisson, o 20 gr. de marmelade.

Soupa. - En la soupa içian siempre una specialidad ke se llama "Bromure" para azer dispanir le periodique de las mujeres i ke no monta de azer l'efeto. (Rosa estouvo en estas kondiciones fin al 20 juillet 1945.)

Komer. - En la tierra, sin cuillere como las bestias.

Dormir. - En barakas de tavla, i en la tavla, sin kaviertas.

Agua. - No ay agua potable, es agua des fleuves.

Klima. - El invierno en "Haute Silésie" es (3) tres mezes de Rhodos. - Nos alevantavan kon palos kada demaniada a las oras (4) konatio para azer l'appel. el brouillard era terrible, el friou mas tokavla al guñeco i al korazon. no podech tener la minima idea de las souffrenças atroçes ke suportimos i rezistimos. - Maunçios ijos i ijas morieron en este campo por ke no podieron rezistir a este klima i a esta vida tanto dura. - Nos akabavan krouelmente, tratados como los peros, konderados como las bestias.

Invierno. - El invierno en "Haute Silésie" es muy duro. - Le gel i la neige i tambien citas luvias empieza de Novembre i kontinua asta la fin de avril. - Il thermometre esta maunçias simanas a 15° au dessous de zero, i abacha mizmo a 30. - I kon este friou vienel una fuerte ayre, ke produize una terrible tempesta di neige ke es konocida por el nombre de "Blizzard". El resto de los mezes de Mai a Juillet aze luvias torrençielles. - Después de 40 dias de sejour en este campo, nos dixeran ke vamos partir transport para

lavorar. - Mos mitieron sous l'appel, i vino oum Kapitano Mediko S.S., i mos examinã a todos de la Kabeca a los pies para aver si eramos adatos para, lavores duros. - Rezultado de esta examen foue, ke selekciono (65) sixenta i cinco mançeros por motivo "A". En sou misma ora los yevaron al Crématoire. - De mismo (35) trenta i cinco ijas, touvieron la misma suerte. (Selecciones azian solamente a los Indios). - Pres, el 27-9-1944 partimos todos transport para diferentes destinaciones. Diana, Felizi, i Jeannette se fueron transport. - Fin.
Kouanto a Rosa, Kedo en l'infermerie de BIRKENAU, a Kaiza ke tenia en el thorax oum granico de poka emportanca. => Todo foue por Bien.

Mozotros, despues de 12 (doce) oras de viaje direkto, sin aver ninguma stacion, arivimos a la Ciudad de Rydelstai "Haute Silene". - Al dia seguinte, mos mitieron al lavoro; mos yevaron al sommet de ouma montagna, i empecimos a transportar de abacho al sommet: piedras, fieros, kal, marmoles, legnos godros de 3 a 4 metros de longueur. - Despues de 10 (diez) dias, mos dieron pelle i pioche i mos azian lavorar 11 (onze) oras al dia sin interruption, lavorando en las luvias i en el friou. - Oum friou atre, el friou mos jelaia todos los mousklos, i el Kuerpo douro kono la glace. Avia momentos ke no podiamos miniarnos el friou mos atakava las keptas i los poumones. - La boka la teniamos siempre de travers. - Nouestras vistimientas eran: sapatos de tavola, oum pantalou, ouma veste, ouma chemise i mas nada. - Siempre estavamos mojados de la luvia. - Por mas malor, mos aharravan kon oum pedaco de Caoutchouc godro; i las Kongegouenças de todo esto, era ke,

1. VII^o

Kada dia morian 1,2 personas de pleuresie i pneumonie.

A (5) quinto kilometros de Rydeltsai ay una Mina de houille. - Este logar se yama "Charlottehuble".

El 18 octobre 1944 vino una Komision de la Mina Kon un Mediko S.S. i mos egzaminó se eramos adatos para lavoros de Mina. - Rezultó Ke selekcionó 52 = (Cinkuenta i dos) personas por motivos "X", i pickin por orden del Mediko fueron transportados al crematoire de BIRKENAU. - El restante mos divizaron en 2 grupos. - $\frac{1}{3}$ para lavoros de Konstrukciones i $\frac{2}{3}$ para lavoros de Mina. ³⁴⁰ Nos alejantavan a las oras ^{Foule} ^{postergado a la} MINA.

(3) tres de la noche, aranjavamos nuestras kamas, aziamos nuestros menesteres; mos davan solo cafe sin azukar, era una agona preta i amarga; mos azian appel i despoes (partiamos para la Mina. - Aziamos una marche de 5 km. i arivavamos a la Mina. - Entravamos a l'ascenseur i abachavamos a una profundidad de 470 metros. - Despoes saliamos de l'ascenseur i mos entravamos en wagones elektrikos. - Aziamos un viaje souterrain de $\frac{3}{4}$ horas, i despoes arivavamos alla Central de los lavoros. - Ayi mos davan a cada uno: una pelle, una pioche, una scie, una lanterne elektrike de 5 kg, una perforatrice de 20 kg, i un par de genbuiere. - Despoes de esto (partiamos al posto del lavoro; Kaminando a genou kaje una ora Kon estos todos instrumentos en galerias altas no mas de 80 a 100 centimetros. - Despoes de todo esto tomavamos el lavoro en mano. - Rakontarvos los lavoros durissimos i las sufiensas de la mina, me va ser impossible, sin olvidar Ke mos aharravan Krouelmente, todos en general rogavamos Kada dia

la muerte, contando siempre la Kantika del exil
 "Volga, Volga". Mounchos se iñaron de l'ascenseur.
 Es largo sparar destrevirnos la vida malorosa i disgraziada
 de la Mina ~~de~~ ke passi. - Kada dia 5, 7 personas
 morian de accidente. - Lavoravamos 8 (ocho) oras sin
 interruption. - Una vez, yo, me senti muy kancabo,
 i buehki de repozarme en las oras del lavoro, no
 mas de (5) cinco minutos. - En aquel momento pagó
 el Kapo, mi tomó i me keto el pantalón i me dio
 25 (veinte i cinco) dardas terribles. - En fin a las oras
 (3) tres despues de medio dia, tomavamos el Kamino
 del retorno. - Saliamos de la Mina prestos como los negros
 de la Africa, i nos yevavan a aver el bagno. - Esto
 era kada dia. - Despues nos avian appel; de modo,
 ke sin rientrar al hosto de onde partiamos, ya se avian
 las oras 7 (siete) de la tarde. - Arivavamos medios
 muertos, despues de una ora otra nos davan
 el litro de soupa de agua kon el pan preto.

Visto ke la nourritude era tanta pta par rapport
 al lavoro ke aziamos. Kada dia ke pasava noiestos
 fouercas deminuiwan i nuestros konerpos se koncomian.
 En fin, despues de aver yo lavorato 51 dia,
 Kari hazino i foue transportado el 8/12/1944 al
 ospedal de BIKKENAU. - Gracias despues de 29 dias,
 yo trouki interaumente. - El 7/1/1945 me transportaron
 a un otro ospedal del mismo lugar. - Este
 ospedal se yamava "Bloc de Cohvalescence 77".
 Mientras mi séjour en este Bloc, los Roussos
 empearon la offensiva a esta direksion. - Los
 silenos i los aladinos eran frekuentes. - Viamos
 paçar grupos de aviones i Bombardavan a

fuera de BIRKENAU. - Los alemanes, no pudieron resistir la esta ofensiva, abandonaron BIRKENAU. & Ma antes del abandonar, evacuaron todas las infinitas de Barakas de este inmenso campo, i mandaron a todos transport a Alemania. → A l'exception de los nazis se se topaban en hospitales. -

Hospitales mixtos judios i arianos. ← Solamente, los (4) cuatro ultimas barakas del campo in testion, se se valoutaban totalmente a 2000 (dos mil) Judios, no pudieron a transportarlos. - Por se no Konigan en mano de los Roussos los engeraron en las mismas barakas onde se topaban, i icieron fuego. Los gritos se sentian bien fuerte, como se fuera rugissement de leones. - Algunos de ojos, no pudieron salvar, todos fueron quemados vivos.

Nuestros ojos vieron muchos massakros. Despues rompieron las komunikaciones elektrikas, rompieron los filos elektricos onde separaban las ijas i los yes, destruyeron los (5) cinco crematoires i tambien fusilaron (250) Cienientas i cincuenta personas Judios se arian parte de los trabajos internos de estos crematoires. → Solamente un dentista judio i una otra persona polacos, los Konalos, tambien ellos eran al mismo servicio, pudieron salvarse por miraculo. Mas Konmunicaron lo siguiente:

→ Del Convoi de Rhodes se arribo el 16/8/1944, fueron destinados a los crematoires el mismo dia 1018 personas; eran la 2^a i 3^a categoria. & Antes de icarlos a los crematoires les dijeron se deben azeren el baño para desinfectarse. Los entraron en antichambre i se desahullaron completamente. Despues pasaron a una sala grande i los seraron Kon yare. - A l'interior de este lokal en las Konstruadas avia (4) cuatro aberturas, i por estas aberturas daban el gaz asphyxiante, i en (8) ocho

%. X^o

minutos todos fueron asphyxiados. - Despues de esto, entro este Dentista Judio i abrió las Bocas de todos, arauto todas las Denticiones en oro ke tenían, i despues los icieron a los Crématoires. ←.

(Goumkoué, todos nuestros teridos parientes ke teniamos en Rhodes, partieron al reposo eterno el 16/8/1944.)

Todos los Convois de Judios ke arivaban, era la misma manera. mas del 50% passavan direktamente dal treno a los Crématoires. - Esto azian solamente a los Judios. - Es en este kampo, ke temaron 5 a 6 millones de Judios. - Mauncios dias sentimos la auhiera. - Bref, el 27-1-1945 las armadas Roussas entraron a BIRKENAU. - Es asi ke yo mi topo oy salvo i libero. - Despues de pokos dias de Okupacion Roussa, diche entremi: poudete ser ke Rospi touvo la misma suerte mia. - Komo cum loko sali de mi ospedal diciendo: poudete ser ke la encontrare. La neige kayendo de kontinuo, la altor de la neige era de 70 a 80 centimetros, el friou era terrivle. Mi di Koraje, mi visti une paire de bottes ke me ire empestar de cum Kolepa, tambien vestidos bien godros; i me foue a Buechtarla en todos los ospedals de este immense logar. - Enfin, despues de aver kaminado mas de (2) doz dias en el friou i en la neige, entri al (30^e) trentieme ospedal gritando: balche italiane da Rodi? - Eya pichen Konocio mi voz i grito. - Chimon. - Me ocarki a son lado eya pezava (30) trenta kilos i yo (45) kumarentai ciuko kg. - Sil dizimos la minima palabra mos dermas Pimmos. - Pichen vino uma suora de ayi i nos dio um kalmante. - No vos poudesh imaginat la emojon ke provimos. - Lagrimas komo la fuente empleca a Korer de nuestros ojos. - Veramente, es lentreirle, es um MIRACULO. - le denyandi

Komo fone ke kedo definitivamante en BIRKENAU, eya me respondio, ke despues de Kouras, el granico ke tenia en el thorax desaparizio, i la mitieron a lavorar en cuna Baraka aazer komedias de gomma i de Celofan. - Avia Okon eya monnias omojeres arianas. - Eya sola de Rhodes. - Devian de terminar kada dia (25) venti i cinco metros por persona, se no eran kastigadas severamente.

Malorozamente, no arivavan aazer ke solo 10 a 12, metras. - Visto ke el lavoro no era terminando, las kitavan a fenera de la baraka i las dechavan en la neige (2) doz ras en pie. - Despues de esto, las entravan i las aharravan. - Kada dia 3, 5 mujeres morian a seguito de Congelation.

A la suite de esto, Rosa Kayos hazina, i la transportaron a un ospedal del huzono logar. Choc BIRKENAU.

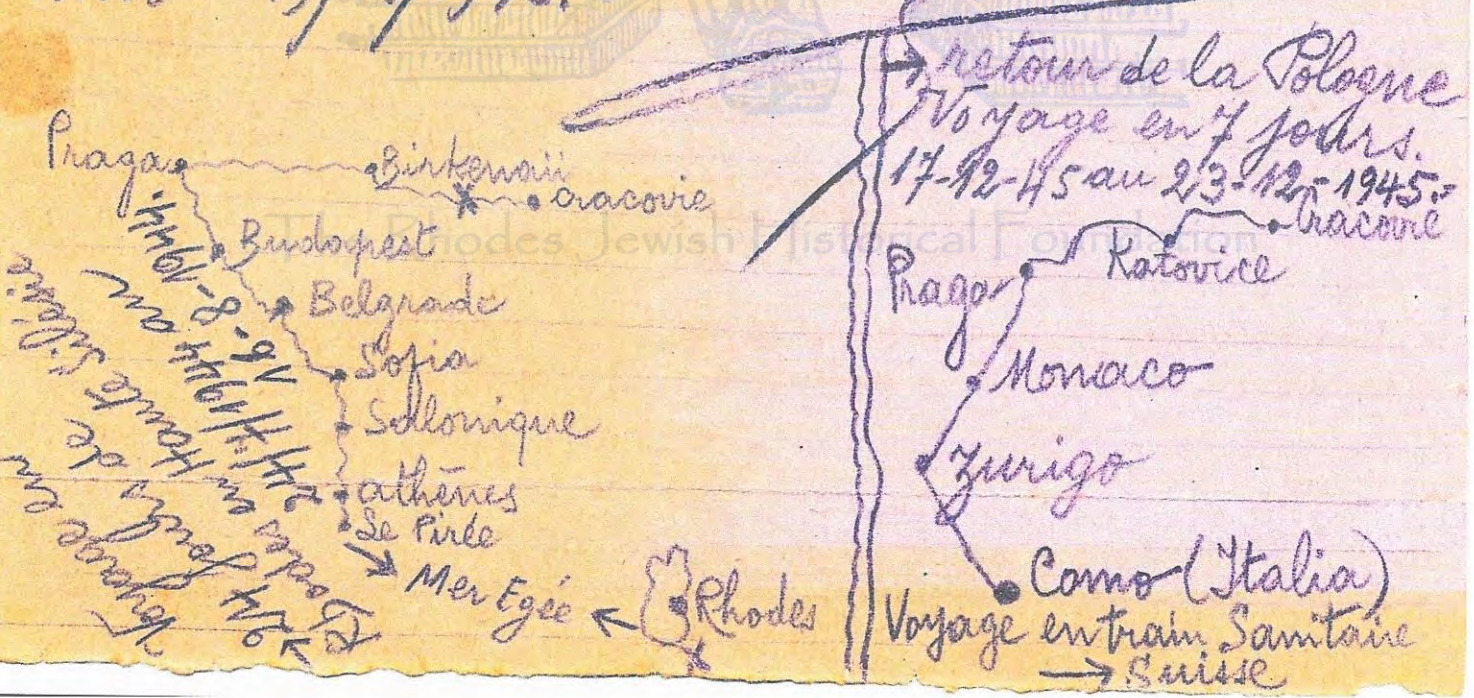
Es asi ke nojotros dos, nos topamos, oy nuevamente unidos.

Tansi termino mi cico, cico resumé.

Vostro Souri

Simén Hasson

Como li 29/12/1945.



Queridos Parientes de Casablanca,
Vos rogamos de verismos en ayudando en
la mejor manera i al mas presto
posible. - Seria mejor de la
Comunauté Juive de Casablanca
dar orden a la Communauté
Juive de Milano.

El addresso es el siguiente.
Comunità Israelitica di
Milano

Via Guastalla, 19

Milano (Italia)

No sabemos ningunas novedades,
Korale arian de Diana, Jélici i Jeanette,
estamos aki solo nosotros de Rhodes.

Apénas vach recibir la presente
vos rogamos de telegrafarnos para
impessar a consolarnos. - Estamos
dezezperados. - Vos abraçamos.

Mosar Siméon Hasson

Casson Simone
cf. ospedale di S. Anna
I Reparto Medicina Maschile
Como - Camerlata
Italia

Como li 29-~~XII~~-1945
Hon. Maison
Tolédano & Lévy
Casablanca
Maroc

A nuestros Queridos de Casablanca
Uncle Mr. Lévy, i tantes Marie i Risca.
Vach estar Kourios de recevir de nouestras novidades.
Réelmente, estamos ritornando del otro moundo. - Del pays
de l'inferno o de la morte.
Después de aver pasado (4) Kuartos años de guerra, de
bombardamientos; i todo particularmente en los Campos de
Koncentraci3n en "Haute Silésie" Polone, vos adrecamos
la presente letra.
El 16-12-1945 abandonimos la Polona, i el 23-12-1945
arivimos a Como (Italia). - Onde nos topamos actualmente
ricoverados. - Nouestra nouera destinacion no sabemos
onde va ser. → A Rhodes no se puede ir fin a nouo
orden.

A la suite de estas todas amenazas mas tenemos
en ouna situacion bien triste: en los primos dias del juillet
1944 quando ainda nos topavamos en Rhodes, nouestra
Kaza fue bombardada ouna cica parte par l'aviacion.
Rhodes soubio noumerozos bombardamientos mortuorios.
Konartieres fueron destruydos i inhabitables. - Teniamos
el magazén (ke estava yendo bien) la Kaza la teniamos
yena. Teniamos nos plata, sin fiko de objetos preciosos,
Imobilia moderna, tapetes orientales, enjin nada no nos
mantava. Todo fue puzado por los balmanes.

Actualmente nos topamos sin parás, sin vestidos
(vestidos raggados) sin chaufures (rotos), sin matelas, sin
Kouiertas. nozotros dos solos, sin ningoun otros parientes.

No tenemos personas mas Karas de nozotros a
adrecarnos. - Nos topamos en ounos momentos los mas
kritikos de nouestra vida.

Komo ya sevech saverlo Kouno fue la suerte
reservada a los Judios en general, i la suerte ke
nozotros todos, los Judios de Rhodes i de los tourimos. -
Ela la misma suerte de todos los Judios de l'Europe.

7. sou la dominacion de los almanes.

→ Vos remeto aki entouzo un chico resumé a este sujet, i vos rogamos de meldarlo kon atension.

Keridos, el estoko de la presente, es de demandas a vosotros todos, un auxilio, un ayudo financiaro prestado; i esperamos ke vach se-
sensibles.

Ya venimos de ser liberados, salvados por los
Roussos el 27 Janvier 1945. - Es un mirakolo para
nosotros. - Es komo se revenimos a una vida nueva.
Mas es egualmente komo kreaduras ke vienen de
nacer; demandados, kompletamente demandados. - I kake
empeçados esta vida, la riempéçala enteramente,
partiendo de nada, de zero.

Por konseguençia, labordar esta vida en
rékreandonos una nueva situacion; kon todo el
koraje, todas las guercas, ke, malgrado tantas
experiencias ke osulimos, ma, gracias a nuestra
jeunesse, vamos ser kapaçes de réounir kon la
esperança de una vida mior; i esta vez sin
este orivle eshouegno pénible ke venimos de
paçar.

Estamos siguros Keridos, onle M^{re} Lévy i Tante,
Rifka i Marie, ke l'appel prezente ke vos
estamps adreçando no va kedat sin echo i ke
vach kontribouir en nuestro relevamiento matériel
i moral, i ke l'avenir va justifitar pienamente
la konfiença ke podemos, merçer, sin avlar
de nuestra profunda rékonçençia ke savremos
devervos.

Kon esta esperança, vos rogamos Keridos onle
M^{re} Lévy i tantos Rifka i Marie, de kreyer kon nuestra
interat gratitute anticipada, l'asigourança de
nuestros sentimientos los mas kordiales i los mas
devorados. - Vuestros Keridos Savings.

Annexe: Un resumé: Rosa & Siméon Basson

P.S. - abrazos a todos los Keridos,
sin olvidar de kerer bien transmitter nuestras saloues
a todos nuestros Keridos de TANGER. = Rosa & Siméon