

Spain and its relation to Auschwitz through different groups of victims: Spanish political deportees, Spanish Workers, International Brigadists, Spanish Jews and Jews born in Spain.

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Introduction

Although upheld for decades by the Franco regime and its supporters, Spanish neutrality in World War II is a myth. While all neutral countries implemented corresponding policies at various points during the war, the nearly consistent, one-sided, pro-Axis attitude of the Franco regime stood out. In fact, Franco admitted his total disregard for strict neutrality in numerous speeches and, most overtly, by switching to Axis-friendly non-belligerence in June 1940, a status that he did not revoke until late 1943¹.

This article addresses this complexity and attempts to shed light on an intricate history that has also been obscured by decades of post-war mythmaking and how to find different groups of people connected with Spain and Auschwitz.

The methodology used for doing this essay was research in several archives and interviews to descendants or relatives of the victims and testimonies. The archives were from the International Tracing Service, Yad Vashem, Memorial de la Shoah, Amical Mauthausen,

¹ Leitz: *Sympathy for the Devil*, New York, 2002, p. 114.

Arxiu Nacional de Catalunya and Arxiu SIDIBRINT, Universitat de Barcelona, among others.

1.- Spanish Political Prisoners

With the military defeat of the Republic, nearly half a million people had to go into exile, most of them being forced to remain in internment camps in the south of France. From those, at the end of 1939, approximately 80.000 could emigrate to America, Portugal and England and 4000 to the Soviet Union.

In an attempt to rid itself of what it considered to be undesirable “reds”, the French government gave the ones who remained the choice of either returning to Spain, the scattering of women and children throughout French terrain, or enlisting in the French army, whether in the Foreign Legion, in Marching Regiments or in the Companies of Foreign Workers (CTE).

Some 50,000 enlisted in the CTE under the orders of the army and were assigned to constructing fortifications. With the German invasion, some 5,000 died in combat and thousands more were captured and taken to the prison camps (*Frontstalag and Stalags*). 19 camps situated in France, Germany, Austria and Poland had Spanish prisoners.

After the ratification of Marshall Petain’s armistice, the Republicans caught in the occupied France were considered enemies of the Reich like Germans, Italians or Czechs who fight against Nazi Germany. They were classified as Rotspanier. The French army had not recognize them as full military, it was easy for the Wehrmacht to give them to the RSHA and therefore, the first transports to Mauthausen arrived already in August 1940 from Moosberg Staalag.

Moreover, Franco's regime refused to consider them Spanish citizens so they earned the label of "undesirable stateless" and already in June 1941 about 6,000 such prisoners were sent to Nazi concentration camps. Later, more were arrested as members of the French Resistance. Overall, the Nazis murdered between 7,500 and 10,000 Spaniards, and pressed many others into forced labour in the Third Reich or in the Organization Todt.

For the ones who were caught in Vichy France or could escape there, they had again several situations:

Some were interned again in French Camps as considered "dangerous" and they shared the space with Jews and Roma in their way to deportation. The ones who belong to the CTE (Foreign Workers Companies) became part of the Groups of Foreign Workers, later on; many of them were forced to Compulsory Work Service and sent to Germany or to the Todt Organization.

The ones who had managed to escape forced enlistment were pioneers in the resistance movements against the Nazi occupation. They took up arms in the Spanish *Maquis*, or guerrillas, or as liaisons or mail runners. If they fell into the hands of the Gestapo they would face long prison sentences, forced labour or execution. After the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944, the Germans sent the condemned to concentration camps.

Although Mauthausen was the main destination of the Republican deportees, their presence is confirmed in the main Nazi camps: Buchenwald, Dachau, Neuengamme, Sachsenhausen, Ravensbrück, and also in Auschwitz.

At Auschwitz, 69 personal records of Spaniards have been identified to date, of which 30 belong to the political deportees collective. Of those, 18 were deported directly to Auschwitz in convoys from France and the rest arrived from other Nazi camps.

In this group of Spaniards from Auschwitz, there are three women and ten are counted as having perished there.

SPANISH PRISONERS WHO DIED EN AUSCHWITZ

Martín	Miguel	Sigüenza(Guadalajara)	10-08-1942
Martín	Ángel	Bilbao (Vizcaya)	30-08-1942
Corteillo	Joaquín	València	01-09-1942
Manello	Rafael	Tabarca(Alicante)	30-01-1943
Monter Ferris	Pedro	Binaced (Huesca)	22-02-1943
Rose	Eduardo	Madrid	28-04-1943
Goñi Ayestarán	Luz Higinia	Ciraqui(Navarra)	01-05-1943
García Aragón	Enrique	Cullera(València)	06-10-1944

In order to personify the drama of this collective, it would be presented two brief biographies. The first one corresponds to an anti-fascist combatant in the Spanish War who went into exile, was arrested by the Germans and later deported. The second biography is that of an economic emigrant who was living in France who was arrested and later deported because of her participation in the Resistance.

PEDRO MONTER FERRIS

He was born in Binaced (Huesca) on 12th August 1900. He moved to Sabadell in 1927. He married Esperanza Fernández Santín, who had arrived in Sabadell in 1922 from the town of Ruitelan (León) where she was born. They had two children, Antonia (1932) and Alfredo (1938).

According to the documentation consulted², Pedro worked as an "agricultural labourer" although according to Francesc (Antonia's son)³, his grandfather "*worked setting up electric transmission towers*" and, according to what he heard from his grandmother, he was a member of either the Workers' Party of Marxist Unification (PSUC) or the National Confederation of Labor (CNT)", a fact it cannot be confirmed.

Pedro had to go into exile and Esperanza had to take care of the two children and their mother. In 1946, hardship forced Esperanza to take avail herself of the benefits of the work of the "Orphans of the National Network and the War", and a file was opened in which she was given a death certificate for Pedro, issued by the Klagenfurt State Political Police, notifying her of his death at Auschwitz on the 23rd of February 1943⁴.

Pedro's family knew of his death, but with the passing of time, the silence and fear with which they lived through the years of Franco's dictatorship, they forgot the place of his death.

It wasn't until May 2010, when Francesc learned about his grandfather's true route, being able to prove that his trajectory was somewhat particular if we compare it with the rest of the Spanish Republicans. According to the file in Dachau⁵, he entered this camp on the 7th of July 1941 and is identified on his file as "Spanish prisoner" (*Rotspanier*). It is an uncommon case, since it must be remembered that starting in the summer of 1940, the

² Personal records. Arxiu Històric Sabadell

³ Interview by J.M. Calvo of Francesc Pena, grandson of Pedro Monter. Terrassa 2010

⁴ Official communication of the comander of the camp of Auschwitz. Copy from personal archive of Francesc Pena

⁵ Comunista de La Rochelle was responsable for propaganda in the southwest región. Arrested July 30, 1943, executed by firing squad September 21 1942 at Military base of Souge. V.
http://www.fusilles-souge.asso.fr/liste_fusilles/rabeaux_raym.html

Republicans identified by the Gestapo in the POW camps were deported to Mauthausen. Only one Spaniard had been admitted to Dachau, and 14 in 1941, of which half came from Mauthausen. For the other seven, amongst whom was Pedro, it was their first destination; the starting point of their deportation is currently unknown.

FELICIANA PINTOS NAVAS

Feliciana was born on the 9th of June 1914 in El Barraco (Ávila). It is not known when and under what circumstances she was brought to France following the economic migration that took place during that period.

In 1936 she married Joseph Raymond Bierge, adopting her married name, from then on being known as Feliciana Bierge. During the Spanish Civil War, the Bierges carried out various solidarity actions with the Republican civilian population.

After the German occupation, they clandestinely settled in Villenave d'Ordon, near Bordeaux, and were members of the French Sharpshooters and Partisans (FTP) of the Gironde. A couple of printing presses were installed in their home, from which newspapers and leaflets were distributed to nearby factories and towns. Feliciana was also the agent who guaranteed the connection between the person in charge of propaganda in the region with the General Staff by providing them with weapons and information.

Betrayed by a comrade, they were arrested in July 1942. Joseph was shot on the 21st of September of the same year⁶. Feliciana was tried and imprisoned in Romainville prison, from where she and her colleagues were transferred to Compiègne for deportation⁷.

⁶ Charlotte Delbó, survivor of this transport, has written several works of great literary value which provide testimony of the suffering of these women

⁷ Maria Alonso was born 8/20/1910 in Santa Fe de Mondújar (Almería). She was a nursing professional who resided in France and formed part of “réseau des postiers”, the majority of which were executed or

On the 24th of January 1943, what would be the only transport destined for Auschwitz with French political detainees was arranged⁸. Along with her, two Spanish women who were also from the FTP, Maria Alonso and Lucia Martin, were deported from Spain as well. Feliciano remained in Auschwitz until 1944, when she and 30 other deportees from her group were transferred to Ravensbrück. Due to the advance of Soviet troops, the Nazis evacuated the camp in early January and transferred 2,500 prisoners to Mauthausen, including Feliciano. She remained there until the 22nd of April, when the camp authorities handed over a group of deportees of French origin to the International Red Cross⁹.

Feliciano was fortunate enough to be one of the survivors, but her story fades into anonymity and to her biography we can only add that she was able to rebuild her life in Bordeaux. She married a second time, becoming Mrs. Labrugere, and she testified to her participation in the resistance and her experience in the Nazi camps. She died on the 11th of January 1996.

2.- Spanish Labour Forced Workers or Current Workers

Although it is difficult to know the origin of all Spanish Workers in Nazi Germany, the records found in Monowitz were shown a number of official workers of Spanish nationality. They probably belong to the group of 10.500 Spaniards contracted by the Nazi

deported. Maria, with prisoner number 31778, died in Auschwitz on the 27th of February in 1943, one month after admission to the camp.

⁸ Luz Higinia Goñi Ayestarán. Born in Cirauqui (Navarra) January 11, 1906.

In 1932 emigrated to Paris and worked in several homes. In 1934 married to José Martos. Both collaborated with the resistance during the Nazi occupation. Luz was arrested in 1941 and imprisoned in La Sante and in the castle of Romainville. In Auschwitz, where she died on the 1 of May 1943, she was assigned the number 31696.

V.: <http://www.diariodenavarra.es/especiales/holocausto/>.

⁹ VVAA: *Mujeres bajo el nazismo*. Editorial Fontanella. Barcelona, 1966.

Ministry of Labour in agreement with Franco's government through an inter-ministerial commission for sending workers to Germany called the *Comisión Interministerial para el envío de trabajadores a Alemania*, or CIPETA.¹⁰ Until now it has not been found more information about them.

3.- Jews in the International Brigades

The case of the Jews in the International Brigades (BI) and, above all, of its memory is a paradigmatic case to expose as an example of the complexity of Holocaust Memory. Until very recently the recognition and memory of the role of the Jews in the BI have not been present neither for left-wing supporters or Jewish communities. In Spain, this memory has gone even more unnoticed. What is virtually non-existent is any link between them with the Holocaust.

Therefore, in here we will try to draw out who these Jews were, why they came to fight for the Republic and what happened later to be taken into account when talking about the Holocaust.

The International Brigades were paramilitary units created by the Communist International to assist the government of the Popular Front of the Second Spanish Republic during the Spanish Civil War. The organization existed for two years, from 1936 to 1938. It is estimated that throughout the war, between 32,000 and 35,000 members served in the International Brigades, including 15,000 who died in combat.

Although Jews were often stereotyped as shy or submissive, the reality is that thousands of Jews from 53 countries fought and died against Franco. Some did it openly like Jews, others

¹⁰ José Luis Rodríguez Jiménez: *Los esclavos españoles de Hitler*, Barcelona, 2002, pp. 71-72.

under an alias, some did it with the battalions of their country of birth or adoption, others did it with other national groups, some were specifically directed towards Spain freely from a democratic country, others fleeing from antisemitism or political oppression and some were already in Spain before the war started. In addition, thousands of Jews from all over the world showed solidarity in various solidarity organizations to raise funds or help the Republic¹¹.

But not all Jewish movements and parties, however, stimulated the participation of their members in the International Brigades to the same extent. For example, Dov Lieberman who arrived in Spain from Belgium, says that from Hashomer Hatzair, a leftist Zionist movement, they warned that the war in Spain was not about Jews. This was the Zionist position everywhere, especially in Palestine where it was not seen with good eyes that their young pioneers leave their national struggle to go to Spain, and in fact, the press practically did not mention the BI until the conflict went well advanced¹².

Where did the Brigadists come from?

It is estimated that up to 25% of all BI fighters were Jews¹³, some 10,000 men and women. In many countries, many of the Jews were not identified as such because they were not accounted for. This is the case of the Soviet Union. The proportion of Jews was also quite

¹¹ Sugarman M. (2015). *Against Fascism - Jews who served in the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War*. pp. 1

¹² Ibañez Sperber R (2006). *Judíos en las brigades Internacionales. Algunas cuestiones generales*. Haol. Num. 9. pp. 108 - 109

¹³ See following authors: Fernández A (1975) *Judios en la guerra de España* "; Medem G (1937) *Los Judios Luchadores de la Libertat*" i Toch J (1973) "*Juden im Spanischen Krieg 1936-39*"

high in healthcare resources, 59 of the 124 American health teams were Jewish (48%), and practically all 40 Polish doctors.

Three are the main reasons for a high number of Jews in the International Brigades. First, the fact that many of them were already in Spain before the outbreak of the Civil War. Secondly, they were the ones who better known what did the fascist, nationalist and antisemitic governments in the whole of Europe: in Germany and in Italy, but also in Hungary, Austria, Romania, Poland, among others . Last, the explicit disposition by the government of the Republic in 1933 to welcome them¹⁴.

They come several groups: members of Hapoel Jewish sports association, who were in Barcelona to participate in the Workers' Olympiad. When the war broke out, they were the first to offer themselves to fight for the Republic, and although most were Communists or belong to the Bund¹⁵ revolutionary party, their status as Jews reinforced their commitment. Another important group was those of the Geserd organization (Society for Jewish agricultural colonization in the USSR), a Zionist organization within the Soviet Union to collect funds for Birobidjan, an Autonomous Territory created in 1930 within the USSR populated with Communist Jews from all over the world who moved to find the dream of a communist Jewish homeland. Nearly all the members of this organization volunteered to fight in Spain¹⁶.

Men of these groups were the ones that formed the first international unit, the Jüdische Gruppe Thälman. They were called thus because of the 18 members, 13 were German and

¹⁴ Lustiger A (2000). The Jews and the Spanish Civil War in Izquierdo Benito R et al. Los judíos en la España Contemporanea: historia y visiones, 1898-1998. P. 174

¹⁵ *Algemeyner Yidisher Arbeter Bund in Lite, Poyln un Rusland (General Jewish Labour Bund in Lithuania, Poland and Russia)*

¹⁶ <http://milimcultural.com.ar/los-judios-y-la-guerra-civil-espanola/>. P. 8/53 - 9/53

Polish Jews and only 5 were gentiles. There were 16 men and two women. Among them were Max Friedemann and his wife Golda, the Polish Jew Chaim Besser and what later would become the commander of the Botwin Brigade, Emanuel Mink¹⁷.

The Botwin Company

The Botwin Company was formed on December 12, 1937 in Tardienta, in the thirteenth Polish Dombrowski Brigade of the 2nd Palafox Battalion. It was called in honour of Naftali Botwin, a Polish Jew, executed in 1925 for having assassinated a Polish secret police officer. One of the characteristics of this Company was that used three languages in his orders and banners: Yiddish, Polish and Spanish, it also edited a newspaper written in Yiddish, first published on December 30, 1937. The Botwins included the two only Arabs of the BI, one of which was from Jerusalem and spoke Yiddish.

After the war, most Botwins joined the maquis and other partisan groups during World War II, many of them dying while fighting against the Nazis. Charles Fawcett, an American who was in Paris working for Varian Fry group, who helped people to escape through the Pyrenees (military, Jews, other refugees), reports that in this group also there were many Jews who had been part of the Brigades and who know very well the routes to pass and all the resistance tasks¹⁸.

As an example, the case of Emanuel Mink is very characteristic of the fate of Polish Communist Jews in the Botwin Company. Born on April 23, 1910 (other documents says 1919) in Tomasov, Poland, from where he emigrated to Belgium in 1935 and from there

¹⁷ Lustiger A (2000). p. 178

¹⁸ Charles Fawcett. Interview Code 15396 USC Foundation. Visual Archive

he went to Barcelona to compete in the Work Olympiad. He then joined the first brigade to fight for the Republic. With the retreat to France, he was in Gurs, Argelers and Saint-Cyprien camps, where he managed to escape along with other comrades and joined the Resistance. On August 20 he was captured during summer raids against Jews and interned in Drancy on August 20, 1941, from where he was deported to Auschwitz with transport n. 1 on March 27, 1942. He was one of the active resistance agents in the camp and in October 1944, he was transferred to Stutthof and later to Natzweiler, from where he was released. In 1949, he returned to Poland, but in 1969, due to the wave of antisemitism and persecution of the Jews in Poland, orchestrated by General Moczar and Gomulka, he had to leave and emigrate to France where he died in Paris on March 29 of 2008^{19 20}.

Brigadists who ended up in Concentration Camps were many. According to SIDBRINT data, there were 60 in Auschwitz²¹, 70 in Buchenwald, 456 in Dachau, 48 in Mauthausen, 23 in Sachsenhausen and 36 in Unspecified Nazi Camps, and 118 in Spanish Camp in Miranda de Ebro.

Concerning to the ones who were in Auschwitz, of the 60 mentioned, it could be only proved their itinerary only for 36. Of those, 29 were Jews and only 2 of them survived.

As done with the Republicans, it would presented two biographies to illustrate their fate.

Finally, it was considered that in order to link the Brigades with the Holocaust, the field that allows to see this relationship better is the Auschwitz camp. It is detailed below who

¹⁹ http://www.lemonde.fr/disparitions/article/2008/04/10/emanuel-mink-une-figure-de-la-guerre-civile-espagnole_1033116_3382.html.

²⁰ <http://bdi.memorialdelashoah.org/internet/jsp/core/MmsRedirector.jsp?id=40510&type=VICTIM>
<http://yvng.yadvashem.org/nameDetails.html?language=en&itemId=3203903&ind=5>,

²¹ It has not been possible to prove that all 61 were in Auschwitz.

were those who will finish there and what was their fate. Of the 60 found, it was found that 36 were, of these, 29 were Jews and only 2 survived.

BETTY ROSENFELD AND SALLY WITTELSON

She was born in Stuttgart in 1907 from a middle-class family. She was a nurse and worked in a hospital. When Hitler came to power, she left Germany together with her sisters to go to Palestine. In March 1937 decided to go to Spain and joined the Brigades. There, she worked in different hospitals. In Barcelona, another volunteer of the XI Brigades was married to Sally Wittelson and in 1938 they crossed the Pyrenees. In June 1939 they were interned in different French fields and on August 7, 1942, he was transferred to Drancy while his husband was still at Le Vernet. On September 7, 1942, both were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau where they were assassinated.

ANNA AND HERMANN PECZNIK

Anna and Hermann, both Jews, he was born on January 27, 1901 in Chorniakowka in Galitzia, emigrated to Vienna and Anna, born February 9, 1911 in Sofia, from surname Gadol. Both members of the Communist party in Vienna, were arrested in 1934 and their residence permit withdrawn, they left to Prague and from there to Paris and to Spain in 1937. They both would be part of the Brigades, he as a political commissioner and Head of the historic department of the Brigades in Albacete and she as a nurse. She was evacuated in 1938 and could stayed in France with fake papers. Later on she went to Austria and worked for the Resistance but was arrested and deported to Ravensbruck and later to Buchenwald where she was shot dead, some sources said 1944 while others 1945. As for

Hermann, he went to France with the withdrawal, where he was in several French camps, including Gurs, St. Cyprien and Le Vernet. He was captured and sent to Drancy and from there deported to Auschwitz with transportation n. 21 on August 19, 1942, where he died on October 20 of the same year²².

4.- Jews in Spain

Although Spain did not have Jews due to the edict of 1492. Already in 1840 started to come again. There are two groups. The ones who come from Central and Eastern Europe of Ashkenazi origin. They came to work as representatives of Foreign Companies. The other group was coming from North Africa and Gibraltar, and although they could be of Sephardic origin, they were very integrated to the North African communities. They established there and run some small business. Later on, during the First World War a new wave of immigrants came. From Russia and from the Balkans, in this case they were Ashkenazim and Sephardim.

Finally, the last wave of emigrants before the war, came especially from Germany, because of Nazism.

However, with the outbreak of the Civil War, many of them would emigrate again, mainly to France and to the Netherlands. Also, after the Civil War, some of them could be expelled by the Spanish Authorities, or in case of German nationality given to the Germans.

²² <https://www.doew.at/erinnern/biographien/spanienarchiv-online/spanienfreiwillige-p/peczenik-hermann>, <http://sidbrint.ub.edu/ca/content/peczenik-anni>, <http://bdi.memorialdelashoah.org/internet/jsp/core/MmsRedirector.jsp?id=44777&type=VICTIM>. Page of Testimony n. 10607400. Arxius Yad Vashem

To this group it has also to be add, all the Jews who try to escape to Spain through the Pyrenees and who were captured by Spanish Police and returned to France.

Only the wants who could proof not to have any link to the Republicans or the left wings movements could transit or stay in Spain.

This section would be focused on the Jews with Spanish nationality but mainly the ones who were born in Spain.

Jews in Auschwitz

Overall, we could found around 70 cases of Jews who were born or who were in Spain during the War who ended in Auschwitz, the majority of them deported from Drancy but also a few from Westerbork.

Thanks to the research done in Auschwitz archives, Yad Vashem and in the ITS, we could reconstructed some of the journeys of them as an example of their fate and their origin.

The first case is José Levy Benasayg, born on 29th August 1901 in Tetuan, in the Protectorate, was deported to Auschwitz in the transport no. 36 on September 23, 1942, where he was murdered. Prior to his internment in Drancy he lived in 74, rue La Fayette in Paris, where he worked as a General Manager in a Company.

Two different people shown interested on his fate. First was, Mr. José Rovayo Martí, from Ceuta, who in January 23rd, 1943 and in April 18th, 1944 wrote letters to the Spanish Red Cross asking about him. The answer is that he was in Drancy but that he was transferred in August 1942 with a non-known destination. There is another document, a note sent to the commander of Mauthausen on February 12, 1943 and signed by the Foreign Office asking

if he knows anything about JL Benasayag who in August 1942 was detained in Drancy²³.

The second person was Joseph Cogan, who in 15ht June 1944, asked the German Red Cross if he was in Drancy and in good Health. From the file, it can be seen he was there in Block n. 4.

The following case is Rachel Gutrajde, born in Barcelona in 23rd March 1932. On 18th May 1949, there is a letter to the International Tracing Service asking for her relatives. The parents were deported between 1942-44 and she is in a nursery since January 5, 1946. There are the names of the father and mother and their corresponding dates of birth. With these and access to the archives of Yad Vashem and the Memorial de la Shoah, it was able to find more information about what happened to them. The mother, Rywka Sikora Gutrajde, born on October 22, 1907 in Warsaw, was arrested in France and taken to Drancy where she was deported to Auschwitz with transport n. 22 on August 21, 1942, the father, Szachma Gutrajde, also born in Warsaw on March 14, 1902, was deported from Compiègne with transport n. 2 to Auschwitz on June 5, 1942²⁴. Presumably, they were in Spain before the war where the daughter was born and probably they left Spain to France and caught there.

Isidore Nissim Toros, who was born in Barcelona on March 3, 1916 and was deported from Drancy with the transport no. 3 to Auschwitz on June 22, 1942, and his sister Sabatia, who was married and who adopted the surname Morand also born in Barcelona on 20th August

²³ Doc No. 11191279#1 (1.1.9.9/0023/0034) ITS Archives, 05.12.2012. Archivnummer 4143. Doc No. 11191280#1 (1.1.9.9/0023/0035).) ITS Archives, 05.12.2012. Archivnummer 4143. Doc No. 11191282#1 (1.1.9.9/0023/0037).) ITS Archives, 05.12.2012. Archivnummer 4143 | Doc No. 11191285#1 (1.1.9.9/0023/0040).) ITS Archives, 05.12.2012. Archivnummer 4143

²⁴ Doc. No. 84256929#1 in conformity with the ITS Archives. Page of Testimony n. 2042357 and Page of Testimony n. 752250. Yad Vashem Archives

1920. She arrived in Drancy in February 1944, and was deported with transportation n. 69 to Auschwitz²⁵. Both lived in France when they were arrested²⁶.

Family Berkman, Oro²⁷, the mother born in Barcelona on April 24, 1918, his brother-in-law Henri, on February 10th of the same year in Paris²⁸, and her son born on July 31, 1941 in Marseille²⁹ where all were living at the time they were captured and sent to Drancy on December 15, 1943. They were deported to Auschwitz with transport n. 63 on 17th December 1943.

Yom Tov (or Jontoff) Stroumza, born September 15, 1915 in Thessaloniki. On 19 March 1939, along with other Sephardic families, left Alicante to go to Oran, and later to Thessaloniki³⁰. In 1943, he was captured in Marseille and sent to Drancy from where he would be deported to Auschwitz with transport n. 57³¹.

Nissim Eskenazi, born in Barcelona on June 2, 1916, was deported with transport n. 3 from Drancy on June 22, 1942³² and died in Auschwitz on July 6, 1942, due to a heart attack, according to the death certificate of the Auschwitz camp³³.

Sarah Leon, born in Madrid on January 12, 1890, deported from Drancy to Sobibor with transport n. 53 in March 25, 1943³⁴.

²⁵ Page of Testimony n. 5251365 and Page of Testimony n. 1387378. Yad Vashem Archives. Jerusalem

²⁶ <http://bdi.memorialdelashoah.org/internet/jsp/core/MmsRedirector.jsp?id=41236&type=VICTIM#>

²⁷ <http://bdi.memorialdelashoah.org/internet/jsp/core/MmsRedirector.jsp?id=72768&type=VICTIM#>

²⁸ Page of Testimony n. 1385876. Yad Vashem Archives.

²⁹ Page of Testimony n. 1873572. Yad Vashem Archives.

³⁰ Lisbona A (1993). p. 84

³¹ Page of Testimony n. 1703489, n. 3986110 and n. 7636629. Arxiu de Yad Vashem. Jerusalem

³² <http://bdi.memorialdelashoah.org/internet/jsp/core/MmsRedirector.jsp?id=9393&type=VICTIM#>

³³ Starbebuch Band 913/1913, s. 1252. Sygn. D- AuI-219.N. 172344. Panstowove Muzeum. Auschwitz - Birkenau. Dzial Archiwum.

³⁴ Drancy T18,s. 3069. Sygn. D-RF.3/53. N. 22053. Panstowove Muzeum. Auschwitz -Birkenau. Dzial Archiwum.

Family Librati, with four members, Tamon born in Spain in July 1894, but with a Moroccan nationality, the other three were born in Oran, Algiers and Marseille; They were in a transport a day earlier of Sarah Leon, also going to Sobibor³⁵.

Delville family (which probably was Del Valle, and in Yad Vashem's archives appear as Delevi) with 6 members, Emile, born 5th April 1893 in Sevilla; Carmen born 12th October 1890 in Leon Landes; Renée, born 27th November 1900 in Bayonne; Marcel, born 3rd July 1894 in Biarritz; Sara, born 8th July 1921 in Biarritz and Mardoché, born 30th October 1926 in Bayonne. All of them were deported from Drancy to Auschwitz on December 7, 1943 with transportation n. 64³⁶.

Samuel Albohair, found in a list of Transport n. 76 from Drancy on June 30, 1944, along with two other people who could be his wife, Rajzla born in Poland and her son, Daniel, born in June from 1941 in Sant Martí de les Heres³⁷. In the database of the Memorial de la Shoah, it is confirmed that he was born in Barcelona on February 15, 1916 and when he was detained he lived in Sant Martí de les Heres, he was transferred to Drancy on June 3, 1944. In Yad Vashem database, they appear as murders during the Shoah. But another search, now in the database of the deportees of the Memorial Democràtic, indicates that Samuel survived. He was transferred to Buchenwald, then to Natzweiler, Dachau and was released in Sigmaringen³⁸.

Corkhidi family, with four members: the father, Beno, born in Smyrne and the mother, Rachel, born in Thessaloniki, the eldest son, Denise, born in Barcelona in 1924 and the

³⁵ Drancy T18,s. 3051. Sygn. D-RF.3/51. N. 22052. Panstowove Muzeum. Auschwitz -Birkenau. Dzial Archiwum.

³⁶ Drancy T22,s. 3755. Sygn. D-RF.3/63. N. 22064. Panstowove Muzeum. Auschwitz -Birkenau. Dzial Archiwum.

³⁷ Drancy Tr. 30.6.1944. Sygn. D-RF.3179. N. 106530. Panstowove Muzeum. Auschwitz -Birkenau. Dzial Archiwum.

³⁸ http://bancmemorial.gencat.cat/amics_consulta/fitxacompletaview.php?id_persona=9060

small one, Gerard born in Marseille in 1932. They are all deported from Drancy to Auschwitz with transport n. 74 in May 20, 1944³⁹. With this same transport, there were three other people, Rafael Levy born in Barcelona in 1915 with his wife Donna and Isaak Saban, born in Bursa, Turkey but who lived in Spain before World War II and who were in Marseille before being deported⁴⁰.

Teller's family. The father, Jacob born in Warsaw in 1894, the mother, Golda, born in Lodz in 1892, and the son, Maurice, born in Barcelona in June 19, 1921. The parents were deported, from Gurs to Drancy and from Drancy to Auschwitz with transport n. 28i in September 4, 1942 while Maurice from Rivesaltes to Drancy and from there to Auschwitz with transport n. 29, in September 7, 1942⁴¹.

³⁹ Drancy T26,s. 4251. Sygn. D-RF.3173. N. 22074. Panstowowe Muzeum. Auschwitz -Birkenau. Dzial Archiwum. Page of Testimony n. 3985917. Yad Vashem Archives.

⁴⁰ Page of Testimony n. 1306531. Yad Vashem Archives

⁴¹ Drancy T10,s. 1603. Sygn. D-RF.3128. N. 22029. Panstowowe Muzeum. Auschwitz -Birkenau. Dzial Archiwum