

## Josif Kamhi's Family



This is a photo of my family, taken in Sofia in 1954. On the left is my wife Venezia Kamhi (nee Konorti), in the middle is our daughter Beti (Lulcheva, nee Kamhi), and I am on the right. I met my wife in Kyustendil. She was also interned with her family. We went out in the same company. We gathered in the Jewish school in town and had a great time. We married in 1950. I was still a student then. In 1951 I wrote my diploma and a year later I graduated. My diploma was on secondary connotation of a post station. That means distant management and protection of the high voltage of thermo-electric power plants. When I graduated I started work in the designers' company 'Promproekt.' In October 1952 I had to do my military service and was stationed in Dimitrovgrad. But after 15 days the commanding officer received an order from Sofia that five people had to return to Sofia for a course in radio location. It turned out that I was the only

electrical engineer at the base. I went to Sofia and spent three months in the course on radio location, which was taught by a Soviet specialist. My wife Venezia is also of Jewish origin. My generation of Jews was brought up to sympathize with our fellow men in Israel. She was born in Sofia, but her parents are from Kyustendil. Her family was more religious than ours. Her paternal grandfather was very religious and read books in classical Hebrew. Her parents knew many songs in Ladino. My wife also knows some very nice songs in Ladino. My wife worked as a seamstress after 9th September 1944 and later started making designs for clothes companies such as Osvobozhdenie, Zoya, and Lada. My daughter Beti was born on 13th July 1952. She studied in a Bulgarian school. After 9th September 1944 the Jewish schools in Sofia were closed. My daughter was raised Jewish and feels Jewish. She did not learn Ivrit, but understands Ladino. I also tried to raise my daughter in the 'Jewish spirit' and encouraged her to have Jewish friends. She also liked to mingle with other Jews.