

CultureTalk Turkey Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
During the Cyprus Conflict

Turkish transcript:

Mine: Anne sende Kıbrıs harbini anlat. Postahanede ne yaptığını.

Nadide: 1974 yılında sabah işe gidiyordum.

Murat: Önce işini anlat.

Nadide: 1967 yılında Adana'da göreve başladım, postahanede santral memuru olarak. Her gün gidiş geliş yapıyordum Tarsus'tan. Sonra tayinim Tarsus'a çıktı. Tarsus'ta bir yıl falan çalıştım. Evlendim. Mersin'e yerleştik. Bir oğlum oldu 1972 yılında Yılmaz'ım oldu. 74'de bir sabah kalktık. Marş sesleri. Her tarafta bütün gemiler limana gelmiş. Bizim postahane de hemen Mersin limanının kıyısında. Askeriye her tarafı sarmış. Bütün askerler hazırol vaziyetinde Kıbrıs'a çıkartma yapılıyor. Ve ilk çıkartmamız yapıldı. Bir tane gemimiz yandı. O gemide askerlerimiz çok zahiyat verdi ve hemen limanın kıyısına sahra sıhhiye okulu şey hastanesi kuruldu acilen. En hemen yakınımda asker, doktor yardımını Pakistan yaptı. Bütün Pakistan'lı doktorlar hemşireler yardımımıza koştu geldi. Askerleri ziyarete gittik. Konuşamayan, ayağı kopmuş, eli kopmuş, yaralı bütün askerlerle içiçeydik. Konuşabilenlerin ve üzerinde adresleri olanların adreslerini aldım. O gece sabaha kadar oturdum. Bütün asker ailelerine çocuklarının sağ olduğunu, hayatta olduğunu söyledim. O askerlerimiz giderken bütün tanklarda, bütün askeriye arabalarında, ellerinde Türk bayrakları hep "Annem beni yetiştirdi bu vatana yolladı. Al sancağı teslim etti. Allah'a ısmarladı" diye marşlar söylüyordu. Bütün köy yollarında, Tarsus'un üzümü çok meşhurdur, köy kızları, köylülerimiz bolbol su dağıtıyordu askerlerimize, üzüm dağıtıyordu, domates, salatalık, karpuz. Tarlasında ne yetişmişse her şeyi asker için veriyordu. Kıbrıs harbinden sonra askerlerimiz acilen hastanelere artık yerleştirildi. Devlet hastanesine sigorta hastanesine yerleştirildi, acil yardımlar başladı. Fakat biz sabahlara kadar santralde hiç durmaksızın.

Mine: Anne santral ne demek onu anlat da. Eskiden telefonlar nasıldı?

Nadide: Eskiden telefon görüşmeleri[ni] biz bağlıyorduk, santral memuresi aracılığıyla. İki tane fişimiz vardı. Bir tanesi ile aradığımız şehrin şeyine yakına giriyorduk bir tanesiyle biz aranan, yani görüşmek istenen kişiyi arıyorduk. İkisini birbirine bağladığımız zaman görüşmeyi temin ediyorduk. Bunlar radyonik ve krampartor sistemleriyle oluyordu. Havai ve tebliğ sistemleriyle oluyordu. Krampartor sistemi tel üzerinden, bakır teller ile haberleşmeyi sağlıyor. Radyonik ise hava akımıyla oluyordu. Biz sabaha kadar askeri görüşmeleri ve 24 saat, 48 saat hiç uyumadan vatanımız için milletimiz için askeriyemiz için görevimizi yapmıştık. Allah'ın izniyle de hedefimize ulaştık. Kıbrıs'ın tamamını alamasak da en güzel yerlerini Lefkoşa'mızı Girne'mizi Magosa'mızı biz fethettik. İman gücüyle aldık.

English translation:

Mine: Mom, tell us about the war [in] Cyprus [and] what you did in the post office.

Nadide: In the year 1974, I used to go to work early in the morning . . .

Murat: Tell [us] about your job first.

Nadide: In 1967, I started to work in Adana¹, as a telephone exchange worker at the post office. I had to commute everyday from Tarsus² [to Adana]. Then I was appointed [as a postal worker] in Tarsus. I worked in Tarsus for about a year. I got married. We moved to Mersin. I gave birth to a son in 1972; I had my Yılmaz. We woke up one morning in 1974³. Marching [i.e., military] voices everywhere. All the ships had come into the harbor. Our post office was just next to the Mersin harbor. Military officers had surrounded everywhere. All soldiers in the position of *hazırol*⁴ were transferring to Cyprus. And then our first move happened. One of our ships was burned down. A lot of our soldiers were hurt on that ship, so an emergency hospital was built immediately, right next to the harbor. Assistance for military officers and doctors came from Pakistan. All Pakistani doctors and nurses came to help us. We went to visit the soldiers. We were together with the soldiers who could not talk, [one] whose hand was cut [off], [one] whose leg was cut [off] . . . I got addresses from those who could talk and from those on whom addresses were written.⁵ I stayed awake all night. I told all the families of the soldiers that their sons were alive. When those soldiers left, they were singing anthems such as, “My mom brought me up, sent me for this country, gave me the Red Flag, and commended me to God,” on top of all military cars and tanks. In all the roads of the villages -- the grapes of Tarsus are really famous -- the village girls, our villagers, were distributing water to all the soldiers, [as well as] grapes, tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelon. They were giving away whatever they had produced in their fields to the soldiers. After the Cyprus war, the soldiers were immediately placed in the hospitals. Aid started to be given to state hospitals and insurance hospitals.⁶ But we were working at the telephone switchboard until dawn . . .

Mine: Mom, first tell us what the central telephone switchboard is . . . What were telephones like in the past?

Nadide: In the past, we used to connect telephone conversations through the telephone switchboard. We had two outputs. With one of them, we entered the city’s system; with the other one, we would call the person who was being called, the person that was being tried to reach at. When we connected one [caller] to another, we were enabling the

¹ Adana is the largest city in southern Turkey.

² Tarsus is a city in the province of Mersin which is another large city in the southern Turkey. It has coasts and a harbor.

³ In 1974 Turkish troops landed on Cyprus.

⁴ I literally means ‘get ready’. It is the state when the soldiers stand still.

⁵ This may refer to ‘dogtags.’

⁶ Private hospitals

conversation. These took place through ‘*radyonik*’¹ and ‘*krampartor*’ systems of operation, through air and manifesto systems.² The ‘*krampartor*’³ system provided conversation through wires, copper wires; “*radyonik*” was through air flow. We worked until dawn and provided for all the military communication. We did our duty for our military. With God’s permission, we accomplished our aim. Even if we couldn’t take control of all of Cyprus, we were able to take back Nicosia, Kyrenia and Farmagosta. We got them back with the power of our faith.

¹ This is a term used for one of the connection systems used in the central telephone switchboards those days.

² Types of different connection systems.

³ Another term used for another connection system.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.