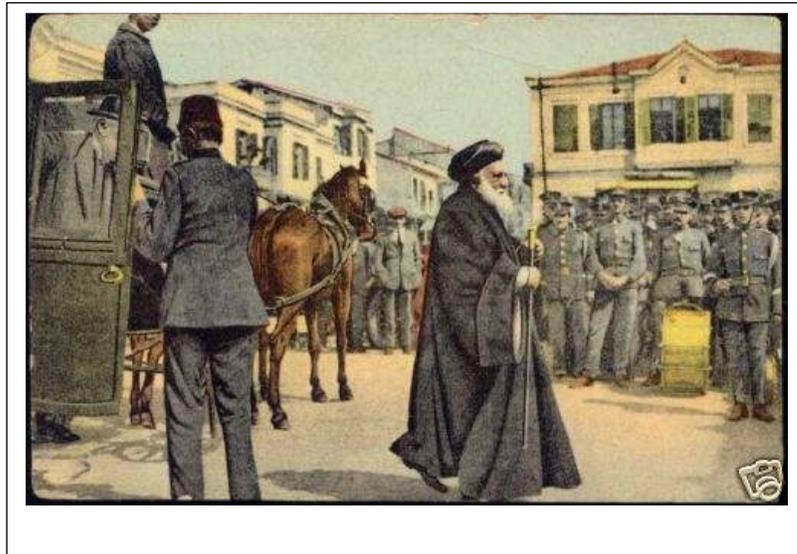


The Holocaust in Salonika (Thessaloniki)

Thessaloniki (Salonika) was the most populous center of Sephardic Jews in the world for over 400 years, esteemed for its yeshivot, Talmud Torahs and Ladino (Judeo-Espanyol) press. Jews worked in all occupations but tended to monopolize the textile industry. The port of Salonika would close on the Shabbat, so prevalent was the presence of Jewish hamales (porters). At the beginning of the 20th century over half the population was Jewish and in 1941, with the Nazi Occupation of Greece, of the approximately 76,000 Jews on Greek soil, 56,000 lived in Salonika.



Salonika Rabbi 1920

In 1940, there were close to forty synagogues. Sadly, only one survived World War II. Of the 56,000 pre-WWII Jewish population, merely 2000 would survive. In five months (from March-August 1943) 19 deportations left Salonika, carrying 46,091 Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen: 97% of the Jews of Salonika perished in the Holocaust.

**Roundup at
Freedom Square
July 1942**



One of the survivors, Heinz Kounio, has worked for over forty years to gather the names of the victims. It has been a tedious and painful task but one that he felt was his responsibility. He had survived and he owed it to those that did not to help ensure that their names would be remembered for posterity. Of the close to 50,000 who perished, Heinz has been able to retrieve over 36,000 names.

The list is left in the excel form to accommodate all the additional personal data gathered (when available): father's name, mother's name, age, where living, where rounded-up and source of information.



Holocaust survivors from Salonika displaying their tattooed numbers.

Are there omissions or mistakes? Of course but, to date, this is the most accurate list of Holocaust victims from Salonika that we have. Our Museum Director, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, has worked on alphabetizing the list according to the English alphabet and to change Greek alliterations to English. With this list you will find a form to send to us with any additional names or corrections.

This list is published in the hope that it will enable those who search for information about their families to find some closure. It is published with love in memory of the Jewish Community of Salonika. May their names be inscribed for eternity.

**Holocaust Memorial
in Salonika**

