

Oral history interview with Loukas Dallas
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Loukas Dallas, born Sept. 24, 1931, in Kastoria (North Western Greece), describes his experience as a Greek Christian during the Italian and German occupation, 1941-45. His family comprised of his parents and four sons, him being the youngest. Their house was on 14 Voriou Ipirou Street, close to the then Jewish neighborhood and the modern Jewish Holocaust Memorial. His father was a furrier and did not have Jewish friends, but his uncle was a textile merchant, and as such had a lot of Jewish business acquaintances. Loukas did not have any Jews in Elementary School, because Jews had their own, and just a couple in High School, but not friends.

Kastoria has been the “fur capital of Greece”, and that trade has been dominated by Christians. The Jews controlled pretty much all the other trades, especially textiles. They were peaceful and hard-working people, and everybody lived in harmony. There were tales told to children by old timers that if they did not behave, they will be given to the Jews to put them in drums with needles to extract and “drink their blood”, but nobody paid serious attention, they were just tales.

Kastoria was first occupied by the Italians, without any serious problems, but when the Germans came everybody was scared because they were rough. Shortly after they came, the Germans marked Jewish homes with stars of David, and made the Jews wear the star on their breasts. Everything was quiet at the beginning, but all of a sudden, one morning, the Germans collected all Jews, put them for about a day in the old Officers’ Club building and then transported them out on army trucks. Only 35-40 came back. He remembers a few first names - Mousiko, Pepos, Mousoulis, Dennis, Mortos: and a couple of last names, Michel Mevora and the Eliaou family. The Eliaou brothers, sons of Jews taken to concentration camps, still live in Kastoria.

When the Jews were taken away, their houses were burglarized. He remembers people getting out of the houses carrying all sorts of household goods. Later the Jewish houses were occupied by Christians. They were rumors that certain individuals became wealth “because of the Jews”. It is believed they found money, gold and jewelry in the abandoned houses. When the few Jews came back, the houses were given back to the survivors, and the Jewish community sold them. He does not remember any details.