

# REFLECTION

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**Extract taken from the book: 'Salonica. City of ghosts' by Mark Mazower, 2004, published by Harper Collins.**

## 1. The deportations

Sunday 15 March 1943: Approximately 2800 people left on the first train, around eighty tightly packed into each carriage, guarded by a contingent of German policemen. They could carry twenty kilos of baggage each, but no valuables, jewellery or other money. Previously they had been made to exchange their drachmas for what were in fact fake zlotys. What they left behind was supposed to be deposited in the administrative offices in the Hirsch camp, in fact many simply abandoned their possessions in the muddy streets or threw them away. As the over-crowded train began the five-day journey to Auschwitz in southern Poland, the camp lay temporarily empty. Just a few hours later on the same day, however, it filled up again. The adjacent neighbourhood of Ayia Paraskevi was surrounded by soldiers, and its inhabitants were given twenty minutes to gather in the streets before they were marched there under guard. The following day, the residents of the nearby settlement of the Stazion Chico, or Little Station, were made to join them. The two groups were sent in the second convoy, which left Salonica on 17 March. Then it was the turn of Regie Vardar (an area) - better known as 'Ramona' - whose nearly 15.000 inhabitants were evicted in less than an hour shortly before dawn. The working-class Jewish neighbourhoods on the city's western outskirts were now deserted. Despite a police warning against looting, the empty homes and shops were quickly plundered by Greek gangs looking for valuables which had been left behind. Robbers were shot by German soldiers.(p.432-433).

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**Q: WHAT POSSESSIONS WERE JEWS ALLOWED TO TAKE WITH THEM ON THE TRAIN?  
HOW MANY JEWS WERE KICKED OUT OF THEIR HOMES ON MARCH 17 IN RAMONA ?**

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**COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

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