

This photo was taken in March 1944. The women are members of the Greek-Jewish community of Ioannina. There are no men in the picture because they had already become prisoners of the Nazis. In March, 1944, these women were ordered to pack a bag and leave their homes. The Nazis made them gather together in an open space and here we see them waiting for the trucks that will take them away from Greece and across Europe to camps in Poland, where many of them will be murdered. Of course, as this picture is being taken, they don't know that they will be murdered. They only know that they are leaving their homes and community and they have no idea when they will be allowed back home. That is why they are all looking cold and sad and why some of them are crying. They are facing a long journey into the unknown and there is no-one to help them.

This picture was found four years ago. It is now on display in a small museum in New York, a museum which tries to make sure that the Jews of Greece are not forgotten. The staff of the museum called this picture *The Crying Woman*, after the woman in the foreground, because nobody knew who anybody in the picture was.

The museum staff put the picture on their website and asked anyone who could identify the woman to contact them. Then they waited and waited. One day they received a message. A woman called Lia, who lived in Athens, recognised the crying woman. It was her grandmother.

So now we know that *The Crying Woman* was Fani (pronounced Far-nee) Heim. She was 19 years old at the time of this picture. Fani's grand-daughter Lia told the museum that Fani returned to Greece after the war. She settled in Athens, married a Christian man and had children and grandchildren. She did not hide the fact that she was Jewish and had survived the camps, but said very little about what had happened to her and how the lives of her grandmother, her father, her mother, her younger sister and two little brothers had all been taken by the Nazis.

*Adapted by Simon Thomas from "A Candle Assembly" at the Untold Stories section of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website.*

*URL = <http://education.hmd.org.uk/resources/a-candle-assembly>*