

Camp de Judes

Septfonds

START

To memory bearers

Rules and credits

INTERACTIVE MENU

ABOUT THE MEMORIES OF THE CAMP

THE JUDES CAMP, A FORGOTTEN
MEMORY

Understanding the camp

Captions for the large visuals

Map of the camp

History of the camp

Artworks

The barracks

Memory and Transmission

The Fainzang Family

List of Foreign Jews deported from the
Septfonds Camp

List of Spanish Republicans buried in the
cemetery



ABOUT THE MEMORIES OF THE CAMP

EXPLORE

THE SITES OF MEMORY : Several sites in Septfonds preserve traces of the Judes camp. Download the memorial trail from La Mounière's website.

LISTEN

TO THE WEB APP "SEPTFONDS: ONE CAMP, MANY MEMORIES" : Discover the history of the camp through ten fictional characters who, through their testimonies and stories, interact within the audio fiction "Passages: Stories within History." The content is available in French, English and Spanish.

READ

Geneviève DREYFUS-ARMAND, Septfonds 1939–1944 : Within the Archipelago of French Camps. Le Revenant Publishing, 2019.

CONSULT

The archives of the Judes camp are independent from the local council of Septfonds. They are held by several institutions, scattered among families, and in some cases have disappeared. The Departmental Archives of Tarn-et-Garonne have begun a research initiative and are compiling a list of individuals who passed through the Septfonds camp. You can consult their research portal dedicated to Spanish Republicans on their website or contact them at : archives@tarnetgaronne.fr.





ABOUT THE MEMORIES OF THE CAMP

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ADMISSION FEES

Standard rate : €4

Reduced rate (students, retirees, job seekers,
under 16) : €3

Free admission: children under 6

Guided tour : €5 per person

Group rate (more than 10 people) : €3 per person

CONTACT

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Septfonds

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lamouniere@septfonds.fr

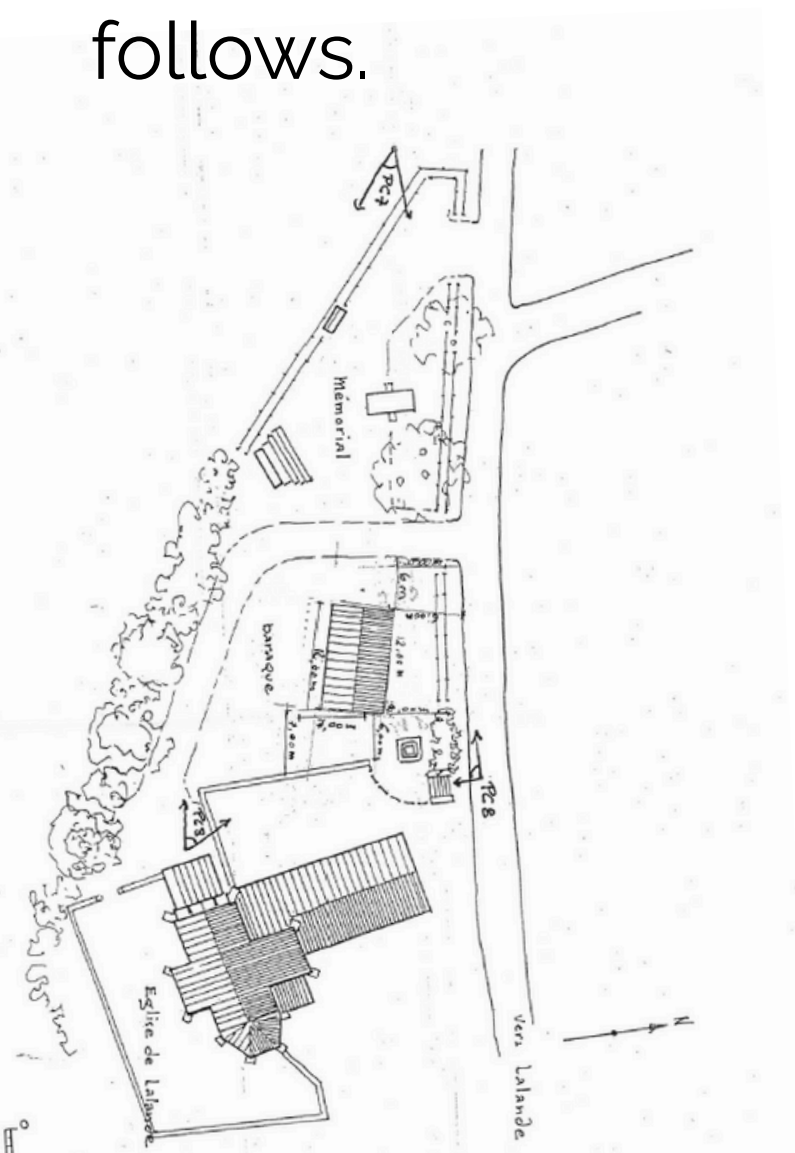
septfonds-la-mouniere.com




THE JUDES CAMP, A FORGOTTEN MEMORY THAT IS GRADUALLY AWAKING

As the Second World War came to an end and attention turned toward the future, the Septfonds camp, part of whose archives were incinerated in July 1945, disappeared. With the barracks destroyed, the “Judes” plot of land returned to agricultural use.

Emptiness then replaced the thousands of people who had been confined in this camp for days or months. Witnesses fell silent or were often scarcely heard, and after the camp itself vanished, its memory too was at risk of disappearing. It would take several decades for the history of the Jude camp gradually to become part of the memorial landscape of the town of Septfonds. The main milestones are as follows.





THE JUDES CAMP, A FORGOTTEN MEMORY THAT IS GRADUALLY AWAKING

1978

Inauguration of the development of the Spanish cemetery, initiated by Cesáreo Bustos Delgado.

1990

Installation of a plaque in memory of the Jewish people deported from the Septfonds camp in 1942, in a village square.

1995

Restoration of the Polish oratory built in 1941.

Creation of an exhibition room dedicated to the history of internment camps in southwestern France, and particularly that of Septfonds, at the Resistance and Deportation Museum in Montauban.

1996

Creation of a Memorial to the camp.

1998


Installation of explanatory panels at the Memorial.

Signing of the Septfonds–Guernica (Spain) friendship charter.

Inauguration of Henry Grau Square, named after the youngest Jewish child deported from the Septfonds camp.

Redevelopment of the barrack at the Jude's camp Memorial.





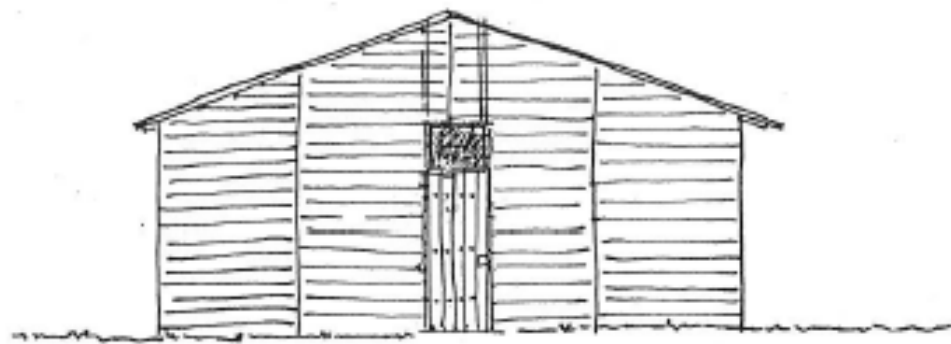
THE JUDES CAMP, A FORGOTTEN MEMORY THAT IS GRADUALLY AWAKING

2000

Research master's thesis by Sylvain Zorzin, a student at Sciences Po Bordeaux: The Septfonds Camp: Sixty Years of History and Memory (1939–1999).

2008

Reconstruction of a barrack at the Memorial, at one quarter of its original size.



2009

Production of the exhibition Retirada : The Exile of Spanish Republicans by the Departmental Archives of Tarn-et-Garonne.


2011

Listing of the Memorial, the camp's water tank, the Spanish cemetery, and the Borredon railway station as supplementary Historic Monuments.

2012

Inauguration of the Borredon railway station as a site of memory, purchased by the Association for the Memory of Republican Spain of Tarn-et-Garonne.





THE JUDES CAMP, A FORGOTTEN MEMORY THAT IS GRADUALLY AWAKING

2017

Opening of La Mounière – House of Memories of the Town of Septfonds.

2019

Publication of the book Septfonds 1939–1944: Within the Archipelago of French Camps by Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand.

2020

Launch of the web application entitled Septfonds: One Camp, Many Memories.

2024

Inauguration of a memorial tree created by students of the Saint-Lubin Campus (Caussade), in Henry Grau Square.

2025

The Spanish government pays tribute to the Spanish Republicans interned at the Jude's camp in Septfonds.

2026

Redevelopment of the barrack at the Jude's camp Memorial.



CAPTIONS FOR THE LARGE VISUALS



Caption :

Isaac Kitrosser, a photojournalist of Russian origin, was a member of the Groupement d'ouvriers étrangers 302, known as the Palestinian group. Armed with a camera, he published photos taken inside the camp after the war. In this photograph, a Jewish ceremony is being celebrated in a barrack that the authorities had agreed to allocate for Jewish worship.

(Photograph by Isaac Kitrosser, 1942? French Museum of Photography / Essonne Departmental Council, Benoît Chain).



CAPTIONS FOR THE LARGE VISUALS



8 SEPTFONDS (T-11-G) - Camp des Juifs - Aspect général

Caption :

The double row of barbed wire and the watchtowers were the first elements to be installed at the camp. They reflect the authorities' desire to monitor the Spaniards, whom the government considered potentially dangerous. More than 1,000 mobile guards and units of Senegalese riflemen were assigned to guard the camp.

(Postcard of the camp. 1939? Private collection).



CAPTIONS FOR THE LARGE VISUALS



Caption :

In the initial plans drawn up by the departmental architect Germain Olivier, the kitchens were located in a reserved area of the camp, outside the group of numbered barracks. Along one side of the barrack, chimneys were used to vent smoke from the cooking stoves. Spanish refugees were requisitioned to prepare meals using supplies ordered for the camp. A “Report on the organization of the militiamen's camp – supply service” (Departmental Archives of Tarn-et-Garonne, 4M1), produced in the early days of the camp, describes a diet consisting mainly of starchy foods—pasta, rice, beans, lentils, split peas, potatoes—supplemented with second-grade meat, vegetables, and bread. A supply report on the camp indicates daily provisions of 3 tons of meat, 9 tons of bread, and 2,250 kg of vegetables to supply the camp.

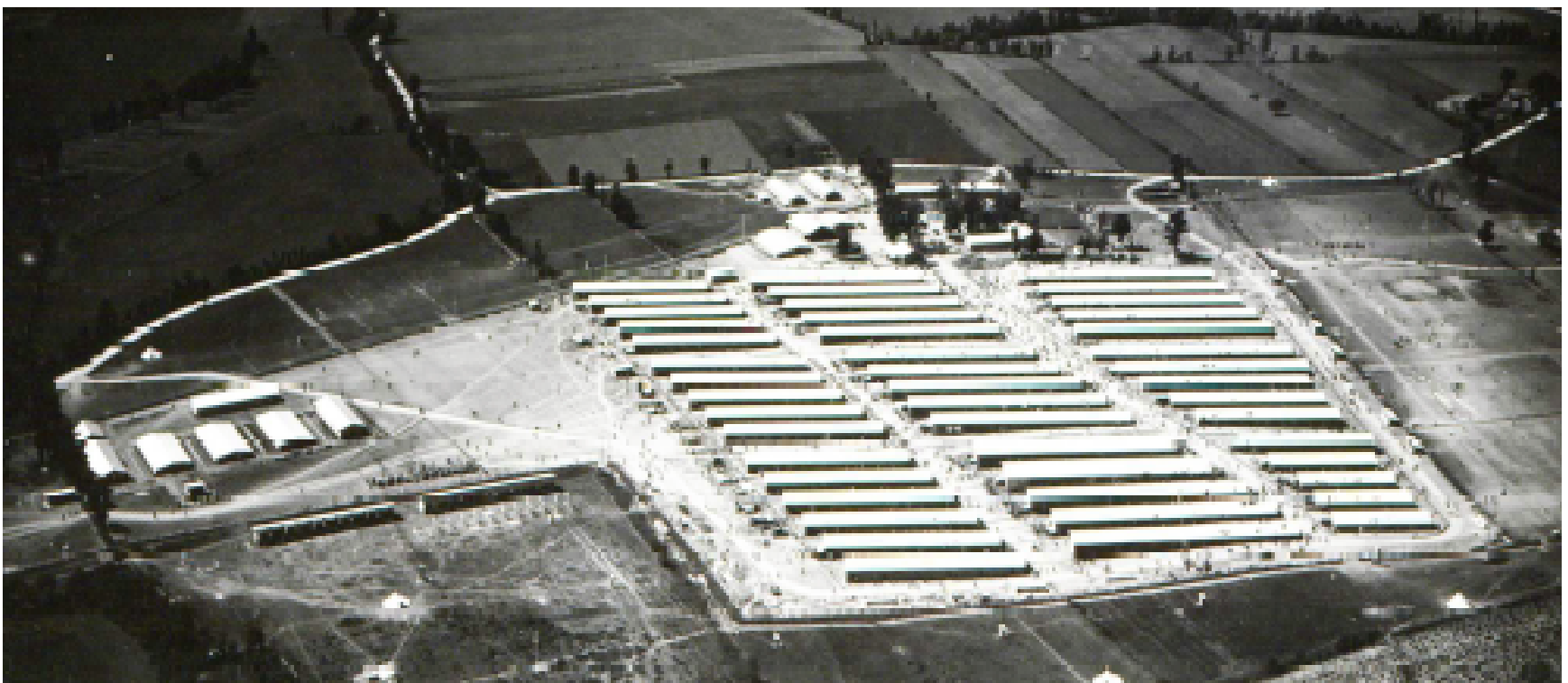
(Postcard of the camp, 1939? Private collection).



MAP OF THE CAMP



In blue, the location of the camp Memorial. Plan of the Septfonds camp drawn by architect Germain Olivier. (*Departmental Archives of Tarn-et-Garonne, Olivier Collection, 11 J 109_347*).



Aerial photograph of the Septfonds camp taken on 3 July 1939. (*Historical Service of the Defense – 7 NN 3/486*).



CAMP OF JUDES

Initially designed to respond to the influx of Spanish Republican refugees in 1939, this camp tragically played a key role in the Vichy regime's internment policy and in the deportation of Jewish people during the Shoah. It is a history rooted in a period of major migration movements and intense international tensions.



1939 – The barracks of the Judea camp. This photograph was taken from outside the camp, at a time when the barracks were still enclosed on only three sides in order to facilitate surveillance. (*Private collection*).



CAMP OF JUDES

In March 1939, after the Spanish Civil War, the Judea camp opened in order to intern 16,000 Spanish Republicans considered undesirable foreigners. Its role evolved in the context of the Second World War.

In February 1940, it became a reception center for 800 Allied airmen from the Polish army and a military training camp for foreign volunteers. However, the advent of the Vichy regime following the June 1940 armistice once again transformed the camp's functions. Led by Philippe Pétain, the Vichy regime adopted an antisemitic and xenophobic policy that particularly targeted foreign Jews.



1940 – Group of men posing in uniform at the Septfonds military camp. Among them is volunteer enlistment Chaïm Goldstajn. (Shoah Memorial).





CAMP OF JUDES

From the summer of 1941 onward, the Septfonds camp became a place where Vichy implemented its discriminatory laws. The camp was divided into two sections :

- An administrative and repressive section, under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior, used to intern resistance fighters, communists, and foreigners deemed “undesirable.”
- An economic section, managed by the Ministry of Industrial Production and Labor, where foreigners, grouped into Foreign Workers' Groups (Groupements de Travailleurs Étrangers, GTE), were exploited as forced labor. From 1941, Vichy distinguished between Aryan and non-Aryan GTEs. At Septfonds, GTE 302, known as the “Palestinian” group, primarily consisted of foreign Jews of various nationalities (German, Austrian, Polish), designated as such under Vichy's racial laws.

In July 1941, twenty-one Polish officers erected a votive chapel near the camp, dedicated to Our Lady of Czestochowa, to commemorate their time there.



CAMP OF JUDES



Chess game in the part of the camp reserved for Foreign Workers' Group 302, photographer: Isaac Kitrosser, 1942? (French Museum of Photography / Departmental Council of Essonne, Benoît Chain).





CAMP OF JUDES

The summer of 1942 marked a turning point with the implementation in France of the “Final Solution,” the policy aimed at the extermination of Europe’s Jews. The Vichy regime not only cooperated with the Nazis but also organized deportations using its own administrative and logistical resources.

On the night of August 23rd to 24th 1942, 84 men from GTE 302 were taken from the camp and deported, via Drancy, to Auschwitz-Birkenau on convoys number 25, 26, and 27. Of the 4,000 people deported on these convoys, only 97 survived the war.

The roundup of August 26th 1942 in the Lot and Tarn-et-Garonne departments led to the mass arrest of foreign Jews. On September 3rd 1942, 213 Jewish people, including 19 children, were in turn deported from Septfonds. Among them, Henry Grau, a two-year-old child, symbolizes the atrocity of these acts. Of the 1,000 deportees on this convoy, 900 were murdered immediately upon arrival. These deportations were made possible by a precise administrative and logistical organization involving French authorities, police forces, and the gendarmerie.





CAMP OF JUDES

The Septfonds camp, like other camps in the unoccupied zone, became a sorting and transit center in the deportation process:

- Internees were first registered and categorized, often based on administrative records produced by the regime.
- Men deemed unfit for work were quickly transferred to camps in the occupied zone, mainly Drancy, before their final deportation to the killing centers of the Third Reich.

After the Liberation, the camp was briefly used to intern individuals accused of collaboration while awaiting trial. The camp was dismantled in 1945. Some administrative archives were incinerated, likely to erase this dark chapter of history.

Today, the Septfonds camp Memorial commemorates these tragic events. Since 1996, it has been preserving the memory of the internees and deportees.





THE ARTWORKS OF THE SEPTFONDS CAMP

During various periods of the camp, interned artists and intellectuals were able to carry out artistic and cultural activities there. Resisting boredom, fighting oppression and distress, bearing witness, preserving one's dignity, overcoming anxiety, rebuilding oneself—there are many reasons that led the camp's artists to continue their creative practices.

Paintings produced by Spanish refugees are preserved at the Septfonds town hall, which commissioned works in 1939, and at the parish church of Saint-Blaise, where the Stations of the Cross, also dating from 1939, are kept. Other works are preserved within families or by collectors and constitute the rare material traces of the camp.





THE ARTWORKS OF THE SEPTFONDS CAMP

GABRIEL ALABERT

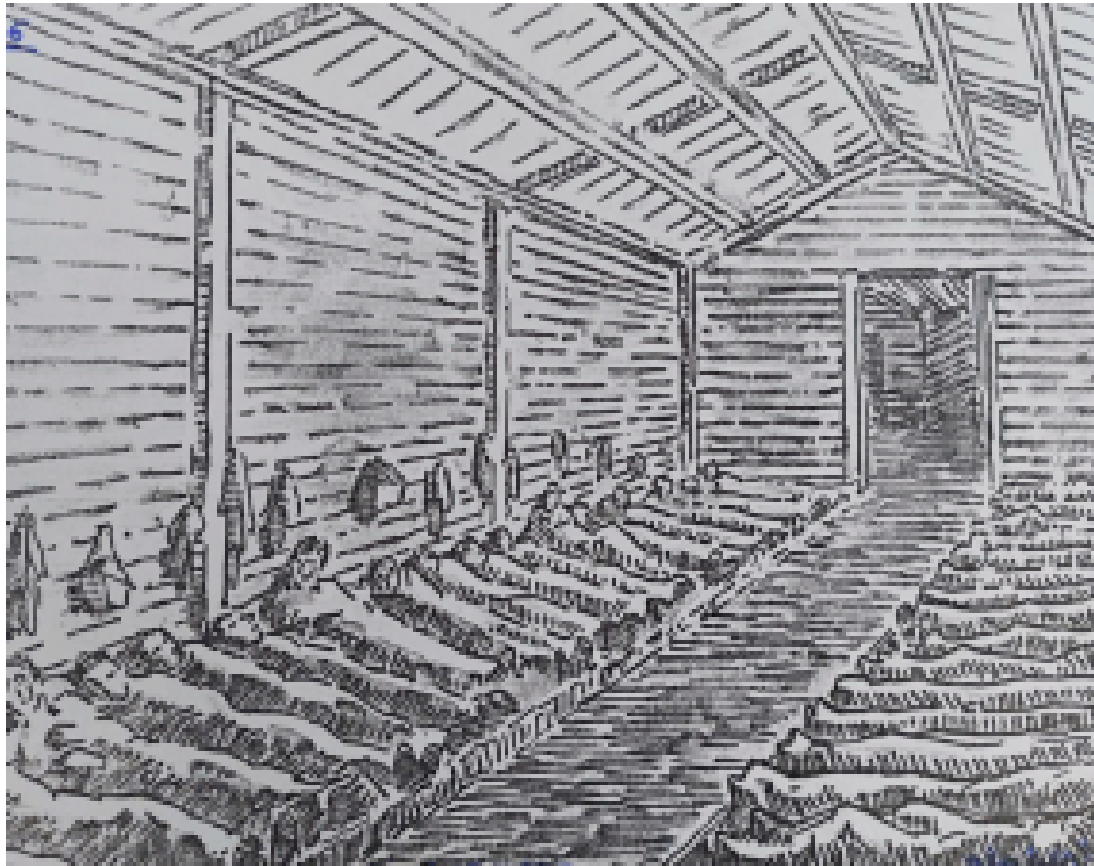
was born in 1916 in Barcelona. After beginning as a self-taught artist, he joined an art school and later served in the 17th Corps in the cartography section during the Spanish Civil War.

Interned among the first arrivals at the Septfonds camp, he was released upon the request of Pierre Darasse, who was then seeking a draftsman to illustrate a program. Darasse took him in as a son within his family and found him work with a cabinetmaker so that he would not return to the camp. Gabriel Alabert returned to Spain to rejoin his family shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, where he went on to pursue a career as a sculptor.

His drawings, produced during the Retirada and the internment of Spanish refugees in French camps, bear witness to the conditions of exile, overcrowding, and the lack of privacy in the camps.



THE ARTWORKS OF THE SEPTFONDS CAMP



Gabriel Alabert – Interior of a barrack. The barracks (48 m long × 7 m wide), each designed to house 360 men, left very little space for lying down. Straw was spread on the ground before sleeping pallets were later installed. In his drawings, the artist Gabriel Alabert highlights the human overcrowding and lack of privacy to which Spanish refugees were subjected in French camps. (*Private collection*).



Gabriel Alabert – Men carrying a latrine bucket. In the background, the camp barracks and men crowded inside them. (*Private collection*).





THE ARTWORKS OF THE SEPTFONDS CAMP

JOSEP MARTI ALEU

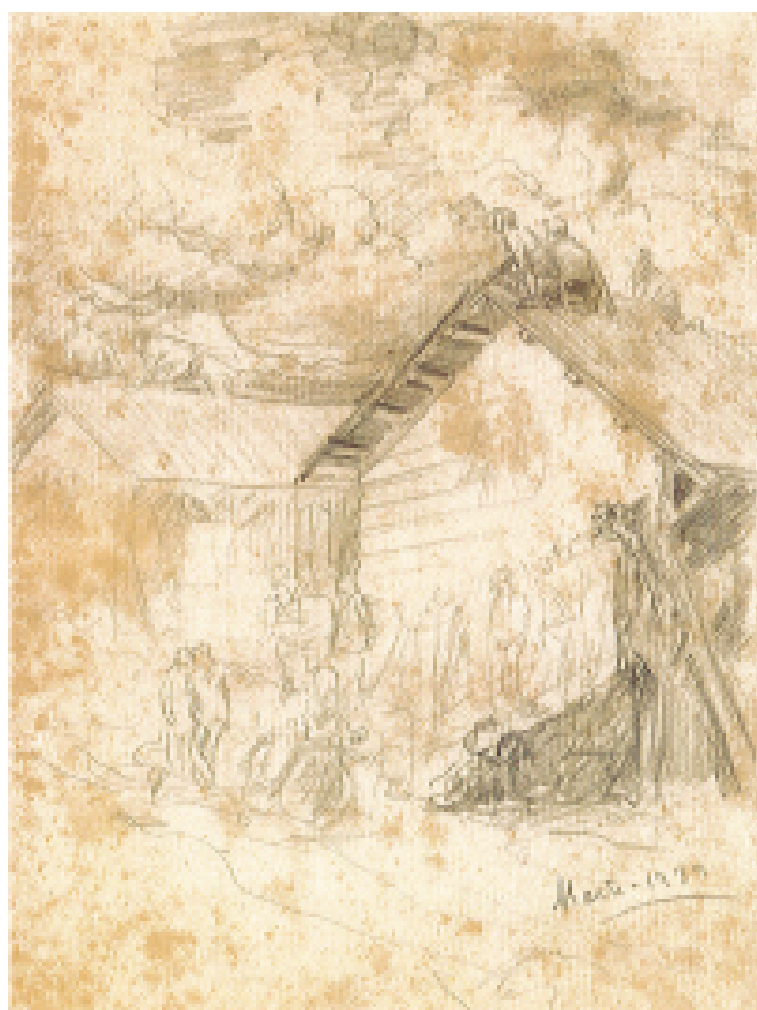
was born on 16 September 1906 in Barcelona. He worked as a gilder before becoming a captain in the Republican army.

He arrived in France in February 1939 and was among the first internees at the Septfonds camp. Several drawings were found within the artist's family. Likely produced in the camp in 1939, and as not all of them are signed, it is possible that they are the work of several Spanish artists.

After leaving the camp, Josep Marti Aleu worked in a hat factory before leaving the region, returning only in the 1950s. In 2025, his daughters still live in Septfonds.



THE ARTWORKS OF THE SEPTFONDS CAMP



Josep Martí Aleu –

Depiction of the barracks of the Septfonds camp and Spanish refugees positioned on their roofs. (*Private collection*).



Josep Martí Aleu – In this drawing, the camp at night and/or in bad weather: a mobile guard watches through the line of barbed wire. Several accounts attest to the refugees' lack of equipment to protect themselves from cold and rain. (*Private collection*).



THE ARTWORKS OF THE SEPTFONDS CAMP



Josep Martí Aleu – Scene of everyday life at the Septfonds camp. *(Private collection).*



Josep Martí Aleu – Interior scene of a barrack at the Septfonds camp. One of the long sides of the barracks was left open at the time the camp was built. Low walls were constructed by Spanish refugees to protect themselves from the elements. The drawing shows belongings hung up to make up for the lack of space, as well as the presence of mud inside the barracks. *(Private collection).*





THE ARTWORKS OF THE SEPTFONDS CAMP

LUIS GARCIA GALLO

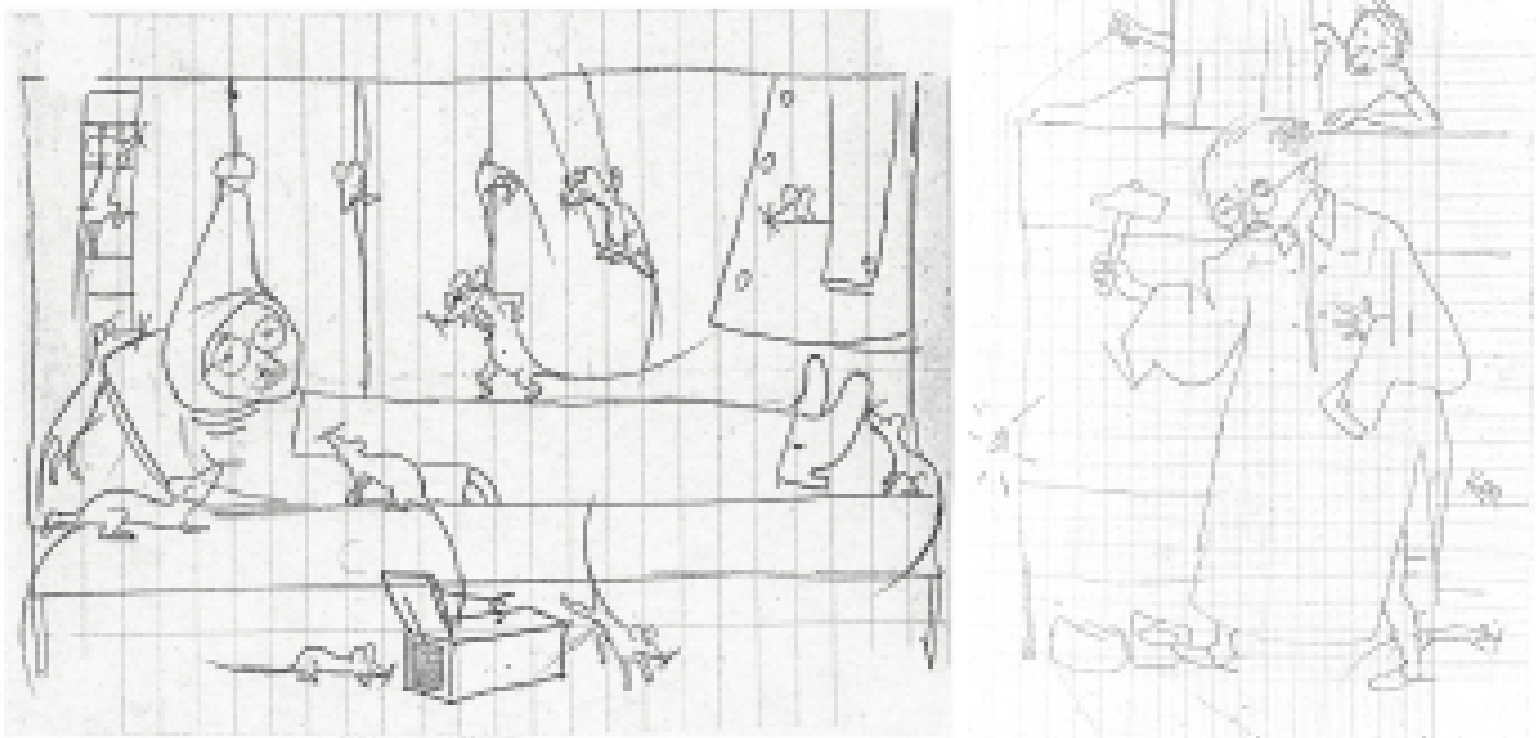
was born in 1907. He studied art in Bilbao and worked in advertising. During the Spanish Civil War, he produced caricatures for various newspapers of the Republican side.

After the Retirada, he was interned at Fort Mont-Louis and then at Argelès, before being transferred to Septfonds. He continued to produce caricatures and humorous drawings during his internment. After the war, he carried on this work in the French press under the name "Coq." He became well known and collaborated in particular with René Goscinny, before returning to Spain after Franco's death in 1978.

Several of his caricatures produced at the Septfonds camp in 1939 were commented on by his fellow internee Mariano Marcos Lerena.



THE ARTWORKS OF THE SEPTFONDS CAMP



Luis García Gallo – Rat hunting in the barracks of the Septfonds camp.
(Private collection).

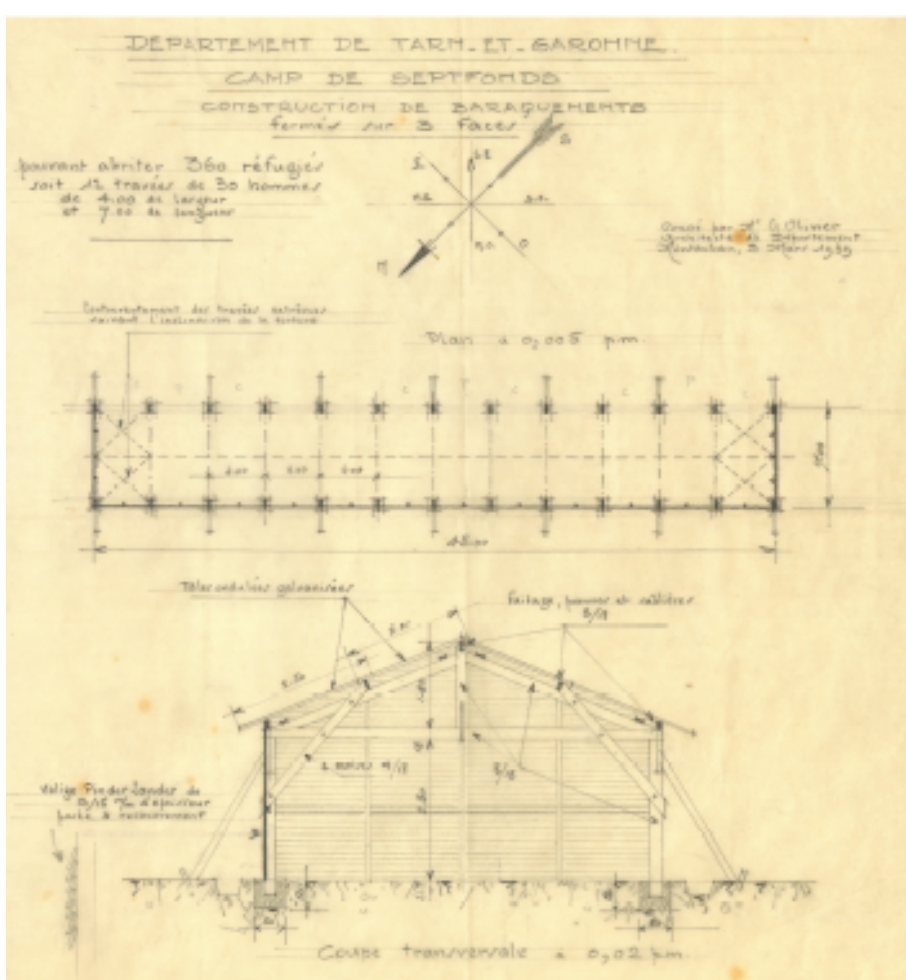


THE BARRACKS

Originally, the barracks (48 m × 7 m) built at the Judes camp were enclosed on only three sides. Exposed to rain, wind, and cold, they provided refugees with only minimal shelter. The fourth side was not closed until the winter of 1940.

Designed to house 360 men, with only straw on the ground, these poor living conditions encouraged the spread of disease.

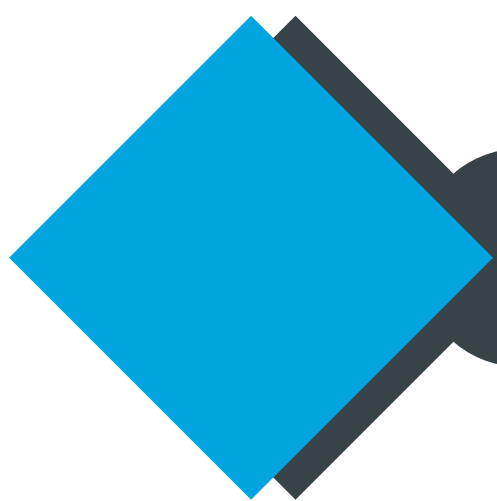
The first refugees to arrive at the Septfonds camp were confined to a “temporary camp” without any shelter and took part themselves in the construction of the barracks alongside local companies.



Plan and cross-section of a barrack at the Septfonds camp, drawn by architect Germain Olivier, 3 March 1939.

(Departmental Archives of Tarn-et-Garonne, Olivier Collection, 11 J 109_347).





THE BARRACKS

This barrack, which was set up at the Septfonds camp Memorial in July 2008 by an international youth work camp organized by the Citrus association for the town of Septfonds, is faithful, as the plans attest, to the original materials and dimensions in width and height, but represents only one quarter of the original length of the camp's barracks.

The only remaining vestige of the camp, the former water tank, now located at the center of the Memorial, made it possible to capture water from the spring downhill on the other side of the road and to supply the camp with water.





FAINZANG FAMILY

An interactive experience to follow the
journeys of Jules and Joseph Fainzang.
Scan the QR code and let yourself be guided.






LIST OF FOREIGN JEWS DEPORTED FROM THE SEPTFONDS CAMP

(24 AUGUST AND 3 SEPTEMBER 1942)

This list is presented in the work by Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand: Septfonds 1939–1944 – Within the Archipelago of French Camps. It was compiled and supplemented using the research of Gérard Gobitz, Alexandre Doulut, the Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem, and the Shoah Memorial in Paris. The convoy dates correspond to departures from Drancy to Auschwitz-Birkenau.






LIST OF SPANISH REPUBLICANS BURIED IN THE CEMETERY

The conditions of internment at the Judea camp caused numerous deaths among Spanish Republicans. Those Spaniards who died in the camp were buried in the “Cemetery of Spanish Refugees, 1939–1940.” Their names are listed below. The causes of death are indicated as recorded in the camp registers.

Among the Spanish Republicans enlisted in 1939 at the Septfonds camp to carry out labor duties, notably for the defensive organization of the borders in the military regions of Amiens and Lille, many were taken prisoner during the German offensive of spring 1940. Held in prisons or POW camps alongside French soldiers, these workers assigned to militarized units known as Foreign Workers' Companies (Compagnies de travailleurs étrangers, CTE) were selected by the Gestapo. From the summer of 1940 onward, they were deported to Mauthausen, a camp intended for the irreducible enemies of the Third Reich.

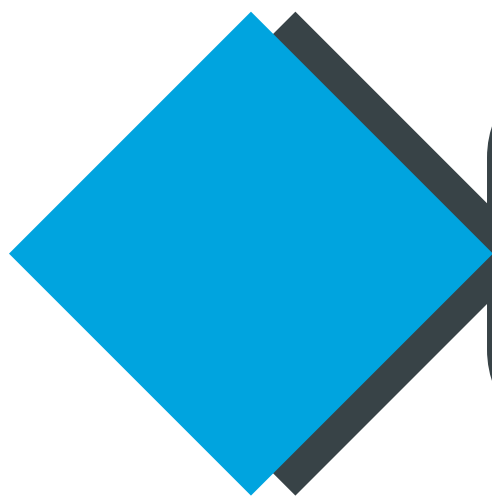




LIST OF SPANISH REPUBLICANS BURIED IN THE CEMETERY

Spanish Republicans were thus the first people deported from French territory. Their names appear in the book *Septfonds 1939-1944 – Within the Archipelago of French Camps*, written by Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand.



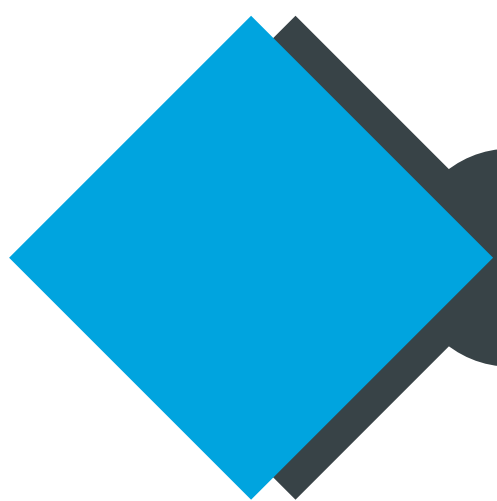


TO MEMORY BEARERS

If you wish to deposit a document and/or consult documents provided by associations, descendants, friends, and others connected to the memory of the camp, this piece of furniture is available for your use.

Please feel free to contact La Mounière, House of Memories of the town of Septfonds.





RULES & CREDITS

This Memorial is dedicated to the memory of the men and women interned at the Judes camp between 1939 and 1945. The municipality of Septfonds is committed to protecting the site and passing on its memory to future generations, and thanks you for your cooperation.

GENERAL INFORMATION :

The Judes camp Memorial is freely accessible all year round. The municipality reserves the right to deny access to anyone who undermines the site through defamatory or racist statements, symbols, or texts.

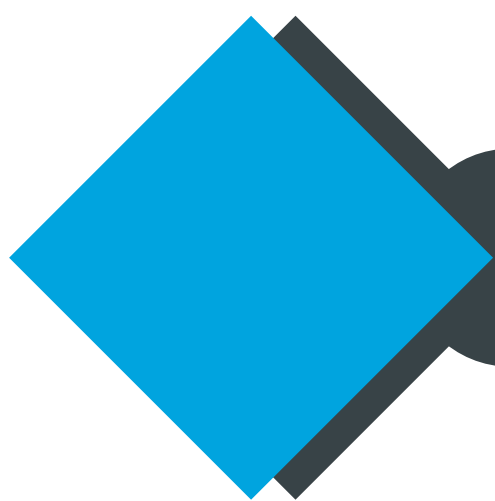
We kindly ask you:

- To adopt appropriate and respectful dress and behavior, and not to disturb other visitors.
- Not to touch the installations or affix inscriptions, posters, or graffiti.

Written authorization from the town hall is required to organize events or commemorations on the site, or to take photographs or film footage for commercial purposes.

*Excerpt from the municipal decree of 29 June 2018.
The Town Hall of Septfonds.*





RULES & CREDITS

ORGANIZATION

Elected officials and members of the Monitoring Committee of La Mounière – House of Memories of the town of Septfonds.

Team of La Mounière – House of Memories of the town of Septfonds: Margot Nicolle, Carole Stadnicki, Romy Barenne, Muriel Amouroux.

EXHIBITION CURATION

Margot Nicolle, Carole Stadnicki, Romy Barenne.

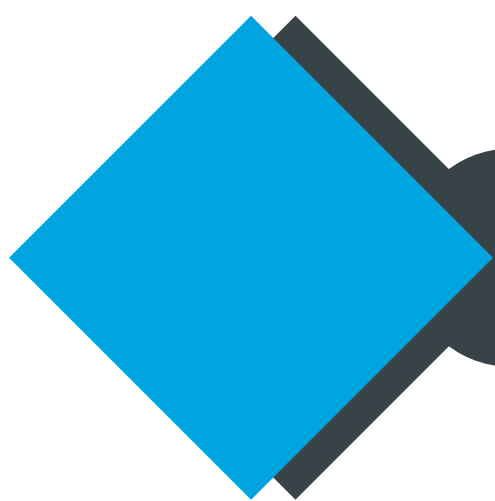
TEXTS

Margot Nicolle.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand, historian, honorary chief librarian, specialist in migration issues and in particular the Spanish Republican exile.





RULES & CREDITS

SCENOGRAPHY

Jaika Agency & Mementa Agency (Janaïne Golonka, Marion Decome) : production.

Janaïne Golonka : graphic design.

Rémy Soulier : wooden fittings and furniture.

MTM Prod & Com, Print & Pub : printing.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

Departmental Archives of Tarn-et-Garonne.

Private collections.

Juliette Le Roux, La Fabrique Argentique (postcard reproductions).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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