

-TITLE- MARIA, GRAFIN VON MALTZIN
-I_DATE- JULY 29, 1988
-SOURCE- CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY- FAIR
-IMAGE_QUALITY- GOOD
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

1:00 Telling anecdotes, arranging chairs, stating purpose of project.

2:00 She was double crossed by a lawyer and lost a lot of money when trying to make her movie deal.

3:00 Talking to the interviewers about her tailor, offering cigarettes. This goes on for about 5 minutes.

6:00 East Germany wants to make a film out of her book and about her life now. She lives in "a terrific part of Berlin" called Berlin Krutzbach(ph).

8:00 Coming from a big family she has been trained in how to get her voice heard. She started going to Berlin schools at age 14. Born in 1909 in Salizia(ph).

9:00 Hollywood people tried to get her to sign a contract, but she wouldn't do anything without a lawyer and they ended up betraying her with her story. Jacqueline Bisset played her in the movie.

10:00 Her book has not yet been translated into English.

12:00 She knows a number of Jews who were saved and other rescuers. She is helping some Czech people who are making a documentary.

14:00 " Every German soldier who had ever been in the East knew it. I don't believe that millions have never said a word at home."

15:00 At this point in the interview, Ms.Grafin's friend Anima (ph) comes in to ask her some questions in German. As Ms. Grafin puts it she is "not okay in the head", and has been taking care of her since 1960. Ms. Grafin shares the story of the time Anima had hepatitis and she did not want to take her to the hospital to be alone and in poor care.

Ms. Grafyn does not like Anima's family because they basically ignore her and when her birthday came around they just deposited some money in her bank account. Ms. Grafyn finds this horrible and disgusting and believes that they truly

20:00 do not care at all about Anima. "I find it filthy!"

21:00 The painting on her wall is of her father. Next to it is one of her last husband and his little sister when they were kids.

22:00 Her father was in the military.

23:00 She was the eight of eight kids. Her oldest brother died before she was born.

24:00 Her brother was a Nazi who fell in WW2, she feels that was the best thing he could do.

25:00 She was one of the very last people to leave Austria. After Dolphus was killed, Germans were not allowed to go there.

26:00 Punt- he stood up for the Germans. He stood up in Polish Parliament and people listened in the mid 1930's. He did a lot of work.

27:00 It is easier to do more when she was alone, with kids you had to be much more careful and responsible. Between the years 1942-45, she hid her husband Herschel and other Jews in her flat.

28:00 There were lots of Jews wandering around Berlin at night. They would sleep anywhere, sometimes at her house.

A man she knew, Prof. Strauss, was always wandering. May 27, 1943 "Germany is hudenrein(ph)" Gestapo put out a notice saying that Jews who would tell them where other Jews were hidden would not be killed. Suddenly, you couldn't rely on anyone anymore.

29:00 A woman who was hiding in her flat was found to be linked with the Gestapo and turned over Ms. Grafyn's first husband. Didn't know who to trust. She would hide people in her couch that had hooks on the inside so it could only be opened from the inside.

30:00 She tells a story of a woman who was dear to her and something about the chicken soup she loved to eat.

31:00 The experience of making the film was okay, but the film itself was lousy. There were about ten scripts and one was worse than the other. Everyone tried to write a script later, no one could find her contract and Gross ended up cheating her out of her money.

32:00 She was so disgusted because she had worked so hard to get as

many details and ideas together as possible and would tell them each morning and she ended up being cheated. She never asked for money. she just wanted to get a complete story.

33:00 The film was bad and didn't make much money.

34:00 Her grand-niece from South Africa married a Jew and came to Berlin to visit her. The older generation of her family was against Jews.

35:00 As far as mixed marriages, her family was "not anti-Semitic" but they didn't like it.

36:00-38:00 A story of a man in the hospital, I didn't understand.

39:00 The title of her book is " Beat the drum and Be Without Quiet".

40:00 She believes that when people are frightened they can't use their brains anymore, they stop thinking. She believes in fighting the good fight.

41:00 On June 19 she met a man who is now helping her write a new book, not political, of conditions in Berlin. She can't write alone because she has too many thoughts and cannot put them into words by herself, she would go too quickly and end up missing some of the passion and detail.

42:00 She first learned about what was happening to the Jews at school.

43:00 Emotionally unstable after the war without even realizing it. Everyone was, many were stuck in an asylum and treated horribly, forced to clean floors, do housework. They just "put all the mad people together."

44:00 She first began hiding Jews in 1938, with a Jewish woman who "didn't want to get involved." She was an adventurous child who left Silesia very young because of schooling.

45:00 She knew from an early age that she wanted to be a vet, but that was not a very attractive profession for a woman to have in those days. It was impossible with her family, they wouldn't want their daughter doing that.

46:00 There was fish breeding on many of the estates in Silesia. All the people in her house got along.

47:00 Silesia= the patriotic part of Germany. They were well privileged but really did something for their people

48:00 Her father was a very social person who believed that you

should try to think the way others do, see their worries and problems, in order to understand them. Her mom was badly burned in a fire from foot to thigh, she could see where the flames had licked her legs.

49:00 Mom adored the eldest daughter, was mad when Maria was born she took too long to deliver.

50:00 Her second sister was stubborn and the third was adored by mom because she was so beautiful and looked so much like her. Her mom was very unjust.

51:00 She and her mom did not get along. Maria sees more than many. One day her mom said "stop your lying". One day she stopped altogether and her mom got mad. Maria said "why should I say anything if everyone thinks I'm lying". She was used to living on flat land, to see heaven wide above her head, and hated living in the mountains.

52:00 She was forced to become independent at an early age. She left for boarding school at 14. Many different schooling possibilities.

53:00 Went to university in her province for 2 years. Then to Munich to get her doctorate in history.

54:00 Her father died in 1921.

55:00 She wrote some atrocious story about Africa(?).

56:00 The first thing that made her act towards helping Jews was that she had a very strong sense of justice because her mom was so unjust.

57:00 She is furious about situation in Israel. All her life she has fought for peaceful coexistence. She doesn't think Israel has anything to do with these ideals. She won't accept a medal from them.

58:00 People began risking their lives for others when they realized that life could be better.

59:00 She doesn't hate Germans, she knows a man who was helped and saved by them, how could she hate them.

1:00:00 Remaining cool is how she handles stressful situations.

1:01:00 Once the Gestapo came to her house looking for Jews, they wanted to search the couch, but it was a heavy and thick mahogany, you couldn't lift it. She said that it couldn't be opened and she hadn't opened it since she bought it.

There were holes in the thin material on the bottom for air. She

told them that if they didn't believe her then they could shoot the couch if they were so sure that there were people inside, but they should be prepared to provide her with the new material etc. necessary to repair the couch. She would not have a raggedly piece of furniture in her house.

1:02:00 Courage as blind, mad courage(?) is one of the stupidest things you can do. She had to be good on the black market because she had to feed everyone.

1:03:00 They had no heat in the winter. She had to turn away one Jew because she had a shop and he came in by the front door instead of the back one. It was too obvious.

1:04:00 She learned to cut hair and beards so that - The Jews looked decent to prevent others from getting suspicious. Hairdressers caught many people because sitting down to get your hair cut, people talk.

1:05-06:00 Amina comes in to talk to Maria. Butcher is at the door.

1:07:00 Jews didn't keep in touch because she didn't tell anyone who she was or where she was.

1:08:00 Her book The Last Jews of Berlin was not a good book. People didn't realize how strong Nazism was in Berlin. People did say "Heil Hitler" instead of "Good Morning".

1:09:00 Gross had a very high opinion of himself, he did have a charming wife who was the best thing about him.

1:10:00 She did not only help Jews, she helped anyone who was being suppressed because of political parties or any other ideas. She greatly admired one man who was staying with her - he deserted from Russia and made it through Germany.

1:11:00 The small registration near her was bombed, they took advantage, found out who was killed and gave these names to others.

1:12:00 Hid people in furniture.

1:13:00 One man who hid in the piano escaped to Sweden.

1:14:00 WW2 justified that the worst thing that could have ever happened would be if the Nazi's had won. It can happen again in many countries, look at South America. She believes that America is wicked in feeding off the contras.

1:15:00 Believes Afghanistan is bad, everyone says "poor Afghanistan" and that the Russians are so bad, but they're killing their own people and using unconventional weapons.

1:16:00 She was in Leningrad last year and adores it.

1:17:00 She feels the USSR is justified in its interference in divisions of Germany, Poland etc.,.Think of what the Nazi's did to Russia. She admired Lenin, he wanted freedom.

1:18:00 Lenin didn't want Stalin to follow him, the USSR would have been completely different.

1:19:00 The US makes things tough for Gorbachev, look at how many troops have been taken out. She believes he is really trying to bring freedom.

1:20:00 She doesn't approve of Reagan or Bush. She thinks it is amazing that Jackson has come so far in America.

1:21:00 Interviewer believes that Maria has relinquished the comfort of her class and position. She has used her wealth, independence, and sense of responsibility not only as a speaker, but as an activist.

1:22:00 " I prefer to be in a tough situation and to go to bed with a bad conscience." "I'm not a fearful person."

1:23:00 A journalist from Los Angeles came to interview her and said she knew nothing about her. Maria replied " Go to the library and learn about me, then come back. I'm not going to give private lessons on Nazism."

1:24:00 Many Jews would never return to Germany.

1:25:00 After 50 years of learning to give in it is easy to denounce everything you ever learned about Germany - that would be horrible, to ignore the good side of Germany.

1:26:00 1943, General Beck was supposed to roll up West Germany. Beck was not of command, he had good ideas ,but was frightened of action.

1:27:00 She won't be a part of German terrorists.

1:28:00 Terrorist acts for your country may mean well, but are wrong.

1:29:00 She's sick of German tidiness, need to do it all.

1:30:00 Good book= Man who Broke the Silence, a man saw what was happening in upper Silesia, told Switzerland and they didn't believe him.

1:31:00 When Hess died she saw some old women carrying flowers. She asked them "Do you know how many he has killed?" They replied "That's long ago." A big group of Neo-Fascists live near her.

1:32:00 Cops in Berlin are corrupt. An old man was beaten up by 4 boys, there's no justice.

1:33:00 People were throwing stones from the metro, they weren't from Berlin and were speaking in a distinct Bavarian dialect. The police beat up the people who the stones were thrown at.

1:34:00 more corrupt police stories. picture-taking. She never cultivated her courage, it is just a sense of justice that she has.

.END.→