

-TITLE- ANDREE GUELEN, HERSCOVICI  
-I\_DATE-  
-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-

0:00:00 People close their eyes to this in different countries.

3:00 In the war, each person's motivation in helping was different. Before the war, there was a lot of xenophobia and anti-semitism. A lot of ignorance and not enough courage.

5:00 For forty years, no one talked about the war. Only now are people beginning to ask questions and wonder about the war.

5:45 The children she help saved didn't want to talk about it until now.

6:35 The children now talk. They talk how they felt when they were only 5 or 6 years old during the war.

7:20 During the war, these children had to assume new identities. Their emotions during the war are coming out now.

#### Conversation

10:45 She was 20 years old when she began to take children away from their parents. She wonders a lot what happened to the parents.

When she had her own children, she wondered how she would reacted under the same circumstances. It would have been harder if she had had children during her work in the resistance. The hardest part of the whole job was taking children from their mothers.

12:55 It's hard to tell her grandchildren how she took children away from their parents. She tells the older children about the horrors of fascism. It is the problem of humanity for example: South Africa and Israel. Everything must be done to ensure it never happening again.

15:20 The injustice to children is everywhere. It pains her to see Israeli soldiers beating children.

16:30 She doesn't make any difference between the tactics of groups. The only consideration is the respect for children.

17:25 It's hard to accept this. It's even harder for the Jews. You cannot accept children being beaten.

19:05 The way she can help today is through her communication. Talk how she helped in the war to give others the courage to help others today.

20:05 Talk about her family background. She was brought up in a liberal bourgeoisie Catholic family. At 12 years old, she told her father that she didn't believe in God.

20:25 There wasn't really any external influence in her reasoning for her disbelief in God. Basically, she felt that the world was too cruel for there to be a God. She was born in 1921. The persecution began in Germany and she studied about it in school. There was also the Spanish Civil war. This marked her whole generation. At that time, she began taking care of children. Many Belgian families took in Spanish republican children refugees. She had two sisters.

She was in the middle of the children. Both her parents were Catholic. She was a difficult child and didn't conform.

26:30 The only thing that she keeps from the Catholic religion is the practice of helping others.

27:30 Her mom was the opposite of her. She was very simple who was dominated by her husband. Her mother would always wonder why her child was like this. The other daughters were similar to the mother.

28:40 She was more like her father. Her father was intelligent and they both used to talk a lot. He was always preoccupied with Justice. They discuss intellectual topics often. Her family did not actually have a Spanish child in the house, but they helped in other ways. Her father never worked. He was physically handicapped. His parents save money for his well being.

31:05 She was in Brussels during this time. In the beginning, she was a teacher and some of her students who were Jewish stopped coming in to class. Through people, she met a woman who was helping Jewish children..

33:50 Mme Gisparne (PH) was the woman. When she was recruited, she was selected to take Jewish children from their parents. After a couple months, she was in contact with the children.

Mme Du (PH) was in charge of placement of the children. Andree knew right away the risks of what she was involved with. She says when you feel that it is something necessary, then fear is kept behind.

36:50 The Gestapo had an official list of the Jews living in the area. She also had a list. It was a race between her and the Gestapo to reach the children first.

38:50 First, she would get the permission from the parents to take the children away. (After the war, she still worked because they would need information about the children.) Then she would go to the Headquarters and tel them. Twenty four hours later, she would take the child and place them in a non-Jewish family.

(Showing a book of information on the children)

The information in the book included if the child looked Jewish, if he/she had any money. Since then, there have been reunions.

40:35 At the reunion, the former children look through the book to see if they are in it. There around 1,000 names in the book.

42:05 She only took care of children. Adults were harder to hide. Once the children were placed, the parents were easier to hid. The founder of this organization was the husband of Mme Gisgarne (PH).

42:05 He was also in the Spanish Civil War and was a man used to struggle.

44:05 (shows pictures of the children) Someone else found the homes. There were 3 groups.

46:05 Her group initiated contact with the Jewish families. Another group found the spots for the children. The third group consisted of the financial people.

47:05 Once, a Jewish mother of three children refused to let the youngest child go. The mother said whatever happened to her shall happen to the child.

48:35 When she met first the family, she told them that she wanted to save their child. They would know she was coming because they had asked for help.

50:05 It was a full time job. Sometimes, she would work nights.. She worked 2.5 years starting the commencement of persecution. Sometimes it was necessary to move a child.

53:05 They kept in contact with both the children and the parents. Every three months, the 3rd group would bring stamps for the child. They would see if the children were okay, if they were well fed, or if they were well taken care of. If not, they would move the children.

54:45 There were German collaborators, but not as much as the French. The Belgian government did not help the Germans; the French government signed an agreement to help the Germans.

Conversation (about the translator's family.)

58:45 She was almost apprehended a couple times. There was this boarding school where she was a teacher. She wasn't really a teacher there but that is what her identification said. All members of the organization had false occupations. The director of the school knew. The Germans came. There was an anonymous phone call. There were 17 Jewish children. The director was deported in the middle of the night. The Gestapo questioned her. She told them that she knew nothing and that she would ask her children for IDs before teaching them.

1:00:45 In 1943, there was another incident. These parents wanted to give their daughter up. The daughter waited in the cafe for her. She picked her up and was about to leave the cafe when the Gestapo arrived. She hid the child. She told the Gestapo that she was looking for a phone in the cafe when they asked her what she was doing there. At the time, she realized there was a public phone across the street, but the Gestapo didn't realize this. She was convinced that she was being followed and she walked around for hours.

1:03:45 She wouldn't share her thoughts about her work with anyone.

The people she worked with knew what each other did, but they did not anyone's name or real occupation until after the war. She didn't know the name of the founder until after the war.

1:05:45 Her parents did nothing before or after the war. She met her husband after the war at her university. She helped afterwards in the Committee to Defend Jews.

1:07:10 As soon as they opened office after the war. Surviving parents would come for their children. There were few reunions between the parents and children because most parents did not survive the war. The children did not recognize their parents.

1:09:50 One incident during the war... a mother was convinced that her children was dead so the organization arranged a meeting. The child did not want to see the mother.

1:11 After the war, there was a lot of work. People came back from the camps. The different groups started to argue. People who didn't do anything during the war came out and said they did.

1:12:30 Bonds made during the war were strong. Only few parents survived, but many of the children did. They have reunions regularly.

1:14 Some of the children have gone to America. (show picture of reunion of 4 children)

1:15 The children want to talk about the war now.

1:16 She changed a lot because of the war. She is everything today because of that period of her life.

1:17       The children thank the government and the people, but she thanks the children because they gave her the appreciation for life. She has a hatred for fascism and intolerance.

1:18 Education and culture and parents must teach children and adults the respect for justice.

1:21 She does not describe the war as exciting, but one grows old and matures quickly. It's terrible to live in fear, hunger, and constant threat. She would not want to live through it again.

1:23 She learned a lot about the Jewish world and humanity. She is married to a Jew.

1:25:45 Her husband survived the war in Switzerland. The rest of family died in Auschwitz.

          She has confidence in herself and is very sure of herself.

1:26:45 Many people did not want to talk about the war. They just wanted to forget about it. Maybe two generations were needed before anyone could talk about it.

1:28:45 She talks about new films coming up about the war.

#### Conversation

1:34 Her only motive was for the love of the children.  
.END.