

-TITLE- EMILIE GUTH  
-I\_DATE-  
-SOURCE- CRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT  
-RESTRICTIONS-  
-SOUND\_QUALITY- FAIR  
-IMAGE\_QUALITY- GOOD  
-DURATION-  
-LANGUAGES- ENGLISH  
-KEY\_SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-  
-PERSONAL\_NAME-  
-CORPORATE\_NAME-  
-KEY\_WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
-CONTENTS-

2:00 Emilie Guth was born in a small village in Alsace in 1911. She was the oldest of four children. Her father died in the war of 1914, and they were raised by her mother.

2:30 The name of the village was Bust, and she left Bust at age 16.

3:00 She became a nurse and worked for various families. She needed to work because her mother was trying to raise the children on her own.

3:30 She is a baptized Protestant. Her parents were practicing, but she is not.

5:30 After WWI, everyone was very happy to "re-become" French.

6:00 According to Mme. Guth, when the Alsatians are German they want to be French and vice versa. Mme. Guth is completely bilingual in French and German.

6:30 Knowing what the Germans had been capable of doing in WWI, Mme. Guth expected the situation in the 1930's to be bad again.

7:30 In 1941 in Marseilles, she was working in a house where they took care of war refugees. The house was run by the Unitarian Committee and the Jewish Committee.

8:00 At first they were caring for Spaniards and then Germans.

8:45 Her mother was a very gentle person. She was not at all strict with her children. She was a very altruistic person.

9:45 Beggars would enter the village where she lived as a child (Bust), and they knew to go straight to her house

because her mother would always help them.

10:00 They weren't rich, but they lived in the country, and there was always food because they had a garden, and they raised animals. The only thing they needed was a man to do work around the house.

10:30 Their mother was a farmer. In the winter she knitted clothes for other people.

11:00 Their mother taught them how to do everything (farm, knit, etc.).

11:30 Hermine Orsi was born in Carrara, Italy in 1909.

12:00 Her mother was Protestant and her father was Catholic.

12:30 Her mother died in the war of 1914.

13:00 Her father was a farmer. He remarried and after this second marriage life in her house was not so nice.

13:30 Her step-mother wasn't a bad person. She drank a lot and didn't take care of the children.

14:00 Her father was a very nice man and a very hard worker. She was the oldest of three children.

14:30 She married when she was 16. At that point, fascism was starting in Italy, and her husband went to France.

15:00 Her husband had to leave Italy because the Fascists wanted to get him. So at age 17 she went to France.

15:30 She went to France with her husband (because he was wanted by the Fascists). At that time she was pregnant, so she returned to her family in Italy.

16:15 Her husband went from country to country to avoid the Fascists.

16:45 The Fascists wanted her husband because he wasn't Fascist. He was 8 years older than she.

17:00 Mme. Orsi said, "I'm going to tell you about my life, and it will make you laugh."

17:30 As infants she and her siblings were baptized Protestants.

18:00 Around the age of 8 she was baptized a second time.

18:30 She tried to tell her family that she had all ready been baptized, but they did not want to believe her.

19:15 Her family wanted to put her in a Catholic boarding school, but she did not want to go. So she was baptized a third time, this time as a Catholic.

20:00 She was seven years old when her mother died.

21:00 It was her aunt's idea to have her baptized three times. They didn't believe her when she said she had already been baptized.

21:30 In Italy it is very important to be baptized.

22:00 She was raised in both the Catholic and Protestant traditions.

22:30 Her mother was one of four Protestants in the whole village. Protestants in general were not well liked. If you were Protestant, you wouldn't receive good care at the hospital.

22:30 This discrimination against her mother when she was a child reinforce her ideas about injustices in general. She is always ready to defend herself and others when an injustice is being done.

24:00 She had the necessary legal papers to stay in France, but her husband did not.

24:30 Her husband made small statues and sculptures for a living.

26:00 When she went back to Italy to have her first child while her husband was still in France, she used a fake passport. Then to get back into France and rejoin her husband she had to secretly cross the border because they would not let her in.

27:00 To get her into France, a man (who was not her husband) told the Italian border guards that she was his wife, and that had no reason to speak to her as she spoke no Italian.

27:30 She was very scared. (She then explains the exact route of her trip back into France).

29:30 Mme. Orsi had known some Jews in France before the war because her husband knew a lot of people.

30:00 She was living in Nice, France around 1928.

30:45 When she was in Italy, she did not even know the meaning of the word "Jew".

31:00 Mme. Guth knew many Jews in Alsace. There were many living there.

31:15 Mme. Guth had no Jewish friends, but she was acquainted with many.

31:30 Her village was mostly Protestant, but many of the merchants who passed through were Jewish.

31:45 Before the War (WWII), around 1937 or 1938, anti-semitism was beginning in her village.

32:15 But even before this time, people made negative comments about the Jews.

33:45 Mme. Guth had a Jewish boyfriend who lived in Strasbourg. Everyone in her town knew about him. When she returned to her hometown to visit her mother, a gentleman from the village came to her mother's house, sat down, and announced that if one Jew entered the village, he would beat him.

34:15 Nearly everyone in Mme. Guth's town was anti-semitic.

34:30 Her mother was scared, but she had nothing against the Jews.

35:30 The SEMACE (apparently some type of organization that helped Alsatian war refugees), did not help her because she had no need of their aid because she had always worked.

35:45 This group was very helpful to others, though. There were entire families that left, and they had to leave everything behind.

36:00 But Mme. Guth left Alsace without her family. She also had always been able to find work and take care of herself, 80 she did not need their help.

37:15 Mme. Orsi's mother was from a fairly rich family, but she died at a very early age. So she and her siblings were practically abandoned, because her father was at war and her grandmother was very old. She doesn't remember her mother, and she was raised by her grandmother.

37:30 Her grandmother was an adorable woman.

38:30 She adored her grandmother. She used to walk 3 or 4 kilometers to the place in the hills where her grandmother

was watching the cows because she knew her grandmother took her sewing with her to the fields, but that she didn't see well enough anymore to thread the needles. So Mme. Orsi would go and thread three or four needles for her.

39:00 Her grandmother used to give oil and flour to the poor who needed it.

39:45 Her mother was part of the Red Cross. Whenever there was a sick person that no one wanted to help, her mother would go.

40:30 Both Mme. Guth's and Mme. Orsi's parents used to help others a lot, and that is how they learned the importance of helping others. Even if you are in a foreign country, if you see people suffering you are required to help them. This was the type of education they received at home.

41:00 Mme. Orsi's husband couldn't work because he didn't have the necessary papers. Only she worked.

41:30 Mme. Orsi saw WWI, WWII, and the Spanish War.

42:00 In 1936 during the Spanish War, she went to Spain and took care of the sick and the children.

42:30 Her husband didn't work though, because he had no papers because he was anti-fascist.

43:15 These two ladies both started Resistance work in 1942. They met in 1943.

43:45 Mme. Orsi was working in Marseilles at a type of fruit company, and there were many Jewish refugees in the city.

44:45 At that time Marseilles was not occupied; it was in the Free Zone. There were therefore many, many Jewish refugees. There were doctors, artists, journalists, etc...

46:15 Mme. Orsi was very sad at her home.

47:30 Her daughter was a prisoner in Paris. She could not go down to the South because Paris was occupied.

48:00 Her daughter was about 10 years old at the time.

48:15 A Jewish man told her not to worry, he would get her daughter out. Ten days later, her daughter was at her home with her.

48:30 This Jewish gentleman then hid at her house until he was deported.

49:15 Since she had helped people in Spain during the

Spanish War, she wanted to help people in France. She used to not eat for long periods of time so she could give the food to others. That is how she started working with the Resistance Movement.

49:30 One time Mme. Orsi went to the hospital in Paris, where she saw a woman who had been recently operated. She had her three or four mother (?) old child with her. Mme. Orsi couldn't bear to see the child suffer (and she knew the mother wouldn't be able to care for it for a while), so she took the child home with her.

50:45 Mme. Orsi raised the child until he could walk. At that point, his mother was better, and Mme. Orsi returned the child to her.

51:00 Once the baby left, Mme. Orsi didn't want to see it anymore because she loved him very much, and it hurt her to see him.

51:45 According to the two ladies, once they started doing one thing, they could not stop because the people came to them and begged for help. It was impossible to refuse them.

52:00 If a person had even a little bit of feeling, then it would have been impossible for that person to turn the Jews away.

52:15 Even though they were scared of the Germans, Mme. Orsi and Mme. Guth couldn't have done otherwise. It was simply impossible for them to even consider not helping.

54:30 For Mme. Guth, it was a little bit easier to help the war refugees because she had been working for the refugees at the home run by the Unitarian organization. When the Germans closed it, she all ready had many contacts. So they simply continued working for the refugees (hiding people, helping people, etc.) undercover. It was a network.

55:00 Mme. Orsi did a job that no one wanted to do she took care of the children.

56:45 Mme. Orsi went one time to someone's house to visit them. As she opened the door, the piano, which was against a wall, moved.

57:00 This piano was blocking a secret door to a secret hiding place. Five grown adults came crawling out on their knees, pleading for help. One of the members of this group had all ready been found and taken away by the Gestapo. These five had been able to hide.

57:15 These five had been hiding for 22 months; they no

longer even looked like people.

59:00 Mme. Orsi could not imagine that people could reach such a point. They were on their knees, kissing her feet, begging for help.

59:15 At this point, she was hiding a Jewish doctor at her home. He stayed there for two years.

1:00:44 The five people looked like they had been in the concentration camps. They were very skinny.

1:01:00 The reason Mme. Orsi went to the house in the first place was because the nephew of another Jew who was in hiding in Chambonne (PH) asked her to find out how a relative of his was doing in Marseilles. Mme. Orsi did not (?) that this relative was also in hiding. She simply went to the house that the Jew in Chambonne had indicated to her to inquire about his relative. When she arrived at the door, and he heard her say his name.

1:01:15 All five of them came crawling out. They were very scared because one woman who had been in hiding with them had recently been discover and taken away by the Gestapo.

1:01:30 They wanted to go to Chambonne. it was very difficult because at that time the police were always asking to see your papers. The five Jews of course had no papers.

1:02:15 When they were stopped, Mme. Orsi told the policeman whose job it was to demand to see an individual's papers, that she would be passing with five people. He said to have them follow her, and he would not request their papers.

1:02:30 Mme. Guth was originally supposed to take those five people to Chambonne, but she was pregnant, so Mme. Orsi had to do it. This was about the time that the two ladies met.

1:03:45 Mme. Orsi said that anyone who says that they weren't scared is either a liar or is crazy. She was very scared. She was trembling.

1:04:00 When Mme. Orsi arrived at Chambonne with the five people, she was absolutely exhausted (from fear and stress).

1:04:45 The five Jews were British but just happened to be living in France.

1:05:30 Mme. Orsi took these five people to Chambonne to a hotel. Even when there were no rooms available there were always rooms for them. One of them was deaf and mute.

1:05:45 One day the deaf and mute gentleman was having his

hair cut, and he said, "Hello". So he was, in fact, just faking his handicap.

1:06:15 Since he was British, his French was very bad. He therefore faked being a deaf-mute to not give himself away.

1:07:00 The name of their resistance network was CAMBAT.

1:07:30 Mme. Orsi had an Argentinean Jew hiding in her house at one point. This Jewish lady was incredibly scared and jumpy, and it used to drive Mme. Orsi nuts.

1:08:00 This nervous woman had somehow ended up in France after the Spanish War.

1:08:30 Mme. Orsi had about five or six people who actually lived and hid at her house. There were many more that she helped.

1:08:45 Often she did not have enough to eat herself because she gave everything to them.

1:08:55 Mme. Guth didn't have as many people at her house.

1:09:00 Mme. Guth had a Jewish boyfriend during the war, so she was all ready suspect, and it was therefore more dangerous at her house.

1:09:15 She said that after the war that they unfortunately didn't marry, but that the reason why is another story.

1:09:30 Mme. Guth couldn't therefore have many Jews at her house. Her Jewish boyfriend was hiding there.

1:10:15 Mme. Orsi's husband and most of her children were not at her house while she was hiding the Jews. She didn't know where her husband was. Only one daughter was at home.

1:12:00 She had 200 children hidden in Chambonne. One time when she was on her way to mail the letters from these 200 hidden children, and she was arrested and held for eight days in Avignon.

1:12:15 Her daughter suffered just as much as she did during those eight days because she knew what was probably happening.

1:12.30 The Marquis (PH) helped her.

1:14:45 Mme. Orsi's daughter was very worried about her during those eight days. When Mme. Orsi was a hostages in Avignon, the Germans paraded the hostages around town to demonstrate their power.

1:15:00 The Marquis (PH) eventually helped her, and she

returned to her daughter who was very surprised to see her.

1:15:15 Every day she made the trip between Chambonne and Marseilles.

1:15:45 She and a Russian Jew that she was hiding jumped from a train one time because there were bombs on the train.

1:17:00 Apparently, then Mme. Orsi was part of an underground network. She began working in Marseilles where she hid people in her home. Her husband was never around because he didn't have official paper, and therefore was always going from town to town.

1:17:15 Mme. Orsi was also always going from town to town, transporting people from place to place. [Apparently] she was hiding 200 Jewish children in Chambonne sur Lyon (PH).

1:17:30 She was arrested once when she went to Avignon.

1:19:00 In 1985 both ladies received a medal for their efforts during the war.

1:19:15 Mme. Orsi shows her card with her photo identifying her as a member of her Resistance network, the COMBAT.

1:20:30 Their field chief, madam Sieciersky (PH) was the person who testified to their efforts so that they could receive their medals.

1:21:00 They of course were aware that their field chief was Jewish.

1:21:30 Mme. Orsi has some very unhappy and upsetting memories of the war. It upsets her especially to think of the people you love.

1:21:45 The people Mme. Orsi saved were never deported.

1:21:55 The ones she couldn't save were deported (and that makes her sad).

1:22:00 When the two of them are together they speak very often of the war years.

1:23:15 Mme. Orsi was the one who made the trips from le Chambonne to Marseilles bringing food, money, and false identification papers to Mme. Guth who received them and distributed them to the Jews around Marseilles.

1:23:45 Members of the Resistance movement made the false identity papers and the money came from different places: the committees to aid the Jews, America, etc.

1:23:50 Mme. Guth did not go to le Chambonne.

1:24:00 Mme. Guth stayed in Marseilles.

1:23:40 Mme. Guth knew Jews who had been hidden in peoples' homes and then later found and deported by the Germans.

1:24:55 The families that hid them were also deported.

1:25:15 Mme. Orsi shows a picture of the Jewish man who got her daughter out of Paris for her.

1:27:30 For Mme. Guth it was very easy to begin working at helping the Jews because she was all ready working at an establishment to help the Jewish refugees.

1:27:45 When the Germans shut down this establishment, she all ready knew who all the Jews were and where they lived, what they needed, etc.

1:27:55 The other people who were working with her were almost all Jewish themselves, and [here the translator says that Mme. Guth stated that these Jews continued to help after the Germans shut down the establishment. In fact, what Mme. Guth said was that these Jews obviously also needed to go into hiding themselves].

1:28:10 Mme. Guth was working as a nurse in the above-mentioned establishment.

1:28:30 The people in this establishment were mostly refugees from Germany, Austria, Poland, Russia, etc.

1:28:45 There were only Jews in the establishment.

1:30:15 Mme. Guth spent 37 and 1/2 years of her life helping Jews. She began helping them when she left Alsace. She arrived in Marseilles and was looking for work, and the second day she was there, she ran into a gentleman from Strasbourg.

1:30:30 This gentleman asked her what she was doing in Marseilles. She told him, and he hired her. It worked out well because Mme. Guth (being from Alsace) speaks perfect German and many of the refugees spoke German.

1:30:45 Mme. Orsi shows photos of the children she saved.

1:31:45 Mme. Guth is a socialist; not on the right.

1:32:10 It was dangerous to work at this establishment (where Mme. Guth worked) helping the Jews.

1:32:25 Having an organized public establishment helping the

Jews became too dangerous. That was why they closed down. Then they began hiding the refugees separately.

1:33:00 Mme. Orsi says (laughing) that they were willing to take the risk of helping the Jews because she and Mme. Guth were stupid.

1:33:15 According to Mme. Guth, it was impossible not to help.

1:33:55 Mme. Orsi is very upset because there are people who didn't help the Jews during the war and who are now their good friends.

1:34:00 This bothers her very much. She and Mme. Guth do not regret their actions.

1:34:45 Mme. Orsi isn't upset with the Jews, she is upset with the others who didn't help them during their time of need. According to Mme. Orsi, the Jews are who they are.

1:35:00 Mme. Orsi says that frankly she doesn't know if the Jews would have done for them what they (Mme. Orsi, Mme. Guth, other Resistance workers, etc.) did for the Jews. There are some good ones, but

1:35:15 Mme. Orsi has the impression that they help only each other and not others.

1:35:45 Mme. Orsi suggests (laughing) that she was unconscious of what she was doing.

1:36:00 Mme. Guth says that sometimes they were unconscious of the danger. They were sometimes unaware of the risk they were taking.

1:37:00 Mme. Orsi believes that there are some good Jews but she wonders if they would have done for others what the Christian Rescuers did for them.

1:38:15 Mme. Orsi dedicated her entire life to helping the Jews. At some points in her life she was in need of food, clothing, etc., because she gave everything she had to the Jews.

1:38:30 Now Mme. Orsi sees some very rich Jews who never ask themselves if this poor elderly lady who lives all alone, who helped others so much, might not be in need of food, money, etc.?

1:40:40 Mme. Guth explains that Mme. Orsi is upset because

she worked very hard for a very long time for the Jews through the Resistance. When she retired she did not receive social security benefits for the work she did because it was all done secretly. So Mme. Orsi receives very little money.

1:41:00 Mme. Orsi was spending her own money all those years to help the Jews. She never expected to get paid; but still, after the war was over and then she retired she never received social security for those years because they didn't count.

1:41:30 Mme. Orsi sold all of her mother's jewelry to help people and never asked for anything in return.

1:42:00 When N. Trotiney (PH) was deported, Mme. Orsi was alone with the hidden children in Chambonne for four months. She had no money so to feed them she had to sell her mother's jewelry.

1:42:40 After the war, Mme. Orsi has had only rare contact with the children she saved. They almost all disappeared after the war.

1:43:40 Mme. Guth still is in contact with the family that she saved. They are in the United States. The mother of the family is 82 years old.

1:44.30 The lady with whom Mme. Guth remains in contact was not hidden in Mme. Guth's own home. Mme. Guth found a hiding place for them, and she visited them two or three times a week. She brought them new ration cards and checked on how they were doing.

1:44:45 Mme. Orsi took all the photos she has been showing.

1:45:40 Mme. Siecarsky (PH) worked with Mme. Orsi in Chambonne.

1:46:30 Mme. Orsi says that after the war they were ashamed of what they had done because other people couldn't understand it.

1:46:45 Mme. Guth explains that it was difficult for people to show their appreciation after the war because everyone was suffering.

1:48:15 After the two ladies received their medals, their picture was taken and published in the local newspaper. A woman from the neighborhood, after seeing the photo, came to Mme. Guth's house and said to her,

1:48.30 "Are you the one who did all that for the Jews?"

Mme. Guth said, yes, and the woman continued, "You shouldn't have. It wasn't worth it." And Mme. Guth slammed the door in her face.

1:49:00 Another woman from whom Mme. Guth buys her fruits and vegetables said to her after seeing the photo, "Oh, I thought that kind of thing only happened in the movies."

1:49:15 Mme. Guth said that people were stupid.

1:50:15 The two ladies went to Israel with a Senior Citizens' group. [The translator says here that they went to Israel to receive their medals. Earlier I thought that she had said that they had received their medals at the Consulate in Marseilles]. On the bus there were two young French Jewish women,

1:50:30 and it was going around that there were two Righteous Gentiles on the bus (obviously Mme. Guth and Mme. Orsi). These two young French Jews had no idea what that meant.

1:50:45 The interviewer says that that is why she is writing a book: to educate everyone.

1:51:55 Mme. Orsi would like the interviewer to write in her book for children that the most important thing is to be good.

1:52:00 Also, children should learn that all people are the same whether they are high or low (socially).

1:52:45 Mme. Orsi says that people have a tendency to kick the lowly and flatter the mighty, and that children must be educated against this tendency.

1:53:45 Both ladies say that their tendency to help others comes naturally.

1:54:00 Because she was saddened when she lost her mother as a child, even when Mme. Orsi was still a child she would try to help orphans and other children.

1:54:30 Mme. Orsi could never stand to see people who did not respect the elderly. She repeats that the loss of her own mother is the root of her concern for children.

1:56:00 Mme. Guth says that when they received their medals, she wanted her grandchildren to be there. She therefore needed a note to get them out of school. When the teacher asked her grandson why he needed to miss school, he answered that his grandmother was going to receive a medal.

1:56:15 When the teacher asked exactly what type of medal,

he gave a whole oral report about exactly what his grandmother had done during the war.

1:56:45 Mme. Guth has one son and two grandchildren (a granddaughter age 17 and a grandson age 10).

1:57:00 Every Saturday night they sleep at her house.

1:57:40 One Saturday night her 10 year old grandson said to her, "I do not at all feel like watching T.V. Let's go to bed."

1:57:45 He went to her big bed, and when she arrived in the bedroom, he was sitting on the bed with her medal, and he said, "Tonight we're going to talk about the medal."

1:58:15 Mme. Guth's grandchildren are well versed and very interested in her war stories.

1:59:20 Mme. Guth said she is very integrated in the Jewish community. Even after the war she organized Jewish Senior Citizen Clubs.

1:59:30 She therefore celebrated many Jewish holidays.

1:59:55 Mme. Orsi has five grandchildren.

2:00:20 Mme. Orsi has two daughters (and five grandchildren).

2:00:40 One of Mme. Orsi's daughters was born in 1927 and the other in 1930.

2:01:35 The most emotional and important time for Mme. Orsi was when she returned to Spain in 1946.

2:02:45 Mme. Orsi says that after the liberation she was very happy, but it was mixed with a great sorrow because she thought that maybe things like that could happen again.

2:03.25 The years during the war were very difficult for Mme. Orsi: she was alone (her husband was gone), and she was raising the children by herself.

TAPE II.

1:00 Mme. Orsi shows a photo of a very good Jewish woman friend that the Germans killed.

1:30 During the war Mme. Orsi worked together with the Jewish lady in the above-mentioned photo at the fruit stand that she mentioned earlier). She was a Polish woman.

3:10 Mme. Orsi says that her children have been influenced

by what she did during the war. They know all about it, and they are very proud of it.

4:00 All that Mme. Orsi wishes for now is peace and that there are many people today that have no idea what she went through. [Here the interpreter says that this makes Mme. Orsi sad. I believe that Mme. Orsi said that she doesn't want people today to re-live what she lived because it was so terrible and she was so scared.]

5:15 Mme. Orsi opened a restaurant after the war. Young people who were hungry would go there, and she couldn't refuse them food. She eat them eat for free.

5:30 Mme. Orsi told them that when they had money the could come and pay her back. She warned them against forgetting because it would stay with them their whole life. No one ever came back to pay her.

5.45 Mme. Orsi says that some people simply don't have the money so that's why they can't pay (even today).

6:30 Mme. Guth says that if she could choose, she would do it all again (even knowing how it would be afterwards). Mme. Guth says that Mme. Orsi would do it all again, too. Mme. Orsi says she isn't sure (though Mme. Guth is sure that Mme. Orsi would do it).

6:40 Mme. Orsi says that she liked being useful. Now she is unhappy. She is sick (bad heart, bad legs).

7:00 Mme. Orsi says she sick from all the work she did during the war. (Visiting the 200 children hidden at different farms, etc., was very hard physical work for her).

8:15 Mme. Orsi says she is disappointed with human nature.

9:00 Mme. Orsi learned a lot of things that she didn't know before about people and human nature from the war.

9:15 Before the war she thought that everyone was nice and basically good. But the war taught her that that was not true and that lesson was very painful for her.

9:25 Mme. Guth feels the same way (about the characteristics of human nature that the war taught them).

9:35 Mme. Orsi thinks that some people perhaps are unaffected by this knowledge because they are selfish.

9:45 For Mme Orsi, the more people there are at her dinner table, the happier she is.

10:00 When there are many people, Mme Orsi has a lot of

energy. But she doesn't like to be alone a lot.

10:20 Mme. Orsi says that there are old people around (with whom she could talk, etc.), but she doesn't like to spend time with them Mme. Guth said that's because she thinks she is young.

12:25 For Mme. Orsi the worst moment of her life was when the Gestapo took N. Trotiney (PH) away, and she had to watch him go.

12:35 M. Trontiney (PH) was the best, the bravest man. He was like a father to all the children.

12:50 The children were very sad and upset when he was taken away.

14:25 Mme. Orsi had to place 45 children in different homes. She also needed to find money to pay their way,

14:30 because the people who took in the children were paid. Mme. Guth explains that this was normal because there were shortages of food and money during the war.

15:15 [I think that] Mme. Orsi said that in Italy, people have much more respect and give much more recognition to those who worked in the Resistance.

16:30 To demonstrate why she believes this is true, Mme. Orsi tells the following story. When Mme. Orsi was in Italy she was sick for a short time. At one point she was asleep, and when she awoke, she saw that her room was full of roses. She said to herself, "I must be very sick. I must be about to die or they would never have brought so many roses."

17:15 Mme. Orsi said she would be very happy if the children she saved wrote to her and said, "Thank you. I remember you. Thank you for caring and for saving me." But no one ever writes.

17:35 And of the people who were hidden in Mme. Orsi's house. there is only one who comes to visit her rarely from time to time. The others are dead.

18:00 Almost all of the people (Jews) left after the war (so they therefore can't visit very often).

19:15 Mme. Orsi says she was married in Italy, but Mussolini made there marriage void.

20:10 Mme. Orsi never saw her husband again after the war. He died while being deported from Italy.

20:30 Mme. Orsi re-married twice after that (for a total of

three different husbands), but both of her other two husbands died.

21:00 Mme. Orsi says that we are born to die and that we are mean-spirited.

END OF 7/4/90.

BEGINNING OF 7/5/90. Mme. Guth is interviewed alone.

23:10 Mme. Guth was working at the OSIER (PH), an establishment to help the Jewish war refugees in Marseilles. They had to close because of German harassment. It was too dangerous to continue openly aiding the Jews.

24:00 Since the Jews no longer had a fixed point where they could come for help, they (the people who were helping) had to go to the Jews.

24:10 They did by going to the addresses that they all ready possessed.

24:25 The children had all ready been taken to the countryside or to children's homes. Many of these children were taken to Chambonne.

24:55 After the establishment closed, Mme. guth worked full time helping the Jews clandestinely.

25:00 She worked morning to night for the Jews voluntarily, without receiving any money.

25:15 At the time she lived with her sister and her brother-in-law.

25:30 Her sister and brother-in-law were working, and her Jewish boyfriend worked also.

25:50 Even though her brother-in-law and sister were not working directly with the Resistance, they helped out a lot.

26:30 Her sister was working in a restaurant. Every two or three days she would take some stolen food to Jews who were in hiding.

26:50 It's because her sister and brother-in-law were working that Mme. Guth could afford to volunteer full time.

27:35 As it was very difficult at times to find hiding places for the Jews, they hid them all over in all different types of places. For example, some they hid in psychiatric clinics, other in maternity wards.

28:20 They had to also take care of the Jews' food cards.

That alone was a lot of work.

28:40 When the Jews needed to be moved to other places, it was mostly Mme. Orsi who was in charge of it.

28:45 Mme. Guth worked exclusively in Marseilles.

29:45 Mme. Guth said that one advantage that Mme. Orsi had when transporting the Jews was her Italian accent. She didn't speak French really well.

30:00 When Mme. Orsi was stopped by the police, they never understood what she was saying. They would get so frustrated try to talk to her that finally they would just tell her to move along.

30:30 One time Mme. Guth was stopped with Mme. Orsi. Mme. Orsi spoke for the two of them. The policeman became so frustrated that he finally told them to just get out and go on.

31:10 In addition, Mme. Orsi was of course nervous and scared, and her behavior therefore was effected even more during those encounters with the police.

31:45 These were French policemen that Mme. Orsi got by. Of course there were militia men among the French police.

32:20 Mme. guth says that there was a special French police force who worked with the Germans, and they were even worse than the Germans.

32:55 Because the German police didn't know the city of Marseilles very well, they therefore didn't know all of the possible hiding places. Whereas the French knew Marseilles very well.

33:40 The French police would be more likely to help their own citizens, but the Germans would have less sympathy.

33:55 One day, Mme. Guth lost an entire box full of false identity cards and food cards.

34:05 It was a French policeman (gendarme) who found it and picked it up.

34:25 The policeman came up to her and said, "Excuse me, ma'am. Did you lose something?"

34:40 He told her that luckily he was the one who found it.

35:20 Mme. Guth tells an anecdote about a German Jewish woman whose husband was hospitalized with an eye problem. This lady did not want her husband to eat the hospital food

because they kept kosher. So every day she would go to Mme. Guth's house to make his meals. (Mme. Guth's house was apparently very close to the hospital.)

36:00 One day this woman showed up a little early at the house and Mme. Guth hadn't yet returned. So the Jewish woman sat down on the steps and waited.

36:15 A policeman came along and asked her who she was waiting for. The woman responded in German - she was a German refugee - and the policeman didn't say anything and just let her wait. Later though, when he saw Mme. Guth he told her to please ask them to be a little more discreet.

36:35 The "gendarmes" (the regular French police force) were not at all pro-German.

36:45 The special French police force - La Mirice (PH) - were very pro-German and very scary, very terrible.

38:30 Mme. Guth's Jewish boyfriend's file is in Yaveshan (PH).

38:45 It is in a special room reserved for stories about Jewish people, not non-Jews.

39:05 Mme. Guth and her boyfriend met doing Resistance work. (He also worked for the Resistance.)

39:15 They met in 1943.

39:30 During the war he lived (hid) at her house.

39:45 His tragedy happened during the Liberation.

40:00 His name was Andre Van Gurten (PH).

40:15 She had two children with him.

40:30 She was very much in love with him. They never married. Twice they went to the mayor's office to be married, but both times there were Germans there, so it was impossible.

40:45 At that time, Jews were being arrested everywhere, so they needed to be very careful.

41:30 His tragedy occurred during the Liberation. Mme. Guth had all ready been arrested by the Gestapo.

41:40 She was held for only one month by the Gestapo because she had no incriminating evidence on her, she was bold, and she spoke perfect German.

42:00 She was arrested in the first place because the

Gestapo suspected her of working with the Resistance

42:30 She was arrested on her way to a meeting with a French Resistance worker who was to give her false identity papers.

42:55 This was in November 1943.

43:40 There was another woman doing Resistance work with them who turned out to be a double agent who was really working for the Germans.

44:45 Mme. Guth recounts a story of this double agent. She said that the woman announced that she had a safe crossing set up for a large group of Jews to go into Italy. She had them hide their jewelry all over themselves.

45:00 When they arrived at the Italian border, they were immediately stopped and deported.

45:15 On another occasion, this double agent denounced an entire convoy of children and the adults taking care of them. None of them ever returned.

45:30 Nothing ever happened to this woman (in the way of punishment).

45:55 This double agent knew that Mme. Guth and others were aware of what she had done during the war, and she therefore wanted to eliminate them.

46:05 Mme. Sicarsky (PH) couldn't come anymore to Marseilles after the war because this double agent would have had her killed.

47:15 This double agent denounced several groups before she was finally caught.

47:55 They found out that she was working for the Germans from a Jewish boy who was in prison in Marseilles.

48:00 There he met other Jews who told him officially that she was a double agent working for the Germans. From then on they were much more careful.

48:45 Up until that point they had not suspected that she was a double agent.

49:25 When they finally found out it was a little too late because she all ready knew 80 much information.

49:45 After the Liberation the double agent wanted to get rid of all the people who knew of her activities because she was scared of being denounced.

50:20 This double agent was denounced after the war. But her

husband was part of the Corsican Mafia.

51:00 It is because of this woman that Mme. Guth and her Jewish boyfriend were arrested during the Liberation.

51:15 There was no accusation brought against them to justify their arrest. Then again, she said, thousands of people were being arrested almost randomly at that time.

51:30 This was the second time she was arrested.

51:40 But Mme. Guth said she felt safer being arrested (the first time) by the Germans than (the second time ) by the militia because she knew the mafia was behind the second arrest.

52:00 During the Liberation terrible terrible things happened.

52:30 At the very beginning of the Liberation the Gaulois (PH) and the allies had no power yet, no control.

52:55 And this arrest (the second one) took place at the beginning of 1944.

53:15 Mme. Guth corrects herself and says that it was August, 1944.

53:30 Her Jewish boyfriend was beaten to death and died in prison in September, 1944.

53:35 She was in prison with him when it happened.

53:45 The people who could have helped her were not in Marseilles at the time of their arrest. When they arrived it was four days too late.

54:10 The Mafia let her go.

54:40 The death of her boyfriend wa a huge, very well known scandal. There were articles in the papers every day.

54:45 But the newspaper articles couldn't help. What was done was done. It was impossible to go back.

55:00 Her brother-in-law was also beaten, but he was in better physical condition, he was a bigger, stronger man than her boyfriend, and he was able to hold out.

55:20 She was released from prison after her boyfriend was beaten to death.

55:40 When she was freed she did not know that he had been

killed. Her friend were the ones who told her.

56:05 She still has not digested the fact that he is dead. She never will.

57:20 After the Liberation the double agent no longer tried to eliminate Mme. Guth because she knew Mme. Guth was protected.

57:45 This double agent disappeared and went to Corsica and then to Brazil.

58:15 This double agent was arrested several times, but there was very little they could do to her.

59:05 The leader of this Corsican Mafia was killed by Resistance workers. After his death, the entire Mafia that he had ruled blamed everything that had been done on him and said he was responsible for everything. Obviously he could not defend himself.

59:30 This therefore exonerated all of the, including the double agent woman.

59:45 Her Jewish boyfriend has a sister in the United States. They have seen each other a few times.

1:00:40 This sister and his mother (now deceased) live in Milwaukee. The sister had married an American. Mme. Guth's grandfather had two brothers who went to the United States a very long time ago.

1:01:00 The sister and mother left Europe right after the war.

1:01:10 The sister and mother had been hidden in Rouan (PH) near Lyon, during the war.

1:01:25 Mme. Guth didn't know the people who had hidden them.

1:01:35 Her boyfriend was a French Jew from Strasbourg.

1:01:55 [Here the translator corrects an error she made earlier.] Mme. Guth had one child (a son) and two grandchildren.

1:02:15 Her son looks a lot like his father. The grandson looks even more like him.

1:02:30 This (the fact that the grandson looks like his grandfather) is a good reminder for Mme. Guth. Sometime she confuses them.

1:03:20 Her son wants to give them a pamphlet about the camp

at Gurse (PH) that he had printed.

1:03:45 Andre (her Jewish boyfriend) was never at Gurse.

1:03:55 Mme. Guth never married.

1:04:15 At the beginning, she couldn't remarry. Then, when her son was about 15 or 16, she didn't want to. It would have been very hard on her son.

1:04:45 Sometimes when her son wasn't behaving, she would say, "Well, if you can't behave I'm going to get remarried...", and her son would just look at her and say, "But isn't it good like this, just the two of us?"

1:05:00 Her son knows everything about her Resistance work.

1:05:35 Her Jewish friend had a men's shirt factory in Strasbourg.

1:05:45 In Marseilles he worked in an official of fiscal studies.

1:05:55 They were about the same age.

1:06:00 He was a very nice, very gentle man.

1:07:25 Her friend could have gone to the States where he had two uncles in Cleveland.

1:07:30 But in the end he decided he would be more useful in France working with the Resistance.

1:07:45 Her family was very scared for her. Her mother had nothing against her friend, but she was very scared for Mme. Guth.

1:08:35 She was always close to her mother. After the war her mother came from Alsace to Marseilles to help her with her child. In May, the child went with his grandmother to Alsace (because the grandmother needed to return to plant her garden).

1:09:00 Mme. Guth did not go back to Alsace for three years because of the people there.

1:09:20 The people in Alsace were still very anti-semitic and spoke poorly of her.

1:09:40 Her son stayed in Alsace and Mme. Guth went to her sister's in Malouse (PH).

1:09:45 Malouse is a big city.

1:10.20 There are a lot of beautiful buildings in Malouse.

2:00 Emilie Guth was born in a small village in Alsace in 1911. She was the oldest of four children. Her father died in the war of 1914, and they were raised by her mother.

2:30 The name of the village was Bust, and she left Bust at age 16.

3:00 She became a nurse and worked for various families. She needed to work because her mother was trying to raise the children on her own.

3:30 She is a baptized Protestant. Her parents were practicing, but she is not.

5:30 After WWI, everyone was very happy to "re-become" French.

6:00 According to Mme. Guth, when the Alsatians are German they want to be French and vice versa. Mme. Guth is completely bilingual in French and German.

6:30 Knowing what the Germans had been capable of doing in WWI, Mme. Guth expected the situation in the 1930's to be bad again.

7:30 In 1941 in Marseilles, she was working in a house where they took care of war refugees. The house was run by the Unitarian Committee and the Jewish Committee.

8:00 At first they were caring for Spaniards and then Germans.

8:45 Her mother was a very gentle person. She was not at all strict with her children. She was a very altruistic person.

9:45 Beggars would enter the village where she lived as a child (Bust), and they knew to go straight to her house because her mother would always help them.

10:00 They weren't rich, but they lived in the country, and there was always food because they had a garden, and they raised animals. The only thing they needed was a man to do work around the house.

10:30 Their mother was a farmer. In the winter she knitted clothes for other people.

11:00 Their mother taught them how to do everything (farm, knit, etc.).

11:30 Hermine Orsi was born in Carrara, Italy in 1909.

12.00 Her mother was Protestant and her father was Catholic.

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