

-TITLE-MARGOT LAWSON
-I_DATE-MAY 26, 1987
-SOURCE-CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-
-IMAGE_QUALITY-
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

00:1:00 She tells the story of two mice who are drowning in a milk can. They refuse to drown and the milk eventually becomes butter. She feels that you do not always have to take it when someone wants to do harm to you. You have to help yourself.

00:02:30 She wants to write a book, because she feels that she could write about a lot of things.

00:03:50 You have no idea how many Nazis there still are in Germany. The problem is that people, especially in Holland did not want to hear about the Holocaust. This makes story telling difficult.

00:04:30 She has fallen out of touch with many of her friends and contacts. She says that her Gestapo contact has just died. She tells how when he was being investigated after the war, she wrote a letter telling how this man had helped her during The war and how he was really one of their (the Underground's) men. He was released.

00:06:30 When she came here, she was told to forget everything about the war, but the people who had told her this did not know that what she had done while in Europe.

00:09:00 She talks about Hitler's best friend, and how he was really a spy for England, and when Hitler found out he had him shot. She says that people can never understand how things really were. Therefore she would like to write a book, but not about the Holocaust. She wants to write about other things.

00:11:00 [She spends time searching through documents].

00:11:50 She states that a large percentage (98%) of the Christian rescuers were Dutch.

00:12:40 She has never been afraid to die. One needs the courage to care and have faith in human kind.

00:13:00 She relates this to the story she tell is about a friend whom she has just visited in the hospital. He is sick, and she feels that all he needs to do is to pull himself up by his own bootstraps.

00:14:00 She is not sure what makes her individual story unique. She thinks that it is strange because compared to other Christian rescuers she was one of only a few who had Jewish origins. She feels that she got was able to get papers and help because she did not look Jewish.

00:14:45 If your nose was longer than the lap of your ear, you were considered Jewish.

00:15:15 We made ourselves Gentiles in order to help. If I had been Jewish, I would have come to the conclusion that there was nothing I could do.

00:16:30 She knows German intellect very well. She studied in Heidelberg and a man behind her asked why she has blue eyes. She told him the truth, she inherited them. Knowing that she was Jewish he told her that she did not deserve them. She responded loudly. She never took anything from anyone.

00:17:45 If she wrote a book she would have to start at the end.

00:18:30 She says that she has an awful daughter. She reasons that this was because of the war. During the war, while she was in prison, her husband left her and lived with the maid. He was not willing to care for the children. He said that he did not regret it.

When she was in jail she thought that she could hear the voices of her children calling her.

00:19:45 She refers to the story of Betty, the warden girl in the prison. She asked Betty if she could see the pictures of her children which were in the bag she brought with her to prison and was in the possession of the Gestapo.

00:21:00 The next day Betty came into the room, gave Margot two apples and told her that she knew where her children were, and knew that they were safe. Margot does not know how she knew.

00:22:00 I took a child across rooftops.

00:22:30 This is how children were saved. They were smuggled across rooftops, rather than risk being seen in the street. Usually those she saved she had previously known or been acquainted with either through her own connection or those of the Underground. She tells the story of one girl who she had to save for a family. She was covered with lice. She was eight years old.

00:24:20 Margot. know that this girl is still alive today and she could get in touch with her if she needed to. You get back what you give.

00:25:15 If the Underground was betrayed, they knew who they were betrayed by. She wants to live so long as to see those traitors get what is coming to them.

00:26:00 She tells the story of her friend sent her a letter concerning one of the Jewish traitors. She was destitute. She had married a man who gambled away everything. She had no skills, and there was nothing she could do. You get back what you give.

00:27:00 Margot feels that she has gotten back what she has given, except she wonders if there was something wrong she did, because her older daughter, Margaret, who lives in Florida. is so horrible.

00:29:00 [She spends time flipping through scrap book.]

00:29:30 She pulls out her forged birth certificate. She again brings up the idea that she would like to write a book about things that nobody knows.

00:30:45 She believes that if the Jews had behaved differently things would have been different.

00:31:45 She told Germans off. If Jews had done same and got more forged passports and birth certificates, things may have been different.

00:32:15 She got her papers about three months after the war had entered Holland. About 1940.

00:32:55 After the war began, she knew what was going to happen to the Jews. She was in Czechoslovakia when the Germans marched in. She had an autograph collection and she wanted the autograph of Adolph Hitler. She had her cousin in Munich write a letter to Hitler. Adolf Hitler wrote back saying that Hitler only gave autographs to members of his movement.

00:33:40 She didn't emigrate to the [United States because she had an offer to stay with some friends of hers in Spain after the war. They were friends of Franco and felt that the war would come to an end soon. Besides, it is not easy to just pack up and go. She had done that twice before.

00:34:40 She knew all about Hitler. She felt that most people in Europe knew what was going on, including the pope. Those who said they did not know were liars.

00:35:10 It is noble to live in fear, but she did not want her children to have to live in fear. There was nothing for them there. When the war was over, she decided that she would leave soon. No one likes being told what to do. In Amsterdam they have a statue of a conductor who refused to go to the concentration camps. He was shot dead immediately. You don't take things lying down.

00:36:30 She discusses going to a cemetery and visiting her parents and crying for the present and not the past. She thinks that she heard her mother's voice speaking to her.

00:38:00 Alfred, was killed by the Germans and thrown in a canal. The water got so polluted that they had to fish him out and burn him. You wouldn't believe what I saw. Would anyone do it again? Yes, everybody! People are bad. What is going on in the world?

00:39:00 people are capable of more and more evil. They like to see other people suffer. Someone is successful and they are jealous.

00:39:45 After war she kept her identity as non-Jew.

00:40:00 She tells story about the time she was working for the underground and she caught the Nazis lying.

00:42:00 She tells the story of one Jewish brother asking her friend, the gestapo head (not the contact in the Gestapo) to take his brother and to spare him. Even the Nazis couldn't believe one brother could turn another in. She advised her friend to take in the brother who betrayed the other.

00:42:40 she states why she remained non-Jew after the war. The most important reason is that these were the order she was given by the Dutch government.

00:44:45 Her children know that she is Jewish. Even one of her grandson's tells everyone about his Jewish blood.

00:45:10 but she found out that somehow, that most people are anti-Semitic. They generalize the Jews. She has a friend who works with Jews but will only associate outside off work with non-Jews.

00:45:10 This could be called hate, but it could also be called envy.

00:49:00 She discusses her children and how the most difficult part of any book that she would write would be their characterization. She feels that her older daughter is a nightmare. Her son says that his mothers religion is lying and stealing. Her children were born in 1933 and 1936.

00:50:00 Her children were shuffled around a lot. They stayed in various places at different times.

00:51:30 She mentions a story in which she felt fear. It was a time when she was recognized by a German who thought he had seen her before. She denied this because she needed to live in order to give people, she could not just let them drown.

00 :52:00 In her house she hid a family called the Dions and a few others. Some of these people were chemists in a well known chemical company. The company had decided that it did not want to lose its best chemists and that it was best to hide them. Her father made this contact. They all survived except a few. Alfred was one of these.

00:56:00 She speaks about a young boy who lived next door to her during the war years. Many years after the war, Margot sent him a copy of something which she had written about the experience. The boy had always known what she was doing, but he did not turn her in.

00:57:30 She speaks about the process of smuggling them so that they would not be seen. This was done over rooftops and through woods. She knew where the children could be found through the

01:29:00 She again expresses the need to write something new. Through good characterization one can change the characters.

01:33:00 She speaks of a doctor who held on to things because he was afraid. She feels that he would make a good caricature.

01:33:30 Her husband Ted worked for Penn railroad. She feels that by analyzing people, you can create characters which will create your story. She says of Ted's character that Ted really never had anything bad happen to him, or "he would have given up."

01:35:00 It was amazing that the doctors and engineers should at least have considered a person's right to live. You would have thought they were cannibals. Anti-Semitism is awful, but It is everywhere. But there are a few signs of hope.

01:35:45 One time, while at dinner in Germany someone made a remark about Jews and her son-in-law told that man that his wife was Jewish and they left. Once, she saw a man in Holland clobber another man for making anti-Semitic remarks.

1:36::20 The best countries are Holland and Greece for they do not have religions.
.END.