

-TITLE-MARGUERITE MULDER
-I_DATE-7/18/1988
-SOURCE-CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-
-IMAGE_QUALITY-
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
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-Born in 1921 in a town called Groningen in the Netherlands. She was the 9th child in a family of 7 girls and 4 boys. Her father taught English at high school and college and her mother took care of the children and taught also.

- She liked her father, even though he was very strict. Sometimes she resented her mother for working, but she looks back on her parents with great admiration.

-She felt very safe in her home and had a rich friend who preferred Marguerite's house to her own.

- The Mulder family was a member of the reformed church and they gave money every Sunday.

- Many Jews lived near them but Marguerite had no Jewish friends. There were separate schools for Jews and Christians.

- She once went to a synagogue to see what it was like and she was surprised to find it very noisy and the men and women separated.

- Jewish family moved in next door to them. She never spoke to them.

- May 10th, 1940: the war started. No one in the Netherlands knew what was happening in the dead camps until after the war.

- In 1941 a Roman Catholic Jew came to heir house to hide and she told them of the persecution of the Jews by Hitler. He stayed for only a few days.

- Marguerite's brother-in-law would not hide Jews as he refused to die for a Jew. This infuriated Mr. Mulder.

- In 1942 they hid a 6 year old girl named Tricia Butcher who wanted to be called Tricia Baker so she would not have a Jewish name. This fact made Marguerite extremely angry.

- No one realized just how clever and well-meant the Germans were.
- Many of the Dutch Jews were betrayed. In Poland, people were given 5kg. of sugar for turning in a Jew. Marguerite felt that many Jews betrayed themselves by admitting their religion on their passports when they knew Hitler had sworn to kill them.
- She had no idea of the extent of the persecution but there was always the feeling in the air that 'something' was wrong. She saw the S.S. beat Jews at the train station. Her sister saw a 70 year old man beaten and kicked. But still the horrors of the concentration camps were beyond her imagination.
- Moved to a more secluded house in 1941. It was very safe there. Tricia's 10 year old sister came to stay with them and she went to the school where Mr. Mulder taught. No one noticed that she was Jewish.
- Marguerite's parents never refused to hide a Jew. They hid a woman for 2 weeks, a girl for three weeks, another girl for a few days and a 72 year old woman in 1943 for a few months. In 1944 a very nice young woman came to stay with them for 9 months. She was very much like a sister and they still correspond.
- Marguerite's mentally retarded brother was shot dead in October 1944.
- The S.S. came to her house in 1945 and arrested her parents and two sisters. She was not home at the time. The war was all but lost by this time and her family returned home safely. Their neighbor's home was looted except for four chairs. She felt very bad for them.
- Her youngest brother was found tortured to death in his cell in April 1945. He was a deserter of the Amsterdam navy who became an informer for England. Her father died in October 1945. She felt bad for her mother because she lost two sons and her husband in one year.
- All of the people who hid with them survived and they were all pleasant.
- She was a courier in the resistance movement but she said that her parents braved most of the danger.
- She knew a woman who hid six Jewish children at one time.
- Many people are motivated to help others in the pursuit of justice. She could handle her fears because she was able to put them aside and deal with the matter at hand while praying for strength.

After the war she was very tired, She suffered great losses and it was very hard to put her life back together.

- She went to the U.S.A. in 1961 to recover psychologically, but it turned out that she was actually physically ill and she was diagnosed as having M.S. in 1964.
 - She was hospitalized in 1966 for 3 months. She swore to commit suicide if her life became too miserable. She tried to pray for health but got no answer.
 - She looked for strength from God during the war. She was disappointed that the Catholic Church did not do more to help the Jews.
 - She felt that the war changed her as a person and left her drained and sick.
 - She feels that all war criminals should be released from prison as they have been punished enough, even if they are Germans.
 - She recently broke her leg and can't walk any more but once she is fully healed, she will walk again. She lives alone and manages fine.
 - She finds that the anti-Semitism in church teachings lay the seeds for events such as the Holocaust. She insists that the Romans killed Jesus and that Jesus teaches to forgive all people regardless of their sins.
 - The people she helped really appreciated her and she remained in contact with most of them after the war.
 - Her parents received medals from Jerusalem. All of her family helped Jews as far as they could.
 - She wants children to ignore anti-Semitic talk. Discrimination of any race is always wrong.
 - All people share the same intelligence.
- .END.