

-TITLE-MARIE TACQUET  
-I\_DATE-MARCH 8, 1988  
-SOURCE-CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT  
-RESTRICTIONS-  
-SOUND\_QUALITY-  
-IMAGE\_QUALITY-  
-DURATION-  
-LANGUAGES-  
-KEY\_SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-  
-PERSONAL\_NAME-  
-CORPORATE\_NAME-  
-KEY\_WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
-CONTENTS-

01:00 Marie's father was a musician. He lived in Belgium and moved to Luxembourg.

02:00 Marie was born on December 2? , 1898. She was born and grew up in Luxembourg.

03:00 She has one younger brother. Her father was a very sociable man. He was well liked by everyone. He was a good man.

04:00 Her mom was very shy and discrete. She did not like a lot of company around and did not go out much.

05:00 Her mother was devout catholic.

06:00 Her father had many pupils so Marie knew many Jews before the war. But her mother did not want her to have any friends.

07:00 In 1914 she was 16 years old. There was a war going on so her mother was worried about who she was talking to and spending time with.

08:00 Her father had a lot of charm and so did Marie. Her mom was not excited for Marie to be sociable because of the war. The war changed everything.

09:00 Marie was partly educated in Belgium. In 1914 WWI started and she came home.

10:00 She then studied at a catholic school in Luxembourg.

11:00 At that time it was not appropriate for girls to go far away for school. Marie had three years of college. She did not even think of working. Girls were not supposed to work just study.

12:00 She met her husband when she was 18 years old. They got married when she was 20. Her husband was an officer.

21:00 The people she saved are trying to get her an award.

22:00 Her husband was 7 years older. WWI changed things for everybody. If it had not been for the war she would have finished her studies.

23:00 Luxembourg was under German occupation and the people did not like the Germans.

24:00 Marie and her husband lived on a camp with the army for a while. After the war they moved to Dusseldorf Germany.

25:00 She did not work.

26:00 She moved to the other side of the Rhine. It was dangerous. The Germans were big mouthed and strong but after the war they were small and not so big mouthed.

27:00 In 1924 she was in Germany but there was no sign of Nazism. She saw no problem. They were a humble people.

29:00 In Luxembourg the Catholic religion is different. There were class distinctions. Marie learned to be helpful on her own.

31:00 During the time before WWII all the Jews in Luxembourg left.

32:00 People she knew were very wealthy. She learned what was happening to the Jews through the radio and papers.

33:00 Luxembourg is very small. There was always a connection with Germany. They had heard about what was going on.

34:00 Her husband was called to war in 1940. He was captured by the Germans but let go.

35:00 They let him go because he was weak and always coughing. He was also Flemish which is considered almost German.

36:00 He was considered a German subject.

37:00 A group was created to help the families of the Belgian soldiers.

38:00 The group rented places for the children who were orphaned. Marie's husband was asked to help manage a home.

39:00 They rented a castle from some nuns. Marie and her husband were the directors from 1942.

40:00 The first Jews came in March of 1943. Her husband was in the Belgian army.

41:00 Someone came and said that a lot of children will show up. 80-90 showed up. They told her that they were Jewish and she still accepted them.

42:00 She knew there was danger involved.

43:00 The Christian children were not aware of the Jewish problem. If they had talked about the Jews then there would have been a problem so Marie never talked about them.

44:00 They did not refer to the children as Jews. They were called A.A's.

45:00 They had school at the castle. They had instructions. After the war the children could get back to school because they had had classes at the castle.

46:00 Marie was in charge of providing food, clothes, etc. for the children.

47:00 The home was organized the way the scouts were. The children were pretty happy. School in the morning, play in the afternoon, they always had things to do.

48:00 The children used to march in the streets so the people thought that they were Hitler youth living in the castle.

49:00 Her husband never talked to the children. She kissed each child good night every night.

50:00 She always counted to make sure they were all there.

52:00 It was such a risk that it was too big to think about. If they thought about the risk they would not have done it. She was brought up in such an old fashioned way that she did not even think of going to work.

53:00 The Nazis came into the castle many times. They would always shout. She talked to them in German. She was very cold to them.

54:00 They thought she was German.

55:00 Once they came at night looking for English spies. They checked all the warm beds and counted the children.

56:00 They found a teacher on the roof and took him away. He said goodbye to Marie and she told him if he ran he would put the children in danger.

58:00 The man never escaped because he was worried about the children. Marie knew how to protect them.

59:00 She acted as she had to. It came naturally to her. She had 83 Jewish children. All survived and all were healthy and happy.

1:00:00 They were not hidden. They could play and be children. They had freedom.

1:01:00 She had everyday contact with the children. Her husband did the administrative work and she managed the house.

1:02:00 She never talked about the Jews. There was no need to talk about it.

1:03:00 After liberation there was a big feast and the children were dancing and singing. They had to spend three nights in the cellar because of the fighting.

1:04:00 The Americans came through the castle. They gave the children gum.

1:05:00 People stayed in the castle until 1946. They were waiting for their parents to find them.

1:06:00 After June 1946 Marie did the same thing in different places. In 1952 she stopped.

1:07:00 She had a house for girls. It was more difficult with them than with the boys.

1:08:00 It was not tough for her when the children left because there were always more coming. She was used to having different children.

1:09:00 In 1946 the Jews that were not picked up went to camps and other organizations for the Jews.

1:10:00 She seldom hears from the children she helped. 20 or 30 get together at times but for most it is the past.

1:11:00 The biggest problem during the war was finding good teachers. Many teachers used false names etc. Good teachers limited the problems in the house.

1:12:00 Both the Christians and the Jews were thankful for Madame Tacquet. She did a great job. She had a feeling how to act.

1:14:00 1954 her husband became sick.

1:15:00 The children remember her husband because he had a wooden leg

1:17:00 She lived for 11 years one mile from the castle. None of the children ever came to take care of her.

1:18:00 She was surprised when they all showed up in 1987 for a reunion.

1:19:00 Now they get together once a year at the castle. Last year they had 212 people there.

1:20:00 She often thought about those years later.

1:21:00 Even though there was a war those were the best years of her life.

1:22:00 She had always been realistic. The children now have their own lives. They shouldn't worry about her.

1:25:00 It is important for us to realize that the children are not important because they needed someone to take care of them. It is important that someone did take of them.

1:27:00 Money for the castle came from the Belgian Government.

1:29:00 Her secret was a lot of luck and sobriety. She took every thing in moderation.

1:30:00 She was surprised that she was able to take care of the children. She took the bull by the horns and did it. It was very hard for her.

1:31:00 It was something that she felt she had to do.  
.END.