

-TITLE-MARIE FAUSS
-I_DATE-JANUARY 19, 1986
-SOURCE-DALLAS MEMORIAL CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-EXCELLENT
-IMAGE_QUALITY-EXCELLENT
-DURATION-2 HOURS
-LANGUAGES-ENGLISH
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-
Tape 1 begins at 1:20

2:00 Mother Catholic, father Jewish. They met in Nancy, France.
Married in a civil service.

3:30 Mother's only "fault" was that she was superstitious. She
believed in fortune telling.

3:50 Marie was born Aug 25, 1925 at Pont- -Mousson between Metz and
Nancy.

4:20 Born Lucet Marie Selek. Took the name Fauss when she married.

5:12 Mother came from a wealthy family from Lorraine.

5:50 Marie is born after 5 years of marriage.

6:50 Father fought in WWI. Wounded by Germans at Verdun.

9:30 Describes her home and beginning school.

10:20 Visits synagogue at age 4 with father. Mother wants her to go
to a parochial school.

11:11 Sent to a parochial school, but felt it too strict and cold.

12:00 Punishment central to parochial school system.

12:26 At age 6 enters into public education free from religion.

13:00-15:00 Vigorous nature of her education; spent most of her
time studying.

15:25 Begins college in 1936 at age 12.

15:35 Father reads Mein Kampf and reminds her of her Jewishness.

16:00 Father warns her that Hitler will conquer Europe. Mother
tells her not to listen to her father. Everything will be ok.

18:05 Had Jewish and Catholic friends.

19:00 Father decides she should start attending Catholic church.

19:40 Poland is invaded. Marie was attending college at this time.

23:00 Coal for the factory where her father worked became scarce as the Germans began to patrol Rhineland/Saar.

25:20 Out of college in July of 1940. 15 yrs old.

27:00 An Italian informs her that the Maginot line had been broken and that they would soon be invaded. Offers them refuge in the south. Her father believed they should stay where they are.

28:00 Marie describes her fear of the Germans - "Big men who put you in slave labor"

29:39 Told to put some things together in a bag. She feels they should stay. Her parents fight about whether to leave or not. With an Italian family they flee south on minor roads. Marie gets sick in the car.

31:50 Sees an exodus of people moving south as they arrive in Nancy. Attacked in Nancy by low flying planes shooting machine guns. Planes return 2 or 3 times leaving corpses and mangled children in their wake.

35:40 Feels that the Germans are not humans, but monsters.

38:10 Father decides they should not be taken alive. He would... her then himself. Warns her that the walls have ears. She should reveal nothing to none, not even her mother for fear she would tell it to a fortune teller.

41:00 City bombed, then the Germans arrive.

42:00 She knew she was considered Jewish by the Germans and therefore as good as dead if discovered. Watches the tanks, artillery and infantry arrive as France is occupied.

45:30 Trucks and loudspeakers announce that they were now part of the 3rd Reich. Rules: Curfew at 9:00. No assembly. No bad words toward the Germans. All vegetation and produce the prerogative of the Germans.

46:50 Census taken. It was announced that the "Jews would be taken care of."

47:50 Kicked out the mayor, took over court house, informed a new council. Germans the "supreme beings".

49:00 Only rumors about concentration camps. No real knowledge.

52:00 Refugees from Poland and Germany brought some news to her town

56:00 Somehow her father is not picked up in the first round of Jewish deportations. Marie believes either her mother or her father changed her father's documents at city hall to say he was Catholic.

59:00 They take in others who have nowhere else to go. Talks about collaborators. There were some, but most of population hated the Germans.

1:28 Mentally ill and Jews gathered together at central square.

5:23 Believed they would all be executed.

6:59 Grew up very quickly and became silent and withdrawn. Tried to occupy time with studying.

14:00 Back at school she and others were required to take German.

14:45 First of six interrogations takes place. End of school year 1942. Name and where she was born. First four interrogations similar.

17:30 House searched by Germans.

18:20 Others wore star, but they did not. They had false papers, but others knew her father was Jewish and living as a non-Jew.

20:30 Her father was involved in the resistance, but did not tell Marie or her mother.

22:20 Accused by head of school as having Jewish name She replies that his name is also Jewish.

25:30 Interrogated again because of her friendship with a murdered Jewess-Mrs Feinstein. Asked if she were Jewish, she replies that she went to Catholic church. She was beaten. Broke her teeth and nose.

31:07 Returned home where drinking alcohol is used to clean her wounds. She still suffers from injuries to her leg and foot caused at that time.

33:17 Anger at the Germans and realization that they knew how to use terror and violence to control.

36:45 Believes mayor of town turned her in to the Germans.

40:50 All books written by Jewish authors to be burned. Marie did not turn hers in.

41:45 Picked up and told to be in the square. To be sent to a work camp.

43:18 Put some things in a bag and went to the square. Put inside a truck and taken to a farm that produced food for a concentration camp in Lorraine. Spent 3 months there. Her feet bleed and she suffers from leg and back injuries from her interrogation.

49:50 Father finds out where she is and sends a truck with men dressed as Germans to pick her up.

51:40 Finds out that she has tuberculosis. Americans arrive September 1944.

54:30 Germans burn college and hospital, bomb bridges and leave tanks on the square so that the allies will bomb them.

56:19 How has this affected her? She is not as happy as when she was young, but she has found a very caring husband who she married in 1945

.END.