

**Margitta Cooper**

**RG-50.106\*0147**

June 10, 1929 - born Margitta Grunberg in **Speyer, Germany**  
father was the Rabbi/Cantor of the town

Kristallnacht - Synagogue burned, father arrested and taken to **Dachau** - mother,  
Margitta and twin brother Heinz went to Mannheim for a week. Mother went  
to SS HQ to get father released

January 1939- Father returned, life resumed, tutored at home

October 1940 - Family arrested, along with maternal grandmother, taken to Frankfurt by  
truck, then train and bus to **Gurs, France**

October 1940-April 1941 - very difficult living conditions in Gurs

April 1941 - Margitta, Heinz and 18 other children went to a Chateau in **Masgeliars, France** with help of OSE

April 1941 - October 1941 - Lived with 80 children, worked in garden, took classes.

October 1941 - Taken to Marseilles, parents came on board train in Peau to say  
goodbye.

Sailed from Lisbon on Portuguese Line 'Serpa Pinto' on October 7  
Arrived in **New York**, picture on front page of the New York Times, went  
to foster family in **Baltimore**, foster father overly affectionate

Post-war - Changed foster family, met husband, married at age 18, had son and  
daughter, divorced after 4 years. Found out parents killed in Auschwitz,  
grandmother died in 1942 in Gurs.

Remarried twice, worked at Johns Hopkins. Filled with rage for many  
years.