

ANITA SIMONS

RG-50.154.0024 (rec. 1987 in Florida)

Anita was a righteous gentile in Norway who helped Jews escape to Sweden. She was 13 years old in 1940 when the Germans invaded Norway. The family lived outside Oslo and woke up to Oslo being bombed. The family helped feed people who escaped from the city. The Germans confiscated their radios and other methods of communication, However, she and her brother hid a radio in their garden and were able to receive the news from London, although this was very dangerous. Alice recalls having to help recover corpses from the fjord when she was this age after a German ship the Miser was bombed.

Anita was approached by one of her teachers and asked to work with the underground. At this time Alice's father was in jail. He had been working with the English and when he didn't escape to England he was jailed. He was in jail 5 years as the longest living prisoner of war. Alice was a good skier and she carried medicine and equipment in her rucksack to what were the guerillas. Her mother never knew what she was doing. She states the owls kept her company on her solitary runs and she has always loved owls since.

Anita started helping Jews get to Sweden after 1942. She had a dog sled and ferried people to the Swedish border who weren't able to ski. She was involved for over a years and probably helped several hundred people. After that time, though, they had gotten most of the Jews out of the country and there was less need for her. Her father also helped the underground as a trusty in prison. Anita recalls there was a Mrs. Baumann who hid at her aunt's house for several months before they could get her out of the country. She describes how the underground worked and how she got her orders. She also mentioned Kurt Wallenberg.

After the war Anita became a stewardess. She said she flew some of the good and bad people to the Nuremberg trials. She remembers a woman, Eve Montbeliesse, who was said to wear gloves made out of the skin of Jews. Anita married a Jewish American man who was in the army when they liberated Buchenwald. She was also in Israel the day it became a nation. Anita isn't named in Yad Vashem and states she doesn't think she did very much to help.