

**Marion Pritchard**

**September 19, 1984**

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### **SUMMARY**

Marion Pritchard (née Marion Philippina van Binsbergen), was born November 7, 1920 in Amsterdam, Netherlands and her brother, Yon Knowler, was born October 18, 1930 to Grace Marion Hyde and Yaakov van Binsbergen. The siblings attended Sunday services with their Anglican mother, a housewife. Her father was a judge, not religious, apolitical, and concerned that the Dutch government did not open their borders to the Jews who were being mistreated in Germany. He passed away from cancer in 1943. Marion had Jewish friends in school. During the war she spent a year as a volunteer in Nymeten, a town near the German border and later lived near Amsterdam. She was aware of the mistreatment of Jews and viewed the SS throwing children into a bus and when a Dutch lady opposed it, she, too was thrown in. With little help from the Underground, Marion helped find foster homes for Jewish children and hiding places for Jews. Once she killed a policeman seeking those she had hidden. For safety sake, she did not speak of her work with her family or others. Sometimes those who were hidden had to sleep together so the Nazis did not see extra beds. Marion was imprisoned for six months in an Amsterdam jail where she was interrogated and threatened after being caught with friends who put out an anti-Nazi newssheet. (Timestamp 00:43:00.) Upon being told by his female friend that she would straighten him out, a male ballet dancer responded that he would prefer to be deported to a concentration camp. In June 1945 Marion went to work with the United Nations in displaced persons camps in Germany where she met an officer in the US Army who was a liberator of Buchenwald. They got married and she immigrated to the US in 1947. They had three children, one became a Conscientious Objector. Her children came to the ceremony in Israel where she received a medal for her work during the war. Now she is in contact with one of the hidden babies who requested support as still suffers from a feeling of abandonment. Marion's final thought is from her husband's writing "that you must do the right thing if you can find out what the right thing is."