

MARGOT FIELD  
RG-50.228.0003 (rec. 1991 Ft. Wayne)

Margot was born in Frankfurt-am-Main in 1916. Her family had lived in Germany for many generations. Her family was orthodox and she attended a Jewish school that had been established in 1804. She also became a nurse.

She was working for an export company in 1938 when things began to be terrible. She went to Holland on a vacation and stayed there, although at first, she said the Dutch Jews had it worse than the German Jews. When the Germans invaded Holland Margot was told to report to the Jewish Community Center but instead she went underground for 2 years. She lived with several different families. She had to leave one family when their 6-year-old son talked about the stranger in his house in school.

Margot was found in 1944. She was in solitary in a prison for 2 weeks and then sent to Westerbork. From there she was sent on a transport to Bergen Belsen, where Anne Frank was on the same transport. Margot describes the horrible conditions in the camps where they got only soup and bread to eat. She remembers talking with Anne Frank, but she was not friendly with her as Anne was much younger. Some of the prisoners cooperated with the Germans, and some of them even slept with them. Margot worked as a nurse in the camp, where everyone was sick with typhus, scarlet fever, etc. She said the lice and fleas were horrible. She had one friend in camp and they helped each other very much.

At the end of the war they were sent on a train from Bergen Belsen to Auschwitz, but the Russians liberated the train before they got there. Margot was very sick with typhus and meningitis, but recovered. She later found out her parents had been killed in Sobibor and her brother also did not survive. She has blocked out a lot of details. She went back to Holland with some effort, since she was still a German citizen. She stayed in Holland for 2 years and then came to the US in 1947. She worked as a nurse in Brooklyn, then married a man from Panama and lived there for 5 years. They came to Fort Wayne in 1952. At first, she didn't like the small-town atmosphere, but eventually got used to it. She had 2 children.

Margot says she still doesn't trust anyone, even in Ft. Wayne. She is afraid that things like the Holocaust could happen again. She is now totally non-religious. She went back to Germany once at the invitation of the city of Frankfurt. The city wanted to show them the new Germany. Margot does get a small reparation for being in the camps.