

-TITLE-MARK AND MARGARET MERIN  
-I\_DATE-  
-SOURCE-FORT WAYNE JEWISH FEDERATION  
-RESTRICTIONS-  
-SOUND\_QUALITY-EXCELLENT  
-IMAGE\_QUALITY-EXCELLENT  
-DURATION-1.4 HOURS  
-LANGUAGES-  
-KEY\_SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-  
-PERSONAL\_NAME-  
-CORPORATE\_NAME-  
-KEY\_WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
-CONTENTS-  
MR. MARK MERIN

1:100:59 BORN IN HANOVER (PH) 8 SEPTEMBER 1912, FINISHED SCHOOL IN HANOVER IN 1933, OPENED BUSINESS IN 1932, BIGGEST CENTRAL FOOD STORE IN NORTH GERMANY IN APRIL OR MAY THE GERMAN RASHICEFAW (PH) FOR JUDESTAG (PH) OCCURRED, DECIDED NOT TO STAY IN GERMANY. BROTHER STAYED WITH PARENTS, HE WENT TO NETHERLANDS. HAD POLISH PASSPORT, COULDN'T GET VISA TO ALLOW HIM TO STAY IN THE NETHERLANDS.

1:200:37 WORKED AS MANAGER FOR TWO YEARS--THREE TIMES A WEEK, CROSSED BORDER TO NETHERLANDS VIA WORK. WENT TO COPENHAGEN-- COULDN'T STAY, COULDN'T SPEND MONEY, LOOKING FOR PLACE TO STAY AND WORK.

1:300:15 TRIED TO GO TO COPENHAGEN, WOMAN GAVE LIFT TO AND FROM THE BORDER SO GOT IN CONTACT WITH DUTCH SHE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT WORK ETC. "CHECKING HIM OUT".

1:400:04 WENT TO NETHERLANDS STAYED IN DEVENTER -- COULD VISIT, COULDN'T WORK -- TRIED TO GET NEW PASSPORT IN POLAND, COULDN'T GET IT SO HE GOT MAD AND THEY TOOK AWAY HIS PASSPORT. HE LOST CITIZENSHIP.

1:600:25 OKAY FOR A YEAR, THEN PROBLEMS. GOT NOTICE HE COULDN'T STAY THERE, NO PERMIT, NO CITIZENSHIP.

1:800:55 GOT LAWYER, GOT CONTACTED RE LACK OF CITIZENSHIP -- ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WORK.

1:900:23 THIS IS WHEN HE MET HIS WIFE (WHO WAS GROWING UP DURING ALL THIS TIME)

1:110:17 SHIFTS TO WIFE'S STORY, BUT AFTER A COUPLE OF SECONDS, SHE CANNOT TALK, SAYS SHE CAN'T EVEN TALK ABOUT IT TO HER CHILDREN (THIS WOULD BE MOVING, BUT SHE IS SO COMICAL LOOKING, AND THEIR "STORY" AS TOLD, SO BANAL, THAT IT WOULDN'T MAKE GOOD TELEVISION). HE TELLS HER STORY. "NOT EVEN MY CHILDREN, I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT."

1:120:30 TOOK BOAT TO AMSTERDAM THEN, FALLING IN LOVE WITH HER -- AT TIME MAKING A GOOD LIVING. MARRIED IN '39 ONE MORE YEAR AFTER THEY HAD NO PROBLEMS.

1:130:02 WERE VACATIONING BY THE OCEAN SOMEWHERE. APRIL 5TH ATTACKED BY GERMANS, 5 DAYS WAR WAS OVER. 1940 NO CHANGE. 1941 PEOPLE STARTED GETTING PICKED UP, PARTICULARLY YOUNG MEN.

1:140:03 BY 1942 THE SS GESTAPO WROTE FOR THEM TO REPORT TO SS IN POLAND. HARRY (SON) WAS BORN, CALLED NURSING HOME -- GOT SOMEONE TO TAKE BABY AT HIS REQUEST FOR PROTECTION? NOT CLEAR.

1:150:51 STAYED IN DIFFERENT PLACES--PEOPLE IN AND OUT--NOT CLEAR. GOT NOTICE FOR WORK IN SWITZERLAND, PLANNED TO GO THERE, BUT DIDN'T. MOVED TO PLACE NEAR OCEAN. MENTIONED AROUND 1940 HAD TO START WEARING THE STARS.

1:190:26 RISK FOR PEOPLE WAS THERE, PEOPLE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT IT, PEOPLE VERY COMMON, VERY POOR. IT WAS HARD TIMES, MANY COULDN'T AFFORD MILK.

1:210:00 SUMMER OF 42 PAID TO STAY IN A PLACE FOR SIX MONTHS, AFTER SIX WEEKS, WOMAN TOLD THEM "TOO MANY GERMANS AROUND" AND THEY MUST GO. (BASICALLY I THINK THEY WERE SWINDLED)

1:220:17 COULDN'T FIND A PLACE TO STAY, SLEPT ON ROOFTOPS, ON FERRIES, IN BROTHELS.

1:23 :10 BROKE INTO HOUSE WHERE NO ONE WAS LIVING, STAYED THERE, GESTAPO HAD COME THE DAY BEFORE AND TAKEN ALL THE PEOPLE. COULDN'T STAY TOO LONG--TOO RISKY.

1:240:28 WENT TO A JEWISH NEIGHBORHOOD -- CURFEW AT 8:00, IT WAS 10:00 DIDN'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO STAY.

1:250:13 STARTED Staying IN WHORE HOUSES...EVENTUALLY GOT PICKED UP BY GESTAPO.

1:260:00 WENT TO POLICE STATION. SOMEHOW GOT MONEY INTO ESCROW ACCOUNTS??? NOT CLEAR AT ALL.

1:29:43 WHEN PICKED UP, WERE ASKED WHERE THEIR SON WAS, THEY SAID BABY HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ORPHANAGE. HE (POLICE) WAS NICE TO THEM, THEY SAY.

1:300:07 TOLD GOING TO JEWISH CENTER, TOOK TO GYMNASIUM. WERE NOT MISTREATED, SOME WERE. NEXT DAY PREPARED FOR TRANSPORT.

MORE THAN 2000 TRANSPORTED EACH DAY--NO ONE KNEW TO WHERE OR HOW MANY.

1:320:20 HIS NAME WASN'T ON SOME LIST, OR HE DIDN'T PUT HIS NAME ON A LIST, NOT CLEAR THERE FOR FOUR DAYS. CLAIMED HE WAS HELPING THE GESTAPO TO SAGUAY(?) THEIR WAY UPSTAIRS--EVERYONE BEING TRANSPORTED WERE DOWNSTAIRS.

1:340:37 TALKED TO GESTAPO -- HELPED BY GESTAPO. WENT TO HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET (HIDEAWAY HOUSE) -- THEIR FIRST TIME HIDDEN BY OTHERS.

1:350:11 HARD TO BE ON THE STREET -- ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG MEN. TOOK WIFE TO ADDRESS -- FOR WOMEN IT DIDN'T MATTER IF THEY WERE ON THE STREET. STAYED THERE FOR 2 YEARS 42/43-44. KEPT BY GENTILES.

1:370:16 GOING GOOD, THEN PEOPLE GOT SLOPPY RIGHT ACROSS FROM THE POLICE STATION.

1:39:09 SOMEHOW, BY THE SOUND OF THE TOILET FLUSHING, SOMEONE IN THE BUILDING KNEW THEY WERE HIDING THERE, AND PLANNED TO GO TO THE POLICE.

NOT FOLLOWABLE...

HAD TO LEAVE.

1:400:21 HARD TIMES, NOT ENOUGH FOOD--ONLY RATIONS/STAMPS. HE WAS WORKING USING A PUSH WAGON, SELLING SOMETHING. PERSON THEY WERE STAYING WITH WAS A MILKMAN, NICE FAMILY, HUSBAND AND WIFE.

1:410:20 THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE WAR WAS OVER--DON'T KNOW NAME OF IT...CAN'T FOLLOW...FEAR PALPABLE.

1:430:14 DESCRIBING CITY POLICE THERE, SAY WHO CAN GO IN, WHO CAN GO OUT, NO ONE ALLOWED ON THE STREETS.

1:460:00 DID NOT SAY THAT THEY WERE JEWISH ANYMORE -- PARTICULARLY TO PEOPLE THEY WERE STAYING WITH.

1:490:53 AFTER THREE MONTHS, CONFESSED TO "NICE PEOPLE" WHO THEY WERE STAYING WITH THAT THEY WERE JEWS. TOLD TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. THEY LEFT THE SAME DAY.

1:500:43 WENT TO LAWYER--I THINK A GENTILE LAWYER??? "HE WAS GOOD, HIS WIFE WAS ANTI-JEWISH. THEY STAYED IN AN EMPTY ORPHANAGE WITH ANOTHER FAMILY.

1:530:12 3 MONTHS BEFORE '45, PEOPLE WERE DYING OF HUNGER, DEAD BODIES STACKED EVERYWHERE, GARBAGE NOT TAKEN--PEOPLE IN GARBAGE LOOKING FOR FOOD. SON GOT PICKED UP (44) WENT TO VISIT HIM, HE WASN'T THERE A NEIGHBOR SAID, THERE WAS A WOMAN LIVING HERE WITH A CHILD BUT SHE GOT PICKED UP --SHE SAID THE BABY WAS HER SISTER'S, AND IT WASN'T JEWISH, BUT THE POLICE PULLED DOWN ITS PANTS, AND TOOK THE KID AND IMPRISONED THE WOMAN. KID SENT TO BANBERSIN (PH).

1:100:49 OLDER SON SENT TO THE RAISENSHAT (PH) AFTER THE WAR?  
VERY HARD TO UNDERSTAND BANBERSIN (PH) (CAMP IN THE NETHERLANDS??)  
SON ATE FLIES, THERE WAS A PIT OF FIRE, BURNED THE CHILDREN --  
THEIR SON'S CAPTURE WAS AFTER THEY STOPPED BURNING THE CHILDREN  
THIS WAY??

1:110:31 FRIENDS, MIXED MARRIAGE--HE WAS STERILIZED --  
COULDN'T SLEEP WITH WIFE.-- ASKED ABOUT THEIR SON ALWAYS.

1:120:45 PEOPLE TOLD THEM NOT TO KEEP THEIR HOPES UP

1:140:45 REUNITED WITH SON

1:160:28 1950 CAME TO US, WENT INTO MANUFACTURING

1:170:10 DETAILS ABOUT COMING TO US

1:180:33 DIDN'T HAVE FAMILY IN EUROPE ANYMORE--DOESN'T SAY IF  
DIED NATURALLY OR EXTERMINATED, I ASSUME EXTERMINATED

1:190:20 SISTER'S HUSBAND A DOCTOR IN DACHAU, WAS KILLED BY  
GERMANS ON THE LAST DAYS, WHEN THE RUSSIANS WERE COMING- MADE  
EVERYONE LEAVE.

1:200:03 THE CLIMATE WAS GOOD IN FORT WAYNE, WOULDN'T STAY IN  
ST LOUIS -- CLIMATE MURDER. LIVED IN DETROIT FOUR AND A HALF YEARS  
THEN MOVED TO FORT WAYNE

1:210:22 HE HAS HAD CHEST PAINS JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

WAS ASKED WHY THEY AGREED TO DO THE INTERVIEW.

1:220:44 OLDER PEOPLE GO; YOUNGER PEOPLE DON'T REMEMBER  
NOTHING.

1:250:36 DISCUSS ORIGINS, POSSIBLY SPANIARD, MERLIN USED TO BE  
MERLINO, FREIDMAN HER MAIDEN NAME.

1:260:08 1941 GHETTOIZED -- REPEATS EARLIER SCENARIO WHEN  
STARS WERE WORN.

1:270:18 42 STILL MANUFACTURING EVERYTHING THREW OUT; COMING  
HERE, 10 TO 1 EXCHANGE RATE (HMM. THIS IS ABOUT WHAT THE AMERICAN  
DOLLAR IS FARING THESE DAYS ON THE AVERAGE EUROPEAN MARKET) GOT  
HERE THROUGH ORGANIZATION (doesn't say which one)

WAS ASKED WHEN KRISTALLNACHT OCCURRED, WHEN DID THEY LEARN IN  
POLAND WHAT WAS HAPPENING?

1:300:02 RIGHT AWAY

1:320:28 SHE SAID SHE KNEW RIGHT AWAY TOO -- ANN FRANK FAMILY

1:400:51            BOTH EXPRESSED THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY AMERICANS,  
ET AL, NO ONE HELPED OR DID ANYTHING.  
.END.→