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Summary

Marie Louise Auguste Green was Born May 22, 1920 near Essen, Germany. Maiden name Friedheim. Father's family in Germany since 1735 and mother's back to mid-1600s. Both felt German and then Jewish. Father served in WW I and was awarded the Iron Cross. Post war, father managed a furniture factory. She first went to a Lutheran primary school, but after Hitler gained power, headmaster ousted Jewish children. She ended up in a Catholic school. Family secular although brother (unnamed) had a bar mitzvah. Mother eventually became a Quaker. They celebrated Christmas and had a Christmas tree because they were the only Jews in their suburban town. She was aware of influx of Orthodox Polish Jews. She and brother were attacked by 5 German kids in late 1933, which led mother to decide to leave Germany. Jewish businesses were also being closed. Although they had family in Argentina they moved to Holland circa 1935 where her father went into business with a man who later stole from them.

After Holland invaded by Germany, restrictions placed on Jews who had to wear the yellow star. Dutch held a transit strike to protest but Germans selected and shot 100 Dutch which ended the strike. She and brother went to work on farms until 1942 when they were "summoned" to go to Westerbork camp. Parents were not summoned but later were sent to Sobibor where they died. She got a job in camp delousing children and brother worked in the kitchen. The farmers who earlier employed the two got them released to go back to farming, which they did for 3-4 weeks. Then they went to Amsterdam with parents where they lived in one room of a flat. She took English lessons and her teacher offered to hide her. Brother also hidden and eventually the niece of the person hiding him offered to hide Marie. She lived there outside of Rotterdam for 2 ½ years taking care of children, never leaving the property. At one point a Jewish Hungarian violinist also hidden there. She feels people who hid Jews should be recognized as "exceptional." Says Dutch always referred to them as "our Jews." Postwar, she lived in Amsterdam for a while and later back in Essen. Brother revived father's business. She felt she could not trust German neighbors. She went to Edinburgh in 1948 to improve English and met husband who was a physicist who later worked with Einstein at Princeton. They were married in Dublin where husband was teaching. They have 2 children and 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Son has a PhD and teaches in Ireland and daughter a nurse.