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**Summary**

Marion H. Reet (née Baer) was born on May 29, 1921 near Freiburg Germany. She spent a happy childhood with her father, a businessman, her mother, a milliner, and her younger brother. Her family was observant and belonged to a Conservative synagogue with about 75 families. She had many Jewish and gentile friends in and out of school before Hitler.

Reet emphasized that the effects on her family of Nazi power grew little by little. Gentile girlfriends turned against her, and she discovered that as a Jew she could no longer swim in a nearby lake. In school some of her friends appeared in Nazi uniforms and others ignored her. Reet also remembered that she and her Jewish friends were all failed in their studies. She and her family had to turn inward and become even more involved with other Jews. A big change for Reet and her family came when her father was arrested and briefly imprisoned in 1935. He was told that he needed to get out of Germany. By then more and more of their friends had begun to leave for Palestine and other countries. Her father wrote to his brother who had emigrated in 1908 to the United States and asked for an affidavit to get a visa. This came through the following year and Reet's father and brother, who had just had his Bar Mitzvah, left for the United States through Holland.

In 1938 Reet and her mother were able to leave Germany in July 1938. One gentile friend came to see her off and gave her a doll. Reet saw this as an example of a righteous gentile. She and her mother were upset, however, that they had to leave behind her grandparents. Her grandfather was sent to Dachau and was eventually allowed to leave. But he had been beaten and came home very sick and died soon after. Reet's grandmother was sent to Gurs in France in 1939 but was able to get out and live with a gentile woman who welcomed her and pretended that she was an aunt from Alsace. Reet's grandmother stayed there for several years. The French woman, Alice Schneider, was eventually recognized as a righteous gentile through Reet's efforts. Her grandmother finally made it to the United States and joined with Reet and her mother.

Reet reiterated that the effects of Nazism came to her family gradually and that most of her family's Jewish friends and relatives were able to leave Germany before the worst happened. She did not become aware of the mass murder of Jews until the end of the war.