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Summary of Oral History Interview with Jeanine Georges—ENGLISH

Jeanine Georges (Belot), born in August, 1935 in Cluny; five children in her family; her father working in the gas house where gas was produced; very hard work; speaking of memories of her father; the deportation of her father—February 1, 1944; everything in Cluny was closed and blocked; from her window, Jeanine saw her father in the truck with his leather jacket; very cold that day; the last image of her father; her mother was eight months pregnant; her mother went to the Kommandantur, but she returned in tears; her father was a Resistant in the shadows—most everything was done in the night; this is all that she knows; her father was in Compiègne, then he left for Germany; her father knew that he had a newborn son—her younger brother always searched for her father; the passing of her younger brother three years ago; memories of her father before the Saint Valentine day round-up; her family was not well off; lived in the Saint Marcel area—Prud'hon Road; her father—André; her father in the Resistance—was denounced; Jeanine not wanting to give names of those who denounced her father—shop owners from Cluny were collaborators; the Germans had a list—they took away the boss and workers from the gas house—Mr. Malere; Mr. Malere was denounced—very active in the Resistance by hiding arms in the factory—a good person, kind, with two sons; gatherings at Mrs. Lardy's—Jacky Lardy was there with Jeanine; memories of Germans in Cluny—the sound of their boots; February 14th—Jeanine saw the truck from the window—there were many people, of which her father was one; a profound moment; Jeanine saw her father lift his head up; hoping for his return; her mother was 38 years old, like Mrs. Moreau; collaborators of Cluny—a list in the archives—almost all were shopkeepers (about 12 of them); those in the Resistance, and their wives who were deported in their place—the men were hiding, and the women were taken in their place—several taken, of which the aunt of Mrs. Viguié, Mrs. Burdin, Mrs. Cugnet; Mr. Moreau was hiding near his house; a shameful act in Cluny; the men carried on with their lives while their wives were deported; the family received small postcards from Compiègne, but her mother didn't save them; her father wrote as he spoke; after April 23rd or 25th, no news of her father; different factions in Cluny—the wealthy and the poor; August 25th—learning of her father's death (in Gusen) when a Red Cross representative came to the house; Jewish refugees in Cluny; August 11th at 10 a.m.—the bombing of Cluny; leaving for the countryside; everyone knowing that Jeanine had lost her father; her mother receiving funds to replace her jewelry; visiting Mauthausen-Gusen three times; laying a plaque at the crematorium of Gusen for her father—having the feeling that her father was by her side; the stone monument in front of the old gas house with the names of Mr. Belot, Mr. Lardy, Mr. Malere and Mr. Grandjean; learning that Mr. Grandjean saw her father being taken to the ovens in Gusen; speaking of Mr. Pernot, Mrs. Burdin, Simone Grandjean; Jeanine thinking that Hitler is a "monster or a crazy person, and not a human being"; pictures of Pétain in the schools—the song "Maréchal, nous voilà"; anti-Semitic conversations during this time period; Jews being deported; feeling that there are many Jews in the current French government; speaking of the Jews being more intelligent than others due to their efforts to get what is owed them.