

Summary of Oral History Interview with Raymonde Billard Fouillit—ENGLISH RG-50.498.0020

Raymonde Billard Fouillit, born in Grigny – near Lyon – in 1921; speaking of her youth in Cluny; her father was a stoker in the factory, and a mechanic - arrested by the German police; Raymonde studied in Cluny; her father became crazy from the war; he fought in the war of 1918; her father - M. Fouillit - was taken - for months the family didn't know where he was.... in prison, shot, killed...; February 14, 1944 - her parents were deported; February 14 - she was in Cluny, her parents were at their café; the maid was stopped, then released; her mother only had her night shirt on when she was taken; Raymonde did not know exactly what was happening; she was an only child; there were also smaller round-ups in addition to the larger-scale round-ups; the Germans came around to round-up the Jews; speaking of her mother; remembering the furniture that was taken or burned by the Germans; Raymonde's father was taken to Montluc prison, then Mauthausen and Hartheim; recalling the Resistance; everyone was scared; speaking of the British and the Resistance at the Château de La Clayette; the people of La Clayette; her sister-in-law and the Resistance; the activities of the citizens of Cluny; her first husband (Lucien) and her brother-in-law (Maurice Le Boucher) were messengers; it was them that announced that Göring (Hermann Goering) had arrived in France; "Jews are people, just like everyone else"; speaking of her first marriage - in December of 1942; she spoke of a young Jewish girl from Paris who lived in Mâcon; Raymonde's work; 1939 - the start of the war; the denunciation of her father; her second husband; Britain was the base of the Resistance; her father was part of reconnaissance and refueling missions for the Resistance and helped Jews cross the demarcation line; the work of her father during the war; her father taking care of the horses; she received letters from her father from Montluc; speaking of her friend - Simone Grandjean; her father was either gassed or shot in Mauthausen; very atrocious deaths; Cluny during the war; the song "Maréchal, nous voila !" was prominent at the time; the Germans in Cluny; the presence of the militia; Cluny being invaded; Raymonde didn't like to speak of the Jews because they were like everyone else - she did not like to speak of what was going on; her parents' café; her daughter was born in 1942; the round-ups; the officers that made their presence known in Cluny; the bombings; the victims in Cluny; the Cluny abbey — l'Hôtel de Bourgogne, l'Hôtel de l'Abbaye; the bombs; at the time, Raymonde and the citizens of Cluny had heard of the Vélodrome d'Hiver in Paris and the French militia that worked for the Germans; in regards to Hitler, "He was insane"