

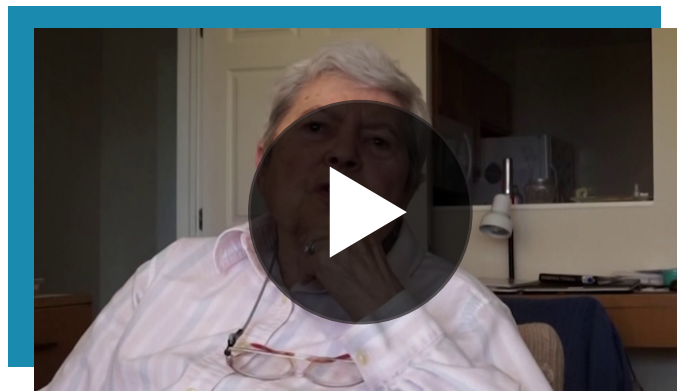
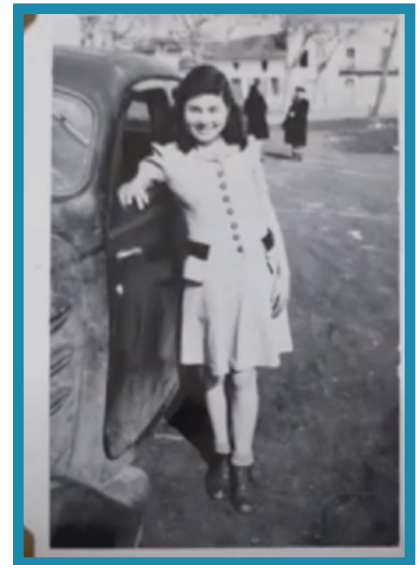
Marion Wimpfheimer

CURRICULUM TOPICS:

1. Events in Osthofen
2. Jewish Life During the 1930s in Germany
3. Deportation
4. Vichy, France or the Free Zone
5. Hidden Children in France
6. Emigration After the War

SUMMARY OF VIDEO:

Marion revisits her life growing up on a vineyard in the Rhineland in Osthofen, Germany. She discusses how during the 1930s, Nazi's prevented non-Jews from working for Jews, so her family had to sell the vineyard and everything they worked for and her father began selling supplies for shoe repair. Marion and her parents moved to a small apartment in Mannheim, which they shared with another family. Marion's parents tried to get visas to the U.S., and sent a lift of their furnishings to her grandfather and aunt who were already living in New York City. In 1940, Marion, her brother and parents were rounded up in Mannheim, put on a train, and sent to Gurs and then Rivesalte (a family camp), in the Pyrenees in Vichy France where the conditions were very poor. At some point under Vichy rule, Marion's father was transferred to Les Milles, a transit camp for refugees awaiting U.S. visas. Marion, her mother and brother were allowed to travel to Marseille where there was an American consulate, only to find out that their visas had expired. In 1942, the Germans invaded Vichy including the free port of Marseille, and Marion's parents were arrested by the Nazis and deported to a labor camp and eventually to Auschwitz in Poland. Marion, aged 13, was rescued by a children's aid organization named OSE (Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants), and lived together with other young refugee girls in a Chateau. Once the Nazi's invaded Vichy, Marion had to go into hiding with an older French couple, who wanted to adopt her. Following the war in 1945, Marion reunited with her brother who was hiding at a nearby farm and the two youngsters arranged to immigrate to the U.S. where they still had family. At this point Marion was 16. Marion then finished high school in New York city, married and now is retired and lives in Ithaca, New York.





Topic #1: Events in Osthofen

Resources:

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osthofen>
- <https://inter-wars.weebly.com/occupation-of-the-rhineland-1936.html>

Discussion questions:

- Marion was born in a beautiful town in Germany known as Osthofen in the Rhineland on the border of France. Known for its wineries, the landscape might resemble the Finger Lakes. Can you imagine what it looked like and how it changed? What languages do you think Marion spoke?

Topic #2: Jewish life during the 1930s in Germany

Resources

- [US Holocaust Memorial Museum - Aryanization](#)
- [US Holocaust Memorial Museum - Antisemitic legislation 1933-1939](#)
- [US Holocaust Memorial Museum - What did refugees need to obtain a US Visa in the 1930s?](#)

Discussion questions:

- As Jews, what was Marion's family's life like in pre-war Germany? Compare their life in Mannheim to Osthofen.
- What was the process of emigrating and obtaining visas like for Jews during 1933-1945?
- What happened to the family during the Kristallnacht?

Topic #3: Deportation

Resources

- [Deportation of Jews in Germany](#)
- [US Holocaust Memorial Museum - Deportation of German Jews to France](#)

Discussion questions:

- What did Marion's family bring with them when they were deported? What did Marion bring? Did they know where they were going? Describe the living conditions after they arrived.

Topic #4: Vichy, France or the Free Zone

Resources

- [The French Vichy Regime](#)
- [Historical information about German takeover of Vichy France](#)
- [Photo - Romani women and children in rivesaltes](#)
- [Wikipedia - Gurs Internment Camp](#)
- [US Holocaust Memorial Museum - Les Milles Camp](#)

(see next page for discussion questions)

Curriculum

Topic #4 Discussion questions:

- What was Vichy, France, and how many years did it exist?
- What were the racial policies of the Vichy regime?
- How were Jewish refugees treated by the leaders of the Vichy regime?
- How did Marion's mother try to look after her children while in the Internment camp at Gurs, and then at Rivesalte?
- What was the purpose of the Les Milles transit camp?

Topic #5: Hidden Children in France

Resources

- [US Holocaust Memorial Museum - Children's Aid Society](#)
- [Yad Vashem - Children's Homes in France](#)
- [Yad Vashem - Hidden Children](#)

Discussion questions

- Was Marion allowed to stay with her brother as a Hidden child? Was she allowed to go to school? Did Marion like being together with the group of girls?
- What kind of organization was the Children's Aid Society (OSE)? What were the homes like? What is a Chateau?
- What changed when it became too dangerous to continue staying at the Chateau? Where did Marion's brother go?
- Do you think that Marion liked the elderly French couple she lived with later? Do you think she wanted to be adopted by them?

Topic #6: Emigration after the war

- How did Marion travel to New York city? How do you think she felt when she got there? Who was there to meet her? How did she catch up with all she had missed as a hidden child?

Additional related resource:

<https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust/personal-story/varian-fry>