

TIMELINE: MARION DEICHMANN

Blue - Marion Timeline; Black - Historical Timeline



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NOVEMBER 1932

Marion Deichmann is born in Karlsruhe, Germany to Kurt and Alice Deichmann.

1933-1938

Numerous persecutory laws are passed in Germany that restrict and revoke the citizenship of German Jews, and various policies encouraging Jewish emigration are put in place.

NOVEMBER 1938

The German government instigates a state-sponsored terror campaign against Jewish businesses, synagogues, and people in Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland. Thousands of Jewish men and teenage boys are arrested and sent to concentration camps amid the violence. This campaign comes to be known as *Kristallnacht*, or the Night of Broken Glass. Marion's maternal grandfather is arrested as a part of these mass incarcerations and deported to Buchenwald concentration camp. He is released two weeks later.

SEPTEMBER 1939

Germany invades Poland, beginning World War II.

FALL 1940

Marion and her mother escape Luxembourg to live with her maternal uncle and grandmother in Paris. They register as Jews per the Nazi laws in effect in occupied France and live there for almost two years.

JANUARY 1942

Fifteen high-ranking Nazi officials gather at a villa in Wannsee to coordinate the logistics of the "Final Solution," the systematic mass murder of European and Soviet Jewish people, which had begun the previous summer.

JULY 1942

The largest roundup and deportation of French Jews takes place in Paris. Known as the Vél d'Hiv roundup, 13,000 Jewish men, women, and children are arrested by French policemen. Most are detained in the Vélodrome d'Hiver, a bicycle stadium. From there, detainees are taken to transit camps in the suburbs of Paris, including Drancy, Pithiviers, and Beaune-la-Rolande. Over the next six weeks, the majority of the detainees are deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

JANUARY 1933

Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany under President Paul von Hindenburg.

SUMMER 1934

Marion's father loses his job and the family leaves Germany to live in Luxembourg.

AUGUST 1934

President Hindenburg dies; Hitler assumes total power and names himself Führer. Germany becomes a dictatorship.

1938

Marion's father, who has separated from the family by this time, escapes to Brazil with some of Marion's paternal family. Marion and her mother remain in Luxembourg.

MAY 1940

Germany invades Luxembourg, Belgium, and France. By late June, all three countries are under Nazi control. France is partitioned, with the north under German occupation authority. In the south, the Vichy collaborationist government cooperates with Nazi laws and requirements. In Luxembourg, Jewish citizens are encouraged to flee before persecutory and discriminatory laws go into effect.

JUNE 1942

All Jewish people over six years old within France are required to wear the yellow star to make them easily identifiable. This marks the beginning of months of mass arrests and deportations of French Jews to concentration camps and killing centers in the East.

JULY 1942

Marion's mother, Alice, is one of the first Jews arrested. She is deported to Drancy transit camp. Members of the French Resistance help Marion and her grandmother go into hiding, moving among several locations in Paris.

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SUMMER - FALL 1942

With the help of the French Resistance, Marion lives in hiding in various locations around Paris, never staying for long in one place.

WINTER 1943

A French Resistance member brings Marion to Saint-Hilaire-de-Harcouët, a village in Normandy, where she is taken in by the Parigny family. They treat her as a loved member of the family, and she remains with them for the remainder of the war.

JUNE 1944

Saint-Hilaire is bombarded during the ongoing D-Day invasion. Allied aircraft drop leaflets warning residents to evacuate. **The Parignys find safety on a farm in the countryside. 80% of Saint-Hilaire, including the Parignys' home and café, is destroyed in the bombing.**

DECEMBER 1944

Marion returns to Paris to try and reunite with her family. She reunites with her grandmother and uncle but does not learn what became of her mother until October 1945.

1947

Marion and her family immigrate to the United States, where she lives for many years in Manhattan but eventually moves back to France.

2015

François and Angèle Parigny are recognized as Righteous Among the Nations for hiding Marion during World War II.

JULY 1942

Alice Deichmann is deported on Convoy 12, which departed Drancy on July 29 and arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau on July 31. The day before, Alice wrote a letter, the last Marion would receive from her. Alice was killed upon arrival at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

JUNE 1944

Operation Overlord, more commonly known as D-Day, begins. U.S., British, and Canadian troops storm the beaches at Normandy and begin the campaign to liberate France.

AUGUST 1944

Saint-Hilaire is liberated. Weeks later, all of France is liberated by Allied forces as German armies surrender in Paris.

MAY 1945

Germany surrenders to Allied forces, marking the end of the Nazi regime.

1970s

Marion learns that her father is still alive and reconnects with her paternal family living in South America.

2019

Marion moves to Chicago to live closer to her children.