

German Female Experiences in the Third Reich

OH3863

Narrator: Osborne, Ingrid (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Ingrid Osborne"
Date: February 7, 2008
Language: English
Location: Home of Ingrid Osborne, Palos Verdes Estates, California
Project: German Female Experiences in the Third Reich
Status: not transcribed

This oral history spans 1935-2008. Bulk dates: 1935-1950s.

An oral history with Ingrid Osborne of Palos Verdes Estates, California, for the German Female Experiences in the Third Reich, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Osborne's childhood in Germany during the Third Reich, 1933-1945. Specifically, this interview gives an account of Osborne's childhood in Stuttgart and family background; recounts stories about her mother's childhood as debutante; describes bombing of Stuttgart and her father's occupation as mayor; describes stigma of dating an American GI, how she met her husband, their courtship, and marriage; recalls journey to America and challenges in learning to speak English; describes battle with Tuberculosis and effects of radiation treatment; reminisces about her husband calling her in Stuttgart; speaks about Germans views of life before World War II, Hitler's rise to power, and apprehension of communism; resettlement of Germans to describes around the world; visiting East Germany; daily life in Germany during the war including education, politically zealous teachers, toys, and religion; talks about the affect of the war on her family and her life as a mayor's daughter; speaks about the general knowledge of concentration camps during the war and interactions with local Jews; shares about Japanese friends and their experiences during World War II; reflects on Hitler's leadership and political positioning of Allied/Axis countries; discusses post-war life including transition to occupied territory and rape of local girls; how she felt when the war ended; describes hearing about the fall of the Berlin Wall; speaks about her father's job post-mayorship; and finally, reflects on consequences of World War II and warfare.

OH3864

Narrator: Palmgren, Margot (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Margot Palmgren”
Date: February 8, 2008
Language: English; some German
Location: Home of Margot Palmgren, Anaheim, California
Project: German Female Experiences in the Third Reich
Status: final; 41 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2008. Bulk dates: 1933-2008.

An oral history with Margot Palmgren of Anaheim, California, for the German Female Experiences in the Third Reich, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Palmgren’s childhood in Germany during the Third Reich, 1933-1945, and membership in the Bund Deutscher Mädel. This interview covers Palmgren’s childhood and family background; describes living quarters and mother’s relationship with her step-father; daily life in Germany during the war including education, politically zealous teachers, toys, and religion; recalls step-father’s sexual abuse; speaks about adult relatives negative reaction toward Hitler; how Jewish discrimination affected her mother’s housecleaning business; details her Pflichtjahr and activities in the Bund Deutscher Madel; remembers being evacuated near Salzburg, Austria; what it was like when Allied troops [Americans] entered Heilbronn; how she views the SS; speaks about how firebombs affected Heilbronn and having Allied troops occupy her grandparents home; post-war life including curfew, employment as laundry girl, black market, post-war rape, and interactions with American troops; talks about emigrating to the U.S. and adapting to a new life; talks about life in America including her marriage and divorce, children, and background of ex-husband’s family; explains why she can never forgive Hitler; speaks about the general knowledge of concentration camps during the war and personal opinions about Jewish actions in camps; reflects on her German heritage and how she feels about war; talks about time giving back to American and serving on a grand jury; offers memories about Kristalnacht; and finally, Palmgren references her two published books [*Anneliese: A Child of War* and *Breaking Ties*] and current social activities.

OH3862

Narrator: Wagenet, Ursula (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Ursula Wagenet"
Date: March 13, 2008
Language: English; some German
Location: Phone interview, San Jose, California, and Orange, California
Project: German Female Experiences in the Third Reich
Status: complete; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2008. Bulk dates: 1935-1950s.

An oral history with Ursula Wagenet of San Jose, California, for the German Female Experiences in the Third Reich, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Wagenet's childhood in Germany during the Third Reich, 1933-1945. Specifically, this interview gives an account of Wagenet's early childhood memories of National Socialism; interactions with local Jewish people; speaks about established religion in Germany; describes learning of Germany invading Poland and bombing of Essen; speaks about her experiences in a Nazi girls camp and return home; how her life was affected by the war, including bombings and post-war occupation; describes her job with the American military and marriage; talks about moving to the United States and cultural challenges; her father's job with National Cash Register company; details restrictions living under a dictatorship; shares about experiences of family living in the post-war Russian zone; daily life during the war including: health effects of radium buttons, propaganda, and finally, how her wartime experiences shaped her life.