

# INGE M.

Inge was born in 1933 in Vienna, Austria. She had one sister, who was three years older. Both of her parents were secular Jews, and her mother came from a Zionist family. Due to the increasing danger in Vienna, Inge's family left in 1939 and travelled to Belgium. Her father was not able to find a job in Belgium, so Inge's mother began working as a housekeeper.

Inge attended school in Belgium, but was thrown out of the classroom and expelled after hiding under her teacher's desk as a practical joke. When her gym teacher saw her crying, she offered to help Inge's family if they should ever require it. After the incident at school, Inge's family went to France for a year, but Inge and her mother returned home after just three weeks. Despite having paid a woman to look after their possessions, all of their furniture was gone.

In 1941, the Jewish men in Brussels, including Inge's father, were ordered to report for work, but were deported to France instead. Inge later learned that her father had been transported to Auschwitz and had died from malnutrition in the Camp. Inge's mother arranged for a friend to hide her daughters in a convent, where they were required to be baptized and learn about the Christian faith. Inge believes that it was her school gym teacher who arranged for the two girls to be hidden in the convent.

The sisters were separated and moved to other convents, as well as a priest's house, but were brought back together. In 1945, after liberation, the sisters were reunited with their mother, who they had not seen for four or five years. In 1946, Inge and her sister were placed in a Jewish children's home in Antwerp. They remained there until 1949 when they immigrated to Israel with their mother. Inge was married in 1951 and had two children.

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