

# MARION C.

Marion was born on November 28, 1936, in Berlin. She was an only child to her father, an electrical contractor, and her mother, a housewife. Her parents owned two appliance stores, both of which were destroyed during the anti-Jewish pogroms of November 9-10, 1938 (referred to as *Kristallnacht*). In early 1941, Marion's parents were rounded up to work as forced labourers, her father as a railroad guard and her mother in a dye factory.

In 1942, her parents made plans to flee Germany, but were informed on by their German contact. Her father was arrested and sent to a camp. Marion never saw him again. Marion and her mother walked to Arnhem, Holland, unaware that the country had already been occupied. The Jewish community in Amsterdam hid Marion with a young couple — Boy and Mia Edgar. Her mother was hidden with a family in exchange for money. Marion stayed with the Edgars for six months before she was discovered by a police officer. She was arrested and spent six weeks in a collection centre until the underground movement rescued her.

The underground movement placed Marion on a farm with the Beelen family. Despite not being able to attend school, she remembers this as a happy time in her life. Meanwhile, Marion's mother had been informed on and was forced to hide alone in haystacks for a year and a half. Marion was liberated on September 9, 1944, by Canadian troops, but German troops re-occupied the area. Until the area was permanently liberated in November, Marion hid with a Roma family. By this point, she was nine years old.

Marion did not recognize her mother when she returned, and their relationship never fully recovered. Her mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia and paranoia after the war. They immigrated to the United States in 1948, and Marion ultimately settled in Seattle, where she married and adopted two children. After 30 years of marriage, Marion and her husband divorced and Marion moved to Richmond, British Columbia, where she became an active member of the Jewish Community Centre and the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. As part of her commitment to Holocaust remembrance, Marion spoke about her wartime experiences to schools and churches, as well as to both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations.

SEE THE TESTIMONY RECORDS OF [MARION C., 1995](#) AND [MARION C., 2010](#) IN THE VHEC'S COLLECTIONS FOR RELATED HOLDINGS AND FOR INTERVIEW DETAILS.