

## Biography of Yvette Lévy

Yvette Dreyfuss was born on June 21, 1926, in Paris, to a family originally from the Bas-Rhin region of France. Her father, Lazare Dreyfuss, born in 1886 in Fegersheim, worked at the Grands Moulins de Pantin. Her mother, Mathilde Muller, born in 1892 in Struth, raised Yvette and her two brothers, Simon (born in 1924) and Claude (born in 1928), with a deep respect for Jewish traditions. In 1937, the family moved from Paris to Noisy-le-Sec, a suburb of Paris.

After the exodus of 1940, which brought them as far as Tours, the Dreyfuss family returned to Noisy-le-Sec, where they faced the first antisemitic measures. Nicknamed "Gypsie," Yvette served as a leader in the Éclaireurs Israélites de France (Jewish Scouts of France) and cared for young orphans in Paris until they were dispersed into hiding.

On the night of April 18–19, 1944, Noisy-le-Sec was bombed by the Allies. Left homeless, the family separated: the parents found refuge with an aunt, Simon and Claude were housed in a Union des Israélites de France shelter on Rue de Montevideo, and Yvette stayed at another shelter on Rue Vauquelin.

On July 21, 1944, the Gestapo arrested 27 young girls and 8 adults at the Rue Vauquelin shelter. Yvette was interned at Drancy for ten days before being deported from the Bobigny station to Auschwitz II-Birkenau on Convoy No. 77, on July 31, 1944. Upon arrival on August 3, she was selected for forced labor. In October 1944, she was transferred with four friends to the Weisskirchen-Kratzau labor camp in Czechoslovakia.

On May 6, 1945, the SS abandoned the camp. Yvette and her companions struggled to organize their repatriation to France. Against all odds, she was reunited with her entire family.

After the war, the family resettled in Noisy-le-Sec. Yvette worked in a linen store and married Robert Lévy in 1950. Together, they had a daughter. In 1946, she joined the Auschwitz Survivors' Association (*Amicale des anciens déportés d'Auschwitz*). Starting in the 1960s, Yvette began regularly sharing her testimony in high schools, at Drancy, the Mémorial de la Shoah, and Auschwitz, contributing to the preservation and transmission of the memory of the events she endured.