

TELEVISION REVIEW;

French Role in Sending Jews to Death

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Body

Official **French** complicity in the deportation of scores of thousands of **Jews** from France during World War II has not gone unexposed. The most powerful account remains Marcel Ophuls's painstaking and painful film "The Sorrow and the Pity." Although the title of tonight's hourlong documentary on the Discovery Channel, "France's Forgotten Shame," leans toward hyperbole, the program does add another sorry chapter to a soiled record.

The focus is on an unfinished housing project in the town of Drancy, near Paris, which served as a concentration camp from 1941 to 1943. From there, with the collaboration of the **French** authorities in both occupied and unoccupied parts of the country, many **Jews** were shipped east to Auschwitz and other **death** camps.

"Shame" melds accounts by survivors of Drancy and Auschwitz with a narration that provides context. The refugees' hopes that **French** law, principles and ideals would shield them from the Germans were doomed by the **French** authorities' acquiescence and even enthusiasm for cracking down both on immigrants and on Jewish citizens. In the camp, survivors recall, class differences were manifest, with the **French-born Jews** given supervisory jobs and the poorer immigrants consigned to menial tasks. The refugees were in greatest jeopardy, but no **Jew** of any sort could feel safe.

Newsreels and old photographs make grimly vivid the big 1942 roundup of Parisian **Jews**, including many women and children. Residents of the town of Drancy could not fail to notice the shipments in and out of the camp, but as one admits, they feared to ask questions.

A survivor calls Drancy "a camp of deception," where despite hard conditions, some hope still flickered. The narrator calls it "the anteroom of Auschwitz." Of some 74,000 deportees from France, only 2,400 survived.

'48 Hours'

'What's Your Gripe?'

CBS, tonight at 10

The Scroogish is mixed with the Santa Clausian tonight as "48 Hours" reporters focus on the care and noncare of customers by department stores, automobile manufacturers, airlines and a drainpipe cleaner.

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You will learn, if you have not noticed it on your own, that it is not always easy to find a department-store employee who has much interest in selling ("benign neglect," somebody calls it), but only too easy to find an automobile dealer who applies pressure to buy. You will meet an airline employee who descends to the bowels of Los Angeles International Airport to track down a piece of misdirected luggage, and a jolly Roto-Rooter man in Queens who inquires as he arrives on an emergency call, "What evil has befallen you tonight?" And you can accompany three drivers atop the Colorado Rockies as they test the promise of their auto contracts to provide roadside assistance "anyplace, any time."

There are lessons to be drawn for the shopping season. If you want to return a shirt, try Nordstrom even if the shirt was bought at Marshall Field. If you plan to break down in the Rockies, better have a cellular phone along. If you can't get satisfaction from Sears for a broken washing machine, visit the district manager in the company of a "48 Hours" reporter, with camera. And if you've been bumped from a flight, try Roto-Rooter. As Santa von Clausewitz must have said, shopping is war by other means.

FRANCE'S FORGOTTEN SHAME

The Discovery Channel, tonight at 10.

Produced by Bruce Eadie and directed by Stephen Trombley. A production of Worldview Pictures. Linda Kenyon, narrator.

Graphic

Photo: Jews interned at Drancy, near Paris, during World War II were later sent to Nazi death camps. (Worldview Pictures/Discovery Channel)

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