

Renee Scott

Renee Scott was born on February 13, 1906, in [Calais](#), France, to Albert and Jean Scott. Renee had two brothers, George and Walter, and two sisters, Yvonne and May. When Renee was two, her family moved to the [United States](#) where her father was the director of textile factories in New Jersey and Rhode Island. In 1918, after World War I, the family returned to Europe and lived in [Belgium](#). Renee and her younger sister May danced with the Antwerp Opera for two seasons until the family moved to eastern [France](#). A few years later, Renee met and married Prosper Barro. However, they separated before their daughter, Alice, was born in 1925, and eventually they divorced.

In 1938, Renee moved with her parents, siblings, and daughter to [Paris](#). Renee's father later died of heart failure in 1940. Shortly after moving to Paris, Renee met her fiancé, John De Peuw, while working at a trade fair.

A few years later, Renee met Simone Pheter, the director of the Belgian Chamber of Commerce, in Paris. Simone revealed that she was working for the underground providing aid to Jews and asked Renee to join. Together, Renee and Simone helped hundreds of Jews by providing false identification cards under the cover of the Chamber of Commerce. Renee would also travel frequently to [Brussels](#) as a courier.



Visual History Biographical Profile

In November 1941, Renee was arrested in Brussels for her underground activities. After twelve hours of brutal questioning and beatings, she was taken to a Belgian prison and kept in solitary confinement for seven months. She was then transferred to Alexanderstrasse, a prison in [Berlin](#). On the train there, she was reunited with Simone who had also been arrested. When they arrived, the Gestapo took Simone away and killed her while Renee was being questioned. A week later, Renee was transferred again. After short stays in Moabit, a prison in [Germany](#), and [Mauthausen](#), in [Austria](#), Renee was sent to [Ravensbrueck](#) concentration camp where she was selected for forced labor.

In May 1945, Count Folke Bernadotte, a [Swedish](#) Count and diplomat, negotiated the release of a few thousand prisoners with the head of the Ravensbruck camp and Renee was transported to [Denmark](#). A month later, she was reunited with John, her fiancé, in Brussels. He took her to Paris where her entire family was waiting for her. Shortly after her [liberation](#), Renee, John, and Alice moved to the south of France where John died before they could marry.

In 1959, Renee moved to the [United States](#) to be with her daughter who had moved to Boston a few years before. Alice had two daughters, Patricia and Carole, and a son Marc. At the time of her interview in 1997, Renee had three great grandchildren: Jennifer, Danielle, and Curt.