

JUNE 30, 1940: SETTLEMENT IN AUCH

P. 52 *ENFANTS DÉPORTÉS, ENFANTS SAUVÉS: LES PETITS RÉFUGIÉS JUIFS DU GERS*

Map courtesy of www.annotatehistory.com



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CONTEXT: Map indicates key French locations in the Feigl's' story thus far: **#1** indicates Paris. **#2** indicates Bordeaux. **#3** indicates Oloron-Sainte-Marie. **#4** indicates Gurs camp. **#5** indicates Saint-Cyprien camp. **#6** indicates Auch.

When Agnes, Flora, and Peter got into the taxi fleeing the Gurs camp, Agnes told the driver to take them to Spain. Telling them that the borders were closed, he suggested instead that they go to Auch, a nearby town purportedly welcoming to refugees. About 50 miles from Auch, in Toulouse, Flora joined the Blumbergs because she and they had obtained visas to leave France and go to the United States; this vital paperwork Ernst, Agnes, and Peter had not yet been able to secure. The taxi stopped on the outskirts of Auch, advised not to go any further because the German inspection team was staying there. Agnes looked to the left and upon seeing a Catholic convent at 50 *bis rue Victor Hugo*, headed there with Peter. They lived in the convent for the next six weeks. During that time, Agnes frantically searched for Ernst, enlisting the help of the nuns and the various relief or aid organizations including the [American Friends Service Committee](#) (AFSC or Quakers). During this time, Agnes was able to secure employment in a food distribution center jointly sponsored by the Swiss Red Cross and the Quakers. Agnes, as shown in the image, was among those who distributed milk and snacks to children at the center. Once she secured housing and employment and had located Ernst in the Saint-Cyprien camp, she worked to get him released.

Image and context pp. 26, 51-53 from *ENFANTS DÉPORTÉS, ENFANTS SAUVÉS: LES PETITS RÉFUGIÉS JUIFS DU GERS [DEPORTED CHILDREN, SAVED CHILDREN: THE YOUNG JEWISH REFUGEES IN GERS]* are excerpted with permission of author, Gisèle Polya-Somogyi. English translation courtesy of Peter Feigl.