

Mimi and Sam were less than two...



## SAM GOLDMAN AND MIMI WISE

Mimi and Sam were less than 2 when they left their home in Strasbourg in France for Free France in the south in 1939. With their parents, Lola and Harry Goldman and grandparents, Gutcha and Joseph Pszenica, they moved from town to town. By 1943, it became apparent that they would need to assume a false identity if they were to evade Nazi capture.

With false papers, they became the Mai family and moved to the small village of Arboueix. Mr Bellegy, the mayor of the district, knowing full well that they were Jewish, became their protector and saviour. He provided them with a small cottage on his farm and employed Sam and Mimi's father as a labourer.

For Mimi and Sam, still small children, the war years hold many happy memories. Mr Bellegy gave them each a baby chick, providing fun for the children and supplying eggs for the family to eat. Since there was no school in the village, days were filled with playing in the fields and swimming in the lakes. Yet, at the same time, they knew fear and were aware of danger. When Mimi's father squeezed her hand tight, she knew it meant: "Quiet! We are passing strangers!"

Both Sam and Mimi have returned to France in recent years and renewed their friendship with Mr Bellegy's son, Jean-Louis, their childhood friend.

*Courage to care*