

WALDA BECKMANN
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(This interview is in German.)

Walda Beckmann was born December 11, 1914 in Isensee, a small German village between Hamburg and Cuxhaven. In 1932, she became a Jehovah's Witness and also converted members of her family. She was living in Hamburg in 1933 when the congregation of J.W. was prohibited, and she continued to secretly meet with other J.W. in the countryside. Between 1933-45 she was imprisoned several times for varying lengths of time due to her activities as a J.W. She printed "Der Wachturm" (the watchtower) whenever possible, and also organized secret meetings, always living under the close scrutiny of the Gestapo. In 1937 she was sent to a camp in Fuhlsbüttel after the Gestapo had discovered her activities as a pioneer. She was also once displaced to Harburg for 2 months and, at one point, sent to the Hütten concentration camp. When she returned to Germany in 1947, she was forced to undergo an "Entnazifizierungsprozess" (denazification process) at a camp set up by the British and Americans in Stanemünde near Paderborn. She continued to serve as a pioneer after the war and worked as a bookkeeper in Hamburg until she moved to Stuttgart in 1960.