

GERDA STEINFURTH
RG-50.028.0055

(This interview is in German with English translation.)

Gerda Steinfurth was born in 1920 near Berlin; her parents were baptized as Jehovah's Witnesses in 1923 and married in 1928. She was baptized as a J.W. in 1942. Her father was arrested in 1934 and in 1936 he was deported to Sachsenhausen, forcing her to work as a secretary to support her mother. Her mother was active as a J.W., distributing the "Watchtower", for which she was arrested in June 1940 and deported to Ravensbruck and Auschwitz; she died in 1943. In 1936 Gerda received a "tutor" to teach her the Nazi doctrine; she met Walter Steinfurth in November 1940 and married him in June 1941. She was arrested late in 1942 and separated from her young son. In 1944 she was sentenced to 4 years of penitentiary. Toward the end of the war, she was sent from Berlin to Cottbus, but the approaching Russians caused her to be diverted to Leipzig, where she was liberated from prison in April 1945 by American troops. On May 13, 1945 she walked from Leipzig to Begin and returned to her husband and son.