

**Ruth Danner RG-50.028.0099**  
**Interview Summary**

Ruth Danner was born in 1933, and raised in a family of Jehovah's Witnesses. From a very young age she exercised her faith by praying every morning with her mother before going to school and attending religious meetings that were held in the family home. Though she expressed the desire to be baptised while still very young, her parents did not concede due to her young age. She was baptised in 1947 following the family's return from the concentration camps during a "picnic" because the work of Jehovah's Witnesses in France was still under ban at that time.

She describes the arrival of the German army in 1940 and how Jehovah's Witnesses became a target of persecution. She recalls the constant searching of their home, secretly-held religious meetings, daily run-ins with the school administration stemming from her refusal to say "Heil Hitler". Her father was arrested for refusing to join the civil defense, her mother and sister were arrested for refusing to care for military uniforms. Eventually, in January 1943 the entire family was deported to Upper Silesia, where they were interned in five concentration camps in the region before being sent onwards to another camp in Silesia. Living conditions were dreadful, there was very little food and the little they were given was not fit to be eaten. As Ruth was a Jehovah's Witnesses, she was trusted and regularly sent outside the camp on errands to shop for the secretaries of the SS guards or to buy bread. Quite often at the bakery she would be pitied and given a piece of bread to eat.

She talks about the liberation by the Allied forces in 1945, her return to France and her deep love for her religion. She recalls the subsequent joy of knowing that she along with her whole family, including her parents and her sister, had been able to remain faithful and return altogether to their home.