

## RG-50.031.0107

### Summary

**Rodi W. Glass** (nee Roosje Dinah Waterman, named after grandmothers), Rodi, an only child b.5/26/1936, Amsterdam, father's name Meijer, mother Frederika b.1907 (nee Keizer); Rodi's mother's mother (nee Roozelaar) had 4 daughters, 2 sons; Rodi's father's father had 4 boys, 3 girls, Rodi's father's twin Mauritz married Rodi's mother's sister Stella; father took family to London then returned to his father's Amsterdam leather business, eventually living above its warehouse in Red Light District; memory of last happy family birthday celebration; uncle Max Witteboon killed at Mauthausen; Rodi describes family as "liberal...but very strong Jewish identity"; other happy memories prior to invasion; Germans entering Amsterdam 5/10/1940; Dutch Jews sent to build Westerbork; fear pre-war, "never happened but a rumored, 'All Jewish children would be thrown in canal.'"; age 5, taught by an in-law how to read but deprived of further schooling; discussion-Dutch fascist party, included many in Dutch police, civil servants, Jewish Council; Jews required to register; 1942 German soldier & his Dutch Nazi take over family business/warehouse, retained some family until they could learn business; Sept 1943 family sent to Westerbork; money stolen, uncle sent to Kreuzberg, Austria; grandfather sent to Westerbork's punish barrack (stripe uniforms); this was 2nd time, family had been sent to Westerbork as in earlier, family friend who had become S.S. took their name off list; another S.S. used "pig" in counting heads; family finally forced from home; family whistle to signal each other; arrival to Westerbork, 3 to bed (aluminum structure w/ straw mattress); father placed in tailors' barrack; 1 toilet for 500 people, no hot water; two times a weed awakened, lights turned on, prisoners called for transport to Auschwitz, "We thought, 'Why are they sending the elderly & children to a hard labor camp?'"; covered in lice; Pels company in Amsterdam hired to take Jews' belongings/furnishings & send to Germany; mother's sister had hidden her English passport in girdle, passport enabled family transport to France; discussion re: German Jews "running Westerbork-not always nice"; 3-day train (no windows, no food) to Noisy, France; held hostage in former spa (Vittel internment camp), "People were from all over. Did not have to wear stars"; Vittel convent, children having to scrub floors for British nuns, receiving Olvantine cookie treat but no schooling; hearing shot from French Marquis' (French Resistance) thwarted liberation (failed shooting of Commandant); finally, liberation Sept 1944; recollection of US Army's handsome uniforms, mother's letter expressing gratitude for fruit/candy received from soldiers; under US supervision, family sent to La Bourboule (former spa); uncle finding Rodi/family through Red Cross; learning aunt & uncle had been sent Bergen-Belsen, uncle killed, aunt found covered in boils; Rodi/family deloused (sprayed before being placed on train); repatriation to Amsterdam, given 10 guilders & "homeless" papers; reclaiming warehouse, father "bodily throwing out" Nazis; Dutch govt assigning family apt taken from Dutch Nazi in jail; Hitler paraphernalia found in apt, father burns it; school formed for Jewish children, "No matter what age, we were all at same level of not knowing"; other Jewish envious of Rodi's parents because their parents, most siblings, daughter had survived; post-war "regular school," enduring some Anti-Semitic remarks; gymnasium 3 yrs.; family business revived; with rumors of another world war (Korea trouble), immigration to US, age 15 entering Hoboken "horrible, noisy, dirty, didn't understand anyone but saw first TV"; move to Chicago south side, aunts start drapery store; grad Hirsch High; marriage to Marvin Glass; "great times with family"; Roseland

apt; family deciding to not share war experiences after hearing American woman lamenting sacrifice of “not being able to get stockings for 9 mos.”; becoming a secretary; having children; volunteer work sharing war experiences at Illinois Holocaust Museum, “encouraging children not to hate”; Rodi self-identifies as Jewish but atheist; closing thoughts, “Every day is a gift. Tragedy is tragedy to those that experience it – to others, it’s history.”; Rodi presents numerous family photographs & artifacts from war.