

Ruth Greifer

RG-50.106*0104

May 30, 1922 - born Ruth Dahl in Geilenkirchen (near Aachen), Germany

father was cattle dealer, mother was from Holland

attended private Catholic school

1933 - called "dirty Jew", spit on, though nuns were good to her

1938 - plaque on father's business was shattered

Spring 1938 - family moved to Valkenburg, Holland

May 10, 1940 - Germans occupied the city

family hid in catacombs during the bombing

had to wear yellow star, obey curfew, father's business was taken away

June 1942 - Germans ordered them to leave. She was sick and could stay.

brother and 2 aunts were taken to Auschwitz

A Mr. Jansen from the underground arranged for Ruth and her parents to go into hiding.

She went to a coal miner's house, parents to another. Sat in attic if people went on vacation. She was thought to be too much of a risk, so Mr. Jansen sent her to a doctor's house to be a maid. The maid there realized that Ruth did not have "maid's knees".

Went into hiding to the Robertson's house near Treebeek and Hoensbrook. Another German Jewish woman was there. They stayed inside and would hide under the table. They got money from the underground

June 1944 - heard about the invasion, went to a house in Treebeek

bombing got heavier, crawled into a potato bin

September 17, 1944 - liberated, stayed in bin for 3 days

Went to parents in Valkenburg. Mother's whole Dutch family did not survive. She died of
heartbreak

Spring 1948 - sailed to US - went to sister in Pittsburgh

April 8, 1951 - married, had 3 daughters

1957 - moved to Washington, DC

Does not want to hear German, wants to forget Germany as it destroyed everything she had.