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Summary

Ruchama Pinkhof born 1922 in Amsterdam, Netherlands discusses life in Netherlands, transport and time in Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen; family's religious orthodox upbringing and aunts and uncles as established artists; father wrote poems while in captivity, Pinkhof only discovered them after liberation; mother's death at a young age before occupation; experienced antisemitic attacks in 1930s, thrown down stairs in 1934, 1937 went to Jewish boarding school, father brought her home after war broke out; worked in kitchen in Jewish hospital until hospital closed in 1941; went to coast to work with one of her older brothers approx. 1 year; brother must end studies in Wageningen; brother began Jewish underground movement Ruchama assisted; relocated to Jewish quarter in southern sector of Amsterdam; Ruchama led double life, had clothes with star and without, had fake address to give when out without star, did not look Jewish; father and half sister had blonde hair; Nazis almost left them during raid, father told them they were in fact Jewish; neighbors attempted to take half-sister; uncle and family committed suicide before deportation; family sent to Westerbork June 1943; discusses aid from farmers nearby to "disappear" from Westerbork, brother attempted but was not successful; January 1944 transport to Bergen-Belsen, sick on arrival; family believed there was a chance they could be "exchanged" and sent to Palestine; father sent to Sachsenhausen August 1944, left poems with brother; discusses receiving packages from Red Cross, others received none; discusses family members being sent away and returning after Russians progressed on the East front, was supposed to be deported east, got sick and hid, remained in Belsen; discusses British arriving, fear of eating remaining food and belief Nazis had poisoned it; spent 2 months in DP camp after liberation, showers and delousing, diagnosed with tuberculosis; discusses Russian nurses brief visit to camp; heard Red Cross announcement over loudspeaker to be returned to Holland, left bed and went with group; first to Celle nearby; sent to Eindhoven, Netherlands arrived June 28 1945; studied art in Arnhem 1948-49; married a Buchenwald survivor.