

TIMELINE: RODI GLASS

Blue - Rodi Timeline; Black - Historical Timeline



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1903

Rodi's grandparents move to London, England, where Rodi's mother, Sofie Waterman Kaiser, is born. Rodi's mother was the youngest of six siblings, and Rodi's father was the youngest of seven siblings.

APRIL 1936

Rodi is born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

NOVEMBER 1938

The German government instigates a government-sponsored terror campaign against Jewish businesses, synagogues, and people in Germany, annexed Austria, and areas of the Sudetenland. Thousands of Jewish men are arrested and sent to concentration camps amid the violence. This campaign comes to be known as *Kristallnacht*, or the Night of Broken Glass.

1939

Westerbork is established as a refugee camp for German Jews fleeing Nazi Germany. As many as 39,000 German Jews have sought refuge in the Netherlands.

FALL 1940

A series of anti-Jewish laws and decrees begins. All Jewish civil servants are fired, and all Jewish businesses are registered.

1942

Nazis take over Rodi's family's business. Rodi's mother continues working at the family shop, now run by Dutch Nazi sympathizers.

JULY 1942

Nazi officials take control of Westerbork and create a transit camp for Dutch and non-Dutch Jews. The first deportation transport leaves Westerbork for Auschwitz-Birkenau. Most of the deportees are killed upon arrival.

OCTOBER 1942

Rodi and her parents are released from Westerbork and return to Amsterdam.

SEPTEMBER 1943

Rodi and her family, including parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, are arrested and imprisoned again in Westerbork.

1914 - 1918

The Netherlands remains neutral during World War I.

JANUARY 1933

Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany under President Paul von Hindenburg.

SEPTEMBER 1939

Germany invades Poland, starting World War II. The Netherlands remains neutral.

1940

Germany invades the Netherlands. Four days later the Dutch Army surrenders. Rodi is four years old.

JANUARY 1941

Germany invades the Netherlands. Four days later the Dutch Army surrenders. Rodi is four years old.

1941

All Jews in the Netherlands are required to register as Jewish.

APRIL 1942

All Jewish people over six years old are ordered to wear a badge identifying them as Jewish.

SEPTEMBER 1942

Rodi and her parents are taken on an army truck to Central Station in Amsterdam. From there, they are sent to Westerbork. Rodi and her mother are separated from her father. A few days later, Rodi and her mother are called to be deported. Her mother knows the Nazi officer in charge, and he scratches their names off the deportation list.

MAY 1943

The family, including Rodi's grandparents, are rounded up and sent to the Jewish Theater in Amsterdam. They are released because of the *Sperre*, passes her grandfather secured that state Sophie's British citizenship, which protects her (and the family) from deportation.

TIMELINE: RODI GLASS (CONTINUED)

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SEPTEMBER 1943

Rodi and her family, including parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, are arrested and imprisoned again in Westerbork.

SEPTEMBER 1944

Rodi and her family are liberated from Vittel.

MAY 1945

Rodi and her parents return to Amsterdam after the city is liberated.

MARCH 1944

On a journey that takes three days, Rodi and her family are sent to Vittel, a transit camp in France, because Sophie and her siblings have British citizenship. They are held as hostages to be exchanged for German POWs.

APRIL 1945

Westerbork is liberated by Canadian forces. Approximately 100,000 Jews and 245 Roma from the Netherlands were transported through Westerbork. Only 876 inmates remain in the camp.

1951

Rodi and her family move to Chicago, United States.