

# Rose Van Thyn

## Additional Information about the Writer



Rozette (Rose) Lopes-Dias Van Thyn



Rose Van Thyn with mother, Rachael, and sister Anna, 1930's

Rozette Lopes-Dias Van Thyn, known as Rose Van Thyn, was born in Amsterdam on 19 September 1921. She attended the Free University of Amsterdam, but following the occupation of Holland by Nazi Germany, she had to abandon her studies and start working in a factory

In 1942, as the Nazis began deporting Jews in the Netherlands to camps, her sister and brother-in-law were arrested and taken away. Her father and first husband were the next to be deported. Finally, Van Thyn and her mother were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. She was assigned inmate number 62511. Van Thyn was subjected, without sedatives or anesthesia, to medical experimentation, including Carl Clauberg's sterilization experiments.



Block (barrack) 10, Auschwitz

She survived two years in the notorious Block 10 in Auschwitz. Following the abandonment of Auschwitz by the Nazis, she survived a forced march to Ravensbrück concentration camp in northern Germany. She was liberated by American soldiers on 26 April 1945.

Van Thyn learned after the war that her parents, a sister and her first husband had all perished. After she returned to the Netherlands, she met fellow survivor Louis Van Thyn, whose first wife was murdered in the Holocaust. Rose and Louis married in Amsterdam in 1946. The Van Thyns immigrated to the United States in 1956.

In the last three decades of her life, Rose became a prominent Holocaust speaker and educator in northern Louisiana. In 1990, she wrote a letter to the editor of the *Shreveport Times* condemning the candidacy for the U.S. Senate of state legislator David Duke, an avowed neo-Nazi, conspiracy theorist, and former grand wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

## Timeline

- 1921 (19 September) Rozette Lopes-Dias Van Thyn, known as Rose Van Thyn, born in Amsterdam
- 1942 All of the immediate members of the Lopes-Dias family are deported; Rozette survives two years in Block 10 in Auschwitz as the subject of medical experiments
- 1945 Survives a forced march from Auschwitz-Birkenau to Ravensbrück concentration camp; set free with nine other women on April 26, she spends three weeks under the protection of Soviet troops and is then granted safe passage to the American-controlled-area. She is the sole member of her family to survive the Holocaust.
- 1951 Marries Louis Van Thyn, also a survivor of Auschwitz, in Amsterdam
- 1956 Rose and Louis Van Thyn immigrate to the United States, become US citizens in 1961.
- 1990 In a letter to the editor of the *Shreveport Times*, condemns the (ultimately unsuccessful) U.S. Senate campaign of David Duke
- 2016 Rose and Louis Van Thyn's son Nico independently publishes *Survivors: 62511*,

70726: *Two Holocaust stories, from Amsterdam to Auschwitz to America*, about his parents' experiences.

2010 (27 June) Dies in Shreveport, Louisiana



## Primary and Other Sources

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