

ANNA MARIA “SETTELA” STEINBACH

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Settela Steinbach was one of 574 Roma and Sinti arrested in 1944 and taken to Camp Westerbork. Her hair was cut off there, so she covered her head with a strip torn from a sheet as a scarf. On 19 March 1944, Settela was put on a freight train to Auschwitz. As the doors of the wagon closed, she was filmed staring out by Rudolf Breslauer, a Jewish prisoner who had been ordered to record the scene by the camp commander. Settela was killed within the next few months, together with her mother, two brothers, two sisters, her aunt, her two nephews and her niece. Of the large Steinbach family, only her father survived.

Did you know

... that for decades everybody thought the photograph was of a young Jewish girl? The “Girl with the Headscarf” became a symbol of the sufferings of the Jews during the German occupation.

... that her true identity was only discovered in 1994 by a Dutch journalist, Aad Wagenaar?

For you to do

To find out more about Settela, go to www.romasinti.eu.

The photo

Archives of the Westerbork Memorial Site, Netherlands.