Timeline

1899  Joop Westerweel born in Zutphen.
1910  First Palestine Pioneers in the Netherlands start agricultural training.
1923  Westerweel gets job as a teacher in the Dutch Indies. He is imprisoned for several months when he refuses to do his militia service. December 1924 he is expelled to the Netherlands.
1925  He works as a teacher in Amsterdam. In 1932 Westerweel and his wife Wil transfer to the Kees Boekeschool in Blithoven. Active in various left-wing movements.
1933  Adolf Hitler takes power in Germany.
1934  Opening of the Werkdorp Wieringermeer for young German-Jewish refugees.
1939  Training for pioneers starts in Loosdrecht Pavilion. In total over 800 mainly German and Austrian pioneers stay in the Werkdorp and other similar facilities.

May 1940  German invasion of the Netherlands. Joop Westerweel headmaster at the Montessori School in Rotterdam.
Nov 1940  Jewish civil servants get fired. Anti-Jewish agitation by Dutch Nazi’s.
1941  Februari staking (February Strike) in and around Amsterdam against persecution of Jews. Formation of the Jewish Council.
1941  Process of isolation and discrimination of Dutch Jews continues. Jews are forbidden to visit parks, cinemas and use public transport.
1942 May 3rd  Jews are forced to wear a yellow Star of David.
1942 July 15th  First Jews are transported from Amsterdam via Westerbork to Auschwitz.
1942 End of July/early August  Westerweel Group was founded in Loosdrecht with Mirjam Waterman, Menachem Pinkhof, ‘Shushu’ Simon, Joop Westerweel, Bouke Koning, and Jan Smit as core members.
1942 Middle of August  Start of hiding operation of 50 pioneers from Loosdrecht.
1942 October  Attempt to bring eight pioneers to Switzerland fails due to betrayal.
Late 1942/early 1943  Increasing number of pioneers calls for help from the Westerweel Group to go into hiding.
1943 Spring  Hiding places in the North of Limburg become available. Document forger Frans Gerritsen joins the group. Start of the route to France.
1943 Summer/Autumn  Around 150 Palestine Pioneers travel as workers of the Organization Todt to France. Start of collaboration with the Armée Juive to escape to Spain.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1943 Autumn</td>
<td>Betrayal in Rotterdam. Ten people get arrested among whom Wil Westerweel, Joop’s wife.</td>
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<td>Early 1944</td>
<td>First successful crossing of a larger group of pioneers to Spain. In total some 70 pioneers will reach Spain.</td>
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<td>1944 March</td>
<td>Joop Westerweel and Bouke Koning are arrested at the Belgian border in Budel. 22nd of August 1944 Joop Westerweel is executed in Vught.</td>
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<td>1944 May</td>
<td>Due to betrayal over twenty members of the Westerweel group are arrested in separate cases in Paris and the Netherlands.</td>
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<td>1944 September</td>
<td>Most of the southern part of the country is liberated. The Westerweel Group ends its activities. Local resistance groups take over most of the care of some 100 pioneers.</td>
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<td>May 5th 1945</td>
<td>Capitulation of the German forces in The Netherlands.</td>
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