

**HAIM ROET PAPERS, approximately 1930-1981**  
**2010.137.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Haim Roet papers

Dates: approximately 1930-1981 (bulk: approximately 1930-1945)

Accession number: 2010.137.1

Creator: Roet, Haim, 1932-

Extent: 0.1 linear foot (6 folders)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The Haim Roet papers consist of pre-war, wartime, and postwar photographs of Haim Roet; his family, wearing Star of David badges; his rescuers, Anton and Adelaide Deesker; and his brother Josef's rescuers, Reinier and Margaret Veerman. Additional photographs depict Prims family weddings (Josef and Mathilda Prims, Maurits and Betty Prims), a 90th birthday celebration, a Jewish school in Amsterdam, and rescuers Max Leons and Arnold Douwes. The papers include a May 1945 postcard from Josef Roet in Dedemsvaart to his parents updating them on his and Haim's situations as well as a July 1945 postcard from Aaltje Norden, who was also hidden at the Deeskers with Haim, sending greetings from Emmen.

Languages: Dutch, Hebrew

**Administrative Information**

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: Haim Roet papers (2010.137.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Haim Roet donated his to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2010.

Processing History: Julie Schweitzer, August 2019

### **Biographical note**

Haim Roet (1932- ) was born Hendrik (Henk) on July 10, 1932 in Amsterdam, Netherlands, to Shlomo Pinchas Roet (b. 1892, Amsterdam) and Johanna (Yohanna) Roet (née Prims, b. 1898, Alkmaar). He had three brothers, Josef (Yosef, b. 1926), Abraham (Avraham, b. 1928), and Aaron (Aron, b. 1930) and two sisters, Rozinna (Rosientje, b. 1922) and Adela (Adele, b. 1924). His parents came from modern middle class orthodox Jewish families, and they lived in Amsterdam in Minervalaan. Following the German occupation of the Netherlands, Haim was forced to wear a yellow star badge and was barred from playgrounds, parks, public transportation, and public school. Haim's grandfather was widowed in 1941, and the family moved in with him in the center of Amsterdam. In 1942, SS and Dutch Police confined Haim's family in the Jewish Theatre with more than a thousand Jews waiting for transfer to Westerbork and then deportation to concentration camps. The Roet family was released after a week and moved to a newly established ghetto. Haim shared an apartment with his parents and brothers, and his sisters lived in a second apartment with their grandfather Abraham. In September 1943, the SS arrested Abraham, Rozinna, and Adela. When the SS came for the rest of the family the following day, Johanna resisted arrest by yelling at them in German until they left.

Johanna and Shlomo contacted the Resistance who found hiding places for the family. Haim's parents were hidden in a small attic with Avraham. Haim was assigned the name Hendrik Drees and hidden in several places in Nieuwlande with the help of Johannes Post, Arnold Douwes, and Max Leons before being moved to the home of Anton and Adelaide (Alida) Deesker. The Deeskers owned a small bakery and had three children, including a son who coincidentally was also named Hendrik. Haim posed as their nephew. The Deeskers also hid another Jewish man and his mother, Robert and Aaltje Norden. Haim attended the local school until the principal, who suspected he was Jewish, told him not to return. Haim's brother Josef was hidden by the Jo and Bep Scholten and then Reinier and Margaret Veerman.

Following liberation in May 1945, Shlomo and Johanna were reunited with their three sons, thanks in part to Red Cross notices tacked to trees. Haim learned that his grandfather and uncle Isaac were killed in the gas chambers at Auschwitz in 1944, his sister Rozinna died of typhus in Auschwitz, and his sister Adela survived Auschwitz but succumbed to poor health shortly after liberation. His aunt Hendrika, his adopted brother, Yossi, and most of his other uncles, aunts, and their families perished in the Holocaust. Haim and his parents settled in Israel in 1949, and Haim changed his name from Hendrik. He married his wife Naomi and had three children and many grandchildren. In an effort to make the Holocaust more personal, Haim initiated the "Unto every Person There Is A Name" memorial project where the names of Nazi victims are read in public around the world. Yad Vashem recognized the Veermans as Righteous Among the Nations in 1981 and the Deeskers in 1983.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Haim Roet papers consist of pre-war, wartime, and postwar photographs of Haim Roet; his family, wearing Star of David badges; his rescuers, Anton and Adelaide Deesker; and his brother Josef's rescuers, Reinier and Margaret Veerman. Additional photographs depict Prims family weddings (Josef and Mathilda Prims, Maurits and Betty Prims), a 90th birthday celebration, a Jewish school in

Amsterdam, and rescuers Max Leons and Arnold Douwes. The papers include a May 1945 postcard from Josef Roet in Dedemsvaart to his parents updating them on his and Haim's situations as well as a July 1945 postcard from Aaltje Norden, who was also hidden at the Deeskers with Haim, sending greetings from Emmen.

### **System of arrangement**

The Haim Roet papers are arranged as a single series.

### **Indexing terms**

#### **Personal Names**

Roet, Haim, 1932-

#### **Topical Terms**

Jews--Netherlands--Amsterdam.  
Hidden children (Holocaust)  
Righteous Gentiles in the Holocaust.

#### **Geographic Names**

Amsterdam (Netherlands)  
Dedemsvaart (Netherlands)  
Emmen (Netherlands)

#### **Genre Terms**

Correspondence.  
Photographs.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1: Haim Roet papers, approximately 1930-1981 (bulk approximately 1930-1945)**

| <b>Folder</b> | <b>Title</b>  |
|---------------|---|
| 1 of 6        | Deesker family, approximately 1943-1956   |
| 2 of 6        | Prims family (Josef and Mathilda Prims wedding, Maurits and Betty Prims wedding), approximately 1936-1938   |
| 3 of 6        | Roet family (wearing Star of David badges), approximately 1942  |
| 4 of 6        | Veerman family, approximately 1943-1950   |
| 5 of 6        | Additional photographs (90 <sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, Jewish school in Amsterdam, Max Leons and Arnold Douwes), approximately 1930, 1932, 1981 |
| 6 of 6        | Postcards (from Josef Roet and the Nordens), 1945   |