

-TITLE- ANDRIES VAN DER MEER
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE- CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY- FAIR
-IMAGE_QUALITY- GOOD
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES- ENGLISH
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

0:32:22 He was born in Rinowerden in 1921. His father was a banker and owned his own small company.

0:33:00 He was going to be a banker, too. He had no choice, since he was the eldest son.

0:33:15 He had three brothers and two sisters.

is village had about 3000 inhabitants.

The interviewer asks what his mother was like.

0:33:41 He replies that there were always financial problems. His father had no capital for his company, and as a result his childhood was not prosperous. They were poor.

0:34:40 His father was very quiet--he didn't discuss his difficulties, but his mother did. She was always "sorrowing" and asking his father to bring home money.

During the winter his father had no business, so Andries had to work for another company. At this point he was 17 years old and on his own.

0:35:55 As soon as war broke out he went to Utrecht. He was 19 then.

0:36:09 When he was 13 years old he left school and began working.

0:36:31 He studied evenings and eventually got a diploma in art by 19 years of age.

0:37:00 He became an artist and was told he would have a good future in Utrecht. His family was there.

0:37:43 They were a close family but his mother had a very dominant character and was strict.

0:38:20 She told him she would rather he were shot down than to have him do one thing for the Germans.

0:38:40 His mother always had people hiding in her house. When asked which of his parents had influenced him the most, he said it was probably his mother.

0:39:20 He lived in a very Christian village where most people were Reformed Protestants and other religions were scarcely present.

0:39:35 In school he learned about the crucifixion of Jesus, and that the Jews had once been God's people, but now they were not.

0:40:04 He said he always resisted that attitude because he couldn't believe it.

Before the war he didn't know any Jews. The first Jew he met was a colleague in a bank. Then he met his family through the Brinkers.

0:40:35 "Did you know Jews and what did you think of them?" is a question asked to all the Dutch in these interviews. He is the first person to admit the prevalent schooling attitude as denouncing Jews in terms of religion. He says he is being honest.

0:41:30 They were taught that the Jews were condemned to be wanderers as a punishment from God.

BUT NO ONE KNEW ANY JEWS.

(DISCUSSION ON INTERVIEW PROCEDURE)

0:42:57 He met a Turkish sailor Jew in Utrecht who had no money. His other colleague paid for his living, and another colleague also worked with him.

0:43:40 At a station in Utrecht he saw the Germans putting Jews into the train to go off to camps. He will never forget it. He saw the horrible things happening from the window where he was painting.

0:44:20 That was at the beginning of 1942.

44:35 He went to the Brinker family as a lodger and met a Jewish family, the Fackensteins.

Willie Speaks

0:45:15 At first, before Jews had to wear stars, the shop people thought the Fackensteins were German Nazis since they had fled from Germany, and were not very friendly to them.

0:45:53 They apologized and became hospitable once the Fackensteins began wearing stars.

0:46:40 The Fackensteins received a letter telling them they had to leave. The Brinkers and Andries asked if they could help by hiding them, but the Fackensteins refused because of their two little children.

0:47:20 Three of them would visit after 8'm, when the Jews couldn't go out. Their house had no furniture.

0:47:50 Everyone thought they were being sent to just a camp. They never realized what it really was.

0:48:25 The three (Jan, Willie and andries) attended a meeting where the Jews were told what to bring with them, and what they were allowed to do. They tried to get people to hide them in their homes.

0:49:15 They knew nothing about the gas, but saw that Jews were treated like animals, which gave bad feelings about what would happen to them.

0:50:05 Willie says if they did the same thing today to, say, Moroccans or Turks, he would react in the same way. They are all People.

0:50:25 He moved in with the Brinkers because it was hard to find a boarding house. He put an ad in the paper, but it turned out to be more of an opening for a son than a boarder.

0:52:50 Eventually the Germans sought Andries, and he was forced to go into hiding.

0:53:23 The Jewish boy shared his bed, but could not go outside. In an unclear incident, he lost his card and the Jewish boy found it, allowing him to go outside.

After three months Andries had to replace his card, but was not given one because his was "registrated," so he had to go to Zuman and

0:54:25 register to work.

0:54:54 He wrote a letter to the work office saying that he had always chosen the place where he would work himself, and would do so again.

0:55:23 Without an identity card, he was forced into hiding.

0:56:15 Everyone who had been hiding at the Brinkers had to leave (unclear why, but it had something to do with him).

0:56:50 One night there was a raid and the house was

searched because they were "denounced." Andries hid.

0:57:50 Andries told Karl Keiser (alias Fredrik) that he no longer dared to stay at the Brinkers, and his family took him in.

0:58:50 He became friends with Keiser.

0:59:15 Keiser asked Andries to carry out an attack with him, but Andries was too scared.

He would have given them away by looking too nervous beforehand.

1:00:08 Every weekend he went to Utrecht to meet with Keiser.

1:00:30 Keiser also went to the Brinkers, who were still hiding people who had left and returned.

1:00:57 Karl Keiser was a Dutchman posing as a German soldier; he spoke very good German.

1:01:30 Keiser was a fanatic. His girlfriend had died in a camp, which fed his anger.

1:02:43 If Keiser wanted to find hiding places for people, first he would temporarily hide them at the Brinkers.

1:03:06 Andries tells a story about when he found a hiding place for a Jewish boy (Harry Rosenthal). He had nowhere to stay, so decided to ask at various farms. One huge farm had a big shed. They rang the bell and called out but no one answered, so they left.

1:04:25 Later they learned that the house was full of 'foul Nazis.'

1:04:46 Willie became fond of Harry Rosenthal.

1:06:05 Andries received a letter from Rosenthal after the war. Ten years later he received a letter from Rosenthal's sister, who had not known that her brother was in Indonesia while she had been there. They spent two years in the same place and did not know it.

1:06:50 Andries tried to find him in Montreal, but he was not in the phone book. He said he would try later when he got back.

1:07:00 Andries spent every weekend in Utrecht and went to Wiedmir during the week.

1:08:06 The day of the lucky escape with Rosenthal,

1:09:00400 "umbedachters" were caught. He though he was doing dangerous work, but was actually safe by staying put.

1:09:55 When he was 23 years old he couldn't travel any more because all men beyond that age were kept back. He began working for the resistance.

1:10:25 He slept in the funeral halls of the church.

32 During the two years with the resistance, his sister would ride by at 8:00 am on her bike. If she wore a red cap it means danger.

1:12:06 If there were no Germans around, they went out during the day. A German lived three doors away.

1:12:39 The Brinkers had four or five rooms, but people slept in the crowded living room.

1:13:30 Once they were brought a 73 year-old Jewish lady who was very tense and shaky.

1:14:30 Keiser came one night at 7:00 with a place for this lady. (Curfew was at 8) He took her to her final address. The people there said the money they had been promised was not sufficient, and demanded double.

1:16:12 Keiser replied "Yes, and if you take four times as much you will bring her to Nazis." He asked the Brinkers to have her for one more week or he would have to leave her on sheets. It was better for the Germans to take the woman than himself, because if they took him they would take ten times as many more.

50 The Brinkers took her in again. They hugged her and she was shaky.

1:17:00 One night Andries came upon a big house with only two residents. He brought an elderly Jewish woman. The curfew for all non-Jews was 11:00. At a quarter to he rang the door of who he thought was his friend. He asked his friend if he could take the lady in, and was told no, it was too dangerous. Andries told him that if he didn't let them in, they would both be captured at 11:00. His friend said that he could come in, but not her.

1:22:30 One time it snowed outside and Mrs. Brinker was clearing the path. She let a boy who always asked to help clear the path. A customer came by for coffee. The boy said "That's a really nice lady." Mrs. Brinker said nothing, not wanting the boy to know she was a Nazi--a NSB member.

1:23:20 Once Andries was on a train with Harry. It was crowded so they had to stand. There was a uniformed soldier on the train, and Harry began screaming out of fear. A woman asked why he was screaming. Andries was very nervous.

1:24:40 Most of the time Andries worked with the resistance was spent finding houses for people.

From 1944 he worked with the NBS, which were local resistance forces.

1:26:11 Mrs. Brinker says she is not courageous, since she's scared, but sees it as her task because she is a Christian, as it is the task of all Christians.

1:27:12 People hid in their house, left, and returned. 1:27:52 In all, there were probably twenty people. She didn't keep track because she shouldn't know their names.

1:29:30 One family was going to another address and asked the Brinkers to accompany them as a kind of safeguard, by walking a few feet behind. This made them feel better.

1:30:43 This family still did some business, which is why they moved--for a business meeting.

1:31:47 The Jews still did a bit of selling. There was one shoe salesman who had 200 pairs of shoes. He kept the left shoes in one place and the right shoes in another.

1:33:09 If someone hiding in their house died, they dropped the body into the water somewhere.

1:34:04 One woman got a uterus infection. She was taken to the hospital where she was helped, but she didn't write her name on the papers or say anything about it.

1:35:01 Once Andries had a letter to give to the wife of a Jew. He had her hiding address and found it as the house of his company's boss. At first when he rang the bell he got the answer "No, we have no Jews here." But it turned out that they were hiding seven. People were afraid to admit it to one another because they didn't know who to trust.

1:35:45 That family survived.

1:35:55 Al Keiser did not survive.

1:36:11 The Brinkers say that the people who hid in their house got money to pay for food from the underground.

1:36:55 It was a very small fee.

Mrs. Brinker's father owned a farm outside, where they went all the time for food. He always asked, "what are you doing with all that food?"

1:38:10 When the war was over, a Jew called De Bier walked out in the street and one of the neighbors asked where he had been. He replied, "I was with a very nice lady," and laughed.

Last year Andries saw Mr. De Bier again. They told stories about their hiding, and remembered a Bible quote on the wall of the room, and could recite it, but still didn't know what it meant.

1:40:13 The longest period anyone stayed in hiding at their house for one time was 1/2 year. They always behaved nicely. They had to tell the children not to go to the windows or play with the curtains. It was very difficult.

1:41:03 They could hide in the attic, where they had a secret door.

1:41:30 The Brinker's baby was about to be born at home so those hiding had to move.

1:42:06 The day after they left, the Germans came and searched the whole house. They made her go upstairs even in her pregnant condition.

1:43:11 If people had been there when the Germans came, she was not sure if they would have found the hiding place. It was very difficult to see.

1:45:05 Keiser and Andries always kept in contact. The last time something was not right, Andries went to Utrecht and the family told him Keiser was not home yet.

He waited until 12:30, and realized something was wrong, and decided to leave the house.

The next evening he discovered Keiser had been arrested while getting clothes for babies.

1:46:06 Keiser spent four weeks in prison. They let him go because they could not find anything.

1:46:14 They met him again, while he was bringing two Jewish girls (20 and 22) to stay with a farmer and his wife and a big family. They would help the mother in the house.

They were going to go by train to Alkmar, then bike from the station.

1:47:09 The girls dyed their hair red. Remnants of the dye were left in the house.

Andries hadn't met the girls. When he did, he did not find them

very pleasant. They complained

1:47:54 about going to a farm in such a small village and having to work.

Andries told Keiser he didn't feel safe taking these girls. He said he would leave them behind.

1:48:40 There was a big basement in a house where the Jews who were difficult to get along with stayed. It was a kind of punishment to be sent down there.

The two girls were sent there.
Andries had to go and hide.
He had no contact with Keiser.

1:49:02 He read in the newspapers that 23 people had been arrested and sentenced without trials.

As soon as the war ended, he found that:

The two girls had left the basement and were on the streets for the first time in a year. They got scared when they saw two German soldiers. The soldiers followed them into a Catholic church.

1:50:20 They were overheard talking about everything-- the hiding place, etc. They found out about Keiser and the others.

1:51:31 There is a monument in the churchyard where Keiser and the others are buried.

Keiser was the only one killed whose name he knew.

1:51:56 He purposely did not know the others' names.

1:52:40 Pictures of the graves are shown.

1:54:23 They have received letters from those who stayed in their house, stating that they did not do this for money, but out of love.

Willie Speaking

They received no medals for what they did, and would refuse them if they were offered.

1:56:10 They acted out of love and would do it again.

1:57:22 They did keep in touch with the De Bier family, but they all wanted to start over and forget the past. They all felt this way.

1:58:30 They still feel like they did not do nearly enough.

Andries Speaking

1:59:40 In Canada and other places, people have tried to forget that the Holocaust ever happened.

This scares a lot of people in Canada. People all over had problems trying to record events of the Holocaust, setting it down as a history to tell their children. For that reason it is good that these interviews take place, and he thinks they should be written in books.

Mr. Brinker Speaks

2:00:21 Not only were the Jews victimized in the holocaust. There were also gypsies, Jehovah, and homosexuals.

2:01:15 He says Jews were discriminated against in both positive and negative ways, but neither should be done.

He thinks Jews should be treated normally like everyone else. Why should there be differences between people?

Summary

Mr. and Mrs. Brinker and Andries van de Meer worked together during the war to help the Jews find hiding places. In this interview they told many stories from that time period. They seem very positive about the experience.

CHRISTIAN RESCUER TAPES

Name: Jan and Willie Brinkers

Andries van der Meer

Language of interview: Dutch

Country: The Netherlands

Present home: Utrecht (?)

Accession #:

Date of interview: July 7, 1988

Interviewed by: Gay Block and Malka Drucker

SUMMARY

Jan and Willie Brinker hid about 20 Jewish people in their home during the war. Although one family stayed with them for most of the war, the Brinkers' house generally served as a temporary hiding place until the resistance workers could find a home in which the people could hide for a longer time.

Andries van der Meer became a close friend of the Brinkers when he boarded in their home. Soon after the war began, he became a

resistance worker, helping to transport people and things as needed. At times, he went into hiding himself.

As they recount the events of the war years, these rescuer show their feelings about what happened. They delight in the ways they outwitted the Germans, and they express sadness and frustration as they tell about the Falkensteins, their Jewish friends who were deported.

Mr. Brinker says forcefully that he would do the same thing today, if necessary, for Turks or Moroccans -- two groups who suffer some discrimination today in the Netherlands (see approx. index 3170).

(Note: one minute is roughly equivalent to 80 index units)

Jan Brinker

125 - Born 1915 in Utrecht, a city of about 200,000 at that time. My father was an administrator with the railways, a "Positive Christian" who was interested in people. My mother was a quiet woman. There were four children. It was a calm, quiet, patriotic family.

420 - I feel I was most influenced by my father. Both parents were altruistic. When the war broke out, my father felt they must all resist. The family belonged to an Evangelical Protestant faith, and went to church twice each Sunday. Jan Brinker liked to go to church, usually. (He chuckles.)

590 - I was the second child. I had an older brother, and a younger sister and brother. My siblings didn't not help Jews during the war, at least as far as I knew.

660 - His youngest brother hid in their house with my family.

785 - I knew some Jews when I was growing up. When the war began, the son and son-in-law of some Jewish neighbors hid in their house. That was the beginning.

910 -Before the war, there was no feeling of difference between Jews and non-Jews. The difference was the individual people themselves.

970 -The Jews were smart, and dominated the fields of art and music in a very positive way.

1015 - I was not aware of any negative feelings about this. Jewish people are usually above-average in many fields, such as music and politics -- for example, Einstein and Marx. They achieve a lot. I admire this.

1110 - I was married in Sept. 1940. They married in September, soon after the war started in May, because they didn't want to wait until after the war.

1150 - I first became aware of what the Germans were doing to the Jews at the time of the Anschluss in Austria. They heard how the Germans were driving the Jews out of shops, and 90 on.

Willie Brinker:

1330 - I was born in 1914 in Putten. It was a village of three or four thousand people. My father was a gardener at a castle. My parents were native Dutch.

1425 - My father was a sweet, hard-working man. He loved work.

1450 - They lived at the castle, which was owned by a nobleman. My mother helped take care of the animals. She was a quiet, faithful, hard-working person. She didn't say much, but she really cared for her family.

1550 - There were three children; I was the middle child. Three of my mother's brothers also lived with the family. The uncles were about 10 to 15 years older than I was, but much younger than my mother. One of the uncles was caught at a razia (?-ph) and died in a concentration camp.

1650 - As a revenge for a Resistance attack on Raalte, near Putten, the Germans deported all men from 18 to 50. All most all were killed within two months.

1710 - I came from a religious family -- Dutch Reformed.

1790 - My mother helped neighbors, and people could always come in and have some coffee, but she did not play any specific altruistic role.

1860 - I believe I'm more like my father.

1890 - When I was married, I was happy to have my own house, 90 I could do things for other people.

1960 - Before my marriage, I lived in Utrecht and worked as a housekeeper for families.

1990 - I lived in the village until I moved to Utrecht at 18.

2015 - There were no Jewish children in my village school, but in a place nearby there were Jewish shops and a synagogue. I saw Jewish people there.

2050 - I went to Utrecht because it was very difficult to

find Jobs in the village.

2075 - I first knew about what Hitler was doing to the Jews in 1940, when Jan and I met a Jewish family that had fled from Germany. They had small children. Since the Brinkers had a house of their own they could receive them in their house .

2180 - This family came often, but only as visitors. Later on they were deported, and we couldn't help them.

Andries Van der Meer :

2240 - I was born in Leeuwarden in 1921. My father was a house painter, with his own small business. I was the eldest of three children -- I had three brothers and two sisters -- 90 I was expected to become a house painter, too.

2320 - Leeuwarden was a small village (about 3,000 people) in Friesland.

2400 - My mother often nagged my father about money, urging him to call on his customers to collect the money they owed. My father was very quiet, and didn't say much about his problems. They were poor; they had to struggle for a living. My father had borrowed money from his father to keep his business going, and he still owed this money when his father died in 1934.

2450 - I fought in 1940 in the war in Italy.

2460 - I stopped attending school when I was 13, in order to work, but continued to study during the evening. I received a diploma in drawing when I was 19, and was qualified to teach art. I went to Utrecht because there were more opportunities there. I worked for Firial (?-ph), a large company. 2545 - My family was very close. My mother, a strict person, was the dominant parent. She told him it would be better to be shot than to do even one thing for the Germans.

2580 - My mother continued to stay home during the war, and hid people there.

2615 - Almost everyone in my village was Dutch Reformed. In school, we were taught that the ancient Israelites were a people of God, but after the crucifixion they were no longer godly. This was the Church doctrine. But I couldn't believe this, and always resisted this idea.

2665 - The first Jew I met was a colleague in the painting company where I worked. Later, when visiting the Brinkers, I met the Falkstein family.

2690 - In school, the story of Ahasuerus, the wandering Jew, was pushed in front of them as an example of God's punishment. (The translator adds that this was the strict Calvinist view.) Now people believe differently. 2760 - During the war, a Turkish Jew, a seaman, came. He had no money; I was confronted with his difficulties. My colleague, Amy Horowitz, paid for his expenses.

2830 - Later, while I was painting a house overlooking the station in Utrecht, I saw the way the Germans pushed and pulled as they brought the Jews to the train.

2880 - And then I came to the Brinkers' house, and saw the Falkensteins.

2895 - (Willie Brinker) - At first, the Falkenstein family didn't have to wear the star. When they went into the shops, people thought they were Germans, since they had fled from Germany, so the Dutch people were not very friendly. Then, when the Falkensteins had to start wearing the stars, the people apologized for being so unfriendly before they knew they were Jewish.

2950 - (Willie Brinker) - The Falkensteins received a letter ordering themselves to present themselves somewhere for deportation. We asked how we could help; we offered to keep them with us. They said, "No, we have two little children -- how can we stay?" It was a very terrible moment when they had to leave.

3000 - (Andries van der Meer) - We went to visit them once a week, always after the 8 p.m. curfew. There was no furniture in their house -- just wooden planks.

3020 - (Jan Brinker) - They never realized ... they thought it was just a camp.

- (Andries van der Meer) - The Falkensteins had papers from the Jewish Council telling what to take when you were called for, and how to behave. We started to tell people to come and hide in our place. - (Jan Brinker) - We tried to keep the Falkensteins here, but they wouldn't stay. We didn't know anything about gas chambers, and neither did they.

3115 - (Jan Brinker) - They were crowded together like animals, and that gave such a bad feeling. If they were to do this today to the Moroccans, or the Turks, or whoever, I would react the same way. They are people.

3180 - (Andries van der Meer) - I met the Brinkers when they put an ad in the paper.

3200 - (Jan and Willie Brinker) - He was like a son to us, not like a boarder. We decided to advertise in the paper because we needed some extra money, and we had a room left.

3260 - (Andries van der Meer) - We each had an ID card from the Germans. A Jewish father and son were living in the house. The son was my age, and he shared the double bed in my room. He looked out the window; he wanted to go outside. So I "lost" my ID card on the street and got a replacement card, so the boy could use the original card. In the meantime, I received notice that I was to be sent to Germany for forced labor.

3345 - (Andries van der Meer) - I wrote to the Germans. I said, "I always decide for myself where I want to work, and I'm doing that now." That was my mother's character in me! And I brought the letter myself to their office, to be sure it arrived there. Then I had to hide without an ID card, so I got a false one from the underground.

3380 - (Jan and Willem Brinker) - Everyone (who was hiding had to leave the house because he had to dive [dive = go underground]). Andries was frustrated. The Germans came one night, and there was a crowd. They had to search the house because we were denounced.

3440 - (Andries van der Meer) - I hid. At a meeting of Friesian people, I met Karl Kaiser, a machinist with the railways. When I told him why I couldn't stay with the Brinkers any more, he said that I could stay in his room. Kaiser had a German officer's uniform.

3500 - (Andries van der Meer) - Kaiser, who was my friend, asked me to participate in a resistance attack. I told him that I was afraid I would be too nervous to be of any help. So he asked me to transport people and things for the resistance, and I agreed to do this.

3550 - (Andries van der Meer) - Every Thursday evening Kaiser went to the Brinkers' house. Every weekend I went to Utrecht for a meeting. We brought Jews to and from the Brinker house.

3600 - (Andries van der Meer) - Kaiser was Dutch, and spoke fluent German and English. He was highly educated.

3620 - (Jan Brinker) - Kaiser was a fanatic. His girlfriend died in a camp, and this fed his anger.

3655 - (Andries van der Meer) - Kaiser was in the Bakker house.

3660 - (Jan and Willie Brinker) - At times, Kaiser would

bring Jewish people to stay temporarily with the Brinkers while he found a more permanent place for them to hide.

3675 - (Andries van der Meer) - Once I was helping Harry Rosenbaum, a Jewish boy, to go to a hiding place that Kaiser had arranged. The Brinkers' house was too crowded then, and Harry wasn't quiet, went out on the street although he looked very Jewish ... he couldn't stay with the others. Harry was on the back of my bike, out near a farm with a big shed. We later found out that the farm belonged to _____ (?) (apparently a collaborator). We were lucky he wasn't home!

3747 - (Willie Brinker) - We didn't have enough beds, so people slept on bedding placed on the floor.

3766 - (Andries van der Meer) - Now Harry lives in Montreal, Canada. When he was 13, I took him to Friesland. He stayed there with my parents for a little while, but then he couldn't stay because of a (razial (?-ph)]. After this, he stayed with the Brouwer family until the liberation. Then he returned to Rotterdam. I received a letter from him.

3820 - (Andries van der Meer) - After 10 years without any contact, Harry heard from his sister, who lived in Indonesia. They had lived together for only two years. Harry went to live in Israel, where he had two children, and then went to live in Canada. This spring I went to Canada and tried to find him. He wasn't listed in the telephone directory. In 1989 we plan to go to Kingston, and we'll try again to find him.

3860 - (Andries van der Meer) - One Sunday morning in 1943 I bicycled with Harry to Enkhuizen at 7 a.m. From there, we were going to continue to Friesland by boat and train. That day, at 7:30, the Germans held a [razio), checking ID cards. 400 onderduikers (people in hiding] were caught. I thought this journey would be very dangerous work, but as it turned out, the trip saved me. My contact, Amir, told me not to return because of all this disorder. I was 23 years old. I couldn't travel any more, because the Germans were taking all the young men to work.

3960 - (Andries van der Meer) - So I stayed in Friesland. After two days, the Resistance asked me to join them. I slept in a funeral home. It wasn't dangerous there -- it was very quiet! Our family Bible had all our names written in it. My mother had to cross out my name and write that I was dead. In a way, it was true! (They all laugh.)

4030 - (Andries van der Meer) - My sister would bicycle over

when it was not too dangerous. If it was dangerous, she wore a red cap. When it was ok, we went around and did whatever needed to be done.

4050 - (Jan Brinker) - We had four or five rooms. People had to squeeze together to sit or sleep. (He demonstrates.) Kaiser brought a 73-year-old German Jewish lady to us. She spoke only German; she was shaking. After a week or two, Kaiser came at 7 p.m. to take her to a permanent hiding place. We had just gone out for a stroll before the 8 p.m. curfew, when Kaiser and the old lady appeared at our door.

4170 - (Jan Brinker) - When he had gone to the home with this lady, the people said, "We need twice as much money as we originally told you." And Kaiser said, "And if you can get four times as much, you'll take her to the Nazis!" Kaiser took her back to use, and asked if we could keep her another week. If we couldn't take her, Kaiser said, he'd have to leave her in the street at curfew. "It would be better for the Germans to take her than me," he said, "because if they take me it means ten more people." So we took her, and embraced.

4226 - (Andries van der Meer) - Then I brought this old German Jewish woman to a friend, a fellow-student who was Catholic. Only two people were living in his big house. I asked him to take this woman in to live with him. He refused. He said i d i t was too dangerous . It was near curfew. I told him that if he wouldn't take this woman, then she and I would be captured. He said, "Go home, and leave her outside." I never saw him again. I didn't want to.

4280 - (Andries van der Meer) - The woman slept in a chair that night; we had no beds. This was the second place they tried to find for her.

4295 - (Willie Brinker, Jan Brinker) - Finally, they found a place for her. I always have children in the house. Their future was so fragile. We were a passage house, a temporary house.

4330 - (Willie Brinker, Jan Brinker) - Our children were born in 1942 and 1944. We always told them, "Don't tell anyone!" (They laugh) We also had a lot of fun. You had to. You had fun together.

4355 - (Jan Brinker) - As I said at the beginning, I felt that the Jews were always above average. Once a 14-year-old boy was staying with us, and he wanted something to do. So we dyed his hair blonde, and a sugar merchant said he'd give him a job. Two weeks later the merchant called and said we had to take the boy back, because it was too dangerous -- his staff was guessing that the boy was Jewish, because he was 90 smart.

4430 - (Jan Brinker) - Later, the boy wanted to help clear snow from the walk. He was red-haired by this time, 90 I let him go out. A customer was having a cup of coffee with us. The boy commented on what a nice person she was. I didn't answer him, because he didn't have to know that she was a member of the NSB (Dutch Nazi Party).

4477 - (Andries van der Meer) - Once when I was on a crowded train with Harry Rosenbaum, we had to stand near a in uniform. Harry started to shake from fear. A woman nearby wondered why he was shaking. It was a happy ending. But we were very nervous.

4520 - (Andries van der Meer) - Mostly, I tried to find homes for people. But from 1944 onwards, I worked also with the local resistance forces.

4575 - (Willie Brinker) - I don't think I was very courageous, because I was always very scared. But I think that if you're a Christian, it's your task to save the Chosen People. (The others nod in agreement.)

4595 - (Willie Brinker, Jan Brinker) - People stayed, and left, and then came back. Altogether, probably around 20 people stayed with us. We didn't keep records, because we shouldn't know their names. The De Beer family was with us for most of the war.

4710 - (Jan Brinker) - When the De Beers had to go to another hiding place, they asked me to follow about three feet behind them. That made them feel safer, because you could get caught at any minute. So could we.

4735 - (Willie Brinker) - When a Jewish shoe seller had to hide, he left 100 left shoes in one place, and 100 right shoes in another place, 90 that they wouldn't be stolen while he was gone.

4815 - (Willie Brinker) - Sometimes we worried about what would happen if someone died while they were staying with us. The people we were hiding said, "When we die, just put us in the water somewhere." Kaiser also said this.

4845 - (Jan Brinker) - While the De Beers were hiding elsewhere, Mrs. de Beer had an infection of the uterus. She was treated at a surgical hospital, but they didn't record her name.

4870 - (Jan Brinker) - Once Mr. de Beer asked me to take a letter to his wife, who was hiding elsewhere at the time. He gave me an address -- it was my boss at work, in Utrecht on

Amsterdamsestradeweg (?). When I brought the letter there, they said, "No, we have no Jews." We were all in on it, even if we didn't know.

4896 - There were seven Jews in this small house. They used candles, not electric lights. They were playing a game around the table. Mrs. de Beer and her daughter were there. They survived the war.

4920 - (Andries van der Meer) - Karl Kaiser did not survive.

4930 - (Jan Brinker) - The people who stayed with us gave us some money to buy food from the Resistance. It was a very small amount -- just a contribution.

4967 - (Willie Brinker) - We often went to my father's farm to get food. He'd ask what we were doing with all that food, but we didn't tell him.

4990 - (Jan Brinker) - When the war was over, Mr. de Beer walked outdoors. One the neighbors asked, "Where have you been?" Mr. de Beers said, "I was with a very nice lady."

5010 - (Andries van der Meer) - Last year I was with de Beer (a son in the family) in Hilsum. And he remembered that we lived in the same room, and he remembered the framed bible text that hung on the wall -- "Keep your candles burning."

5040 - (Jan Brinker) - It's from Exodus.

5045 - (Willie Brinker) - It means to get ready to leave.

5060 - (Andries van der Meer) - He remembered it after all these years!

5070 - (Willie Brinker, Jan Brinker) - The de Beers stayed a half year at the longest. They left, then came back, then had to leave, then stayed a while. They always behaved very nicely. But we always had to tell the children not to go near the window, or touch the curtains.

5090 - (Willie Brinker, Jan Brinker) - We made a secret wooden door to the attic, so they could hide there if necessary .

5100 - (Willie Brinker, Jan Brinker) - When I was about to give birth at home, the people we were hiding had to move elsewhere. Just the day after they left, the Germans came to search the house. They made me go up to the attic, even though I was very pregnant. They searched everywhere --they looked in every drawer, and made a big mess. I said, "Please don't make such a mess, because you see I can't clean it all

up." My heart was pounding. Then they left, without finding anything.

5160 - (Willie Brinker, Jan Brinker) - If the people were hiding in the house, the Germans might not have found them, because of the hiding place.

5165 - (Jan Brinker) - A few I weeks ago met people who now live in that house. They said that they had wondered whether people had hid in the house, because of the door to the hiding place.

5200 - (Willie Brinker, Jan Brinker) - You couldn't notice the secret door, unless you looked very closely.

5220 - (Andries van der Meer) - One day I learned from the Brinkers that Kaiser had been arrested while taking some baby clothes to a house where people were hiding. He spent four weeks in prison. They couldn't find out anything about his activities, so they let him go -- even though he was one of the top people in the local resistance!

5270 - (Andries van der Meer) - After this incident, I was looking for a hiding place for two Jewish young women, 20 or 22 years old. A farmer with six children agreed to take them. To persuade his wife to take them, I had to promise that the girls would help in the house.

When I met the girls, they didn't seem very nice. They complained about going to a farm in a small village, and about having to work. So I told Kaiser that I couldn't place them in that house, because I didn't trust them.

The girls went to live in a big house with a basement used by the organization to hide 30 or 35 Jews who were difficult to place elsewhere -- for instance, children and sick people.

At this time, I returned to Friesland, because I had to hide at that time. I couldn't travel by train. I had no contact with Kaiser during that time. Then I read in the newspaper that 20 or 23 people were arrested and shot without a trial. Kaiser was among this group.

5380 - (Andries van der Meer) - Soon after the war I heard how it happened. These two girls had left the basement at 7 o'clock one Sunday morning. Some Germans saw them. The girls were frightened, and went to the nearby church. The Germans followed them there, and heard the girls talking about the hiding place.

That's how the Germans found out about the hiding place, and about Kaiser. I didn't know this until after the war.

5450 - (Andries van der Meer) - They are buried, with a

monument, in the churchyard. I don't know what happened to the girls.

5460 - (Andries van der Meer) - (Shows photos of the memorial stone in the cemetery, and of some houses.)

5520 - (Willie Brinker, Jan Brinker) - After the war the De Beer family wrote to us. The letter indicates that we did this for love, not for money. (Shows letter.)

5565 - (Willie Brinker, Jan Brinker) - (Were you recognized officially by Holland or by Israel after the war?) -- No, but we don't want to be. We did it out of love, and we would do it again.

5590 - (Jan Brinker) - When we were at Yad Vashem in Israel, we saw a lot of names, and we thought, "These people really did a lot!" They deserved it. (Interviewer says that they did just as much; the Brinkers non verbally dismiss this thought.)

It's on your way, and you do it. 5620 - (Willie Brinker, Jan Brinker) - We kept in touch with the De Beer family. We all wanted to start something new and wanted to leave the past behind. We felt that way, and 90 did the people who had stayed with us.

5650 - (Jan Brinker) - I still feel like we didn't do enough. Not at all. We didn't even come close.

5665 - (Andries van der Meer) - In Canada, many people say the Holocaust never happened; people say it's Jewish propaganda. Many people in Canada are very frightened by this. In Holland, you don't get that point of view. In Germany, the children's textbooks present the Holocaust as just a small part of the war. For that reason, it will be very good if you put this in a children's book.

5715 - (Jan Brinker) - It wasn't only the Jews -- also gypsies, Jehovah's Witness, homosexuals . . .

5730 - (Andries van der Meer) - One can discriminate against Jews in a negative way, or a positive way. To see the Jew as better than others is just as bad. We all want to be normal people. Why is it necessary to have differences between people? 5755 - (Willie Brinker) - We believe . . . to get the Jews because they are God's people . . .

5770 - (Jan Brinker) - It's not a blessing to be a part of God's people. 5785 - (Tape ends abruptly.)
.END.

Time Coded Notes Version 2

-TITLE- JAN BRINKERS
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE- CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY- FAIR
-IMAGE_QUALITY- GOOD
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES- ENGLISH
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

0:02 Was born in Utrecht in 1915.
 There are 2,000 inhabitants in Utrecht.

0:03 His father worked on the railway and came from a
 very positive Christian family. He was very
 interested in people.

 His mother cried a lot.
 There were four children.

0:04 In those days their family was very quiet, very
 calm, very patriotic.
 He thinks he was more influenced by his father
 than by his mother.

0:05 He said his family did set him an example in doing
 altruistic things. For example, when war broke
 out, his father said they must resist.
 His family was Protestant.

0:06 They usually went to Church twice every Sunday.
 He usually liked going.

0:07 He had one elder brother, and a younger sister and
 brother.
 Neither of them, as far as he knows, helped any
 Jews during the war.

 His younger brother went into hiding (unclear)

0:08 His mother received a letter from the people who
 had her son in hiding. They did not know that it
 was her son.

 This was done on purpose--people were not allowed
 to know, because it was dangerous.

He still has the letters.

0:9:30 He did know Jews when he was growing up.

0:10 In the beginning of the war, his family hid a Jewish father and son in their house. He never felt a difference between Jews and other people. He thought the people themselves were smart. They always dominated in art and in music,

0:12 In a very positive way. There were no negative feelings among Jews and non-Jews in school. He says Jewish people are usually achievers and above average in the fields of music and politics. He admires this.

0:14 In Sept 1940 he married, although the war had started in May. People asked why they didn't wait until the war was over. The first time he remembers hearing about what the

0:15 Germans were doing to the Jews was in 1938 and 1939, when news drifted in about the building of camps and people being driven out of shops. The interviewer remarks that no one from other interviews knew about the building of camps.

0:16 Jan changes his mind and decides that he must not have known about camps until after the war.

10:17 WILLIE BRINKER (CR)

Born in 1914 in Puttend--a village of 3 to 4 thousand inhabitants.

0:18 His father was a gardener for a castle. His family was native Dutch. He was a very sweet hard-working man who loved his work.

0:19 They were living at the nobleman's castle where they worked. Jan's mother tended the animals.

0:20 Although not very talkative, she was an extremely hard worker and cared about the family.

0:21 There were three children, of which Jan was the middle child. Also living with them were her mother's three brothers (who were 10-15 yrs. older than themselves, but much younger than her mother.) One of them was caught in Pilzen and sent to a concentration camp, where he died.

0:22 The interviewer asks if they had mistaken him for a Jew.

Jan answers no, that there had been an attack by the resistance close to Putzen, where the Germans took away all the men between the ages of 18 and 50, and put them in the camps. Within two months, almost all of them had died.

0:23 Her family was Protestant, like Dutch Reform.
Did her family set an example by helping others?

0:24:40 Her family would help neighbors and those who lived nearby, but there was not a really good opportunity to assist others, and her parents were too busy to help a lot. But people were always allowed in for coffee.

0:26:20 She was very happy to have our house once she was married, because then she could do more to help people than when she had worked.

0:26:50 Before she married, she worked for families as a maid.

0:27:25 She began working in Utrecht when she was 18 years old.
Before
that she attended school in the small village where she lived.

0:28:00 There were no Jews in her own village, but in a nearby place
there were many Jewish shops, people, and a synagogue.

0:28:35 Most people had difficulties finding jobs in the village, so
they went to the big cities to work, which is why she went to Utrecht.

0:29:28 It was during the war that she discovered what was happening to
the Jews.

0:29:44 In the 1940's she met a Jewish family which had fled from Germany. They had small children. Since she had her own house at that
time, she could receive them.

0:31:23 At first they only came as visitors, but then they came more
often. Eventually she couldn't help them any more and they were deported.

ANDRIES VAN DE MEER

0:32:22 He was born in Rinowarden in 1921. His father was a banker

and
owned his own small company.

0:33:00 He was going to be a banker, too. He had no choice, since
he
was the eldest son.

0:33:15 He had three brothers and two sisters.
His village had about 3000 inhabitants.

The interviewer asks what his mother was like.

0:33:41 He replies that there were always financial problems. His
father had no capital for his company, and as a result his
childhood
was not prosperous. They were poor.

0:34:40 His father was very quiet--he didn't discuss his
difficulties,
but his mother did. She was always "sorrowing" and asking his
father to
bring home money.

During the winter his father had no business, so Andries had to
work
for another company. At this point he was 17 years old and on his
own.

0:35:55 As soon as war broke out he went to Utrecht. He was 19
then.

0:36:09 When he was 13 years old he left school and began working.

0:36:31 He studied evenings and eventually got a diploma in art by
19
years of age.

0:37:00 He became an artist and was told he would have a good
future in
Utrecht. His family was there.

0:37:43 They were a close family but his mother had a very dominant
character and was strict.

0:38:20 She told him she would rather he were shot down than to
have
him do one thing for the Germans.

0:38:40 His mother always had people hiding in her house. When
asked
which of his parents had influenced him the most, he said it was
probably his mother.

0:39:20 He lived in a very Christian village where most people were

Reformed Protestants and other religions were scarcely present.

0:39:35 In school he learned about the crucifixion of Jesus, and that the Jews had once been God's people, but now they were not.

0:40:04 He said he always resisted that attitude because he couldn't believe it.

Before the war he didn't know any Jews. The first Jew he met was a colleague in a bank. Then he met his family through the Brinkers.

0:40:35 "Did you know Jews and what did you think of them?" is a question asked to all the Dutch in these interviews. He is the first person to admit the prevalent schooling attitude as denouncing Jews in terms of religion. He says he is being honest.

0:41:30 They were taught that the Jews were condemned to be wanders as a punishment from God.

BUT NO ONE KNEW ANY JEWS.

(DISCUSSION ON INTERVIEW PROCEDURE)

0:42:57 He met a Turkish sailor Jew in Utrecht who had no money. His other colleague paid for his living, and another colleague also worked with him.

0:43:40 At a station in Utrecht he saw the Germans putting Jews into the train to go off to camps. He will never forget it. He saw the horrible things happening from the window where he was painting.

0:44:20 That was at the beginning of 1942.

44:35 He went to the Brinker family as a lodger and met a Jewish family, the Fackensteins.

Willie Speaks

0:45:15 At first, before Jews had to wear stars, the shop people thought the Fackensteins were German Nazis since they had fled from Germany, and were not very friendly to them.

0:45:53 They apologized and became hospitable once the Fackensteins began wearing stars.

0:46:40 The Fackensteins received a letter telling them they had to leave. The Brinkers and Andries asked if they could help by hiding them, but the Fackensteins refused because of their two little children.

0:47:20 Three of them would visit after 8'm, when the Jews couldn't go out. Their house had no furniture.

0:47:50 Everyone thought they were being sent to just a camp. They never realized what it really was.

0:48:25 The three (Jan, Willie and andries) attended a meeting where the Jews were told what to bring with them, and what they were allowed to do. They tried to get people to hide them in their homes.

0:49:15 They knew nothing about the gas, but saw that Jews were treated like animals, which gave bad feelings about what would happen to them.

0:50:05 Willie says if they did the same thin~ today to, say, Moroccans or Turks, he would react in the same way. They are all People.

0:50:25 He moved in with the Brinkers because it was hard to find a boarding house. He put an ad in the paper, but lt turned out to be more of an opening for a son than a boarder.

0:52:50 Eventually the Germans sought Andries, and he was forced to go into hiding.

0:53:23 The Jewish boy shared his bed, but could not go outside. In an unclear incident, he lost his card and the Jewish boy found it, allowing him to go outside.

After three months Andries had to replace his card, but was not given one because his was "registrated," so he had to go to Zuman and 0:54:25 register to work.

0:54:54 He wrote a letter to the work office saying that he had always chosen the place where he would work himself, and would do so again.

0:55:23 Without an identity card, he was forced into hiding.

0:56:15 Everyone who had been hiding at the Brinkers had to leave

(unclear why, but it had something to do with him).

0:56:50 One night there was a raid and the house was searched because they were "denounced." Andries hid.

0:57:50 Andries told Karl Keiser (alias Fredrik) that he no longer dared to stay at the Brinkers, and his family took him in.

0:58:50 He became friends with Keiser.

0:59:15 Keiser asked Andries to carry out an attack with him, but Andries was too scared.

He would have given them away by looking too nervous beforehand.

1:00:08 Every weekend he went to Utrecht to meet with Keiser.

1:00:30 Keiser also went to the Brinkers, who were still hiding people who had left and returned.

1:00:57 Karl Keiser was a Dutchman posing as a German soldier; he spoke very good German.

1:01:30 Keiser was a fanatic. His girlfriend had died in a camp, which fed his anger.

1:02:43 If Keiser wanted to find hiding places for people, first he would temporally hide them at the Brinkers.

1:03:06 Andries tells a story about when he found a hiding place for a Jewish boy (Harry Rosenthal). He had nowhere to stay, so decided to ask at various farms. One huge farm had a big shed. They rang the bell and called out but no one answered, so they left.

1:04:25 Later they learned that the house was full of 'foul Nazis.'

1:04:46 Willie became fond of Harry Rosenthal.

1:06:05 Andries received a letter from Rosenthal after the war. Ten years later he received a letter from Rosenthal's sister, who had not known that her brother was in Indonesia while she had been there. They spent two years in the same place and did not know it.

1:06:50 Andries tried to find him in Montreal, but he was not in the phone book. He said he would try later when he got back.

1:07:00 Andries spent every weekend in Utrecht and went to Wiedmir during the week.

1:08:06 The day of the lucky escape with Rosenthal,

1:09:00 400 "umbedachters" were caught. He thought he was doing dangerous work, but was actually safe by staying put.

1:09:55 When he was 23 years old he couldn't travel any more because all men beyond that age were kept back. He began working for the resistance.

1:10:25 He slept in the funeral halls of the church.

1:11:32 During the two years with the resistance, his sister would ride by at 8:00 am on her bike. If she wore a red cap it means danger.

1:12:06 If there were no Germans around, they went out during the day. A German lived three doors away.

1:12:39 The Brinkers had four or five rooms, but people slept in the crowded living room.

1:13:30 Once they were brought a 73 year-old Jewish lady who was very tense and shaky.

1:14:30 Keiser came one night at 7:00 with a place for this lady. ~Curfew was at 8) He took her to her final address. The people there said the money they had been promised was not sufficient, and demanded double.

1:16:12 Keiser replied "Yes, and if you take four times as much you will bring her to Nazis." He asked the Brinkers to have her for one more week or he would have to leave her on sheets. It was better for the Germans to take the woman than himself, because if they took him they would take ten times as many more.

1:16:50 The Brinkers took her in again. They hugged her and she was shaky.

1:17:00 One night Andries came upon a big house with only two residents. He brought an elderly Jewish woman. The curfew for all non-Jews was 11:00. At a quarter to he rang the door of who he thought was his friend. He asked his friend if he could take the lady in, and was told no, it was too dangerous. Andries told him that if he didn't let them in, they would both be captured at 11:00. His friend said that he could come in, but not her.

1:22:30 One time it snowed outside and Mrs. Brinker was clearing the path. She let a boy who always asked to help clear the path. A customer came by for coffee. The boy said "That's a really nice lady." Mrs. Brinker said nothing, not wanting the boy to know she was a Nazi--a NSB member.

1:23:20 Once Andries was on a train with Harry. It was crowded so they had to stand. There was a uniformed soldier on the train, and Harry began screaming out of fear. A woman asked why he was screaming. Andries was very nervous.

1:24:40 Most of the time Andries worked with the resistance was spent finding houses for people.

From 1944 he worked with the NBS, which were local resistance forces.

1:26:11 Mrs. Brinker says she is not courageous, since she's scared, but sees it as her task because she is a Christian, as it is the task of all Christians.

1:27:12 People hid in their house, left, and returned.

1:27:52 In all, there were probably twenty people. She didn't keep track because she shouldn't know their names.

1:29:30 One family was going to another address and asked the Brinkers to accompany them as a kind of safeguard, by walking a few feet behind. This made them feel better.

1:30:43 This family still did some business, which is why they moved--for a business meeting.

1:31:47 The Jews still did a bit of selling. There was one shoe salesman who had 200 pairs of shoes. He kept the left shoes in one place and the right shoes in another.

1:33:09 If someone hiding in their house died, they dropped the body into the water somewhere.

1:34:04 One woman got a uterus infection. She was taken to the hospital where she was helped, but she didn't write her name on the papers or say anything about it.

1:35:01 Once Andries had a letter to give to the wife of a Jew. He had her hiding address and found it as the house of his company's boss. At first when he rang the bell he got the answer "No, we have no Jews here." But it turned out that they were hiding seven.

People
were afraid to admit it to one another because they didn't know who
to trust.

1:35:45 That family survived.

1:35:55 Al Keiser did not survive.

1:36:11 The Brinkers say that the people who hid in their house got
money to pay for food from the underground.

1:36:55 It was a very small fee.

Mrs. Brinker's father owned a farm outside, where they went all the
time for food. He always asked, "what are you doing with all that
food?"

1:38:10 When the war was over, a Jew called De Bier walked out in
the
street and one of the neighbors asked where he had been. He
replied,
"I was with a very nice lady," and laughed.

Last year Andries saw Mr. De Bier again. They told stories about
their hiding, and remembered a Bible quote on the wall of the room,
and could recite it, but still didn't know what it meant.

1:40:13 The longest period anyone stayed in hiding at their house
for
one time was 1/2 year. They always behaved nicely. They had to tell
the children not to go to the windows or play with the curtains. It
was very difficult.

1:41:03 They could hide in the attic, where they had a secret door.

1:41:30 The Brinker's baby was about to be born at home so those
hiding had to move.

1:42:06 The day after they left, the Germans came and searched the
whole house. They made her go upstairs even in her pregnant
condition.

1:43:11 If people had been there when the Germans came, she was not
sure if they would have found the hiding place. It was very
difficult
to see.

1:45:05 Keiser and Andries always kept in contact. The last time
something was not right, Andries went to Ubrecht and the family
told

him Keiser was not home yet.

He waited until 12:30, and realized something was wrong, and decided to leave the house.

The next evening he discovered Keiser had been arrested while getting clothes for babies.

1:46:06 Keiser spent four weeks in prison. They let him go because they could not find anything.

1:46:14 They met him again, while he was bringing two Jewish girls (20 and 22) to stay with a farmer and his wife and a big family. They would help the mother in the house.

They were going to go by train to Autmar, then bike from the station.

1:47:09 The girls dyed their hair red. Remnants of the dye were left in the house.

Andries hadn't met the girls. When he did, he did not find them very pleasant. They complained

1:47:54 about going to a farm in such a small village and having to work.

Andries told Keiser he did not feel safe taking these girls. He said he would leave them behind.

1:48:40 There was a big basement in a house where the Jews who were difficult to get along with stayed. It was a kind of punishment to be sent down there.

The two girls were sent there. Andries had to go and hide. He had no contact with Keiser.

1:49:02 He read in the newspapers that 23 people had been arrested and sentenced without trials.

As soon as the war ended, he found that:
The two girls had left the basement and were on the streets for the first time in a year. They got scared when they saw two German soldiers. The soldiers followed them into a Catholic church.

1:50:20 They were overheard talking about everything-- the hiding place, etc. They found out about Keiser and the others.

1:51:31 There is a monument in the churchyard where Keiser and the others are buried.

Keiser was the only one killed whose name he knew.

1:51:56 He purposely did not know the others' names.

1:52:40 Pictures of the graves are shown.

1:54:23 They have received letters from those who stayed in their house, stating that they did not do this for money, but out of love.

Willie Speaking

They received no medals for what they did, and would refuse them if they were offered.

1:56:10 They acted out of love and would do it again.

1:57:22 They did keep in touch with the De Bier family, but they all wanted to start over and forget the past. They all felt this way.

1:58:30 They still feel like they did not do nearly enough.

Andraes Speaking

1:59:40 In Canada and other places, people have tried to forget that the Holocaust ever happened.

This scares a lot of people in Canada. People all over had problems trying to record events of the Holocaust, setting it down as a history to tell their children. For that reason it is good that these interviews take place, and he thinks they should be written in books.

Mr. Brinker Speaks

2:00:21 Not only were the Jews victimized in the holocaust. There were also gypsies, Jehovahs, and homosexuals.

2:01:15 He says Jews were discriminated against in both positive and negative ways, but neither should be done.

He thinks Jews should be treated normally like everyone else. Why should there be differences between people?

Summary

Mr. and Mrs. Brinker and Andries van de Meer worked together

during the war to help the Jews find hiding places. In this interview they told many stories from that time period. They seem very positive about the experience.
.END.