

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

0:02 -She was born in Papendrecht; father was a worker in shipbuilding company

-She is youngest of six children

-Her mother was very Christian woman who died when Christina was 10 years old

-Her brothers and sisters very religious but not she

-Her father was the boss in the family

-She was never very obedient; she left home at the age of 21

- After her mother's death, her father took care of the family. A year later, he quit his job and they lived in the 30's, before the war, as quite a poor family.

0:1:00 -As a child, she had several influences to point her towards what was right. These included her older brother, who worked with young people and took her to see them. Also, her friends and neighbors helped her out when her mother died and a woman in the library asked her to go and do homework there.

-She started work at age 16 and in 1936 worked at an office that sold wallpaper, for 3 years.

-She then worked as a phone operator until 1951 in Amsterdam where the pay was better and where she lived since she was 4 years old

0:2:00 - When she was a child, there were Jewish kids in the neighborhood but they were not considered to be different

-Her father sometimes made a joke about Jews but didn't hate them; many joked about them but meant no harm

-She first realized what Hitler was doing on November 22, 1940 when her Jewish colleagues were sent home from the phone office; 50-60 out of 400 operators were Jews. She felt angry and didn't know what to do, for she was friends with many of them. She had heard of Kristalnacht but this was when she saw for herself what was happening.

0:4:00 -She began helping the Jews accidentally. One of her friends had a Jewish friend, and asked her to deliver a letter. This is how she got involved accidentally. The Jewish friend had 3 sons, and they were all betrayed; one escaped by jumping out the window while the arrest was taking place, and went to Christina. He and his wife and mother later went to her. The 2 other boys who were arrested went to Auschwitz. One came back on April 1945, the other died in the camp.

0:5:00 -Before the boy who escaped came to her on May 10, 1944, she had kept in her home an old woman whose son had been killed by the Nazis when he was 20 years old, although not Jewish. She only had one free room but the woman was afraid so Christina let her stay.

- One day a colleague of hers, after returning from a piano lesson, went back to her own home at 10:00 a.m., but didn't go in because she felt that something was wrong. She went to Christina, who later went inside, only to find the woman's 2 sons with two Nazis. They asked what she was doing there, and she said she'd come to see her friend. They told her to phone the woman's office and to tell her to come home, which she did, knowing the woman was on the street.

The police came and told them all to go with them to the office, but later let her go, which she found unusual, although the 2 boys were not allowed to leave.

0:7:00 -The boy the woman kept in hiding was gone, having escaped, and arrived in the afternoon at Christina's. The place where he usually hid was broken into by the Germans; he had jumped out the window. She later saw the woman and told her 2 boys were gone. - this boy who escaped by the window now lives in Israel; he hadn't stayed with Christina at once for she only had the one room where the old woman stayed. She found him another place and then she moved somewhere else, and he moved in with her. she said she wasn't afraid at the time

0:8:00 -The mother of the 2 boys went into hiding. September 5, 1944 was Crazy Tuesday and many Germans left Amsterdam, for it was thought that the Liberation was coming in a few days, but it only came on May 5, 1945. Other people had moved into the woman's old house, and on Crazy Tuesday Christina went there to claim her friend's things, then decided to return the following week; but when she arrived there later, the couple had left.

0:9:00 -The woman who had been in the house was Dutch and had married an evil man, and they were given that house.
-Christina had gone to the house before this and took back some of the books and clothes by putting them on, never carrying bags.
- After a few weeks, Christina went to live there. One day before opening her door, she saw movement underneath her door and went back to her real house. She phoned the house and a man answered, asked where she was and why she was living in that house. She never returned to that house.

0:10:00 -The boy's mother often came to eat with them; Christina wouldn't let the boy out, however, for he looked too Jewish.
-After the war, he worked at the Israeli Consulate in Holland. A man came in one day and asked him for a visa, and the boy recognized the man as he whose papers he had during the war. The man didn't say anything, which was strange. He had probably sold his papers for a lot of money at that time.

0:11:00 -Christina began hiding people a few months before the Hunger Winter, a very difficult winter. In January she went by bicycle to a family near the German frontier, which took 3 days. There was so much snow it was impossible to return by bike. She had gone there to get food. Their cousin's mother had given her a letter to give to a good friend in this town to give them food.

Upon meeting this friend, he said that he didn't trust Christina, and asked where she got the letter. She replied that it was from Mrs. Zilverberg, and he asked if it was for the Black Market. He asked where she was staying and she told him at a friend of her cousin's mothers house, whom this man knew; he told her he'd take care of her and give her plenty of food without charge, for people had also done good for him. After a fortnight, she found out about a Red Cross train going to Amsterdam that takes people, which she took home to deliver the food. The recipients lived above the police station so at 6:30 a.m. she snuck in and gave them food.

0:17:00 -The years that she worked as an operator, she said they were terrible, and that she wanted the Germans to go away. She said, however, that she could believe that many were not aware of the Jewish deportation, for she herself never saw Jews taken in Amsterdam. They were taken away at night and she didn't live in a Jewish neighborhood. She knew her colleagues were sent away but she didn't see it and there were many who didn't see it.

0:18:00 -Her husband hid for two and a half years with his whole family and a young Polish girl. He had to change his address 3 times for he couldn't stay in one place. The first was very bad and he left after a month; the woman only wanted to make money, and threatened to betray him so he paid her off.

0:20:00 -At the time of the Liberation, people were still living in her house. On the May 4, 1945, they heard noise in the street after curfew people were crying of the coming liberation of the next morning. On the street that Friday night, people were burning their black papers. Saturday morning was the official liberation. The Germans stayed on the Dam (ph.) until May 8, when several people were killed.

0:26:00 -They had to look after the family from Kuferdam (ph.) as well as friends; they all slept on the floor. Her husband's cousin and his wife stayed with them until 1951, when they went to Israel. -The cousin who came back from Auschwitz was taken to a hospital. He weighed about 70 pounds (35 kg.), who was 25 years old. He was later taken to a sanitorium. It was difficult to see him as there were no trains to get there; she had to go to his mother in Kuferdam then to the husband's family, where she met her husband. When she saw the boy from Auschwitz, she was horrified. He had no hair anywhere. Today he is still alive but not very strong; he has had 2 heart attacks.

0:24:00 -She has been to see her relatives in Israel a times and has planted a tree at Yad Vashem. When she went there, she felt very touched. She and her husband met some Americans there at the hotel, and the husband told them she had planted a tree there. They have kept in touch and met their son 2 years ago.

-She married in 1949, and has 2 daughters and a son. She has 5 grandchildren.

0:26:00 - Her children know about what she did in the war and are very interested in what happened. One daughter wants to convert to Judaism. Her children were raised with no religion. When her daughter was a child she went to Sunday school; the Jewish schools didn't let Hebrew be taught to non-Jews.

-In the Jewish area where her husband lived, there was a vote held to see if non-Jews could go to Jewish festivals and the outcome was that they couldn't. His parents didn't agree with this and they voted again.

0:27:00 -His parents didn't like her; they wanted him to marry a Jewish girl. She could not understand that there was a G-d who allowed for horrible things to happen in the world. All her brothers and sisters go to church but not she. Her siblings did the same thing as she in the war. Her 2 brothers were helping Jews when someone warned them of approaching Nazis. They got away just in time.

0:28:00 -Her husband worked with his brother in a men's shop; he was a chemist before and had liked it much better. He stopped working in the shop 11 years ago.

-Kids should know everything, but they can't always understand. Their grandson, now 6 years old, came back from school one day and told his mother about a Black boy in his class that wasn't nice; he then concluded that all Black boys aren't nice. His mother told him about South Africa where the Whites are the unjust bosses over the Blacks, and her son told her that he wanted to live there. Therefore one should tell children but not too early.

0:30:00 -There were some who disagreed with what she did in the war. At Yad Vashem there was a man who was having a tree planted for him and he gave a speech. To a room full of Jews he stated that the Holocaust was their own fault because they didn't believe in Jesus and that there will therefore never be peace in Israel. Nobody said anything for they were too shocked. But when she got home, she called a Christian broadcasting company that sent out her message of what this man had said.

0:35:00 -There was anti-Semitism before in Holland, but on the day of the Liberation, everyone was very happy. There was nothing good in the war; they always wanted the Germans to leave. In February there was a strike in Holland when they began deportation to camps, in protest to arresting Jews. In her office of 400 operators she tried to strike but was forbidden to.

0:40:00 -Question: Has the world learned anything from the war?
Answer: Yes. But when she looks at her son and daughter -in-laws,
she sees they have learned nothing from their parents of the war;
this is very bad.

-They saw a play about Ann Frank and noticed that people laughed
when they wanted to cry. People just didn't understand.

0:55:00 -There was a man who worked as a reporter during the war;
he agreed to speak to a class of 15 year-olds. They didn't even
understand that it was illegal to have spoken freely, especially in
print, at the time under Hitler.

0:57:00 -Her husband had received a letter in 1940 while he was
still in school. It said that he and another boy could not go to a
certain festival because they were Jewish. Someone else in the
school, however, wrote another letter saying that he hoped they
would soon be able to attend. He has never seen anyone from that
school again; no one has tried to contact him to see if he is still
alive.

1:00:00 -His parents also suffered a big disappointment. They owned
a men's clothes shop, but gave it to a close colleague to save it
for them for after the war. But after the war it was not there;
they had sold it. On the day of the Liberation, they met these
people; they were scared, for they had heard that they were dead.
- After the war, everybody started their lives again.
-(Her husband was 23 years old when he was in hiding.)
.END.