

-TITLE-JOHANNA HAK
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE-CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-
-IMAGE_QUALITY-
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
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0:00 Introduction

0:55 He talks about his family background. He was born on August 8, 1911 in Glessen, Netherlands. He lived all his life in a small farming village.

2:20 The village was on a small island. First, they got around with boats and then there were bridges. During the war, the Germans bombed the bridges. He was the oldest of 5 sisters and 7 brothers.

3:30 Conversation. (they are looking at a photo album of family pictures)

4:20 (his wife comes in and sits by her husband.) His father sold potatoes. His mother stayed home to watch the kids.

5:40 He feels equally loyal to his parents. His mother was religious, tough, and social.

6:15 His mother wanted to help Jews because of the lessons from the bible.

6:40 His father was rustic and quiet... a noble man.

7:05 Not all the kids were religious. They were not forced to go to church. They were all baptized.

7:55 His family was strict. One example is that the kids could not come home late.

8:45 They did not have chores in the house. He worked with his father selling potatoes. He liked selling with his father.

9:55 His parents were generous with their children and with other people in need.

11:40 His parents knew some Jews through their business, but he didn't know any Jews personally.

12:20 He realized the truth about the Jewish situation as early as 1938. He learned the truth in the market in Amsterdam. He had to go every morning there and was able to pick up information.

14:55 His family's religion was baptists. The other families in the village were reformed religions. The Baptists were against any form of dogmas. Their religion tend to be less strict.

17:00 The Germans invaded Holland in 1940. It was a scary morning. They had no dealings with Jews at that time.

17:25 His first dealing with Jews was through a man in the market who knew of a Jewish family that needed help.

18:30 There was a man and a woman and children. He was asked by a friend to help these people. He got them food stamps.

19:20 He was able to get them food stamps because he sold food and therefore, was at the source of food stamps. These farmers were able to obtain food stamps easily.

20:10 There was an abundance of food in the farm business as well as food stamps. Moreover, there were other opportunities to find food stamps. Once a woman's house burned down; she told the authorities that her stamps had also been burn and was able to get more stamps.

21:00 He had no hesitation to help the Jews. What scared him the most was when he saw for the first time Jews being taken away. This was in Rotterdam.

22:15 There were some mixed marriages and they had to be separated. The Gestapo was present.

24:30 The last winter was a hard one. The south was already liberated. They could heard shots in the night. They couldn't leave their homes at night and they purposely flooded the fields. Shortly afterwards, he lost his brother.

26:00 Before the Germans actually invaded Netherlands, has mother knew that there would be war.

26:55 He met the Jewish people that he was helping. Eventually, this family was betrayed.

27:55 His brother took them to put them (the Jewish family) in another place. The parents were caught, but the children were saved.

28:10 His younger brother became involved because in the beginning he had a choice: to go to school of German studies or go to a German work camp. The brother decided to go into hiding. He started helping because of principle and of his religion. He was 23 years old.

29:15 His brother knew what he was doing in the underground, but he did not know all the activities that his brother was involved with.

31:00 Jewish families were living underground with the help of friendly families. When these families were denounced, his brother came and moved them.

31:15 His brother was heavily involved with the resistance. He told him to be careful. Once, 12 boys were sent to save one person, but it was a trap and they were captured. His brother was one of the 12. They never knew if his brother was killed right away or exactly what happened to him.

32:30 They never found out who were the collaborators.

34:15 He was still doing resistance work but there was less and less food. The Germans were a little suspicious.

34:35 His parents knew what he and his brother were doing. His parents did not forced them to stop, they wanted them to continue.

38:25 For the first few years, it was a full time Job, but the last year it wasn't really because almost everything was gone. The fighting was right next to house. Jews were still being hidden in the area.

39:15 He knows two Jewish girls that were still in hiding. They felt so free that they would walk around in these dangerous times and would even walk by the Germans and smile at them. They were so brazen because they thought it was safer and they had already spent a year hiding in a closet.

41:20 Some Jewish families that killed themselves underestimated the situation and were trapped. The war was almost over. There were also nice Germans who were dropped in a strange country. The wife's brother played the piano with a German.

43:50 They also helped other people who were hungry.

47:05 Once his cousin had a radio which is illegal and it was playing. The SS came and he had to jump out of the window and the SS robbed the whole house. A week later, he was in house and heard a noise outside. He had to stand outside for 15 minutes with the Gestapo. It is hard enough to lose one family member.

49:25 The resistance killed some of the known collaborators. He and his wife keep in touch with some of the Jews whom they helped during the war. The children of the Jewish family who were saved write every year to thank them for saving their lives. There was a reunion in the high school in Germany where the children used to go before the war. Their son saved the announcement in the ad and gave it to his parents who sent to the Jewish children from the war. (they were living in America They went back to Germany for the

reunion.

51:35 After the war, he continued to sell and he married his wife in 1947.

53:25 The war affected him because one was never able to make plans during the war. After the war, one could make plans for life again.

54:25 He wishes that he could have done more work in the war. He wish he could have put up more People The Jewish people didn't realize the danger.

55:40 Once he couldn't find a place for a man and his family who was to leave in two days. To find a place meant to place the Jews with a family who would take care of the Jewish family. This meant families who were firmly against the Germans. It w~s mostly his brother who did this type of work. 56:45 His work involved mostly giving food and finding places. He did not keep count of how many families who were helping the cause.

Conversation

58:25 He has 5 children. During the war, the churches were full. Now, they are empty.

59:25 His family holds a special feeling towards the Jewish people. His son spent time in Israel as well as nieces.

Conversation

1:06:40 The reason why he helped had a lot to do with his religion. People were made the same. The Bible says that "I will bless the ones who bless you and curse the ones who curse you."

1:08:15 There was another brother who had to go to Germany to work in a labor camp, but he went into hiding.

1:10:15 After the war, he wanted to look ahead, but he didn't want to forget. The only time it was painful to talk about his experiences was when he thought of his brother.

1:10:15 He feels that people forget to easily the help they received during the war. He wishes that the people he helped would keep more in touch.

1:10:45 He doesn't talk about it with his children. His children learn about the war through their history classes. They met the Jewish girls from the war in the USA and then his children were proud of their father's work during the war.

Conversation

1:13:30 (The daughter comes in.) She has seen the Jewish girls in New York five or six times.

Conversation

1:15:30 The war doesn't mean anything to people anymore. You need people with faith.

Conversation. The interview goes into his best years when he building his business and his marriage and his kids. Then, they conclude the interview.

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