

-TITLE- TOOK HEROMA
-I_DATE- JULY 18 1988
-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-

01:00 She does not like the camera, and wants to know why it is necessary that they use it.

02:00 The interviewer explains they need it in order to remember what she says. The format of the interview is described: a chronological telling of her story, the interviewer is looking for the origin and motivation behind her rescuing.

04:00 Took Heroma is worried about the main subject of the interview.

05:00 The interviewer explains that she is interested in the personal stories of the people who rescued Jews. She is particularly interested in whether we all have within ourselves the motivation to rescue as Took did.

06:00 Took asks whether the interviewer is soul searching. The interviewer replies they are looking for the threads of commonality and differences among the rescuers. Took asks who invented the word "rescuer", because before no one thought of the rescuers.

08:00 It took 45 years for the Jewish in the United States to be interested in the rescuers.

09:00 The interviewer responds, there are different reasons why they are late in recognizing the rescuers.

11:00 The interviewer continues that some survivors do not like anyone to be recognized for good during the Holocaust.

12:00 The interviewer is interested in the phenomenon of hiding people because to hide them, one had to seek out people to hide. Therefore, it was an active decision to hide people, not just letting them stay in their homes.

13:00 In New York, Took was asked, "Why did you hide people?" She replied we thought it was the natural thing to do. In response came an exclamation, "What?! A natural thing !"

14:00 The interviewer states that among rescuers there was unconscious anti-Semitism. Took said of course there was, the church has done it to people, to Christians.

15:00 For Took, it was a Christian feeling that she had to hide people.

16:00 Took allows the camera to be pointed at her, relenting, "if it is the natural thing to do". Born on April 18, 1908, in Arnhem (*sp) , she had one sister.

17:00 Her father was a teacher of physics in a high school. Her mother had been a teacher of home economics before she was married.

18:00 She describes her father as straightforward, not religious, he did not go to church, which was not unusual in her city.

19:00 She describes her mother as sensitive, not strong physically or psychologically; later in her life she was depressed.

20:00 Her parents each had an equal influence on her, but she is more like her father than her mother. There were Jewish people in her city, her father had Jewish colleagues. To her, there was no difference between Jews and Christians.

21:00 She went to a secular school, where there were Jewish children. After high school, she went to a school of social work, part of a university in Amsterdam.

22:00 It was not unusual for a woman to go to school, but she was a minority. (In the US, it was unusual for a woman to go to a university with a career in mind.)

23:00 She graduated in 1931. Because of unemployment in social work, she obtained a political job, teaching uneducated women.

24:00 Later she worked with trade unions - the liberal, socialist thing to do. There was a Catholic, Protestant, Jewish division.

25:00 She met her husband and they had a liberal marriage; they were not legally married, but they lived together. Her job would be discontinued if she had married. When her husband started his medical practice, they settled down and got legally married.

27:00 When the German Jews came to the Netherlands, she more or less knew of the war and the persecution, but not the whole impact.

28:00 Her husband's parents were from Indonesia, with a less political background than she.

29:00 A friend brought a Jewish girl, Carla, to her husband's office, wanting to find work for her. She stayed with the Heroma's who treated her as a foster daughter. She was 16 years old and had seen her parents caught by the Germans.

30:00 Took's husband came across people who were hiding in his practice. A lady died and was buried in her garden.

31:00 People knew her husband would help people by reputation. They never had their own children, only Carla, who did not look Jewish.

32:00 It seemed natural to help Carla. They had two sleeping rooms and a kitchen in the cellar.

33:00 They had a hider who stayed for 2 1/2 years, who was not a personable woman. She gave them money for heat and Took would sometimes have tea with her. She could not go out of the house.

34:00 In the US it is difficult to give a picture of the streets, there was a different feeling in the atmosphere.

35:00 Took could not hang the clothing of the hider outside in the fresh air to dry, because the woman was much larger than she and people would know it did not belong to her.

36:00 After 2 1/2 years, the woman left for Amsterdam to be with friends.

38:00 Then Carla came and also Alice, whose husband was a prisoner of war.

39:00 The problem with hiding Carla was she was adolescent and wanted to be outside. Even though she did not look Jewish, she had to be careful when she went outside.

40:00 Alice had a little girl, Anne, who was hiding in the middle of the country. As the end of the war approached, they brought Anne to the Heroma's house. She did not recognize her mother because of their long separation.

41:00 Alice told Anne that she was her mother, which was dangerous because Anne could blurt it out to the wrong person by accident.

42:00 Took had suspicious neighbors. As natural as it was for her to help the Jews, it was similar for her neighbors to be distrustful and watch them. Some people felt the German's would win, so they collaborated with them.

44:00 Took cannot believe these people foresaw what Hitler would do to the Jews. She believes it was not a natural thing for them to help the Germans, but rather a conviction, they believed in what they were doing.

45:00 Took was asked by the Resistance to take in Professor Myers, a Professor of Law in London. She said no because she only had one room, which was already occupied.

46:00 It was a moral dilemma for Took: uninteresting woman versus knowledgeable professor. She was weighing people which felt bad and

was wrong; she did not really consider it.

47:00 The Heroma's helped not with big things, but the "little" in the Resistance: food stamps, the use of her husband's car, and her husband seeing Jewish patients.

48:00 Took did not feel there were many difficulties in hiding Carla and Alice - they could walk around.

49:00 Took is still busy with the war in the present day, it still very much effects her: she reads war books and lectures about the war.

50:00 Took did some preservation on information about war victims, with the 1972 implementation of a bill for war victims.

52:00 Now, she lectures to psychotherapists and social workers about what the war was, so that the younger generation may understand. The information helps the therapists with their patients.

54:00 She travels to New York and works at the United Nations.

55:00 Took feels that the war killed some of her optimism, especially after the war, she acquired a somber attitude. Many were disappointed that the world did not change after the war. It was outside influences which changed her, not a personality question.

57:00 Her father contributed by bringing money for women who had husbands away at sea. Her sister did not do too much; she hid someone once.

58:00 Her husband was taken away one night, and she feared they would shoot him. He was held in prison for a couple of months, but was not mistreated. He was retained because they found their address used in a note sent to spies in the Resistance. Apparently, spies had been meeting in their waiting room, because it was inconspicuous.

1:00:00 It was incredible that her husband was able to get out, it was because of his personality. He talked with the Nazi guard about psychology. Took could not visit him, but heard he was alright. It was a difficult time for her; there was not much to eat.

1:01:00 After the war ended her husband left as a Red Cross medic. She had a political job: she went across the country to see what the war had done to Indonesia.

1:03:00 Alice and her husband were reunited at Took's house. Carla later died of a heart attack. Took wishes that she had kept better contact with Alice. Alice and her husband came to the funeral of Took's husband (25 years ago).

1:05:00 Took feels neglectful that she did not attend the funeral of Alice's husband recently or contact her after his death.

She likes living alone now, there are many interesting things for her to do.

1:6:00 The Socialist Women's Party asked her to run for Parliament; to win a seat occurs first through a party nomination then through general election. Before she attempted to join Parliament, she discussed it with her husband, because it meant being away from home a lot.

1:08:00 After the war, her husband no longer maintained his practice, he was an examiner for Social Security, determining who could work.

1:09:00 When asked what the best years of her life were, she did not know and would not have disclosed the information to us if she had. The war years, whether good or bad, taught her to work for the community.

1:10:00 There continues to be more and more publicized about the war now. It has become a fight between history Hitler versus Stalin.

1:11:00 She finds it interesting that children of the SS do not talk about the war; this comes from their parents.

1:12:00 She feels that families are spoiled without love and respect for their parents.

1:13:00 Took stayed in touch with Carla after the war; they would have adopted her, but she was 18 years old. She continues to have contact with her "foster grandchildren", but it is difficult.

1:14:00 She thinks that the people she hid in her home appreciated it. She understands that the woman who stayed for 2 1/2 years, then moved on during the war wanted to stay with friends, and did appreciate the 2 1/2 years with the Heromas. Took does not want to be honored in Yad Vashem (sp) .

1:15:00 What Took would want the readers of the interviewer's book (children 8-12 years old) to know about the rescuers is that it is natural to help people out in need. The children should not be told about the frightful background of the need.

1:16:00 For Took it was natural to help the Jews, not a big problem of whether or not to do it, she just did it.

1:17:00 Took thinks that her helping was a matter of upbringing. She saw her parents modestly helping others.

1:18:00 The interviewer is puzzled why others did not help, Took can offer no explanation. Took suggests maybe she should examine

why so few did help.

1:19:00 In Holland, there was little anti-Semitism, but there was a willingness to collaborate with the Germans.

1:20:00 Took prefers Primo Levi over Elie Wiesel; she finds his mystic view of people incredible.

1:23:00 The hopes and ideals she brought to Parliament were never completely satisfied, but she was very happy with her experience in the Parliament. She spent a lot of time in the United Nations, so she had work outside of the Parliament making bills.

1:24:00 She was a delegation to the General Assembly for three years. She participated in a group advising Catherine Kendall, Secretary of Schools and Social Work.

1:25:00 For six years she was on the Commission of Social Development.

1:28:00 She takes out her list of questions and asks how many Dutch are being interviewed in this study: 14 in Holland, 15 in Ontario, 40 in California.

1:29:00 Took does not think that the use of individual names is important. The interviewer argues that there is great power in using names. The example of Anne Frank, to have a real face and a real name is more powerful than anything else.

1:31:00 With a name and face, a person comes alive. The war and the people in it are not just history. The interviewer hopes that the book comes close to giving people the experience she has had interviewing rescuers.

1:34:00 Took suggests that the interviewer contact Bloeme Evers, who was hidden herself, then later wrote a book, a theoretical study, investigating rescued children and parents.

1:39:00 She also encourages her to contact Henry Mason, an expert on the Holocaust history and political science.

1:40:00 In responding to a question about the fascination with the Holocaust now, her reply is that the victims are around now and will not be for much longer. Took's anxieties about the future are that the problems will be swept over and people continue to be taught that the Jews killed Christ.

1:41:00 The interviewer explains the condition of selective memory, there is truth, but human nature forces us to forget the bad. If the rescuer does not talk about it as being very good, it probably was not.

1:42:00 In other interviews where people harbored Jews, the people

were quite controlled. There was no residual effect. For them, the war is over, they do not think about it, nothing troubles them now. These people had dropped a screen the interviewer could not penetrate.

1:44:00 Among the rescuers, a common response is not to talk in detail, because they do not want to glorify themselves.

1:45:00 Took understands this; when she is introduced as a rescuer, she is stamped as a heroine and feels miserable, she tries to play down her experiences.

1:46:00 Took regretfully agrees that if anyone could be a rescuer then anyone could probably do what the German's did.

1:48:00 Took lost part of her sense of optimism in the aftermath of the war. Seeing the results of the Final Solution spoiled the summer of liberation.

1:50:00 A man admonished Took for going to Parliament, because they were restoring the country and not doing anything to help the victims. People felt they were left alone and abandoned.

1:51:00 Took is interested in what instruction psychotherapists and social workers receive in the United States to deal with survivors and their children.

1:53:00 The interviewer explains that it is an almost impossible task for therapists. They attempt analysis, but it is so painful for the victims that they leave; it seems they cannot relieve the pain.

1:55:00 There is no specific method to guide the therapists in treatment, but there are organizations to help them. Many survivors are in the social science fields.

1:58:00 Took has no regrets about the war time, although without the war she could have studied and had children.

1:59:00 In response to whether she feels pride and satisfaction, Took thinks she was quietly sitting at home in comparison to people who did real resistance things.

2:01:00 Again, Took adamantly does not want them to send her name to receive the Yad Vashem honor. The interviewer wants to send her name so that a more accurate number of how many people helped can be obtained. Also, the Jewish community wants to honor the rescuers; it is part of their process of healing.

2:02:00 Took responds, "Well you have enough."
.END.