

-TITLE-JACOB OVERSLOOT
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE-CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-
-IMAGE_QUALITY-
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
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01:00 Jacob was then living in Rotterdam and was keeping a diary. He wants the questions he is being asked to be written.

02:00 He was born on May 30, 1906. Refuses to answer the questions unless they are written out. Jacob was the third oldest child out of five.

03:00 He was a steeple builder; his father had died when he was five; his mother was educated.

04:00 His mother was well-built, tall, and dark.

05:00 Before she was married, Jacob's mother had a daughter out of wedlock, so she had to leave her home town and find a job somewhere else. That is where she met Jacob's father.

06:00 His father could not find a job, so he had to go to Warsaw as a boatman.

07:00 During a strong winter, the boat froze between Denev(ph.) and Rotterdam while it was carrying peat; Jacob's grandfather then used the peat to burn the boat.

08:00 Jacob's parents lived in Rotterdam.

09:00 Jacob was the third child and the second son of a total of six. When World War I broke out, his parents transported soldiers in the boat.

10:00 His father had meningitis and died; the city had to finance the food for the family.

11:00 Jacob had two uncles and one aunt; his youngest uncle and the aunt paid the family's rent. His older sister found a job.

12:00 This helped, but before they were poor; the other grandfather had been captured at sea.

13:00 At 15, Jacob worked for an uncle as errand boy; no one thought was any good. He spent 2 years with his uncle and was still living at home.

14:00 This helped his home, then his sister got married and he stopped working with his uncle and started selling ice cubes.

15:00 Jacob talks about sugar, beet sugar; he took a job digging the beets from the ground, later he went back to Rotterdam.

16:00 There he got a job, worked in various towns; then he went to Amsterdam and worked in a big department store.

17:00 Store sent him to another branch in Deimrich(ph.), where he stayed and got married and had children. He worked there until in 1942, during World War II, he saw a Jewess with the yellow star.

18:00 Jacob knew Leo Malek(ph.) from working in the market stalls and his mother knew him.

19:00 Jacob's store made fur coats and Leo sold the scales.

20:00 Jacob had to see the scales he bought. When leo went home, an officer warned him that he would be put in a camp.

21:00 When the officer saw that he was starting a business in furs, he took bribes from Jacob in fur coats.

22:00 Jacob gave Leo business to make the fur coats. When Leo had to go to Buchenwald, Jacob told him to move to his house.

23:00 Leo did not want to emigrate. He moved to Jacob's house and his wife and little children went to a friend's house.

24:00 Jacob wanted to take him in; he did not like to take orders. Leo came to his house with his wife and child. They could not keep the child because he was not blond.

25:00 Since the child was the same age as their daughter, a neighbor took the child in.

26:00 But the baby was sent to a family in the Hague.

27:00 The area was not rich or poor, but it was not Jewish. Leo and his wife went about openly. They were said to be cousins and they did not have to hide in the house.

28:00 The Germans did come, but they were not taken away because Leo said he was Jacob's brother and he had false papers.

29:00 When they went out, they always went with Jacob and his wife; they were the best friends ever. they got lots of attention from people and were always being asked about.

30:00 Everything was out in the open. Leo was always with Jacob and the women were together.

31:00 Jacob was not afraid: he was always very careful and did not go near crowds. His children did not know about Leo and called him uncle.

32:00 Jacob said Leo was his wife's cousin. There was a curfew, but Leo went to see his son often.

33:00 Leo's child was told a story so he would not give them away. Jacob's mother was living in Rotterdam with his two married sisters and one brother.

36:00 Jacob's mother must have died after 1939. Jacob and his wife later moved to California. Martha had come to the U.S. in 1939. Her husband at this time was Jewish.

37:00 Jacob's father had died in 1916 and his mother in 1951. He moved to the U.S. in 1951. He does not think he was very brave but very smart, and if more people would have done the same thing he did, who knows what would have happened.

38:00 He helped Leo because they had a partnership, and he saw when, in World War I, when Belgium was overrun that one should help.

39:00 He was never taught by his parents that he should help.

40:00 Many people took in Jews, even if they were overcrowded.

41:00 The people that kept water helped; they survived. But now they have both passed away. Their daughter is in Holland and she is married. She had come to visit them.

42:00 When Martha went to California, the couple stayed with them for two years.

43:00 Their children do not know what they did during the war.

44:00 They are good kids, but it was better this way.

45:00 They are showing family pictures.

46:00 They show the house in which everything took place.

47:00 Life is hard in Los Angeles. Jacob started to work in modern industry labor but the money was not enough. But when he made a little money, he stopped working.

48:00 They bought the house in 1950, now everything is gone.

49:00 Jacob says all is gone, his kids, his wife...

50:00 Jacob talks about his family and tries to remember where they all are now.

51:00 He remembers a family picnic with his twenty grandchildren.

52:00 Jacob is 81 now and his wife is 84.

53:00 They describe their daily routine.

54:00 Martha says that the father of her two children was Jewish, but they were not raised as Jews.

55:00 Martha talks about her husbands before Jacob.

56:00 She was living in Holland with her Jewish husband when German friends warned him that things were getting bad and he moved to the U.S. in 1939.

57:00 They talk about their everyday lives now: Martha is more active than her husband.

1:00:00 Jacob feels that he did not do anything great, but it seems like it because others did nothing.
.END.