

-TITLE-BILL STREEKSTRA
-I_DATE-JUNE 7, 1990
-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 Bill was born in the village of Denhardt in 1908. He was the oldest of four boys. Margaret was born in Bersens in 1910. He was the youngest of eight.

02:00 Bill's Father was in agriculture, a farmer. Margaret's Father worked for the government.

03:00 Bill was closest to his Mother. He had to look after his brothers because his father was gone often.

04:00 He came from a very religious family. His Mother was a very nice lady.

05:00 Margaret's Mother was the influence in her life. One of her sisters died and she was named after her. She died when she was seven.

06:00 The oldest was twenty-one when Margaret was born. Her family was very religious. Her mom would not allow them to criticize or pick on anybody.

07:00 They did not know any Jews before the war. Bill was in the Dutch army.

08:00 While in the army in 1939 he knew what the Nazis were doing to the Jews.

09:00 Bill and Margaret were married in 1933.

10:00 They had their first child in 1934. During the period of the war they had two children of their own to take care of.

11:00 So De Jong was the false name of a woman that they helped hide. She was sent to them by a doctor.

12:00 They did not know this Doctor before. He was given their name.

13:00 It was mostly women that came to see Margaret and Bill.

14:00 Bill was a connection for the Doctor. They could not use phones. They had a grape vine (connections) set up. Bill met the Doctor from the person he rents his land from.

15:00 Bill's brother and mother also helped hide the Jews. The less a person knew the better he was.

16:00 Yo came in 1943. Sonia was at Bill's mother's first when she was nine years old.

17:00 Bill's mother and brother knew of the danger but helped the Jews anyway. They got lucky.

18:00 We look at it differently than they did. We have never had our land invaded. The people were scared to death.

19:00 They had hardly anything to eat in the house. The Germans treated them badly all the time. Sonia fit in well to their family.

20:00 Sonia had been hiding in a custodian. She was scared to death and lonely.

21:00 The Doctor sent Sonia to Bill and Margaret. They were not able to use names it was too dangerous.

22:00 Before Bill and Margaret's Sonia stayed in the house with a lot of boys. This was not good for a girl so she was moved.

23:00 She was there for four weeks. She then spent twelve days at Margaret's sister's. Eventually she went to Bill's.

24:00 Sometimes people would just chicken out. Bill and Margaret lived in a small house, farming was bad at this time, and they were in the middle of a depression. There was no real hiding place in their house.

25:00 Yo was another girl they helped. She arrived when she was 17. She stayed for one year. They had to let her go. There was trouble.

26:00 Someone came to the house and warned Bill that there was trouble. Bill and Yo left on a train. They sat next to some man who said he wanted to go out with a Jewish girl. Yo was scared.

27:00 Curfew was at eight o'clock but they got to where they wanted. They had to take chances. They went to neighbors.

28:00 They picked up Yo's family, money and belongings.

29:00 Yo phoned a friend and asked for a place to stay. She and Bill traveled through the back alleys.

30:00 Bill pulled Yo over ten fences and through many gardens.

31:00 He once landed on a cabbage right in the stomach. They finally made it. The people said they would help Yo.

Bill would have stayed with her until she found a place to stay. Bill now had to go back after curfew.

32:00 The woman said he could sleep on the couch. It was very risky.

33:00 Bill got on the train and sat next to a Jewish lady. He can tell right away.

34:00 He did not ask if she was Jewish. She was very easy going and polite. He knew she was Jewish

35:00 Yo was a nice girl. They did not want her living with boys. Boys bothered her.

36:00 They took Yo to Amsterdam in 1944. She spent her last winter in a shack. She was cold, scared and all alone.

37:00 She was very scared. She had nightmares of being caught by a big fat German. She woke up screaming

38:00 She sent Bill and Margaret a picture.

39:00 In 1945, after the liberation, Yo went to see Bill and Margaret. She wanted to walk in the streets. She stayed in Amsterdam until the end. She looked for her father.

40:00 Yo's mother had a seizure and a German was going to hit her. Yo was taken to a concert hall. They made it look like she was a factory worker.

41:00 Yo could not look back at her Parents as she escaped. She was then put in hiding.

42:00 An old man and a woman showed up at Bill's. Bill sent them to his brother's.

43:00 They left and they never heard from them again.

44:00 A pregnant woman showed up. They had a good place for her to hide but she would not stay.

45:00 They found a place for a baby. The baby survived.

46:00 Bill and Margaret had a house with small children. It was an easy place to hide babies.

47:00 They lived on a farm so they had milk etc. for the babies. The babies needed a mind to help them. The Germans would have shot them.

48:00 Many people came to Bill and Margaret's but some had to be turned away. It was dangerous.

49:00 They sent away a girl with a cyanide pill in case she got caught.

50:00 One girl, who was not happy. left in the middle of the day. The Germans went by and caught her.

51:00 Many of the women Bill and Margaret offered to help did not like to help them with work around the farm.

52:00 It is an awful job to handle people in distress.

53:00 Yo, an older woman that stayed with them, survived. She moved to Amsterdam to live with her sister.

54:00 They saw some of those they helped after the war. They visited a few in Amsterdam.

55:00 They once had to hide in a basement while the Germans were upstairs. One got so scared he went to bathroom on himself.

56:00 Turnips and fat was all they got to eat. They met To once with Yo the older girl.

57:00 She looked at them and kissed them.

58:00 Sonia was Polish.

1:01:00 Yo is now in Australia and has kids. She always wants to go back to Amsterdam.

1:02:00 Germans made the prisoners walk in front of them so the planes would not shoot them for fear of hitting a civilian. One man had his foot frozen off.

1:03:00 Bill and Margaret's children did not say anything about the people that stayed with them. They enjoyed the company.

1:04:00 The people in the village were happy when the sky turned red because it meant that the Germans were in trouble.

1:05:00 Some of Margaret's family were also helping Jews escape. In 1947 Bill and Margaret left.

1:06:00 Yo stayed and got married.

1:07:00 They do not keep in touch anymore. Once they went back to Amsterdam and saw Yo.

1:08:00 They do not have her address. Her husband wants to forget. He was in a concentration camp.

1:09:00 Bill and Margaret do not know how to get in touch with any of those they helped.

1:10:00 They never received any medal or reward for their actions.

1:11:00 They were supposed to meet someone in Washington but never went.

1:12:00 In order to receive a medal they need testimony from one of the survivors.

1:13:00 Their son in law wrote a letter to Washington telling them about Bill and Margaret.

1:14:00 Yo will not be helpful today. She has had many nightmares and wants to forget.

1:15:00 Both Bill and Margaret wanted to help the Jews. It was not forced on them. Bill said that it is better working together.

1:16:00 Margaret often went out at night in her bare feet so she couldn't be heard.

1:17:00 They never knew if any of their neighbors were talking. We can not understand how much they hated the Germans.

1:18:00 People were scared and stressful

1:19:00 Margaret had great respect for Churchill. Once they could not find Sonia so her mother came.

1:20:00 She arrived with her own food. Sonia was a very disturbed child. She came at age nine and left at thirteen.

1:21:00 Sonia went back with her mother in 1945.

1:22:00 Bill and Margaret often prayed for their friends. Sonia and her family went back to Amsterdam. Bill and Margaret went to a synagogue and prayed.

1:23:00 Sonia was a victim. She eventually killed herself . During the 1970's she got all mixed up.

1:24:00 Sonia was confused with Margaret, her mother, and the Germans.

1:25:00 They had a national feeling.

1:26:00 War is not part of them everyday. Their children are not familiar with the war.

1:27:00 Bill and Margaret's children are proud of their parents.

The war was good because it had a purpose.

1:28:00 Margaret once stood up to a soldier and yelled at him.

1:29:00 Bill once left on a Tuesday and came back Thursday with seven people. They had underground papers and the Germans came looking.

1:30:00 They caught a guy working for Bill but he said nothing.

1:31:00 Bill and Margaret helped about ten Jews escape the Germans.

1:32:00 You can't be foolishly brave. You have to be sly.

1:33:00 The lesson to learn from Bill and Margaret is to be concerned for our fellow human beings.
.END.