

-TITLE-TRUUS KAMP  
-I\_DATE-SEPTEMBER 12, 1991  
-SOURCE-JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES  
-RESTRICTIONS-  
-SOUND\_QUALITY-GOOD  
-IMAGE\_QUALITY-EXCELLENT  
-DURATION-  
-LANGUAGES-DUTCH(English interpreter)  
-KEY\_SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-  
-PERSONAL\_NAME-  
-CORPORATE\_NAME-  
-KEY\_WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
-CONTENTS-

Truus was born September 29, 1917, grew up with parents, two sisters and one brother in Rotterdam. Her brother died in the bombardment of Rotterdam [May 14, 1940.]

:02 She became a J. W. in October 1940, having been introduced to the J.W.'s teachings by a German J.W. Her family's background had been Roman Catholic, and for some time she had attended parochial schools. However, she had never accepted Catholicism, truly. None of her family of origin became J. W.

Her first husband was Belgian, by origin, name : Gustavus.

:04 They both became active in Bible study, working more or less underground, carefully gauging the first response to the question "Are you interested in the Bible ?", as they solicited from door-to-door.

:06 Her husband was arrested in 1943, by S.S. Gruenberg and Simons. Husband had been betrayed by an ex-Jehovah's Witness, named Kuik. After interrogation by the S.S. husband was imprisoned in Rotterdam. The only communication Truus had with her 1st husband after his arrest was via one note he was able to smuggle out of the Dutch prison, via an exchange of clothes.

:08 Her husband had been a leader of the J. W.'s for a large region in the Rotterdam area. He was considered important in the movement. Prior to WWII J.W. 's often had used a gramophone (on a wagon), when witnessing. This gramophone was kept in Kuik's house. Truus' husband went to pick up the gramophone, leading to Kuik's fury over this, and eventual Kuik's betrayal.

:11 At the time of the arrest, Truus and husband had one daughter. After the arrest Truus managed financially by receiving Dutch welfare support, due to "abandonment" by husband.

:14 Being asked by interviewer what her thoughts were re Germany and Germans at that time, Truus responds that she had no real idea of what was actually going on.

:15 She cont'd Bible education. She helped other J.W.'s, by allowing them to use her house as an underground refuge. Of those J. W.'s only one of them is still surviving at time of interview.

:16 J. W.'s meetings were held at different addresses.

:17 Asked about the publication and distribution of J. W.'s literature, Truus responds that she knew that literature entered the Netherlands secretly via Belgium.

:19 Her husband was first imprisoned in the Haagse Veer prison (R'dam), transported to Vught, where he remained until "Crazy Tuesday"

TAPE [September 9,1944(?) the day on which the Dutch underground tried an uprising against the Germans, which failed.]

From Vught he was transported to the Henckel factory, then to Sachsenhausen, then to Neuengamme. He stayed in Neuengamme only a few days, at that time suffering from a stomach ailment, due to which he was transported to the infirmary in Buchenwald, where he died in February 1945.

During his brief stay in Neuengamme Truus's first husband met the man, who eventually became Truus' second husband.

:22 It was via the Red Cross and some J.W.'s that she learned of these details post WWII.

:23 Asked her reactions to the death, and the camps, Truus responds that during the war she had not realized what had been going on in the camps; she was too busy caring for her child and her parents.

:24 Asked about fear re her J.W.'s activities, she responds that she was not aware of fear. she just did it.

:26 Interviewer asks again about her reaction to Germans and the war. She responds that she had no real idea of what war entailed, Holland not having participated in WWI.

:27 Asked about churches supporting wars, she responds that she thought that churches were supposed to be involved in people, not wars.

:30 Asked whether those issues ever came up during the Bible studies, she responds that they were discussed there.

:31 She met her second husband in a group that went pioneering from house-to-house.

:33 Because second husband had been in Sachsenhausen, she did ask him about her first husband. In view of the fact that her first husband had been in Sachsenhausen only a few days she did not learn any details.

:34 Photograph of Truus and second husband and their young son, taken shortly after WWII shown.  
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