

JAN STADSKANAAL VAN DEN BERG

Born 8/20/23 Dordrecht, Netherlands. Seven siblings. Non-attending member of Dutch Reformed Church. Father inclined toward Dutch Nazis in 1930's. Mother introduced Jan to JW's in mid-1942 and he became a convert 3 months later followed by one sister. He became a Bible Educator Worker and proselytizer. June, 1944 tried to convert the mayor of Alplasserdam who had him arrested. Beaten by NSB (Dutch Nazis) when he refused to name names. Sent to prison in Rotterdam where he refused to renounce JW. Sent concentration camp in Vught near Breda where stayed until 9/6/44 with 40 other JW's including leader Arthur Winkler. Tortured but maintained his faith. As Allies approached 9/44, he and 4000 other prisoners sent to Sachsenhausen where he has housed in a plane hanger for 14 days and then sent to labor camp Rathenau 70km south of Berlin. There he worked in the metal factory. Later he refused to dig shooting galleries and was flogged 7 times, then ordered to dig own grave. Shot at with blanks and then beaten some more by Kapos. JW's ordered to play music for SS parties and, after SS men got drunk, they switched to JW songs. Says JW faith kept him going even as he became ill and near death. As war ended, prisoners marched/cycled from camp to Magdeburg and then to the River Elbe where they met up with Americans. He was hospitalized 14 days and the repatriated to Holland. He resumed preaching almost immediately and became a house painter. Married 1952.