

-TITLE-D. VAN DER STARRE
-I_DATE-SEPTEMBER 6, 1990
-SOURCE-JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-GOOD
-IMAGE_QUALITY-EXCELLENT
-DURATION-37 MINUTES
-LANGUAGES-DUTCH WITH INTERPRETER ENGLISH
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

Mrs. v.d. Starre was born Sept. 8, 1916 in Rotterdam where she grew up with both parents and five siblings: 4 brothers and one sister. Her father was a business man, being a middle man between manufacturers and shippers of cargo.

:02 Her father became a J.W. in 1923, having bought a brochure in the marked. It was the brochure dealing with Hellfire which convinced him that he had found "the Truth".

:03 Asked about the family's reaction in 1933, at Hitler's ascension to power, she states that her father was nervous. The family had Jewish acquaintances, mainly musicians. By her sister's marriage they also had a distant "relatives" (not related by blood) who was Jewish, Lukas, a university professor in astronomy.

:04 She shows a picture of her father: his I.D. card in 1940

In 1939, at the time of Dutch mobilization her father took care of the entire family. When the invasion by Germany, into Holland occurred, may 10, 1940, her father took her and her two children

:05 to his home. (No mention is made, at this point, of her husband, although-- cf. below -- she was married in 1936.) Her father and her oldest brother, as well as she herself, were J.W. at that time, while the other members of the nuclear family were not J.W.'s During the invasion the family engaged in long discussions of the social situation. Mrs. v.d. Starre states that while she had followed her father's belief and became a J.W., she did not fully accept the J.W. belief until after her father's death.

:07 Her father was arrested on 3/15/1942 at home. First he was taken to a local police station, then to the main police station to try to get a message through but did not succeed. In the afternoon

:09 she and her oldest brother did get a message through to their father. (There is no indication on how she is sure that her father did receive the message.)

:10 Six weeks later her brother sought the intervention of the Dutch River police, where her father had a friend. However this man could not or would not do anything. However, her youngest brother, then age seven, was given permission to see their father. She herself was never granted permission.

:11 She was married in 1936, and in 1940 had two children. She was a soprano in a choir, performing professionally, and earned income as a seamstress.

:12 She shows a photograph of herself, one that was used to promote her singing career. She sang in Rotterdam, and later in the province of Zeeland.

:14 Friends of her father's at the Mercantile Exchange tried to exert influences, but to no avail The Gestapo viewed her father as a leader, because he had a stencil machine at home for the printing and distribution of J.W. literature.

:15 Her father was sent to the concentration camp in Amersfoort (known as the Martyrs' Camp), where his hands were several wounded. (No date is given.) Her brothers were able to visit her father in Amersfoort, she herself never saw her father again. (Neither number of visits nor dates are given.) Both in prison and in Amersfoort he refused to sign the document renouncing his J.W. faith.

:16 From Amersfoort he father was sent to Sachsenhausen. Asked about letters from her father Mrs. v.d. Starre shows a letter she has from her father, dated 1937, when she herself was in a coma in the hospital after give birth to her first child. This letter of her father's comments on God saving her, when medical science had failed. Pressed again re letters from her father during his imprisonment, Mrs. V.d. Starre states that her father was able to send some letters, but that those letters are in the possession of her brothers, who were very opposed to the J.W.'s faith.

:19 Her father died October 1, 1942. The family learned of the death via postcard, portraying an advertisement for soup, stating: "Heil Hitler!" Your father is dead."

:20 In his letters written from the camps, her father had mentioned that he witnessed terrible events; that they had to help their mother and help each other. he was not hopeful. He asked for warm underwear.

:21 In 1945 she met a J.W. who had been present at her father's death. He described that her father had lost both eyes (meaning eyes removed from their sockets, not just sight) and that his hands were mutilated and that he was totally emaciated.

:23 Of her family only she and her oldest brother were J.W. All other family members were totally opposed to the J.W.'s faith, explaining that her father's belief and the consequences led to severe dissension within the family.

:24 She shows her father's cufflinks which have pictures of his children on them. These, his wallet and his wedding ring were returned to the family, by the intervention of officer Simmons. Two of her brothers, not J.W.'s went to Amersfoort and to Sachsenhausen and brought back her father's death certificate. (Tape is unclear whether these brothers went together, when they went, when they received the death certificate, where they received it.)

:25 Post war she went to identify Simmons, when he collaborated with the Dutch government in gathering information re J.W.'s history during WWII.

:26 She was baptized J.W. in 1940. She had gradually become more serious re her belief.

:28 Asked whether was harassed as a J.W. during the war, she mentioned that she did not experience anything special. She gave shelter to three J.W.'s for several months at the time, all of whom eventually died in a concentration camp. At the time she was not particularly scared. However, she stopped taking in J.W. after her father's death.

:31 She did not perform publicly as a singer during WWII.

:32 She is still an active J.W. She speaks admiringly of her father.

:33 Asked why the Gestapo were opposed to J.W. she answers "Because the Germans saw the J.W.'s as an extension of the Jews."

She mentions that 85 J.W.'s were arrested in the morning

:35 Asked whether she saw other arrests, she answers that one time when she brought clothes to her father in Rotterdam prison she saw Jews saying farewell to relatives who were to be deported.

She ends interview by thanking for the opportunity to tell her father's history. Camera shows interviewee, her daughter and the interviewee's interpreter.

.END.