

RG 50-120 #068 Tape 1 of 3

Hod, Baruch

- 1.00:53:16 Baruch Hod was born in 1924 in Utrecht, Holland. Originally, his last name was Van Der Hoeden.
- 1.22 Happy childhood in a strongly Zionist home. Attempt to settle in Palestine, a little before Baruch was born ended because his sickly mother could not adjust to the climate there.
- 2.04 Return to Holland.
- 2.11 Father was a scientist who specialized in diseases transmitted from animals to people.
- 2.38 After the end of WWII, when family settled in Israel, father continued his work with distinction, receiving the Israel Prize.
- 2.57 Baruch had 3 sisters.
- 3.22 Father was a Zionist who did not accept the community's 'establishment' [for the most part religious] in Holland. He was a member of the community, but not an activist. Baruch's Jewish education was secular, for the most part, although they celebrated the Jewish holidays. Father organized courses about Palestine in the School for Veterinarian Medicine, where he was a member of the faculty.
- 5.40 Family did not live in a Jewish neighborhood. In his high school of 2,000 students, there were only 2 Jews.
- 6.25 Mother passed away in Holland, during the war, from a chronic illness.
- 7.04 In May, 1940, the Germans invaded Holland, although they did not take measures against the Jews, as they had heard happened in Germany since 1933.
- 7.40 About situation in Holland[?], they learned from neighbors who had fled Germany, and from the media.
- 8.20 Never had suffered anti-Semitism in Holland, where anti-Jewish remarks and actions were rare.
- 12.00 In 1941, Jews were not allowed to be in same schools with non-Jews. So, Jewish schools were immediately established.
- 13.50 Anti-Jewish feelings were more prevalent among the farmers and the cattle raisers.

- 16.08 Nazis proceeded with caution in their measures against the Jews, all the time watching for the reaction of the population at large.
- 16.30 Railroad and port authority workers organized a violent strike against the Nazis, for their anti-Jewish measures.
- 17.54 Nazi method of rationing food was very sophisticated, and in essence the rations diminished gradually.
- 19.17 The Jews were unprepared for the Nazis, and they kept hoping the situation would get better. Also, they had never suffered a war, like in other European countries.
- 20.30 Baruch's family felt hopelessness since the father, as well as other Jews, was fired from his government job and the children were taken out of the public schools, that was in the middle of 1941.
- 21.19 Beginning of 1942, Jews were forced to wear the yellow badge.
- 22.20 Economic measures against the Jews included to deposit all the money in a certain bank [Lippman and Rosenthal] which had Jewish owners originally, but no longer.
- 23.06 Baruch was a 12<sup>th</sup> grader when he and others were supposed to leave the public school. The Jewish community organized classes in the large halls of the Jewish orphanage. There were 7 students in his class. The schedule was strange and haphazard. Baruch was interested in science.
- 25.34 Atmosphere at home was gloomy because mother's illness compounded the worries of the war outside. Situation and emotions were not shared among family members: each did his duty to survive. Father arranged for hiding places in case of need, through his many acquaintances. Indeed, each of the children were hidden in different places.
- 30.54 In the summer of 1942, family discovered they were on a list for exchange with prisoners in Palestine. Those on the list were sent, in the end, to Bergen-Belsen and then to Theresienstadt. They refused.
- 32.10 First to be deported were the children from the orphanage, in the winter of 41-42. They were taken to the main train station, destination Westerborg. Baruch and his school friends were asked to help put the children's baggage on the train. Many of the staff went with the children. Doubtful anyone came back. The town's women [non-Jews] brought sweets and cakes to the children. Because of the outcry, succeeding deportations originated in unused train stations. German Jews were next to be deported. Keeping order were German police. Baruch was asked to help carry baggage of neighbors to station.

- 48.49 An uncle deported to Mauthausen for being in the street after curfew. They thought it was a forced labor camp.
- 49.00 Cousin taken to same camp for keeping a bike hidden.
- 51.39 Baruch's family had knowledge of the existence of concentration camps in Germany, since 1939. The knowledge came from stories of German Jews themselves.
- 55.00 Not all German-Jews were deported at once.
- 56.38 Not any information was received any more from the deported Jews.
- 57.29 The Westerburg camp was established by the government of Holland, to house the German Jewish refugees, not to compound the unemployment crises of the local people – in 1938-39.
- 59.57 Nazis started to capture young people in the streets.
- 2.01.12 Jews were forced to buy the yellow badge. It was sold by the Jewish community, near the synagogue. When Germans confiscated the bicycles, if they were not in excellent working order, the Jews had to pay for their repair.
- 4.32 When Jews began wearing the yellow badge, the non-Jewish population made a point of greeting the Jews, shaking hands, removing their hats while saluting in an effort to show solidarity with their neighbors.
- 5.16 Baruch's father continued his involvement with Zionist movement, and was very active in the 'hachshara' [agricultural preparation of groups of youth for eventual emigration to Israel to establish kibbutzim].
- 14.00 Family friends advised the family to remove any valuables from the house: antique furniture and a huge library. All the property was returned to them after the war.
- 15.50 Jewish youth were taken in the streets, mainly in Amsterdam. In Utrecht , these cases were rare, and usually carried out by eager german nazis.
- 17.00 A few times, when rumors spread that the nazis were looking for young Jews, Baruch was hidden by neighbors, or by friends of the family.
- 19.30 There was a heavy atmosphere as the circle of friends and neighbors became a smaller and smaller, due to death, deportation or hiding.

- 23.00 Baruch's father planned the children's hiding places. Baruch was the first to be sent to the country, to a farm. The transaction, done through an agent, cost much money. The farmer refused to hide Baruch. He managed to return home. There were other false starts, due to the fact that the farmers got 'cold feet' at the last minute, and were afraid to hide a Jew.
- 29.00 A neighbor, former police commander in the city [and a well known anti-nazi] found finally a hiding place for Baruch, at the house of a newly-wed couple in the south of Holland. The wife did not know that Baruch was a Jew. He was 18 years old, at the end of 1942.
- 40.00 Baruch's father came for a visit 6 months into his staying on the farm. He was forced to take Baruch with him, because a friend of the farmer suspected him of being a Jew.
- 40.22 They hid in western Holland, with a friend of the father. They both had false documents, provided by the incipient underground.
- 42.00 Mother hid in many places. Ended her life in a sanitarium in n.east Holland, and was buried under a non-Jewish name.
- 47.00 One of his sisters was practically adopted by a childless couple, friend of Baruch's father. She went to school and had a normal life. After the war, she was returned to her father.
- 48.18 Oldest sister was hidden in a convent in NW Holland, where they young women worked as hospital nurses. She had been a trained nurse.
- 49.34 Father was active in the underground, publishing a small newspaper.
- 53.39 Trip to Almolo, where Baruch was hidden for a time – travel was by train, and documents [false] were examined. Father and son traveled together, but they looked as though they did not know each other.
- 57.17 New hiding place, at a farmer's who was a member of the aristocracy. He was not very accomplished, failed his agronomy studies, and wanted to emigrate to Canada.
- 59.15 Life was difficult. The farmer was not well-off.
- 3.00.00 Utrecht was divided equally between catholics and protestants, so that the official functions were shared [by nomination] in equal parts.
- 6.00 After 6 months of stay in the above mentioned farm, Baruch had problems with the farmer's wife, who showed up at his bed. He ran away from the farm, with

- just the clothes on his back. Managed to get his father's address from other vets in farms in the area. He joined his mother and father.
- 12.00 Then, someone else hid him, and he found his sister in hiding there, too. Every time the area where Baruch was hiding was closed up, he managed to run away from it, with the help of the underground.
- 22.07 His stay in Lunterin, in the center of Holland. Farmer received a medal from Eisenhower after the war, one of the few in the world. A street was also named after him: Rulofsen.
- 25.00 The Rulofsens also his a relative of theirs, who was a commander in the local underground. At night, both he and Barch would go to sleep in a barn-like structure built to protect the sheep in the winter.
- 28.22 The underground there was not Jewish but Protestant. The cell was part of the general underground in Holland.
- 28.38 Underground edited a paper 'Trau' ['loyal']. Paper is still sold in Holland, albeit its character changed.
- 29.29 Baruch knew the local and the regional commanders of the underground, because of the activities carried out.
- 31.14 Underground activities included to find hiding places, regardless of the personal beliefs. [for instance, Baruch's unit was anticommunist, but they also hid communists] The common cause was anti-German. They robbed food storage places, ration coupons from offices, falsified or manufactured identity documents, found medical help and dealt with arms. The arms were dropped from airplanes. Every once in a while, a paratrooper would also land. He was the connection between England and Holland. Sometimes, uniforms would also be dropped.
- 34.00 Baruch's underground was connected with the unsuccessful action in Arnheim. But they also provided 'paratroopers' to drop on the other side of the Rhine. Sometimes they succeeded, sometimes not.
- 34.29 It was important to wear uniforms, in case of being caught by the Germans, because those caught were treated as 'prisoners of war', better than being apprehended as civilians.
- 34.30 Chocoate, boots, cigarettes, raincoats, etc, sometimes were included with the weapons.
- 36.47 In the fall of 1943 he arrived to his last hiding place [see above] and started, gradually, to participate in underground activities. Relaying information from place to place was important, most done orally, although sometimes in writing

- [hiding nooks in bicycles which the Germans found eventually]. When one was caught, the punishment was haphazard: from sending to camps, to short detentions.
- 39.39 Underground became more sophisticated in due time: some of the early interventions were childish, but the outcome was tragic.
- 40.00 Baruch's first serious intervention involved an air-drop of weapons, and electronic communication equipment, that came accompanied by a Dutch paratrooper.
- 46.49 Winter 1944-1945 – Another air-drop on a full moon night, on an icy night. The earth is frozen, and the boxes – very heavy - with ammunition. Baruch was in charge of warning, with a flashlight, of impending danger. The appointed place was near a main road, where Germans moved at night. The plane dropped the ammunitions, but a German unit managed to apprehend for a little while many of the underground activists. Baruch was one of them: the others managed to escape.
- 57.17 Baruch did not have any ID papers with him. The Germans understood he was in the underground, and took him to Vromsuft [?].

## TAPE 2

- 4.01.31 More about the family in the last farm, where he was hidden, and where he started his work in the underground. It was a place of much intellectual activity, and a place where many people hid at different times.
- 4.13.33 Nobody knew for sure what was happening to the Jews. They could only infer, and as late as 1943, 1944 and beginning of 1945 there were not deportations [in essence, there were not many Jews left in Holland] near the end, the Germans did not try to hide their deeds as the the beginning.
- 15.05 At the end, they saw the cattle cars that were transporting deportees. However, they didn't know about the gas chambers.
- 15.38 'Apeldwien Zebosh' [?] was emptied in one night, from all the mentally ill institutionalized there. So, it was understood that the deportations of these people, and the elderly, was not for the purpose of providing work force in Germany.
- 16.38 Baruch witnessed the deportation of a young Jewish family hiding in a farm. When their money ran out, the farmers informed of them to the Germans.
- 17.25 Baruch was in an observation point, 100 meters away, when he witnessed the family taken away. Only 3 Germans were involved in this family's deportation.

- 20.00 It was difficult to decide which boycotts to carry out, for the underground. Many times they had to take into consideration who else will be punished, who may be completely innocent.
- 22.00 Baruch's observation point: atop a building of the farmers co-op, where the train tracks came in, and the trains loaded the produce brought there by farmers. He didn't have binoculars; neither did he need them.
- 24.00 Another observation point: near a hotel, in the center of the village. The nazi officials were there.
- 32.15 The Germans in the village were very visible, and very active. Not only because of the underground, but because of allies activities in the area. For instance, Montgomery parachuted in nearby Veruheim [sp?], with disastrous results. The Germans were also looking for food, so that they took away cattle, pigs, etc.
- 33.13 In the next village over, where the 'Green Police' was housed, the Germans were more cruel. However, the worst of them were two Dutch nazis [Weromsuf?]. This village was in the direction of the well known Barnefeld.
- 34.02 The village abutted the nature reserve 'Hoichlfelde' [?], where the nazi party had their center, before the war. Many Dutch nazis lived there. All together, it wasn't the ideal place to hide, but they succeeded.
- 35.35 Another Jew who hid in the area, unbeknownst to Baruch, was also the leader of the student union at the University, Von Kreifert [?]
- 36.36 Many, hundreds of paratroopers were hidden in that same area.
- 40.00 The dangers and atmosphere of war was felt in underground, they still helped each other. After the winter of 1945 and the spring there – after, many Dutch from the big cities came to buy produce at the farms. Only the elder, children and women arrived, as for men the transit from place to place was dangerous. Thousand of Dutch died in the last months of the war, especially in western Holland. There were cases in which the farmers demanded jewels and other valuables in excess, but they were a minority.
- 46.10 After the war, the collaborators among the Dutch were taken care of by the proper authorities. Until the gov't in Holland was re-established the Canadians and the English – with the help of the locals – kept the country running. Baruch was in charge of food supply, and also the inspection of populations in transit, to weed out people with contagious diseases. Vengeance was by all means, an option for the victims. Mental lists were compiled with the names of the Dutch collaborators, nazis, etc.

- 51.00 After the aforementioned air-drop of weapons, Germans found them. They were very interested in catching someone from the underground. Baruch was it. He was taken to the center of the grene polizei for interrogation. Baruch was, in fact, apprehended for not carrying documents. The room was totally closed. First they checked if he was circumcised. Then, they kicked him between the legs, then sent him to the basement, where other suffering prisoners were held.
- 5:05:21 After A couple of days, he was taken to the guards room, where he was sexually assaulted. He was put in a closet after the attack.
- 10.27 He was taken out, and assaulted again. Then, was brought to the interrogation room, where he collapse and didn't talk. The guards were reprimanded and sent out.
- 16.57 Baruch was forced to witness the interrogation of another prisoner, which was very cruel.
- 20.00 The escape, thanks to a prostitute. When Baruch's escape was discovered, the Germans sent dogs after him.
- 28.13 Doesn't remember how; evidently the underground sent him to a safe place, near the train station. After 6 days, he was given another bike and false papers, and sent away. Soldiers stopped him, checked documents and tried to confiscate his bike.
- 33.00 Return to the Rulofsens. After a while, they were warned that the nazis were coming to the farm. They relocated before the farm was taken over.
- 37.00 Baruch blocked out completely all that period, but he was told years later that he still worked in the fields, and was active in the underground.
- 41.00 Baruch's despair controlled him over that time. Hidden in a barn, he befriended a kitten. Later on, he befriended one of the messengers of the underground, a woman who was later killed through suffocation in his presence. Her name, years later he recalled, was Ricky.
- 0:00:52 His memory only picks up about a month before the end of the war. At that time, he was together with the Rulofsen's son. They hid in another farm, where they worked the fields.
- 03.33 Western and north-western Holland capitulated at the same time that Germany did. Sight of fleeing German soldiers.
- 04.19 Going back to Arnheim and to the failure of Montgomery's attack, due to faulty intelligence. The landing of the allied troops was carried out in the midst of heavy German's presence, in the middle of a division of Panzer tanks.



- 05.46 In September, the Germans invaded Belgium and the south of Holland. They thought that Montgomery had stopped the Nazi advance. Nazis fled back to Germany on the famous 'crazy Tuesday' only to return when it was evident that the allies were defeated.
- 9.16 Paratroopers who landed in Arnhem, hid and the only food they found was the potatoes in the field. But, unripe and uncooked potatoes contain poison. The paratroopers became very ill, and were paralyzed. They were treated and saved.
- 17.00 One of the paratroopers under the care of Baruch, was hiding under the straw pile, when the Germans came to conduct a search. They stuck their bayonettes into every straw pile, to make sure no one was hiding there. The British paratrooper was hurt and yelled...but at the same time the twin children of the farmer began to cry, and the yell of the paratrooper was drowned.
- 19.12 Contact was established with the forces on the other side of the large rivers in Holland [the Canadians, American and British took over south Holland, up to these rivers] in order to return some of the paratroopers to their forces. The day chosen was the same as the day the residents of Arnhem, etc., were forced to move out of their residences. It was a good idea, then, to move the paratroopers together with the rest of the population. Some of the paratroopers made it back, some did not. Many simple farmers aided in hiding these paratroopers on their way to freedom. They did so with great personal courage, and under a sure death sentence [if caught] for them and their families.
- 43.13 Jack Hertz, another Jew, was being hidden in the next farm closest to Baruch's. Jack was taken to a camp [Amasfort?], where he managed to conceal he was a Jew, and was liberated after the war.
- 44.56 Baruch and Jack were then in a training command that was sent to Indonesia [where the war with Japan was not over yet]. Baruch carried out underground activities there.
- 46.00 While there, Baruch was told he could return to the university, where he would be given one year's credit if he could demonstrate that he had discontinued his studies for at least 3 years. His problem was, that he had signed for his current military duties. The commander of the camp agreed to look the other way while Baruch fled one night.
- 48.11 Baruch also saw his sister, who was training as a nurse, and was called upon to assist people who were hurt in the underground, or among the farmers who were hiding Jews.
- 49.00 Baruch's father was also active in the underground. [He his with people who were raising chickens in incubators.] In the underground, he was instrumental in the

publication of a paper. While the war was still going on, he managed to write a professional book.

- 51.00 Baruch saw his father also when he received the news of the passing of his mother.
- 52.00 His other sister, he was in the period of the paratroopers.
- 59.00 His father never knew from Baruch what the Germans did to him. Baruch did not talk about it with anybody. The people close to him knew that something happened to him, but they all respected his silence.

### TAPE 3

- 7:04:21 Mid April, the Germans started to flee with their equipment, etc. It was 3 weeks before Germany capitulated, and north-west Holland.
- 06.00 Those Dutch who thought they were already free, were still caught and murdered by the nazi fanatics when they saw the flag of the [?] being flown again.
- 08.24 In the vacuum that resulted between the retreat of the Germans and the entrance of the liberating armies, hundreds of people were murdered.
- 09.03 Baruch with the son of the Rulofsens, went back to their farm, where an emotional gathering took place. The immediately began to organize to re-institute order in Holland, from the point of view of security and municipal services [which had been totally neglected]. Foods were sent from England, and had to be distributed.
- 10.11 Baruch's activity centered around the search of people, suspected of collaboration. [At one point, a Dutch nazi was spotted as official translator for the Canadian army, wearing a Canadian uniform. He was uncovered.]
- 14.09 Baruch received a fur-lined coat from the Canadian army, as thanks for his capture of the Dutch-nazi collaborator.
- 14.33 May Germans hid in the nature preserve.
- 15.35 Baruch's feeling then was, that in small measure, he and others are beginning to repair the world.
- 15.02 After 2-3 months they began to recruit commandos for the Dutch army in Indonesia.
- 17.20 Baruch continued his veterinary medicine studies in the city of his birth, Utrecht.

- 17.28 Return to Utrecht by bike.
- 17.50 Division of Holland into discrete areas, in order to cleanse the country of Germans and collaborators. Prohibition from going from area to area. Also fear of epidemics.
- 25.18 Baruch's home was confiscated by the Germans and made into offices of the Nazi party, and also as a hospital – recovery place.
- 27.19 Reunion with his aunt and uncle, who hid in Utrecht itself during the war.
- 27.51 Reunion with his father and sisters.
- 31.00 Reflections on illegal behaviors in the underground, that become routine reactions even when there is no need for illegality after the war.
- 33.30 Baruch Arrived to his house in Utrecht about 1 ½ months after war ended. Disinfection of the house.
- 36.30 Oldest sister emigrated to Israel about a year later.
- 37.00 Familial relations changed after the war. Baruch stopped talking at all. His father sent him to undergo psychiatric therapy. Baruch stopped. The therapists there [in the psychiatric hospital in Utrecht] did not know what the survivors had gone through, and did not understand them.
- 40.00 For months, there were 'liberation' parties across Holland, in each neighborhood. Baruch did not take part in them. It was during his 'silent' period.
- 43.47 Rail transportation suffered, as Germans took the trucks to their tanks factories.
- 44.00 Almost immediately after beginning of school year at the university, Baruch contracts hepatitis, and was ill for 3 months. Baruch did not help in his recovery. He didn't want to be healthy again.
- 46.50 He finally recovered in Luntern, at the farm of the family who hid him during the war.
- 48.00 Initiation rites of freshmen at the university motivated Baruch to resign from his membership in the students' association [club].
- 8.07.32 End of 1946. Beginning of 1947 Baruch dropped out of school. Started to devote himself to Zionist causes, a kind of 'escape' for him. Worked for 'Hanoar' and 'Hechalutz'. Couldn't be in the same place. Travelled 'like crazy'.
- 14.00 Efforts to rebuild the youth movements.

- 15.15 Efforts to find orphaned Jewish children hidden with non-Jews. The youth movements established a special unit for that purpose. Called "For the Sake of the Children". Many times it was a difficult task, and in some cases, they ended in trials. In some cases, children were smuggled from country to country, not to give them back to Judaism.
- 17.00 The Jewish organizations represented those children.
- 21.00 More activities of the Zionish movement. Smuggled people to get them to port to sail illegally to Israel, smuggled weapons. Also mobilization to fight in Israel, before 1948, when it was apparent there would be a war there.
- 22.00 Weapons were available in Europe, from the underground, from communist groups who wanted to revolt [Czeckoslovakia].
- 27.25 Baruch was caught by the Dutch police for his part on the smuggling of weapons, when people transporting them were caught.
- 29.09 Money for weapons came from diamond dealers in Antwerp.
- 30.00 Baruch's part in deal to smuggle barbed-wire from Rotterdam to Israel.
- 35.00 Baruch's activities after the declaration of Independence in Israel.
- 38.00 Probation for his arms smuggling. Because of that, he was the last in his family to arrive in Israel.
- 39.00 More about reasons for Baruch's detention and probation for arms smuggling.
- 42.00 Baruch's immigration to a kibbutz in Israel. Escape from the 'war ghost' through work.
- 44.00 The emotional scars of the war.