

RG-50.407.0221

Summary

Cornelius Hos – named Righteous Among the Nations in 1997 – (Name in Yad Vashem database is Cees Hos and his wife's name was Albertine, number 7572)

Before the War - Born in 1916 in The Hague, The Netherlands. One of 4 children. Father - a teacher; Mother from northern Holland. Family of modest means. Became friendly with several Jewish boys while in high school, including Hans Polak, one of the people he tried to save.

During the War - When occupation began in Holland, Cees knew he had to help, including hiding people, and told this to his Jewish friends. Group of friends developed a network to help people "disappear". Described the network as "dangerous and secretive". Cees was an artist (worked at a university of the arts as a lecturer and painter) and worked to forge documents, copying stamps, signatures, dates. He and his wife also hid people (long and short term) in their apartment (hiding place in floor and behind walls) including Hans Polak, his wife, and their daughter Chaja. In 1944, there was a raid on the Hos's apartment. Hans and his wife were taken and sent to Auschwitz, but their daughter was allowed to stay, so the Hoses kept her until the end of the war. (Hans Polak died on a Death March, but his wife survived Auschwitz.) Cees was not home during the raid on his apartment, but was later arrested with 2 other men and taken to a prison in The Hague (Schepfenwen?) where he was beaten. He did not know who told the Germans about him. His family was not harmed. As the war neared its end, Cees was freed (a friend paid to have him released). He was the only one of the three men who survived the arrest. The Hoses also hid a girl named Marija from Rotterdam who had lost her entire family.

After the War – Cees and his family stayed in Holland till 1956, but the Cold War tensions made him decide to emigrate to New Zealand. He stayed there for 20 years and then moved to Australia.

Cees and his first wife, Albertine, never hesitated in their decision to help with the Resistance movement. Their motivations were "humanity and friendships". They also believed that there is only one family – Mankind - so the thought of risk did not factor into their decision to help in any way they could. In 1997, Cees and Albertine Hos and Cees' sister, Veya(?) were honored as Righteous Among the Nations.