

Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

P.O. Box 25506, San Mateo, CA 94402

Name of interviewee: Bosch, Elizabeth

Date of interview: 4/18/1994

Summary: Elizabeth Bosch was born in June of 1919 in Rotterdam, Holland to a Roman Catholic family. She had two sisters. Elizabeth's mother was a housewife and her father worked in insurance. After high school, Elizabeth became a dental assistant for a Jewish dentist. A German maid turned in the dentist, and he and his wife were transported to Auschwitz.

In 1939, Elizabeth moved with her fiancé, Antoine Bosch, to Indonesia, where they married and started a family. On December 7, 1941 the Japanese invaded Indonesia. By 1943, all Caucasian men had been transported to detention camps. Antoine was sent to Adict Camp, and the couple was separated for four years.

For a while, Elizabeth lived with another single mother, but the two moved into Kramat Camp. Elizabeth lived in Kramat for a while. She said camp life was cramped, but relaxed. She lived with 37 other people in a large house. The camp had no real regulations, and Elizabeth worked watching the children of working mothers. Elizabeth was transferred, though she doesn't say when, to Chindling Camp, which she said was more difficult to live in. She had to work washing hospital sheets, without soap, taking out the garbage, and erecting barbed wire fences around the camp. The living quarters were smaller in Chinding. Elizabeth and her son lived with seven other women and children in a home built for three people. Food was scarce, and camp residents were forced to eat cats and mice. Near the end of the war, Elizabeth said treatment of the internees worsened. At one point near the end of the war, all the internees' heads were shaved, and they were starved for four days.

The liberation of the camp was not announced, but the Japanese soldiers left the gates to the camp open. Elizabeth, her son, a friend and her children walked freely out of the camp, found a large, empty home and moved in there. A few months after liberation, Elizabeth and Antoine were reunited. In 1947 the family returned to Holland. They moved in with Elizabeth's parents for a year and a half before moving to the Caribbean.

In 1954, Elizabeth and her family followed her sister and parents to Southern California. Elizabeth and Antoine, who now had two sons, settled in California and bought a house there.