

Netherlands Documentation Project

Interview Summary

RG-50.570*0006

Mr. Cas Sla. Born in 1926
Interview Date: July 20, 2004
Location: Schiedam

Short Summary:

Mr. Sla was arrested in November 1944 to work in Germany. He worked on a train track. Jewish prisoners from Dachau were also working on this train track. He was eyewitness to beating and murdering of prisoners. One time he saw from nearby how prisoners had to kick a prisoner to death on the order of a Kapo.

Long Summary:

Tape 1

About family background. Father was in the clothing business. Mr Sla was the second of 11 children. Not religious. He went to public school. They lived in Schiedam near Rotterdam.

About the invasion and the bombardment of Rotterdam. About the first months under occupation. Nothing changed much. He had a Jewish friend Max Werner who had come from Russia. Because the family was Russian they were arrested very soon. About the arrest of Jewish neighbors.

On November 10, 1944, Mr Sla was arrested to work in Germany, as part of a labor detail. He was arrested in Rotterdam and taken by boat via Amsterdam to Camp Weezep. There somebody who tried to escape was shot. Then he was transported to Groningen by train, and then on to Germany. There was a crash with two trains. Some people died, others were wounded. Their train collided with another train.

They were taken to Lemförde to work on the train track. He was together with seven boys that he knew from school.

In December 1944 they were put on transports again, and taken to Feldkirchen near München. There they lived in empty trains and worked on the train track everyday.

March 1945 prisoners from Dachau were brought to the same spot to work on the train tracks -- groups of men and women between 20 and 60 years old, about 300 people. They were guarded by kapos. They fought for food like animals.

Tape 2

About the group from Dachau. Mr Sla was eyewitness of abuse and violence by kapos. He saw on two occasions how kapos ordered prisoners to kill each other. If somebody was too weak to work and collapsed, prisoners were ordered to carry this person to the train. If they failed to carry and the person dropped on the ground, than the kapo ordered the prisoners to kick the person to death.

About liberation. He met Jews and other displaced people from camps. They were all in München, waiting to travel back to their home countries. He met a man who told him about gas chambers and crematoria. Mr Sla had heard an SS say something about going through the chimney during the war. But after liberation was the first time that he heard about gas chambers.

Mr Sla talked more about the arrest of his Jewish neighbors in Schiedam in 1943.

His friend Max Weiner survived the war, and was living in Russia until 1992. Mr Sla talked about how they met again in the 1990's.

Correct spelling of some names and locations mentioned in the video testimony:

Max Weiner

Feldkirchen

Sörending