

Netherlands Documentation Project Interview Summary

RG-50.570*0008

Mr. Martinus Schabbing (Tinus). Born March 22, 1918 in Amsterdam

Date interview: 21 July 2004

Location: Amsterdam

Short Summary:

Martinus Schabbing was part of the resistance group led by Joop Westerweel. His main task was in helping people to travel. Schabbing had a pass with which he could travel in the Netherlands. He would bring people to the border, children to hiding places and twice he helped people that escape from Westerbork to travel from the camp to hiding places.

Long Summary:

Tape 1

Poor family. Father was unemployed, mother had to work. After elementary school Mr Schabbing started to work. Manual labor.

Married in 1940. He worked in the harbor.

From 1942 he was part of the group of Joop Westerweel. They helped a group of children in Loosdrecht, Jewish teenagers. They found them hiding places. These were children that had fled from Germany and that had hoped to go to Palestine. They lived on the land of family Waterman. Other people in this underground group were: Jan Smit and Shushue.

The first thing that Schabbing did was help a Jewish couple to cross the border. He took them to Switzerland. They went to the Belgian border, crossed it and then took the tram to Antwerp and so on. Later he would help other people as well to cross the border. He would bring them to Belgium.

Sometimes he would have to pick up children from hiding places and bring them some where else.

He was called Tinus with the red shawl. That was how people would recognize him -- he would always wear a red shawl.

In 1943 he was able to get a job working at the Noordoostpolder. This job meant that he would not be sent to Germany. He also got a pass to travel through the Netherlands. He was called an inspector of agriculture. Later he got a salary through the underground.

He brought people to the border until the train strike in 1944. He was never caught.

About how he built a hiding place in the house of a policeman.

Tape 2

On about two occasions Schabbing went to Westerbork to pick up people who were escaping from the camp. There was a train going from the camp to the Oranje canal. The driver was Kurt Walter. Schabbing explained how people were able to escape the camp.

In 1943 they organized a trip to Nunspeet for all the teenagers at Loosdrecht. Tinus showed pictures.

About Mirjam Pinkhof who was active with finding hiding places for the Loosdrecht teenagers.

About an execution that he witnessed in Amsterdam and about the arrest of Jews that he witnessed.

About the Westerweel group. They did not have any guns, they were against violence.

Correct spelling of some names mentioned in the video testimony:

Jan Smit

Shushue

Bouke de Koning

Max Windmüller (nick name Cor)

Hans Ehrlich

Leni Orslow

Frans Gerritsen

Menachem Pinkhof

Waterman

Gerda and Pim Loeff

Date interview: 20 July 2004