

**Netherlands Documentation Project
Interview Summary**

RG-50.570*0015

Mr. Jan Otten

Interview Date: December, 20, 2004

Location: Hoogetveen, the Netherlands

Short summary:

Mr Otten worked in a bakery. Daily he delivered bread to the Jewish work camp Kremboong. He told about the living conditions in the camp and about theyday before the deportation from the camp. Abuse of one Jewish man by a German.

Long summary:

Tape 1

00:00 Born July 13, 1921. About his youth in Hoogetveen.

00:04 Lot of Jews in Hoogetveen. Established, part of municipality and part of community life. Mr Otten went to a Christian school. No Jewish children in his school, they went to the public school.

00:07 About the 1930's.

00:11 More about Jewish life in Hoogetveen.

00:16 About Germany and about what would happen to the Jews.

00:18 May 10 was not expected; he describes the German attack.

00:23 Story about a photographer Mr Willy Ballon; according to Mr Otten this man was a spy for the Germans.

00:24 Mr Otten worked at a grocery shop. He described the first period of the occupation, the new laws and regulations against Jews.

00:28 The letter that was sent to the job by the Germans; they have to put up the sign 'Forbidden for Jews'

00:34 In 1941 (?) Mr Otten started to work a new job at a bakery. This bakery baked bread for a Jewish work camp called Kremboong. The camp had been a work camp for unemployed men from the Western part of the country. Now it was a work camp for Jewish men. The name of the bakery was **Schuilng**.

00:40 The camp commander was a Dutch man, an old marine called De Jager.

00:50 About the work that the Jews had to do in the camp. Jews were not used to this kind of work, they were merchants.

00:54 The men did not flee, they were scared. They were guarded by bosses who had been working before as bosses of the unemployed from the West. So they were not really guarded. There was barbed wire around the camp, but it was not really guarded, just the camp commander. In the beginning Jews could go home on leave for the weekend.

00:57 One day at 7.00 o'clock the bakery received a phone call from Camp Kremboong, they asked to have bread delivered before 8.30. It was a Friday. So Mr Otten went.

01:00 At the camp there were Grüne Polizei. He saw vans in the camp everywhere and shouting and people walking around.

01:03 Mr Otten witnessed how a German hit a Jew, blood.

Tape 2

00:00 They (the Jews) were to go on a transport on Saturday. They had to walk, the vans did not go with them, the Germans had to walk as well. Suitcases were taken by horse and carriage.

00:07 More on the moment that Mr Otten was in the camp, the Friday before deportation. He asked a German: What are you going to do with the Jews? We will destroy them, the German answered.

00:11 More about the Jew who was hit by the German

00:24 About the emptying of houses of Jews

00:32 End

Mr Otten talked a lot about things that he did not witness himself. This was left out of the summary.