

Netherlands Documentation Project

Interview Summary

RG-50.570*0016

Interviewee: Mr. Pieter Oldenburg

Interview Date: December, 21, 2004, Bovenkarspel, The Netherlands

Location: Bovenkarspel, The Netherlands

Short summary:

Mr Oldenburg lives in Amsterdam South. He described beautifully the life in this neighborhood through the eyes of a child. He had many Jewish friends. Many Jews lived in this part of the city. He was eyewitness of razzia's.

Long summary:

Tape 1

Born May 15, 1931 in Amsterdam South. His father owned a pastry/bakery. It was a neighborhood with a lot of Jews, especially refugees from Germany. He went to a public school, about 40% of the children were Jewish. He had Jewish friends: **Ido Herzberger, Maupi van Moppen and Alfred Cohen.**

About the life in this area and the language, expressions about Jews: "Voddejood". "Two Jews know how much a pair of glasses should cost"

May 10, 1940. They tried to drive to Schiphol by car to see the war. A soldier stopped them and told them to drive him to The Hague.

About capitulation. On the Dam square in Amsterdam he saw the Germans coming into the city.

The first months. Some children in the class had NSB background. A school mate was with the Jeugdstorm (Dutch equivalent of Hitler Jugend) and he had such neat pins.

About the star of David: First people attached it with a safety pin, because they could not believe that this rule will stay. Then they sewed it onto their clothes, roughly with a few stitches and then, when they realized that this star is going to stay, they sewed neatly.

About the school teacher who asked all the children how many Jewish grandparents they had, and she wrote it down. The Jewish children had to go to another school.

He remembered that on Shabbath, people would call him on the street to be shabbish goy. He would turn on the lights and the people would give a penny.

About the turning in of radios.

About the beginning of the razzia's and the emptying of the houses. A new word 'gerazzialiseerd' (razzialised). Police went from door to door. He saw the razzia in his street. He saw people that he knew.

About a fight at the ice cream shop Oases. Some Jewish people were inside when Dutch Nazis tried to enter. Police came in between.

About the houses in the Jewish Neighborhood. Houses were taken down, every wooden piece was taken to burn for heating.