

Netherlands Documentation Project Interview Summary

RG-50.570*0017

Mrs. Adriana C. Gÿzenÿ-Epke (called Jeanette)

Interview Date: December, 21, 2004

Location: 't Veld, The Netherlands

Short summary:

Mrs Gijzenij lived in the middle of the Juden Viertel of Amsterdam around Nieuwmarkt and Waterlooplein. She described the life in this neighborhood. She witnessed arrests and razzia's and what was probably the February strike. Very vivid memories of a young girl, she described how she walked through the streets and what she saw.

Long summary:

Tape 1:

Born in Zaandam, April 20, 1928. She was the 2nd of fifteen children. They lived on a boat before they moved to Amsterdam. They lived in different houses near Nieuwmarkt and Waterlooplein in the middle of the Juden Viertel (Jewish Quarter).

About her childhood.

1941 she witnessed an arrest on Oude Schans. Eight people, three women, three children and two men. It only took about five minutes.

She witnessed the deportation of the patients of the Joodes Invalide (Jewish Hospital). They lived nearby at Nieuwe Achtergracht. She saw patients who committed suicide before the deportation.

She saw people on beds, in wheelchairs, partly in ambulances, as they were taken away.

In 1942 she witnessed a big razzia on Waterlooplein. She saw people on strike. (*Note: so this was probably 1941*). She gave a detailed account of the strike and the razzia.

Fighting between workers and police.

She visited the Dutch or Jewish Theater several times. She had to bring packages. She described the Theater.

She described the period when the wearing the Jewish Star had just started. She pinned on the star to be able to shop in Jewish stores. She remembered being in line in a Jewish shop. Two women got into a fight on whose turn it was and one said: "Don't worry, you can be first in line in Auschwitz".

She described what the neighborhood looked like in the period when there was barbed wire around the Juden Viertel (Jewish Quarter).

She described arrest and razzia, she saw people being taken away, people she knew, they were taken to a small park. A German entered their house looking for Jews, she thought it was Aus der Funten.