

## **Netherlands Documentation Project**

### **Interview Summary**

**RG-50.570\*0019**

**Interviewee**

**Mr. Johannes Zoutberg**

**Date**

**26 January 2005**

**Location**

**Amsterdam**

#### **Short Summary**

Mr. Zoutberg grew up in a Jewish neighborhood. He saw several arrests.

#### **Long Summary**

##### **Tape 1**

- 00 Mr. Zoutberg was born on February 21 in 1931 in Amsterdam. He lived in the Center in the Nieuw Markt neighborhood. At his school most children were Jewish. He was at this school until 1942. Of the 280 children at this school 11 children were still there, some Christian, some half-Jews. His father was working as a chef at the Matzes factory, the family lived next door at 182, the house is still there. He described the neighborhood and talked about Maup Caransa
- 06 About the neighborhood, who lived where, the shops. In 1939 Jewish refugees from Germany stayed in the attic of the factory.
- 08 More than one hundred refugees stayed in the factory, with luggage. The director of the factory was called Isodor de Haan
- 11 May 10, 1940
- 13 The signs: Forbidden for Jews and the star. An upstairs neighbor traveled to and from Westerbork, he was building the barracks.
- 18 The star. The first day, he wore it himself, because he thought it was pretty.
- 20 About the arrests of men on the streets by Germans. Germans would ask for papers and they would take the Jewish men. Arrest of an invalid man at the end of 1941 or beginning of 1942. His nickname was Jan Poepenaatje. The arrests gave a lot of unrest in the neighborhood.
- 23 Something he heard, he did not see it. His neighbor Groenteman had a boxing school. He was arrested and hit a German, he was hanged. They were all taken to the Theater. First only the men and the boys, so everybody thought: it was to go working. But when the Jewish orphanage was taken, people said: What do they want with these children? Zoutberg remembered during an arrest he saw Mrs. Kleinkramer and she shouted: We will be gassed. He remembered the Lam family; they all committed suicide. They lived across the street, he saw how the whole family was taken out of the house, the parents and the small children. Mrs. Kleinkramer lived in the same house as a SS officer. He was a nice man, Dirk. He lived next to Kleinkramer. He had been to Germany many times, maybe he told Mrs. Kleinkramer about the gassing? In the middle of the summer the last Jews were taken, was it in 1942 or in 1943? In 1943 there were no Jews left.

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Later there were more rumors about transports to the East.

32 No Jews left, so no work for the Matzes factory, they went bankrupt. There had been some people in hiding inside the factory.

35 The director of the factory was also taken away. There was a Verwalter. The school closed, he had to go to a new school, a Christian school. He named his friend Loekie Blaser.

Zoutberg witnessed a razzia, about 200 people were taken away. Also the upstairs neighbor Mrs Feitsma was taken. The plan was to leave her son with the family Zoutberg, Japie. But when the mother was outside, she came back to fetch him, she wanted to take him with her.

42 Story of after the war with a man named Moos Piller. Two men met and the one accused the other of having been a kapo.

44 He remembered how one time in the war a man came to their house, saying that he had something for somebody, a Jew in hiding; he tried to find out the address of the hiding place. His father did not tell, of course.

About the Jewish Council.

47 In 1942 there was a big razzia. There were no more Jews, only in hiding; some people were in hiding in the factory, some Jews, some non-Jews.

49 When the houses were emptied, he and others would sometimes go in, to see what was left. When there was no fuel anymore, everything was taken that could be burnt.

#### Break

A Jewish girl Femma Koekoek, she was very good at “knikkeren”, she had a box full of “knickers”. She gave them all to Mr Zoutberg. He did not understand. In the evening she was taken away with her family.

55 Other arrests that he remembered: The time Jan Poepenaatje was arrested, more men were taken.

He remembered at the end of the war. The bodies of dead people lying at the Zandstraatkerk (Zuiderkerk?) with a label around their ankles and the rats eating the bodies. There was no wood for coffins, people were buried at the Oosterbegraafplaats cemetery without coffins.

57 More on the suicide of the Lam family.

About the state of the Jews, fear, not being able to act.

Again about Mrs Kleinkramer who called out: we will be gassed. He recalled: it did not mean anything at that time, the meaning of the words were unknown. He lived at the Valkenburgerstraat 182. It was all quiet, except for some crying children

#### Tape 2

Mr. Zoutberg sang a song about the death of Dutch Nazi Koot.

He mentioned the name Jack Brandon