

Netherlands Documentation Project

Interview Summary

RG-50.570*0021

Interviewee Mrs. Ebbe - Pront
Date 27 January 2005
Place Amsterdam

Short Summary

She lived in Amsterdam and saw several arrests. She saw razzia's in Amsterdam South and East and saw the people being brought to Polderweg.

During the interview it was almost impossible for Mrs. Ebbe to talk about what she saw.

Summary

Mary Ebbe was born as Mary Pront on October 26, 1926 in Antwerp (Belgium). Her father worked in the diamond industry; she had one Jewish grandfather. In Antwerp they had been rich, but with the economic crisis, they became poor in Amsterdam. She came from a family with two children, she had a brother. They lived in the Transvaal neighborhood, many Jews were in this area, many people worked in the diamond industry. She was a member of the AJC, the youth movement for Social Democrats.

May 10, 1940. The first months were quiet and then the misery started. She remembered a friend who left with workboats and a shovel.

Break

They left optimistically. They thought that they were going to work.

She biked at the Amstellaan and she met a friend whose parents had just been taken away.

She remembered a man Henk Velleman, who stayed at their house for a night. She remembered the razzia in the Pretoriusstraat. She tried to help people, they had to walk to the Polderweg and she carries their luggage. She remembered Ies Walvis and Ab Caransa. The Hirsch family gave them photos to keep safely. She remembered Dutch police in black, who emptied the neighbors' house.

She remembered the arrest of friends; they had to go to the Retriefstraat. People were being kicked out of a car. She remembered Max and Sam Smalhout and their parents, the oldest was 13 or 14 he was deaf and unable to talk. The neighbors; the Winnik family and the Bleekrode family.

Again about the friend who left with boats and a shovel.

She talked about the emptying of houses.

She talked about two people in hiding, Maurice and Jaap Monas.

About the empty square after a razzia.

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She could not find a job, because one had to fill out how many Jewish grandparents one had. Later she lied and found a job. She mentioned Debbie Vigeno.

There was hardly any resistance; they all went, without resisting. She cannot forget how she walked these people to the Polderweg. In the beginning she thought she would see them again, later she did not expect them to return. She heard about cattle cars in 1944. At the end of the war you heard something about gas chambers, but she did not realize that this was true.

She was worried about today, all those Muslims.

Just after the war there was a Kermis (like a theme park) at the site of the Polderweg, horrible.

She went to the Dutch Theater to wave to friends, who were standing behind the window.

She saw several razzia's, in the Van Wou street, at the Amstellaan and in the Transvaal neighborhood. Not gentle, a lot of pushing and pulling. An officer stopped her and shook her, told her that he did not want to see her again at the Polderweg. The Polderweg was closed, with a fence. Germans were in charge. She supported a woman who just had a miscarriage after 7 months of pregnancy; she helped her to walk to the Polderweg.