

VELDEN, Johanna van der  
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Dutch  
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Johanna van der Velden was born on December 10, 1921. During the war she lived in Rotterdam where she witnessed the emptying of the Jewish Hospital. She remembers a lot of details and also mentions the reactions of bystanders. She also talks about a case in which a Dutch police officer deported a Jewish couple with a baby to an assembly point in The Hague.

File 1

**[01:] 00:17:23 – [01:] 09:39:09**  
**00:15 – 09:59**

Johanna says she comes from a small family in Rotterdam; mentions her father's work as a bank clerk in the 1930s; talks about stock market losses and mentions the stress it caused her father; briefly mentions the fact that she got married in order to keep her fiancé out of the hands of the Germans; describes her father as a difficult man; explains that the family was not religious and reflects on her own attitude towards the Christian faith as a young girl; talks about her father's political convictions; mentions that he voted for the ARP [*Protestant Christian Party*] of which [*Hendrikus*] Colijn was the leader; talks about the threat of communism that was felt after World War II [*the interviewee most likely means World War I at this point in the interview*].

**[01:] 09:39:09 – [01:] 19:15:08**  
**10:00 – 19:59**

Johanna recalls her father's angry reaction when she told him long before the war that she liked a boy who sold an Dutch Nazi Party (NSB) newspaper door-to-door; thinks her father came into contact with Jewish refugees from Germany through his work at the bank; mentions his rejection of both communism and fascism; describes her father's political views at the time as narrow-minded and blinkered; talks about her present preference for the Labor Party, "Partij van de Arbeid"; explains why the war came as a complete surprise to her; mentions the outrage over the bombing of Rotterdam; indicates that the Dutch army was defenseless; talks about the accounting firm where she worked, which was bombed; talks about how her family fled to Hillegersberg during the bombing.

**[01:] 19:15:09 – [01:] 28:52:01**  
**20:00 – 29:59**

Johanna talks about the bombing that killed a colleague; says that a Jewish colleague suddenly disappeared; talks about a childhood friend who was in love with a Jewish boy and ended up in the Sobibor concentration camp but survived; says this Jewish boy, who was a lawyer, was gassed straight away; talks about the suicidal thoughts that haunted her girl friend until long after the war; talks about the experiences of her half-Jewish girl friend

during the war; says that after the war, she and her father went back to work temporarily; says she had to stop working because she got married.

**[01:] 28:52:02 – [01:] 38:27:12**  
**30:00 – 39:59**

Johanna says clothing and shoes became more scarce during the first years of the war and describes the problems that these shortages caused her; indicates that she has suppressed a lot about the war; describes 1943 as the first year in which she observed a change in the German occupiers' behaviour towards the Jews; mentions summary executions that were carried out as a form of German revenge; corrects herself and indicates that the persecution of Jews had already started in 1942; describes the evacuation of the Jewish Hospital in Rotterdam, which was directly opposite her parents' home; describes how one of her downstairs neighbors, a woman, saw her own sick mother being deported; describes how Germans forced the nursing staff to put mostly old and ill people wearing pyjamas in trucks to be deported.

**[01:] 38:27:13 – [01:] 48:04:03**  
**40:00 – 50:00**

Johanna indicates that several patients of the Jewish Hospital were carried outside on stretchers by nursing staff; guesses that there were around forty or fifty people; stresses that there were only Germans present to supervise the deportation; says the whole neighborhood was watching because of the noise during the evacuation of the hospital; says the bystanders remained safely inside; says she does not know how the people were stuffed into trucks; describes how the trucks took off after half an hour with Germans sitting in the back; describes the hysteria of her downstairs neighbor who saw her own mother being deported; stresses that nobody was standing on the street but that they were behind the windows; mentions the bystanders' enormous outrage; stresses that people did not know about the liquidation of the Jews; mentions that questions were being asked; indicates that soon after the deportation of the Jewish patients there was a realization that these people would not survive; describes the case of a Dutch policeman deporting a Jewish married couple with a baby in The Hague.

**[01:] 48:04:04 – [01:] 57:58:20**  
**50:01 – 01:00:20**

Johanna mentions that she was able to tell from their appearance that these people were Jewish; says she was very angry because it was a Dutch policeman who was deporting the Jews; stresses that people were taken away purely and simply because they were Jewish; mentions Amersfoort and Westerbork as places that were known about at the time but says she did not know about the extermination camps; mentions the questions asked by bystanders about the fate of the Jews; says that in 1943 she went to live in a house in Scheveningen from where a Jewish family had been deported; mentions that after 1945 she temporarily lived in a house where an NSB family had moved out on Mad Tuesday, "Dolle Dinsdag" [*September 5, 1944 when rumors abounded that the Allied liberation of the Netherlands was imminent*]; says a gun was found in the attic of this last house; indicates that she had half-Jewish girl friends after the war from whom she sometimes heard things about the war; stresses that the two abovementioned cases were the only ones she herself witnessed; talks again about the image of the couple with the child who were deported.