

## **Netherlands Documentation Project**

### **Interview Summary**

**RG-50.570\*0023**

**Interviewee**                    **Mr. Abraham J. Bruin**  
**Date**                                **28 January 2005**  
**Place**                                **Ridderkerk**

Mr. Bruin worked as a plumber trainee in Rotterdam. In 1942 he worked for two weeks at Loods 24 the place where Jews from Rotterdam were brought together and from where they were put on trains. For two weeks he witnessed this.

#### **Tape 1**

Born November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1926 in Rotterdam, he was the youngest of three children. His father was a workman with no contract. 1930's was hard, crisis. His mother had a nursery. They were reformed ARP voters. His school was Protestant Reformed. In 1939 he started at the Ambachtschool (workers school). It was a public school. There were Jewish boys, but you did not know who was Jewish and who was not. Some boys would suddenly not come to school any longer and people would say "He was a Jew". And that was that. About the star and laws against Jews.

The first Jews arrived at Loods (ware house) 24 on June 30 1942. He was working at the Loods, he had to install the toilets and the taps. He was a plumber trainee. The Jews would arrive by foot; some had walked over an hour. They were taken away in trains, black trains. The Jews were guarded by German soldiers and Dutch police. The Jews went like lambs to the slaughter, there was no protest.

Break

The Loods was around 80 to 100 meters long and 30 meters wide. It was empty. It was a warehouse for steel. It became crowded, new people were coming all the time and people were taken away all the time. Mr Bruin worked there for two weeks. Everybody understood that this was not good, not just Jews being sent off to work.

About living conditions in the Loods. About the transport.

The Jews would not run, they just went.

#### **Tape 2**

About what the Loods looked like.

Mr Bruin does not recall that he saw any food, he does not remember if bread was brought in. There were no tables or chairs. The whole area was fenced off. There were about ten soldiers. There was no shouting.