

***RG-50.570*25** **Interview not yet at USHMM (12/5/06)**
Interviewee **Mrs. Margretha Ingekamp - Swart**
Interviewer **Martijn van Haalen**
Cameraman **Paul Enkelaar**
Date **12 July 2005**
Place **Hellevoetsluis**
Interview Number **25**

Mrs. Ingekamp witnessed the arrest of a Jewish friend. Her friend was working at the Jewish children hospital. Mrs. Ingekamp saw how her friend was being taken away with a group of children.

Tape 1 of 1

0 DOB 13 October 1921
About her parents and her youth. Living in Rotterdam at the river Maas, overlooking the harbor. Feyenoord neighborhood. She was only child. Her father came from Friesland, her mother from Zeeland. Her father was sailor. Poor family in a poor neighborhood.

5 Her mother was very involved, helping the poor in the neighborhood. Her father was Red, a socialist, SDAP. He was always working, never a day off. He led a strike in the harbor.

10 She is very proud of her father, after the strike, the workers had 3 days off every year.
Her father predicted the war. He was sailing to and through Germany in the 1930's. He knew that communists had been arrested and put into camps. They had some relatives in Germany. Her father would tell that people in Germany were very poor, lots of unemployment.

13 Break

15 Also poor Jews in the neighborhood. They had some contact with one Jewish family. It was a very poor family. The daughter worked as a street prostitute sometimes to make money. All religions live together, mixed. On elementary school there were no Jewish children, but there were Jews on her high school. One Jewish girl became her best friend: Annie Preger

20 About the invasion, her father was in Germany at the time. She was 19 years old in May 1940. She remembers airplanes landing on the river Maas. There was some fighting in her neighborhood en some people of her neighborhood were killed.
About the first days of the war.

25 About the bombarding of Rotterdam.
She made pictures. Her father had given her a camera. He had gotten the camera in Germany in return for food.
She made pictures of the burning city and the fleeing people.

30 About the first year of the occupation. About the German soldiers.
Everything went on ration cards. But besides that there were no big changes. Her Jewish friend Annie, came to visit her at her house regularly. She would always wear her nurse-uniform. When she had to wear a star, Annie would leave her coat open so that the star did not show.

Mrs. Ingekamp did not visit Annie at her house. They had moved and Annie did not speak about their new house.

35 Mrs. Ingekamp and Annie had close contact until Annie was taken away in 1942:

It was at the Binnenweg. After the bombardments there were hardly any shops left in Rotterdam. Special emergency shops for clothing were created at the Binnenweg. Mrs. Ingekamp sees Annie walking. She goes to Annie, walks with her, but Annie ignores her, Annie just shakes her head "no". Annie was walking with a big group, all children. Mrs. Ingekamp walked with them up to Eendrachtsplein. Annie had been working at the Jewish children hospital at Schietbaanlaan.

40 It was probably in July 1942. Mrs. Ingekamp did not pay much attention to the children; she was trying to get Annie to respond. But she remembers handcarts full of children and children's carriages. She does not remember if the children looked ill. There were soldiers with guns.

She was totally fixed on Annie, shocked and flabbergasted. She walked with Annie, trying to make contact. She remembers soldiers on the sidewalk.

There were lots of people looking, because of the shops; there were a lot of people in the street. Annie was walking with a proud attitude. Mrs. Ingekamp did not understand, she did not understand why her friend did not look at her. Now she understands.

45 She did not understand where Annie was taken. Now she knows, but then, she did not know.

Once during the war in 1943 she saw Annie's brother. He had blond hair and blue eyes. She did not dare to approach him.

After the war she did not see anybody of the family Preger again. She does not know what happened to Annie for sure, she thinks that she was gassed.

50 Story about a Jewish family for whom she worked before WWII in a sewing studio. Not nice people at all.

She also witnessed the arrest of a Jewish couple who had a shop for pots and pans. They were arrested by Dutch and German police.

Break

55 About a rape she witnessed in the first days of the war, May 1940. A girl she knew, Wiesje. She saw how Wiesje was raped standing against a wall by a German soldier. Wiesje was a few years younger than she was. Mrs. Ingekamp was walking with her grandfather; he pushed her to keep on walking. Later a German was found killed with a knife. Mrs. Ingekamp thought this was done by Wiesje's father or brother.

More about Annie and the children being taken away.

00 Again about the total shock she experienced when Annie was taken away. When she came home, she screamed. Nobody knew where these people were taken too.

Her father did not return from Germany until after the war.