

<b>*RG-50.570*27</b>	<b>Interview not yet at USHMM (12/5/06)</b>
<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Mr. Klaas Lub</b>
<b>Interviewer</b>	<b>Martijn van Haalen</b>
<b>Cameraman</b>	<b>Paul Enkelaar</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>13 July 2005</b>
<b>Place</b>	<b>IJsselmuiden</b>
<b>Interview Number</b>	<b>27</b>

*Mr. Lub was a soldier in May 1940. He was involved in heavy fighting. During the war he found a job with the Dutch Railways. He saw train full of Jews on their way to Westerbork. He was assistant engineer on one train to Westerbork.*

#### **Tape 1 of 2**

- 0 Born 31 August 1919 in Andijk (near Enkhuizen in the north west of The Netherlands). My father worked as the engineer of a water pumping station. Two children. Community of mixed religions. My parents were not religious. We moved to the east of the country, to Hasselt, when my father found employment there. It was a middle class family.
- 05 I went to high school in Zwolle. It was very different from the west of the country. This was a real rural farmer's area. People were very religious, Dutch Reformed. There were some Jewish butchers. I do not remember anti-Semitism. Father had Jewish clients. The family was not very politically aware.
- 10 I went into military service in April 1939. I got my training in Apeldoorn with the second regiment of cyclists. During the mobilization I was sent to Oorschot. In military service none of the boys thought that there really would be a war. I do not remember Jewish boys in the military.  
May 10: I was sleeping in a farmhouse near a bridge near Oorschot. Saw the bombing of Eindhoven Airport.
- We were given the assignment to liberate Airport Waalhaven near Rotterdam. We had to bike there. We never arrived. In the evening we arrived at an open bridge, on the other side German parachutist near Alblasterdam. The next day bombings. Everybody was fleeing.
- 18 The bridge was a gateway to the north of Holland, that is way the Germans were attacking here.
- 20 We pulled back to Dordrecht. There was a lot of fighting going on. About the fighting and the fleeing civilians walking through the fighting soldiers. Lots of blood.  
We had never been trained in fighting in a city. Civilians were still inside there houses.
- 25 We did not hear any news about what was going on. We had to find our own food. We did not think that any help would come. I did not see any heroes. It was like getting a fever. We were not going to let the Germans pass.
- 30 Tanks were on there way. It was said that they were French tanks, but they were German tanks. It was a brother of the Dutch nazi leader Mussert who said that the tanks were French. He was later shot.

- We pulled back to Papendrecht. Then the capitulation came, I was glad that it was over.
- 35 I became an engineer/driver in training (leerling-machinist) with the Dutch Railways in 1941-1942
- 40 There were trains to work camps.  
I had to put the coals into the engine, but I was able to drive the train myself.  
Jews were not allowed on the trains anymore.
- About behavior of the Germans in the first years of WWII.
- 45 About a friend: Piet van Laarhoven. He was with resistance and involved with the attack on a distribution office. He was shot.
- 46 About the Jew-trains.  
I had passed the exam for Wagenmeester (Master of carriages – person who checks the technical state of the train). I was working at the station of Zwolle.  
Seen many things. Sometimes people pulled the emergency break!
- The Jew trains were normal passenger trains with carriages. In the first carriage the Germans sat. They were big trains, always under the protection of Germans. I never knew that they were taken from Westerbork onto the East. I thought that Westerbork was a labor camp. I did not know what it was.  
One time a person threw a passport from a Jew train near Meppel on the way to Westerbork.
- 50 It was thrown from a driving train. There was a note: 'Give money to who ever brings this' and a phone number. I called and told them that they could pick it up.
- 55 I was not given money, but that was not the reason I did it.
- I did not have any contact with the Jews in the trains.  
One time a woman fled from the train
- 1.00 I saw it in a flash, the woman running into Zwolle. Germans went after her, but they did not find her.
- You could see the people sitting in the train, it was all very quiet.  
All kinds of people: Men and women, I do not remember children. The trains were only there for a very short moment.  
It was my job to check the trains, the wheels and other technicalities.  
If I had known, yes, than... I had the authority to let everybody get off the train; if something would be technically wrong with the train.

## **Tape 2 of 2**

- 0 Sometimes I was driving with a train as engineer/driver-trainee. I think I got onto the train in Zwolle and we drove to Westerbork.  
The train arrives. They get off on the left side of the train. There was not a real station. There were German officers. I did not get off the locomotive. Men and women came of the train, all very calmly. Maybe it was a train with cattle cars instead of carriages. The engineer was there as well.

5 I was gone by the time the Railway strike started.

More details on the train in Westerbork

I did not know what was in the train. Because the train arrived in Zwolle, where I got on, and then went on to Westerbork.

10 The camp was far from where the train stopped. I was shocked when I saw what had been in the train. You heard only later that they were Jews.

I had known that there were cattle cars with Jews.

19 The Railway personnel never talked about the Jew trains

20 Later I was transferred to Ommen near Groningen.

When the call for the strike was done, I was already at home for six months

I never heard anything on the radio about the transportation of Jews

25 It was something that was not talked about. "A Jew train will arrive", that is what was said. It seems as if it was a taboo for people.

30 More about the first days of the war.

I did what I had to do. I saw some horrible things.

34 Break

More about the taboo of talking about the Jew Trains

During the war this was not talked about. They did not know that these people were being deported. The Jews themselves did not know where they were going. People did not know.

It was not talked about at the Dutch Railways. You were happy if you could go home in the evening.

43 People who work with the Dutch Railways, they are special people. You work for wife and children, it is like slave labor.

Break

44 Looking back is easy. I am happy that I am still here, talking to you.