

**\*RG-50.570\*33**                      **Interview not yet at USHMM (12/5/06)**  
**Interviewee**                      **Mr. Alexander Voorzaat**  
**Interviewer**                      **Martijn van Haalen**  
**Cameraman**                      **Paul Enkelaar**  
**Date**                              **15 July 2005**  
**Place**                              **Den Haag**  
**Interview Number**              **33**

*Mr. Voorzaat worked at Central Distribution Office (CDK). Because of his work he was able to help the resistance with ration cards for people in hiding. He also had contact at the register he was also able to get ID cards for some people. He witnessed the arrest of a Jewish friend in Utrecht. He was arrested as well.*

**Tape 1 of 2**

0     Born February 20, 1916 in Utrecht. My father was a self-made man. He worked since he was 14 and he was able to work his way up with study in the evening. He started an accountants firm with a Jewish friend and made a good income. There were four children. We were not religious. My mother was brought up catholic, my father protestant.

05    I went to a public school.  
I studied economy in Amsterdam.  
My father was conservative liberal.  
In the 1930's we expected The Netherlands to remain neutral. The attack in May 1940 was a complete surprise. I saw the airplanes.

Break  
10    About the war and the capitulation.  
Nothing much happened.

My father had a Jewish partner and a lot of Jewish clients. Some people gave valuables to my father to keep until after the war.  
20    I was a student, and really we just went on partying until the student associations were banned. That was in September 1941, the Jewish student were still there.  
25    Clandestine we kept on meeting each other.

I had to quit my study for personal reasons.

We knew that the Jews had to go to Westerbork. That was annoying. Some Jews went into hiding.  
30    And than the Jews-help started.  
I was working in the distribution sector.  
Explanation of the system of ration cards  
I was placed in the office in Utrecht as an assistant detective. I was the lowest in rank.

The Jews did not get ration cards if they went into hiding.  
I knew Daan Vreugdehil from Unitas, my student association.

- 35 He asked me if I could deliver ration cards.  
I started to organize this for Jews in hiding, this was in 1942. After some time I had 40 illegal main cards (stamkaarten) for people in hiding.
- 40 For every person there was one main card. You needed the main card to get ration cards. After a while the whole population was given a second main card. I had to supervise the handing out of these cards in Utrecht.
- 45 I found a solution to be able to keep on helping. I kept the cards that were not being picked up.
- 50 After some time Voorzaat is able to get 1000 main cards. They are distributed via LO organization.

There were also people that would sell the cards at the black market.

- 55 The direction of the office knew about the operation. They did not want the cards to enter the black market, so they decided that all illegal main cards had to be distributed through me.
- 1.00 Sometimes the underground would attack distribution offices, these cards sometimes appeared on the black market and sometimes cards were falsified. I remember one story about a civil servant at the distribution office who was selling main cards on the black market. He was arrested after the war.

A Jew called Hartog, was in hiding in room in the building of where Voorzaat was also renting a room. Mr. Hartog used the name Pietersen.

## **Tape 2 of 2**

- 0 Hartog is Jewish and involved with underground. He has a false ID. He asked me for ration cards. I gave them and he distributed them, sometimes with help of his daughter. He was a widower. His son had left for Palestine. His daughter, Sybille (Bella) Hartog had bleached her hair to look less Jewish. We became friends. I met Bella for a couple of months.
- 5 Bella and I had been to the cinema and I walked Bella to her house. I left her at her house and was walking to my own house when Dutch Nazi's in gray uniforms stormed to her apartment. Two did not wear uniforms; their names were Voorman and Tilleroy. They saw me and I was arrested as well.

Bella was carrying an ID that I had organized for her. It was a real ID without a J. It was an ID of a woman who had died as a child. I had taken the data of this woman from the register and put her with the living people.

- 10 Bella's new name was Maria van Dijk. All that Bella had to do was go to the register, tell them her name was Maria van Dijk and that she needed a new ID.

Later I also organized such real ID's on other names for myself and Mr. Hartog and several Jews.

- 15 I had ration cards in my house at that moment. And I was carrying on me a letter from Bella to a niece of hers, who was in hiding, as well as a present.

We were taken to the police station and we were separated. They found the letter. I

do not recall what I said. They knew that Bella was Jewish. Later I spoke to Voortman and he told me that they had known that she was Jewish.

We were taken to Amsterdam. We were interrogated during the day in Euterpestraat and at night we were taken to cells at the Amstelveenseweg.  
25 I saw the interrogation of a Jewish couple that had been arrested and the people who had been given them shelter.  
The Germans asked if the people who gave shelter had know that this couple was Jewish and they said: "Yes we knew this and we helped them out of our religious belief". And they were all sent to a concentration camp.  
28 Break  
Dutch people interrogated me. They asked if I knew that Bella was Jewish  
30 After a couple of days Bella admitted that she was Jewish and told the Nazi's that I had not known that she was Jewish. She was taken away and I was released.  
35 Bella's father knew a German that could be bribed. He would make sure that Bella would not be gassed if we paid 3000 guilders. I had to go to collect the money. I succeeded in getting the money.  
40 I gave the money to Hartog and Bella did survive. She was send to a camp Zell connected to Bergen Belsen. It turned out that 1500 guilders was enough. During or after the war (I do not remember) I gave half of the money back to the supporters.

After liberation Bella turned up in Brussel.  
45 I went to pick Bella up. She did not want to come to The Netherlands. We did not talk about what had happened.  
50 In the end she did go with me to The Netherlands. After that I saw her one more time. She came to visit me because she had financial problems. She thought that I still had 1500 guilders. I reacted in a wrong way that day. She came to see me with a Jewish man.

The government was treating the Jews very badly.

I did not have the 1500 guilders, it was suggested that I had stolen the money.

In 1946 there was a special pension for people who had been in resistance. Bella wanted to get the pension as well. She gave me as a reference.  
55 She said that she had done illegal work. But that was not true; her father had done illegal work, but not her. I took a principal stand in the matter. She was a victim, but she was not a resistance fighter. Of course it was horrible that she had to take this illegal road to be able to get some money from the government.

Shows picture of Bella

1.00 Break  
We bribed the German so that Bella would not be gassed. But I do not think that we knew already that people were gassed at the time. I know that now, but we did not know it than.

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