

John Feick interviewing Jan and Jacqueline Heiminga:

This is an interview at the Birch Hill School in Mr. Calhoun's sixth grade class. I'm going to be interviewing the Heimingas who were living in Holland. I was in fifth grade when the war started. My dad was over in Europe as an American Army doctor. I would get letters from him about what was going on. The closest thing I ever got to being exposed to war was going down to the beach to play in the sand. Then my mother had to wash the oil/tar off my feet that had come from our sunken oil tankers that had been torpedoed by German submarines. Here are two people who were much closer to it.

J.F/ What was it like growing up in Holland before the war? And when did you see the shadow of the war coming?

Mrs. H/ It was in 1933 when we found out that the kids in Germany were all trained for the Hitler Youth. Then by 1938 we knew that there was going to be a war. And Holland started preparing itself too. But Holland is a very small country so we never could face such a big country like Germany was. Especially because they had all their troops ready and we didn't. So finally by May 1940 the war started in our country. Of course we were still going to school. We were in our teens. In one night most of the city where we lived the inner city of Rotterdam was flat when the bombs came. The way it started really was when my mother woke me up in the morning she screamed, The war has started, The war has started. But my father said don't worry. We already are hearing that for two years now. But we looked out the window and we knew because the whole sky was black from planes. And we saw nothing but parachutists coming out because there was an airfield a commercial airfield very close by and there is where they wanted to land their planes. So they first had to conquer it of course. The sad part was that many of the parachutists were young boys even in their stocking feet and they landed on the wrong places. So we looked out of our window and there was a kindergarten school in front of us and they were hanging in the trees and they were dead. And that was the first thing we saw when the war started. And it was very painful to see. You didn't know what to think, what to do, should you help these boys. But everybody stayed in the houses because we were very scared. That was not a very pleasant thing to see. That's what it was like where I was in Rotterdam. But you were in a little city...

Mr. H/ I lived in a little city about where Nashua is from Manchester. That is where we lived and I worked and I studied in Rotterdam for engineering in 1939. By 1940 everything was flat. There was nothing left. We kept working as long as we could.

Let's go back to when we first came in we were comparing classrooms to those of yours. What was school like when you were a child?

Mr. H/ Not so open as here.

Mrs. H/ All of the schools were free. Private schools as well as public schools. The Christian school was close by. And I was sent there and it was a pretty strict school. We went in in one line. And then you sat down. When the teacher came in we all had to stand up. The school hours were much longer than what you go through. We only had the month of August for vacation. That was for four weeks. For the rest it was from 8:30 -

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12:00 and then we went home for lunch. At 1:00 we came back. In Holland it's not so far apart as it is here. So we all could walk home for lunch. We came back to school until 4:00. In the beginning of my days we had only Wednesdays half days and Saturdays half days off. Girls who had to learn how to knit and embroider, they had to stay Wednesdays after school. And the boys stayed to learn how to use tools. Then when my lower school was finished, I went to a kind of high school. But that was only for a short duration because then the end came for all of us to go to school. I myself do not have much schooling. He went on after the war for architect and engineering school. But somebody had to stay home and that was me because we married in 1943. The Germans told us if you were married you could come back and have your home. If you were not married you had to stay there forever. = until everything was over. So we got married in '43 and he was ready to go to Germany. But that never happened because I got ill the day after we got married. I had a very sore throat and the doctor thought it was diphtheria. The Germans were very scared that we would spread something to their troops. So it was postponed for him to go to Germany and he never went there. I don't know why. It was for six weeks and they never came back to get him. So that was the beginning.

J.F./ After the initial attack on Holland things were brought quickly under control by the Germans. As a young man, they would have been more interested in you. What were you doing?.

Mr. H/ I was working as a contractor helper. Of course, the Germans emptied the schools and the schools were made into hospitals. Later on it was not needed so the schools were emptied and the stuff was thrown out. In one place I had to do that. Of course we were required to do fortifications on the coast because they thought that you could just jump over from Holland to England. So I was involved in constructions building fortifications supervised by the Germans.

J.F./ So you were involved in construction, supervised by the Germans, really against the British. You were aware of the Dutch Resistance fighting or of the Dutch Resistance activity?.

Mrs. H/ Jan was very much involved in that in later years.

J.F./ The German Occupation lasted how long in Holland?

Mr. H/ Five years.

J.F./ You did some growing up from being a high school student. Tell us something of what the Resistance was doing and what you saw of that.

Mrs. H/ In one night you are an adult shall we say.

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J.F./ Can you tell of something of what you saw of that and what the Resistance was doing and what you saw of it?

Mr. H/ Well of course there were many meetings what we had together. There were people you could trust and people you could not trust. There were a lot of Jewish people still walking around trying to hide. There was a theater right across from us. We lived in a kind of shopping mall. We were on one side. and then the other side was the theater. The theater was of course on an angle and the floor over there was an open space a hiding space. And we had Jewish people there. And we needed to have food for them. We stole rationing stamps and could get food with the stamps.

J.F./ Okay, how does one go about stealing rationing stamps?

Mrs. H/ Please don't ask us about that.

Mr. H/ That's not too nice. Germans were killed in order to get the uniforms. And we took the German uniforms and a German truck and went to the rationing bureau and stole the stamps and nobody could say anything.

Mrs. H/ They really could not see that they were Dutch because they had German uniforms. That was a very difficult time. And he is talking about the stamps but after 1943 there was no food anymore. The Germans came with all their big trucks and they emptied the stores systematically. And then the storeowners boarded up their big glass windows because of the attacks. People didn't have anything. The last part of the war people ate flower bulbs, grass, and brewed tea from leaves from a tree when they thought that they could drink that that it was not poisonous. We had sugar beets. We boiled it and the juice that came out of it and the pulp we made into pancakes and we fried this. Then we put the juice over it. For a long time that was all we had to eat. But don't forget we did not have water. The water came out like a trickle because so many bodies were floating in the water. We did not have electricity, no gas, no telephone, no postman was coming to your door. You were completely isolated from anything and everything else because later on then the war was over. You had relatives living in other towns. Many of the people found out you were very interested to know are they still alive. Different ones from my family they weren't there any more because they got an illness. The soldiers moved into people's houses. And they got typhoid fever. The soldiers moved out but the people who lived there had to stay. And many of them got that fever. A couple of my relatives were included in that.

J.F./ Typhoid fever is an infection that comes from a bad water supply.

Were the people who were hiding in the theater there for a short time or a long time? Mr.

Mr. H/ They were moved on.

J.F./ What was your success in hiding them?

Mr. H/ Much success. They went to farmers and to different parts of the country, changing their clothes. The men dressed like ladies and they walked out.

J.F./ And they went out into the countryside?

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Mrs. H/ They went out into the countryside because there they had something to eat. We for example have friends. They are still alive, they live in Tennessee now. These people did not have children of their own. They were desperate to have a child. So when the Jewish were standing in line to be brought to the camps where they went first in Germany there was a wall and a young couple threw a baby over the wall. And he crawled over the ground, this friend of ours, to get the baby and he put it in between his coat. And he took it home. But during her growing up period during the five years that the war was going on she really looked Jewish. She had dark eyes dark curly hair the whole features from a Jewish girl. So they had to move from place to place. As soon as neighbors started talking about that girl – do you think she's Jewish, she doesn't look like the father and mother at all – they had to pack their bags and they had to go again. You had a curfew. You had to be in the house by seven or eight o'clock at night. Then you heard the soldiers the big boots with the rifles on their shoulders. They passed by your houses and they had circles they had to walk the whole night through to make sure that nobody came out on the streets. When you did and you did not have an identification that you were allowed like a doctor, a nurse, or a pastor or a priest they picked you up and brought you to a school and you were transported to Germany. Lots of men who were picked up in Holland on the streets were brought to the ammunition factories because their men were on the front fighting so they needed men to do that kind of work.

J.F./ Did you continue in the construction work throughout the war?

Mr. H./ When that was finished there was nothing else. I studied to be as real estate broker just to keep busy. I was the youngest real estate broker in the Netherlands. And then I studied for accounting just to do something. I got a certificate for that.

J.F. / The Resistance in Holland was stronger than in other areas. The dikes were flooded.

Mr. H/ People let water in through the dikes to deny access to the Germans.

Mrs. H/ And there is another thing. We in our cellar where we lived. There was a big pile of coal .The Germans came and they put a kind of powder over it. Maybe it was flour, we don't know. And they measured it so that we couldn't take anything from it. In case the dikes broke they needed it for the big machines to transport the bombs. But we had that coal there and we could trade that coal for food. – especially at the end of the war the people are just dying everywhere from hunger. He went down and filled little bags with coal and he traded with people for skim milk or a piece of bread so that we could keep people alive mostly that were the Jews.

J.F./ If there was no work and you were studying there was really no economy. There was no money.

Mr. H./ No money.

Mrs. H./ After we got married we stayed at my mother's house because I thought that he was leaving in two or three days for Germany. But he didn't because of my illness so

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that we had to stay there. Finally in 1944 we moved in above in an apt. above empty stores across from the theater. We didn't have anything. Our blankets were made from paper, and the drapes were made from the barks of trees. Later on you could buy soap that was made from the fat from the bodies from the Jews and lampshades that were made from the skin. So who wanted to buy things like that? So most of the people ignored it.

J.F./ Let's go back to the theater. How many people were under there at one time?

Mr. H/ 10 - 12.

J.F./ There's no plumbing. They can't leave. No running water. They're camping under there. How many people were working on a daily basis, slipping in and out to help?

Mr. H/ Well, that was totally different, but there were always other people who came and took care of them. There was not a door, it was all secret you had to open it. But we had light there. We had electric. The Germans were above the floor and the Jews were under the floor.

J.F./ The theater was operating. The Germans were coming to the theater. And it was movies or stage show?

Mr. H/ Movies.

Mrs. H/ They came most of the time in the afternoon with their girlfriends. Of course, Dutch girlfriends. And these girlfriends after the war paid a very high price. When the war was over many people knew who the girls were who had gone with the Germans. They remembered so well that they brought a big flatbed truck to the door and they rounded up all the girls and they shaved their heads. And then they put a black swastika on their heads because for a long time everybody would know that they were going around with the Germans. But why did they do that? Because they got food from them for their families. So afterwards everybody is so upset about this but then you found out that they got cigarettes and food for their families. Many of them were left behind with children from the Germans. and the Germans went home and Holland was stuck with all the kids.

Mr. H./ The blackmarket was very active at that time. One loaf of bread was 100 guilders - about \$100. So bread was not cheap.

Mrs. H/ Nobody could touch that. At least we couldn't. You never know. The black market was so big that people made oodles of money. But the war was over and when the war started we had gold coins and silver coins. because Holland was a pretty rich country. I must say. So that was all taken by the Germans. But while the war was going on in America was made new money for us. So when the war was over everybody we got paper money from the Germans. Everybody had to go to the bank and bring all the money you had. Each got 2500 guilders. All the people who had made so much money,

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they had to bring it too. It was all confiscated. So we knew exactly who were the guys who had made so much money in the wartime.

Mr. H/ Unless they could verify where it came from – doing business or something then they could keep it.

Mrs. H/ The farmers were very rich people because I remember my mother going out with a little cart walking for hours and hours and she had a couple of sheets with her – and pleading with them could they exchange that for food so that we could have something.

J.F/ Bed linens.

Mrs. H/ yes. Before you get married in Holland, maybe it is different here – We don't have wedding showers. So you accumulate stuff. But when the Germans came into your houses, everything that was there, they took. Then they came at one time you know and asked is there copper in the house? No I don't have copper. My mother was a very feisty woman I have to say. And she buried it in the garden. She did not want to give it. And then they came for your radios because people are listening to the BBC in the beginning. And they took them. And then they came and asked are there men in the house. If you said no they came in and they had bayonets on their rifles and they poked the ceiling if they saw a little bit lowered ceiling. And if they saw blood dripping they knew there was somebody laying in there. You see, that's the way they got 'em.

J.F./ In this country a lot of people volunteered their copper. Yes. Yes. They were collecting it.

Mrs. H/ After we were married he went to pick up something for his mother somewhere. And he was of course down in the streets and it was a Dutch guy. – one of the SS came and he asked him do you have a Z card? A Z card meant you were important to be in Holland and not working in Germany. And he said no, I don't have a Z card. but his father knew about it and he was working for his father. And he said no it's not necessary. But sure it was! One of the girls I was working with she saw that he was brought to the police station and she came racing on her bicycle without tires on the metal rims only because there were no tires – to tell me that he was picked up and brought somewhere and that was for transport to Germany of course. Bergen Belsen was the name in Germany where he was to go. And then I said what am I going to do? Where do you go? And then I remembered that my parents had a friend and he was a translator and he worked in an office where all the Germans were sitting. He was the only Dutch man in between and he falsified Z cards. I went to him and I came in. He only looked at me. I said to him, they picked him up. And he said don't worry, go home, and he will be home tonight. Nobody believed it of course. The last trolley came at 8:00. and the trolley stopped. But I could not see where the end was. But I heard it. But everybody who was living above the stores they all stood with me and I heard only one man step out. And I

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said that's him. I heard his walk. Sure enough and a loud hooray that he was home. From that time on he was in the underground. He did not come outside anymore. He couldn't because when they saw him they would pick him up. In November 1944 that was the last hooray from the Germans. They picked up everyone – boys, old men , everybody. And closed off the city. Then he was home. And he was burying under the coal some Jewish people. We heard that they were coming in because there were stone floors there. So he came in and he was black all over of course. He dropped all his clothes in the kitchen. With a little trickle of water he had to do the best he could and put on his pajamas and get in bed. I heard them come. They knocked on the door. I had to go up the stairs and two big Germans stood there. So I opened the door. Is there a man in the house? Yes, I said. Where is he? I said in bed. What does he have? Ulcers. That was no true, of course. You do a lot of lying in wartime to stay alive, people. We went upstairs. First he looked in all the closets. Then he went upstairs. I had to stay downstairs with the other soldier and he had the revolver all the time at my head. Many Germans have steel blue eyes, and he looked me in the eyes and I have to look back really not to let on that there is something wrong.

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J.F./ How did you manage to look so unhealthy?

Mr. H/ Shaking as a leaf. I was white as a sheet, I can tell you that. I can still remember that.

Mrs. H/ Of course we were so skinny because we didn't have food. So everybody looked sick. He had all the time the revolver at my head and we looked at each other and the guy who searched the house he had a big red birthmark on his face. I can still see the man. It is so long ago. It is really funny you know that after so many years that you still live every day with this. You want to forget and we have to forgive. But it's not so very easy. But then they left and he said the German doctor will come. But six weeks later no German doctor came at all. So then it was completely that he has to hide just as well because a couple of times when they came to the door —we were still living with my mother – Are there men here in the house? And my mother said no. They said, well where are they? My mother had put a sign on the window that we had scarlet fever in the house. But in the back of us there was an empty chicken coop and there was a night house where the chickens would go in. She put him, my mother did, she put him, my brother, and my father in that little thing. It was cramped there but they never found them.

J.F/ How much time did you spend in the chicken house?

Mr. H/ Well, we were down there most of the day. But as soon as it was dark you could come out.

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J.F/ The people in the coal bin – What eventually happened there?

Mr. H/ Well, the next day we'd get them out and transport them out in the country.

Mrs. H/ That is always with stolen trucks from the Germans.

J.F/ How many people would you say moved through?

Mr. H/ That is hard to say for the reason that I wasn't always involved with them. There were others involved. You never knew from actually one day to the other what is going to happen. Sometimes it was dangerous to do it; sometimes it was open. Sometimes a truck was available and sometimes not. So you got people in; you got people out.

J.F/ This went on for years?

Mr. H/ Well, it was mainly the last year. When the Germans were under pressure – the Americans came and the Canadians came . It was of course more pressure there. Then the Germans did not take prisoners then; they shot them right away. There were two brothers who were underground and they were right - they lived across from us on the street. Somebody told the Germans that they were underground and they told them to come to the top of the stairs and they shot them right away there. And they fell down the stairs and they were laying for a couple of days on the street to let them know what they do to people. The father and mother they had to drag them out and put them there. After the war the father and mother moved to the place across from the cemetery so that they could always look on the grave of their only two children – two boys, two men. It was unbelievable.

Mrs. H/ You know, how that really went with the roundup of the Jews is maybe interesting to hear, too. First, they could not go in the trains or trolleys or anything and not in restaurants whatsoever. And then they had the yellow star they had to show on their clothes. Then the big day came when they rounded them up and the end of our street there was a big empty field. Barricades were set up so that we could not get to them. But we knew that there was something going on. That started already in 1943. There fathers and mothers with children and babies – everywhere they came. The children got separated immediately from the parents- the men on this side, the women on this side and the children on another. But the babies they put on a pile. And the wailing from the people. Well, I'm not a hundred years old yet but if I become a hundred years old I will still hear it. That was unbelievable. When you hear the crying from the parents that they had to be leave all their children. Then the big trucks came and they put them in the trucks. They brought them to the train station where they put them in the big freight cars. They put them in like herrings they were so close together. They drove them then to Germany. But before they were there, there were different stops of course. And the people were days in there and all kinds of things happened. People died from being so close together. Old people died from being suffocated. No water, no bathroom facilities,

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no food of course. And there they stood. When they finally arrived at the place where they had to go they sorted them like you would sort papers. Well that is a better one so that goes there. No that is a bad one, I'll put them there because they will be gone very soon. And then the last walk was really to the gas chambers. They were told that they would get showers finally. All their heads were first shaved because there was so much lice going on there. They went to the gas chambers, and that's the end. My husband and I one time walked that road to the gas chambers to see what that was. There were all houses on the side and the people had still the nerve then to tell all the visitors who came there to look, "Well, we didn't know what was going on." Well, I would know when I see a big chimney and all the time smoke comes out. You know what goes on. But these Germans just kept their cool and said we didn't know what was going on.

Mr. H/ Many times if they were moved in the truck the exhaust from the pipe was going into the truck. It was loaded full. So when the trucks came to the camp they were already dead from the exhaust. What they did to the Jewish people that is six million.

Mrs. H/ Many people here in this country say – oh, there was no holocaust. We are told it so many times because nobody in America knew what was going on overseas.

J.F/ As I said, my dad was one of the Army officers who went into one of the camps when they liberated it. In our family there's never been any doubt that that really did happen. At the end of the war, the Germans just suddenly left? Or how did it end? Or was there street fighting?

Mr. H/ We can remember that the first day that the treaty was signed when Hitler capitulated – where we lived there was a tower that was five stories high. On top of that was a little tower. On top of the tower was a flat box. The Swedish planes came over. The planes had glass bottoms and they parachuted white bread and butter on designated fields. They dropped it there. I was standing on the tower..

Mrs. H/ He was standing there. He saw them wave the Dutch flags and the flags. That was unbelievable.

J.F/ So there was not warfare in the streets as the Allies came through as many people saw in France.

Mrs. H/ The thing was that everything that the people owned – if they had little bits of food left – came out in the street. The pianos came out in the street and the people danced for days in the street because we were liberated finally after five years you know. There was no food of course. But you did the best you could. Then you find out how many people from your family were gone. And that was awful. All families were not there anymore. – especially people who lived on the outside and didn't know that Rotterdam

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was bombed the most I would say fiercely it was bombed. They didn't know that whole families were gone. Fathers and mothers with children because all the houses were flat.

J.F/ Let's stop here for a moment and ask if there's anyone out there who has a question they really want to ask.

Student: Were there any suicide attacks like the Japanese used?

Mr. H/ No. The Japanese only did that.

Another question: What were the yellow stars for?

Mrs. H/ To identify that they were Jewish. The Germans did that to them. When there was still food available in the stores at the beginning of the war they stood there. If they had friends who were not Jews they could go in and buy something for them and give it to them. I am sure all of you have heard about Anne Frank the Jewish girl who was hiding so long. She had to be kept alive. It is a shame that somebody talked you know and that they found her. It was so close before the war was over, and she was still taken to a camp to be shot. Only her father came out alive. That was good because he was able to talk to the whole world. He found the diary so that everybody knew.

Student: Did you know any Jewish people?

Mrs. H/ In the theater across from us the organist was a Jewish man as well as the lady who was sitting where you bought your ticket in the little booth. We knew them of course. I didn't know more Jewish people, no, we didn't. They were all strangers to us.

Student: What was your greatest fear during the war?

Mrs. H/ In the beginning you don't know what's going to happen. I remember when the war started my mother's birthday was a couple of days later and we were just sitting on the curb and looking up in the sky: Where do you think the bombs will go? We didn't know what that was, ignorant as we were. I have a sister who still lives in Holland and she is eleven years younger than I am. So I had a big coat and I always put my sister in my coat and then I buttoned it. I thought if we go, we go together. You think different when you are younger than we do now, that we are much older. Sometimes when the bombs came down even if it was in different parts from where we lived, the pressure on the windows and on the doors was so big that we couldn't get out even if you wanted to get out. You had to wait until you could open the doors again.

Student asking Mr. H/ When you got taken to the train station or the police station, what happened?

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Mr. H/ You go inside. What I was doing I was collecting money for rent from houses which my father had been the real estate office for. At that time you collected it. Now everything goes by check. I had quite some money with me and it was counted out and put in a bag. Then I was brought to a little room. In that room there were all bunkbeds and of course there were young German fellas who were sixteen and seventeen years old who were deserting. They were on their way to Bergen-Belsen. Of course you had nothing in your pocket. But I had only a little piece of pencil in the socks. I had to write on their hands where the Americans were and the Canadians were. At that time they were just freeing Paris. And they were on their way to Belgium and to Holland. And so I could say, "Oh isn't it great, and maybe we can still live."

Mrs. H/ But they shot these boys on the front when they were picked up and stationed and they were laying there just on the streets. People had to go around them. Sometimes you had to step over them because you couldn't walk.

Mr. H/ I had the feeling I would not be long there. So when the sandwiches that evening for evening meal were handed out, I gave it to the others. The cigarettes were given out and you walked around with a cigarette. I gave the cigarette away.

J.F./ You talked about the radios being confiscated very early on but obviously there were still radios. Who had one in your neighborhood?

Mrs. H/ My mother! Oh, yes. (laughing)

J.F./ What would the penalty have been for having a radio?

Mr. H/ Shot.

Mrs. H/ Death. And it's funny, you know, I remember it was a very rainy day one time. My mother and I came from somewhere-I can't remember where. There was a German of course walking the streets. And he looked at me. The rain stopped and my mother had her umbrella. She looked at him and she broke the umbrella on his back, because he looked at her daughter. But the guy must have had a sense of humor because he started laughing! It was unbelievable! So we walked on but we could both have been dead right then. But that was my mother. She fought with hands and feet. My father was so- more timid man. And he would say, Berta, please don't do this to us. Your whole family will go.

Mrs. H/ I have another story. One time we went with three ladies - it was his sister and his cousin and me - we went with our bicycles over the bridge. There was a little rowboat coming over the water. That was from his relatives. They were farmers and they had food. They would bring it in the night with the rowboat to the other side and then we

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would be there to pick it up. Of course, when we came by the bridge there was German control. They say, oh no. My sister-in-law had some stockings and she peddled them before his eyes and said, what about this? Is that not nice tonight for your girlfriend? So he took them and we could go over. So we had all the grain and the meat. It was in little sacks-in cotton bags they did it - so that we could hang them on our steering wheel and in the back in some pockets there. My sister-in-law had had a baby not too long before so she had to go home because she was breastfeeding the baby. Something happened to her bicycle so the thing didn't move anymore. What are we going to do? So I gave her my bike and I said to his cousin, I see light there. There must be a farm there. So we walked there. A man came out. He said, what do you want? We said, we cannot go home tonight because it is getting dark and we have to walk because the bike broke. He said put your bikes there. But then later you think to yourself: they have lights! They must be with the Germans instead of against the Germans. We were put to a stable - a big barn. There were all cows, and the cows were making an awful lot of noise. Of course, it smelled. In the corner there was a little pile of dry hay. We were sitting on it back to back the whole night waiting until the morning came. At eleven o'clock the light went off so it was pitch black there. The cows were making such a noise - it was unbelievable. Then daylight came and the door opened. We said, now what are they going to do to us? We thought for sure that they would have taken the meat and everything from our bike. But he said, you can go now. So we took our bikes and walked to the bridge again. Of course we faced soldiers again. But we did not have anything to give them because we wanted that food on the other side so that there would be something to eat. Then there came a car and the car stopped. They went to the car. The car was there and we slipped by and walked over the bridge to the other side. So we had to walk six or seven hours to finally get home. You are so weak and thin and miserable you cannot eat at all - meat or something else. Finally we arrived at his parents' house. My sister-in-law was staying with her baby and another child because her husband was in Germany. So we arrived there safely with the food.

Mrs. H/ It is funny now when you look back there are so many humorous things too - even in that misery. Don't think that all the Germans who were fighting were that way. They were not that way because many times they looked in a stroller, they looked at a baby and talked even to it. Some mothers even let them hold their babies because these people had families too in Germany. They had to go because if you don't go you are shot dead already. We met lots of good Germans too and they didn't want to be there. I, for example, worked in a store after the war because where I worked everything got bombed. I was in another store. Many Germans came there to drink coffee in the morning. There was one German. Apparently he must have liked me, I don't know. At night when I came to pick up my bicycle, my bicycle was not there in the garage where we stored them. He stood on the side of the street with my bicycle, the guy who was the watchman there had given him my bicycle. So he wanted to walk with me, and I said to him, if my father sees this what is happening- even if I would be killed in front of you, he rather sees that than if I walk with you. I will be in trouble. But he talked to me about that he was the only son. His father had a stocking factory. He was the heir to all these things

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if it even was still there. Did I know anything of the town that it was in? Koblenz or something. He was a very nice man but I didn't want anything to do with him because I would have the same thing happen as the other girls.

J.F./ I've just been looking at my watch. I hate to think of stopping now because this is still very interesting. But I think we do have to call it to a stop and thank you very much for coming and doing it with us.

Mrs. H/ I hope it was something that you wanted to hear.

J.F/ Thank all of you for the invitation. (clapping)

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