A German Occupation Story

Hank and Hans







Fiona Ferwerda

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Dedicated to my beautiful parents

And written
for all who come after them

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FOREWORD

Since retiring, in 2016, I've been dabbling in family history research, and, with my sisters, sorting photos, documents and books, many written in Dutch, retained by our parents, Hans and Hank.

The discovery of a two-volume diary written by Hank's great uncle, Piet, propelled me into a world of old-ish Dutch, Google translate and some rather rusty school Dutch from 50 years ago. My own desire to understand what he'd written in turn became a desire to make it available to any English-speaking descendants. The document was essentially in two parts: the first half was research and memories associated with my mother's Blankevoort side of the family up to about 1935; the second was an almost day to day account of his life, his families' lives and the news around him over the period 1935 to 1946, so covering World War 2.

Sanity breaks were required in the translation process! My Dutch was hopeless! These breaks saw me finding and sorting a lot of information relating to their lives before they went to Australia in 1950. I became particularly interested in the period of the German Occupation, as I found documents that confirmed stories that my father had told about being a POW, as a student. Also, my mother had told us that she'd cycled from Utrecht to Rotterdam in midwinter with a young Jewish child on the back, stopping briefly along the way at soup kitchens, to bring her to a safe house. There were other stories too.

My father, Hans, who died in 2003, at the age of 86, was a keen family historian and I suspect he would have liked this story to be told, particularly as he'd kept so much. My mother, Hank, who died at the age of 97, eighteen years later, was aware of my newfound interest in the family history, as I would often ask her questions. She told me one story about how she, at the age of about 10, and her younger brother Nic, were allowed to catch the old steam tram to Monnickendam, by themselves, to visit tante Lakeman, the last of Hank's close relatives to live there. Hank and Nic's parents would drive there by car and meet them at the other end. She had fond memories of the tram ride and the sweets and cakes on offer at tante Lakeman's home.

Sadly, in the last few years of my mother's life, she suffered from dementia, which was slowly getting worse, so only occasionally did I get further glimpses into her earlier life.

I wanted to understand their stories better… these two largely primary sources could help answer some questions. And hopefully be of interest and value to later generations.

The document will focus on the period 1938-1950, which includes when Hans and Hank met, so just before the German occupation through to their departure for Australia with their two daughters, Marianne and Rinske. Where possible, information is included about close family members and friends. For example, my cousin Hans, son of Koo[1], has also written a story[2] of his father's life, and this has been included where relevant.

For this period, Piet records what he reads or hears on the news, the weather, and aspects of his daily life. Extracts from his diary in his own words have been selected to convey the mood of the time. A bonus of Piet's Diary for Hans and Hank's story is that he is the grandfather of Wim, Hans's close friend and the link to Hank, Wim being her cousin. Piet also lived in the same general area as both Hank's and Hans's families, so there are connections there as well. Where required, Piet's diary will be referenced as "PB's Diary (1946)".

Hans and Hank's collection of photos and documents, including official documents and private letters, from this period will be called "The Collection (1938-1950)". All unreferenced photos and documents are sourced from *The Collection (1938-1950);* those few that are not part of the collection are individually referenced.

I can safely say that Hans was the main collector, and without all these puzzle-pieces, it would be difficult to build the chronology that tells their story. But it was Hank, in the main, who wrote down her memories from that time at the encouragement of her oldest daughter Marianne. These memories began to be written down during the early 1980s and sporadically after that time. These will be referenced as "Memories (1980s)".

Another important source was their library of books that pertained to their stories, mainly in Dutch. These are listed in the Reference section at the back. One of these books - B.J. Flim's *"Saving the Children - History of the organised effort to Rescue Jewish Children in the Netherlands 1942-1945"*, written in 2004, has been used to support Hank's story, but also to highlight, through short statements, the tragic situation as it unfolds for the Jewish population in the Netherlands.

And of course, when all else fails there's the internet! Several websites were particularly useful, and again they are listed in the Reference section.

Feedback from family members was sought on a very rough early draft, and I would particularly like to thank my cousin Hans and his wife Henny who provided, amongst other things, many corrections to my dodgy Dutch translations. I would also like to thank the friends and relatives who have read

[1] Hans' brother – Jacobus Gijsbert Ferwerda, also known as Koo (pronounced (Koh)

[2] Koo's story (1990s)- FERWERDA family history by Johan Gerrit (Hans) Ferwerda (born1947, son of Koo – Jacobus Gijsbert Ferwerda)

and provided input, feedback and encouragement on various subsequent drafts.

I've kept it simple, as I'm not renowned for my storytelling ability. It's written chronologically and the primary sources, where available are given primacy. This may result in observations made at the time not being quite correct. I acknowledge I may not have picked up on some of these. But the main objective is to convey the sentiment of the time. Also, I have in most cases not attempted to translate German terminology, such as military hierarchy and Reichskommissariat department names etc. unless it helps the understanding.

Hopefully whoever reads this will, by the end have some inkling of my parents' experience and know a little about who they are as people.

Fiona Ferwerda, Melbourne, March, 2022[3]

PS.

The Covid Pandemic, starting in early 2020 with the consequent lengthy lockdowns provided an interesting comparison. The anxiety and fear around an unpredictable deadly enemy. The stress on the medical community, closed borders, curfews, threat to global supply chains, increase in propaganda and fake news etc. all reminders of war like conditions without the bombing. And, in March 2022, we are still in pandemic conditions in much of the world. In fact they've just announced the arrival of Omicron BA.2 variant in Australia.

The collaboration of science and the world community to manage the pandemic gave some hope that another global challenge, climate change, might be better addressed. But no! Serious floods in NSW and Queensland, February 2022, highlight the issue once again.

And now, March 2022, the western NATO alliance is on tenterhooks, and people fear a Third World War. Russia's Putin is bombing Ukraine in a Hitleresque manner and ironically claiming he's getting rid of the Ukrainian Nazis! To justify the invasion Putin accuses Ukraine of some atrocity and then bombs indiscriminately, civilians & military alike. Already, there are millions of refugees…Ukrainians are putting up a fight. Putin threatens to use chemical weapons and has nuclear weapons on high alert. BLOODY HELL!

[3] Fiona Ferwerda born 1954, Melbourne, third daughter of Hans and Hank

NETHERLANDS MAP



Map: *Key places in the Netherlands for Hans and Hank, 1938-1950*
Base map source: Wikipedia [2018] with modifications

INTRODUCTION

Hans Ferwerda and Johanna (Hank[4]) Elisabeth Blankevoort were both born in Haarlem, North Holland (west of Amsterdam), about five years apart. They met in the icy winter of 1939/1940 just after the declaration of the Second World War and before the German occupation of the Netherlands; they weren't to marry till after the war, 5 years after they meet.





Photos: *Hans (about 20 years old) and Hank (on the right, about 16 years old) with friend Jeanne*

Hans' Immediate Family

Hans, born 13 August 1917, was the third son of Johan (Georg) Ferwerda and Barbera (Bets) Cornelia Advokaat. He was born into a family that put great value on learning musical instruments and attending Boy Scouts, amongst other things.

Georg and Bets would instil a love of nature and the outdoors, in all their sons,

[4] Brackets around a name, if its not the first name is the name by which the person is commonly known-etc ie nickname or use of second name rather than first name

through hiking, biking and camping holidays.



Photo: *Hans describes the people in the above photo, as the "Core of the Ferwerda family" [photo taken c 1927, possibly set up by Koo]*

From left: Bets[5] (1883-1978), Hans's mother; Johanna Christina Sillman (1857-1932), (Hans's paternal grandmother), whose husband (Jacobus Hendrik Ferwerda), had died in 1918; Georg[6] (1884-1970), Hans's father; Hans (1917-2003); Bert (1913-1940), Hans's brother; Johanna Petronella Abbenbroek (1850-1832), Hans's maternal grandmother; Gijsbert Advokaat (1855-1931), Hans's maternal grandfather; Hendrika Advokaat,(1884-1957), Tante Riek, Bets's younger sister; Koo (1910-1990), Hans's brother.

His older brothers, Jacobus Gijsbert (Koo) (born 1910), a keen photographer, and Gijsbert Georg (Bert) (born 1913) had both completed undergraduate university studies by 1938: Koo in Astronomy and Mathematics and Bert in Agricultural Science. Koo later went on to study for a PhD.

In peace time the Netherlands had compulsory conscription to the Reserve Army for the eldest son in every family. Koo had been conscripted and had completed his training. He was soon to be on-call to defend the Netherlands. Georg had also been in the Reserves during the First World War, in which the Netherlands remained neutral. Bets' father (Gijsbert Advokaat) had worked as a

[5] Bets had a sister Riek (in the photo) and three brothers. At least two of the brothers lived in Amsterdam during the war

[6] Georg had just one sibling, a sister who lived in Laren to the east of Amsterdam during the war

machinist/engineer with the Torpedo Corps, so a military heritage, although this was the case for many families in the Netherlands.



Photo: *The Ferwerda brothers circa 1920. From left: Hans, Bert, Koo. And yes, the sailor suit was a popular 1920s fashion statement*



Photo: *Hans' family circa 1934. From left Bets, Koo, unk[7], Hans, Georg, Bert, Tante Riek*

Before their marriage, Bets was working as an arts and crafts teacher, having qualified at the National School for the Applied Arts in Amsterdam[8]. Later, in 1928, when Hans was about to start secondary school, there was a shortage of teachers due to a post-First World War population boom, and Bets returned to work, this time, as a primary school teacher. At the age of 56, she retired just as the Second World War was about to begin.

Georg worked as a land surveyor for the Cadastre[9] in Haarlem, from 1912

[7] Probably Koo's girlfriend/fiance Sietske Berkhout, at the time
[8] Rijksnormaal school voor Kunstnijverheid – Teachers' college for the Arts & Crafts
[9] Assume this is a local government department for the mapping of land tenure and ownership etc.

through to 1951 when he retired[10].

Hank's Immediate Family

Hank was the first child of Dirk Blankevoort and Hermina (Mientje) De Ronde and was born on May 19th 1922. Nicolaas Paul Blankevoort (Nic), her younger brother, was born two years later in 1924.



Photo: *Hank's family circa 1926. From left Dirk, Nic, Mientje and Hannie*[11]



Photo: *Hank's family, c1928, including Oom Wim (on the left), Dirk's brother, and next to him Oma (Elisabeth Klomp) and Opa (Nico Blankevoort), Mientje, Dirk, Hank & Nic*

Hank came from a large extended Blankevoort family, and many family members lived in the Haarlem-Bloemendaal area, having moved there from Monnickendam in the early 1900s. Hank grew up in a very happy and comfortable environment with lots of family around.

Dirk, Hank's father, worked in Kennemerplein, Haarlem at the head office of

[10] According to an article written about the couple in 1969, for their 60th wedding anniversary
[11] Hank's nick-name before she went to school

the Blankevoort part of the *van Hattum and Blankevoort* (vH&B) contracting company. He was involved in the administration of the company. Dirk had five siblings, and Dirk's father, Nico, had 3 full siblings and 7 step-siblings, many of whom were involved in the family business.



Photo: *Hank's family circa 1936. From left, Nic, Hans[12] and Mientje. Maybe Dirk was taking the photo?*

On religion, Hank records:

> *My grandfather was involved in the church and my father had to go to church each week. He wasn't interested, and so it wasn't part of my upbringing. It wasn't part of Hans's either.*

In Hank's family line there were no immediate relatives with any military background, apart from Dirk her father who as the eldest son was conscripted to the Reserves. However, he was exempted from the mobilisation for World War I, due to health reasons[13]. Neither of Hank's grandfathers was in the Reserves.

Mientje's family on the other hand was much smaller. She was the second child of Paulus de Ronde (Supervisor at various Water Boards including in Drenthe and Zierikzee) and Jannetje van Tongeren. Sadly Jannetje died when Mientje was only two years old. Paulus raised his children with the help of his mother. He later remarried in The Hague in 1921 to Paulina Loewer (Hank's "Tante" Pauline).

The Connection

Unaware of each other's existence, Hans and Hank grew up only a kilometre apart, Hans at Kleverparkweg 116 and Hank at Emmalaan 5, Haarlem. (see *Bloemendaal-Haarlem Map*)

One of the Blankevoort families, Hank's Tante Jannie and Oom Niek

[12] Hannie changed her name to Hans, while at school, as there was another girl called Hannie. This would later result in another name change!

[13] On Dirk's military record- it doesn't say what the health condition was. We know that Dirk suffered from rheumatoid arthritis, a painful progressive disease of the joints, but I don't know when that first became apparent for him.

Blankevoort and their children, particularly Wim, are pivotal to Hans and Hank's romance, and also lived close by in Bloemendaal.



Photo: *Ferwerda Home*
Kleverparkweg 116 (taken 1994)



Photos: *Blankevoort Home*
Emmalaan 5 (left taken 1920s; right taken 1994)

Tante Jannie and Oom Niek are Blankevoort cousins. Jannie is the daughter of Piet Blankevoort and Niek is the son of Willem Blankevoort. Piet and Willem are brothers of Nico, Hank's grandfather.

Piet Blankevoort and his daughter, Jannie, and family lived in Bloemendaal, at Vijverweg 17 and 10, respectively, within walking distance of Haarlem. And Hank's grandfather, Nico lived at Zonnekade 15, in a big house on the Spaarne, a waterway in the East of Haarlem. Hank has "*happy memories*" of visits to her paternal grandparents, and the many family gatherings and festivities celebrated at their house "*in-style*".

We're lucky, as Piet Blankevoort has written a diary in which he captures events that affected him, his family, his local neighbourhood and the broader community before and during the war. He starts his diary with an account of the Blankevoort family history – 200 or so years of history in Monnickendam, North Holland and nearby localities.



Piet and Nico's father Cornelis was the founder of the Blankevoort business. Cornelis was a carpenter who gradually built up a diverse business in house construction and water management projects, including digging channels and building dykes etc.

Photo: *Piet Blankevoort, from his Diary*

Only Piet and Nico from this generation[14] are still alive in 1938 when this story begins, but sadly Nico (Hank's grandfather) had been quite unwell during 1937, and died on the 26th June 1938. Piet records:

> *On this day my good brother Nicholas died at home at Zonnekade[15] 15 in Haarlem. He is the second last member of my generation of the large family Blankevoort-Kater and, I, the diary-writer, his brother Pieter, am the only one remaining.*

Piet lived in Bloemendaal, with his live-in housekeeper, Miss De Jongh. He was 77 years old when the Germans invaded, so a man with a lifetime of experience already. He would have been very aware of the seriousness of the war situation.

Piet's neighbourhood included Haarlem, which he regularly visited from Bloemendaal. He would walk, ride his bike or catch the train one stop along the line to Haarlem. Piet would often drop in at the office of van Hattum and Blankevoort located near the Haarlem station.

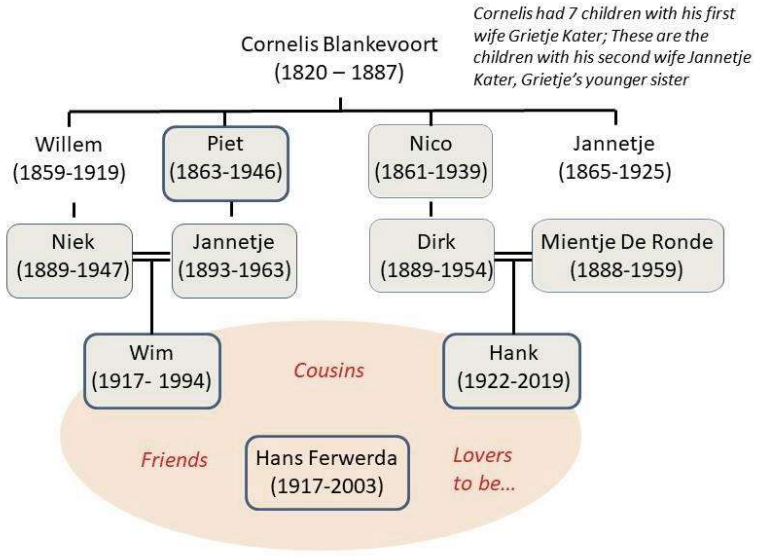


Image: *Relationship - Piet Blankevoort to Hank and Hans. Also, all the men in this diagram worked in one form or other in the Blankevoort contracting business or the subsequent van Hattum and Blankevoort Company.*

[14] Both brothers' had lost their respective spouses at this time: Piet's wife. Grietje Klaver, died in 1937 and Nico's wife, Elisabeth Klomp, in 1934.
[15] Now called Scheltemakade



Map: *Bloemendaal-Haarlem*

Stars indicate homes of (from top to bottom) Piet Blankevoort; Jannie, Niek & son Wim; Hans Ferwerda; Hank Blankevoort

The map covers approx. 4x5km

<u>Notes:</u>
Nico Blankevoorts house is not on the map but was to the south east of Haarlem central. Haarlem central is in the lower right corner;
On the left of the map are the dunes fronting the North Sea

Src: Basemap, Wikipedia(2018)

SO, WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE WORLD?

The lead up to the declaration of war happened over many years. We pick up the threads, according to a rather cynical Piet Blankevoort, starting in July 1937:

> *The situation in Europe, in every way, is getting more critical. Besides the economic (trade) war, every power is getting armed to the teeth.*
>
> *The Spanish Civil War continues comfortably. The people there at least appear to like it. Japan and China appear to be planning a fight with each other. They must be envious of Spain where the intention seems to be to murder everyone in the country.*
>
> *Japan and China begin to fight. There are already dead from airstrikes.*
>
> *How pleasantly life rolls on.*
>
> *England says that it has spent about f4500[16] per minute in military armament during the past year*
>
> *Germany and Italy, who've threatened England a few times causing it to crawl back into its shell, recognise that the game is changing, the bulldog is beginning to show its teeth; fortunately, because a strong England is a guarantee of peace.*
>
> *More and more fighting in China and Japan.*

Later in the year he largely drops the cynicism as the situation ramps up:

> *The dictators Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler regularly continue with the removal of people who are suspected of not being politically sympathetic to the system.*
>
> *Mussolini will visit Germany and of course his political ally, Hitler. Large amounts are spent for a 'worthy' reception. The world (mostly) views them with mistrust….*
>
> *Italy leaves the League of Nations and now conspires with Japan and Germany…*
>
> *Japan is trampling China under foot, although China provides persistent opposition. England has difficulties in Egypt*

An example of the anxiety and paranoia at the time is provided by an article in

[16] *f*4500 – 4500 dutch guilders

the New York Times, 26 January 1938:

Aurora Borealis Startles Europe, People Flee in Fear, Call Firemen

Britons Thought Windsor Castle Ablaze.

Scots See Ill Omen

Snow-Clad Swiss Alps Glow …

From 6:30 to 8:30 pm the people of London watched two magnificent arcs rising in the east and west, from which radiated pulsating beams like searchlights in dark red, greenish blue and purple. …

From an airplane the display looked like "a shimmering curtain of fire." …

Police stations, fire brigades and newspaper offices all over the country were inundated by calls tonight asking, "Where is the fire?" The phenomenon was seen as far south as Vienna…

[It] spread fear in parts of Portugal and Lower Austria tonight, while thousands of Britons were brought running into the streets in wonderment. The ruddy glow led many to think half the city was ablaze. The Windsor Fire Department was called out in the belief that Windsor Castle was afire. … an ill-omen for Scotland.

"The lights were clearly seen in Italy, Spain and even Gibraltar… firemen turned out to chase non-existent fires. Portuguese villagers rushed in fright from their homes, fearing the end of the world. …

France, Jan. 25. —A huge blood-red beam of light … spread anxiety in numerous Swiss Alpine villages. Emblazoned in the northern sky the light brought thousands of telephone calls to Swiss and French authorities asking whether it was a fire, war or the end of the world. …

Thankfully we have a more sober account from our own war reporter, Piet Blankevoort:

"Today, I witnessed a magnificent aurora borealis (northern lights), admired for almost the whole evening."

From now on you will see reports from Piet's Diary[17] in a grey box. You will be spared some of the rumblings, politicking and fighting of the next couple of years, as recounted by Piet. In summary, countries are ramping up their military capabilities, and there is constant anxiety of more widespread warfare and, of course, a particular concern with the aggressive behaviour of Hitler and his cronies.

[17] Selected passages only but still chronological

Also, from time to time Piet's weather reports are included with a shaded background, particularly the winter conditions.

Again, Germany has provided the world with a new shock by intimidating Austria, to the point that the unification of the two countries appears to be inevitable.

Germany annexes Austria, which will cause this centuries-old country to disappear from the map. A little less geography for students to learn. The great powers have again written a protest letter. They are doomed to remain inactive, for fear of a world war. The brigand's politics continues. We'll learn with time which country's turn it will be next. Presumably Germany will take back their old colonies in the same way.

The Netherlands also spends millions on its defence. Isn't this insane. All for defence. Although a world war would be terrible, I still ask myself, "What will follow as a result of spending all this money on so-called defence, where will it end. There are now warships being made in England which, for example, cost 70 million guilders a piece. One wants to be stronger than the other, and so they regularly out-do each other. Thousands of planes and submarines are owned by each country.

August 31, 1938, Birthday of the Queen of the Netherlands celebrated in a glorious manner.

In various places both the birthday and the commemoration of the 40 years jubilee of the Queen's reign was postponed until further notice because of the serious occurrence of the highly contagious disease called "Poliomyelitis". The celebrations in Amsterdam which will last six days will go ahead in any event.

The festivities to celebrate the anniversary of 40 years reign in Amsterdam proceeded in a splendid manner. The whole town was decorated and the evening lighting simply magnificent. Enormous crowds were transported by the railways. On some days 150 additional trains were laid on.

The mood in the world has gradually become so tense that even the smallest incident can be seen as provocation for the outbreak of world war (in any case, it could be the stick, that the warmongers use to hit the dog); the British statesman Chamberlain went to Germany for a personal discussion with Hitler, the dictator. This alone has given some relief. The next day he returned to England. The content of the discussion was not leaked.

Finally, the situation in Europe is clearly on display, I copy here what the Handelsblad[18] of Saturday **September 24, 1938,** printed in bold letters.

Chamberlain returned to England.
French and British governments take military precautions.
Quiet in Berlin but troop movements persist at borders.
Leave revoked for soldiers in the Netherlands.[19]
The country remains vigilant. Enthuisiasm[20] in Prague.
The mobilization order received there with great enthusiasm.
Czech-German Rail traffic stopped.

[18] Newspaper
[19] This affected Hans'older brother Koo (in the Army Reserves)
[20] D: geestdrift

The tension in the world is unbearable. All countries are preparing for war. Czechoslovakia explains that the conditions which were proposed in Godesberg[21] are implausible and says that a state of war has occurred. All countries begin to take mobilization measures.

To demonstrate how the state of war threatens:

British fleet mobilized

LONDON, Sept. 27 (Reuter). The Admiralty announced that it has decided, as a precautionary measure to mobilise the fleet.

Mussolini, the Duce or Prime Minister of Italy, declares that the world war, with the good will of the relevant powers, and by mutual agreement can still be prevented and to that end called upon the President of the United States to encourage the statesmen of Germany, England and France and Italy to come to Munich for a discussion.

On this day, before Mussolini's invitation, Chamberlain still says, "At this moment I don't see how I could still do useful work by way of mediation anymore."

On the very next day the aforementioned statesmen attend the meeting in Munich. The hope of a result brings general apprehension. A sigh of relief as now the opinion is gaining ground that everything must be resolved.

If this achieves anything, only time will tell, as there is namely an agreement between Chamberlain and Hitler that they would never again go to war with one another. Will, when other statesmen come to power, they remain faithful to it? And how easy will it be if one wants to fight another to find an argument or a stick. But best to hope, but those who later read this, will know the reality.

[21] In Germany

BEFORE THEY MEET

Hans and Hank meet in the winter of 1939/1940. However, we'll start their individual stories about a year before that, in October 1938, in the northern hemisphere autumn (the beginning of the academic year).

Jet and Jeanne

But before we go there, we have something from *Memories (1980s)* written by Hank that introduces two of her friends, important to her story[22]:

> *I had a wonderful teacher in the first primary school that I went to. I moved to a private primary school in my last year, because my brother, Nic, was not having a good time at school (an unpleasant teacher) and so my parents moved both of us to this new school. It was further away and going to the same school meant that we could walk to school together. (We walked home and back to school at lunchtime too, as there was a break of two hours for lunch.) It took about 20 minutes one way – later we were allowed to ride our bikes (officially when we turned 10, but as my parents wanted us to go together, I probably didn't do it till later.)*
>
> *At this school I met my friend Jet[23]. I loved this year as we had a wonderful teacher who knew a lot about history and told us about the kings and queens. After that I started at the Lyceum but I struggled. I was young for that level and it was very academic. The following year I went to the Meisjes HBS (girl's high school) where there was less maths and more languages and other things.*
> *Jet was there too, so I caught up with her again. She was half-Jewish and had very liberal parents compared to mine. (My mother, especially, was very conservative and over-protective of her only daughter). In Jet's family they talked about everything, and certain books weren't hidden. It was much better, really, as otherwise you wanted to see them. Generally, you only read what you are ready for at the time.*
> *Jeanne and I never went to the same school. She was very artistic.* [24]

October 1938 marked the beginning of Hank's final year at the Girl's High

[22] *Memories (1980s)*
[23] Pronounced Yet, the J has a Y sound
[24] Jeanne was a neighbourhood friend, seen in the photo of Hank before she meets Hans (Hank always received birthday and Christmas cards which were copies of her art.)

School in Haarlem.

An engineer in the making

While Hans, five years older, had already completed two years of a "Road and Hydraulic Engineering" Diploma at the secondary technical school (*Middelbare Technische School*) in Haarlem, and a year of work experience as a trainee foreman with the State Water Board, North Holland (*Provincaal Waterstaat Noord Holland*).

For Hans, October 1938 saw him moving to Delft and enrolling for the first year of a degree in Civil Engineering at the Technical University (TU, Delft)[25]. His good friend Wim (Hank's cousin) who was the same age as Hans was two years ahead of him at Delft, having gone straight to University from High School. Why Hans did the diploma studies first is not clear, and with no information available, one can only speculate (was it cost, entrance requirements, change of plan…?).


A.
TECHNISCHE HOOGESCHOOL TE DELFT.
STUDIEJAAR 1939—1940
No. 932.
De RECTOR-MAGNIFICUS verklaart, dat
L. Ferwerda
als STUDENT is ingeschreven en mitsdien gedurende bovenvermeld dienstjaar toegang heeft tot alle lessen alsmede tot alle inrichtingen en verzamelingen der Technische Hoogeschool te Delft.
DELFT, den 6 OCT. 1939 19

Image: *Hans has kept his student ID for each of the years he was enrolled at the Delft Technical University.*

While a student in Delft, which is about 50 kilometres to the south of Haarlem, Hans first lived at Oude Delft 15, then Nordeinde 5, and later at Burgwal 16, Delft, all student digs I assume.

Hans obviously enjoyed his first year at university, as he has kept many mementoes from that time. Or maybe, he kept these because he was fully aware of the significance of world events and the imminent possibility of war. Or maybe, it's just part of his personality!

The formal social life of the University took place at the Phoenix Society run by the Delft Student Corps (DSC) or student union. The DSC organised orientation week ('*groentijd*', literally green-time) for the new students, as well as social and sports clubs, debating societies, annual balls etc...

See photos on the next page from the first year of study. It looks like there's plenty of fun being had. Formally, there was an inauguration ceremony and dinner, and the "tower of tables" must have been an annual institution, as there are similar photos in the book written in 1973 to celebrate 125 years existence of the DSC (hence forth referred to as *DSC125 (1973)* [26].)

[25] At the time, Hans enrolled it was called the "Technische Hogeschool, Delft", it is now a University(2021)
[26]DSC125 Delftsch Studenten Corps (DSC) (1973) Honderdvijfentwintig jaar 1848-1973.



Photos: *Photos and mementoes mostly from Orientation Week. See Hans high up on the "tower of tables", and the Club 2 tile on the right.*

It appears each student belonged to a fraternity or Club and that Hans was part of Club 2. He kept a ceramic tile as a memento. From the tile you get the sense that drinking beer was a key focus of the club – not much different to

engineering students at university in Melbourne in the 1970s (my era). And the boat has a definite East Indies look about it, a reference to the Dutch colonies. Hans joined the music club – the Apollo Club, as well, where he played the cello. Apparently new students had their heads shaved, which is possibly what we can see in the top left photo. What other humiliating acts were perpetrated?

Krystallnacht

October 1938 - Hitler has delivered an address in which he repeatedly declares that he wants peace, but which is coloured by belligerence, once again. The speech brought great disillusionment in most countries; especially some English newspapers are sceptical of Hitler's call for peace and argued that France and England have been fooled for the umpteenth time by him.

After the speech, the arms race is not slowing down but continues with redoubled speed everywhere. The days of tension that we have already experienced, will repeat themselves.

November 1938 - Due to the murder of a German diplomat, von Rath, by a 17-year-old Jewish boy, orders from High Command in Germany, result in the windows of Jewish properties being smashed and properties destroyed. It happened at night right across Germany at the same time.

Germany denies that it is welded to higher command, but how is it then possible, that this happened at the same time in every place. Also, nearly all synagogues were burned that night. The outrage over such barbaric behaviour is great across the whole world. To make matters worse, the Jews must repair everything themselves and are fined by having half their assets confiscated. A week later, on our borders heartbreaking scenes are playing out. Jewish German and Austrian refugees who have been relying on the assumption that they could be admitted to the Netherlands were refused entry at the border. They arrived cold, hungry and miserable. The bullet or a concentration camp is the fate that awaits them.

Soon after, measures are taken in different countries to allow the Jewish refugees in. The Netherlands also builds barracks.

Why were they refused entry? According to The Anne Frank website[27] , the Netherlands had taken in about 25,000 German Jewish refugees between 1933 and 1935. *"The Netherlands doesn't want to appear too attractive as a country for refugees. For this reason, certain jobs and professions are 'protected'. From 1937 it's virtually impossible for foreigners to establish themselves in the Netherlands."* The government then enacted a law to stop all refugees.

After 40,000 visa applications were received from Jewish people because of Kristallnacht, the Dutch government slowly and reluctantly relented:

> *"7,000 granted a visa. They are put in camps and have no freedom of movement. Another 2,000 refugees enter the Netherlands illegally but are not sent back for humanitarian reasons. They come under military*

[27] The Anne Frank Website, accessed 24 Oct 2018

supervision and are put in separate camps. All these refugees have left Germany for the same reason, they fear persecution.[28]

The continuing mild weather has given way to frost. The wind has turned to the NE bringing cold air…The ice rinks are being opened in various places…Still freezing but to a much lesser extent.

Ice quality is good everywhere, but due to the strong Easterly wind causing overlying icefloes it is very bumpy.

Second Christmas day (Boxing Day) it's still freezing, but the sky is more overcast than Christmas Day, which was calm and sunny the whole day. During the evening of the 26th a change is clearly perceptible. There is some wet snow…Hefty thaw is everywhere, except in the south of the Netherlands where the temperature is still around the freeze point. The thaw continues and rain falls everywhere. This little winter was very harsh but has only lasted ten days. The snow has almost disappeared everywhere.

The German minister of foreign affairs Von Ribbentrop goes to France to come to an agreement on some differences. An agreement, with the following content, was then made and signed:

"They, Germany and France, state that between them no further questions of a territorial nature exist. They recognize the border between their countries, as it is now, and they will both strive for peaceful relations and good neighbourliness."

This agreement is hardly drawn up when the French newspapers begin to declare already that they attach no ounce of value to it and continue to consider Germany unreliable in all respects.

The persecution of Jews in Germany continues in a frightening manner. Now they are again ordered to pay one million Mark and, moreover, must also bear the costs of the collection. Barbarism is prevailing in Germany.

The collection held throughout the Netherlands to support the Jews expelled from Germany and Austria raised about *f*430,000.

Cold weather and warm wishes

Daily we get snow, followed by rain. As a result, the streets have turned into a rather unpleasant quagmire. On Jan. 5 the day of the full moon, the barometer improved and, in the evening, the sky was clear and the thermometer indicates 1° Fahrenheit, above freezing (33° F).

So, the morning of the 6th is just above freezing but the weather is nice. Occasionally there are some snowflakes.

Only now is movement across the Zuiderzee unhindered by ice. The thaw across various

[28] Anne Frank Website

countries has caused the rivers Maas, Waal and Lek to rise beyond their banks and, in some places, causing serious flooding. Thankfully now the levels have fallen everywhere.

Hitler holds his great speech in the Reichstag to which all countries look on in anticipation. The opinion of most countries is that he provides little or no clarity. The only positive is that Germany declares it will support Italy if that country were to be forced into war by some power or other … if Italy were to be attacked.

England draws from that speech that Germany definitely wants peace but wants to be assisted in its economic distress.

In February 1939, Hans receives this postcard, of a 'Malay Canoe' with greetings from his brother Bert.

The previous year Bert had taken up employment as an Agricultural Scientist on a tea and/or tobacco plantation in Ambarawa, Java, Dutch East Indies, still a colony of the Netherlands.



The weather begins again to freeze a little…The severity of the frost increases…. It starts to get fiercely cold again, but because there is no wind, during the day with the sun it is nowhere near as disagreeable as the last frost.

Although the barometer doesn't indicate a pressure drop, the sky becomes cloudier, and it starts to thaw again.

15th March 1939, Hitler has once again abused his power and with profound arrogance, under the guise of aid, has marched into Czechoslovakia with troops and forces. Claiming it is under its protectorate, but history will tell it differently. He has thus broken his word on the agreement, which was made in Munich with England, France and Italy.

The Czech government had to surrender to the German tyranny, under threat of tremendous aerial bombardment.

Now Germany has an eye on Romania where they can get all sorts of needed resources. France, England, America and Moscow decide unanimously to act decisively against this. The world again is extremely tense.

The Japanese aggressively conquer the Chinese Fortress Haitsjau[29].

[29] Possible somewhere along the Yangtze River?

Chamberlain declared in the House of Commons that in the case of any action which threatens Poland's independence and that of the Polish government … the British government would be bound to grant all the assistance it can provide.

Germany denies that an ultimatum was made to Poland…

But since Germany's behaviour has often surprised the world, great vigilance is being exercised especially by England, France, Russia and America.

Bets birthday

A letter arrives from Bert**:**



Letter: *from Bert (Z. O. Temarlau?[30], Java)*
posted from Solo aka Surakarta

to Hans (Nordeinde 5, Delft)

24 April 1939

Dear Hans

You've already written to me several times, but I still haven't written back to you personally. Thank you for all your messages. I appreciate your scribbles from the other side.

Your holidays are here again, even though it will be a working holiday[31]. I think you'll have to do more of that. For me I found more than once that I had to work harder in the holidays than during the academic year. But at least you'll be glad that you can complete a subject during the vacation, although you won't be getting much of a break this year, as I now remember that you must go for the oral exam in September. Well, I wish you good luck.

Easter has gone by almost unnoticed by me, as, in the H.P.[32] [newspaper] there's barely any visible reference to Easter. Of days off, of course there was no talk at all, except for the usual Sunday. But soon we will have a few days off; it can't be otherwise because everyone in the

[30] Z.O. (Southeast) Temarlau?? [Not sure this is correct transcription]
[31] Refers to his upcoming work June to August, 1939
[32] A Dutch newspaper, Haagse Post

"Vorstenlanden" or Sunanates[33] has those days off. Wednesday, we have a day off for the crowning of the Sunan (Susachunan)[34]. And 5 days later the Javanese holidays begin, I believe in connection with the "name giving"; I'll have to research this a bit more. Then we'll get Monday and Tuesday free. That is God-given. As I said, there is no other way, as the Javanese simply do not work those days.

But soon, our free Sunday, 30 April i.e. Prince's Day[35], will arrive. Anyway, going out only costs money and I don't have an excess of that at the moment.

We are now in the midst of festivals. Now it is Pasar Malem in Solo, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Kratos, the Royal Palace. Pasar Malem is a night market and can best be compared to Haarlem but a little smaller. All kinds of companies, especially government, exhibit in stands there. Also, of course, there's entertainment with cabarets and music, not to forget the roulette. However, you only have access as a member of the Club.

That's not a problem for me because that membership is combined with that of the toos(?)[36] and that counts me among its members. So that's what I did last night. Of course I lost three guilders, and then I stopped. You may say, although you find it unwise to play "over the head"[37], that it was a sensible decision, but the reason was that I had only 1 cent left in my pocket. As a precautionary measure, I had not taken much money with me. Roulette here is very commonplace. A few times a year horse and dog races are held in the big cities - and these can be gambled on. But the roulette table always comes with it. They are not as small here as in Holland, where such a thing is considered one of the most serious offenses.[38].

So last week there were races in Semarang. Mother was apparently already aware that I might go there. That is indeed what happened, but I didn't gamble there, just danced and sat at the bar. Now in a week or three it'll be on. It's likely to be a feast of letters. I'm curious. When mother reads this letter, she can be assured that with unprecedented restraint, possibly previously not heard of, and the limited amount of

[33] A princedom – royal family
[34] PakubuwonoXI – the eleventh ruler of Surakata, crowned on the 26th April, 1939, Wikipedia(2021)
[35] Most likely he's referring to the newly crowned sunan
[36] Could be "soos" meaning Sociëteit
[37] ? spontaneously maybe
[38] D: Ze zijn hier niet zoo klein tergelijk als in Holland, waar zooiets tot de zwaarst vergrijpen gerekend al wordt.

money I have, will guide any gambling, so no need to worry. I write this because I can already see 'the sky'. A little thunderstorm is not unlikely. This afternoon, with the same post as the Dutch letters, and a day earlier than normal, I got my Indonesian bags of tea.



Map: *Central Java.*

Ambarawa is the location of the company H.J. Crone's Tea Plantation where Bert worked as a "selectionist"[39]; Semarang is the capital of the region; Solo/Surakarta and YogYakarta are Royal Indonesian Sultanates, at the time they maintained Indonesian culture and art etc under the Dutch.
src: basemap, Google Maps Terrain, July 2018

Also, I've enlisted here and can no longer be called up in Holland. Now I am assigned to the staff of the XXI N.I. in Jogjakarta[40]. I believe I've been lucky, because you're always better off in administration than as a soldier.

I wonder if it is coincidence or if I have an unknown (benefactor) from Leiden. They do not know that I worked in the office there. Anyway, I have this. I am otherwise glad that I am here, because in Holland I would only be constantly anxious wondering whether to enlist.

As far as any visible compassion here for the European situation is concerned, it is very disappointing. Little is said about it. I catch-up,

[39] a geneticist, selecting and experimenting with different varieties of tea.
[40] NI=KNIL- Koningklijke Nederlands Indische Leger. This was a separate army to the Royal Netherlands Army, specifically set up to expand colonial rule, in 1814. During WW2, there was the 21st Infantry based Jogyakarta – in which presumably he enlisted

always a week behind, through the HP [newspaper], which I get on Sundays. That weekly overview is indispensable to me.

For the people who now must serve it's no fun. You should be glad that you are free[41] *or you could not escape it either. Now I'll finish,*

All the best and greetings to all. Yours Bert

P.S. This is a P.S. with specific purpose. I have a request to you personally. That's why I write this on a separate sheet, and you can read the rest at home later. You probably already understand '50-50' that this is about mother's birthday.

I am still rarely at home, amongst other things, to buy something suitable for mother. Later I'll send something special.

Now I'd like to ask you if you can suggest something for her birthday, a bowl or something. I will send you a postal exchange of f5- and then you can see. If you need more I can send it to you, if it's less, then you can treat yourself to a glass of beer.

I'm late with it, otherwise I would have asked earlier and maybe you would have something _____ and then I could have sent you the amount. But you know me, and I mean it, I'm easy with money. I don't care, even if it costs f10, as long as it's something good. I leave it entirely to you.

Thank you in advance, with warm regards, Bert

Bets' birthday was on 25thMay, when she was to have her 56th birthday. I'm not sure how long the mail took at that time but probably a few weeks either way, so some forward planning was required. This was also about the time Bets gave up teaching.

It's not clear (to me) what the enlistment in the 21st NI in Jogjakarta entailed for Bert at this point in time…Later that year he is still working at the plantation. So, did he go off for some military training at some stage?

In all sorts of ways Germany and Italy are trying to make things difficult for England. They stir up trouble wherever they have land interests, for example Palestine, British India, Ireland; so in all British colonies and possessions. Now they have persuaded Franco in Spain again to join the so-called Anti Communist pact, but the intention is to turn them into the NSDAP or to Nazis and fascists.

Italy invades Albania … Of course, again the motive is: the Italians (in Albania) are oppressed, and we will bring order to the country. The trickery is that others are provoked to counter measures resulting in unrest, just like Germany did in other countries to trigger

[41] This is a reference to Hans being a student, I believe, and exempt at this point, from conscription.

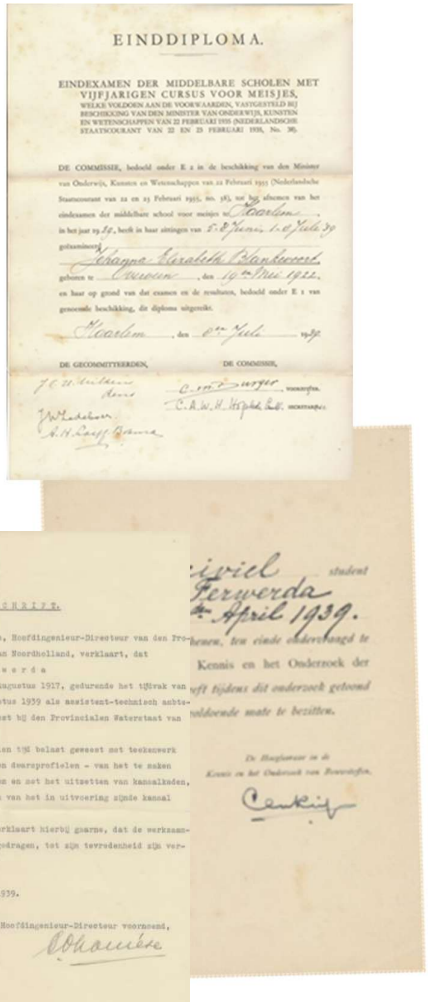
riots.

End of the Academic year

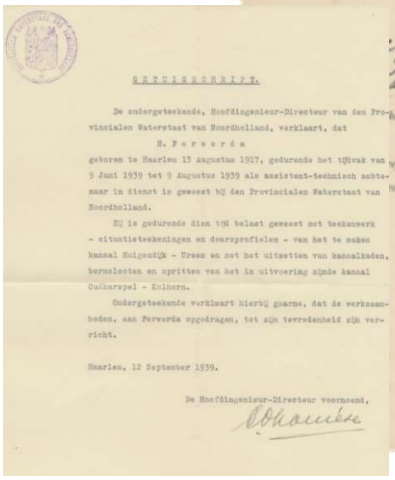
On the right is Hank's certificate of completion of High School, dated 8th July 1939. She had stayed focussed on her school work and was not yet preoccupied with boys! And, I can imagine, both excited and somewhat apprehensive about what the future would bring.

Although Hans is having a good time (see photos next page) he was also keeping up with his study and completed a certificate of "Building Materials", dated 4 April 1939.

Over the summer break Hans worked for the Provincial Water board of North Holland (where he'd worked before) from 9 June to August 1939. *"During this time he was involved in technical drawing – plans and profiles – for the building of the Huygendijk-Ursem Canal; and with the deployment of channel cages, berms and ramps of the Oudkarspel-Kolhorn channel, under construction"*


EINDDIPLOMA.

EINDEXAMEN DER MIDDELBARE SCHOLEN MET VIJFJARIGEN CURSUS VOOR MEISJES,


GETUIGSCHRIFT.

De ondergeteekende, Hoofdingenieur-Directeur van den Provincialen Waterstaat van Noordholland, verklaart, dat

H. Ferwerda

geboren te Haarlem 15 Augustus 1917, gedurende het tijdvak van 9 Juni 1939 tot 9 Augustus 1939 als assistent-technisch achterman in dienst is geweest bij den Provincialen Waterstaat van Noordholland.

Hij is gedurende dien tijd belast geweest met teekenwerk - situatieteekeningen en doorsprofielen - van het te maken kanaal Huigendijk - Ursem en met het uitzetten van kanaalkaden, bermsloten en oprittten van het in uitvoering zijnde kanaal Oudkarspel - Kolhorn.

Ondergeteekende verklaart hierbij gaarne, dat de werkzaamheden, aan Ferwerda opgedragen, tot zijn tevredenheid zijn verricht.

Haarlem, 12 September 1939.

De Hoofdingenieur-Directeur voornoemd,

...ijriel student
...Ferwerda
...April 1939.
...Kennis en het Onderzoek der
...oft tijdens dit onderzoek getoond
...oldoende mate te bezitten.

Images: *(top) Hank's diploma; (lower r) Hans's Certificate and (Lower l) Hans' Document confirming employment and duties.*

Both areas are in North Holland to the west of the western end of the Afsluitdijk[42]. Lutjewinkel, a small village lies between Kolhorn and Ursem. I believe this is where he lived during this work, boarding with a family.[43] For the year, 1936/1937, Hans had also lived there, and boarded with the Kos family, so maybe he stayed with them again.

[42] The Afsluitdyke is a large dyke (more like a dam) closing the Zuider Zee from the North Sea creating the 'Ijsselmeer' or Ijssel Lake. It is part of the Zuider Zee Works – Land Reclamation Project. It was built between 1927 and 1932.van Hattum & Blankevoort were contractors, amongst other companies, on various aspects of The Zuider Zee Works. The close proximity of the Wieringermeer polder suggests to me the channel works Hans was involved in related to the changed conditions around the new polder.

[43] Bert's letter 9 Aug 1939



Photos: *More photos from Hans' first year It was obviously still possible to have fun*

The day of the great speech of Hitler, 28th April, in which amongst other things and in addition to lots of bullying and bombast, Hitler terminates the naval agreement with England and ditto the German-Polish treaty.

The Netherlands, these days, proceeds with partial mobilization, especially the borders (East and West) are occupied and are getting ready to defend. There are rumours, betrayed by a spy that the Netherlands was next in line to be invaded by Germany.

The population of the Netherlands is recommended to store extra food as a precaution, sanctioned hoarding.

Cooperation of Russia with England and France though highly probable is not yet agreed. Russia demands more concessions.

Turkey signs agreement with England and France.

The world thus remains in suspense even though almost no one believes in war.

Nothing special happens during this fortnight, [the last two weeks of May 1939]. The inflammatory nature of articles in the newspapers of various countries continues. Aeroplanes[44] continue to crash, it goes the same way as car accidents; it's no longer possible to keep up. England continues to exert pressures on Russia to join the group: England, France and Turkey; while Germany and Italy flirt with Spain and Japan.

The whole [Dutch] Ministry resigns.

A daughter was born to Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard, who was recorded in the civil registry with the names Irene Emma Elizabeth and will go through life under the name Irene.

Germany and Russia conclude a non-aggression pact, while England together with France and Russia were still negotiating a similar pact. You can therefor imagine this is unlikely. After reading the page [from Mein Kampf] the reader will be able to understand what is possible in politics and how far humanity has sunk.

What Hitler wrote in Mein Kampf regarding an alliance with Russia, now appears to be coming true.

The tension in the whole world has peaked. Everywhere people tremble with fear for the expected madness and power lust of Hitler that will turn the whole world into one of murder and slaughter.

The mobilization of the military is announced in the Netherlands, on 26th August 1939.

Full mobilization proclaimed in the Netherlands, starting 29th August.

Hitler's demands on Poland remain unchanged. A battle can be expected at any moment.

[44] This is a period where all sorts of new aircraft were being tested and Piet regularly recorded many of these accidents and incidents

Hans's Birthday

Hans receives a letter for his 22nd birthday from his brother Bert.

***Letter** from Bert (Temarlau (?), Java) to Hans*

9 August 1939

Dear Hans

Happy Birthday. As usual once again you're away from home, but that will not be a problem. I hope that it'll be a nice day for you, or has "been", because this letter will be a little too late. Otherwise, is all going well in Ireland? What's it like, flat or hilly, more agriculture or more industry? I know nothing about Ireland. You never hear about it.

It's nice to be able to earn the money for the trip yourself. What was the office like in LutjeWinkel? Mother wrote that you were <u>expanding</u> in Lutjewinkel and that I would understand. Now there are different meanings of expanding, among other things, being fat by eating a lot and doing nothing. If I know you well, this is unlikely, so I suspect that mother meant something else or rather meant it differently than she said, namely that you were an "uitlander" - outsider. I cannot guess what that something was[45].

I imagine you were keen to work outside again. Were you lucky with the weather? Speaking of the weather, we are here in the so-called dry months. But this year everything is dry ____. A few weeks ago we got another 200mm in one night.

It was of course bandjir[46] and +/- 7ha tobacco was ruined. Last week we had another 140 [mm] and this week regularly 40 [mm] per day. If you also know that in Holland on average 700 mm falls in a year, then you have some idea what it's like. Sometimes it happens that 100 mm or more falls in an hour; that's not cat's piss, even an elephant looks like a baby.

Furthermore, everything goes ___ ___ here. We are now drying tobacco in the drying shed, an annoying job that you must be there for, day and night. Fortunately, I have the day shift because I have recently been unwell. I have been lying in bed with angina for a couple of days, but luckily that is over.

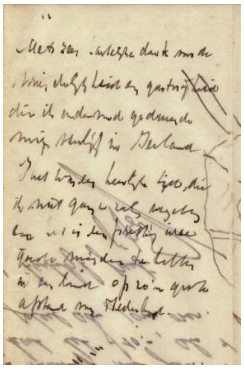
With the birth of the princess, of course there were celebrations, but I could not attend because of the illness. I don't think I missed much. There

[45] Maybe he's expanding his horizons, maybe looking for love?? I don't quite get this! Or just growing up!
[46] Heavy monsoon

will likely be another later, we hope a little prince, but for that we'll have to wait.

Now Hans I finish. I have no further news. Have a wonderful holiday.

Warm greetings from Bert.



As we've learned, Hans had a holiday in Ireland after working in North Holland. Presumably he stayed with Kenneth, who he receives a letter from in March 1940. I believe Kenneth was someone Hans met while a scout or scoutmaster at the 1937 Scout Jamboree[47] held in Bloemendaal[48], on Haarlem's doorstep.

Ironically the theme of the Jamboree was "Live Happy Lives".

I found some writing /scribbles by Hans, who had notoriously unreadable writing, on the back of the letter from his brother Bert, of 24 April 1939, it says, in Dutch:

Thank you very much for the friendship and hospitality that I received during my stay in Ireland.

I had a wonderful time that I will never forget. It was exciting for me to be in a country at such a great distance from the Netherlands

This was likely written (in Dutch) as a trial run before translating and sending it to his Irish hosts.

Meanwhile, Hank has completed High School and is wondering what to do. Imminent war had saved Hank from being sent to a Swiss finishing school by her parents, Dirk and Mientje. Dirk apparently was particularly keen on this idea. I say "saved", as that's how Hank felt, greatly relieved, not her thing![49]

In her own words[50]:

I thought about nursing or social work or something with children, but my father didn't want me to do that sort of work. He had a secretarial type of job in mind for me.

Hank also recounts:

My father thought that girls should learn to drive a car. I wasn't keen at

[47] We have a video possibly/likely made by Koo highlighting the Bloemendaal Scout Group. There are a few shots of Hans as well!
[48] More specically an area called Vogelenzang
[49] Pers. comm. Hank to Fiona, 2018
[50] Memories (1980s)

all, but when I was 17, I started driving lessons. I had two or three lessons and then war broke out and that was the end of it, because, of course, petrol was rationed. I was quite relieved.

I've concluded that Hank had a year off before starting any study. Maybe, under the tense global circumstances it was thought best to wait and see what would happen…

Hitler gives a speech in the Reichstag; the usual bluster and twisting of the facts. He completely ignores speaking of previously agreed promises, none of which he's followed through on.

The German people appear to adore him, although he listens only to his own kind, Goebbels, Goering, Hess and others, who for the drama of the speech have organised the crowd scene. The crowd is forced, with knife to throat, to applaud when told to, and to join in unison with "Heil Hitler". A tap on the button and the public rejoices.

It would never have come to war if the German people had been allowed to listen to what other politicians were saying. Even listening to radio broadcasts from abroad will be punished with banishment to concentration camps or prison.



HET DUITSCHE RIJK

Verboden te luisteren naar buitenlandsche zenders

BERLIJN, 1 Sept. (D. N. B.) De ministerraad voor de rijksverdediging heeft bij verordening bepaald:

Het luisteren naar buitenlandsche zenders is verboden. Overtredingen worden met tuchthuis gestraft. In lichtere gevallen kan gevangenisstraf worden opgelegd. De gebruikte radiotoestellen worden in beslag genomen. Wie berichten van buitenlandsche zenders verspreidt, wordt met tuchthuis gestraft en in zeer ernstige gevallen met den dood. De speciale gerechtshoven zijn bevoegd overtredingen tegen deze verordening te behandelen.

Forbidden to listen to foreign radio stations

BERLIN, Sept. 1 (DNB[51]) The Council of Ministers for state defence determined by regulation, that:

Listening to foreign stations is prohibited. Violations are punishable by prison. In milder cases imprisonment may be waived. The used radios will be confiscated. Those who broadcast foreign channels shall be punished by penal servitude and in severe cases death. The special courts are entitled to deal with offenses against this regulation.

While Hitler holds his speech in which he declares that German patience is at an end and an immediate German advance on all fronts of Poland is necessary, the invasion had already taken place.

Chamberlain has included him in his speech to the House of Commons on 2 Sept. 1939 with some pointed words. He said: "The German chancellor has had no concern about plunging the world into misery in order to serve his own senseless ambitions and aspirations"

King George has signed an Order in Counsel for the mobilization of the army, the navy and the air force.

Germany, France, Britain and Italy have declared that they respect the Netherlands' neutrality as it harms none of them.

A final attempt by Mussolini to seek negotiation between England, France, Germany, Poland and Italy to prevent war through dialogue and discussion results in a shipwreck, Germany continues with its demands unconditionally.

[51] DNB Deutsche Nachrichtenburo – Nazi News Agency

Also, in France general mobilization.

Declaration of War, 3 September 1939

Hitler's continued aggressive stance, and particularly the invasion of Poland led to the declaration of war on 3 September 1939 by Britain (which included Australia and New Zealand) and France.

The Netherlands government hoped to remain neutral, but some preparation and mobilisation had been occurring.

Just like in the 1914-1918 war, reports on the war are mere lies; I will only chronicle what is generally characterized as official.

GREAT BRITAIN

Chamberlain addressed German people

"Do not trust the word of your leader."

RADIO SPEECH IN GERMAN LANGUAGE

LONDEN, Sept 4 (Reuter[52]). Chamberlain has made a radio speech in the German language directed toward the German people. He said: Your country and mine are now at war. Your country has thrown bombs at, and has invaded free and independent Poland, which this country is bound to defend. Because your troops have not withdrawn, in response to the British letter, war is the result.



GROOT-BRITTANNIE

Chamberlain richt zich tot Duitsche volk

„Geen vertrouwen in het woord van Uw leider."

RADIOREDE IN DE DUITSCHE TAAL

LONDEN, 4 Sept. (Reuter). Chamberlain heeft zich in een radio-rede in de Duitsche taal tot het Duitsche volk gericht. Hij zeide: Uw land en het mijne zijn thans in oorlog. Uw land had bezwaren geworpen op, en was binnengevallen in het vrije, onafhankelijke Polen, dat dit land gebonden was te verdedigen. Omdat uw troepen niet teruggetrokken zijn in antwoord op de Britsche nota, is de oorlog gevolgd.

Na feiten gegeven te hebben ten aanzien van Hitlers aanbod aan Polen, vroeg Chamberlain:

Waarom achtten wij het noodzakelijk een Oosterlijke mogendheid te verdedigen, terwijl onze belangen in het Westen liggen? Het antwoord, ik betreur het te zeggen, is, dat niemand in dit land vertrouwen heeft in het woord van uw leider. Hij gaf zijn woord, dat hij het verdrag van Locarno zou eerbiedigen en hij brak het. Het gaf zijn woord, dat hij noch verlangen had noch het voornemen om Oostenrijk te annexeeren en hij brak het. Hij verklaarde, dat hij de Tsjechen niet zou inlijven bij het Duitsche rijk, en hij deed het toch. Hij gaf zijn woord na München, dat hij geen verdere territoriale eischen en plannen had in Europa, en hij brak het. Hij gaf zijn woord, dat hij geen Poolsche provincies wilde en hij brak het. Hij heeft gedurende jaren geweren dat hij de doodsvijand was van het Bolsjewisme en hij is thans zijn bondgenoot. Kan het u verbazen, dat zijn woord voor ons het papier niet waard is, waarop het is geschreven?

Het Duitsch-Russische pact was een cynische omkeer, die ten doel had het vredesfront tegen de agressie in puin te slaan. Dit gokspel is mislukt. Uw leider offert u, het Duitsche volk, thans op aan het nog monsterachtiger gokspel van een oorlog om zichzelf los te maken uit een onmogelijke positie waarin hij zichzelf en u geleid heeft. In dezen oorlog strijden wij niet tegen u, het Duitsche volk, tegens hetwelk wij geen bittere gevoelens hebben, maar tegen het tyrannieke en meinedige regieme, dat niet alleen zijn eigen volk heeft verraden, maar de gehele Westersche beschaving en allen, wat u en ons dierbaar is. Chamberlain besloot zijn toespraak met de woorden: „moge God de rechtvaardigen verdedigen."

After having given facts regarding Hitler's choice re. Poland, Chamberlain asked:

"Why do we consider it necessary to defend an Eastern power, while our interests lie in the West? The answer, I regret to say, is that no one in this country has confidence in the word of your leader. He gave his word that he would respect the Locarno treaty and broke it. He gave his word that he had neither desire nor the intention to annexe Austria and broke it. He stated that he would not incorporate the Czechs in the German Empire, and he did it anyway. He gave his word after Munich, he had no further territorial demands and plans in Europe, and he broke it. He gave his word that he wanted no Polish provinces and broke it. He swore for years that he was the mortal enemy of Bolshevism, and he is now its ally. It may surprise you that his word for us is not worth the paper on which it is written?

The German-Soviet pact was a cynical reversal, which was aimed at saving the peace front against aggression. This gamble failed. Your leader sacrifices you, the German people, now,

[52] London-based Newsagency

in the even more monstrous gamble of a war to free him from an awkward situation in which he has led himself and you. In this war we do not fight against you, the German people, against which we do not have bitter feelings, but against the tyrannical and perjuring regime that not only betrayed its own people but the whole of Western civilization and everything dear to you and us. Chamberlain concluded his speech with the words: "may God defend the righteous."

September 5, A ruthless war is being waged. Poland is crushed under the military boot of the Germans, but still Poland has not lost. They strongly defend themselves.

Pilots from France, England and Germany are trying to drop bombs, but air defense artillery often prevents this. The sea mines and submarines do their heathen work.

British planes are continuously dropping leaflets over Germany which describes to the Germans, in the manner highlighted, how they are being misled by Hitler.

First English troops land in France. French troops observed on German territory.

A terrible disaster affects the Netherlands. The brand-new minesweeper "Willem van Ewijk" traveling near Terschelling[53] hit a mine and split in two, regrettably with 29 dead and several wounded.

While dropping leaflets over Germany, one British and two French planes were shot down.

Canada declares war on Germany.

The Russians invade Poland and meet little opposition.

Russia and Germany divide Poland between them, although there is still considerable fighting.

Goebbels agrees to respect the neutrality of the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.

The French Army's bulletin reports that the army has repulsed German attacks.

Warsaw decides to unconditionally surrender.

Five British aircraft were shot down. Norwegian ships sunk by mines and torpedoes, maybe three.

Hans returned to Delft to begin his second year of study, no doubt fearing he'd be called up for military service. When the Dutch army were mobilised in August 1939, more than half of the 1700 students were called up. They had already trained as Army Reserves:

> *A special 'TH[54] Company' is formed. The Road and Hydraulics Department building serves as barracks. 180 conscripts can stay there. The intention is that they pass their candidate exam as soldiers and then become reserve officers for the engineers (Genie or Army). The TH*

[53] Dutch island to the north of the Dutch mainland
[54] TH – Technical Higher School – Later called the Delft University of Technology or TU

organizes evening lectures and practicals for the other Reserves to limit study damage. Only a handful of students use it[55].

In peace time, conscription was compulsory for all men who had to register by their eighteenth birthday. This explains the high percentage of students in the Army Reserves. Certain exemptions are given which explains those who were not in the Reserves.

So, in the Ferwerda family, Koo would have registered in 1928, Bert in 1931 and Hans in 1935. We know that Hans was exempted from service because he had a brother already registered. This was called an exemption due to "Broeder Dienst", or Brother Service. This would have applied to Bert as well, but as we know he enlisted for the KNIL.

So, along with thousands of Army Reserves across the Netherlands, Koo had also been mobilized.

Hank's brother, Nic was now aged 15, so still at school at the beginning of the war.

Below is an extract from *DSC125 (1973)*. It gives an insight into the immediate response within the University:

> *"The outward appearance in the halls of the university in September 1939 was noteworthy: a lot of tea and cake was being consumed. This was a consequence of the threat of war following the serious political situation in Central Europe, announced shortly before. The ongoing mobilization was accompanied by a ban on alcohol, suddenly issued in many municipalities. The measures taken within the Delft Student Union (DSC) included an immediate gathering of volunteers for air defence and police services, while administratively, all treasurers were advised to complete or close-off all financial transactions…*
>
> *Since the mobilization of several DSC members to the Royal Military, problems had already arisen for the coming orientation period (for new students). The head shave was abolished for the year, while official celebrations were cancelled. The end of the orientation period would not, as usual, be celebrated with a torch procession, but with a service in collaboration with the Technical University, at the Royal crypt of the House of Orange-Nassau in the New Church (Nieuwe Kerk), Delft."*

[55] Five Confusing Years (2005) 28 april 2005 Vijf verwarrende jaren(Journalistic Platform-TUDelft https://www.delta.tudelft.nl/article/vijf-verwarrende-jaren)

PROGRAMME
OF THE CEREMONY IN THE NEW CHURCH ON TUESDAY
26 SEPTEMBER 1939, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE DELFT
STUDENT UNION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INAUGURATION OF NEW STUDENTS

1. Entrance of Officials to the singing of the Delfts Student Anthem.
2. Speech of the Vice-President of the Senate of the DSC, Mr. A.J. Ou de Vries.
3. Speech of the Chairman of the College of Curates[56]? Of the Technical University, Engineer J. F. de Vogel.
4. First couplet of the Wilhelmus.
5. Speech of the Rector-Magnificus (Academic Head) of the Technical University, Prof. J. A. Veraart.
6. Second couplet of the Wilhelmus.
7. Wreath laying by the Senate of the DSC to the sounds of the Wilhelmus.

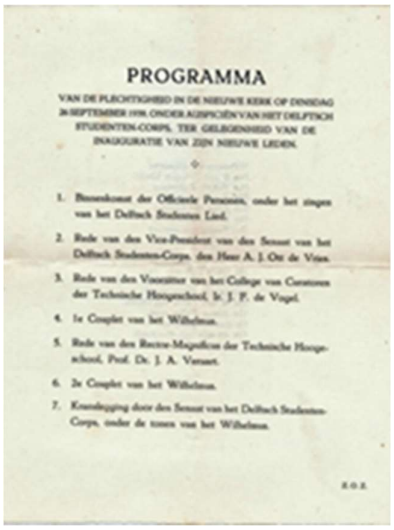

PROGRAMMA

Image & Translation: *Hans' copy of the program from the Orientation Service held at the Nieuwe Kerk.*

The Wilhelmus is the national anthem of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which dates to at least 1572[57], although it didn't become the official anthem till 1932. It's worth looking up the history of this hymn.

During the 1930s and beyond, the Dutch Royal family were very popular; most people in the Netherlands, but of course not all, supported the House of Orange.

It must have been a sombre and anxious beginning to the academic year. What a contrast to Hans' first year.

The University opened for the 1939-1940 academic year and some but not all orientation week activities were held.



Images: *Programmes for two events that were held – The DSC Inauguration Dinner, and, The Sports lunch of the Phoenix Society.*

Food ration cards are issued to the Dutch population. Everywhere in the country there is a race to build shelters, dig trenches and erect camouflage.

Torpedoing of ships by submarines and mines will no longer be documented by me because

[56] D: het College van Curatoren
[57] Wikipedia – Wilhelmus,[date: 19 July 2018]

this is the order of the day.

In the Netherlands it is prohibited to use petrol on Sundays. Heavy penalties will be imposed on offenders.

Every Dutch citizen received a distribution card (stamkaart) on which the monthly ration coupons were checked off.


KONINKRIJK DER NEDERLANDEN
DISTRIBUTIE STAMKAART
TEVENS BEWIJS VAN OPNEMING IN HET BEVOLKINGSREGISTER
No. 10646
Kerwerda
Hans
13 Aug. 1917
Haarlem
NEDERLANDER
Oude Delft 15
DELFT
28 Sep 1939

Images: *Hans' Ration Card or Stamkaart; some sample coupons*

British Troops land in Europe

Today 158,000 English soldiers arrive in France.

The neutral countries protest to the German Government on the torpedoing of their ships.

Behind the Siegfried Line[58] many German troop concentrations observed.

A German air raid occurred on the Scottish coast near Edinburgh. Two British cruisers were hit. Four German planes shot down.

Hitler confers with all Gauleiter[59] in Berlin.

In a speech in Danzig, Von Ribbentrop makes a fierce attack on England, including that Berlin accepts this declaration of war.

British pilots make reconnaissance flights over Hamburg, Berlin and Magdeburg.

The Scandinavian Heads of State declare to agree to the mediation proposal of Queen Wilhelmina[60] and King Leopold of Belgium. Chamberlain says the lofty motive of the two royals is appreciated, but he is not hopeful of a satisfactory reply from Germany.

The German Government declares, via Von Ribbentrop, the peace proposal of Queen Wilhelmina and King Leopold of Belgium will not be considered because England and France have 'torpedoed' it.

[58] German Defence Line - Along Germany's western border ie with France, Belgium and the Netherlands
[59] A political official governing a district under Nazi rule- a type of "regional party leader"
[60] Of The Netherlands

The peace initiative of the two royals is however appreciated in England and France. Simon[61] declares thereby that these countries will continue to respect the neutrality of the Netherlands and Belgium.

Netherlands fighter plane expels German flying-boats on Vlieland[62].

The steamship "Simon Bolivar" of the Royal Dutch Navy runs into a mine near the English coast. (89 pers. drowned)

Intensive naval warfare deployed by Germany, so again many ships run into mines and torpedoed.

England tightens trade measures against Germany. The neutrals will suffer, in particular, the Netherlands.

German aircraft drops parachute mines on the Thames estuary. A new German weapon.

Two German submarines sunk by French navy. Dogfights are happening regularly.

The Dutch government is in England to protest British reprisal measures.

Also, Japan, Sweden and Denmark protest in Britain against trade measures,.

Moscow is looking for or rather, has already found a “stick to beat the dog”, in this case Finland. The nation of 180 million souls claims that they are being threatened by that of only 3.5 million in Finland.

In a radio speech Chamberlain declares that England is fighting against the “barking mad” German mentality.

Russia says the non-aggression pact with Finland is over. Russia attacks Finland.

Chamberlain declared in the House of Commons that Finland was never provocative.

The conflict between Russia and Finland is in full swing. What the truth is we might learn over time, but Finland claims to have captured 1,200 Russians and Russia claims to have shot down 10 Finnish planes.

More than 50 timber (cargo) ships from the Netherlands lie in German custom control ports.

The war messages will not be further recorded. It is a never-ending story.

Some important events, however, will now and then be chronicled.

League of Nations meeting begins. They adopted a proposal to request Russia to cease the battle against the Finns.

The government of the Soviet Union announced to the League that it refuses to discuss the Finland issue.

Argentina demands Russia's expulsion from the League of Nations.

Russia is no longer a member of the League of Nations; it has excluded itself.

Chamberlain: "*One must never forget that it was Germany’s attack, which has paved the way for the attack by the Soviet Union on Poland and Finland*.”

[61] John Simon, a British politician
[62] One of the small islands north of Friesland

The President of Finland makes a new appeal to the world for support against the Russian armies.

Hitler wishes Stalin a happy 60th birthday.

German-Russian agreement signed, in which eight border points on the new German-Russia frontier are to be opened for Railway traffic.

The Dutch Defence

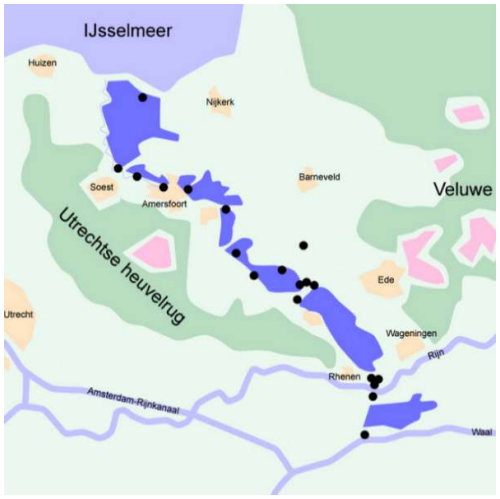
At this time, in the Netherlands:

> *The firm van Hattum and Blankevoort [vH&B] is commissioned by the War Department to do earthworks in connection with flood inundation and the Dutch Waterline.* [63]

The Dutch Defence system was a series of defence lines that relied on flooding areas to impede the enemy to protect the west of the Netherlands (including Amsterdam and The Hague). The front line of this system was the Grebbe Line, running from the Grebbeberg in Rhenen, on the Rhine, northwards to the Ijsselmeer (the closed-in Zuider Zee).

The Grebbe Line had originally been built in 1745, but had never actually been used, although it was maintained. By 1926, however it was deemed too costly to maintain and the decision was made to decommission some sections[64]. So, the work required to make the system functional was likely quite extensive.

The fact that the Netherlands had assumed they could maintain 'neutrality' meant the government was very slow to commission these works and was generally quite unprepared for any invasion.



Map: *"Grebbelinie" (military defensive line) in the Netherlands. The line was used during the German invasion in May 1940 although the inundation areas could not be flooded because the pumping station wasn't finished yet. Disclaimer: The exact location of the forts and inundation areas may differ from reality to a slight extent.* [65]

[63] PB's Diary (1946)
[64] Grebbeline - Wikipedia
[65] Made by Niels Bosboom. (Wikipedia July 2021)

First English ships arrive in IJmuiden[66].

The Netherlands sets out its position with respect to British control measures.

Army draft called in the Netherlands for 23 October 1939 and an export ban on coal is issued.

A committee of The Hague's citizens offers the mayor a check for *f*315,000 for funding the purchase of 20 cannons for air defence.

In the Netherlands the distribution/rationing of sugar commenced and also an Office of Camouflage-material is created.

Butter is now 15 cents and margarine 8 cents per kg more expensive.

Press articles, spreading incitement and endangering the neutrality of the Netherlands have led the government to considering the proclamation of martial law.

The provision of gas masks via the post offices commenced in the Netherlands. The uptake, not surprisingly, is very large.

The IJsselmeer provides good catches of pike-perch. Thousands of Kg. landed daily in Enkhuizen, Lemmer, Huizen etc. It is a nice fish, but I prefer a plain perch.

It is envisaged that the ban on cars on Sunday will be lifted at Christmas.

For Sinterklaas[67] the confectioners/bakers will get 50% more sugar.

For 2 coupons, in our country, 1Kg sugar per person is appropriate for three weeks.

The Prime Minister Jhr. de Geer makes known that the possibility exists for martial law to be declared soon in part of the country.

Intense westerly storms are driving many mines to the Dutch coast, some of which pose a danger to piers and dykes.

Uniforms are being smuggled out of the Netherlands; arrests relating to this have led to the discovery of an espionage plot.

The situation on the Western Front leads the Netherlands Government to revoke the leave passes of the soldiers; some very suspicious acts appear to have been discovered with a view to robbery somewhere in the Netherlands, although the government says this is not the motivation.

Although one can almost certainly assume that Germany is planning to invade the Netherlands, Minister de Geer holds a speech in which he states, inter alia: "There is no reason for anxiety." Higher politics!

Several municipalities in North Brabant, Gelderland, South Holland, North Holland, Zeeland,

[66] North Sea port (near Beverwijk, location of a second vH&B office] connected by the North Sea Canal to Amsterdam

[67] St Nicholas celebration 5th December

Utrecht, Friesland and Limburg are declared to be under martial law.

In the Netherlands, an orange book appeared, containing what has occurred in recent weeks.

The rationing of peas was announced.

The ban on driving cars on Sunday in the Netherlands is withdrawn.

Sugar is one cent per 500g more expensive.

27 Dutch NSBers arrested because of a uniform scam.

Due to the freezing conditions over the last few days ice-skating rinks have already opened and competitions have been announced.

The freezing weather has turned to rain, so the ice-skating will be over for Christmas.

ROMANCE IN THE AIR

The freezing weather returns, so the skating can begin again

The newspaper writes that it begins to resemble a real old-fashioned winter.

In most places the ice is reliable; yes, maybe all except open shipping channels.

Marken[68] is already accessible by automobiles; and, according to the fishermen, the ice on the Gouwzee reaches a thickness of 30 cm.

The expected change came … on Sunday, 14th.

Still severe frost, but snow is predicted.

Almost all of the Netherlands lies below a thick layer of snow, which fell with almost no wind, so that nature offers an incomparably beautiful spectacle.

All in all, we've now had a month of full-on winter weather. Although sometimes interrupted by a day of thaw.

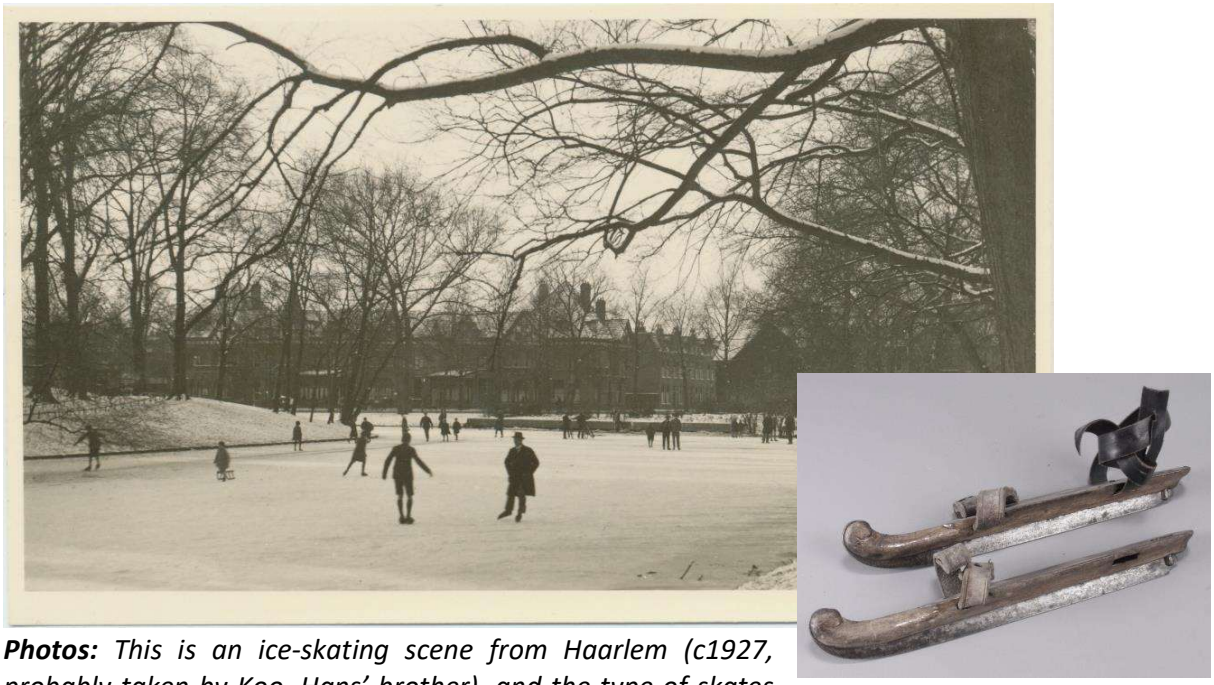
There has not been such a cold January month for 100 years.

So, Piet's weather report perfectly sets the scene for a special moment in this story; Hank remembers[69]:

> *Hans was feeling a bit lonely and at a loose end because his two best friends, Wim Blankevoort and Aat Nolke, had girlfriends. My Tante Jannie, mother of Wim, suggested to Hans that he go to the ice-skating rink [in Haarlem] and seek out her niece, Hanny[70], who was sure to be skating at the rink. My father and my aunt and uncle, Tante Jannie and Oom Nic Blankevoort, were members of the ice-skating rink. Tante Jannie gave Hans her ticket to the ice-skating club. So, Hans went there and asked Daan Schoen (a younger member of the Schoen[71] family) to point Hanny (that's, me) out to him. Then Hans got up some courage to go over and ask me ("the usual line"!) "Haven't I met you somewhere before?" which he hadn't. I being only 17 was rather flattered by the attentions of this handsome young man.*
>
> *I liked the ice-skating rink. There was music (a barrel organ) [playing*

[68] Island in the Ijsselmeer close to Monnickendam
[69] Memories (1980s)
[70] Hank's nickname (as given by relatives; although I think at school and to her friends she was also called Hans!
[71] Hank's cousin Wim was going out with Lelie Schoen (older sister of Murk Schoen, who later came to live in Australia)

Strauss waltzes[72]] and you could buy drinks such as hot chocolate and hot aniseed milk.



Photos: *This is an ice-skating scene from Haarlem (c1927, probably taken by Koo, Hans' brother), and the type of skates they may have worn.*

Now, in 2018, when talking of this time, Hank's face lights up and she says "Hans was such a good skater!"

According to Piet Blankevoort, Wim Blankevoort and Lelie Schoen had become secretly engaged that same winter.

Apart from Germany and Russia, the Finns receive sympathy from all countries with their stubborn opposition and are also given much material and financial help.

Although ships continue to be sunk regularly, the struggle on the France-Germany front continues with light artillery fire and reconnaissance flights, in which occasionally one or more aircraft of one or other party are shot down.

Churchill makes a bad call with his appeal to the neutrals to join England in his fight against Germany.

Hitler declares to win victory in 1940. Churchill declares in a speech to keep controlling the sea.

Huisduinen[73] suffers a lot from explosions of drifting mines.

Germany is making barbed wire barriers along the Dutch border. The Netherlands decides, more correctly, the Dutch Red Cross, decides to send an ambulance to Finland. Our country was overflown several times by English and German airplanes this week.

[72] Pers. comm Hank
[73] On the Atlantic coast northern Holland, near Den Helder

In February 1940 Pieter Blankevoort celebrated his 77th birthday with "all his children present".

Still severe frost with every now and then some snow. The number of days with frost exceeds all previous winters in the last hundred years. Including the severe winters of 1854-1855 and 1890-1891.

Maybe this will be the cause of the end of the war.

People suffer terribly from the cold, and in addition, the "war-feeding" countries are beginning to be squeezed for food supply.

What a world we live in! Still war between Japan and China; Russia with Finland, Germany with England and France, and Italy is lying in wait.

In the past week many ships have been sunk. The neutrals suffer the most from this, because Germany spares no country.

The American, Summer Wellis, on behalf of President Roosevelt, visits several countries to check whether it is possible to have a conference where everyone's demands can be considered and can lead to ceasefire. He also visits some non-allied countries, e.g. Italy, but the main goal is the belligerent countries.

Although it still freezes a few degrees at night, the ice still deteriorates to such an extent that here and there the water connections are restored by icebreakers.

The Marken-Monnickendam crossing is still regularly made over the ice by sled. The Zuiderzee, although it's open here and there, appears to be incredibly thick and causes ice drifts at some places along the coast, e.g. Near Edam where it reaches in some places as high as 8 meters against the dykes and gets pushed over the top.

No night frost for the first time last night.

Again, full-on winter. Snowstorm with frost.

Rain and thaw

It is very warm today, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon it was almost 60˚F. Storm and rain.

It's possible this memory of Hank's is from this winter[74]:

> *Hans and I visited Tante Lakeman in Monnickendam once because we could skate from a village nearby to the island of Marken that year (being able to do that doesn't happen very often).*

Tante Lakeman was the sister of Elisabeth Klomp (Hank's Oma Blankevoort); the last close relative to live in Monnickendam.

[74] It could also have been the following year as, unusually there was another icy winter

Between the powers Russia, Sweden, Finland and Germany negotiations are being conducted to try to find a basis on which peace between Russia and Finland can be restored.

The battle on the political chessboard continues. France and England won't like this realization of peace, and Germany, Sweden, Norway and Italy will rejoice.

Last night in Moscow an agreement was reached between the Finnish delegates and the representatives of the Soviet government, on … provisions for a peace treaty…

Chamberlain gives a speech in which he clearly declares that neither England nor France would accept a peace dictated by Hitler and as long as the fear remains that Germany's and Russia's aggression could recur, peace is impossible.

An English plane flying over the Netherlands was shot down by a Dutch plane at Pernis.

"England and France seal their overall bipartisanship. No ceasefire or peace will be concluded without mutual agreement. Also, no peace will be concluded before an actual and lasting guarantee for the security of both countries has been obtained and joint efforts will be made to obtain a new international order in Europe."

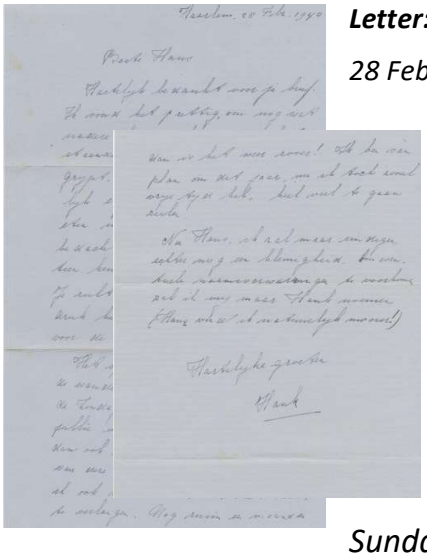
Also shot down, a strange plane above Amsterdam, which was moving in a westerly direction.

THE APOLLO CLUB BALL

Toward the end of Hans' second year there is a significant event, The Apollo Club (Music) Ball. Hank recalls:

> *Just before the Nazis invaded Holland, there was a student university ball that Hans invited me to. I didn't think my parents would allow me to go as I was only 17, but they did (probably because Hans was a friend of Wim Blankevoort, the son of a cousin of my father). Actually, it was rather scary as there was a lot of drinking. I was pretty innocent and not used to this.*

The Apollo Club Ball was held in March 1940. They had known each other just a few months. Before the Ball, Hank writes:



Letter: *from Hank (Emmalaan 5) to Hans (Oude Delft 15)*

28 February 1940

Dear Hans,

Thank you for your letter. I appreciated getting more details about the upcoming ball. You understand, I'm really looking forward to it and eating in The Hague is a great idea and will give me a chance to meet your club friends. You are probably very busy now with rehearsing for the performance.

I was very disappointed that I was out on Sunday when Lelie rang to ask if I would go out for a walk [75] with you all. It was such beautiful weather, and I'm sure you had a great day.

I'm really looking forward to the sailing season. Only another month or so… I plan to go sailing a lot this year, since I'll have plenty of time[76].

To avoid name confusion, in the future, I'll call myself Hank (Of course I like Hans much better!)

Warm Greetings, Hank

Hank confirmed that Hans played the cello at the ball[77], and Hans has saved a

[75] D: Tippelen – old dutch word, maybe similar to rambling in english?
[76] This line is part of my evidence that Hank had the year off.
[77] pers. Comm Hank, 2017

critique of the evening's music.

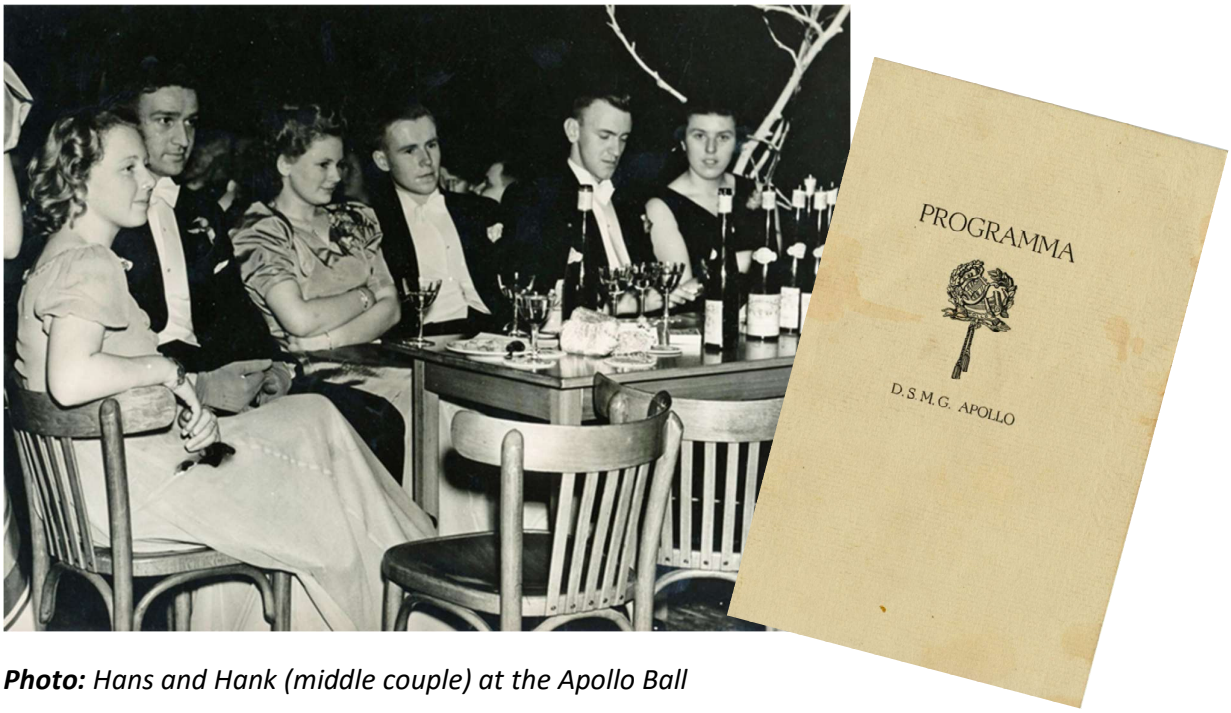
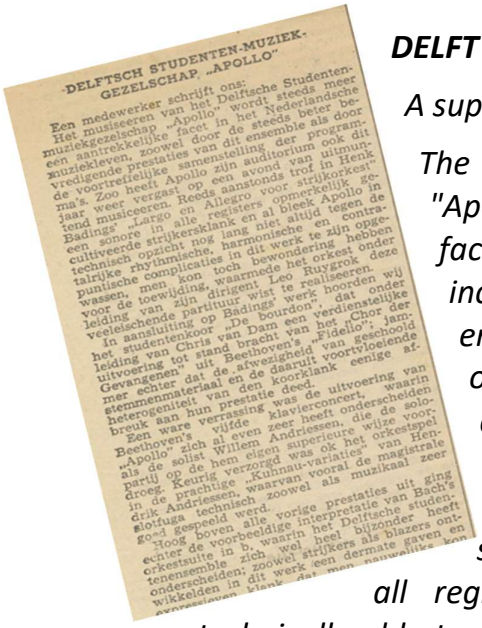


Photo: *Hans and Hank (middle couple) at the Apollo Ball*


DELFTSCH STUDENTEN-MUZIEK-GEZELSCHAP „APOLLO"

Een medewerker schrijft ons:

Het musiceeren van het Delftsche Studenten-muziekgezelschap „Apollo" wordt steeds meer een aantrekkelijk facet in het Nederlandsche muzieklleven, zoowel door de steeds beter verdiegende prestaties van dit ensemble als door de voortreffelijke samenstelling der programma's. Zoo heeft Apollo zijn auditorium uitmuntend weer vergast op een avond van uitmuntend musiceeren. Reeds aanstonds trof in Henk Badings' „Largo en Allegro voor strijkorkest" een sonore strijkersklank en al bleek Apollo in alle registers nog niet altijd tegen de cultiveerde strijkersklank en al bleek Apollo in technisch opzicht nog lang niet altijd tegen de talrijke rhythmische, harmonische en contrapuntische complicaties in dit werk te zijn opgewassen, men kon toch bewondering hebben voor de toewijding, waarmede het Ruygrok deze veleischende partituur wist te realiseeren. In aansluiting op Badings' werk hoorden wij het studentenkoor „De bourdon", hoorden wij leiding van Chris van Dam een verdienstelijke uitvoering tot stand brachten van Beethoven's „Gevangenen" uit „Fidelio"; jammer echter dat de afwezigheid van geschoold stemmenmateriaal en de daaruit voortvloeiende heterogeniteit van den koorklank eenige afbreuk aan hun prestatie deed.

Zeer ware verrassing was de uitvoering van Beethoven's vijfde klavierconcert, waarin „Apollo" zich al even Andriessen, die solopartij op de hem eigen superieure wijze voordroeg. Keurig verzorgd was ook het orkestspel in de prachtige „Kuhnau-variaties" van Hendrik Andriessen, waarvan vooral de magistrale slotfuga technisch zoowel als muzikaal zeer goed gespeeld werd.

Hoog boven alle vorige prestaties uit ging echter de voorbeeldige interpretatie van Bach's orkestsuite in b, waarin het Delftsche studenten-ensemble zich wel bijzonder heeft onderscheiden; zoowel de blazers als strijkers gaven een wikkelden in dit werk een dermate gaven en

DELFT STUDENT MUSIC CLUB- "APOLLO"

A supporter ("medewerker") wrote to us:

The music-making of the Delft Student Music Club "Apollo" is becoming a more and more attractive facet in Dutch musical life, both because of the increasingly satisfying performances of this ensemble and because of the excellent composition of the programs. In this way, Apollo has once again treated its audience to an evening of excellent music. Starting with Henk Badings "Largo and Allegro for string orchestra", the sonorous strings sounded remarkably cultivated in all registers and although Apollo was not always technically able to cope with the numerous rhythmic, harmonic and contrapuntal complications in this work, they could be admired for the dedication with which the orchestra managed to realize this demanding score under the direction of its conductor Leo Ruygrok.

Following Badings' work we heard the student choir "De bourdon", which under Chris van Dam's direction brought about a meritorious performance of the

"Chorus of the Prisoners" from Beethoven's "Fidelio"; it is a pity, however, that the absence of skilled voices and the resulting heterogeneity of the choral sound did some harm to their performance.

A real surprise was the performance of Beethoven's fifth piano concerto, in which "Apollo" distinguished itself as much as the soloist Willem Andriessen, who performed the solo part in his own superior way. The orchestra also, performed the "Kuhnau-variations" of Hendrik Andriessen beautifully, of which especially the magisterial final fugue was played very well technically as well as musically.

Above all these previous achievements, however, was the exemplary interpretation of Bach's 'orchestral suite in b', in which the Delft student ensemble distinguished themselves in a very special way; both strings and wind players developed in this work such a gift and expressive sound that it was hard to believe that amateurs were at work here.

Especially the introductory notes and the fugue that follows were played in a manner that could withstand rigorous criticism, partly a result of the orchestra's skill but also the stylistic approach.

Leo Ruygrok who has discharged this difficult task with admirable certainty deserves special praise; the student orchestra are very fortunate with their devoted and expert conductor, without whose leadership such surprising results would ever have been obtained.

The enthusiastic audience, especially after Bach's suite, was very appreciative and rewarded the brave "Apollo" and its energetic leader with a warm and long-lasting applause.

The concert started with the traditional student song, which, with the beautiful harmonization of Leo Ruygrok, can be described by the students with pride as "the Delft Io vivat".[78]



Photo: *Hans playing cello, at the age of about 10 or 11*

Not a bad rap really!

Hans first started playing the cello at about the age of ten. Later he would tell his children that he really wanted to play piano, but both his brothers were doing that, so as a child he was directed toward another instrument. In Hans's later life, his 60s or 70s, he started learning the piano, but became very frustrated with it as he wanted to play perfectly, immediately!

[78] The "Io vivat" is sung on solemn occasions and as a greeting. It's a general term. (src: Wikipedia.nl)

Hank thought it was a pretty good night too:



Letter: *from Hank (Emmalaan 5) to Hans (Oude Delft 15)*

15 March 1940

Dear Hans,

I just wanted to thank you for the great party (fijne feest), that's now almost a week ago. I had a fantastic time.

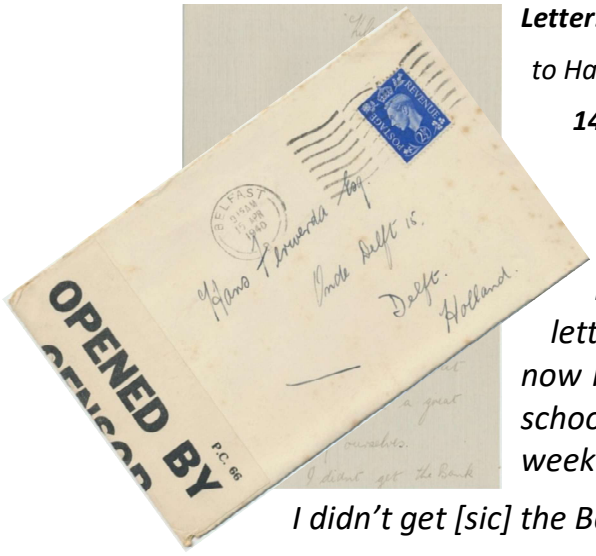
The orchids look beautiful in the low "floating" vase (drijfschaal) and we've been able to enjoy them all week, something I didn't imagine.

I'm disappointed I was not home on Monday afternoon. I had ridden by bike to Velsen[79] with a girlfriend. On the return journey we made a huge detour and were caught by a heavy downpour coming home sopping wet. I'm enjoying of course my free time with plenty of time for sleeping in[80].

Now Hans, I'll end here, warm greetings Hank

News from Belfast

Hans must have written a letter to his friend Kenneth after the Apollo Ball and got this reply: Note the Censor's tape on the envelope:



Letter: *from Kenneth of Kilger, Jordanstown, Belfast*

to Hans, Oude Delft 15, Delft

14 April 1940

Dear Hans,

Please forgive my tardiness in answering your letter. The Easter holidays have come and gone and now I am back at school again. I had a boy friend from school staying with me at Easter and we had a great week amusing ourselves.

I didn't get [sic] the Bank exam. Twelve out of ninety-six people got in.

Next October I go to Queen's University in Belfast to study for my Bachelor of Arts degree. It will take me at least three years to obtain this and it also means work. But I mean to get the degree as soon as possible.

[79] North of Haarlem on the North Sea Canal; east of Ijmuiden
[80] Furthur evidence of no study or work.

When I get it, if the war is over, I will try to get into the Colonial Service, if not I shall join up. I am sure you had a great time motoring in the southern part of the Netherlands, and I do hope you had good weather and no accidents.

You say that you will be called up for medical examination in the summer. I hope that the state will have no cause to requisition your services. In Ireland we join up if we want to, but it is chiefly the people of Ulster who become members of His Majesties forces, although many men from the southern counties have joined up also.

I'm sure you had a great time at the concert and ball with your girlfriend. I am sure she must be very very nice indeed, but don't be running away and getting married…

Mommy and Daddy and indeed all whom you met, ask to be reminded to you. Kindly pay my respects to your father and mother.

So, cheerio, Yours Ever, Kenneth

PS:

I showed a snap of you to a friend of mine, a young lady, and she thought you a very handsome young man. Too bad you're so far away, isn't it?

The Mobilization

Although the torpedoing of most neutral ships and bombing from planes continues regularly, the war takes on a much sharper focus, England and France lay mines in the North Sea in order to prevent the flow of iron ore from that country to Germany.

The Germans attempt an invasion of Scandinavia, because according to them, the English, by laying mines in the North Sea waters, have violated the neutrality of Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The raid occurred immediately after the laying of the mines, even a child can understand that the Germans had prepared for this for a long time. The Allies, England and France declare that they will help Norway. Denmark has promised loyalty to Germany. A British army is on its way to Norway.

South of Norway since last night the biggest sea battle has been raging, which has ever been delivered. Hundreds of English and German ships were thrown into battle and innumerable airplanes took part in the battle.

Churchill announced in the House of Commons that in the North Sea and in the Northern waters fierce fighting is going on, with about eighteen German and four British ships sunk.

The war reports are so confused and contradictory that there are no facts to be told and

only when there is something definitive announced will there be anything written. One party says Narvik[81] is still in its hands and the English talk of conquering this place. There is fierce fighting on Norwegian territory and along its coast.

[19 April] In the Netherlands, martial law is declared.

Kenneth mentions in his letter that Hans will be called up for medical examination for the Netherlands Army. It appears Hans will also have to enlist.

As we know, Hans' older brother Koo had already been called up. This is an extract from Koo's Story (1990s):

After his studies he became an assistant at the Leiden Observatory (1 July 1939 - 1 Jan1940 and 1 Oct 1940 – 30 Sep 1941.

This was interrupted by the mobilization:

From 29 Aug 1939 he was placed at the Artillery Measurement Department and located in, amongst other places, "the bunkers under the Grebbeberg". At that time, he was first lieutenant.



Photo: *Koo in uniform, December, 1939*

A lighter moment during military training was caught on movie camera by Koo:

"Images of military sports competitions held in Driebergen at the Hudighuis[82] on April 30, 1940." [83]

There are the usual sports such as running, and pole vaulting, but there was also a bike race that involved manipulating an inner tube around the bike and the rider and other related antics. Quite amusing!

This Sports Day occurred only days before Germany attacked the Netherlands.

[81] Northern coast of Norway

[82] A large home/guesthouse in a bush setting, just outside Utrecht

[83] Src: https://www.oorlogsbronnen.nl/bronnen?term=Ferwerda,Jun2021; src: Nederlands Instituut Militaire Historie-; the Archive is dated 1 Jan 1940

Germany Attacks

Queen Wilhelmina and nine cabinet ministers leave for London and form a government-in exile.

Dutch forces surrender after the bombing of Rotterdam.[84]

In May 1940, the worst fears of the Dutch, were realised, the Netherlands was attacked by Germany.

The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg at war with Germany, which unexpectedly invades these countries. Germany is waging war with the most barbaric methods. German soldiers in Dutch soldier's uniforms are lowered by parachute, which of course results in casualties. Our soldiers luckily quickly understood what was happening.

At various places in the Netherlands and Belgium, persistent fighting is taking place. All this is proof that the Germans are wordbreakers because two days earlier Hitler had declared that the neutrality of these countries would be respected. France and England come to the assistance of the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.

70 German airplanes have already been shot down at Delfzijl[85] on the first day.

At Boxtel[86] and Waalhaven[87] there is fierce fighting.

All houses must darken at night so no light may radiate outwards. In the evening after 8 o'clock no one is allowed to go out on the street except in extreme necessity. In the event of an air alarm, anyone on the street should seek cover either in shelters, porches or houses.

In the Netherlands there is fierce fighting at Rhenen[88] and Rotterdam. Rotterdam for a large part is destroyed. One speaks of ten thousand deaths among the civilian population.

The foregoing has given the government reason to surrender.

The "Battle of Grebbeberg", near Rhenen, was a defensive battle against the Germans in May 1940, which the Dutch lost. Was Koo there then? We don't know. But, the company, vH&B, were still working on strengthening the Grebbe Line, and "received enemy fire firsthand" (Stiksma, 1982) [89]. The battles on most fronts lasted just a few days before Rotterdam was heavily bombed on May 14th, 1940. The Germans then threatened to bomb Utrecht if the Dutch didn't surrender. They surrendered.

Koo survived, and no vH&B employees were lost, although there were heavy

[84] B.J. Flim (2004)
[85] Harbour on the northern coast of Groningin,
[86] In Brabant, province in the south of the Netherlands
[87] Port of Rotterdam, including the airport, which was completely destroyed; vH&B were involved in the building of the Maastunnel at that time
[88] On the Rhine, at the southern end of the GrebbeLine. Just to the west lies the Grebbeberg
[89] Stiksma, Kees (1982), Bewoonbaar voor de mens- 150 jaar van Hattum & Blankevoort ie Liveable for the People – 150 years of van Hattum & Blankevoort

losses, and many soldiers were arrested by the Germans and became POWs, for a couple of days or weeks and then released.

The conscripted Delft students were deployed to reclaim Ypenburg airport, one of three airfields close to The Hague, after the German paratroopers had landed on them with the intention of taking the city. The Dutch held The Hague, till The Netherlands surrendered. Six students died during the attacks (three at Ypenburg). The student soldiers were imprisoned in Rotterdam overnight and then released by the Germans and told to 'resume study immediately'[90].

During the German bombing, the house of Piet Blankevoort's sister-in-law Cornelia Klaver and her sisters, at Noordsingel 89 in Rotterdam, was bombed, they barely survived. And "*after 10 days of living in fear*", Piet was greatly relieved to get news from his children and families who had fled to Belgium.

[90] Five confusing Years (2005)

GERMAN OCCUPATION BEGINS

Start of German occupation…Hitler sets up a civilian administration led by Dr. A. Seyss-Inquart as Reichskommissar.

The Secretaries-General of the Dutch ministries continue functioning under him.[91]

The Germans occupy the Netherlands, and they have nothing more to say.

The German Summer Time must be introduced, so that our clocks must be advanced by 1 hour 40 minutes at midnight.

In Germany, their hunger is being satisfied with our foodstuffs and is paid for with scraps of paper, which will soon be declared worthless.

Now it is Belgium's turn to be partially destroyed. Huge numbers of dead again. Also, two days before, Belgium's neutrality would not be violated, but Germany always claims that the English had previously violated it. Wordbreakers again. A "stick to strike the dog" is easily found.

Belgium also had to give up. The King has proposed an armistice without the approval of his ministers. No one can stand up to "half a world" of murderers. How long will France be able to hold out?

England does help, but of course keeps in mind its own safety.

The Rector of TU Delft, Rector Veraat, who is "*very strongly anti-German*" flees to England and is succeeded by chemist C. J. van Nieuwenburg who apparently "*foresees a flourishing period for technical science*"! [92]

Also, twelve hundred refugees from bombed-out Rotterdam are housed in the TU, Delft and the German Wehrmacht requisitions several other buildings at the University.

Conscription (for the Netherlands Army) was no longer relevant, and Hans remained in Delft studying.

Here's an account of that time from the perspective of the Delft Student Union[93]:

> *"Of great concern was the possibility that the Phoenix Society (building) would be requisitioned, resulting in the DSC losing its home.*
>
> *While much attention was being paid to what happened around the*

[91] B.J. Flim (2004)
[92] Five confusing Years (2005)
[93] DSC125 (1973)

globe, DSC members would gather at the Society. Day and night during the war, many students were present at the Society in order to be readily available during urgent events; club and sherry evenings offered a cheerful space to relax. The activities of the student members were primarily aimed at providing civil aviation protection services, patrol services and observational posts, and the setup and organization of the evacuation stations for Rotterdam refugees, of which various members were involved throughout the summer months.

The attitude the DSC would adopt against the occupation of our country was not yet clear. It would be a journey in the dark along a road full of difficulties. Everyone agreed on one thing, cooperation was the only way to achieve something. The Dutch Student Federation originated from this. Its task was to establish a link between government and students, without affecting the integrity of existing associations, by furthering study interests, press, sports, work camps, reconstruction and support for the specific needs of women ('girls interests')."

Immediately after the Dutch surrendered vH&B was affected by the requisitioning of the dredging fleet by the Germans [94]. Much of the company's work was in Public Infrastructure projects i.e. government contracts. So, one can imagine, urgent discussions were had:

During the years of occupation, many contractors refused to willingly become entangled in conflicts of conscience but were forced to through tyranny. Defences needed to be built along the coast and along vital communication lines[95]. Often under great pressure they succumbed to blackmail and threats from the ruthless occupiers.

Van Hattum and Blankevoort also became acquainted with these pressure methods. The fact that the company kept its 'blazoen' (name) unstained is mainly due to the personal courage of Ir. J. H. Telders, the 'stadhouder' or Head of the company. There was the determined will not to work for the enemy, at the expense of personal freedom. With the consent of both families[96], a policy was drawn up in private, from which there is no deviation.

However, there were also coincidental circumstances which indemnify the company against collaboration. There were numerous works in progress or planned for the near future, which, in the opinion of the occupying power, must also proceed.

[94] Stiksma (1982)
[95] The Germans 'needed' these defences
[96] vH&B originated from two family businesses

The occupier's economic interests play a significant role here, in which those of the food supply come first. The Noordoost polder is a striking example of this. [97]

Expect to hear more about the Noordoost polder (Northeast polder) as it plays an important role in this story. Other projects that found favour included the digging of the Twente Canal, port improvements in Delfzijl, a fibre factory and other works near Arnhem, a new lock near Dedemsvaart and the biggest project, the Maastunnel, an under-river tunnel linking the left and right banks of the Maas River at Rotterdam[98].

The Netherlands remained under German Occupation for the next five years.



Photo: *Arrival of German Troops at the Grote Markt in Haarlem. The steps of the Town Hall can be seen in the background.*
This is where a much happier event occurred 5 years later - Hank and Hans wedding.[99]

Five days later, on the 19th of May 1940 was Hank's eighteenth birthday…

Various foods, shoes, textiles, etc., are rationed.

First clandestine bulletins are circulated.[100]

The great battle between the Allies with Germany is continuing in bitter anger. There are many deaths on both sides.

Now we must start eating "war bread". Sugar is rationed, bread ditto. Petroleum only available for people who do not have gas and do not cook electrically. No light is allowed to be seen coming from the house, in the evenings. All street traffic is forbidden from sunset to sunrise.

We have become slaves of Germany in the fullest sense of the word. People seem ill-natured, and all our food goes to Germany, and we are soon suffering from hunger. Dutch people are annoyed. We are really being tyrannized. Everybody will drop pounds and pounds in weight per week and clothes will have to be taken in as a result.

[97] Stiksma (1982)
[98] Piet Blankevoort's son-in-law Niek Blankevoort (Wim's father) was the Project Manager for the MaasTunnel, and also a Director of the Blankevoort side of vH&B
[99] Photo source - Bloemendaal WW2 Website, accessed 2021
[100] Flim(2004)

Radio Oranje[101]

July28 - Queen Wilhelmina inaugurates Radio Oranje in London[102].



To the annoyance of the Germans, a royal voice comes across the radio waves. The BBC gives the Dutch Queen 15 minutes a day, at 9 pm, to broadcast news to her people. Queen Wilhelmina opens Radio Oranje with a speech.

Photo: *Queen Wilhelmina src: Wikipedia*

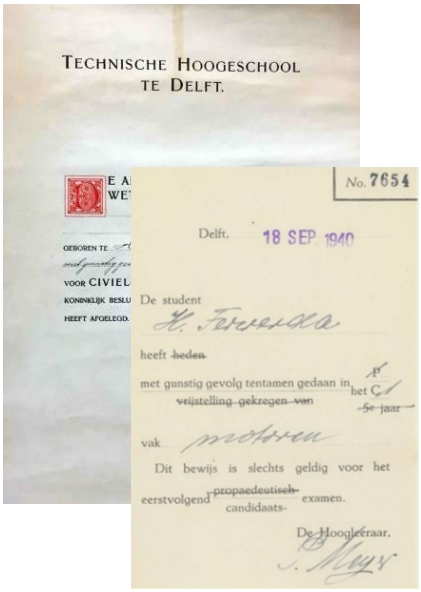
The Queen ends her speech with:

> *"I urge my compatriots in the homeland and wherever they are, no matter how difficult the times, to continue to trust in the final victory of our cause, which is not only strong by the power of arms, but also by the realization that [the fight against evil] is now our most sacred of values."*[103]

Since 4 June, there had already been a ban on listening to foreign, non-German channels in the Netherlands. However most Dutch people have ignored this threat and many listen to Radio Oranje.[104]

Although the Netherlands was under German occupation life went on almost normally for a while, and Hank and Hans were able to go sailing!

On July 29, 1940, Hans receives his certificate for completion of the first two years of study ("Propaedeutic"[105] Exams for Civil Engineer). On the following day Piet Blankevoort records in his diary: "*W. Blankevoort, the son of Janny and Niek, passed his 'candidates' exam for Civil Engineering*".


TECHNISCHE HOOGESCHOOL
TE DELFT.

No. 7654

Delft, 18 SEP 1940

De student

heeft ~~heden~~

met gunstig gevolg tentamen gedaan in het C
~~vrijstelling gekregen van~~ ~~5e jaar~~

vak motoren

Dit bewijs is slechts geldig voor het eerstvolgend ~~propaedeutisch~~ candidaats- examen.

De Hoogleraar,

Hans studied during the summer break and received this document saying he's passed "Motors" or Mechanics in September 1940 a step closer to the Final exams.

[101] Radio Orange
[102] Flim (2004)
[103] Translated from wikipedia nl
[104] Bloemendaal WW2 Website, accessed 2021
[105] Propaedeutic- after successful completion of two years; Candidates – after successful completion of a further 2 years & you get the title – Ir. Ingenieur ; One can do a further year, presumably a specialisation, similar to a Masters level



Photos: *Sailing on the Ibbe[106] (of Heeg) owned by a Pieter Blankevoort[107]; In the photo bottom left we can see Lelie Schoen to the left of Hans, and Wim Blankevoort to the right; not sure who the blond man is leaning on the life-buoy, but it could be Aat Nolke From top left: (clockwise): Hank on the bow; Hans relaxing; The Ibbe; Hans at the helm; Maintenance; Hank and Hans.*

[106] A typical shallow bottom yacht with side keels
[107] Which Piet Blankevoort? prossibly Hank's uncle the dentist

Hank is about to commence studies at the Amsterdam Housekeeping School, originally setup in 1891. The school's objective was to train girls in being "efficient and responsible housekeepers, servants and housekeeping teachers". Not quite what Hank had originally hoped to pursue. Nor something she chose later in life to talk about.

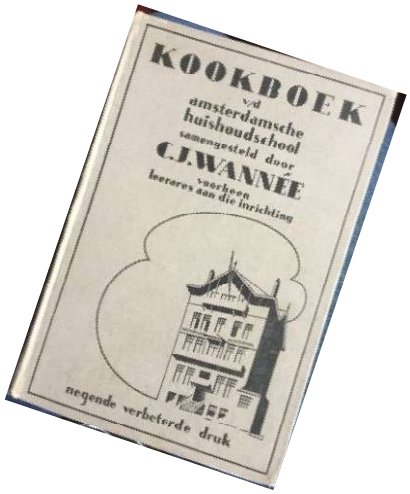


Image: *Hank's cooking textbook (9th edition). This book continued to be published with improvements till its 27th edition [the image on the front cover is of the school - Amsterdamsche Huishoudschool, Zandpad 5, next to the Vondelpark]*

All Jewish newspapers are closed down. In August 1940, only one official Jewish paper is allowed to be published.

The College of Secretaries-General is instructed not to appoint any Jews to the civil service.[108]

Meanwhile, we have become slaves of Germany. Most Dutch laws are turned off and new laws are imposed on us by the Germans.

Foreign radio messages may not be listened to under penalty of *f*100,000 fine or (and) 3 years imprisonment. Every day there are Dutch victims.

Whoever gets caught saying an unfriendly word about the Germans goes to jail for many months.

Almost no food is available. All over Europe now, everything is rationed, and people get too much to die, and too little to stay healthy.

Butter is almost gone; tea and coffee is scant. Clothing and fabric on points, soap on coupons, and almost nothing is available. It is a hopeless situation.

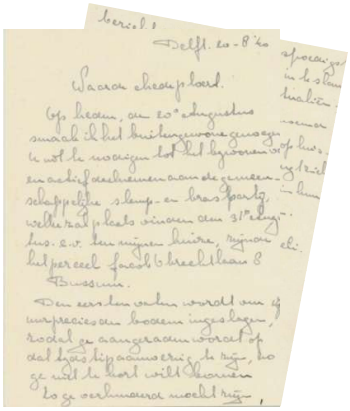
England and Germany bombard each other every night and often air battles over Dutch territory, so that almost everyone here is startled in their sleep.

[108] Flim (2004)

An Apollo Club engagement

In August 1940, Hans had his 23rd birthday.

It was still possible to get most things, but gradually more and more essentials were rationed. This is obvious from the following invitation from one of Hans' Appollo Club mates:



Invitation: *from Piet, Delft*

To Hans and friends

20 Aug 1940

Worthy gents,

Today, August 20th, I feel an extraordinary pleasure in inviting you to attend and actively participate in the communal feast/revelry and brass party[109], to take place on August 31st, at my house, namely at Jacob Utrechtslaan 8 Bussum.

The first cask will be opened at 8 o'clock, you are advised to be present by then, so you don't miss out.

If you are unable to attend, please notify me soon, so we can take that into account when ordering food and spirits.

The cause for this bacchanal will also be there and we rejoice in sharing this important moment with you.

Nei No Granbambouli[110]

The invitation was to celebrate Piet and Anneke's engagement.



The Menu

Salmon salad

Queen's soup[111]

Veal, carrots and princess beans

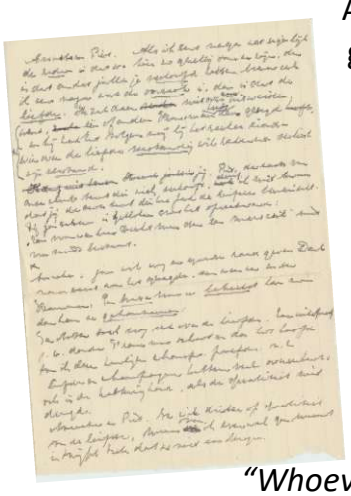
Mocca tart

Fruit

Dessert

[109] D: de gemeenschappelijke slemp en bras party
[110] Nei No Granbambouli – I think this is an orchestral reference, maybe he's the bandleader
[111] Chicken soup

We have some notes made by Hans for the occasion, a little tongue-in-cheek:



Anneke and Piet. If I think of the reason for this friendly gathering, it is because you have become engaged. But if I consider the cause, then it is for love.

Although you are the first in our club to get engaged, Piet, I dare not suggest that you are the first one who walks the path of love.

In your case it turns out that the proverb: "*A woman's hair attracts more strongly than a main-sail*" exists for a reason.

I don't intend to expand on this, as one or other Frenchman once said:

"Whoever wants to reason wisely about love, loses their mind"[112]

Anneke, I'd like now to give you some advice. Think again about the saying by another Frenchman:

"A loyal woman pleases (retains)[113] *her husband by obeying him"*

Finally just a little bit more about love. A saying of a third Frenchman came to mind when I tasted some expensive and delicious champagne:

"Love and champagne have much in common; also, in the hangover if the quality is not good"[114]

Anneke and Piet. A toast to the quality of your love; of which I am in no doubt is good!

Dutch SS is founded by Anton Mussert, the leader of the NSB (National Socialist Movement)[115].

Meanwhile, Germany continues to regulate everything here. Everything, foodstuffs, fuel, textiles, in one word, everything is rationed, and each one is assigned a portion of the whole, so that suffering cold over the winter is a certainty and we will get just enough food so we don't die from hunger.

The NSBers[116] are just as brutal in their actions as the German occupiers.

It is gradually looking bleaker in the world. Bombing of Germany and England fills the air.

In the evening after ten o'clock no one should be on the street anymore. Anyone who gets caught goes to prison.

[112] By Boufless?. According to Hans Ferwerda (1917-2003)
[113] A double entendre, in Dutch
[114] By Sirius, according to Hans Ferwerda (1917-2003)
[115] Flim(2004)
[116] Members of the Dutch Nazi Party- National Socialist Movement in the Netherlands

On the 1st of October all Dutch people must possess a proof of identity with photo. All inhabitants of the … coastal strip [from Wadden islands North Holland to Zeeland-Flanders], the entire Province of South Holland and part of the Province of North Brabant must also be provided with a passport photo and proof of identity on 1st Oct. 1940. For the remaining occupied territory, the check will be on 1st Nov. 1940.

Fuel is allocated in such a way that anyone who has not stocked up early enough will be very likely to suffer the winter cold.

Last night England bombed several places in Germany and Germany the same in England. The anti-aircraft guns and the overflying, cost us a night's rest.

Are you ok in Belfast?

In late August Hans sent a message via the Netherlands Red Cross to his friend Kenneth (Neely) in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I presume this was the only way to communicate with someone outside of the Netherlands.

The message reads:

> *Hope all in good condition. We all well. Eldest brother demobilized. No connection with other one. Passed my exam. Best wishes for you and family.*

I imagine Hans had been hoping for a letter from Bert for his birthday earlier in August.

The message was received apparently six weeks later in October 1940, when Kenneth replies:

> *Congratulations. We are well and very pleased to hear from you again. Hope you are all keeping fit. Best wishes for you and family.*

Kenneth's reply took nearly five months!

Aryan Declaration

Government employees must sign a so-called Aryan Declaration, declaring that they are not Jewish.

Dutch Reformed Church protests Aryan Declaration.[117]

The German occupiers implement the "Aryan Declaration", which all civil servants had to submit by 26th October 1940, stating whether they were Jewish or not. Anyone with a Jewish grandparent was considered Jewish. This information was then used to dismiss these people from their work.

I imagine Georg, Hans' father, would have been required to sign this, as he worked for Haarlem's Local Government. Also, all University staff were

[117] Flim, 2004

affected.

For clarity, the Dutch government had been replaced by the Reichskommissariat[118], headed by Austrian nazi Arthur-Seyss-Inquart, who now implemented the new "policies" via the existing Dutch public service, and through the Mayors of each Local Government. In 1940 there were about 925 Mayors across the Netherlands. Gradually many, but not all, were replaced by largely pro-German Mayors, including many hard-line NSBers.

In Haarlem this happened in March 1941. I wonder what this meant for Georg…[119]

It has now come to the point that everything is only available to a very limited extent; everything is rationed, except drinking water and air.

Haarlem was heavily bombed last week. It is said that the English have done it, but 90% of the population know better. Ir C. Blankevoort (Kees) who lives in the Florapark[120] has suffered a little; some of his windows were blown out. The bombardment destroyed a garage on the Houtplein, some houses in a few working-class neighbourhoods and a factory on the Spaarne. Every night bombing of German and English cities and the thunder of the anti-aircraft guns fills the air.

It is becoming increasingly clear that famine is likely, whether it is in Belgium, France, or in the Netherlands or in all three. Everything is being plundered by the Germans, even the treasury. The German occupation is said to cost us a few million guilders each day. The taxes will soon become unbearable. It is predicted or hinted at that it will go to half of one's income.

A heavy blast in the dunes made our houses shake on their foundations. It was so close that some large shop windows flew into splinters in the Dorpstraat in Bloemendaal and Overveen. At our house, all the windows and doors rattled.

In the first days of November four students from Bloemendaal and Haarlem were sentenced to heavy detention because of sabotage. They had, out of stupidity or thoughtlessness, cut or pulled apart an electrical cable. If this was not enough, their parents were then informed that they would have to pay f3.50 for each student per day.

[118] Wikipedia - Reichskommissariat (English: Reich Commissariat) is the German word for a type of administrative entity headed by a government official known as a Reichskommissar (English: Reich Commissioner).
[119] I haven't found anything about Georg's experience; but I can imagine it was far from comfortable essentially working for the "Reich"
[120] Road or area in Haarlem

Tragic News from Tjimahi





Tot onze diepe droefheid vernamen wij, dat in Ned.-Indië op 20 September jl. is overleden onze lieve Zoon en Broeder,

GIJSBERT GEORG FERWERDA,

Landbouwkundig Ingenieur, oud 27 jaar.

Haarlem, Kleverparkweg 116,
J. G. FERWERDA.
B. C. FERWERDA—
ADVOKAAT.

Leiden,
J. G. FERWERDA.

Delft,
H. FERWERDA.

Eenige kennisgeving.

Photo: ***(left)*** *Gijsbert (Bert) Georg Ferwerda, 7 June 1913, Haarlem – 20 Sept 1940, Tjimahi, West Java*

(right) *Notice of Bert's death*

Sadly, on 20 September 1940, Hans' brother, Bert, died at the age of 27, a great tragedy for the Ferwerda family. He died from typhoid fever in Tjimahi, West Java, Indonesia (close to the hill town of Bandung), also the location of a Dutch Army Base; presumably he was there for military training. This was before Japan invaded.

It must have taken a few weeks for the sad news to get through to the family, as the death notice in the "Algemeene Dagblad" did not appear till the 11th November.

Hank never actually met Bert as he was already in Java by the time she and Hans met. I, personally, don't remember Hans talking about Bert, but Hank, has said that Bert's death affected him deeply. We're lucky to have the letters we have as they give us a glimpse of Bert.

STUDENT PROTESTS

Government employees who are Jewish are removed from their posts on German orders.

Protests at Universities of Leiden[121] and Delft.[122]



The Technical University in Delft is closed by the Germans from late November 1940-April 1941, Hans had a month or so earlier returned to Delft for his third year of studies; and had just attended the "Club 2" dinner on 4th November.

From the Delft Student Union[123]:

> *"In the last month of 1940, due to intervention by the occupying forces a few events took place, which had a catastrophic impact on our convivial social life[124]. On the 22nd of November rumours circulated that all Jewish professors would be fired. Anger amongst the students was great.*

According to the Delft University Remembrance Book, written soon after the war, in 1947[125]:

> *"Our first point of connection to the history of the Delft resistance is the student strike of November 1940: the first visible act of a group of some significance, after the surrender of the Dutch armed forces in May 1940. In Leiden this strike was initiated by some professors, who clearly saw what was happening; in Delft it was nothing like that! Instead of having a clear view of the national significance of this spontaneous reaction to the dismissal of the "non-Aryan" lecturers, the Academic Senate, by a large majority, did everything it could to prevent what it deemed "a*

[121] This would also have affected Koo as he was then studying for a PhD in Astronomy and Mathematics in Leiden
[122] Flim (2004)
[123] DSC125 (1973),
[124] D: gezellig – the best Dutch word ever – describing a convivial, friendly warm, comfortable social atmosphere
[125] Delft University Remembrance Book (1947) - Gedenkboek, Delft - van het verzet der delftsche studenten en docenten gedurede de Jaren, 1940-1945 (1947)

disaster".

The strike began with the students, continued with the students and was ended by the students: as punishment the University was closed by the occupying authorities. This was the end of the initial phase of the struggle; confidence in the professors was understandably at a low point.

The "resignation" of Jewish professors was declared on Friday, 22 November 1940 and there was an immediate response from the Delft student body:

… the opinion within several groups was that the student world had to respond to this gross injustice. The following morning a large crowd streamed into the building for Road and Hydraulic engineering, where Prof. Mr. A. C. Josephus Jitta was giving his last class…

The colleagues of Prof. Jitta blocked the doorway, so that hundreds of students were gathered in the hallways and stairwells, most engaged in busy discussions. A nervous professor tried to move the crowd along in a loud voice, without success. At that moment [the student], Van Hasselt, standing high on the stairs, took the floor. He exposed the great injustice that had occurred in a few very sensible words.

He was the first to speak words that had remained unspoken but reflected people's feelings: that the occupier would err on injustice, to exploit the Dutch people as slaves. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness", that was his theme. This deeply impressed everyone.

The following Monday and Tuesday, the 3000 students at the Technical Higher School went on strike. The club members in Delft were prepared; they had already contacted each other in the previous days. The many students coming by train and others who'd not yet heard were informed by students waiting at the station and the access roads to the city.

Everyone was quickly back at their desks and sitting very quietly when the Occupier sent a détachement marechaussée [a detachment of troops] to Delft a few hours later "to restore order", but there was nothing happening. On Tuesday, the strike continued and on Wednesday, the occupier closed the Technical University as a punitive measure.[126]

In Leiden, over two-thirds of the students had signed a petition to the occupiers to not fire their Jewish professors and went on strike[127].

The student response had made the Germans nervous and a few weeks later, in

[126] Delft University Remembrance Book (1947
[127] Five confusing Years (2005)

Delft:

> *Suddenly, indeed unexpectedly, the Sicherheitsdienst (SS) struck:*
>
> *On Wednesday, 18 December 1940, a "Commando team" raided the [Phoenix] Society and well-known student houses. It was a tumultuous day, and many prominent students were subjected to interrogation, the Phoenix Society building was seized[128] and one house (Oude Delft 81) cleared. The SS were looking for the organizer ("Drahtzieher") of the strike, which had taken place a full month ago. It was a good tactic because, during the month, the strikers' vigilance had diminished; all student leaders were living quietly in Delft.*
>
> *Nevertheless, the SS was unable to find a single thread of evidence, for the simple reason that the strike was not organized from a particular centre and there was no "Drahtzieher". Interrogation went on for a full day; in the evening at seven o'clock, all detainees were released, except four. Those four were the first Delft students, who arrived at the "Orange Hotel" in Scheveningen - there would be many more...*
>
> *These first four prisoners, however, were arrested to intimidate, and were released again two weeks later.[129]*

The University was closed but organisational networks, which had been set up by mid-1940 kept students in contact with each other locally and nationally. These underground student networks enabled students to continue their studies to some degree, but also later became essential to student resistance.

In all German-occupied countries, the food scarcity becomes dire. If you present your meat vouchers, you usually get nothing. Processed meats, ditto; groceries slightly better.

Many prominent people are betrayed by NSBers and are sent to Germany to work there or to end up in the concentration camps. Schools are used for housing German soldiers.

Not a day goes by without new regulations being made. There are already so many that I will not mention them.

I will also not write about the conditions anymore unless something very special happens. Later on, enough will be printed and published and one will probably know some truth.

All Jews have to register. Everyone over the age of fourteen is issued an identity card; Jews have a large J stamped on it.[130]

The university is still closed, and the German focus is on the Jewish population

[128] After the closure of the Society, social life moved to Delft's pubs, mainly 't Noorden [Jan Garos], Overgaag [Tante Mina] and later to Koot. The association and the clubs, especially 'Laga', played an important role. DSC125, 1973

[129] Delft University Remembrance Book (1947

[130] Flim (2004)

in a big way, including the exclusion of Jewish students from universities from the beginning of the next academic year.

It has been freezing cold for the last ten or so days, about 4- 16°F, ice-skating is on again and competitions are being held everywhere.

Because of the lack of fuel, and food shortages, most large municipalities have started to provide warm food to the poor and needy: For the former, a serving cost 13 cents and for the less needy 25 cents.

Hank claims Hans was a very good skater. This is evidenced by the fact that he completed the 52 km skate called the "Molen en Meren tocht" or the "Windmills and Lakes Tour" held near Zaandam on the 1st of January 1941. (see next page)

General Strikes

WA[131] incites clashes in Jewish area of Amsterdam. A WA member is killed

Germans establish a Jewish Council for Amsterdam.

In reprisal for clashes, approximately 400 young Jews are imprisoned and sent to Buchenwald and Mauthausen. This causes great public indignation.

General strike in Amsterdam as a protest.

Waffen-SS takes severe measures to suppress "February strike."[132]

As a protest against the requirement for young men to work in Germany and the persecution madness against Jews, a general strike took place in Amsterdam and other large cities in North Holland.

The following day the German government orders strikers to resume work or heavy sentences would be handed out. The population of these cities are now no longer allowed to leave the house after seven thirty, in the evening.

According to official notices, 6 persons were killed in the fight against the strikers and several people were wounded more, or less seriously. In Zaandam, all Jews were loaded like beasts into trucks and transported to Schoorl and Bergen (NH). What these people already suffer and will continue to suffer, will be (and is) most shocking as to be unspeakable.

A fine of 15 million guilders has been imposed on Amsterdam because a strike has broken out at many companies there. Could it be any crazier?

Eighteen civilians were sentenced to death on charges of terror, sabotage and spying and were today executed by bullet. (14 March 1941)

Our butcher 'van der Ham' has not been assigned any meat in 8 weeks for one or other distribution violation.

[131] Weerafdeling, Combat section of the NSB
[132] Flim (2004)



Photos: *The third Windmills and Lakes tour, 1941.*
I think Hans is the man on the left in the photo top-right, it's definitely his nose?!

Creation of Zentralstelle fur Jüdische Auswanderung

(Bureau for Jewish Emigration).[133]

First issue of joodsche Weekblad ("Jewish Weekly"), which announces all measures against Jews.

Delft University Reopens

After 4 months the university is suddenly reopened.

The occupier had been negotiating with the Rector Magnificus (the Academic Head) who in turn had been attempting to get the student body to agree essentially to no further disruption, but that agreement could not be reached.

> *The fact that the student representatives refused to commit to the University administration's demands was very understandable: since May 1940 it became clearer and clearer there was a broad gap in opinion between the University and those of the students. The strike was considered by the University as an irresponsible, insincere act: the professors proved unwilling to sign a protest against the dismissal of their Jewish colleagues. The small group of professors, who held a different attitude, had little influence on the course of events…*
>
> *This debate was presented in two ways: from the side of the University as "the desire to go back to university as soon as possible" and from the leading students as "the desire to study, but not at the expense of bowing to the Germans"…*
>
> *Although the conditions imposed by the Germans for the reopening of the University were not fulfilled, the Reichscommissaris suddenly announced in April 1941 to the Rector that the Technical University could be reopened…*
>
> *So, the University was reopened, while organizational Delft remained; the study networks and the Central Committee, the Delft Female Students Association, and a series of sports and cultural fraternities escaped the occupier's attention."[134]*

The Delft University library opened again on 31st March 1941, and classes started again two weeks later. Six students are arrested for wearing orange ribbons and some others are reprimanded because they did not want to sit next to the NSB member Alofs, during lectures. There are about forty NSB students in Delft[135].

[133] Flim (2004)
[134] Delft University Remembrance Book (1947
[135] Five confusing Years (2005)

Could this card (see below) refer to a party to celebrate the reopening of the University? I think so.… This was, if all had gone smoothly, very close to the end of Wim and Aat's study in Delft. The university reopening would enable them to complete their studies.

It appears someone has access to plenty of booze! Was it Hans? Or Wim? Hans' Opa Ferwerda worked in the company Ferwerda & Tieman, wine and spirit merchants. Maybe the family still had links there…? or someone raided the family bar cupboard?



Letter:

from Hans and Wim Blankevoort

to Aat Nolke

2 April 1941

Dear Aat,

Here's something that will wet your lips…for the celebration we have the following list of drinks that will be available for pouring down your throat:

Cocktails[136], maraschino(?), crème de cacao, triplexe(?) port, vermouth, advocaat, aquarol supericus(?), cognac, whisky, spiritwater, milk, bouillon and soda water.



You'll definitely be able to make a good cocktail from those. Of solid substances ("vaste-substantie"[137]) there'll also be plenty.



We'll be catching the train from Delft to The Hague at quarter to six,.You can definitely go there via Dordrecht. If you arrive before quarter to six, then come to Burgwal 16 (10 mins from the station). If you're later then you can go straight to the Warang Djawa (shortest trip on line 8 or 9 to the Lange Houtstraat)

[136] D: Bouil

[137] I presume this means food?

Those in Haarlem, are catching the 5:30 pm train.

Can you write this to Wil, too? Don't bring your own butter but maybe some sugar. Same goes for Wil.

Greetings from Wim and Hans

Sounds like they were in for a big and maybe rather expensive night…

Food starts to become frighteningly scarce. No more cheese. 500g of meat and bacon, must last for about 10 days; the bread is of an insubstantial quality. Good potatoes do not exist anymore. Textiles go on points, and the number is such that you can at best get a suit or a coat.

It's almost impossible to get anything with the coupons, you usually hear, "sold out" from suppliers.

It's a miserable situation, and famine is imminent for people if they haven't been able to stock up on anything extra.

The potatoes are now rationed. Each person receives the small quantity of 1 ¾ kg per week or ¼ kg per day. For us enough, but for good eaters far too little. It is said that in connection with this we will receive some extra rice.

The duration of the coupons has been extended again, so that we can now get a small ration of meat every 14 days, at least if the butcher is sent any.

Shoes can only be obtained if there is an extreme need and after a lot of difficulties have been overcome.

The small rations are being gradually reduced. Some onions are still available on the black market for *f*0.19 each.

In the shops, almost everything is sold out. In some it is obvious from the shop windows, all the boxes are empty. For a good golden rennet (apple) one pays *f*0.30. Nothing could be more expensive.

Today 300 NSBers go to Germany to be 'pressed' into readiness for their roles as Mayor.

The young NSBers (the Dutch) are forced to make a sacrifice for Hitler, and they must go to Germany and, if necessary, to fight. It is said that a lot of them have already been killed.

It is miserable with the food, footwear and fuel.

In the Netherlands the labour service is proclaimed for every young man and woman aged 18 to 20 years.

Rebuilt the stove[138] today, that's already the third time in the last few days. The whole spring has been so cold, that in nature everything is a month behind. The heaters have thus burned almost uninterrupted from mid-October to the end of May.

Yesterday, coal (fuel) coupons were collected. I have been assigned, a first issue of 20 units, we'll see how long that lasts.

It also looks bad for the coming winter. Cigars are already as good as priceless; tobacco is

[138] Rebuild the fire in the stove

also becoming scarce. Tonight, on the radio, a prediction of famine throughout Europe because of lack of shipping trade, resulting in great difficulties for the recovery. Everyone agrees. So, outlook is bad. All of Europe is being plundered by •••. ••••••••[139].

This morning was so cold that most people out on the street were wearing coats

A new tax will be introduced in 1941. Income and capital will be assessed from 1 Jan. 1941 and so runs from January to 31 Dec., not like previously from May to May. This tax takes about half of the person's income, at least for those who have an income of more than f5000 per year. The land tax has also already increased by about 100 percent. A wage tax has already been introduced on 1 January 1941 with effect from •••. In addition, an amount of each person's wage, pension etc. is kept and must be paid to the tax authorities.

The number of legislative changes and new laws and regulations is so numerous that I have not proceeded to write them all. Since 10 May 1940, there's been at least one per day.

German invasion of Russia.

Many Dutch communists are imprisoned.[140]



In July 1941 (after 1 year of study), Hank completed a Diploma of Housekeeping, and at this time enrolled for another year to specialise in Housekeeping in Institutions.

As Hank had her 19th birthday on 19th May, 1941, by continuing to study she was not impacted by the "labour service" order, which required all men and women between 18 and 20 to register for work.

This was meant to be Hans' final year at university. The closure of the University during the second half of his third year would have put him behind, although presumably he was still studying with the support of the student networks. The new University year, however, did not start too well, as the

[139] PB's Diary (1946) –left blank in original…"the bastards" perhaps
[140] Flim (2004)

DSC[141] reports:

> *"Meanwhile, in July, an agent provocateur was killed in Delft. Two DSC members were sought, but neither the dissemination of their photographs, names in the newspapers nor a determined appeal to those who may betray them had any success. So, the Germans turned to arresting several DSC members, suspected accomplices, and making house searches. This continued throughout the war because of this event and of other members' activities. A Special Political Police [Po Po] Unit was stationed in Delft."*

This incident had been preceded by the discovery and arrest of two Delft professors and many students associated with an underground group calling themselves the "Orde Dienst". This was a nationwide organisation "aimed at keeping order and peace, in case the Germans were defeated."[142]. Apparently the 'agent provocateur' had betrayed the Delft branch of this organisation.

> *From that time, the attention of the SS was focused on Delft and in the last days of August many students were arrested and brought to Scheveningen. Searches were held in several well-known student houses. It was an extremely tumultuous time.*
>
> *In September and October, some of the detainees were released again, but Delft was such a breeding ground for anti-German actions that the SS established a division of the Po Po, consisting of three Dutch traitors, in Delft. This triumvirate made the Delft canals unsafe for a very long time.*
>
> *The number of Delft residents, who found themselves in the "Oranjehotel" in Scheveningen in the autumn of 1941, was relatively large…By the spring, almost all these people were transferred to the infamous camp in Amersfoort, where in April the trial against the "Orde Dienst" and the Mekel (Delft) group began.*
>
> *A few weeks later, the judgments were published in the newspapers: almost none of the Delft residents involved in these processes would remain alive. Of those who escaped the death penalty, many died in German camps and prisons; one of those was Van Hasselt.*
>
> *About the same time as these first mass executions, which caused the whole of the Netherlands to wake up, Delft was again hit by the SS: the "Inlichting Dienst" (Intelligence Service) led by the student Van*

[141] DSC125 (1973)
[142] Delft University Remembrance Book (1947):

Hattem[143]'s. (This I. D. group covered the whole country, and many young engineers co-operated, gathering information for the Allies). Once again, many students were detained in the Scheveningen prison and again a series of executions took place.

The two major disasters that had come through these underground activities in Delft did not weaken the resistance spirit; on the contrary.

In fact, they contributed to the improvement of organized underground activity. In 1940 nobody had any experience of "underground activity" nor with the methods of the SS; there was a heavy and bloody cost to be paid for that inexperience over the years 1941 and 1942.

By 1943, the whole of the Netherlands, and in Delft, an "underground technique" had developed that was more resistant to the extremely unfavorable circumstances. The groups became smaller and the work more efficient…

Until the end of the war, hundreds of Delft students, spread across countless organizations, gave their best for the underground struggle to spread throughout the country. That's how it began, and so it was until the end.[144]

Delft does not sound like a safe place for an engineering student, anymore!

The Dutch must surrender all metals such as nickel, copper, tin, etc. to the Germans, except for antique objects, objects of high cultural value and some hard to replace utensils. Dates of submission are already announced in the newspapers.

Bicycle tyres are no longer available, so woe to those who need a new one. A small category of people, for whom a bicycle, cargo bike or such is a necessity of life, can obtain a new one on request.

On the black market you must pay *f*25 for a tyre, for 500g of fat *f*5.25 and for meat *f*3.50.

80% of our harvest and food goes to Germany.

Today a regulation has again been issued, in which the mayors are ordered to elect their aldermen and councillors themselves.

The number of regulations is so numerous that it's hard to keep up with. Every day a new one appears.

Because 80% of all foodstuffs are bought up and taken away by the Germans, it has already come about that there are cities that have been without potatoes for a week. For coffee for a long time there has been nothing except a kind of surrogate. Tea has not been available for weeks and people treat themselves with a dried lime blossom leaf or fig leaf just like Eve.

[143] Johan van Hattem – d.1942 Buchenwald – Is he part of the v. Hattum family involved in v.H&B? Spellings different?

[144] Delft University Remembrance Book (1947):

The potato scarcity adopts frightening proportions. Anyone who can afford to is hoarding them. In the Haarlemmermeer[145] a lot are stolen from the ground.

The young members of the NSB are not out for their own pleasure i.e. they are as good as forced to fight against Russia. Out of fear some of them have already turned away.

Everything is so expensive on the black market. Butter *f*4 per 500g; For a 500g of fat, you pay at least *f*5; for tea *f*12; bicycle tires *f*20; bacon *f*4.50 per 500g but seems to be finished. The eggs are 0.24 each and so everything in proportion. Potatoes *f*18 per bag.

With the coupons we would be able to get by, if the quantities were available from the shopkeepers, usually you hear "Cannot help you".

For milk, a liquid is distributed, to which the cat even turns up its nose. You may convince me of this at a fairground.

Cheese and meat are so scarce that we are made to last on 2 coupons for a whole week

Signs "Forbidden for Jews" appear in parks and other public places[146]

Many regulations have been proclaimed in these past 18 days, too many to mention and some wisdom of old coming from Socrates, I think, who said, *a multitude of laws, is a sign of confusion*.

Nothing would be more expensive compared to before May 1940, than a silly pickled herring. If you were stupid enough, you could pay sixty cents for it, and so everything is proportional. It has now been proclaimed that less bread will be rationed, but more potatoes.

There are already places in the Netherlands where people are fainting with hunger. Those who have no money and no chance to save anything before the winter will face a frightening winter. Butter and fat rations also reduced again. The one egg that could be received each week on the coupons has disappeared from the repertoire. Only those in hospital and the very weak can still be assigned one.

The Mayor of Bloemendaal, who did not want to say "yes" and "amen" to everything from Germany, was sidelined.

This country is as much in the war itself. The Germans have confiscated all the possessions of the House of Orange. Their names may no longer be mentioned in public meetings and any demonstration in support of the House of Orange will be severely punished.

With fuel (for heating) it looks dark for the winter. Gas and electricity are subject to a change in use of 25 (% maybe), that's to say, in view of the economical consumption of the previous year, most consumers run the risk of being heavily fined or cut off from the supply.

In this respect it has now been proclaimed that people, like us, receive only enough fuel to heat one room for the winter. There is still some "except in unforeseen circumstances" and that usually means, "do not count on it."

Because of the scarcity of paper, several newspapers and magazines have been withdrawn

[145] The Haarlemmermeer is a large polder, a former lake, pumped dry in 1852 and now an agricultural area (includes Schiphol airport) – located just to the east of Haarlem
[146] Flim (2004)

from circulation; they must disappear. The Provincial North Holland Courant (Newspaper), which I have read for at least 60 years, also belongs to the “washed up” as well as the ‘Nederland Unie’, which was most likely politically motivated.

A decent smokable cigar is not to be bought for less than 18 cents. Most cigar shops have signs up, saying "Shag, tobacco and cigars sold out". Spirits are also sold out.

The Provincial NH Courant, "de Waterlander" can continue again as it is of regional interest, thus not a municipality concern.

All Jews to be dismissed from their jobs no later than January 31, 1942.

A PhD in the family

Koo was able to complete his studies[147]:

> *On Friday 3 Oct 1941 he defended his dissertation for PhD in mathematics and physics at the Rijks University, in Leiden:*
>
> *"Variable stars in the vicinity of T Sagittarii"*
>
> *At that time in the Netherlands there was not much work for astronomers. He decided to become a teacher in order not to go abroad like many of his colleagues. From 13 December, 1940[148] to September 1941 he taught (mathematics, mechanics) at the Secondary (Girls) High School in Amsterdam.*
>
> *From September 1941 to September 1944 consecutively he taught at the HBS, Amsterdam and the Secondary High School in Haarlem.*
>
> *Since reserve officers were required to report, he spent a large part of the war, 1940-45, in hiding, mainly in Haarlem, Kleverparkweg. Despite this, he was apparently able to teach from time to time.*

[147] Koo’s Story (1990s)
[148] After Leiden University was closed

ENGAGED



Photo: *The happy couple on their engagement*



Photo: *Engagement dinner August 1941 - From front left around the table: Bets, Georg, Hank, Hans, Mientje, Nic, Jeanne, Jet, Tante Riek, Sietske Berkhout[149], Koo, Tante Pauline (De Ronde-Loewer), Dirk. [Noticeably absent is Hank's maternal Opa, Paulus De Ronde[150]]*

[149] Fiancé/girlfriend of Koo

[150] It's possible he was too unwell to travel (have no proof), as he died a few months later; He died in The Hague

Hans and Hank both have a year of study to go. They've known each other nearly two years, and presumably Hans proposed, possibly on his 24th birthday (13 August), as they had a small family dinner to celebrate their engagement on the 18th August 1941 at the Blankevoort home at Emmalaan 5, Haarlem.

Piet Blankevoort attended a separate celebration for the extended family and friends, two months later, on 18th October, 1941; over 150 people attended![151]

> *"Johanna (Hank) Blankevoort, the daughter of nephew Dirk Blankevoort and Mientje de Ronde is officially engaged to Mr. Hans Ferwerda. There were many people at the reception, very convivial and most enjoyable to linger. You could once again lift your spirits with a nice drink and some delicacies."*

A happy moment in a miserable time…

And two weeks later, Piet Blankevoort records:

Wim and fiancé[152] are betrothed today (1 Nov 1941). It is not the intention to marry soon, but is done because only then, can household goods and textiles be assigned, although everything is in short supply and terribly expensive.

The meat available on your ration card usually consists of a tough piece of ox meat. With butter you must stretch your 500g, so that if you use some in the cooking you must eat dry bread. On the black market, previously 500g could be bought, but for exorbitantly high prices. Initially from *f*3 to *f*3.50 per 500g the price has already risen to *f*7.50, for fat/oil they're also already asking *f*7.50, but because of the severe penalties imposed on them, neither sellers nor purchasers dare to get involved. According to the latest regulation, the death penalty can be demanded.

For a lot of items, you have coupons but to get something is a whole process. In most cases you hear "sold out".

The bread gets another composition, making it even less enjoyable and nutritious.

We have not heard anything about the new crop of legumes, or if we will be assigned some, will have to wait and see.

The food supply is getting more and more serious; most shops display empty boxes and are only provided with surrogates. Actually, everything is already surrogate, except for some game, but that is also exorbitant, for a wild duck or rabbit you must pay *f*2.75, for a small measly hare *f*3.75, for a big one, *f*7.50. On the black market, *f*12 is asked for 500g of coffee beans. For a meagre 500g of fat, which cost *f*0.20 in the past, 8 to 9 guilders are already being demanded.

It is still raining regulations. In the absence of fuel and materials, more companies gradually come to a standstill. The situation is desperate.

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on 6 May 1942. He was 83 years old.

[151] We have the signatures of the attendees, over 150 people

[152] Lelie Schoen

Due to lack of fat, we managed to exchange one kg coffee beans for 3kg of fat. We already had a good supply of coffee beans.

The lack of fat, and the need for it, regularly makes you hungry. You could eat all day, partly because the bread is so bad with very little nutrition. Apart from the fact that it consists of inferior substances, very little is allocated so that most people, and we too (our lunch consists of some kind of stew), have switched to using more potatoes.

For the lunch pot, so much is prepared that there is some left for dinner and with a slice of bread, it can be sufficient. The butter portion is so small that most of the bread goes in dry, or thinly invested with a slice of apple.

When the occupiers put out another regulation, in October 1941, this time not allowing Jewish students to be members of university clubs, the students decided to close all the clubs in solidarity with their Jewish colleagues.

7 November, Jews are forbidden to travel or move without a permit.[153]

In mid-November Piet Blankevoort records:

> *It has been announced today that Leiden University will be organized as a people's high school and will of course be fully geared towards the NSB with the swastika out front.*

This event in Leiden may well have prompted the Delft SC to strengthen the underground study networks.

Allies at war with Japan

After Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Allies are at war with Japan.

Germany and Italy declare war on United States.[154]

Snow is still falling, and the temperature remains steadily at 2°F below freezing (30° F).

Most people are suffering from the cold due to lack of fuel, and the suppliers are also without supply because water traffic is hopelessly compromised by congestion due to ice, and road traffic due to the mass of snow that has fallen.

Almost no passenger trains run anymore.

The situation is so horrible and if another such winter must be endured, famine and death from the cold is very likely. The mortality rate is already rising.

The milder temperature has everything at home working again, like faucets, closet and bath. No water damage though. Presumably most freezing occurred at night when everything was drained. The frost seems to return and it's snowing again.

Severe frost and snow again.

[153] Flim (2004)
[154] Flim (2004)

Today, [29 January 1942) at not yet 25 years of age, C. Blankevoort, son of my late brother Willem, passed the exam for civil engineer.

The people have it bad in these times, but the birds no less. No one can keep chickens, because it is no longer possible to get grain. Or if on the black market, both expensive and no good.

The only thing on everyone's mind is: "How can I get some additional food."

All in all, since 8 January we have impassable roads because of the snow and frost. Very few trains are running, and all traffic is hopelessly chaotic. The few trains that still run are always so crowded that you are pressed into them and must make the journey standing. Waiting rooms are unheated and many schools closed by fuel scarcity.

The assignment of fuel is so small that there are already many families, where one arms oneself in the house against the cold with as many clothes as possible.

The snow that thaws away during the daytime is regularly replenished.

Overnight it again froze. 18˚F below (14° F)[155]. During the day 10°F below (22° F) and the roads remain as good as impassable because of the thick snow and ice layer that stays put.

Today, February, 9th, my 79th birthday, was very pleasant The menu was chicken soup, applesauce, peas, potatoes and cake, then a delicious cup of ”coffee Hag”[156], lots of presents and flowers. Presents consisted for the most part of different kinds of home baked treats.

It was only unfortunate that the children living in Breda and Heerlerheide could not be present due to the travel difficulties. Son-in-law W. van Bork, however, faced these difficulties and was at the party. The food was prepared by Miss de Jongh as always very tasty and so that everyone spontaneously sang “Lang zal ze leven”[157] at the table. This happened after Mr. C. had praised her in a poem.

Although the usual pastries were lacking, the bakers could not deliver them, I managed to persuade one of them to deliver something for me, and he has taken on this task in a praiseworthy manner. He delivered a beautiful cake, but we had to supply 18 eggs for it ourselves. Fortunately, we still had some on ice so that this was not a problem.

For eggs they now cost 35 cts each. For hare 13 guilders and chicken 5 guilders. So the dinner was expensive but better than not having it. We all really enjoyed it.

[155] According to wikipedia – “The lowest temperature ever recorded in the Netherlands was −27.4 °C (−17.3 °F) on 27 January 1942 in Winterswijk.”
[156] Decaffeinated coffee. Company originally german but bought by a US company in 1939. During the war, generally only coffee substitutes such as chicory, were available
[157]“Long shall she live” Dutch song sung to celebrate someone

Unemployed Jews sent to work camps. By 1 February, 7000 Jews are working in thirty-seven Dutch work camps.

Jews from the countryside are to be concentrated in Amsterdam.

Wannsee Conference in Berlin formulates practical measures for extermination of European Jewry.[158][159]

Today, February 16th, it has been officially announced from the English side that Singapore has surrendered unconditionally to the Japanese.

Beer sales ceased with the customary excuse: in the interest of the consumer.

During this time a lot of heavy punishments have been handed out by the occupiers, and it rains regulations.

In Amsterdam in the evening at 8 o'clock everything must be closed, shops, restaurants etc. and nobody is allowed on the street. Several people are sent to concentration camps, others must do punishment walks ('wachtlopen')[160], and it is even forbidden to offer these people a cup of coffee or tea against the cold on pain of high fines.

Amsterdam will have to pay 15 million guilders in fines, among other things. The Netherlands is now simply bought out by the occupiers. They even pay 60 guilders for a gold tenner[161]. For them, an easy payment with our Dutch money.

Around this time a man had the courage to offer me a kg of tobacco for the enormous price of *f*25 per 500g, which of course was not accepted. (I only note this to express how some try to enrich themselves at the expense of their fellow human beings.) Sometimes the so-called black marketeers are welcome if they offer something fair for sale, but you must be wary.

After having watched the two chickens the whole winter, that is to say provided for as well as possible, one has shown her gratitude by laying an egg. The first since the beginning of October 1941.

Great thaws during the day, so that the mess on the roads begins to shrink considerably. They have been impassable for over a month now due to frozen snow and ice. Those who venture into the streets without overshoes now come home with their feet wet. Puddles everywhere, which cannot yet sink through the frozen ground.

[158] Flim (2004)

[159] The Final Solution… I doubt this was reported in the Netherlands, at the time, although many were well aware of the brutality towards and deaths of Jews in their local area; they were probably not fully aware, though, of the transportation of Jews essentially to death camps

[160] D: wachtlopen – walk laps around an area as punishment

[161] This refers to Dutch 10 guilder coin made of pure gold. *[Nowadays – 2025 - the value is around € 632]*

Dutch East Indies is being hit hard by the Japanese. They do, however, offer stubborn opposition, especially the Dutch, but Japan is too powerful for them. Everything that can benefit the Japanese is thoroughly destroyed before withdrawing. Many young Dutch people have already perished in torpedoed ships.

To get a half ounce of tobacco, queues of people wait in front of the doors of tobacco and cigar shops. Some of them are already there an hour before the store opens. Many, including the author (PB) have changed over to the surrogate, Alex Meijer Tea, which works well. Better than any other kind.

The Dutch East Indies forces surrender, March 1942.

University closed again

Meanwhile in Delft the University is closed due to fuel shortages. And the Secretary-General Van Dam (of occupied Netherlands) moves to replace the Rector Magnificus, Van Nieuwenburg, because he did nothing to stop the publication of the underground student newspaper "De Oprechte Delftenaar"[162]. He resigns after Van Dam refuses to allow for the centenary celebrations of the university, due on 8th January, 1942[163]. Henk Dorgelo was then appointed.

Several students were arrested in relation to the publication of the newspaper ending up in the Orange Hotel in Scheveningen. After two months they were transferred to camp Amersfoort. This was a major blow to the student network:

> *Of course, this did not mean that it was completely broken…The closed fraternities that the student union had always supported were still meeting; Instead of in the societies, they came together and even managed to include new generations of students. They remained in the background of the activity of individual students even though they officially disappeared from the scene. The close ties, which connected the members, proved very useful use in the practice of underground activity.*[164]

It is still raining regulations. It is incomprehensible; how is it possible that the Germans can keep a handle on them all.

It starts to become critical with foodstuffs and all other domestic necessities, there is almost nothing left to buy. Some inedible potatoes, a little spinach, some chicory and bunches of radishes.

Outside of the rationing there is still something to buy, although there are great dangers associated with it, the punishments are very heavy. In severe cases the death penalty

[162] "The True Delft"- A newsletter produced by and for the students; only the one issue was produced, 20 December 1941; the intent was to keep the student body informed & to convince those students sitting on the fence to commit to the resistance efforts against the occupier
[163] Five confusing Years (2005)
[164] Delft University Remembrance Book (1947)

awaits. Of some surrogates the shopkeepers are already sold out.

On the black market, dizzying prices are currently being asked. For tobacco *f*45 per 500g, cigars f0.45 each, fat that was usually only bought by workmen/laborers for *f*0.35 per 500g, now costs *f*11 per 500g, smoked bacon *f*20 and so everything is in proportion.

For a mud[165] (about 70 kg) of wheat/flour you must pay out *f*190. For me it was too expensive. Have a little bit and will keep it for next winter.

The weather is now better and improving. Now and then a little rain and lots of sunshine. Once 80° F. registered in the shade.

As of this date, all Jews older than six are required to wear a yellow Star of David on their clothing.

Jews forced to hand over all assets and possessions valued at more than 250 guilders to bank in Amsterdam.



Wedding Season

Piet Blankevoort has a happy distraction:

> *The daily activities in connection with the upcoming wedding of Wim and Lelie Schoen have made me forget the registration of important events*
>
> *Had dinner with the Schoen-Keg family in connection with the marriage registration day of their daughter Lelie and Wim Blankevoort.*
>
> *The same evening there was the so-called institution for the young. It was a very noisy night party. Due to a ban on being on the street after 12 o'clock, the party started in the evening at half past nine until 5 o'clock in the morning.*
>
> *Reception at the home of the Schoen family and then dinner with her mother, called Oma Schoen by all.*
>
> *Wedding day, 21 May, of Lelie and Wim, celebrated with a lot of splendour. The marriage was ecclesiastically consecrated by the Lutheran Zaandam-based minister Ds. Steenbeek. Huge crowd in the church. No place unoccupied. This was followed by a dinner at the house of Mr and Mrs Schoen-Keg, where it was very pleasant. The bride and groom then went somewhere, unknown to us.*

And Piet also records:

> *Wil Schoen[166] and Aat Nolke[167] were married in the period 13-27 May.*

[165] D: mud ; 100 litres or about 70 kg [not used anymore]
[166] I don't know if Lelie and Wil are related

Went to the church and to the reception.

Hans and Hank were both nearing the end of their studies. I wonder whether they were planning to marry after that. I presume they attended both weddings[168].

The shooting of innocent civilians is the order of the day. Once even 72 at a time.

It's called 'reprisal' for cases of sabotage, enmity against the Germans and attacks on the Wehrmacht.

There is almost nothing left to get. In other years around this time plenty of asparagus, now everything is bought up for the Wehrmacht. They are fattened from our pennies. It is starting to look desperate.

2900 Dutch officers, midshipmen and cadets have been called in to register in various cities. When that had taken place, they were loaded into rail wagons and transported to Austria. Without being able to take anything or even say goodbye to women, children and relatives.

We have an even worse life than the former slaves. As good as anything is forbidden with the warning of severe punishments. No one feels safe.

Planted some brown beans and green beans in the garden. Can get some radish and cress from the garden every day for us. This for vitamin supplementation.

As usual no vegetables, potatoes or fruit for sale. There are peaches though, but for a rotten one you pay one guilder.

In relation to the ration system, the 827th press release has been published today. Add to that the hundreds of regulations and then you can deduce how chaotic it is in the Netherlands nowadays.

Publication of the signed treaty between England and Russia, with approval of America.

Vegetables and potatoes are extremely scarce, usually nothing for sale. From all the localities in the vicinity, people try to get in with the growers. Usually, one is stopped by inspectors and then you lose everything that you have managed to obtain after a lot of trouble, and you get an official report on the purchase.

German administration notifies the Jewish Council that deportations will begin.[169]

May 1942 marks two years of German Occupation. These two years were shocking for the Jewish population and other targeted groups; and bad enough for the Dutch, but much worse was to come.

[167] Another of Hans's good friends
[168] but there's no record found in The Collection (1938-1950) or Memories (1980s) as at 2022
[169] Flim (2004)

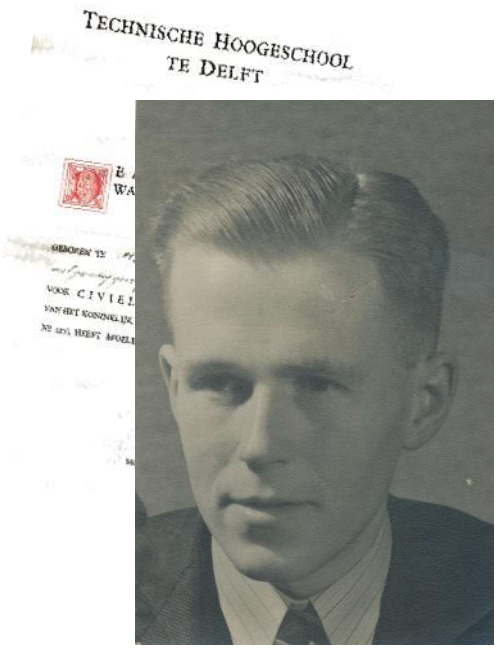
GRADUATIONS

Ir. H. Ferwerda

According to this certificate Hans completes his studies in Civil Engineering in July 1942. He can now call himself Ingenieur (Ir.) H. Ferwerda. However, he remains in Delft till at least February 1943.

Does he still need to formally complete some study? Was he extending his studies further, or was he there helping younger students? Or perhaps it was a way of flying under the radar?

We don't have the answer to those questions…not yet, anyway.



Photo/Image: *Hans, and his Certificate for his Candidates Exam in Civil Engineering, in Road and Hydraulic engineering.*

Supervision of Westerbork transit camp taken over by SS

First 1,000 call-up notices to report to the Zentralstelle für Jüdische Auswanderung[170] sent out.

First trainload of Jews from Amsterdam to Westerbork. From there deportations to Auschwitz follow.

Spontaneous actions by students in Utrecht and Amsterdam to hide Jewish children and find foster homes for them.

All construction works must be stopped. The ulterior motive is to create unemployed construction workers, who are then forced to work in Germany. The story in Germany is that they come voluntarily; however those who do not want to go receive no support and their families are left to starve.

Boys of 16 years old, who have or had two German grandparents, are already being called by the Germans[171]. Of 200 who were asked if they wanted to go voluntarily, only 19

[170] Central Office for Jewish Emigration

[171] Hans & Koo's great grandfather Johan George Sillmann was german, I wonder whether that added to their

answered in the affirmative. When the others were asked why they did not want to go voluntarily, most of them answered that they were still too young to leave home to go so far, some that their parents did not like it. The German response, "*Parents have no say in this*".

The vegetable scarcity is improving. It seems to be 'growing' weather again.

You can get almost anything you want to eat again. However, everything is outrageously expensive, including fish, the price almost impossible to imagine. For 500g of plaice[172] you must count out *f*2.25, for 2 weever (fish) or sting-fish[173], *f*2.00. The black-market trade is being revived but punished so severely by fines that people who dare to take the risk ask prices which most people cannot or do not wish to pay. For a bicycle tyre you must pay 50 and 60 guilders. For 500g of beef fat *f*12.50.

Our neighbour Mr. D. Flemming, at half past five this morning, was taken away as a hostage by the German Wehrmacht. Out of revenge for sabotage committed here and there, at least that's what's claimed. Whether it is true? In any case, Mr. Flemming is not aware of any guilt towards the Germans. Imagine that!

The bicycles of all male residents in the Netherlands are claimed by the occupation army. Caught out riding then you've lost your bike. There is also a house search. By staying away from the street and stashing the bike away somewhere, you have the most chance of retaining them. Our bikes are still very cosy in the shed. They are both rather tatty but are precious possessions.

Rain and wind. All vegetables in the garden were blown over and soaked. Fruits do not stay on the trees much anymore.

Today blankets are requisitioned, and there seems to be a similar collection for sewing machines, vacuum cleaners and excess water pipes.

Officially it has now been announced, and the order issued, to requisition metal objects, including memorials, church bells, parts of buildings, rollers, milk cans, beer pipes and brewing kettles; Business premises of alcohol factories; Business and furnishing components of cafes, companies which provide meals and housing companies, the same as washing machines, letter metal, music moulds, petrol stations, electric conduits as far as they are not within buildings, if these objects are entirely or predominantly of copper, lead, tin, nickel or of alloys thereof.

That the tax screw is regularly tightened, everyone will have personally experienced, especially immediately after the beginning of the war, and it is reaching a crescendo. Proof? In the first 4 months of 1941 the tax raised 350 million guilders and in 1942 in the same 4 months 479 million.

A small fire in a messy shed near the garage of the army (wehrmacht). As a result, a penalty now has to be paid by the City of Bloemendaal and we, the residents, may not be out on the streets after 10 pm for the next 4 months. Of course, it is not investigated for example whether a drunken soldier has thrown away a cigarette butt. Everything is called sabotage.

At a train derailment in Rotterdam, five hostages shot dead because the perpetrator has not

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anxiety
[172] D: Schol
[173] D: Pieterman

been found, even after a 100,000-guilder reward was offered. Five innocent prominent citizens without any form of trial shot dead.

The way in which the Jews are expelled is more than inhumane, it's barbaric. There have been bloodbaths.

In other years at this time, we have plenty of vegetables, fruit and tomatoes, so that some even ended up in the compost. Now there is as good as nothing. Yesterday even no tomatoes.

The sun is relentless. A fuel trader said to me "For my part, if only it stayed like this until March!" This is typical of the miserable situation we're in as an occupied territory.

It is generally expected that the war will end in September at the latest in October of this year, others say, it will take years.

The Amsterdam and Utrecht students care for 70-80 Jewish children hidden in several places in the Netherlands, but mostly in the city of Utrecht.

Police in Amsterdam ordered to pick up Jews at their homes, take some of them to the Hollandsche Schouwburg[174], and hold them there for transport to Westerbork.[175]

Several male residents must walk for punishment again for 4 weeks, which means that they have to walk at night and during the day I think 7 hours near Kraantje Lek[176], as punishment for a lorry that accidentally broke a telephone wire of the German army.

Today again as good as no vegetables available, a bunch of carrots and endive and some cabbage. Of fruit only some unripe pears available.

An English bomber hits an oil tank near the gas plant in Haarlem. The consequence of this is that we are now devoid of gas, which is not fun for the cooking, but luckily, we can get our pot ready at Vijverweg 10, using electricity.

Attended the 25-year-wedding anniversary reception for Mr. and Mrs Schoen.

Dutch workers must go to Germany to work there. For the time being, first those who were born between 1 October and 31 December 1924.[177]

It has now come to the point that every person can get 1/4 litre of skimmed milk and must be satisfied with 1/4 litre buttermilk; and despite a good fruiting year, there's nothing to buy. Occasionally a stewing apple. With fuel it looks dismal too. It looks like it will only be 5 hl (hectolitres). In comparison, I regularly arranged 50 to 52 hl for other winters.

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[174] Originally, the Hollandsche Schouwburg was a Dutch theatre, but it was deemed as a Jewish theatre in 1941 by Nazi occupiers and it was later used as a deportation centre during the Holocaust.
[175] Flim (2004)
[176] Kraantje Lek translated means "Leaking Tap"; In the 1960s a popular café/restaurant to eat pancakes/crepes; on the edge of the natural dune area west of Haarlem. The name "Kraantje Lek' has stayed in my memory maybe we ate pancakes there in the 1960s!
[177] Hank's brother Nic was born 22 April 1924, phew!

Housekeeper Hank!

Hank completes her studies in Institutional Housekeeping on 5 October 1942, just a few months after Hans.


GETUIGSCHRIFT

UITGEREIKT INGEVOLGE ART. 29 DER NIJVERHEIDSONDERWIJSWET AAN

JOHANNA E. BLANKEVOORT.

GEBOREN DEN 10 MEI 1922. TE OVERVEEN.

ALS BEWIJS DAT ZIJ DE OPLEIDING

TOT HUISHOUDSTER IN INRICHTINGEN AAN DE AMSTERDAMSCHE HUISHOUDSCHO

(ZANDPAD 5), MET GOEDEN UITSLAG HEEFT GEVOLGD.

AMSTERDAM, DEN 5 OCTOBER 1942.

NAMENS HET BESTUUR:

HANDTEEKENING VAN DE LEERLINGE.

DE DIRECTRICE.



Photo/Image: *Hank and her Certificate in Institutional Housekeeping*

I imagine they would be planning to marry, but this doesn't happen!

The NV[178] group takes its first Jewish children to South Limburg.

Day-care centre opposite the Hollandsche Schouwburg is transformed into round-the-clock child-care centre for children of Jews imprisoned in the Schouwburg.[179]

Stalingrad still stands up against the harsh German attacks, but Stalin urges the allies that a so-called second front will be formed on mainland Europe.

The southern part of Limburg heavily bombed by the English. The Maurits mine is so damaged, that a few months will pass before it returns its ordinary quantum of coal. The villages near this mine have also suffered a lot. Burning so much that assistance was requested everywhere, even Aachen. Unfortunately, many people's lives are regrettably lost. Son Klaas in Heerlerheide thought it was very close.

Went to Vijverweg 10, to congratulate my son-in-law Niek on his birthday. The scarcity of things was clearly shown with smoking, no cigars were offered.

Stalingrad still stands. Hitler claims that further penetration does not make sense; he is satisfied with what's been achieved. That is fortunate for him; the reality is that it costs too many soldiers. The German occupation authorities are urging all countries on the mainland, to send workers to Germany. The Frenchman Laval received for example an order to send 130,000 men as soon as possible. The newspapers are teeming with threats against young people who do not volunteer for the labour service in Germany. One of them is, if you do

[178] 'Naamloze Vennootschap' – Amsterdam group hiding Jewish children
[179] Flim (2004)

not go, then you will be made unemployed.

Poland has been told to hand over 130 thousand cows to Germany.

Today we picked the apples and pears. The harvest was better than expected. When it was clear that there was a storm on the horizon, I picked everything off, although the stewing pears and apples could have been left for a few more days. It happened to be nice dry weather, but I'd hardly got everything inside when there was a huge downpour.

Stalingrad has not fallen yet. The Germans are still shooting, but the defence holds for the large part.

The people of Bloemendaal are punished again for breakage in the cable of the German forces. The punishment consists of 4 months of walking laps (wachtlopen), in turns. Most citizens are not allowed on the street after eight o'clock in the evening for the next four months.

This measure does not apply to NSB members. Also, not for the Wehrmacht. The non-NSB people are regarded as dirty rubbish, with which you can do with whatever comes into their heads.

Apart from these punishments, Bloemendaal was fined 1 million guilders. No trifle for this small community.

In Delft, the University has again been closed, this time due to a lack of heating fuel. Hans is presumably still living in Delft and commuting to Haarlem from time to time. Here's a description of this period from *DSC125 (1973)*:

> *"In October 1942, the Study committee, which organized festivities such as orientation week and the Delft children's Saint Nicolaas celebration (5 Dec), had settled for Friday night gatherings, on a room at the Koot[180], where until February 1943 the members gathered and came to meet with the newly enrolled students [NAS] of the years 1941 and 1942.*
>
> *1941 was characterized with great activity by the Germans [against the students], however 1942 began very calmly, as the occupier had his hands full of difficulties in the east. Everything remained quiet until December 1942.*
>
> *… Following the closure of the Technical University due to lack of coal, the networks began to work at full force…*

Bloemendaal Evacuations

Unfortunately, the evacuation is starting to take on a firmer form. At Ijmuiden everything is already in full swing. In the newspaper of 13 November, it also indicates, the South-Western part of Bloemendaal and its residents must be moved before 30 Nov. Their suffering cannot be fathomed.

[180] One of the cafes/bars in Delft

The Evacuation that Piet refers to occurred all along the Atlantic coasts of Norway, Netherlands, Belgium and France. This is part of the German Defense Program. Houses are evacuated and demolished to build the so-called Atlantic Wall – a series of highly fortified defense structures, built with the help of a redirected Dutch labour force. Bloemendaal becomes part of this program due to its location behind the dunes on the Atlantic coast.

Ijmuiden is the main North Sea port (at this time destroyed) connected to Amsterdam by the North Sea canal; and it's just to the northeast of Bloemendaal and Haarlem. To the east of Ijmuiden is the town of Beverwijk where the office of the van Hattum branch of vH&B is located; so, close to the port area, where the dredging fleet would normally be docked.

The umpteenth ordinance has been announced, determining that the German government finds it a pity to use their bullets and therefore will no longer shoot any subsequent saboteurs or those who commit crimes against the German Reich. But in most countries people are still being shot daily.

Several members of the Utrecht Children's Committee set fire to student administration of the University of Utrecht in order to sabotage impending Arbeítseínsatz.

National Organization for Assistance to those in Hiding (LO) established.[181]

Today 9th December, Haarlem has been punished because 2 soldiers of the occupation army drowned…The punishment consists of walking laps along the canals in the evening at 6 o'clock, for 6 hours.

In these preceding days, there was absolutely nothing for sale, no meat, no bacon, no butter, no vegetables or cake and no fish. Only fish sausage. I have not dared to go there. Reminds me a bit of mussels.

The government has seized all the turkeys, so only the occupiers and Moffrika[182] will enjoy this delicacy at Christmas and we, the lovers of Christmas turkey are lucky to nibble on the leg bones.

This seizure has resulted in the price of farmed rabbits increasing dramatically; one already speaks of *f*5 per 500g; clean, wild rabbits cannot be obtained at all. Fortunately, I have ordered a farmed rabbit in advance and hope it will be delivered.

Delft Students to Germany

In December of 1942, in Delft, a rumour is circulating:

> *"… that 6000 Dutch students would be sent to Germany for practical work. It was clear to everyone what this so-called practical work would*

[181] Flim (2004)
[182] Mof is an abuse for a German , which was mainly used in the West Netherlands , North Brabant and Flanders [Wikipedia, August 2018], so Moffrika means Germany

include. The Rector-Magnificus (Academic Head) supported the Senate, (the Lecturers) who were strongly against the measures proscribed by Van Dam[183], and they also recommended that the occupying authorities drop these measures."[184]

Till now, under the occupation students were exempt from being sent to Germany for work. We have some photos of a Ferwerda family gathering in December 1942, probably Christmas, not the cheeriest affair.



Photo: *Ferwerda family, December 1942*
Back row: Georg, unk, unk, unk, unk
Middle row: Netti Bosma (oom Jan's wife), Oom Jan (Bets' brother), Bets, Cor Kranendonk (oom Kees's wife), Oom Kees (Bets' brother), Tante Riek (Bets' sister)
Front row: Koo, unk cousin, unk cousin (probably Henk), Hank, Hans, unk cousin

During the 3 days of Christmas, the barometer remains unchanged for good weather. Still, it gradually gets colder, so that at present in the evening its already 4˚F below freezing (28°F)

[183] the secretary-general of the Department of Education, Science and Culture
[184] DSC125 (1973)



Photo: *Same group at dinner, December 1942*

First Jews taken to Vught concentration camp.[185]

A security service will be set up by the German government against sabotage.

England is bombing Berlin.

The evacuation [from Ijmuiden] is in full swing. Whoever does not need to leave for the time being receives evacuees; and then must leave sometime later as well, leaving the house entirely to the evacuees. Here and there the empty houses are being demolished and the remaining ones set on fire, so that nothing remains but debris.

The whole of the Netherlands is impoverished and unhappy.

The fourth year of the war has now arrived, and the Bloemendaal WW2 website suggests:

> *There are bright spots in the war. Germany was defeated at Stalingrad. The Allies are advancing further and further, although this is only step by step, but there is hope.*

[185] Flim 2004

KINDJESHAVEN

This slip of paper (Temporary Rail Pass) relates to a period when Hank is working voluntarily at Kindjeshaven, Prins Hendriklaan 4, Utrecht. Without this document Hans could be arrested.

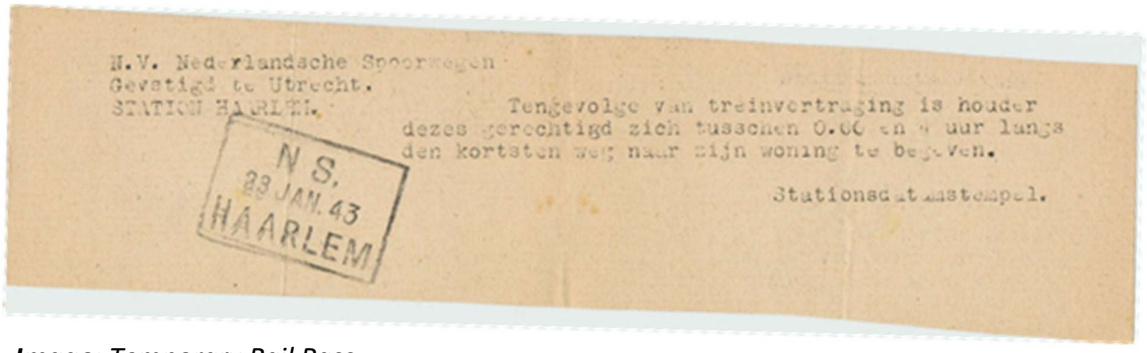


Image: *Temporary Rail Pass*

1943 Jan 23

Netherlands Railways [N.V. Nederlandse Spoorwegen]

Originating from Utrecht,
STATION HAARLEM

"As a consequence of train delay, the holder is entitled to between 0.00 and 4 Hours to go by the shortest way home"

[Date stamped by the Haarlem Station Master]

Kindjeshaven, a children's home (mainly for babies and toddlers), was an integral part of the resistance network for saving Jewish children. It became part of the network during the second half of 1942. Hank's School friend, Jet, worked there and was Hank's "foot in the door". The child-care centre had been operating since October 1940 and was set up by Truitje, a law student in Utrecht and a former member of the board of the Utrecht Women Students Association[186].

Below is an article about Truitje, written 50 years after the war (April 1995) by Maarten Venderbosch[187]:

Utrecht honours resistance hero with silver city medal
'TANTE TRUI' SAVED 150 JEWISH BABIES

The Utrecht City silver medal is in her lap. Trui van Lier is eighty years old.

[186] Flim (2004)
[187] Probably in a Utrecht newspaper, I believe it was in *The Collection (1938-1950)*

The war is fifty years behind her. She is pleased that the city in which she was born and raised, has publicly honored her for the fact that during the occupation she saved at least 150 Jewish babies and toddlers.

"I've never sought recognition or anything," she says. It was never about that. It was about the kids, nothing else. But on the other hand, it's fantastic that my city thanks me along the way for what I did in those years."



They called her 'Tante Truitje'. She ran the childcare centre, 'Kindjeshaven' at the Prins HendrikLaan, along with her friend, Jet van Berlekom[188], who now lives in Canada. Trui van Lier ensured that her nursery was half filled with Jewish babies and toddlers.

They came from Amsterdam mainly. Resistance men delivered the kids to Trui. The Utrecht student movement played an important role. Often, these were the children of Jewish parents who had been picked up. Under the occupier's eye, Trui van Lier offered the toddlers shelter; Sometimes for a month, sometimes for a year, until a safer address was found to hide them somewhere else....

During the early thirties, Trui van Lier had already heard of the atrocities against Jews from Jewish refugees coming from Germany.

"I did not want to believe that the Nazis gave no pardon to Jewish children either. Now what did toddlers have to do with it? Then I planned to start Kindjeshaven as soon as the situation was looking bad for them, here".

Sometimes Tante Truitje would walk hand-in-hand with Jewish toddlers out in the street. Confronted by the occupier, she held stubbornly that they were non-Jewish children. She supported these children herself from the inheritance she received after the death of her mother in 1936.

Her biggest asset in fooling the Germans was the Ortskommandant she says. She accidentally discovered that he took on the guardianship of children who were conceived by Dutch women and fathered by German soldiers." So, whenever the Germans came to Kindjeshaven and wanted

[188] Hank's school friend, who was half-Jewish, brave woman hiding in plain sight

to take alleged Jewish babies, I always said, 'If you do, then I want you to take all the children. Then I'll stop. And don't forget to ask permission from the Ortskommandant, because he is the guardian.' When they heard that, they usually left. They weren't up for that."

Trui van Lier suspects there were those who knew the true face of Kindjeshaven, also some Germans, but no one talked about it. The occupier was regularly on the front doorstep of her nursery but left again empty-handed.

So, Hans visited Hank while she was working there as a volunteer and on at least one occasion had to hide in the bathroom when the SS turned up. Hank left the bathroom just as they walked in, so it looked like it was empty and wasn't searched. He had to hide; otherwise, he could be arrested and sent off to Germany to work.[189]

We don't know exactly how long Hank worked here but it seems she worked there for a few weeks or months over three different periods; and, it was certainly the most significant work, in her view, that she did during the occupation.

Hank's recollection:

Then my friend Jet and Truitje (a qualified childcare worker) set up a children's home in which to hide and protect Jewish children. They needed extra help when they had an accident on their bikes, and I was asked if I would come and help…

None of the staff except the Directress were qualified child carers or had any experience. Some of the children we were looking after were Jewish. They were being hidden in the center, so the staff had to be on alert for raids or checks by the Nazis. I particularly remember the twins, Judith and Deborah. They were given Dutch names – Joekie and Deetje. Being Jewish the twins were told by the Directress of the children's home (Truitje) that they had to keep the fact that they were Jewish a secret and to tell people that they had an Italian father and French mother if they were asked, as they didn't look Dutch. They were only about 5 or 6 years of age. One day Deetje came and sat very close to me and said "I've got a secret" and then shut up as she thought better of it. I knew but didn't say anything as we weren't allowed to talk about it. I really felt for those children.

[189] Pers. comm. Hank and Hans, well-known family story

Blankevoort brothers arrested

Despite the wild wind the English and the Americans bombed Berlin, just when Goebbels and Goering addressed the population. On the night of 30th January, they bombed Hamburg and the Rhineland.

Today, Sunday evening a car with loudspeaker drives through the street and proclaims that in the evening after 7 o'clock the population is not allowed to be out on the street, there must also be 'wachtlopen', night and day. According to reports, a German soldier was killed in the vicinity of the Stoopsbad[190] and a grenade was thrown through the window of the mayor's house in Haarlem.

Early this morning (early February) Ir. C. Blankevoort Wz and the dentist P. Blankevoort (brothers)[191] were taken away from home, along with others, presumably to be held hostage in Germany, so that the so-called saboteurs are available for the German bullets.

Whether or not sabotage has been committed by the Dutch, will never come to light, it is simply taken as a given. Some assume provocation by the NSBers, for them everything is legal, and they do not need to be inside at 7 o'clock nor to 'wachtlopen'.

It is forbidden for the 'wachtlopers' to talk to the citizens, to stand still, to smoke, to eat or drink and to accept anything from the people.

Ten (10) Dutch people shot by the Germans in the dunes because of an attack on one of the soldiers of the Wehrmacht, at least one assumes that this attack was committed by a Dutchman.

The battle of Stalingrad was won by the Russians [2nd February].

The NSB are installed in the State's leadership with Mussert at the head. NSB employees act as the main leaders in all State services.

We now know, but Piet would not have known at the time, that the 10 Dutch people who were shot in the dunes, had been arrested in the same raid as the Blankevoort brothers.[192].

[190] An indoor swimming pool in the Haarlem area

[191] Cornelis (Kees) and Pieter, the sons of Willem Blankevoort, the older full brother of Piet and Nico (Hank's Opa). Both Kees and Pieter are married and living in Haarlem. Cor was an engineer, I believe a director with vH&B and Pieter was a dentist

[192] Traces of War website – 3246 - Memorial-Executions-Zuid-Kennemerland, accessed 2021

"Two memorial stones … mark the place where on 2 February, 1943 seven citizens from Haarlem and three from Velsen were executed by the occupiers as a retaliatory measure.

The people from Haarlem, including the entire Jewish Council of Haarlem, were part of a group of hundreds of citizens of Haarlem, who in the night of January 31 to February 1, 1943 were taken from their beds and taken hostage. The Velsen residents were among a group of ten citizens from Velsen, who were arrested on 22 January 1943 and, like the Haarlem citizens were transferred to the prison of Haarlem.

The mortal remains of the executed were cremated the same day in the crematorium Driehuis-Westerveld. Almost all surviving members of the Jewish Council of Haarlem were transported to concentration camps immediately after the executions. None of them returned.

The remaining hostages were brought to Vught concentration camp the day after the execution. They returned after three months.

A week after the execution, all Jews living in Haarlem were ordered to move to Amsterdam. This ended, in fact, the Jewish community in this region."

HANS ARRESTED

It is said that an order from Ubercommand has been issued, so that the demolition of houses does not have to continue.

Miserable for the 'wachtlopers'.

Today students at the various universities were taken captive by the Germans.

Suddenly, on the 6 February, the German forces raided campuses across the Netherlands and arrested about 600 students. The night before, members of the resistance group CS-6 had shot the Dutch SS General Seyffardt[193], the head of the "Dutch Legion", responsible for conscripting Dutch men for the Eastern front.

He lived long enough to point the finger at "students"[194].

> *"The rumour that 6,000 students had to be provided for labour conscription in Germany also resulted in the delayed reopening of the Technical University till mid-January. A small number of the students considered Delft too dangerous and sought and found work in Dutch industry or went into hiding.*
>
> *However, most of the students gradually returned to study. On Saturday, February 6, police vans drove to the main buildings of the Technical University. In the building of Mining Engineering, students were warned and escaped through the back door. In the building of Applied Physics, after the building was surrounded, approximately 20 SS men armed with machine guns charged into the lecture theatres. All the students were transported to Scheveningen and from there, after 24 hours, transferred to the concentration camp Vught[195]".*

One of those students rounded up on 6 February 1943 was Hans. In Hans' own words[196]:

> *Sat 6 Feb - Lecture. Professor? [sic]*
>
> *- a half dozen Germans walked into the lecture theatre, one is carrying a typewriter*

[193] Dutch collaborator (NSB) with Nazi Germany
[194] Wikipedia, 6 Feb 1943
[195] DSC125 (1973)
[196] Memories (1980s)

- they sent the prof. to his room

-one by one each of the 20 (?) students must come forward and empty his pockets

- a large brown envelope was marked with each student's name/address/and date of birth and the pocket contents:

> *Ferwerda, Hans, geb. 13.8.1917. in Haarlem*
>
> *wohnhaft in Delft, Burgwal 16.*
>
> *Inhalt. f18.79, - 1 Geldbörse (purse), - 1 Brieftasche (wallet), - 1 Notizbuch, (notebook)*
>
> *1 Schlüsselbund mit 8 Schlüssel (key ring with 8 keys[197]), - 1 Kamm (comb),*
>
> *1 Füllhalter (fountain pen), - 1 Drehbleistift (rotating pencil).*

- after each student had had his turn, the envelopes were taken away and we (students) were marched off to a large van, which brought us to a large enclosed area (possibly a police training area). Here were already more students, some or may be all, from Delft, and during the afternoon more arrived here.

- then we were told to go into the vans again and we were taken to the prison in Scheveningen, which was since the beginning of the war called, rather cynically, the Orange Hotel.

- In the prison we were addressed by a high-ranking German, told not much more than that tomorrow we would travel further. Also, we would be getting a meal, which turned out, was no more than water with macaroni.

- The accommodation was 3 men per cell.

- With the uncertainty of what was going to happen we did not sleep well.

- Next morning again macaroni 'soup'

- a special train took us from Scheveningen to Utrecht where we joined more trains and waited until the afternoon when we went to Vught railway station from where we walked to concentration camp Vught.[198]

[197] Eight keys? That's a lot of keys

[198] Unfortunately, these are the only personal words we have of his time in the concentration camp, except a

The purpose of these arrests was not immediately clear. The students would not have known what triggered the raids. It was widely suspected that this raid was intended to fill the population with fear, and to also use the students as pawns to blackmail other students and people, in general. According to the *DSC125 (1973)*, It "*did not succeed; everyone sympathized with the victims of this terrorist act*."

Meeuwenoord[199] (2014) writes that the Germans responded to the shooting of Seyffardt, as follows:

> *"Himmler[200] responded the same evening to the message of the attack on Seyffardt and ordered Rauter[201] to shoot 50 arbitrary hostages. After consultation between Rauter, Seyss-Inquart[202] and 'Generalkommissar zur besonder Verwendung', Fritz Schmidt[203] decided not to do so for the time being. They would talk further the next day.*
>
> *Before the discussions continued the next morning, 600 students from Wageningen, Amsterdam and Delft were arrested during their lectures on Saturday morning as a reprisal measure. The Popo entered various universities and colleges of higher education, interrupted the lectures and arrested the bewildered students, who were immediately taken to Camp Vught.*
>
> *While Seyffardt had passed the night reasonably well and the doctors were satisfied with his state of health, consultations were being held at the Rauter office with Seyss-Inquart, Schmidt and the Orpo commander, Heinrich Lankenau[204], about the measures to be taken. Later Cornelis van Geelkerken, the NSB deputy leader, was also involved in the discussions. He was instructed to inform his leader, Anton Mussert[205], that 50 hostages would be shot, and 5000 students arrested and taken to Camp Vught.*
>
> *Van Geelkerken protested the shooting because, according to Rauter, during his trial in 1946, the execution of hostages for an assassination attempt on an NSBer would have a negative influence on public opinion*

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letter he wrote, from the camp, (see later in text)

[199] Marieke Meeuwenoord (2014) "Life here is a world in itself - The history of camp Vught" written after completing a PhD on the topic:

[200]Heinrich Himmler - Reichsfuhrer SS

[201] Hanns Albin Rauter – SS-Obergruppenfuhrer, Gestapo - Chief of the SS & Police of the Netherlands WW2. After the war he was convicted of war crimes snd received the death sentence and was executed in 1949.

[202] Arthur Seyss-Inquart – Reich Commissioner of the Occupied Dutch Territories

[203] Fritz Smit – German Commissioner-General for Political Affairs and Propaganda in the occupied Netherlands, one of four assistants to the Reich Commissioner

[204] Heinrich Lankenau –SS Police commander A political leader during the war.

[205] Anton Mussert – a founder of the Dutch NSB, the most prominent Dutch fascist during WW2; A political leader during the war.

of the NSB. However, picking up 5000 reprisal hostages would have a deterrent effect, according to Van Geelkerken. After some consultation it was decided not to shoot hostages and to leave it at the picking up of the students and "Plutokratensöhne", or plutocrats' sons. It was the intention that the students would be sent to Germany via Vught to do hard labour there. National socialist (NSB) mayors from North and South Holland and Utrecht were asked to draw up lists of names, because in these provinces the resistance among the population was greatest. All this was decided on Saturday, when it was still unclear whether Seyffardt would survive the attack. At the beginning of the evening, however, the message was received that he had died of an embolism."

After 600 students were arrested on the Saturday further arrests occurred on the following Monday and Tuesday. Meeuwenaard (2014) continues:

"The number of 5000 arrestees was not met.

Almost 1,200 young men were arrested based on the mayors' lists, bringing the total number of reprisal suspects to 1800. These were not only students and sons of the wealthy, because some mayors used the opportunity to put their unwelcome citizens on the list. For example, the then 23-year-old Martin Nefkens was picked up in Amersfoort, who worked at a brokerage and insurance office. He lived next to the NSB mayor Jan Harloff, he told me during a conversation 65 years later, and sometimes played English records in the garden house, which lay next to the garden of the mayor. For Harloff, drawing up the list was a great opportunity to have Nefkens and his brother picked up."

According to the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD)[206] the German occupiers started setting up prison camps in the Netherlands in 1941. These camps were "*the scene of forced labour, provocation and mistreatment of prisoners as well as of executions*." There were five camps in all; first one at Schoorl, then a larger complex at Amersfoort, followed in the summer of 1942 by Ommen ("Kamp Erika"), Kamp Vught and Westerbork. However Kamp Vught was the only SS run camp in German-occupied Netherlands.

The conditions in all camps were grim and brutal. In early February when the students arrived at Kamp Vught it had only been open for a few weeks, and was under the command of SS Officer, Karl Chmilewski. He was attached to the Schutzhaftlagerführung (the 'Protective custody' units of the SS-Totenkopfverbände). He had a reputation for extreme brutality having worked in a series of prison camps eventually becoming "*commandant of the newly established 's-Hertogenbosch concentration camp (aka Kamp Vught), where he*

[206] www.kamparchieven.nl

further became a by-word for cruelty."[207]

Certainly, they had very little food during time the students were imprisoned. I remember Hans saying all they got was "gruwel", a watery soup. And I clearly remember him showing me the mug he used for this gruwel – wonder where that is now? But he didn't talk about any personal experience of brutality, other than a level of intimidation. It was luckily a mild winter but would still have been very cold.

Evacuees rather than Evacuation

Meanwhile Piet Blankevoort celebrates his eightieth (80th) birthday on 9 February 1943 in Bloemendaal, three days after the student arrests. He's very aware of the search for young men and only invites the older folk. A couple of days later he receives devastating news that he won't be given an exemption from the evacuation, although no date is given for when this will occur.

On the 16th of February Piet joined Hank's father (Dirk Blankevoort) to celebrate his 54th birthday with coffee and cake, both 'delicious', according to Piet. There he meets the wives of Kees (Cornelis) and Pieter Blankevoort, who had both been sent to Vught. No-one knows the reason for their arrest, but apparently reliable sources say they are doing ok. It's interesting that Hans is not mentioned as also being in Vught. It was about 10 days since his arrest, maybe no one knew at that time? Maybe it just slipped his mind, as the word about the student arrests spread very quickly.

Piet records in his diary for 21 Feb 1943:

> *"What has never happened before happened today. We ate only rice cooked in milk powder; it tasted alright. I begin to reconcile myself to such meals."*

A few days later he gets the order to take in seven evacuees from Ijmuiden[208]. He's anxious about it but is relieved he won't have to move. The citizens are still having to do four hours of 'wachtlopen' with a 7pm curfew, and the transportation of men between 18 and 45 years to Germany continues regularly.

The days of 26-27 February were extremely stressful for Pieter:

> *"The household effects of 2 families were waved inside and almost all rooms were filled. In the meantime, most of our furniture had to be transported elsewhere. Fortunately, we were able to obtain storage space at Kennemerplein 2[209]. Only the small room of Ms de Jongh came out unscathed; her room became mine. She herself occupied the attic*

[207] See Wikipedia Karl Chmielewski
[208] The evacuation of those living along the North Sea coast for the Geman's Atlantic Wall defences
[209] I'm quite sure this would be the vH&B office in Haarlem

room, since none of the evacuees wanted to sleep there.

Incidentally, they are friendly people; the men work at the dredging company, Volker, in IJmuiden and leave at 6 o'clock in the morning.

For our own habitation we have been able to keep the living room with the Conservatory, the sunny part. After a lot of preparation, everything went smoothly."

March begins with the arrest of many people who are transferred to a labour camp in the East, for violating the trading regulations (black marketeers etc). The curfew of 7pm has been lifted and people are now allowed to stay out till 11pm.

Further afield, Berlin and Hamburg are being bombed, also a massive bombing of Cologne. Bombers are seen overhead heading towards the east.

Back in Vught

Small groups of students were released from Vught from time to time; however Hans was still there after a month, and we have the following letter written by Hank in Utrecht to Hans in Vught:

Letter: *From Hank ("Kindjeshaven", Prins Hendriklaan 4, Utrecht)*

to Hans (student Technische Hogeschool, "Kamp Vughterheide", "Yzeren Man", Vught)

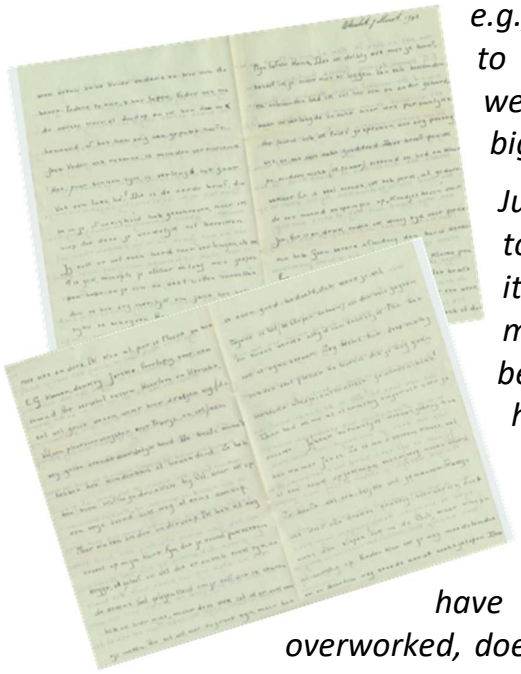
March 7, 1943

My dearest Hans,

That I was overjoyed to receive your letter is an understatement. From many friends and others, I'd heard something, but I really wanted to hear something from you. Most recently I spoke to Frits, which was good, and made me feel a lot better. I'm writing this letter in the middle of the night (12:30) sitting in bed and wide awake. There's lots of news, I've got work – for a month to fill in at Kindjeshaven for Jet. It's very busy so no time to worry. No better diversion than hard work. And you know that working with these little kids has always appealed to me. So, it's all going well with me but in a week, it will be over, which is really disappointing. I already have something else. I can go to the E. G[210]. on the 15th of March, thanks to Jetske, initially for a month. The difference between Haarlem and Utrecht is likely to be significant as here we (ie, Wil, a replacement for Truitje, and me) have significant responsibility. Both our mothers have already looked around the children's home. They then went for coffee at Wil's, where in the evening I'll also drop-in.

[210] E. G.- Elisabeth Gasthuis, a hospital in Haarlem

But now on a different topic, I have so much on my mind. It's great that you're getting so many parcels, but I think that some have gone missing, e.g., the blankets. I don't have much opportunity to send you anything at the moment but this week I'll make you something. It won't be that big, but it is well meant, you know that.



Just now, Wil (we're sharing a room) has gone to bed, so this is my opportunity [to write]. But it's now nearly 1:15 am. Hey Hans, it gave me much pleasure to hear that you haven't yet become a mad bridge-enthusiast! That would have made me seriously uncomfortable.

You're likely to be curious how Jet is. She's been home several weeks and greatly improved but still not up to much. She must have had a nasty fall. Truitje was seriously overworked, does nothing but sleep, also in De Bilt[211], but is improving.

Also, I can tell you that in Haarlem they are busy with 'wachtlopen'. This week both our fathers[212] and Koo had their turn. Every 24 hours, 4 hours of walking. Father after his first turn was completely exhausted, and I'm concerned how it's affected him. Your father was a reserve, so for him not as tiring.

The 7 o'clock curfew has been extended to 9 o'clock. What a luxury, heh! This is the third letter that I've written in your absence, but I hope that this one gets to you. You'll be keen for news, as I am. It's silly, but when you haven't talked to each other for a long time, one has so much to say, and it is difficult to work out what's important to write.

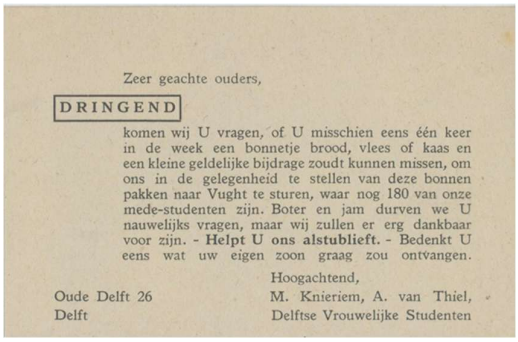
Hans, my dear man, this is all for today.

Much love and kisses from your Hanny

[211] A village just northeast of Utrecht, - a hospital? Or home?

[212] Hans'father (58yo) –was he working? [ff he did still have a job at the Kadaster, which he returned to in 1946] and Hank's father (53yo), he was working at vH&B in Haarlem, on approved projects eg Zuiderzee works. Lots of questions…

Around that time Hans' parents received a request from the "Delft Women Students":



Zeer geachte ouders,

DRINGEND

komen wij U vragen, of U misschien eens één keer in de week een bonnetje brood, vlees of kaas en een kleine geldelijke bijdrage zoudt kunnen missen, om ons in de gelegenheid te stellen van deze bonnen pakken naar Vught te sturen, waar nog 180 van onze mede-studenten zijn. Boter en jam durven we U nauwelijks vragen, maar wij zullen er erg dankbaar voor zijn. - **Helpt U ons alstublieft.** - Bedenkt U eens wat uw eigen zoon graag zou ontvangen.

Hoogachtend,

Oude Delft 26
Delft

M. Knieriem, A. van Thiel,
Delftse Vrouwelijke Studenten

Very esteemed parents,
<u>Urgent</u>
we ask you whether you might give up a portion of bread, meat or cheese once a week and a small monetary contribution, to give us the opportunity to send these parcels to 180 of our co-students in Vught. We hardly dare to ask for butter and jam, but we will be very grateful for it. - Please help us. - Just think what your own son would like to receive.

Loyalty Declaration for Students



Aantal studenten tot een maximum beperkt.

Belofte van loyaliteit verlangd.

GEARRESTEERDEN IN VRIJHEID (behalve technici).

's-GRAVENHAGE, 12 Maart. — In deze verklaring verplichten zij zich, zich naar eer en geweten te houden aan de in het bezette Nederlandsche gebied geldende wetten, verordeningen en andere voorschriften en zich te onthouden van elke tegen het Duitsche Rijk, de

On March 12th this article appeared in the paper[213]:

Maximum number of students is restricted
Declaration of loyalty required.
FREEDOM FOR THE ARRESTED (except technicians[214]).

'S-GRAVENHAGE, March 12th

Regarding the conditions at Dutch universities and colleges and the orders of the Rijkscommissaris, after consultation with the leader of the National Socialist Movement (the NSB) of the Netherlands and with the Secretary-General of the <u>Department of Education, Science and Culture</u> (Dept. O, W and K), the government has published a regulation which will appear in the Regulations Paper tomorrow.

[213] The Collection (1938-1950)
[214] Those students from the Technical University in Delft!

The regulation is based on the necessity, on the one hand of ensuring the success of the European struggle against bolshevism; also, for the security of the student population; and, on the other hand, ensuring an adequate number of students in the future.

The regulation stipulates that the Secretary-General of the Dept of O, W and K., as required by the circumstances, determines the maximum number of students (numerus clausus). Furthermore, the regulation, after its enforcement, stipulates that after passing the final exams, it is mandatory to work for a specified period for the "Arbeitseinsatz"[215]…

In addition, the Secretary-General of the Dept of O. W. and K. will issue a regulation in consultation with the NSB Leader[216] and with the permission of the Rijkscommissaris; according to which, responsibility is given to the presidents of the universities and colleges that the students at these institutions will abstain from all actions and statements which, in the given circumstances, pose a threat to public order. Therefore, they also give certain disciplinary rights towards these nominees.

Loyalty

Furthermore, the regulation stipulates that only those at a university or college who sign the declaration of loyalty can study (this includes universities or colleges which are not state institutions) …

The regulations are obviously aimed at restoring peace and order at the universities, where there's been repeated troubles, and allowing serious students the unhindered pursuit of their study.

As we know, the Rijkscommissaris has decided, at the request of the NSB Leader and Secretary-General van Dam, to release the students arrested in recent weeks. ***Only the arrested students from Delft University of Technology, for political reasons, should remain for safety, in custody…***

So, this announcement six weeks after the first student arrests must have been deeply concerning for family and friends. For Hans, who had already been granted his degree, this meant being sent to Germany. I imagine it would have been important for him not to advertise this fact.

Today, the so-called 'wacht' or penalty walks have come to an end. Fortunately for the people who had to do this; it was a torment for them. It ended on the night of 16 March.

Today another regulation was announced, which stipulates that many small companies will have to be shut down. Only those working for the war industry can continue, and are

[215] Labour Supply to Nazi Germany
[216] Leader of NSB Anton Mussert

exempted from this, i.e. are not covered by the regulation, the delivery of foodstuffs, newspapers, laundry, and fuels.

The chaos is increasing again and is only intended to make workers available for Germany. The terror is getting bigger and bigger. Hunger, too, takes on dire dimensions.

The Dutch banknotes, of *f*500 and *f*1000, will be declared invalid in 14 days. What is behind this is understandable. The Jews and the black marketeers will be victims of this. All others may, or must, deposit them at banks and they'll get paid back later.

The meat ration is getting less. We now need to survive on 250g every 2 weeks, so we have 500g for both of us for 14 days. And bone is included in this; and for the time being only veal will be available.

The misery is increasing and goes on longer. In the so-called black-market there are still a few chickens for sale for *f*27.50 each, in the past they could be obtained for *f*2.75, so 10 times more expensive. For butter, which is almost impossible to obtain, *f*20 is asked per 500g. If you want to pay through the roof, there is apparently still something to buy, but then you must be a millionaire.

This morning for the first time for a long time, had a little rain, but the weather recovered quickly, in the afternoon again plenty of sunshine. The ground yearns for rain

Hans sends a letter to his family:

Letter: *Hans (block 3A, Concentratiekamp, 's-Hertogenbosch, Vught)*

to (Kleverparkweg 116)



<u>22 March, 1943</u>

Dear father, mother, Hank and Koo,

Today we're suddenly allowed to write again. This is my second letter. I am well and coping. I'm getting lots of parcels. I've actually received the blankets-you've read that incorrectly. The parcels can …[?]…and take about 2 or 3 days. Sturdy packaging is critical as I've received some incomplete parcels. Apart from the many parcels from you, I've received 2 from the fam. Bl., 1 from Hank from Utrecht, 1 from both fam. Advokaat, Amsterdam; 1 from T. R; 2 from Heringa; 1 from Aat and W. and 1 from Lutjewinkel.

Can you thank everyone you speak to, and thank <u>you</u> too. I'd be very pleased to receive some lemons or lemon juice.

Aat has his birthday on the 25th, could you congratulate him for me, Hank? Also received a small bag of clothes and a little basket of toiletries(?)[217] from Heringa.

11 March I received answer from Hank to my first letter. At the same time a letter from Oom Jan [218]and 15 March one from Kees K[219]. Nothing else, including your letter, mother. But it could still arrive.

Is everything going ok at home? How's it going with you in the E. G., Hank? I've spoken with Piet Blankevoort[220] of Hazepaterslaan. He's going well. It's good that the weather is so good. We often sit out in the afternoon sun. We've got lots of books here. The general mood is excellent and on the whole we're quite optimistic. I'm hoping that you are too.

Are you very busy at the E.G., Hank? Or have you got some free time? And are you a volunteer or are you also earning something? I look forward to receiving another letter. The letters sometimes take a long time. Hank, could you please send an apology to Riek Wessels. Her birthday is on the 23rd March and we promised to visit?

Greetings to all friends and relatives. All the best and see you soon.

….. Hans

Regulation No "however many" has now appeared; a monthly coupon appears for which women are allowed to purchase sweets. Also, cigarettes can no longer be sold to women.

Again, good weather and a new regulation. Now the shopkeepers are not allowed to sell objects that incorporate iron; and with the rationed piece of tough cheese, we have to last longer again. The food situation is increasingly more frightening. The shops are full of all kinds of hotchpotch, new surrogates by the dozen of which some are only available on a voucher.

During this period bombing attacks again on Berlin, Duisburg and the Ruhr area**.**

In Amsterdam a part of the Civil Registry archive was destroyed by fire. Certainly, a case of sabotage.

The time when the Dutch are not allowed to be on the street or in cafés has changed. It is now the case in Haarlem, Amsterdam and The Hague, that cafes must be closed at 9 o'clock and the public indoors by 10 o'clock; and for the remaining occupied area these times will be 10 o'clock for cafés and 11 o'clock for the public.

[217] D: dietalen?
[218] There are lots of Jan's in Hans' family-However, Jan Gijsbert ADVOKAAT (Hans's mother's brother) is the most likely, as he's the only true uncle. He was a detective for the Police (for Youth) in Amsterdam. Its hard to imagine what he may have been expected to do during the occupation
[219] This is probably Kees Kneppers, who was sent to Germany to work
[220] Hank's dentist uncle, who'd been sent to Vught a few weeks earlier

All doctors except a single NSBer refused to follow the rules given by the Germans. And so made the word "doctor" unreadable on their nameplates. The regulations are not yet known, but it is reported that all kinds of so-called "inferior people" should not be kept alive.

Hank is back in Haarlem, working at the Elizabeth Gasthuis, after helping out at Kindjeshaven for a few months. She replies to Hans's letter:

Letter: *Hank (Emmalaan 5, Haarlem)*

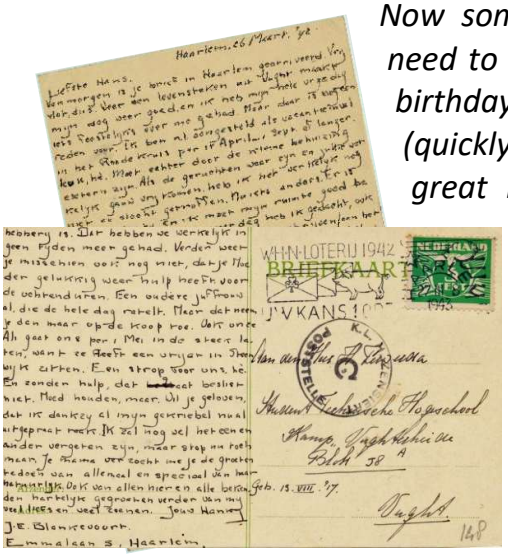
to Hans (student Technische Hogeschool, "Kamp Vughterheide", "Yzeren Man", Vught)

26 March, 1943

Dearest Hans,

This morning your letter arrived in Haarlem. So, quite quick. Another sign of life[221] *from Vught, makes for a good day, and all day, my day-off, I've had a festive feeling. But there's another reason. I've got some voluntary work, during the holiday period, 15 April to 1 September, and possibly longer with the Red Cross – not bad, heh! however, no accommodation provided* [222]

If the rumours are true and if you really will be set free soon then I've really not been so badly affected.



Now something else. There's plenty of news, and I'll need to use the space wisely. I've wished Aat a happy birthday, also from you. I'll write to Riek tomorrow (quickly at breakfast as it's very busy!). Further some great news, Carolien and Alfred got engaged last week. I gave them a vase and flowers (bakje met bloemen) from both of us. Eppy ter Horst got married, and Henk[223] *and Titi will marry in May. Aren't you surprised?*

Can you, with this beautiful weather, imagine us out together again on a long hike. I'll try to get the second week of April off to have a small holiday. The work at the E.G. is very annoying but I've been lucky with my manager (still quite young). Now that I'm back in Haarlem, I'm often round at your parents' house. Your father is very busy outside with the garden; actually, a bit too tiring for him. What a surprise, that you spoke to Oom Piet [the dentist]. It must

[221] D: levensteken
[222] D: Moet echter door de kleine behuizing extern zijn [literally: due to small digs have to stay externally]
[223] Henk Lodewijks is a cousin of Hank's.After the war they went to South Africa

have been a weird experience for him also, to meet you there…

You probably don't know this yet, but your mother, thankfully, now has help in the mornings again; an older woman, who prattles on all day long. As always, you just have to accept this.

Also, our Ali, will leave us on 1 May because she has a boyfriend living in Steenwijk. A bit of bad luck for us, heh! And, without help, well, we can't have that. Courage, though. Will you believe, that after all this, I'm running out of things to say, so I'll finish up now. Your mother has asked me to send you greetings from everyone and of course, especially from her.

Also, special greetings from all your friends and acquaintances.

And lots of love and kisses from me, Your Hanny

Hans took some canteen notices, with him when he was released from the camp a few days later. Also amongst his documents were some handwritten notes that look like the orders from the canteen on the 30th and 31st March for Barack 13, where Hans was interned. Two things stand out from these orders; firstly, that the promise of food related items was not fulfilled, except paprika and water; and secondly the request for so much skin powder. What was this related to? … Maybe, to reduce itching from bed bugs or something similar? Or instead of washing? They were lucky to be supported by the parcels (although probably meagre) sent by family and friends.

So, what really happened in the camp?

My initial research found very little about the circumstances of the student hostages, most likely as their experiences were overshadowed by the brutality and harsh circumstances of the other captives. But eventually I found Marieke Meeuwenoord's book (2014) that explores the plight of those in the Vught Camp. She writes:

"Over the one-and-a-half-year period that the camp existed, about 35,000 people of all ages, races and classes were imprisoned for a shorter or longer period. They were arrested as resistance fighters, Jews, and hostages, and were guarded by both Dutch and Germans."

Amongst other things, Meeuwenoord tries to answer the questions: *How did the prisoners live and work, and how did they live together?*

These extracts are focussed on the story of the student hostages, a very different story to the other prisoners.

"…. In his undated post-war report, student hostage Cleveringa described how from a distance he saw that the prisoners were kicked and beaten

by German kapos[224], 'who had assumed the same methods as their masters either from self-preservation or from moral degeneration through long-term imprisonment'. But the Student Camp where he stayed did not know any kapos, and Chmielewski never showed himself there. He and his companions were treated as reprisal hostages in a different way from the Schutzhaft[225] prisoners, so their living conditions were different."

Student Cleveringa described, after the war, what his expectations were when he was on his way to camp Vught with hundreds of fellow-sufferers:

"In our minds we saw ourselves the next day at 6am, bare-chested doing exercises and then all day doing heavy labouring work. Many grizzly stories, about concentration camps and their commanders came to mind in their anxious imaginations. "

The reception met their expectations: at the station in Vught they were met by SS people who welcomed them with a lot of shouting and sounding of guns. Then they had to walk to the camp in rows of five. It was a difficult journey after a long day full of uncertainty and the luggage they had to carry along[226].

When they arrived in camp, the student hostages did not have to hand in their luggage or clothing, and they did not get a number. They were immediately divided over several barracks, where they were loudly told how to behave. When asked if they had understood, they had to shout "yawohl" loudly and unanimously. Then it was time to go to bed. The next morning at the apple tree, near their barracks (not at the big apple orchard), they met fellow hostages who had been in the camp from Saturday. From them they were told that they did not have to work, that they would get bored, and that the food was not too bad[227].

This turned out to be correct. Over time, the students became aware that the German SS officers who guarded them had been instructed to treat them decently. "[The SS] were not bad to us, I must say," said Martin Nefkens. "And they didn't beat us." Other student hostages also reported that there was no question of violence. The guards consisted exclusively of German SS, of whom the somewhat older Austrian SS-Oberscharführer Beer, or 'Opa', stood out. He was described as a congenial man, although

[224] Prison guards, who were prisoners with special privileges (Wikipedia)
[225] Protective custody;Prisoners
[226] Hans would not have had any luggage, Cleveringa was part of a later (next day or so) student roundup
[227] I'm sure it wasn't that good, particularly when they first arrived, before they received any parcels

he could also have his moments. For example, according to Cleveringa, he was a bit stupid, but friendly and he had a 'cleaning complex', which he wanted to pursue all day. But he was careful in checking the packages and even returned clandestine letters that he took from parcels. Tjitze Plantinga, a 24-year-old mechanical engineering student, was also mild about Opa in his diary entries, where he wrote, that he allowed the students to hold a costumed relay race.

Such a relay race was one of the many things that the hostages invented to get through the day. They read, chatted, played bridge and debated a lot; cabaret evenings were organized and various camp newspapers were set up, including "De IJzeren Heer"[228]. The BBC (barracks messaging centre) in the barracks of hostage H. Wagenvoort also presented a 'broadcast' every evening with information from letters, newspapers and interviews with SS people; and sports leaders organized morning gymnastics every morning.

The student hostages were allowed to receive parcels from the outset and as the universities and colleges, and thus also their parents were quickly informed about the destination of the students, the supply of parcels quickly got under way. Furthermore, because they did not have to work, the students had plenty of time to collect wood for the stove, and several medical students were engaged in setting up a kind of hospital barrack, since the camp hospital had not yet been completed.

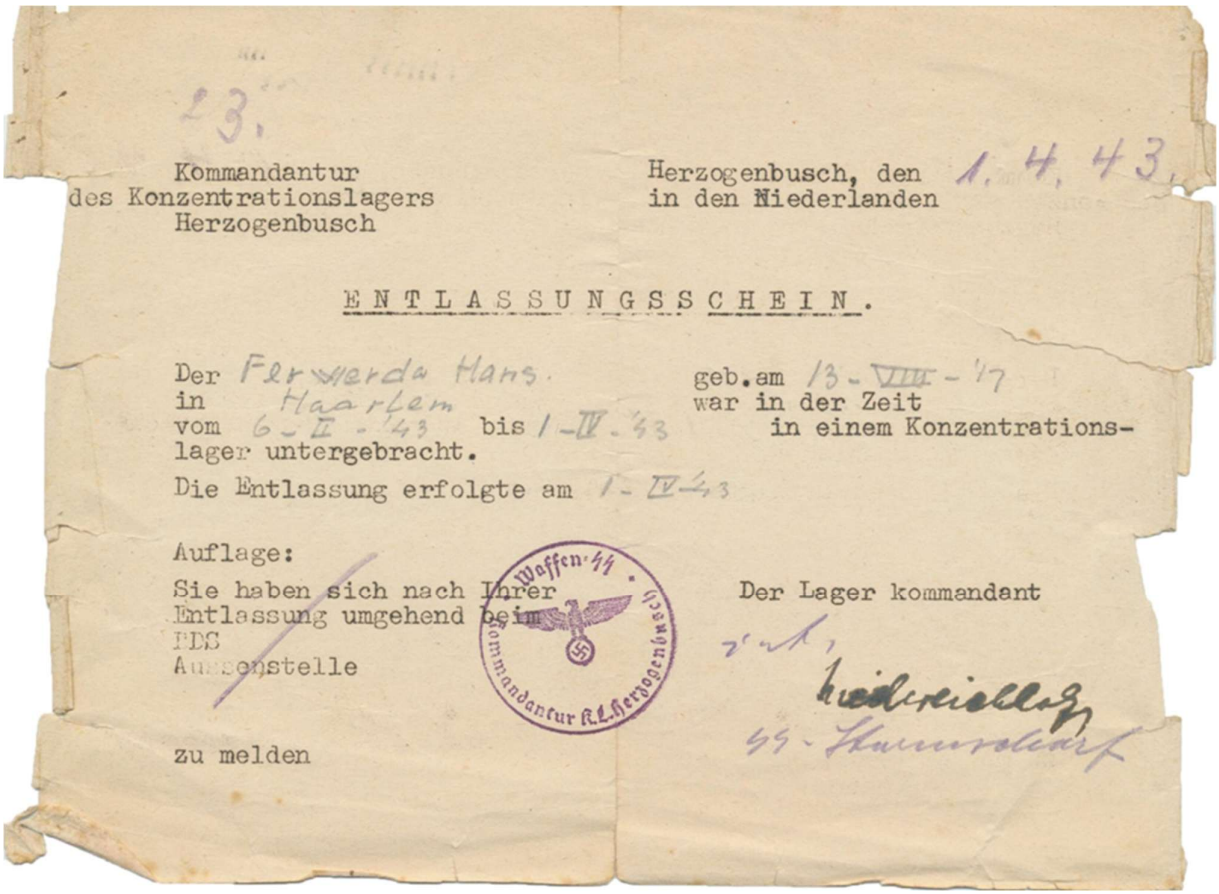
It was important for the mental state of the hostages that some students were released from the beginning. In the first days there were mainly small groups that owed their release to the efforts of family and friends. But shortly afterwards larger groups also went home. By Saturday 13 February 1943, for example, 700 students had already been released. This gave the stragglers hope. The fear of being sent to Germany seemed unfounded, and release would happen soon, they thought. Indeed, smaller and larger groups of hostages were released during the months of March and April. Yet on 20 April, Hitler's birthday, a group of 150[229] *hostages were transported to Germany."*

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[228] The Iron Gentleman/The Iron German Army (as opposed to The Iron Man) – Double-intendre – Apparently they named their 'newspaper' "De IJzeren Heer", as a "pun" based upon "De IJzeren Man", a dredging machine that was used in 1868 to create the nearby artificial lake . The lake is also called "De Ijzeren Man" (Hans Ferwerda b1947, Wikipedia);
Heer means Sir/Gentleman as well as the German Army

[229] This contradicts the DSC number of 20?

HANS IS RELEASED



Kommandantur
des Konzentrationslagers
Herzogenbusch

Herzogenbusch, den 1. 4. 43.
in den Niederlanden

ENTLASSUNGSSCHEIN.

Der Ferwerda Hans. geb.am 13-VIII-'17
in Haarlem war in der Zeit
vom 6-II-'43 bis 1-IV-'43 in einem Konzentrations-
lager untergebracht.

Die Entlassung erfolgte am 1-IV-43

Auflage:

Sie haben sich nach Ihrer Entlassung umgehend bei der
PDS
Aussenstelle

zu melden

Waffen-SS Kommandantur K.L. Herzogenbusch

Der Lager kommandant

i.V.

SS-Hauptscharführer

Image: *Hans release paper, Vught, 1st April 1943*

Hans is freed from Vught on 1 April 1943. He felt very lucky to be released after only two months. I remember Hans recounting that it felt like a lottery as to which groups would be released first and he was lucky to be in one of those early groups. In fact, he wasn't in the earliest groups. In mid-March, due to the discovery of a 'sabotage conspiracy'[230].amongst the Delft University students still at Vught, they were not released. A week or so later "most"[231] of the student hostages were released. This included 50 Delft students, but not Hans. He had to wait another week. As we know, if he hadn't been released, he may have been sent to Germany to work, or worse, shot, so very lucky at this point.

Rotterdam was terribly ravaged by firebombs. A storm from the Northeast resulted in large areas being burnt to ashes and 40,000 people are said to be homeless. Whole street blocks

[230] Five confusing Years (2005)
[231] Five confusing Years (2005)

burned. The intention was to reach a submarine base of the Germans. According to the newspaper there were 180 deaths and four hundred wounded.

Berlin has also been bombed again.

A prison van has taken away some doctors from Haarlem.

Today some hostages released from Vught, including Hans Ferwerda, the fiancée of Hank Blankevoort.

Berlin bombed heavily again.

Officially, it has been announced that the Delft students can go back to study again on 10 April after signing the declaration

DSC125 (1973) describes this period as follows:

> *A declaration of loyalty was devised by him (van Dam) for all students to give their word not to engage in disruptive or anti-occupation actions. However, it was clear that nothing would be signed while there was still even one student remaining in Vught. The Rector-Magnificus, called van Dam, and pointed this out, after which, following discussions between van Dam, Wimmer and the S.S., most detainees were released. But about 20[232], mostly Delft residents, for some reason, were sent to German labour camps. From the student sidelines, the Rector-Magnificus called for a strong stance against such behaviour, the Germans had promised to release all students and had broken their word once again. The Germans had created an atmosphere for signing the declaration of loyalty, in which it was clear that few would sign.*
>
> *On 10 March, the declaration of loyalty was submitted to the students as a condition for further study at a university or college. A signature was required by 14 April. The organized student groups called on students not to sign. The government in London (the Dutch government-in-exile) issued an instruction that forbade anyone to sign the declaration.*

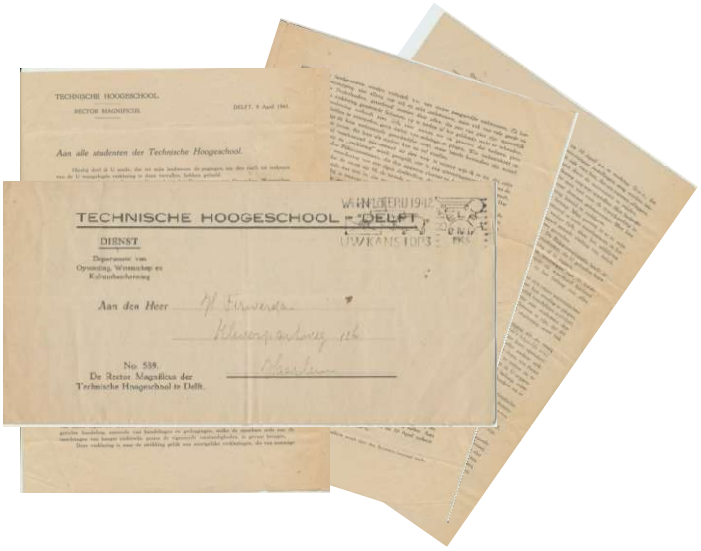


> *The last public act of the Student Committee (DSC) was to send an invitation, with an image of the DSC masthead on the occasion of the nineteenth lustrum[233] and jointly hosted with the Senate in the 'Kalfje' [café or pub] near the Amstel.*

Hans received the invitation but was in Vught at the time, 22nd March.

[232] This figure is different to Meeuwenoord(2014) I would assume her figure of 150 is more likely correct.
[233] A period of 5 years; so, 95 years of existence of the DSC in 1943

This letter was sent by the Rector Magnificus (RM) to all Delft University students, including Hans on 8 April, 1943, a week after he was released.


TECHNISCHE HOOGESCHOOL
RECTOR MAGNIFICUS
DELFT, 8 April 1943.
Aan alle studenten der Technische Hoogeschool.
TECHNISCHE HOOGESCHOOL - DELFT
DIENST
Aan den Heer
No. 539.
De Rector Magnificus der Technische Hoogeschool te Delft.

It has a covering letter from the Rector Magnificus[234] encouraging students to sign. This is followed by the Radio Announcement made by the Secretary-General of the Department of Education, Science and Culture also encouraging students to sign.

In summary, to continue to be a student, the following declaration must be signed:

> *The undersigned, _____ born, _____ in _____, residing at _____, hereby declares that he will honor the laws, regulations and other orders in force in the occupied Dutch territory, and will abstain from any actions and behaviors against the German empire, the German Army or the Dutch authorities, that endangers public order, given the current circumstances, in higher education institutions.*

Those who don't sign, then come under the *Abeidsdienstplicht*, meaning they'll have to register for work in Germany.

In Hank's last letter to Hans in Vught, amongst other things, Hank says she has "*some voluntary work, during the holiday period, 15 April to 1 September, and possibly longer with the Red Cross".*

I wonder whether they had a chance of reunion before Hank started work.

Visited Leni, the wife of Ir. C. Blankevoort and brought her some cans and food parcels for her husband, who is still being held in Vught.

For the victims of the fire in Rotterdam, an aid action is set up, which will soon be requested to collect clothes, blankets, beds, bedsteads, etc., as well as money.

At the shipyard in Spaarndam[235], materials, vessels and boats and tools from the vH&B Company were shot at by English aircraft. No dead but holes made here and there. No serious damage.

Reading a wake-up call in the papers in which it is strongly advised not to buy anything anymore in the so-called black market because this could lead to hunger for the poor,

[234] Wikipedia (July2021) Led by Dorgelo (RM), the university senate advised the student body to sign, citing that a university that remained open would be invaluable to the post-war rebuilding effort in the Netherlands. The result of this advice was a vote of no confidence by the students, however, and Dorgelo resigned as rector in 1943.

[235] Village on the Spaarne river close to and to the north east of Haarlem

because they are not able to buy anything at the exorbitantly high extortionate prices:

Butter becomes so scarce that it is almost impossible to get. For 500g, *f*20 is asked. For bacon and fat, the same amount, for 1 kg of cocoa *f*60; for a 50g of tobacco *f*3.50, for coffee beans *f*65 per 500g, for sugar *f*5 per 500g, for wheat *f*225 per mud [~70kg]. (The highest price for wheat at the end of the last war was *f*60 per mud; so, it is now much more serious than then); for rice *f*8 per 500g.

The date on which the students must sign has been moved from 10 April to 12 April.

Pear trees are already in bloom, and the apple trees also start to colour. Our chook lays 3 eggs every 4 days, so every 3 days she skips a day.

The residents of Haarlem, The Hague and Amsterdam still must be indoors at 10 o'clock in the evening.

According to rumour, only 5 to 10% of the students have signed …. If they don't sign, they go to Germany to work.

Now another regulation, in which it is announced that customers must collect their groceries from the shopkeeper, themselves. The home deliveries are no longer allowed.

The Fuhrer Hitler commemorates his 54th birthday. He has a little celebration parade.

It is announced that we should use the sugar economically, because there will probably be a period during which no sugar can be supplied.

According to reports, Marlies, the daughter of Emma and Cor, is engaged to an SS man named Staagaardt, a Dutchman who fought on the German side at the Eastern Front. As is understandable, this has shocked the family very much.

The tobacco ration is again reduced; we now get 25g of tobacco, or 5 cigars or 20 cigarettes per week.

It is announced that a period will occur in the autumn in which no sugar can be allocated. It looks more and more rosy! Butter is no longer available from the shopkeepers on the coupons. On the black market one could occasionally find 500g, but for that you pay *f*25. Oil/Dripping not for sale.

For eggs, you easily pay *f*0.85 each. This is the fairest price on the black market. Already *f*0.95 is also paid per egg. Our chook is going well. In the last twenty days we had 15 eggs from her. So, we can afford the luxury of a few Easter eggs for Easter.

GENERAL STRIKES

The German decision to deport the entire former Dutch Army to POW Camps in Germany arouses great fury throughout the country.

Many Dutch doors that were closed to 'onderduikers'[236] are now open.

The rescue organizations profit immensely from the new situation[237].

Another new regulation has been issued, whereby it is determined that all members of the Dutch army are immediately arrested as prisoners of war. The persons involved will be called to personally register through the daily press. Anyone who does not respond to this call or tries to avoid this imprisonment can expect the severest measures. This also applies to people who support them.

Everywhere local strikes take place.

The punishment for this is that the residents of the provinces of North Holland, Gelderland, Drenthe and Overijssel are not allowed to go outside between 8 o'clock in the evening and 6 o'clock in the morning. In the event of violation…?

More than 5 people may not be together on the street. Beverages (alcohol) cannot be sold anywhere. The shops must be open, at the set times, under penalty of complete closure and forfeiture of the goods. In the event of a violation, the police and soldiers have the right to shoot.

Today, 1st May 1943, the same curfew is proclaimed for the whole of the Netherlands. Soldiers patrol with machine guns along the streets and roads.

Sports competitions are also prohibited during curfew.

In several Provinces, the workers are on strike, which has resulted in 10 people being shot in IJmuiden, Velsen and Haarlem, including the station master of IJmuiden.

Son Cor has informed us of the engagement of his daughter Marlies with an SS man named Stargaard or Staargaard. I have not congratulated him on this and don't intend to congratulate the betrothed or Cor's wife[238].

Flim's account of this period:

> *"On February 7, 1943, the day after the murder attempt on General H. A. Seyffardt, the Dutch Nazi who recruited men to serve on the eastern*

[236] Those hiding from the German occupiers

[237] Flim (2004)

[238] In 1986 Piet's grandson,Wim, wrote "… one reads that his granddaughter Marlies was engaged with a (Dutch) SS-person and had since disappeared, but we do not hear that she returned to Haarlem afterwards. It is possible that she did not arrive till much later after his death. She did not appear to have married the aforementioned SS-man, but she had given her yes-word to a regular conscripted German.

front, it had already been decided that all career [military] officers were to be sent to Germany as prisoners. Six days later, Himmler asked Hitler's consent to make prisoners of all the soldiers who had fought against Germany in May of 1940. On Thursday, April 29, 1943, Hitler gave permission.

Since Holland had compulsory military service, there were veterans of the 1940 battles everywhere in the country. Inhabitants of even the smallest hamlets resisted. The fiercest reactions took place in the provinces of Overijssel, Limburg, and Friesland, precisely the areas where the rescuers had found so many homes willing to hide children. Businesses, stores, and offices closed in all the cities, beginning with Hengelo. People flatly refused to work for the Germans any longer. Farmers in Friesland, Twente, and Limburg preferred to dump their milk into ditches rather than give it to milk collectors. The miners shut down the mines.

On April 29, Obergruppenfuhrer Hanns Rauter, the German police chief of the Netherlands, proclaimed a summary police jurisdiction, giving his men authority to fire on people engaged in any kind of civil disturbance. Ninety-five strikers were shot dead. Posters threatening the death penalty were hung everywhere. Many strikers were arrested. Eighty were summarily executed. Hundreds were sent to prisons or prison camps. Most were freed after a week.

Radio London gave no clear guidelines, and the trains kept running. Nevertheless, on Monday, May 3, there were still strikes not only in many places in Friesland, but also at the Bata shoe factory in Best (Noord-Brabant), at Phillips[239] in Eindhoven, and at some textile factories in Twente. On Saturday, May 8, the last trouble spot was controlled. The strike was over."

This, of course, affected Koo…. Of this period Koo's son Hans[240] writes:

The "Leidse Dispuut – Christiaan Huygens", a Leiden university body for scientists and science students, organized holiday camps from time to time. In 1943, at one of these camps in Friesland he [Koo] met Hendrina Jorine Langelaar (born in Rotterdam, 12 Sep 1918, aka Uck); a clinical analyst.

At this point Koo was in-principle in hiding. That was certainly the case, during the whole winter of 1943-44, where he was in hiding in Haarlem. For some part of his time in hiding he camped out somewhere in

[239] One of Piet's sons worked there
[240] Koo's Story (1990s)

Brabant.

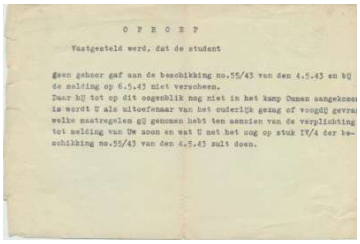
Throughout this time he stayed in contact with H. J. Langelaar (in Rotterdam).

Kamp Erika, Ommen

As for the student situation, only a small number, about 15%, signed the declaration but most did not, including Hans. Those who did not sign were called to report to Ommen (Kamp Erika), in Overijssel Province, southeast of Ijsselmeer, to register for work in Germany.



Image: *Some propaganda.*
Translation: "Open carefully" … "16 Heads of State of Europe's future."
15 Stalin's as Head of State of the former European nations, and Queen Wilhelmina "Wilhelmina Queen of the Netherlands (Because everything stays the same there they say...)" [src: The Collection (1938-1950)]



O P R O E P

Vastgesteld werd, dat de student

geen gehoor gaf aan de beschikking no.55/43 van den 4.5.43 en bij de melding op 6.5.43 niet verscheen.
Daar hij tot op dit oogenblik nog niet in het kamp Ommen aangekomen is wordt U als uitoefenaar van het ouderlijk gezag of voogdij gevraagd welke maatregelen gij genomen hebt ten aanzien van de verplichting tot melding van Uw zoon en wat U met het nog op stuk IV/4 der beschikking no.55/43 van den 4.5.43 zult doen.

Soon after on the 6th of May 1943, the following notice was received by Hans' parents at Kleverparkweg, Haarlem:

CALL UP

It was established that the student _____[was not filled in!] did not respond to the order no.55 / 43 by 4.5.43 and did not appear to have reported by 6.5.43.

Since he has not arrived at the camp Ommen until this moment, you are asked as an executor of parental authority or guardianship what measures you have taken regarding the obligation to report your son and what you are considering in respect of Section IV / 4 will make the decision no.55 / 43 of 4.5.43.

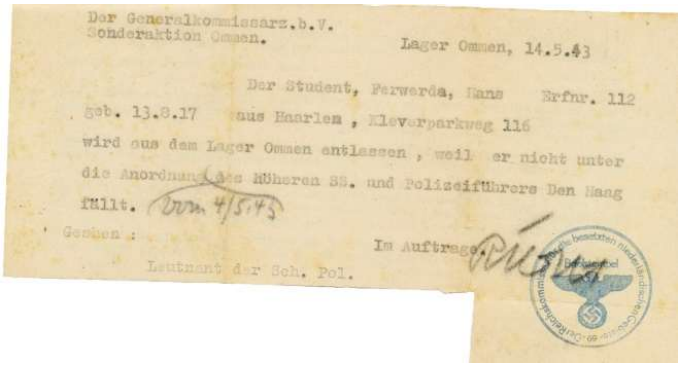
Hans' parents must have been in despair. They'd already lost one son, Bert, and now Hans and Koo were both being threatened with being sent to Germany. Hans went to Ommen as ordered and was there for a maximum of a week (it's unknown exactly how long).

> *"… a new group of prisoners arrived in the empty camp [in Ommen]: 3,700 students who had refused to sign the pledge of loyalty. For eight days they lived in tents that were pitched especially for them, as they waited to go to Germany to be put to work."*[241]

Any student then who had not reported to Ommen, according to *DSC125 (1973)*:

> *"… was now declared fugitive. They spread out, went into hiding ('onderduiken') and were often active in the resistance."*

Image: *Hans'Release from Ommen*
Lager Ommen 14.5.43
Der Generalkommissars .b.v.,
Sonderaktion Ommen.



Der Generalkommissarz.b.v.
Sonderaktion Ommen.

Lager Ommen, 14.5.43

Der Student, Ferwerda, Hans Erfnr. 112
geb. 13.8.17 aus Haarlem, Kleverparkweg 116
wird aus dem Lager Ommen entlassen, weil er nicht unter
die Anordnung des Höheren SS. und Polizeiführers Den Haag
fällt. Dvm. 4/5.43

Gesehen:

Im Auftrage:

Leutnant der Sch. Pol.

The student, Ferwerda, Hans Erfnr.112 born 13.8.1917 of Haarlem, Kleverparkweg 116 ***is being released*** *from the Ommen Camp,* ***because he doesn't come under the ordnance of 4.5.43, of the High (Hoheren) SS. And Police Officers, The Hague.***

So, Hans must have had a few aces up his sleeve as he was released "because he doesn't come under the ordnance of 4 May 1943" .

[241] Camp Archives, NIOD Website, accessed 2019

Presumably he's not considered to be a student, as he's completed his degree, and they release him to come under the Arbeidsdienst (general employment office). Phew! Lucky again? This means not being sent to Germany as a student but now he could be sent via the Arbeidsdienst.

Blankevoort brothers released

Still no butter for sale. The validity period of most coupons has been extended again, so we now must be even thriftier.

It's a hopeless situation. Everyone is burdened by misery and sadness.

The meat coupon is given a longer period of validity, so we must last with 3 ½ ounces for 4 weeks. There's no more sugar and no kind of snack.

The dinner pot usually does not have anything but bad potatoes, lettuce or beets and sometimes a cauliflower with some "gravelly" sauce as gravy – a bit of barley or oatmeal, cooked in milk, which actually can not be called milk; because of the small amount we get, diluted with some water.

All people are visibly skinnier.

Kees and Piet Blankevoort are still in the concentration camp in Vught. The food that is provided to them is surprisingly small. Four (4) slices a day and a little watery soup.

Anyone who has possessed a *f*1000 banknote after March 18, and had surrendered it, or was forced to surrender it more correctly, must go to the tax authorities and explain how they got it. If the reason is considered valid, then the amount can be used to pay taxes. Otherwise, they've lost it.

Now the order has come that all Dutch males aged between 18 and 35 must report to the government to be put to work in Germany. Anyone who refuses or who is helpful to the people in hiding will receive 5 years' imprisonment or a high fine, or both, as punishment.

The number of people who are shot point blank for imprudent comments against the Germans or taking part in a strike is incredibly large.

Enjoyed a fried fish that I received yesterday from the evacuees living at Vijverweg 10; have given them some 'meatbones' for it. The generic name of 'meatbones' (vleeschbeenen), adds a new word to our Dutch language, which is enriched or impoverished, perhaps, but in my view, it means that the butcher keeps the meat, and the customers get the bones. You generally pay *f*1.30 per 500g for it. A wonderful invention.

Today a new regulation; everyone who is in possession of a radio must submit it to the government, on a date, yet to be announced.

Ir. C. Blankevoort and P. Blankevoort (the dentist) released today from the prison in Vught and have gone home.

Today I rode the bike to Haarlem to welcome Kees and Piet Blankevoort after their homecoming from captivity in Vught. Their condition seemed alright, especially Piet. They will soon be back to normal.

The Reich Commissioner gives a big talk about the tensions in the Netherlands over the last weeks, and the motto *"One will have learned that the occupying forces are able to take all*

necessary measures." Haven't we already suffered enough?

Men born in 1922 and 1923 must report for work in Germany.

Daughter Janny's birthday. However, she has left the house with her family because she has nothing to offer visitors. Absolutely nothing is for sale. So, the birthday has passed with "silent drums".

It is, as appears from this, very serious. Only last Saturday there was a little amount of almost inedible lettuce for sale. The butchers do have some meat, but people do not have coupons, and if they have coupons, the butchers do not have any meat. It's total chaos. We have not had a crumb of meat on the table in 14 days.

The butter ration is of such a nature that the bread must be scraped rather than smeared.

As usual, bought the newspaper from Mr. Martens and a cup of coffee on Kennemerplein. Met Kees there, the released Vught-prisoner. Now saw that he is quite emaciated.

The Comintern or Communist Internationale dissolved in Russia. Also, this important decision is treated in Germany with mockery. The fear of Russian communism has slipped away from them; there was namely a lot of propaganda.

Still no meat with the meal. The strawberries have also disappeared without trace, no longer for sale in any shop, just the odd potato and some lettuce.

All men, born in 1924, are called up to get a registration form for employment and return it on 31 May and 1 June.

So now its Hank's brother, Nic's turn! Nic was born on the 22 July 1924. I believe Nic then went into hiding. According to Clementia[242], his daughter, Nic's disguise when out and about was to wear short trousers to appear younger than he was. Nic was probably in hiding till the end of the war.



Photo: *Hans and his friends take a deep breath and work out their next move.*
Photo taken in May 1943 (location unknown). Hans is third from left. Laurens Heringa is on

[242] Pers.comm. 2018, Clementia Dupuis

the right at the front, and his wife Trees is fourth from right.
Where's Hank? probably in The Hague at the Red Cross…

Judenrein

To make the country Judenreín[243], numerous razzias on Jews in Amsterdam.

Trouw Group and NV increase their efforts to smuggle children from the child care-center to safe hiding places[244].

Hank is in The Hague working for the Red Cross, while in Utrecht at Kindjeshaven it was a 'crazy busy' time[245]:

> *The Utrecht Children's Committee received "new" children from the Amsterdam students or from their parents. May 1943 was one of the busiest months. During May the number of names in the card system rose from 171 to 231 …. Truitje van Lier kept the Kindjeshaven available as an important first shelter for babies….*
>
> *Truitje has vivid memories of the spring of 1943:*
>
> *"You can't imagine what it was like. They came every half hour. And I borrowed sleds and portable cribs from everywhere, and then I'd put a basket on a sled, and I'd have another cradle. No one was traveling anymore, so you could get cradles. There was no end to it. It was awful. And I took in too many, but there was no way to refuse. If not, they'd be gone. That was when the big razzias broke out in Amsterdam".*
>
> *After some time, most of the children were picked up again and lodged elsewhere throughout the country. Truitje and Jet received extra ration cards for the authorized children through official channels. They obtained ration cards and sometimes extra money from the Children's Committee. In addition, Truitje had her own contacts, Truuke and André de Wolf, who regularly gave her ration cards. A Calvinist resistance group in Amsterdam provided them as well.*
>
> *Truitje recounts:*
>
> *"Once there was a man from the Calvinist group. He was terribly nauseated because he had just eaten all the ration cards. We tried to help him. He had eaten them when the police picked him up. So, he came to tell us that he didn't have them. He was so sick, that poor man. I kept him with us for a while until he recovered."*

[243] German for exclusion of Jews
[244] Flim (2004)
[245] Flim (2004)

ARBEIDSDIENST & ARBEITSEINSATZ

Spring 1943 was a particular turning point in the circumstances for the occupied territories. Germany was fighting a losing war on the eastern front and apart from the people, food and other resources that had already been plundered, had extended their reach to more and more members of the population. Men between the age of 18 and 45 were the main target. Those who were determined to avoid going to Germany, and there were many, went into hiding or found work in the Netherlands approved by the Germans. Of course there were many people in hiding already. But the numbers grew rapidly at this time.

The Arbeidsdienst (Dutch word), was an employment Agency system setup before German occupation generally run by local municipalities. After occupation it was taken over by the authorities and run centrally, with Arbeitseinsatz (German word), forced labour in Nazi Germany, being its primary task. Through this organisation hundreds of thousands of Dutch workers ended up in Germany.

The task of fulfilling Germany's need for workers to replace those conscripted to the military and to expand manufacturing (for the war), grew increasingly rapidly as the war progressed, as did the roundups (razzias) in the German-occupied territories.

> *"Arbeitseinsatz was not restricted to the industry sector and to arms producing factories; it also took place, for example, in the farming sector, community services, and even in the churches."*[246]

Hitler appointed Fritz Sauckler as *Generalbevollmächtigter für den Arbeitseinsatz*[247] at the end of March 1942. Sauckler employed F. Schmidt as his representative in the Netherlands:

> *"From the beginning of April 1942 everything related to the labour input of Dutch workers had to go under Schmidt's 'Generalkommissariat zur besonder Verwendung'*[248]*. This appointment put Schmidt in an ambivalent position. As a representative of Sauckel he had to send as many Dutch workers as possible to Germany. However, Schmidt was also the closest political advisor to Reichskommissar Arthur Seyss-Inquart,*

[246] Wikipedia - Arbeitseinsatz
[247] General representative for Labour
[248] General Commission for Special Projects?

who wanted, as little as possible, to disturb the peace in the occupied Netherlands."[249]

The German demands increased in frequency, number and diversity of people (largely men) particularly from April 1942 – May 1943. The early responses were to reluctantly fulfil these requests but with each further request the numbers of people transported became less. For example, in February 1943 there was the request to transport 300,000 ex-Dutch Army. Pretty quickly 100,000 were exempted because they were already working in the arms industry or on the Atlantic wall. In the end only 11,000 of the 200,000 were sent to Germany, the rest went into hiding or managed to get exemptions based on an ever-broadening description of what was considered exempt.

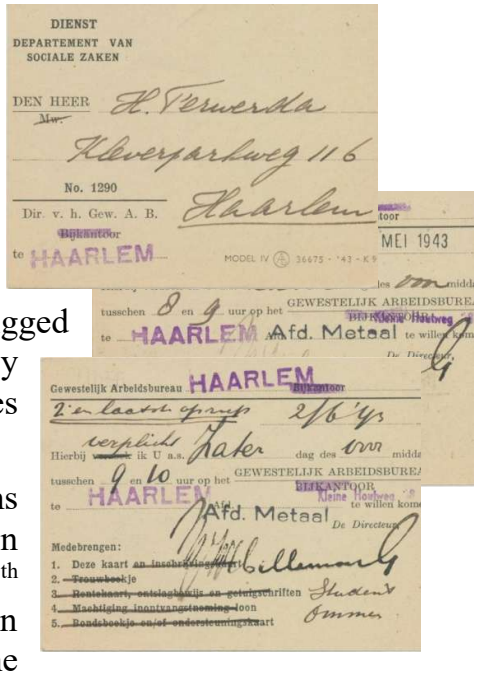
As these demands were not being fulfilled to Sauckler's liking, a different tack was used – to classify every worker's job into one of three work classifications, the Z-card system…The classification required the signature of a "Fachberater" or Technical Advisor, from the German Authorities.

The classifications were:

Z1-Arbeitseinsatz – *off to Germany*

Z2-Support Services for Germany, based in the Netherlands *(eg armaments and food supply) [Exempt]*

Z3-Business *[Exempt]*


DIENST
DEPARTEMENT VAN
SOCIALE ZAKEN
DEN HEER H. Terwerda
Kleverparkweg 116
No. 1290
Dir. v. h. Gew. A. B.
te HAARLEM
MEI 1943
tusschen 8 en 9 uur op het GEWESTELIJK ARBEIDSBUREA
te HAARLEM Afd. Metaal
Gewestelijk Arbeidsbureau HAARLEM
Hierbij ik U a.s.
tusschen 9 en 10 uur op het GEWESTELIJK ARBEIDSBUREA
te HAARLEM
Afd. Metaal
Medebrengen:
1. Deze kaart
2. Trouwboekje
3. Bankboekje, enzinsboekje en geluidschriften
4. Machtiging inontvangstneming loon
5. Bondsboekje en/of ondersteuningskaart

This also didn't deliver the numbers that Sauckler wanted, so the Germans resorted to Razzias or raids. Raids involved rounding up all men in a neighbourhood, including house to house searches, and sending the captured off to Germany.

Nic, Hank's younger brother, who owned a small yacht, was out one day, pottering round on the yacht when one of these raids occurred, and luckily he twigged to what was going on and hid under the sails till they disappeared[250]. I'm sure there were plenty of scares like that and you just had to be lucky.

From *The Collection (1938-1950)* we find that Hans had at least two appointments at the Arbeidsbureau in the Metal Division (Afdeeling Metaal); one on 20th May, where he was asked to attend, and the second, on 2nd June which was a <u>demand</u> that he attend. The second request includes the note "Student Ommen". We can guess that he didn't

[249] The Dutch National Archives Website, accessed 2018
[250] Pers.comm. 2018, Clementia Dupuis

turn up, as it appears that Hans is already working with *van Hattum and Blankevoort* from the 30 April 1943. This is a week before the callup to go to Ommen and may explain why he wasn't sent to Germany. But why then did he still have to register with the Abeidsdienst?

It was obvious that being a 'student' no longer provided any measure of safety and there's no denying, it was fortuitous for Hans to be linked to the Blankevoorts; to have studied engineering; and to have worked with the North Holland Water Board. Hans did not have to go to Germany and spent the next two years in Vollenhove 'working' for *vH&B*, one of the companies contracted to develop the Northeast Polder, part of the Zuider Zee works.

His employment card says he is a "hulp-uitvoerder" or sub-contractor with vH&B, and an engineer working on the Zuiderzee Works, and is permitted to be there from 30 April till 31 December 1943. It has the official stamp of the Wieringermeer Directie, the oversight body managing the ZuiderZee works.


PERSOONLIJK/MET GEZELSCHAP

Aan H. Ferwerda

wonende te Vollenhove

beroep hulp-uitvoerder

werkzaam bij v. Hattum & Blankevoort

wordt hierbij VERGUNNING verleend tot het betreden van den N.O. POLDER (behalve den N.O.P. dijk) van ---- tot ----

N.O.P. dijk

Geldig van 30 April t/m 31 Dec. 194

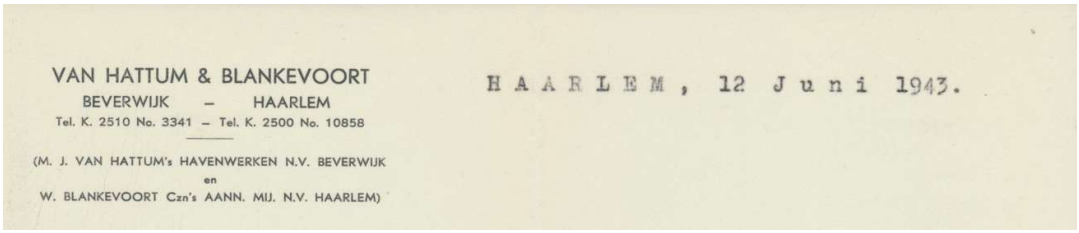
Uitgereikt te Vollenhove door den

Ingénieur v. d. Wieringermeerdirectie v.d. Zuiderzeewerken

Letter E No. 996. (Handteekening)

14142 - '42 - K244 Z.O.Z.!

This document must have been an interim Proof of Identity, as once he receives a formal letter from vH&B on 12 June 1943; he soon after receives new ID papers.


VAN HATTUM & BLANKEVOORT
BEVERWIJK – HAARLEM
Tel. K. 2510 No. 3341 – Tel. K. 2500 No. 10858
(M. J. VAN HATTUM's HAVENWERKEN N.V. BEVERWIJK
en
W. BLANKEVOORT Czn's AANN. MIJ. N.V. HAARLEM)

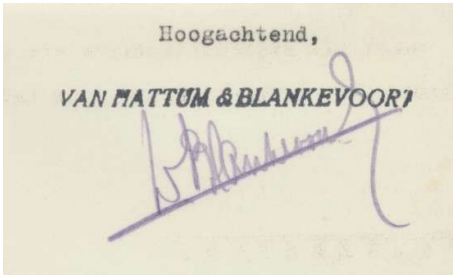
HAARLEM, 12 Juni 1943.

The letter confirms his employment with them, in Vollenhove, as sub-contractor for construction and hydraulic engineering works.

Letter: *to Hans Ferwerda*

per Hr K. Klaver[251], Painter[252],St. Jansklooster bij Vollenhove

From: van Hattum & Blankevoort, Haarlem


Hoogachtend,

VAN HATTUM & BLANKEVOORT

Signed by a Blankevoort, but which one? It's most likely Wim's father Niek Blankevoort, the director

[251] Klaver is a Monickendam name; Piet Blankevoort married a Klaver. I wonder if there is a connection?
[252] D: Schilder – so this persons profession

of the Blankevoort branch of vH&B, at the time.

So, Hans possibly stayed in St. Jansklooster, a small village near Vollenhove, temporarily, while he looked for more long-term accommodation.

The previous employment card is replaced with a 'Persoonsbewijs' or Proof of ID card and a 'Verklaring' or Declaration Card regarding his employment. Both were required to be carried at all times.

The Persoonsbewijs, signed initially on 15 June by the Local Government in Vollenhove, says he lived at Kerkstraat 46a, Vollenhove until 9 July 1945 when he moves back to his parents' place in Haarlem.



Image: *Proof of Identity (Top) Front; (bottom)Back[incl. righthand middle fingerprint]*

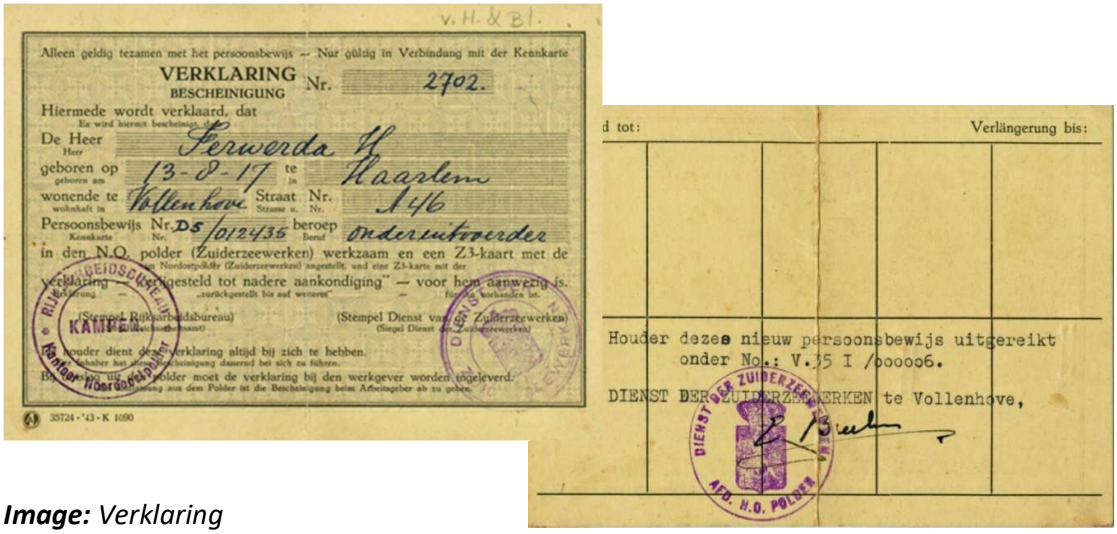


Image: *Verklaring*

The "Verklaring" on the other hand is approved by *the RijksArbeidsBureau, Kantoor NoordOost polder, Kampen and Dienst Der ZuiderzeeWerken, Afdeeling NoordOost Polder, Vollenhove*. In other words by the Employment Office in Kampen and the Office of the ZuiderZee Project for the North East Polder, based in Vollenhove.

It declares that he is working in the Northeast polder of the ZuiderZee Project, and that he has a Z3 classification which says he is needed by the company in the Netherlands and is therefore exempt from forced labour in Germany. Phew!

The Zuider Zee Project and the NOP



The Germans assumed that the Netherlands would be theirs at the finish of the war. Also, Hitler was impressed with the Zuider Zee Project and was keen to keep it going.

The company, vH&B had various contracts associated with these Works.

Image: *Final Plan of the Zuiderzee Works, Darker green indicates the new polders. The polder in the northwest, Wieringermeer, was completed before the war. The north east polder was in progess and the largest polder, Flevoland had not yet begun*[253].

Vollenhove, where the Project's Head Office was located, is in the Province of

[253] Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019

Overijssel, to the east and on the land side of the Northeast Polder or NOP (NoordOost Polder). This enormous project involved closing off the northern end of the Zuider Zee with a dyke, the Afsluitdyke, to create the Ijssel Lake (completed in 1932); and then, gradually reclaiming land through the creation of polders.

The NOP was the second polder to be drained, and work started on the surrounding dyke for this polder in 1936. The first, the Wieringermeer, was a test polder used as a proving ground for future polder development in the Ijssel Lake. The vH&B Company also had contracts related to the creation of this first polder.

Some history of the NOP has been recorded by Piet Blankevoort in his diary:

> Oct 1939 - A section of the dyke on the N. O. Polder was completed, connecting the island of Urk to the mainland.
>
> Early 1941-Sept 1942 Pumping stations started draining the Noordoost polder, (Lemmer, Friesland and the other in Vollenhove, Overijssel), until sufficiently drained.
>
> Sept 1942 Developmental process for the Noordoost polder begins. ie filling in and drainage and planning etc.

Nine months before Hans started 'working' there the polder was declared dry (9 Sept 1942) and was ready for the next stage – drainage management, soil development and cropping. Once completed, the polder could provide another 48,000 hectares of agricultural land in the middle of the war to feed the war machine. By this time the first grain crop had been harvested from the driest parts of the polder, but there was a long way to go before the whole of the area was viable.



An empty polder looks pretty bleak and hostile…

Photo: *Condition of the newly dry land after rainfall. Schokland (originally an island) in the background.*[254]

The Wieringermeer Directie (Noordoostpolder Works) had the responsibility to ensure both good drainage and soil structure.

I assume that vH&B will only have contracted the drainage component of these works. By June 1943 due to lack of money and resources "the digging of drainage ditches was done with a shovel."[255] I believe this is what Hans was employed to do: Layout and dig the trenches, Weirdly I have no memory of

[254] Photo source - Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019
[255] Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019

Hans talking about this, considering he spent half the war here.

Image: Drainage tools: laying hook, foam shovel, trench sight, narrow trench shovel, 1946. [256]





Map: *The areas in the eastern part of the polder have a higher altitude than the western parts. Trenches were dug out as soon as an area started to dry.* [257]

The eastern side of the polder had already been drained at the time Hans went there. So, Hans worked in the west where drainage lines and pipes still had to be laid.

NOP & the Onderduikers

These 48,000 hectares of new land (with only a few residents) was largely ignored by the occupiers, and, as a result, it was put to good use by those on the run from the enemy; the Noordoost polder proved an excellent place to 'disappear'. It got the nickname "Nederlands Onderduikers Paradijs" or NOP (Dutch Paradise for People in hiding). Essentially the Dutch authorities in charge of these works used the situation to help many Dutch to stay in The Netherlands.

A key player was Albert Knipmeijer, head of personell management at the Wieringermeer Directie (Noordoostpolder Works).

> *"[He] shaped the resistance in his own way. The Directie had a branch office in Kampen (agricultural department). There, people could register to work in the Noordoost polder. Knipmeijer made perfect use of that and used the system of "Ausweis" (identity paper) declarations[258].*
> *On an Ausweis, it was indicated who, when and where a person had permission to work. There were no passport photos or fingerprints*

[256] Photo source - Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019
[257] Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019
[258] Maybe these were Z2 classification jobs? So less secure than Z3 jobs?

included, as on a passport. An Ausweis was therefore not an identity card or passport as we know it today. …With such an Ausweis, people in hiding could 'legally' work in the Noordoost polder and they were protected from forced labour in Germany. The Ausweis also contained a signature of the German authorities who were stationed in Zwolle. Knipmeijer turned every person in hiding into a farm worker.
In practice, students, dentists, bakers, watchmakers, factory workers and professors worked side by side with their shovels on this tremendously hard task. The reclamation work continued despite the horrors of the war outside the Noordoost polder…The farm workers were pushed to the limit. The working days were long … They left the Noordoost polder, often with bleeding blisters on their hands…"[259]



Photo: *Work team in the Noordoost polder during the construction. The workers carried the construction shack to the new workplace.*[260]

Most polder workers were housed in camps, where the living conditions were often quite poor. Hans's address however was in Vollenhove itself[261]. So, he was in a much better position than those employed as farm workers. The full drainage plan was not completed till after the war, in 1947, when machines

[259] Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019
[260] Photo & Photo description source - Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019 The man on the right looks so much like Hans. Is it him? Also, the man with the glasses (Laurens Heringa?) and the man second from right look like friends of Hans? Maybe they're all ex-Delft mates? If so that would have made it easier to handle…Also there was no film available for photos in 1943, so probably taken after the Germans had departed (1945) …
[261] I've attempted to discover who Hans was living with in Vollenhove, without luck, so far; this information may still come to light.

could be used again. The total length of ditches across the polder was over 40,000 kilometres!



Photo: *Laurens Heringa and Hans Ferwerda surveying the polder, in order to lay drains.*[262]

The following book of interest was found in Hans' Library – "Paradijs in Oorlogstijd? Onderduikers in de NoordOost polder 1942-1945", written by Dr. C.C. van Baalen (1986). Below are some extracts:

> *"After mid-May 1943, the Noordoost polder soon gained national recognition and not only from underground organizations. Written on a fence in Amsterdam, was: "Report to Europe's largest submarine commander in Kampen" and in the Rotterdam Maastunnel*[263]*:"Do not report as a soldier but go to Knipmeijer's hiding protectorate." From near and far young men came to the office of the Wieringermeer Directie in the Molenstraat in Kampen …*
>
> *The official figures in the reports from the Wieringermeer Directie show that the number of workers rose sharply from mid-May. In the period from 8 May to 26 June 1943, the number of employees registered at the Directie rose from 2,418 to 4,103 …*
>
> *Precise figures are not known, but it is almost certain that the majority of the workers from May 1943 in the Noordoost polder were in hiding …*

[262] The Collection (1938-1950) (from Hans Heringa, Laurens' son, probably taken after the Germans had left and film was again available in 1945)

[263] Van Hattum & Blankevoort were part of a consortium that constructed this under river transport tunnel between1938-1942, [Boestert,1970].

The fact that the reclamation work in the polder happened during 1943 and most of 1944 and that there was no longer a shortage of personnel, means a significant proportion must be attributed to the many thousands of people looking for refuge between early 1943 and November 1944.

According to an estimate by Knipmeijer: The polder was, "The main hiding-place in the Netherlands; ... about 25,000 people have found refuge for a longer or shorter period of time"[264].

Predominantly the 'onderduikers', were students, ex-Dutch military, and men between the ages of 19 and 23, "as well as … a number of resistance fighters who became too 'hot' at home and, also, a few dozen Jews. "[265] Most Jewish people had been rounded up before this period and sent to German concentration camps.

The German authorities of course knew what was going on[266]:

Graffiti made in public places for the Noordoost polder resulted in men from all over the country knowing where to find the polder. It was therefore no different for the Germans who had to be aware of the situation. A (translated) passage from a report of 15 July 1943, drawn up by the 'Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolízei und des SD'[267] in Arnhem, leaves no uncertainty about this:

"For a long time, it has been a public secret that an organisation that has the reclamation of the Zuiderzee on its program and which bears the name, North east Polder Works, in its 'disguise', sabotages the regulations of the Reichskommissar, or does not respect them…."

The paper ends with the announcement that preparations are being made to subject the Noordoost polder to closer scrutiny.

The occupiers, however, left the polder workers alone till late 1944. The most likely reason being the importance the Germans attached to the development of new productive land.

[264] Baalen (1986)
[265] Baalen (1986)
[266] Baalen (1986)
[267] Commander of the Security Police'

No more radios & the Underground Press

The month began cold and rainy

The electrical heating installations are on again here and there. With cold feet you step into bed, and it takes a long time before they feel comfortable. If only, to take a hot water bottle to bed, but the rationed cubic meters of gas and kW Electricity do not allow it.

Churchill or more correctly, Attlee has informed the House of Commons that England has so far lost the following number of people in the war, namely: 315,948 killed or missing; and for the allies Canada 10,422 men, Australia 53,959, New Zealand 19,345, South Africa 22,625, British India, Hongkong and Singapore 30,829.

Today Italy's been in the war for 3 years. Italy must endure regular heavy bombing by the Eng. and Am. aircraft. The island of Pantelleria has unconditionally surrendered to the allies, which means that they have a shorter route by which to bombard Italy.

The Japanese minister, Toja, declares that the war has entered a serious and decisive stage.

Germany has had a hard time with the bombs. Krefeld in Germany severely plagued by Eng. and Am. Bombers.

Not only are our foodstuffs being dragged away, but the Netherlands is also being depopulated. The barbarity in which we are treated goes beyond all limits of well-being, the situation becomes untenable.

The reserve officers are called up. They must report to be sent to Germany.

Also, several Infantry regiments called up. They must appear in uniform as far as possible. Also to bring day-to-day and Sunday clothes, woollen blankets, underwear and extra footwear as well as cooking utensils and a spoon. The total quantity may not exceed 2 normal suitcases. By not turning up, heavy penalties will follow.

Imagine, "taking footwear with you"; most of them already run on a shoe and a slipper.

Under the motto "State and Business" a change has been made in the management of the Neth. Bank. This shows that the authoritarian principle has been implemented to its ultimate consequence, such that the president of the Netherlands Bank who is directly under the Reich Commissioner will now have very far-reaching powers.

The handing in of radios has been ordered and started at various locations.

21 June 1943 Now that we must hand in our radio sets tomorrow, we will not be able to read much more than German victories. The prospect is not attractive.

I handed my radio in today.

With less access to Radio Oranje the underground resistance and the press are running in overdrive, life-threatening work.

From the Bloemendaal WW2 Website:

SHH, SHUT UP and STAY SILENT

The underground sheets spread the text printed below, because if someone is betrayed and beaten during the interrogations of the SS, SD or Grüne Polizei, that may cost the lives of many.

The number of underground sheets had grown considerably. All religious or political views had their own newspaper. In addition, many stencils were made and distributed among the good Dutch people so that the news of Radio Oranje came to the Dutch.


OPGEPAST !

Aan alle Nederlanders :

Zwijgt over het ondergrondsche werk, ook tegenover naaste familieleden en vrienden. Klets de strijders niet in den dood !

Aan de ondergrondsche werkers :

Er is maar één plaats waar Duitsche politieorganen niets kunnen vinden : Uw hoofd. Draagt geen papieren bij U ! Bergt ze niet z.g. " veilig " op ! Hoedt U in het bijzonder voor naamlijsten : een naamlijst welke onlangs door den SD op een arrestant werd gevonden, heeft tot den dood van vele vaderlanders geleid.

It says:

WARNING!

To all Dutch people:

Keep quiet about the underground work, also to close family and friends. Do not invite the fighters to their death.

To all underground workers:

There is only one place where the German police will not find anything: Your Head. Don't carry any papers with you! Don't store them "safely" somewhere! Especially lists of names: one such list found on someone by the SD, led to the death of many Dutch people.

The food situation

Consider the situation briefly, 2 June 1943, there was nothing for sale, not even a head of lettuce. At the bakers, nothing not even bread. Fortunately, those who, like us, had some lettuce and string beans in the barrel…[268]. You deal with it, but nutritional values are probably not that much.

Had to eat pot vegetables[269] today because nothing was on sale again.

The prices in the black market of some foodstuffs seem to be going down, namely butter; last week not below *f*30 per 500g and now a week later one does not have to pay more than *f*24 per 500g. For 100g of tea people readily pay *f*35. For a spring chicken, *f*9 is asked.

[268] I think this is about pickling or salting vegetables to keep them longer
[269] Presumably, the pickled vegies?

No vegetables available again, so it goes on every day.

Some vegetables (onions or lettuce) available, but only if you want to make the effort to wait in line for an hour or longer.

The validity of the meat vouchers has been extended again. It was as good as worth nothing and now with that "almost nothing" we must last for longer.

It is still very difficult to get some vegetables. A bunch of carrots once or a head of lettuce.

From Henning we bought 200g of biscuits; For 60 cents, a pitiful treat?

Again, lettuce eaten with bad potatoes. Fortunately, some porridge for dessert.

The front door is inundated with strawberry pedlars. They still ask prices from *f*4 and *f*3.50 for a so-called 2.5 kg basket, while those who pick them themselves only pay *f*1.60 per basket.

It is made known in the newspaper that the potato ration will be reduced. Today new potatoes are made available. I hear they are far from good.

Not only are there no shoes available, but for the repair of the old ones no more material is available.

On the black-market *f*275 per 100 litres is asked for wheat and for fat *f*20 per 500g.

It's apparent with the vegetables in the garden that the growth is petering out.

Lettuce, kohlrabi and bad potatoes. It is lettuce every day, not possible to get any other vegetables.

The fact that the diet is bad is clearly stated in the following letter written by Dutch doctors on 3 June 1943[270]:

> *To the Reich Commissioner of the occupied Dutch territory.*
>
> *Convinced to speak on behalf of a large proportion of Dutch physicians, we are obligated to draw your attention to the declining state of the health of the Dutch population, which has become troubling in the last few months.*
>
> *Without the means that made free and public discussion of people's thoughts and ideas possible, this situation could develop without attention being paid to it. The doctors, who are always trusted in many families, know how much the physical and spiritual need of our people has increased. One of the most disturbing phenomena is the deterioration of the population's food resources. Many doctors now see, daily, patients who are ill due to lack of nutrition and it can be predicted with certainty that the number of these patients will continue to increase significantly. After all, the rations for adults provided by the distribution*

[270] PB's Diary (1946)

only have a value of 1600 calories[271], an amount that is insufficient for an adult man even when he can rest for a few days to maintain his body. No significant supplement to the rations can be obtained anymore, leading to serious malnutrition and finally starvation for many. The partial improvement of this state of emergency, by providing extra food for the sick, is completely inadequate.

Except for some groups, our patients generally do not receive the amount of food necessary for their recovery. The severity of the situation is shown by the reduced resistance to infections; and an undeniable indication is the increase in tuberculosis.

The hardships are especially difficult to bear, because our people have the conviction that this food would be less expensive if a significant proportion of the products produced in our country were not exported to Germany, where the rations are higher than in our country. It is difficult for our people to understand how this can be justified and appeal to your consideration of the laws of war set by the 1907 Hague Convention. Here it is explicitly stated that claims can only be made for the occupation army. The scarcity of certain foodstuffs in periods, where production in our country increases, and especially the withholding of export figures, has led to the belief that these exports are an important part of our production. Hence the reluctance to retain the food produced is becoming greater, which brings the food, especially in the cities, at risk in the long run.

Even worse than the physical need is the spiritual need in which our people are wrought by the occupying power. Since the Netherlands was at war with Germany, and the Dutch Navy and Air Force continued the struggle against Germany, a large part of the Dutch male population is now forced to work in German industry, which forges the weapons, with which our homeland is being threatened; while the Hague Convention, which was also signed by Germany, expressly stipulates that services may only be requisitioned for the occupying army, while these services may never be used as aid for military operations against the homeland. Refusal to go to Germany is made almost impossible, because then they are excluded from the rationing (in the Netherlands) of the produced food. Moreover, imprisonment and transfer to the concentration camps threatens, where already so many healthy Dutch young men have died in a pitiful manner in a short time. Those who are in hiding make the food position of their family even worse and bring them in danger of conflict

[271] About 2/3rds daily requirement

with the government, because the provision of aid is also punishable. For example, those who work for the enemy in Germany and those who have withdrawn from the Arbeidsdienst are faced with serious conscientious objections.

In your speech of 19 May you told the Dutch doctors that they are not going to Germany to treat the Dutch workers but to take the place of German doctors who are at the front. Mr. Reich Commissioner, it is not our job to cooperate outside of our borders on the medical care of the hostile army. From your speech we have found that you seriously consider the outbreak of military operations on Dutch territory. In that case the number of victims in our densely populated country will be very large. Even if our conscience and our national pride do not forbid us to work in enemy land, even the possibility that our help in our own country will be urgently needed would oblige us to stay in our homeland. The German soldier can be assured that the Dutch doctor will then, as in 1940, grant him the aid on which he can count according to the laws of humanity and international law.

In your speech, you instructed business leaders to take the initiative to take a calming and far-reaching approach as soon as unrest threatens to arise. No one knows better than the doctors that there is now a great deal of unrest among the population. This is one of the reasons why we address you. The Dutch people have come to a stage where it is difficult to cope. A sense of lawlessness has arisen and some bitterness that in the long run must lead to despair. It is the physician's job to do everything in his power to avoid these desperate acts, but he will lose the necessary trust of his patients for this if he has not brought their legitimate grievances to the attention of the government.

Only limited comments or news reports will be included from Piet Blankevoort for this year from July 1943 to June 1944. In summary, the scarcity of food and fuel continues unabated, gradually getting worse as if it could get any worse. German propaganda continues through newspapers and posters. Regularly groups of civilians are executed for sabotage[272] etc.

Piet reports more frequently of air-raid sirens, bombers overhead in both directions and occasional bombings over the Netherlands…

[272] PB would record in most cases the names of those executed,

FEARLESS HAAGSE DAMES!

Red Cross, The Hague

Starting around the time Hans was freed from Vught, Hank worked for the Red Cross in The Hague[273], the occupiers' political base. Hank does not have fond memories of The Hague; both the job and the general atmosphere must have contributed. Only two months earlier, the Dutch SS-General Seyffardt had been shot on his doorstep in The Hague by members of the resistance, triggering the student arrests, the massive expansion of forced labour to Germany and the resulting general strikes.

In *Memories (1980s)* Hank writes this about the 'job'[274]:

> *... Then, as I was engaged, I thought I would probably be getting married soon. Little did I realize that the war would drag on for so long! Anyway, I enrolled in a one-year "on-the-job" training course with the Red Cross in Den Haag (The Hague). I had a friend, Kit van der Poest, who was in a similar situation to me, and she was doing it too. It was a housewifery course in a hospital with four months in the kitchen, four months cleaning and four months >----------->[275]. Part of the cleaning routine required us to make the nurses' beds which Kit and I found "a bit beneath us". We did some rather unkind things to the nurses' rooms to vent our frustrations, such as putting all the shoes in a row on the bed. It wasn't very nice of us, but it didn't hurt anyone.*

I imagine Hank and Kit were a great support for each other and obviously kept themselves amused.

In Hank's letter to Hans where she mentions this work, it was to last till the beginning of September. It seems a holiday was planned after that.

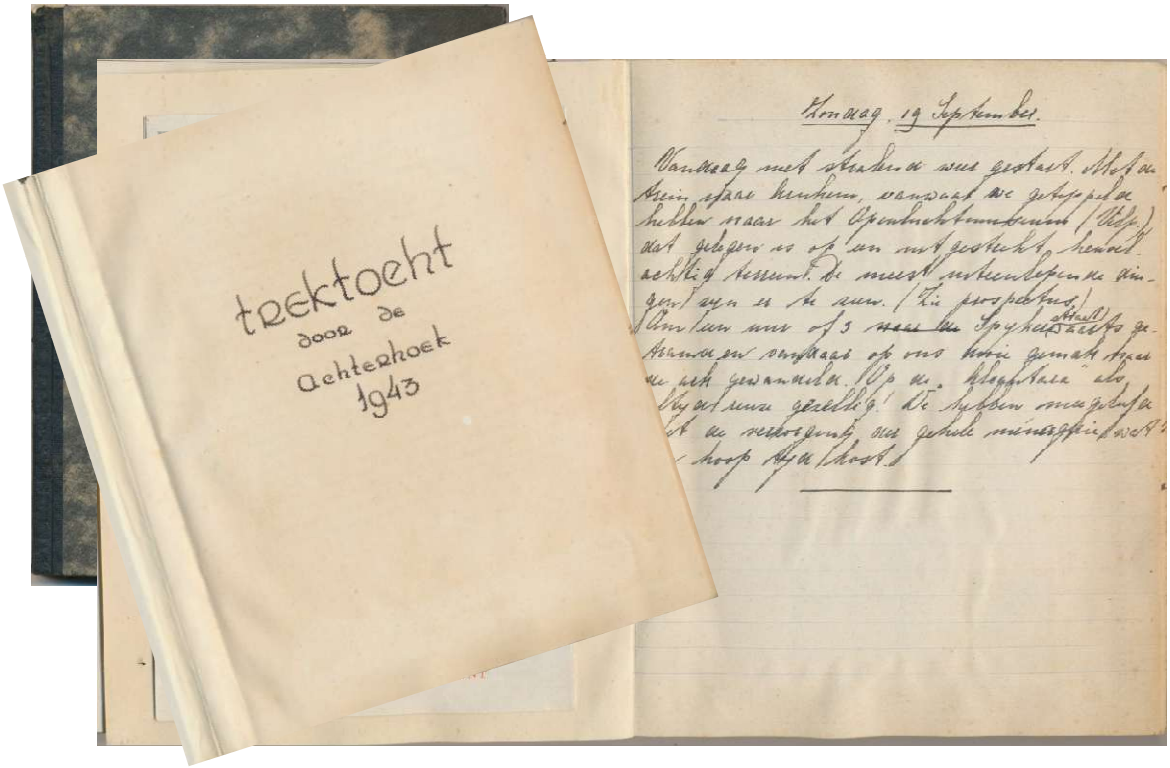
To my astonishment, a small diary written by Hank, was discovered amongst *The Collection (1938-1950),* describing a backpacking holiday she made with Jeanne, Hank's childhood friend, who was also working in a hospital (possibly also in The Hague); astonished, as it sounds like an odd or brave thing to do at this time.

Although I never heard Hank talk about this particular trip, I did get the sense

[273] The Hague - centre of the German administration/government and of the NSB
[274] Hank's memories
[275] It was left blank; Administration, maybe – home economics?

from her that dealing with the occupation was a bit of a ‘game’, of course at times a rather serious one. So, part of the game would be to live life as normally as one could within the general constraints of the situation.

A Dreamy Holiday



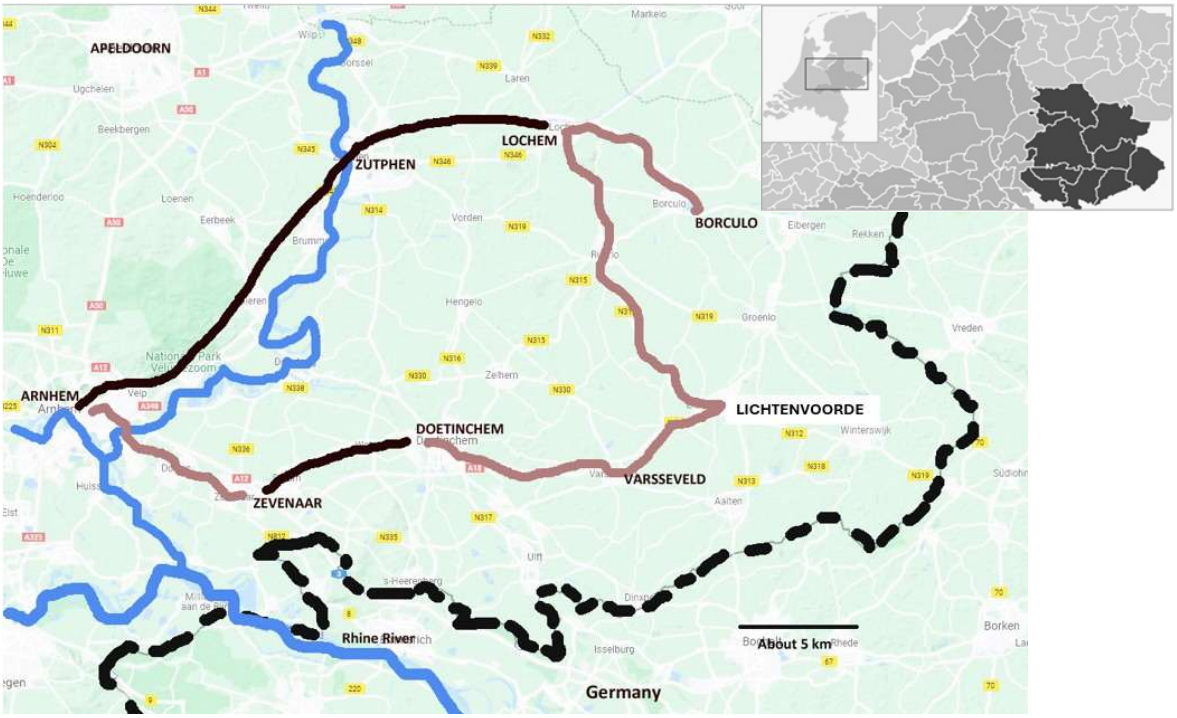
After catching the train to Arnhem, they first did some sightseeing at the Open Air Museum, and then joined cousin Wim and wife Lelie, who were living on a houseboat, the ‘Alcantara’, moored there.

> *“On the **Alcantara** it was always very relaxing and convivial (‘gezellig’). We helped with the caring of the whole menagerie which took forever.”*

The ‘managerie’ included at least one goat; and, presumeably the animals could be tethered on land near the mooring. The ‘Alcantara’ was owned by vH&B and moved around according to the needs of the company, usually housing an employee of the company, in this case Wim.

So, a pleasant start for Hank and Jeanne, who intended to travel in a loop to the south east of Arnhem, through the area called the Achterhoek (or Back corner). The Achterhoek is a largely rural area of farms and forests, and some areas are considered particularly beautiful[276]. Their main plan was to ‘walk in nature’ and one can assume an ulterior motive was to get some more nutritious food while staying in the countryside.

[276] Wikipedia – Achterhoek, July2021



Map: *Achterhoek, with Arnhem in the west, the Dutch/German border to the south and east (black dotted line); The Rhine River and tributaries runs from the south in Germany to the west and north (blue wiggly line); and the red and black (train) continuous line indicates their journey; Lichtenvoorde – Unexpected hosts*[277]*.*

The next morning, they walked from Arnhem to Zevenaar, about 15 km, and then by train to Doetinchem, where it took them more than two hours to find Lelie's suggested address on the outskirts of town….

> *Fortunately, we were able to stay here overnight. Although the family had already eaten a warm meal, the farmer's wife has baked a huge portion of potatoes for us with…. Bacon (spek)! and for dessert delicious mochaole*[278]*. And finally, early to bed.*
>
> *After a pre-war breakfast, on the road at a quarter to nine. On the way, a friendly invitation for a lift in a truck, so that we were in Varsseveld in a minimum of time.*

The only foods they could access outside of these homestays were apples sold throughout the area at farms; and rye bread in the towns if they were lucky. Also, Jeanne and Hank had a tendency to get lost, which surprises me, but maybe the lack of protein led to a lack of concentration, or they were just simply enjoying being away from everything. A bit carefree, perhaps! This happened on several occasions in the first days of their journey. Luckily there was usually a friendly farmer to help them out.

[277] Basemap source – Googlemaps (2021).Inset source: Wikipedia (2021)
[278] Mokkaole- some sort of mocha based dessert [made from substitutes?]

After staying in a homestay in Varsseveld they walked to Harreveld where they did not feel very welcome. Hank blamed the fact that the population was 100% Roman Catholic[279], and "*We were therefore gawked at as coming from another planet*." What did she mean? Anyway, they happily walked on via a backroad to Lichtenvoorde, enjoying the sunshine. Here they found very comfortable accommodation in a hotel.

The next day, Thursday 23 September:

> *Again, had an excellent sleep ('puik geslapen'). However, very shocked by the high bill which we didn't stop talking about, for at least half an hour. 'Ipoe' Jellies at 1 guilder a piece![280] Fortunately we ate them without knowing it. After this somewhat gloomy start, however, the day quickly improves.*
>
> *Beautiful weather all day. In order not to get lost again we kept to the main road. A beautiful road with some churches and poplars along the side, but always straight, which eventually became tedious. The only village we passed through was Zieuwent, also 100% Roman Catholic. Zieuwent and Rye bread are two concepts that gradually became one for us. Still, it didn't look like we would be successful at first. In the first bakery where it was very primitive, we could only get it by handing in a 'strook'. We understood "stroe"[281] and wondered what that might be. But Zieuwent has kept its good name, and we have obtained a five-pounder[282] (2.5kg). With a heavy bag and a light heart, we moved on.*
>
> *That day everything went well for us. At about eleven o'clock we rested and had a chat with a few people who were digging a ditch there. In the summer, the basin and ditches are dry, but in the winter the water rises enormously. That man turned out to have a small farm and a boarding house. It's very reassuring to once again have a place to sleep.*
>
> *We could immediately sit down at the table, where it was really rustic. A big bowl with spuds ('piepers'), a small one with [meat?] balls ('klootjes') and some gravy was served by the wife's mother. Simple but decent.*
>
> *In the afternoon we went out without a backpack, which is a lot easier. All roads are alike, and we had to ask several people for directions. And then we made a discovery, which is a great shame/embarrassment*

[279] The southern provinces were more Roman Catholic than the northern ones, which were dominated by the Dutch Reformed Church. This is a result of slightly different histories.
[280] D: Ipoe Geleieren – some type of jelly sweet in the shape of an egg?
[281] The original language of the Achterhoek is Achterhoeks, a variety of Low Saxon. There are a number of dialects in the area, although now in 2021 these are no longer prevalent, being replaced with Dutch [Wikipedia – Achterhoek, July 2021)
[282] Dutch 'ponden' (500g) not British pounds (453g)

('schande') in my diary…. We had ended up at an NSBers place. WA[283] as well!!

When we met initially, I wanted to have that confirmed[284], but it turned out that we'd gone to the wrong address.

Our plan to spend the weekend here was immediately cancelled. I must admit, however, that we did not notice anything, although it was striking that she didn't speak about the war. I can only say that we were received and welcomed very hospitably.

Pancakes were baked in the evening. However, the rye bread-pancake combination did not appeal to us very much. And, after this offering, a large plate of thick porridge, which we had not expected. It is very pleasant. You just have to pretend you're at home. It was a large family, 5 sons and 1 daughter.

They owned 2 cows, 3 pigs, rabbits and chickens and farmed more than enough for their own use. We also got 2 corn cobs to take with us which was nice. You could see that they were very proud of their possessions and worked hard to expand their business. The strange thing, however, is that despite the good nutrition, they all, except the farmer's wife and 2 sons, looked poorly. They seemed to have asthma. Although in the city, it may not be as good [foodwise], we do at least have more hygienic living conditions.

Friday, 24 September

The idea that we had landed at the wrong address apparently kept us busy at night. In any case, we both dreamed about it. (Jeanne went back to work, at the hospital, totally dishevelled; and I stood up on the bus in front of Willemientje)[285].

However, we cannot say otherwise than that they were very generous to us. We got our own baked bread rolls in the morning, so… so big that we could hardly eat 2 (and that says something) and an egg. We also each received a bag of sifted wheat flour, which we were very enthusiastic about.

We went on the road again full of courage and were happy once we were a good bit away from the area. The rumour mill would begin

[283] The WA (Weerbaarheids Afdeling or Defence Department) were the uniformed security forces and thugs of the NSB. The WA was founded in 1932 and initially existed until the end of 1935. In 1940, during the German occupation of the Netherlands, the WA was re-established. The WA resembled the Italian fascist Blackshirts and the SA of the NSDAP in many ways. [Dutch War Records Website, accessed 2021]
[284] Presumably which side they were on
[285] Presumably having to explain herself to the queen?!

immediately so it was advisable to seek shelter in another area.

Down to earth and cattle-breeding

Phew! They walked from Lichtenvoorde, north via Ruurlo to Barchem, where they were unable to find accommodation. So made the easy decision to walk on to Lochem where they could stay, in comfort, with friends of Jeanne. The next day, Saturday 25 September:

Had a very quiet day!

To start with, very luxuriously got up at 9 am. Lientje[286] kept us company in bed and thought we were stupid aunts as we didn't know any stories at all. Then she told us some fairy tales, in which the wolf ate everyone, and the rest fell into the water and were carried to the bank by frogs. Very fascinating!

After breakfast we did a bit of shopping and before we knew it, it was 1 o'clock. And now I cannot fail to mention that our dinner consisted of the almost legendary kidney beans with speck. In the afternoon we sat by the fireplace, because it rained all day…

At 5 o'clock we went to farm De Kok, where we soon felt at home.

Jeanne and Hank spent the next four nights at the farm, spending the first day sightseeing by bike in the Lochem area and getting to know the farm and its owners. The next day:

Monday, 27 September

We started our day on the cart with Hendrick–Jan to Lochem. We could sit regally on top of the bags of oats. It's just a pity that it was a bit cold due to the rain.

We are already starting to know our way around Lochem quite well.

We were back beautifully on time and went, in clogs (klompen), to pick apples in the orchard for an hour.

In the afternoon as part of the household activities, we went to look at the preparations for the Breeders' Day (Fokveedag) tomorrow. The cows were trimmed, hand shaved. Their tails washed and neatly braided. We have learned a lot, as we really knew very little about it!

After tea we went with Hendrick Jan to collect hay to take with us. We were in our element. We both got to take a ride on Jos. The Belgian draught horses are so broad, however, that you can hardly sit on them

[286] 4 year old child of Jeanne's friends

with good decency.

…After dinner we made our third ride of the day. We went with Hendrick-Jan to Binsbergen (a farm) to get the big cattle cart (veewagen). A cold ride.

For the sake of completeness, I must mention that I have become acquainted with the "balkenbrij", eaten on an empty stomach, but it tasted good anyway. They are small cookies, baked in fat and made from a batter of barley flour and crackling/pork fat (kaantjes) and spices.

Tuesday, 28 September – <u>Fokveedag Borculo 1943</u>

A day we would not have liked to have missed despite the pouring rain. But let me start at the beginning.

Although the family was already on their feet at 5 o'clock, we thought 7 o'clock was early enough. When we appeared on the scene, it had just calmed down a bit. The cattle cart arrived at 8 o'clock. Loading went smoothly, they were used to it. We only had some problems with the young steer, but with combined strengths (4 men strong) it worked finally. At half past eight all the men had left.

We left at about half past ten on the bikes and arrived at the site in Borculo before noon.



At first, we didn't understand what was going on. But after some time, we started to get a little insight into the way things worked. In the ring, the least good ones were separated first, and the remaining ones were sorted by changing places, with No.1 in front. The cows were in different age groups: lactating and dry and then two classes of heifer (vaarzen en pinken).

***Image:** Leader's Card*

*We participated actively in the category of the heifers. And the nice thing was that Hilda got the 1st prize. We really felt at home and walked criss-cross between the animals. **"**<u>They're Hague (!) Ladies, but they're not afraid.</u>**"**[287] We believe they were quite disappointed.*

This was followed by a parade with all the animals and then came the

[287] D: " 't bint Haagse (!) dames, maar niet bange."

'collections'. First it was the turn of the thoroughbreds and then the mare with pedigree.

It was a very-successful day for farmer Lubberdink. He won no less than 10 prizes... I think, a good result. The boss was beaming.

It has rained just about all day long. We were so wet and cold and left the field at a quarter to four.

In "'t Wapen van Borculo" (a pub) with Anton's father we had a delicious cup of coffee and a drink (borreltje), which helped us recover somewhat. And then back home on the back of the bike. The men did not appear until after 7:30. We had a nice drink again to the success of the day. The menfolk went onto the sugar brandy. After that 11 people ate in the dining room ('mooie kamer', literally the beautiful room). It was very pleasant, and we laughed a lot. I think I've laughed more in these few days than in the rest of the year. After dinner, the guests soon left, and we chatted with each other for a while.

We had a hard time deciding to go to bed. We really belonged now, and no extra effort was made for us anymore. Fortunately!

What a tonic in the middle of the occupation!

Our last day!

In everything you do, you think, that is the last time, so the last morning is never much fun.

… Before our departure packed in 10kg of apples per person.

When we said goodbye, it turned out that it had only been a party because of the guests. We felt very concerned about this, because it's difficult to think of something that we have that they don't have.

Because Hendrick-Jan was not 100% we were forced to walk. Heavily loaded, we held a stick between us, with the bags of apples and off we went. Quite a task[288]. We had a lift for a very short distance on a, far from clean, milk wagon, so that we looked like beetles[289] for the rest of the day, but we didn't really care…

From Lochem, Jeanne and Hank caught the train via Zutphen to Arnhem and:

Then by train to Kievitsdal, where we made our last walk and once again really enjoyed nature. The conclusion was a delicious glass of currant juice in Kievitsdal and then we continued our journey.

[288] D: Een heel sjouw
[289] D: torren

Our paths parted ways in Utrecht. During the train journey we laughed at all kinds of nice memories. Waved in Utrecht until we saw nothing and then alone home. And had a great holiday and hope to be able to make many more hikes later.

So, all went well, considering their brush with the WA, and they returned safely. It's unclear whether Hank stayed in Utrecht to visit Jet at Kindjeshaven, perhaps, and/or went back to The Hague, or returned to her parents in Haarlem. Or did she visit Hans, but that would have been a roundabout train journey, so probably not.

It's most likely Hank had finished up at the Red Cross and was planning to stay in Utrecht to assist Jet at Kindjeshaven.

Back to Reality…

Along the coast the Germans continue their defence works, including the digging of a defence-line between Bloemendaal, Haarlem and Santpoort[290].



Image: *Mauer Wall with passage. This photo was probably taken at the crossing of the Kleverlaan border Haarlem - Bloemendaal in May 1945*[291].

Part of the defence line involved the building of an enormous concrete wall along the Kleverlaan[292] – the Mauer Wall (see photo).

The Bloemendaal WW2 website also records the following for this period:

The pursuit of people for the labor force continues as does propaganda.

School students are called on to help with the harvest; this time to collect acorns, beech nuts and chestnuts.

All people over 15 years of age must attend a monthly lecture titled: "Self-protection in Air Attacks". These sessions lasted until May 1944.

The German Wehrmacht requisitioned 20 horses and 17 cars from farmers in this municipality.

Increased security required at distribution centres and for transports, due

[290] Bloemendaal WW2 Website, accessed 2021
[291] Bloemendaal WW2 Website, accessed 2021
[292] Kleverlaan runs more or less east –west dividing Haarlem and Bloemendaal

to increasingly frequent raids.

Imminent Freedom?

In late January 1944, the following headline (and associated propaganda) appears in the Handelsblad[293]:

WITHIN NINETY DAYS INVASION?

Our people can expect nothing but more worries
should there be any attempts at invasion.
People shouldn't have any naïve ideas should the two great powers collide.

For about a month from 22 February - 19 March, 1944 our war reporter (Piet) doesn't write anything in his diary:

> *"The time between this date and the last one is a period where I was seriously unwell; the diagnosis was "mild pneumonia". It was therefore surprising that it turned out so well. The cause can probably be that on 22 February. I did a lot of walking and came home very fatigued… The first days I could not turn myself in bed and had to be helped by Miss De Jongh. I had lost a lot of my vitality, but fortunately I didn't need to bother her at night. For a quick boost, the doctor suggested that I be given some extra nutrition and the Alblas-de Graaf family occasionally sent a full bottle of milk. From the Sern-de Vries family I got a nice piece of 40-plus[294] cheese, of the De Koker family often a beautiful meal of fish so that everyone cooperated to help me back quickly. Today, the bowel movement was a success, and I have now recovered to such an extent that the doctor has recommended walking in the garden in mild weather and sunshine. As it remains cold March weather, this has not yet happened … The most worrying point is the swollen feet, and I am still under treatment. Everyone says that I look good or at least as good as before."*

Two Babies born near the NOP

Soon after his recovery, Piet gets news from his daughter who had received the following telegram, from Wim:

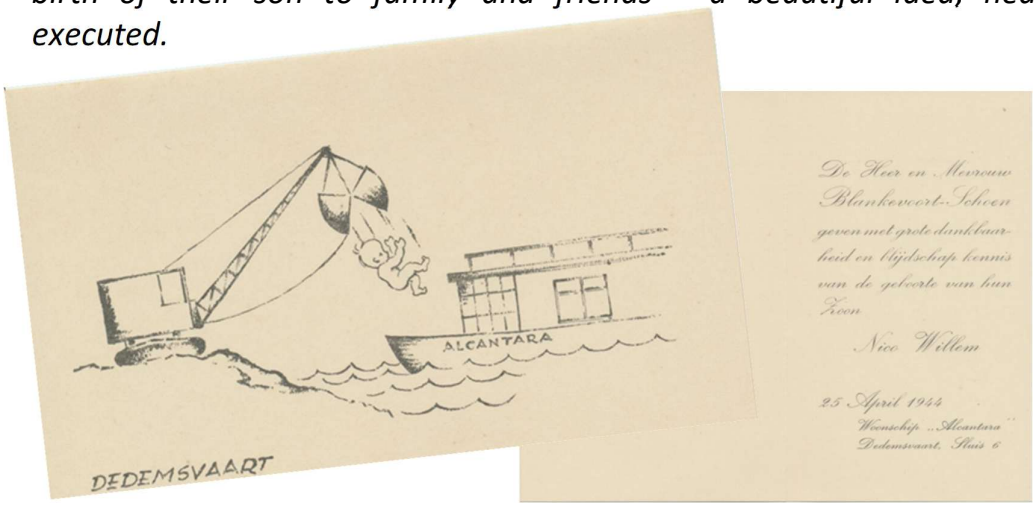
> *"On April 25, 1944 at 9 pm 29 minutes born Nico Willem, weighs 3kg, rattle is already hanging on his cradle. Mum and son, a pleasure to see, tell Opa".*

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[293] PB's Diary(1946), *Article from the Handelsblad of 25 January 1944*
[294] 40%fat in the cheese

Excited but concerned, Piet writes:

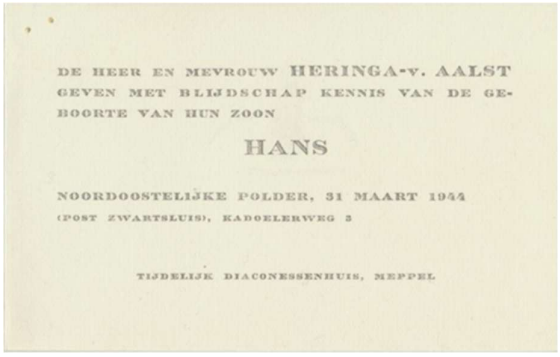
> *In the afternoon I congratulated them immediately by postcard; and also, because they like to keep goats; new mothers, who are unable to, or choose not to nurse their babies, should especially not give the child any goat milk[295]. I was just reading in a book which among other things it stated that a survey showed that where goats are kept, mortality among small children was greatest.*
>
> *On this same houseboat, the father of this young child (Wim) also saw the light of day but will not have been aware of it at the time.*
>
> *See also the way in which our grandchildren Lelie and Wim brought the birth of their son to family and friends – a beautiful idea, neatly executed.*



Nico Willem Blankevoort, 25 April 1944; Houseboat "Alcantara", Dedemsvaart Sluis 6

Dedemsvaart is about 20km east of Vollenhove, where Hans was based. Wim was working on the construction of a sluice or lock, there.

Meanwhile, Hans had become a godfather to Hans Heringa, who had been born about a month earlier, in Kadoelerweg, on the outskirts of Vollenhove to Laurens and Trees[296].


DE HEER EN MEVROUW HERINGA-v. AALST
GEVEN MET BLIJDSCHAP KENNIS VAN DE GEBOORTE VAN HUN ZOON

HANS

NOORDOOSTELIJKE POLDER, 31 MAART 1944
(POST ZWARTSLUIS), KADOELERWEG 3

TIJDELIJK DIACONESSENHUIS, MEPPEL

Hans Heringa
31 March 1944

Northeast Polder
Kadoelerweg 3[297]

While in Vught, Hans had received at least one package and some letters from Laurens Heringa, a fellow Delft

[295] Goat's milk in first 12 months leads to inadequate nutrition, and can cause serious illness
[296] Laurens Willem Heringa en Theresia Cornelia Adriana van Aalst living on the NOP.
[297] On the outskirts of Vollenhove

student.

According to Hans Heringa, 75 years later[298]:

> *My father and Hans knew each other from the time at Delft University (both became civil engineers). More similarities: yes! Both were at the Vogelenzang World Jamboree 1937, both played the cello, both were at the MTS/HTS Haarlem, both worked for the Provinciale Waterstaat Noord Holland, and both then went to Delft, my father receiving his degree in April 1943. And both were married at the Haarlem Stadhuis (Town Hall) in 1941 and 1945 respectively…*
>
> *Both started work in the NOP; Hans for van Hattum & Blankevoort (contractor) and my father for the Dienst Zuiderzeewerken (the Employer). And from summer 1943 till July 1945, they worked there together.*
>
> *During the NOP-time a special friendship developed between my parents and Hans and Hank. And so, when I was expected, my parents asked Hans to be my godfather. He accepted on one condition: the first name should be Hans, like his name and not Johannes etc. And so, it was (31 March 1944). Of this period there are quite a few pictures and entries from Hans and Hank in my parents' guestbook at Kadoelen in one of the first houses in the new NOP.*

He concludes:

> *And I must say: during my whole life Hans and Hank were always the most wonderful and attentive godparents one can imagine. Bravo!*

So, some sunshine between stormy clouds, although it can't have been easy providing adequate nutrition for these babies.

With the distribution of clogs, it is so sad that they are almost impossible to get. Our evacuees are busy in the evening making their own.

"No hunger in Europe" writes the newspaper, it would have been more honest if they'd printed no hunger in Germany; they know how to steal everything.

A cutting from the newspaper illustrates the black-market.

They had one and a half million in their pockets[299]

It can be added that a fisherman's wife was buying fabric for a coat at f300 per meter:

[298] Letter from Hans Heringa in June 2019
[299] PB's Diary (1946) - 24 May 1944

About ten days ago, a division of the Landwacht visited the famous "farm"-restaurant "Meerburg" by the Leek in Warmond[300], reports the Algemeene Handelsblad. A group of seventeen people, dressed in evening dress, who in a pre-war manner were having a good time, were brought to Leiden. The men in the group appeared to have, in total, around one and a half million guilders in their pockets.

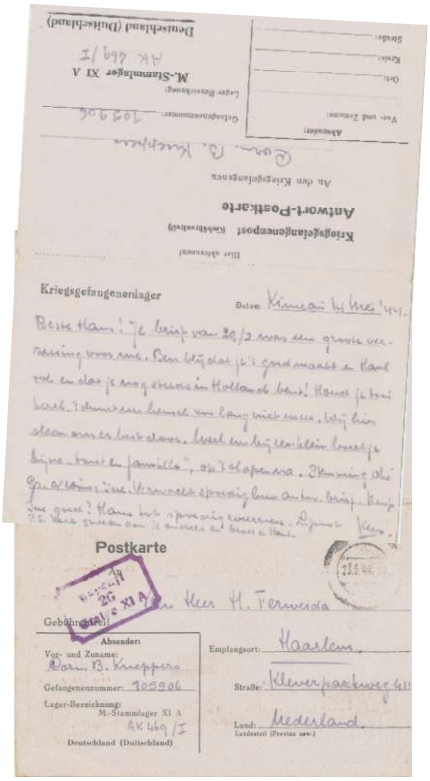
More evacuations occur to the southwest of Haarlem, in Vogelenzang, to build bunkers and a mock airfield.

According to a speech by Goebbels, the war comes to a conclusion, if only that would happen soon.

The newspaper of 31st May tries to convince us that it was our own fault that Germany was compelled to fight us, but it does not mention that Germany, two days before the 10th of May 1940, agreed that our neutrality would be maintained. That this word was broken was the fear that England and America would invade our country.

America seems to give poor education in geography, because their bombers are now also beginning to plague our country.

Messages in secret code are received via Radio Oranje. One senses that something is about to happen, but the magnitude only becomes clear days later[301].


Deutschland (Duitschland)
M.-Stammlager XI A
AK 469/I
Kriegsgefangenenpost
Antwort-Postkarte
Kriegsgefangenenlager
Datum: Kinsau 14 Mei '44
Beste Hans! Je brief van 29/3 was een groote verrassing voor mij. Fijn dat je goed maakt en Hank ook en dat je nog steeds in Holland bent! Houd je maar kerel! Alhoewel we hier ook lang niet zorgeloos leven, blijf hier steeds sterk en hoop alweer. Werk eenigszins bezigheid, bijna toch en familie", zo'n elf apenaars. Ik maar
Postkarte
An Herr H. Ferweda
Absender:
Vor- und Zuname: Corn. B. Kneppers
Gefangenennummer: 105906
Lager-Bezeichnung: M.-Stammlager XI A AK 469/I
Deutschland (Duitschland)
Empfangsort: Haarlem
Straße: Kleverparkweg 61
Land: Nederland

Letter from Germany

At least one of Hans' friends was forced to work in Germany:

> ***Letter:*** *To Hans, parents address*
>
> *From Cornelis B. Kneppers (Kees)[302]*
>
> *Prisoner Number: 105906*
>
> *Camp Designation: M.-Stammlager XI A (AK 469/I), Germany*
>
> *Kinsau[303](?), 14 May 1944*
>
> *Dear Hans! Your letter of 29/3 was a wonderful surprise for me. Am happy that you're doing well and Hank also and that you're still in Holland! Stay strong my friend, it can't last too much longer. For us here, we'll get through somehow. Am working on a small*

[300] South of Haarlem, near Leiden
[301] Bloemendaal WW2 Website, accessed 2021
[302] On internet cousin Hans (born 1947) found an 'In Memoriam" of a C.B. Kneppers (13 May 1917 – 28 October 2010), who worked for Coca-Cola in The Netherlands for many years. Is this him?
[303] Stammlager or Stalag XI-A –Hanover District –Altengrabow (100k from sw of Berlin) Laborers were assigned to work from here. – The only Kinsau I could find was in the south of Germany, near Munich) – so that's probably not the right location?

farm; nearly "bunt en famille"[304], sleeping-wise.

Greetings to Wim & Lelie. Am awaiting a speedy response from them. I hope Lelie is going well? Hans see you very soon

Greetings Kees

PS. Greetings to your parents, brother and Hank

Overall, about half a million Dutch people were sent to Germany as forced labour between 1940 and 1945. According to Red Cross estimates 30,000 of these people died in Germany and one can imagine that those that did return were lucky if they returned without any permanent physical or psychological scars[305].

Unfortunately, we don't know anything more about Kees.

[304] Not much personal space? Or bunking in with the family?
[305] Forced Labour Website, accessed 2002

D-DAY

June 1944, Allied forces land in Normandy.[306]

Today the long-awaited invasion of English and Americans; they have landed on French soil at Le Havre and Cherbourg. There is bitter fighting and there will be many deaths.

Englishmen and Americans continue the landing attempts. Suffering heavy losses, but continue to provide reinforcements.

Russia clashes with Finland.

Bombs have been dropped on Budapest and caused quite a lot of damage.

Northern German cities also bombed, among others, Hanover and other places in that area.

The Germans today confiscate all cars; they are very nervous because they are reportedly not doing too well in the south, although the newspapers are of course full of German victories and Allied losses.

All cars are confiscated and again they are searching for bikes, the fear of the invasion seems to hit its target anyway; but this will result in many victims again.

The whole day heavy air traffic.

The NSBers appear "to be taking to their legs" (running) for fear of reprisal. The house of D. Blankevoort[307], the gauleiter[308], has already been abandoned.

Went shopping, but nothing to be found, not even a lettuce leaf. It is miserable with everything; if you want something then you must go to the black-market. Some tips are provided in connection with the water supply; with the object to keep some in reserve.

Tried to buy some vegetables and potatoes, but all in vain, so that I had to borrow or receive a meal from Janny and Niek.

Tried to buy something for lunch but nothing, absolutely nothing for sale. In the afternoon most shops therefore closed.

In order to get 40g of tobacco outside the 14-day distribution you have to count out *f*12; I have refused to; so will have to smoke less.

I will stop writing in the diary; it is all a joke anyway. When something very special happens, I will write it, at least if it relates to the family. But I do want to note that I have received a

[306] Flim (2004)

[307] This Dirk Blankevoort, living in a big house in Aerdenhout just south of Bloemendaal, is the grandson of Piet's uncle Willem (ie. brother of Cornelis Blankevoort, Piet and Nico's father). He is mentioned, but fully dismissed by Piet earlier (early 1930s) in his diary; so doesn't come up again till now. Unfortunately he is of the same generation as Hank's father who is also a Dirk Blankevoort (so not to be confused!). I haven't been able to discover what happened to him after the war, as he would have been a target of the Dutch government, I imagine.

[308] NSB political leader

beautiful pipe from Aart de Groot and a packet of tobacco.

From Lelie and Wim in Dedemsvaart we received a portion of bacon, to the value of *f*117.95. In return, we gave a tin with 2 ounces of Hag coffee beans and *f*97.50. A chunk ended up in the pan on 1 July. Looking forward to it…It was delicious!

The Germans and the Allies are still killing each other.

The situation in the Netherlands is becoming more and more oppressive, worrying about getting hold of a potato and a few vegetables and in a disgraceful way one is dismissed.

Again, on the program of the Germans, the train services will be cutback and it is already so miserable.

During this month there were no potatoes for sale for 4 days. The evacuees' son went to the market gardens and brought home so much that we could also be helped.

The paper scarcity has become so large that the Handelsblad appears, usually only as a single page and the Haarlem newspaper comes out every three days, so twice a week.

There is no lack of propaganda because the billboards are full of different silly posters and sad inscriptions, warnings, etc. of which the main message is:

NSB and fascism are the saviours of Europe and so also of the Dutch

Germany has thrown a new weapon into the battle called V-1[309] and according to the newspaper they have already got nervous in England.

A new ordinance … in the evening after ten o'clock we are no longer allowed to be on the street; also, that cafe's etc. must be evacuated by 9 o'clock. For gas use the change has come that it will only be made available in the morning from 5 to 9 o'clock; from 11 to 2 o'clock and from 5 to 8 o'clock.

Due to exceeding the electricity ration, we have been shut down for 2 days; with the warning that the next time this happens closure will be for 14 days.

During the first 20 days of August, no drop of rain has fallen, holding back the growth of everything.

According to Churchill, the war will have come to an end by early September.

In Germany 8 high-ranking officers (Generals) were hanged and all their descendants and family were slaughtered, following their cooperation in the attack on the Fuhrer.

According to the Handelsblad of August 22nd, Germany's victory is imminent.

[309] V-1 was a new type of bomb created by the Germans, aka Doodlebug. These were launched from the Atlantic coast at England, initially then at allied forces on the mainland. Last V-1 was launched from occupied Netherlands in March 1945[Wikipedia]

There is fierce fighting in France. The allied forces are already at Paris.

Maastricht[310] bombed on 21st, during which people were regrettably killed.

Romania has stopped the struggle against Germany; Bulgaria wants neutrality.

According to statistics, the number of deaths is alarming.

Every now and then in the Netherlands machine gun shelling of trains.

Here, in Bloemendaal[311],

> *…demolition and building fortifications go hand in hand... Our coastal strip, including the surrounding villages, has turned into a fortress…More evacuations and demolitions announced this time in Overveen and Aerdenhout…In the end the destruction of houses and plots was fortunately limited.*

And the Germans demand trees for poles:

> *…for example, for making the so-called Rommel-asparagus, wooden poles that are put into the ground on sports fields and large public places to prevent aircraft or paratroopers from landing….1100 trees are claimed.*

A Secret Marriage



That summer Koo and Uck got married:

> *He applied for a job in 1944 with the "Rotterdamse Lyceum", where they were not interested in knowing about his reserve officer status.*
>
> *During another "Huygens Dispuut" camp (in the Biesbosch) he received news of his appointment. Koo and Uck immediately got on a train to Rotterdam and got married there on the 9 August 1944. This marriage had to happen in secret.* [312]

[310] Maastricht, Limburg, south east Netherlands, first Dutch town to be liberated.
[311] Bloemendaal WW2 Website, accessed 2021
[312] Koo's Story (1990s)

In Uck's words[313]:

> *"Only my mother knew that we were to get married that day because she had to give her permission as I was not yet 30 years old!"*

There must have been at last a sense of hope that the end of the war was near; one could make plans and imagine a more positive future. However, the end of the war did not arrive for a large part of the Netherlands for another eight gruelling months.

In the Northeast polder, due to the influx of "onderduikers" during 1943, the atmosphere had changed with stronger anti-German sentiments and more resistance activity.

> *"The resistance and the Allies discovered the desolate Noordoost polder as an area where pilots could make an emergency landing or even drop weapons… Two weapon droppings took place, one of them was successful. Such a dropping was a complex manoeuvre and had to be organized in secret by reliable people."*
>
> *The "national resistance" expressed their concerns. At the end of 1943 and in the beginning of 1944, there were so many people in hiding in the Noordoost polder that if the Germans had pulled a net around the edge of the polder, they could have captured an enormous number of prisoners…"*[314].

And things did start to change in the NOP[315], with the first razzia there:

> *"The tension increased in 1944. In the south, the Allied forces made quick advances. The nervous Germans needed more people to organise their defence. The German Army Command then turned its attention to the Noordoost polder. On August 7, 1944, 130 young men were arrested in Vollenhove and its surroundings and put to work at the front. The relative peace in the Noordoost polder was over."*

The allied forces put in an all-out effort to stop the war in the first half of September.

Many Germans leave the occupied territory.

[313] Letter from Tante Uck to Niki (eldest child of Marianne Ferwerda and Geoff Fleming), also included: "Thank you very much for sending me your lovely wedding photograph. It arrived yesterday (9 Aug 2004), exactly 60 years after my own wedding day. It was in wartime and my husband was a reserve officer in the Dutch army. As such he had to go to Germany in a camp for prisoners of war. He refused that and had to live hidden for some years.

[314] Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019

[315] Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019

According to reports, Americans have already arrived in Breda[316].

Dolle Dinsdag or Mad Tuesday

The rapid Allied advance in northern France and Belgium led people in the Western part of the Netherlands to think that liberation was imminent.

The populace began to celebrate (prematurely as it turned out), and in early September members of the NSB, other collaborators, and many German soldiers began to flee in a panic that peaked on September 5.

Most of the male prisoners at Vught are sent to Sachsenhausen in freight trains, the Women to Ravensbrück.

From the Bloemendaal WW2 Website:

RUMOURS and more RUMOURS!!!!

After the announcement of the state of emergency for the still occupied Dutch areas by the Reich Commissioner, the Germans continue with evacuations. Fully loaded buses and cars drive through the municipality. The Germans instruct citizens who walk past to help with loading. Whoever refuses gets a gun under their nose.

Posters declaring a state of emergency are stuck round the whole municipality. The population must be in at 8 pm.

The newly appointed alderman in Overveen Dr. R. G. de Gelder leaves the municipality with other NSB members. Overall panic among the occupiers, the NSB and their followers.

On the Wagenweg in Haarlem many are waiting for the arrival of the Allied troops. Here and there a Dutch flag is put out.

Everything turns out to be a false alarm and the occupier returns. The regime is hardened, and the west (of the Netherlands) still has to wait until May 1945.

From Mrs. Brauns we heard through Madame de Wijs, that the Allies were 15km away from Eindhoven[317], that Wim[318] and Grita (Brauns) were no longer in their own house but found a safer place or shelter with a doctor and all were doing well.

The train service is regularly becoming more and more limited, also the money situation. No

[316] In West Brabant just south of Rotterdam
[317] To the north north west of Maastricht, part of Operation Market Garden
[318] This Wim is Piet's son, and lived in Eindhoven with family and worked at Phillips

one is allowed to withdraw more than *f*100 per week from the banks, giro or Rijkspost Savings Bank.

All private transport vehicles must be made available to the German army with either horse or car and drivers.

An ordinance has been issued, that from now on no bread, other than the usual ie 400g or multiples thereof, may be delivered. Still lack of potatoes.

The small number of horses and cars that are left to us are now also being claimed today; except for prams, everything that has wheels disappears from Bloemendaal. The few cyclists here are mostly NSBers or army personnel.

It is forbidden for fuel dealers to deliver coal to private individuals. That's awful for the people who have a ration of 4 Hl. and have not received it yet.

Almost the whole day air battles. Blasting several trains, regrettably causing death. The night of 9 to 10 Sept. has been particularly bad, constantly awake and very distressed…

The allied troops advance in the direction of Eindhoven.

Received nothing else from the greengrocer than tomatoes and carrots.

Due to the scarcity of coal, there are no more trams in Haarlem between half past ten and four o'clock. No local trains are running at these hours either. From Amsterdam in the morning the last tram runs at 9.25 and in the afternoon the first one goes again at 4.15. The gasless hours are shortened again by half an hour; so, gas is again from 7 to 8 o'clock, from half past 11 to 1 o'clock and in the afternoon from 5 for 1 hour. Saturdays from 12 to half past two. Sunday in the morning from 8 to 9 o'clock.

Registration of students is suspended until further notice. No meetings can be held in North Holland and Utrecht without permission.

It's raining regulations: [here's one]:

Publication

The Hohere SS and Polizei fuhrer, Northwest states:

The German SS and police groups, including the Labour Control Service and the entire Dutch police, have been commissioned. In towns and villages, on streets and squares, 16 to 50-year-old Dutch people who hang around there, who apparently do not have anything to do and spend their time lounging and mooching around will be immediately arrested and transferred to the employment camp in Amersfoort. From there they will be made available to the labour offices in Germany.

Evacuation of Bloemendaal

Piet and Miss De Jongh have avoided evacuation so far, but suddenly this situation changes, with just three days' notice[319]:

It is announced that the <u>whole of Bloemendaal</u> must evacuate before 6 o'clock in the afternoon of 21 September at the latest.

[319] PB's Diary (1946)

The evacuation from Bloemendaal causes a lot of stress, not only in the houses but also on the roads. All possible vehicles are used, even prams. The packing process requires a lot of effort and is quite stressful. Fortunately, we have a lot of help from Piet & Rie who made their gardener available, a handy and good guy, who knows how to tackle the packing up and loading of the cart. Admirable what he manages to load on the cart.

Uninterrupted traffic jams of departing people, or more accurately, of people who send their food and the necessary items to the evacuation address.

We will also be leaving our home soon - too bad about the fruit trees that promised a lot. Despite the many difficulties and worries associated with evacuation, Miss de Jongh still had a chance to pick the apples and pears and gave some to Emma and some to the family de Koker, because for us the quantity was too big to bring it all.

We leave our house and go to our evacuation address, Hazepaterslaan 1, in Haarlem.

The remaining days of September we had so many worries that there is not much that can be done about keeping the diary.

However, it can be said that with the move we have had the best weather; besides the whole September month it has been nice weather.

As you'll understand, it turned out later that a lot of what we needed had been forgotten, and Miss de Jongh had to go back and forth on a bicycle several times.

We have now been at our evacuation address for more than 6 weeks in a hulk of a room that is not heated and since the gas and electricity supply has ceased, we sit in the twilight for a long time and go under the blankets at about 8 o'clock; also, because we have to be economical with the reserves of gas and candles.

After Piet is evacuated, he only records a few lines and then stops altogether till July 1945 when he writes:

Now I will try to tell in as few words as possible what has happened to us after the order to evacuate…

We were ordered three days in advance, on September 18; every Bloemendaler received a notice that they had to leave the locality; anyone who did not have an address to go to, could get one from the local council; which had already been deserted. Daughter Janny wanted us to know that we could stay with her brother-in-law Piet, the dentist at

Hazepaterslaan 1, Haarlem.

Of this I will not tell much if only that our three months stay there for me and my housekeeper E. de Jongh was a real hell and torment. For decency's sake, I will not fully record what I encountered there.

The latter (E. de Jongh) was exploited, and I was treated like a bad boy and felt that I had become 10 years older in that relatively short time. The reader will notice that there is a gap in the description and why that happened, I cannot remember.

From mid-December it seemed the Bloemendaal evacuation was slowly coming to an end, and people were secretly returning to their homes[320], including Piet and Ms De Jongh.

Operation Market Garden

Allied airborne landings around Nijmegen and Arnhem.

Dutch government in London orders general railroad strike.

Many railroad personnel go into hiding.

Battle of Arnhem lost by Allies;

German forces hold their positions north of the Rhine River.

Operation Market Garden was an unsuccessful military operation to provide a route into Germany for the Allies, who attempted to take 9 critical bridges between Eindhoven and Arnhem, in the Netherlands. They successfully liberated Eindhoven and Nijmegen but were defeated in Arnhem[321].

According to the National Army Museum, UK[322]:

"… the Allies launched a daring airborne operation to secure the River Rhine crossings and advance into northern Germany. Although it ultimately failed to achieve its objectives, the determination and courage shown by the airborne troops and the units that assisted them made Market Garden one of the Second World War's (1939-45) most famous battles.

… It also led to the liberation of a large part of the Netherlands at a time when many Dutch people were close to starvation."

An employee of vH&B, Baas Vork, who worked in Arnhem (on an industrial project) was also a member of the resistance. He was shot while attempting to communicate via Morse code using mirror flashes, with the Allied forces on the

[320] Bloemendaal WW2 Website, accessed 2021
[321] Wikipedia – Operation Market Garden
[322] National Army Museum, UK Website, accessed 2021

other side of the Rhine. "He must pay for his bravery with his life"[323].

The Allies have liberated Maastricht from occupation, so that a truly festive atmosphere prevailed there, everything is decorated in orange and the citizens have given notice to the Queen with a telegram, who reciprocated telegraphically and likewise congratulated Maastricht.

In Maastricht the Dutch girls, who hung around with German soldiers, had their hair cut-off.

Now that the occupiers have been evacuated from Belgium by the Allies, we have been assigned their most dirty dangerous people, **S.S. Höherer polizei** etc. who have received an order to shoot if the halt order is not promptly heeded.

Be careful is the message.

For the next six months or so, only half the country was liberated. Most of the North and West of the Netherlands, including the towns of Bloemendaal, Haarlem, Utrecht, Vollenhove and Rotterdam, remained under occupation.

Today, railway workers across the country have gone on strike.

The situation is becoming tenser by the day.

The Dutch government in exile in London ordered the railway workers to strike, which they did for almost eight months until the end of the war.

More Razzias

Razzias intensified in many places in the still occupied areas.

> *In October 1944, the raids (razzias) began in Rotterdam and Koo remained in hiding (in the basement or under the stairs) at Breitnerstraat 95c, Rotterdam. On the other side of the street, the Germans had occupied a school building![324]*

When you hear then that a major raid in Rotterdam a month later resulted in 50,000[325] men aged 17-40 being captured and deported[326], you understand Koo was very lucky not to be found.

In the NOP, a second bigger *razzia* occurred there in November[327]:

> *The weapons droppings, the hiding of allied pilots, in combination with the need for manpower to defend Germany, were the underlying causes for the big raid on Friday, November 17, 1944. On a rainy day at about 4 am, about 4,000 German soldiers entered the polder, supported by many*

[323] Stiksma (1982)
[324] Koo's Story (1990s)
[325] And between 52-70,000 over 10-11Nov , Rotterdam, Wikipedia, June 2021
[326] Wikipedia- Razzias, October 2018
[327] Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019

faithful Dutch. This took place under the command of ***Höherer SS- und Polizeifűhrer H.A. Rauter…***

Around 1800 polder workers were arrested and brought to Vollenhove in columns. There, they were gathered in schools under harsh conditions. In the meantime, the Board [328]did everything possible to have as many polder workers as possible released because they were indispensable for the work in the polder. From Vollenhove, the remaining young men walked to Meppel from where they were transported to Germany by train. Ultimately, the Board, families and other mediators were able to bring around 900 young men back to the polder.



Image: *A drawing of the big raid by Henk Rotgans. After the raids, many did not feel safe anymore in the Noordoost polder. They went home and the polder emptied out… the Germans themselves did not appear often anymore. [329]*

Hans was presumably in Vollenhove at 4am in the morning, not in the polder, during these raids. Phew! And his mate, Laurens Heringa apparently "*made an extensive report (letter to his parents)*" about this razzia.[330]

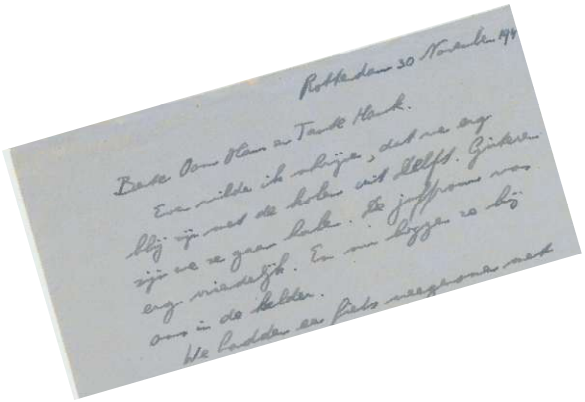
Haarlem and Bloemendaal don't go unscathed either: 'the Germans turn Sinterklaas into a nightmare'[331]:

Many men are at home on December 5 to celebrate Sinterklaas with their families. There is an apparent calm, until early in the morning it appears that streets and roads have been closed. The gates placed by the Germans around the municipalities are closed. On that day, 2000 men were arrested in Haarlem and deported via Haarlem station.

This time Nic could have been caught in their net, but fortunately not. Where did he hide?

[328] For the Zuider Zee Works
[329] Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019
[330] email Hans Heringa, 2019
[331] Bloemendaal WW2 Website, accessed 2021

A surprise for the family



Some exciting news:

Letter: *To Hans & Hank*

From Rotterdam 30 November 1944; in Koo's handwriting

Dear Oom Hans and Tante Hank,

I just wanted to write that we are very happy with the coal from Delft. Yesterday we went to get it. The lady was very friendly. And now it's all in our basement.

We brought a bicycle with side bags and a large suitcase and a box with us. We went by boat to Delft and were able to bring 10 bags onto the boat at one time; 4 in the side bags, 4 in the suitcase and two in the box. There were 18 in all. It was tough, but it went well: Mother on one side of the bike and Tante Annie[332] *on the other.*

Father was not with us, sadly, as he still has to stay at home. Mother has said that later I can go much further; then we'll go by train, but then I must wait until I have seen the light of day in six months. Mother has already written something to Oma and Opa, but it should remain a surprise for everyone else. And will you come here to have a look? Bye! Also, from mother and father

J.G.F. Jr

Uck and Koo are pregnant with their first child, and it appears Hans was able to help them find some fuel for the upcoming winter, most likely through the old student network, I'm guessing.

[332] Annie is Uck's sister

THE HONGER WINTER

Germans stop the transport of food to densely populated provinces in the Western part of the Netherlands, causing increased starvation.

Underground organizations have great difficulty getting food to those in hiding.[333]

In retaliation for the Dutch train strikes, the Germans put blockades on food and fuel. As a result the western Netherlands (or "Fortress Holland"[334]), in particular, suffered severe famine during the so-called "Honger winter" (Hunger winter), the winter of 1944–1945.

About 4 ½ million people were affected and survived through the meagre offerings at soup kitchens, and, out of desperation, by eating tulip bulbs. It was a very cold winter and transport of food and fuel by water was not possible as the Ijsselmeer and waterways were frozen solid. Thousands of people died.

A story Hank used to tell was that Nic had climbed a street tree after curfew to collect firewood, when some German SS walked down the street. Luckily Nic was not seen! That must have been a heart-stopping moment. Others resorted, for example, to removing wooden cobbles from the streets.

Kindjeshaven

In February of that winter, Hank was working at Kindjeshaven again. It's unclear how long she had been working there this time round, but possibly since the previous summer…

Flim (2004) writes:

> *Truitje van Lier continued her work as long as possible. She and Jet refused to flee when danger threatened. They were unwilling to run out on the children in Kindjeshaven. …..*
>
> *As a toddler Truitje had lived through the First World War, and, as she remembered:*
>
> *"Hunger is part of war. In the beginning things may be better than expected, but before it's over there will be hunger. I knew that from my earliest youth. So, I started stocking up whenever I had extra rations. We*

[333] Flim (2004)

[334] Bloemendaal WW2 Website, accessed 2021 -"Festung Holland"- Germans very much in control, any resistance was met with death

bought canned butter with the butter coupons. And with the bread coupons we bought a sort of hardtack that you could keep a very long time. And you could also get cans of meat when it was still reasonable. Everything that was left over went into a hidden closet. And you couldn't see it at all. We taped a small strip of paper over it. We had a nice stockpile there."

In mid-August of 1944 there was a raid on Kindjeshaven. Since the beginning of the summer Truitje had been living in Zeist with her fiancé, who was in hiding there and was in poor health. Jet took over for her at Kindjeshaven and was staying there overnight. During the raid, Jet repeated the threat that if even one child was taken, she would turn all the children out into the street, including those of the Ortskommandant. She pretended to know nothing about anything else. The Germans, intimidated, just left.

After this, Truitje and her fiancé moved to Culemborg, and Jet continued to run Kindjeshaven. In February 1945 she could no longer keep Kindjeshaven open. The electricity had been turned off. The non-Jewish children were returned to the guardianship board, and she found foster families for the Jewish children. Most of them ended up with the families of people who worked at Kindjeshaven. Jet was able to give each child a generous portion of the canned food supply. All the Jewish children were lodged without any problems.

In Hank's words:

At the time I was working in the children's home in Utrecht, but it had to be closed in February 1945. Sometime before that it had become obvious that we were running out of food and heating, so private homes were sought for the children. People were good about taking in children to care for. However, in the end we were left with the Jewish twins. Eventually another woman who helped in the children's home agreed to take them to live in the flat that she shared with her mother in Rotterdam. This woman and I took the girls from Utrecht to Rotterdam on our bikes [with wooden tyres[335]*] with only a small jar of cold food to eat. It was bitterly cold. At least I kept a little bit warmer as I was doing the peddling but the little girl in the back would have been very cold. We went to Koo and Uck's flat in Rotterdam where they were living at the time and we were able to have some warm porridge (meant for the baby when it arrived as Uck was pregnant with their first child, Rinske).*

[335] Pers. comm, Hank

It was the beginning of the twins, Joekie and Deetje's, successful escape to Canada[336].

vH&B, Beverwijk

On the coast, the area round Beverwijk (location of the van Hattum side of the vH&B business, near Ijmuiden) had been evacuated and:

> *many staff members and their families find temporary accommodation on mothballed floating equipment[337] at the Storage depot in Spaarndam. Whole families are waiting here for the end of the war.[338]*

At that time, vH&B had several projects in rural areas, a road construction project in Friesland, repair of a dyke in Zeeland and the works on the NOP, which provided opportunities:

> *He who is not strong must be smart. An effectively functioning system slowly gets underway to alleviate the needs of the staff in the Beverwijk area. Via bottom unloaders and bins full of construction materials, clandestine food is regularly taken from these agricultural areas to the Kennemerland[339]. The ingenuity knows no bounds. Nor the bravery of those involved. A lively barter trade between the company and production areas underlies this special food supply. Pound by pound it is distributed fairly among the distressed employees.*
>
> *The Van Hattum office in Beverwijk closes. The Blankevoort office in Haarlem virtually closed, except for a handful of people. Among them the talk of the day is potatoes, molasses and rapeseed oil... The winter is long…Too long.[340]*

The German Retreat

By the time the weather started to warm up again, in spring 1945 those Germans left in the Netherlands were retreating and attempting to do as much damage as possible. For example, the dykes of the first Zuider Zee polder, Wieringermeer, were severely damaged causing flooding, and the destruction of a decade of development.

The Noordoost Polder also came under threat:[341]

> *At Lemmer, they had, as the story goes, already dug large holes in the dyke in which more than 1,000 kilos of explosives could be placed... Four*

---

[336] Pers. comm. Hank
[337] D: Op opgelegd drijvend materieel; dredges & tugs etc
[338] Stiksma (1982)
[339] The term Kennemerland is mostly used to define the immediate surroundings of Haarlem.
[340] Stiksma (1982)
[341] Canon de NOP Website, accessed 2019

Polish soldiers under German command had to guard the dyke close to the lock. During the upheaval (the flight of the Germans and the resulting void in authority), they managed to invent heroic roles for themselves. They exclaimed how they had saved the dyke. During the Liberation Party on May 31st, the Poles received an award for their invented heroic act.

Was the dyke in danger? Did the Poles act on behalf of the Germans? Or did they just try to save their own skins? Various sources show that the polder dyke was not in any direct danger. The strategic importance for the Allies was not that great.

In Vollenhove, on the 15th of April, at 8 am, a then young boy of 13 is woken by his mother[342]:

'Come out'. He stumbles to the window and looks at the scene on the Kerkplein from the first floor. The entire resistance group is heavily armed under the leadership of Commander Harmen Visser[343], the local chief guard of the Marechaussee. "You normally never saw them; they worked from a boat hidden in the reeds in the Beulaker[344]." He knew enough: Vollenhove was liberated.

He initially experienced it as a strange day. The resistance group spread in small groups through the town to search for remaining Germans. But in the German hotbeds (the French School, the notary house on Kerkstraat and Old Ruitenborgh) no one was found...

In the evening around half past seven the Canadians arrived in two rattling combat vehicles. The news travelled quickly through the streets and not much later a great party started on Kerkplein. 'Dancing and hopping until the late hours. ....

---

[342] Vollenhove WW2 Website, acessed 2021

[343] "The next day the dampner came. Around Schoterzijl near Kuinre, which had not yet been liberated, Germans and Dutch SS men were still there according to rumors. The Canadians and the resistance group left early in the morning to put their affairs in order. They unexpectedly came across a rain of bullets, from a machine gun nest manned by a Dutch Untersturmführer and his helper. they had taken this post from the Germans, who were retreating to Lemmer to escape Holland by boat. After the first salvo, the brencarriers stopped abruptly, Harmen Visser probably hit the track with his front wheel, causing his tire to fall and he fell. When the gunpowder had risen after the second salvo, Harmen Visser lay dead beside his motorcycle. He had fought for years for freedom, he was not allowed to enjoy it. … De Oude: 'It was a huge downer for Vollenhove. Everyone knew him, everyone knew how much he had done behind the scenes, the party mood was suddenly over and did not return later. "
Exactly sixty years after the liberation of Vollenhove, partly due to the efforts of the daring group of the Interior Forces led by Harmen Visser, the square in front of the Maria Church in the center was named after the resistance hero at the initiative of the Vollenhove-Stad interest group. "He deserved it like no other," says De Oude." [Vollenhove WW2 Website]

[344] Lake and marsh system to the east of Vollenhove

The Noordoost polder was liberated on April 17th, 1945, about three weeks before the official capitulation. I wonder whether Hans was dancing on the Kerkplein?

At this time in Bloemendaal and Haarlem again the Germans were having *razzias* on cycles of all types, in fact anything with wheels, which could aid their escape.

More positively, there are trickles of food aid coming through, and pamphlet drops forecasting the dropping of food parcels by Allied aircraft. The Germans react by putting up posters, saying it's all propaganda and a trick by the enemy.

The last few days, according to the Bloemendaal WW2 Website[345]:

> *April 30: "Der Führer Adolf Hitler was killed in heavy fighting in Berlin". In reality, he committed suicide around 4 p.m. It spreads like wildfire through the community.*
>
> *May 1: Today there is plenty of checking and cycling in progress. When checking male persons, it mainly concerns deserters. The curfew is today from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.*
>
> *May 2: At around 10 am the first Allied aircraft drop food parcels above Bennebroek and Vogelenzang. Permission for this was finally granted after feverish negotiations between the Red Cross, Allies and the German occupiers.*
>
> *Residents of the municipality heard this morning that German soldiers sang the "Deutschland" anthem and the "Horst Wessel" anthem (of the Nazi Party), which they associate with the possible swearing-in of the new Supreme Commander and Führer of the German Reich, Grand Admiral Dönitz.*



Image: *No more bombs, but food from the sky*[346]

> *3rd of May; In Haarlem, two people are on display on the steps of the town hall. They stole a portion of the food drop.*

[345] Bloemendaal.nl WW2 Website
[346] Bloemendaal.nl WW2 Website

LIBERATION

May 6, 1945

Official capitulation of all German troops in the Netherlands.

At 8.40 pm the radio announces a communiqué from the Allied High Command – the same message is repeated at 8.45 pm ...” that all German armed forces in the Netherlands, North-West Germany and Denmark have capitulated.” In the shortest possible time this announcement is known throughout the community and there is great rejoicing everywhere. [347]

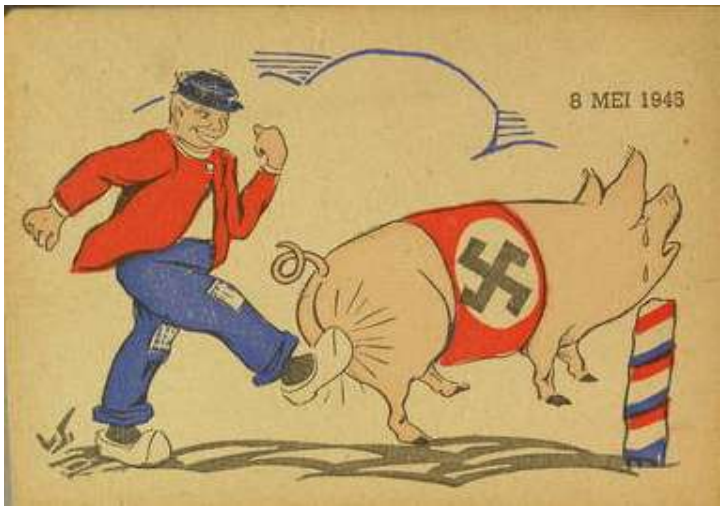


Image: *8 May 1945[348], this one speaks for itself.* [349]

From *Memories (1980*s), Hank writes:

> *… Amsterdam was liberated on the 4th of May 1945. After liberation, Swedish planes flew over Holland and dropped parcels of white bread and butter – everyone thought it tasted like “cake”, as the bread available during the war (“oorlogs brood”) was a grey colour and not very nice.*

In a postscript to Piet’s Diary, written by his son Wim (1986):

> *He (Piet) must have experienced the dropping of bread by the Allies even before the liberation had taken place quite close up, because food drops in the vicinity of Haarlem took place, including the former Jamboree site*

[347] Bloemendaal WW2 Website
[348] Official end date of Hitler’s war
[349] Bloemendaal WW2 Website

in Vogelenzang. At the least he will have heard those low-flying bombers. He does not say anything about that, however. He also does not mention the capitulation of the Germans shortly after and the arrival of the allied soldiers with their cigarettes, chocolate and other military rations, of which the citizens could get a little.

It seems to have passed him by unnoticed.

The death of his granddaughter Marieke because of the bombardment by the Germans of the just liberated Eindhoven, he will only have heard about after May 1945. Or would not have been told, because it would have upset him too much?

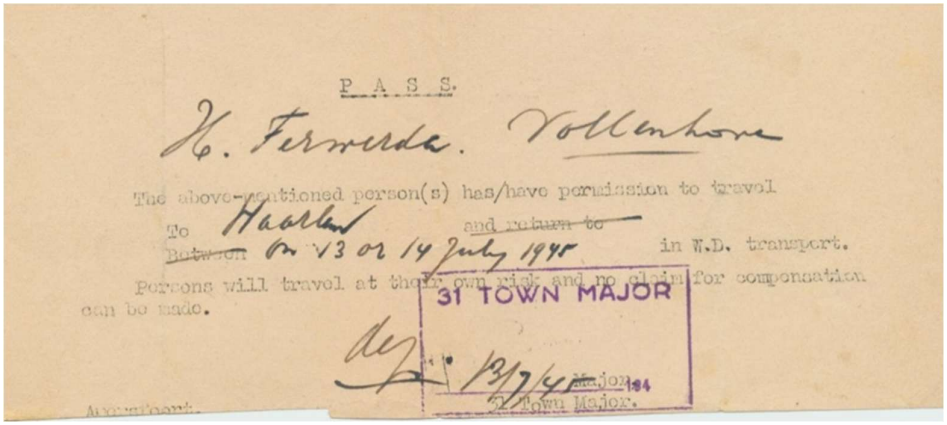
Hank & Hans

Hank celebrated her 23rd birthday on the 19th of May. Five years and five days after the German Occupation began! And, nearly four years since her engagement with Hans! She was back in Haarlem living with her parents and brother; but Hans continued to be based in Vollenhove till at least July 1945. Hans must have made the trip a few times over that period.



Photo: *Together at last! Pinkster, a spring festival (June 1945)*

See the Railway pass - written in English! (probably by Canadian forces) allowing him to travel to Haarlem on 13th or 14th July.



P A S S.

H. Ferwerda. Vollenhove

The above-mentioned person(s) has/have permission to travel

To Haarlem and return to

Between On 13 or 14 July 1945 in W.D. transport.

Persons will travel at their own risk and no claim for compensation can be made.

31 TOWN MAJOR

13/7/45 Major 194

31 Town Major.

Image: *Railway Pass, in English, for H.Ferwerda Vollenhove-Haarlem*

Hans finally has an unfettered voice…

Late discoveries in *The Collection (1938-1950)* are numerous letters written to and from Hans's friends in Ireland. Hans kept the drafts of his letters, and they provide some insights into his experiences and feelings …

In his first letter, on the 10th May, to the Neelys', Hans writes:

> *Dear friends*
>
> *After five years of suppression and distress we are free again, really free. We cannot understand what it means, and it only penetrates very slowly to me.*
>
> *I am very glad to have the opportunity to send you a letter already only three days after our deliverance, but too, it is with some hesitation that I do. Too much can have happened these five years but I hope to get very soon good news from you. I think Kenneth will be in military service and perhaps very far from home. And Mrs and Mr Neely, I hope you will be in good health and your family and friends. Please write to me as soon as possible for I am very eager to hear from you.*
>
> *My parents, my brother and I are in good health. As you will remember one of my brothers stayed in the Dutch East Indies, when the war broke out. In November 1940 we got to hear the tragic news of his death, after two weeks of typhus in September. He has been in military service, and as you probably know our colonies declared war on Japan in 1941, and the whole country has been occupied by the Japs. Perhaps there has been much distress saved to him. We never received any details about the death.*
>
> *Except for a stay of two months in a concentration camp as a hostage I always escaped the Germans clutches for deportation or something*

other. My study has been broken off just about three months before I could finish it.

Since the summer of 1940 I am engaged. My fiancé lives in Haarlem too. We hope that it will be possible for us to marry this summer.

This letter will be taken to Eindhoven by a friend of mine. This friend was in Eindhoven when it was captured by the Allied Forces in September. Yesterday I suddenly heard of his visit to Haarlem as a sergeant of the security services of the Canadian forces. Tonight, he departs for Eindhoven again and will send this letter from there to you, as civil traffic is not yet allowed.

The last half a year has been very bad. Nearly no fuel or food and every day the risk for young men to be imprisoned and deported to Germany. But we have survived it, and we are very thankful to be delivered of that German scum.

But later I shall write to you in more details. While I am writing this letter I hear the shouting of the people in the town when cars and tanks of the Canadian army pass. This morning, I had a ride on a small Canadian tank. And I got a real "Player"[350]! You can't represent what that means after many years of only a bad substitute.

But now I finish, hoping to get a letter with good news from you very soon.

With best wishes to you all and kind regards from my family and my fiancé.

Yours sincerely

Hans

First Ferwerda grandchild

After the liberation Koo continued to work at the Rotterdam Lyceum, and on 1 June 1945, Koo and Uck's first child, Rinske, was born.[351] What a joy!

I wonder when she first met the extended family.



Photo: *Rinske, daughter of Koo and Uck*

[350] A brand of cigarette
[351] Koo's Story (1990s)

And on the Blankevoort side

Piet Blankevoort is again writing in his diary. I can hardly imagine what that final winter of the war was like for him, but it must have sapped his energy and will, almost completely.

29 July 1945, On Vijverweg 10 a grandchild is born, so my third great-grandchild, who will be named Murk (after his mother's father) so Murk Blankevoort. Mother and child are doing well. Her husband, my grandson Wim has already been in bed for 3 or 4 weeks suffering from paratyphus.[352]

The birth, which occurred a bit unexpectedly and in the middle of the night, caused some consternation, as can be understood, but luckily their houseboat "Alcantara" had arrived in Spaarndam[353] one day in advance from Hasselt[354] and son-in-law Niek had access to a car, with which he first had to fetch a nursing sister from Aerdenhout, who was unfortunately attending another birth elsewhere, then to Spaarndam to get the baby stuff, then to find another nurse in which he succeeded, because a nurse, known to us all, Sister Mines had been released the day before and so it was all in all a sleepless night but at 3 o'clock everyone could go to bed.


De Heer en Mevrouw Blankevoort-Schoen geven met
groote dankbaarheid en blijdschap kennis van de geboorte
van hun tweeden zoon
Murk
„Weest Paraat
en
Zonnig Spoor"
29 Juli 1945
Per abuis bezorgd
Vijverweg 10, Bloemendaal
Toekomstig adres: Ark „Alcantara"

Mr. and Mrs Blankevoort-Schoen announce with great gratitude and joy the birth of their second son, Murk

July 29, 1945, delivered by mistake at Vijverweg 10, Bloemendaal

"Be Prepared and Sunny Path"[355]

future address: Ark Alcantara "

Fish is now available generally and not too expensive anymore. We paid *f*1.25 per 500g of beautiful plaice, which my housekeeper is baking.

In the morning did some shopping and, in the afternoon, wrote letters.

Picked some haricot beans from the front garden. At home, hung up some paintings.

Mrs Rose delivered the “community pot”[356]. Miss de Jongh enjoyed it, but it wasn’t really to my taste.

We have great support in Piet from Vijverweg 10; he is so helpful and gets everything that’s available on coupons, so we received plums and tasty pears this week.

Birthday of my late wife. Because son-in-law Niek made his car available, his wife and I could

[352] A form of Salmonella poisoning with similar symptoms as typhoid
[353] Very close to Haarlem
[354] Just south of Vollenhove (where Hans was living)
[355] “Weest Paraat en Zonnig Spoor" Both Scouting related mottos
[356] From the local soup kitchen

put a flower on the grave. If I had to go there, I would have had to abandon it, because I can no longer walk such a distance; the path in the cemetery is hard enough. Family letter written in the afternoon.

Ordered meat but could not get even an ounce. Fruit on the voucher not for sale, but available in the black-market. It goes the same way as in the past. With the fuel supply for this winter, it looks grim, at least according to the newspapers; not more than 10 hL will be available. Tobacco also seems to be finished; no coupons will be issued for the next 3 weeks.

Japan Capitulates

Today (11 August) the whole community hung out the flag because via the Radio it appears that Japan is capitulating. In the evening, the newspapers have revoked this because Japan wants to capitulate, but links conditions to this that the Allies cannot accept, so continuing to fight is still the mantra. However, this will soon come to an end because the Allies invented the atomic bomb – a murderer of such intense explosive power. A bomb of that kind suddenly made a whole Japanese city of 318 thousand souls disappear from the face of the earth. There are currently 10 cities on the list that will suffer the same fate if Japan does not surrender soon.

Great joy everywhere due to the fact that Japan has unconditionally capitulated; the flag was hung from all the houses; there is a festive mood. Well, there was a small condition attached: for the Emperor Hirohito to stay on he would have to carry out the orders of the Allied Forces.

Received the photos taken of me that are intended for the grandchildren and prepared them for posting.

Have been hunting for caterpillars in the (curly) kale (boerekool) and the Brussel sprouts, filled half a bucket.

Miss De Jongh left for a trip to Stadskanaal. Tante Mien came here to manage the household.

I still have to be on the caterpillar hunt every day, but I do get somewhere as the kale and the sprouts are looking good. If we can now buy sausage for the winter (not black-market), then we can eat kale stew so many times, that we're salivating for it; Enfin, wait and see!

The thrushes in the garden are a constant torment for me. I have had to pick all the pears to get some of them for myself. If there is some snow and they get hungry then I will feed them.

Miss De Jongh went with her nephew to the Cossack demonstration, which cost *f*3 per person.

More letters to Ireland

In September Hans writes to Kenneth:

> *We, my parents, Hank and myself, are indeed very glad to know that you and your parents are safe. I had no doubt that you would have joined the army and often I asked myself in which part of the world you would be and whether you would be alive. And now to my great surprise I get a letter from you already so soon. First then congratulations on your fast promotions in the army. Your rank of Major*[357] *must be as a reward for your performance and I am proud of having a friend who has a hand in the victory as you have.*
>
> *I can tell you that I have read your letter several times and at first with some jealousy. Five years we lived under the presence of the German Occupation, powerless to do anything ourselves to defeat the enemy and completely dependent on our allies. The only thing we could do has been to resist and with that we have served our time.*
>
> *After I had been one year in the Technical School (1936) I thought about whether I should join the navy for I have always had a "weak spot" for the water and all one can do in and on it. But my family dissuaded me, and I went on with my technical study. During the war I often regretted this. It is not that I don't like the study, quite the contrary; but it's the adventure that interested me.*
>
> *And when I read your letter the first time, I only thought of the adventures you lived through. But of course, there is another side too, and that's a very serious one; the fighting, the war itself.*
>
> *I cannot judge the adaptive power of a man who is fighting in a modern war, but I am anxious to hear from you about your experiences and the mental impressions which you got during this war. Kenneth, I hope you will tell me what the landings and campaigns were that you took part in as opportunity occurs.*
>
> *You wrote to me that perhaps the day will not be far distant when you will be able to come and visit me. Indeed, I hope you will do too! You are always welcome. Your mother wrote to me that perhaps you would come [home] on leave with Christmas. Three years will be a long time not being at home.*

[357] In the UK National Archives, accessed 2022, we find that Kenneth was in the Royal Ulster Rifles and participated in landings and operations in Africa, Sicily and Italy. And yes, he was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain to Major during that period.

I am engaged now about 5 years. If I could have finished my study in a normal time, we should have been married by now for over a year. But since February 1943 one could not study without signing a declaration of loyalty to the German occupation. I think you can understand that I did not do that, however the consequences were working in Germany. Like many others I could escape this, as I got a job at a contracting company for water works projects, but there was really no work, as the company did not do anything for the interest of the enemy. The reason was that nearly all materials were taken by the Germans and much went missing.

But now twice a month I am studying again, and I hope to do my last exam about November. Then I hope we will be married, and we hope to receive you as one of our first guests.

The name of my fiancée is Hank Blankevoort, and it is remarkable that she is only one day younger than you are. I have no good photographs of her (there is nearly no material to make any photos) but if you want to know what she looks like, come and see for yourself.

Last week I got a letter from your parents again. I am very glad they are in good health. Often, I think about those wonderful days I have had at your home. I hope to have the opportunity of coming to Ireland once again and then with my wife.

Kenneth, very best wishes to you

from my parents, Hank, and your friend, Hans

And, to Kenneth's parents:

Last week I received your letter. Thank you very much, and only a few days later there was one from Kenneth. You can understand I am very glad he wrote to me and telling me good news. It could have been different! When I think about the days I stayed at your home, five years ago now, very much has happened between then and today! It was only a few days before war broke out when I went back to Holland and if anyone had told us how dark the following years would be we never would have believed it. But it is over now and there is a chance for everyone in the world to make the best of their life. Let us hope that everyone will prosper.

It must be greatly reassuring for you to know Kenneth is safe now. He told me in his letter about his career in the army and which campaigns he has been through…

He also wrote to me that perhaps it won't be too far distant , when he will be able to visit me. I hope indeed he will do so. I understand you are longing for his coming back home. Three years is a long time! …

[We will marry this summer but will first complete study, brother is teacher in Rotterdam, Rinske (niece) born…]

She is a nice baby, and you can understand how delighted my mother is about her first grandchild. She has knitted many clothes for her, but she has nearly no wool and we don't get anything since a long time… she asks whether you can try it perhaps and send it to us. …Properly speaking we do not know how the [situation] is [re] clothes, work and the like there in England. I hope you don't take it ill of me.

I did not tell you anything about Hank, did I? Remarkable is that she is just one day younger than Kenneth. We met each other in the winter of '39. Then Hank was in school of practical housewifery. Later she worked in hospitals at housekeeping and the last year till just before our deliverance she was at a children's home. Now she is at home helping her mother, who is not very good on her legs. She would like it very much to meet you and we both hope to be able to come and see you in Ireland soon.

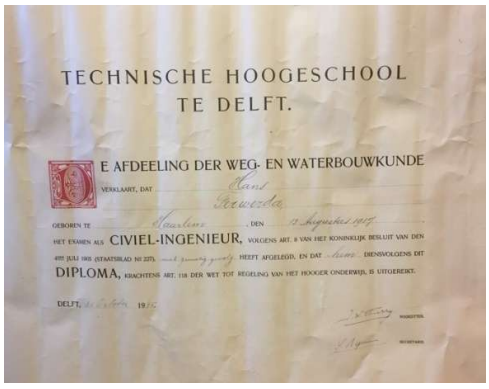
But for the present it's not possible and I do not know where I will be sent for work. I like travelling and hope not to stay in Holland for my whole life.

...Hans

In the period leading up to Hans and Hank's wedding there were numerous exchanges with the Neelys'. They sent some wool as requested. Ken came home fit and well. A parcel was sent for niece Rinske. And Hans was sitting exams.

Reenrolment Delft

The university reopened on 12th September 1945, and Hans enrolled to complete his studies, which he did over six weeks. He was so close! He finally qualified on 31 October 1945.


TECHNISCHE HOOGESCHOOL
TE DELFT.

E AFDEELING DER WEG- EN WATERBOUWKUNDE

VERKLAART, DAT Hans Neerveld

GEBOREN TE Haarlem DEN 17 September 1917

HET EXAMEN ALS CIVIEL-INGENIEUR, VOLGENS ART. 8 VAN HET KONINKLIJK BESLUIT VAN DEN

4DE JULI 1905 (STAATSBLAD NO 237), met lovende getuigschriften HEEFT AFGELEGD, EN DAT Hans DIENSVOLGENS DIT

DIPLOMA, KRACHTENS ART. 158 DER WET TOT REGELING VAN HET HOOGER ONDERWIJS, IS UITGEREIKT.

DELFT, 31 October 1945

A week after enrolment, a Memorial service, was held in the Nieuwe Kerk, Delft for those students who lost their lives during the war.

I imagine that Hans would have known, or known of, many of these people. He would also I imagine have suffered survivor's guilt, as he always described himself as being very lucky.



GEFUSILLEERD

O. Jokes April '42
J. v. Assenbergh April '42
W. B. J. Oland April '42
L. v. Leeuwen April '42
H. J. T. Zadelhoff Mei '42
R. A. de Vries Mei '42
J. W. v. Hooten Mei '42
J. Wolfjer Mei '42
J. T. H. v. d. Hoeert Mei '42
H. P. v. Rhedoek Mei '42
H. J. Bot Mei '42
J. C. Meyer Mei '42
E. P. v. Groningen Mei '42
P. C. v. Groenewegen Eind '42
A. O. Smit Mei '42
P. M. A. Hourman Mei '43
M. H. H. Koenig Mei '43
K. F. v. Raalte Mei '43
Ch. O. v. d. Plas Mei '43
W. Th. Patuit de Montagne Mei '43
J. v. Hatten Juni '43
J. W. v. Pienbrock Juli '43
ir W. v. Hattem Juni '43
ir K. L. Kamp Juni '43
W. v. Doornick Juni '43
O. Rupper Sept. '43
A. M. Pleyte Sept. '43
H. B. Roos Okt. '43
P. Bergsma Febr. '44
L. T. de Haan Mei '44
S. S. de Koe Juni '44
H. K. de Haan Juli '44
G. M. H. Werson Aug. '44
K. E. Palma Aug. '44
W. de Nie Aug. '44
C. v. Bergeyck Aug. '44
L. O. de Val Sept. '44
C. J. Muller Sept. '44
ir W. G. H. Penning Sept. '44
V. Goemeyer Okt. '44
ir F. Woetman Jan. '45
H. Prins Jan. '45
[illegible] Jan. '45
B. A. Kollewijn Jan. '45
T. H. Boor Febr. '45
ir J. E. Alta Febr. '45
S. Pelkerij April '45
W. P. Hoogewerff Maart '45
J. Bottinga Datum onbekend

IN CONCENTRATIEKAMPEN OVERLEDEN

J. B. Wiersum April '42
J. B. F. v. Heuvel Sept. '42
A. G. H. Maassens Begin '43
H. M. Vierling Dec. '43
P. A. J. M. v. d. Weegen Jan. '44
Th. H. Neyts Febr. '44
H. J. Broos April '44
J. C. Kolff April '44
P. H. van Danzig April '44
H. Diesker April '44
J. L. Sanders Mei '44
J. P. Barelli Juli '44
A. Pothoven Dec. '44
A. Vooijs Dec. '44
L. J. C. Vijrdt Jan. '45
P. van Balsben Febr. '45
C. A. Simon Thomas Febr. '45
R. J. de Vries Febr. '45
F. A. van Vliet Maart '45
F. A. Pleiss Maart '45
K. A. Schipperus Maart '45
H. A. G. Burgers Maart '45
J. H. Bensan Febr. '45
C. J. Hamaxes April '45
C. H. J. Boeth April '45
S. S. Hoogstra April '45
J. Luyten Mei '45
ir E. C. Scheffer Mei '45
P. C. H. M. van Stockum Datum onbekend
ir H. W. van Bunnhotse Datum onbekend
P. J. P. ten Boeth Dat. onb.
B. Oosterhaan Dat. onb.
C. van Nes Dat. onb.
D. M. Maarlem Dat. onb.
S. K. Layter Dat. onb.
L. Beyerlock Dat. onb.
K. H. Birnbaum Dat. onb.

IN OF DOOR VERZET OVERLEDEN

E. M. van Boumlaaar Begin '41
C. W. van Holst Pellekaan ? 42
D. van Swaay Febr. '43
N. H. J. Pfaff Aug. '43
G. J. C. Bijgenhuits ? '43
A. A. Roosa Mei '44
J. H. Kessler Nov. '44
W. J. Kneve Dec. '44
F. van Wijk Juli '45
ir L. C. Sloth Blaauwer Datum onbekend
J. H. Schouwenaar Dat. onb.
O. C. Tichelaar Start '40

VERMIST

J. P. Berkman
J. van Berkum
E. de Olmieh van Capelle
ir D. Th. Geerlings
E. Glaser
J. L. Hasselberg
K. Konijn
M. W. G. Kop
B. J. van Krefeld
H. van Leuven
P. W. J. Marx
M. Reuchlin
B. Roerdis
J. J. van Rietschoten
B. B. Rinkelhoim
J. Rhenga Mulder
D. Sillinc
B. Waasdink
A. J. Wijmnie

BIJ HET VERVULLEN VAN HUN MILITAIRE PLICHT OVERLEDEN

B. Simon Thomas Mei '40
J. Bordeman Mei '40
ir R. Kerkhoven Nov. '44
ir J. H. Muntinga Jan. '45
L. P. Klein Bog April '45

IN ENGELAND OVERLEDEN

L. D. Wolters Dat. onb.
ir W. M. Rouhl Dat. onb.
B. S. Cohen Dat. onb.
ir P. H. Blaas Dat. onb.
J. L. Pasman Dat. onb.
B. M. Berger Dat. onb.
J. W. van Hamel Dat. onb.
C. T. de Jongh Juni '40

DOOR ZIEKTE OF BOMBARDEMENT OVERLEDEN

J. W. C. Tellegen Mei '40
J. Rookslaag Mei '40
J. Zijlenbos Dec. '42
ir P. H. Clay Juli '43
A. P. J. van Gelder Aug. '43
J. bij de Vaate Okt. '43
G. W. Jongkind Nov. '43
J. Bakker Dec. '43
v. Griethuisen Jan. '44
G. v. Keuren April '44
M. P. Menalda Nojaar '44
W. H. v. Leeuwen Sept. '44
N. Emael Sept. '44
Kwee Kian Lien Sept. '44
J. C. Coenraads Maart '45
ir G. L. M. v. Es Aug. '45
ir J. J. Ott de Vries Mei '45
H. B. Schmidt Juli '45
L. J. ten Horn Sept. '45
A. C. P. Waale Dat. onb.
P. A. Vrede Dat. onb.
J. de Haas Dat. onb.
J. Addeom Dat. onb.

Image: *This is the list of Delft University students and professors who died. (156 people)*[358]

They are listed by the manner of their death – shooting (50), death in a concentration camp (37), death related to the resistance (12), went missing/disappeared (19), died as result of military service (5), death in England (8) and death through illness or bombardment (23).

"These students stand before us again tonight and fill the emptiness they left behind us"[359]

[358] Although Five confusing Years (2005) Article says 179 delft students died or went missing
[359] Delft University Remembrance Book (1947)

And one more letter to Mrs Neely, looking forward to a brighter future:

> *This morning, we received the parcel and we were very delighted with it. We, and especially mother, thank you very much. The wool is magnificent, and the woollen shawl will be used immediately when my brother and his wife and child come and stay at our house next week.*
>
> *They'll take it with them when they return to Rotterdam. The nice little gift I will keep it till Christmas and give it to my little niece from her aunt Alice in Ireland. And the cigarettes come in very opportunely at the festivities next week when Hank and I will get married.*
>
> *The 31st of October I finished my study as an engineer, and next week the 30th of Nov will be our wedding day. You will have received already the notification.*
>
> *We got permission for a part of a house in Bloemendaal, only 10 minutes from my parents. We are very content with it. There are four rooms and a kitchen, and we are very busy.*
>
> *Is Kenneth still at home? You will have had a pleasant time while he was on leave? Please tell Kenneth we have a lodging room, and we hope he will be one of our first guests! We hope to go one week on a wedding journey to the southern part of the country to have a rest after all these busy (but pleasant!) days.*
>
> *Many thanks and best wishes for you, your husband and Kenneth from my parents, Hank and …*
>
> *Hans*

SO-CALLED "INSTITUTION FOR THE YOUNG"!

To marry, first a notice of marriage intent or "Ondertrouw" needs to be made at the Registry office, which Hank and Hans finally did on 22 October 1945, after four years of engagement. Generally, under normal circumstances the marriage would then take place two weeks later. There must have been a long queue, as they weren't to marry till the 30th November, 1945, 5 weeks later.



Volgnummer 1221 W.P. 0071

Verklaring van ondertrouw

De ondergeteekende, Burgemeester of de door dezen aangewezen Ambtenaar van het Bevolkingsregister der gemeente ..... verklaart, dat:

Naam: Feenwerda, Hans C.
Adres: Wolvenpaan Amez. 11 b 5
Woonplaats: Haarlem
en
Naam: Blankevoort, Johanna
Adres: Emmalaan 5 Elisabeth
Woonplaats: Haarlem

ondertrouw reserve A

ondertrouw reserve B

aangifte van hun voorgenomen huwelijk hebben gedaan op 22 Oct. 194.5

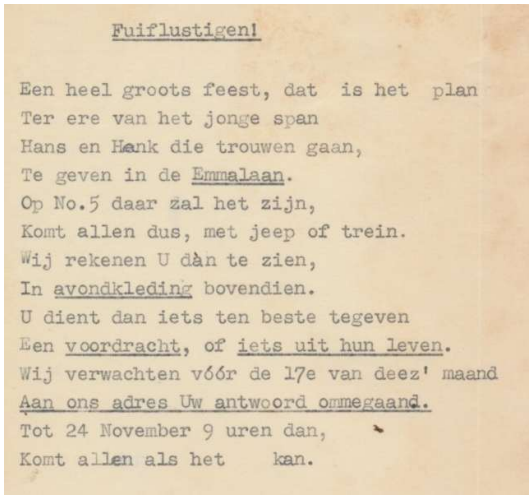
GEMEENTE HAARLEM GEMEENTE-STEMPEL

Burgemeester, aangewezen Ambtenaar.

(handteekening)

In the meantime, Jeanne and another Hans (Hans Millaard) organised what Piet Blankevoort has referred to as the "so-called institution for the young" – a pre wedding party to be held at Emmalaan 5.

Party lovers! (Fuiflustigen!)



Fuiflustigen!

Een heel groots feest, dat is het plan
Ter ere van het jonge span
Hans en Hank die trouwen gaan,
Te geven in de Emmalaan.
Op No.5 daar zal het zijn,
Komt allen dus, met jeep of trein.
Wij rekenen U dàn te zien,
In avondkleding bovendien.
U dient dan iets ten beste tegeven
Een voordracht, of iets uit hun leven.
Wij verwachten vóór de 17e van deez' maand
Aan ons adres Uw antwoord ommegaand.
Tot 24 November 9 uren dan,
Komt allen als het kan.

A big party, that's the plan
In honor of the young pair
Hans and Hank who are to be wed

To be held in the Emmalaan
At Number 5, it will be,
So come all, by jeep or train,
We expect to see you then,
Moreover, in evening dress.

Then you must bring something to give
A little speech, or something from their life.
Before the 17th of this month, we expect
To our address, your RSVP

Til 24 November 9 o'clock then, Come all if you can

And on the next page we have a "poem" from that night, which includes amongst other things that Hank did food runs to the countryside during the Honger winter. I think there's still a lot we don't know about them both, during the occupation …

A is an alphabet
Dedicated to the bride and groom
So, at the chorus I expect
Loud singing all round
B is for Bloemendaal
A village of standing
For him and his girl
One step on the ladder
C is the control
Which Hank has on housekeeping
and now to Hans
Gives hope for the future
D is "Den Haag"
Where Hank volunteered
And in Delft where Hans
For engineer studied
E is the Emmalaan
Where at number five
Hank evolved
"From baby to wife"
F is the "fornuis" or stove
of english production
a push on the button
And dinner is served
G is for greens
She got them in the north.
She was riding a cargo bike
And snuck out there along the dykes
H: Hank and Hans
The couple of the day
We hope you'll always remember
This party with joy!
I: is for Ir.
The title before his name
J: is for Jr.,
It can still stand behind
K is for Kindjeshaven,
And even a safe haven for Hans
Where he as a guest
Did escape from the krauts
L is the Love,
You sailed there a lot
Looking into each others eyes, too long
Might find your boat run aground!
M is Monnickendam,
Where you travelled around,
And tricky with the C.C.D[361].
Who, for your milk and butter, prowled
N is the "Nood" heater[360]***,***
No longer required
People stay clean again
By heating on stoves
O is the nOnsense
That I was making up
everything was crazy
I didn't know where to start
P are the polders
That Hans helped save,
A nice piece of work
That he has resisted
Q is quo vadis,
So, for the honeymoon.
They still have to choose,
Between Amsterdam and Paris
R is the Red Cross
Where she worked in The Hague
She ended up there again
So she was happy to be there!
S is for Spaarndam,
Known for its shipyards,
Materials and warehouses
Is where Hans, this summer, was to be found
T is the tart,
For their wedding day,
To make it possible…
They ate dry kibble … for two weeks
U is for Utrecht,
Where she spent two years,
rinsing the diapers,
There were plenty of them!
V are the v(f)loors
Of their new house
Stained is nice
But it makes a lot of noise
W is the wine,
Which I want to use with the Z,
So don't taste it yet
Just have a good sniff
X is the question,
How did they come to fall in love?
I'll tell you
In the following paragraph
Y is the "ijs" rink
Where they both skated...
Here the love-light sparkled
Right from the start
Z is the 'Zegen' (or Toast),
Raise a glass
To the bride and groom:
"Prosperity and happiness for the rest of your lives!"

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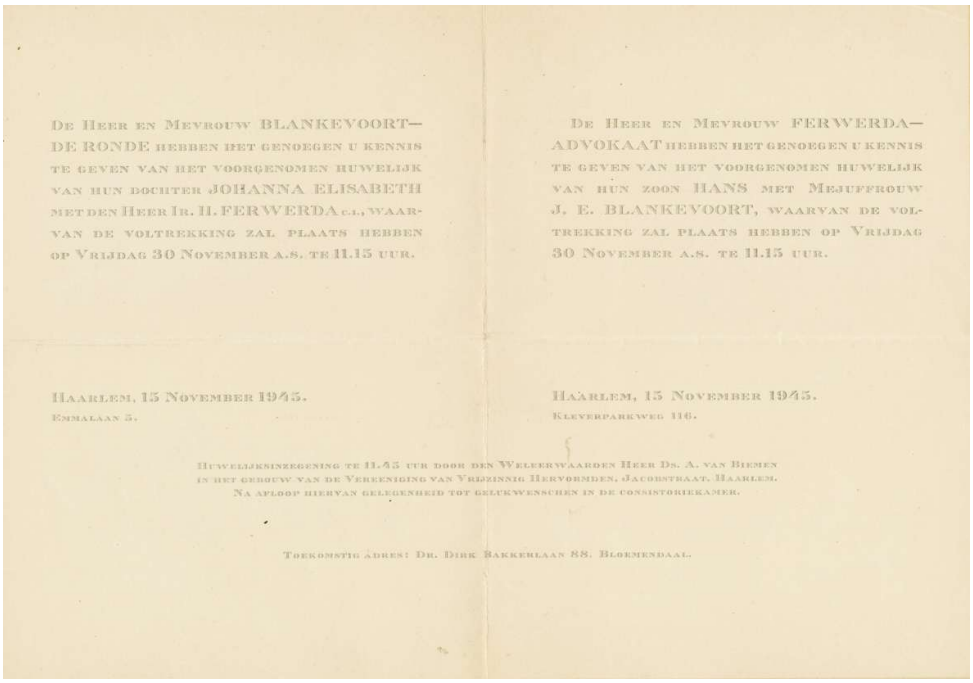
[360] Emergency heater

[361] 'There used to be a Crisis Controle Dienst [or Service]. They'd stand at bridges and confiscate things. Whenever they'd show up someplace the news spread like wildfire. Then you'd have to go by another road...' , Resistance Museum Website

MARRIED, AT LAST!



Photo: *Hans and Hank on their wedding day*



De Heer en Mevrouw BLANKEVOORT—DE RONDE hebben het genoegen u kennis te geven van het voorgenomen huwelijk van hun dochter JOHANNA ELISABETH met den Heer Ir. H. FERWERDA c.s., waarvan de voltrekking zal plaats hebben op Vrijdag 30 November a.s. te 11.15 uur.

Haarlem, 15 November 1945.
Emmalaan 5.

De Heer en Mevrouw FERWERDA—ADVOKAAT hebben het genoegen u kennis te geven van het voorgenomen huwelijk van hun zoon HANS met Mejuffrouw J. E. BLANKEVOORT, waarvan de voltrekking zal plaats hebben op Vrijdag 30 November a.s. te 11.15 uur.

Haarlem, 15 November 1945.
Kleverparkweg 116.

Huwelijksinzegening te 11.45 uur door den Weleerwaarden Heer Ds. A. van Biemen in het gebouw van de Vereeniging van Vrijzinnig Hervormden, Jacobstraat, Haarlem. Na afloop hiervan gelegenheid tot gelukwenschen in de consistoriekamer.

Toekomstig adres: Dr. Dirk Bakkerlaan 88, Bloemendaal.

Image: Announcement by the parents of the wedding of Hank and Hans

They married in the Registry Office in the Town Hall (Stadhuis) in Haarlem, and the wedding festivities were held in Brinkman's Grand Café, on the same square as the town hall, and paid for with ration stamps. At least 130 family and friends helped them celebrate this beautiful moment. Brinkman's is still there in 2019; it's a Haarlem icon.



Photos: *More photos from their wedding day, on the steps of the Haarlem Town Hall; Hank's niece, Ineke Sasburg[362], is the bridesmaid*

[362] Hank was a flower girl at Ineke's mother's wedding – between Sijda Blankevoort and Jaap Sasburg in 1929

Hans renews his driver's licence, December 1945, in readiness for a short honeymoon. Where did they go? In Hank's words:



My father, Dirk, owned a "green Opal"[363] (car) of which he was very proud. During the war Mr. van Dyke, the car's mechanic (a lovely man, "een schat van een man"), allowed the Opal to be stored in the attic of his garage – so they winched it up. Near the end of the war the Germans discovered Dirk's pride and joy. Luckily Dirk had kept a box of cigars hidden which he used to bribe the Germans. So, Hans and Hank were able to take the Green Opal on their honeymoon to Maastricht in the south of Holland for five days.

Just before the wedding, Hans moved to Dr. Dirk Bakkerlaan 88, Bloemendaal.


2326 14.11.45.PV

Mededeeling aan de R. C. M.

De Directeur van het Provinciaal Bureau Verzorging Oorlogsslachtoffers in HAARLEM, deelt U hierbij mede, dat heden vestigingsvergunning is verleend aan: H.Ferwerda

van Haarlem, Kleverparkweg 116.

naar Bloemendaal, Dr. Dirk Bakkerlaan inw. 88.

De kosten van meubelvervoer komen ten laste van het Gemeente

den aanvrager/ H.Ferwerda.

De Directeur voornoemd,

D.B.V.O. Haarlem

Bijk. Kenaupark 3

Image: *This document is a settlement permit stamped by the "Districts Bureau Verzorging Oorlogsslachtoffers", Haarlem (Bureau of Welfare for War victims)*



Photo: *Dr. D.Bakkerlaan 88, Bloemendaal.*

That could be Hank with pram and baby (Marianne?). Ah! But we're getting ahead of ourselves

Hank remembers:

Our first home was a rented upstairs flat in a house in Dr. Dirk Bakkerlaan in Bloemendaal. (Accommodation was in short supply because of the effects of the war.) As [Hans] worked for van Hattum & Blankevoort, a well-known

[363] The image is of a 1935 Austin 7 Opal Tourer. Very popular, a two-seater with a retractable soft top. This is a likely candidate for the Green Opal

firm in Haarlem and one that was anti - Nazi, this helped in obtaining the flat.)

We started our married life with the guest bed from my parents and a table, chairs and heater from Hans's parents. There was no bathroom, so we washed each other standing in a "teil" (like a metal[364] baby bath). We had a few giggles and found this rather enjoyable and romantic as we were just married.



***Photos**: Inside their flat*

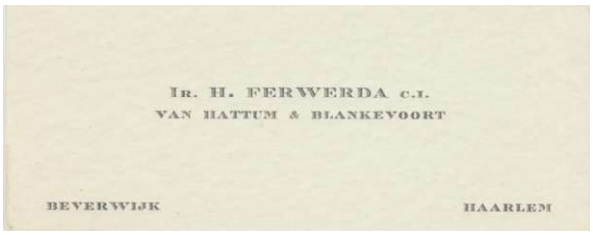


***Photo:** And a peaceful moment together*

[364] galvanised zinc

Hans' work

After Vollenhove, Hans was based at the Head Office in Beverwijk.



According to Hank[365], Hans was fascinated by bridges, and hoped to work in bridge design. This may account for the photo in *The Collection (1938-1950)* of the wrecked Moerdijk bridges, taken in 1945.

The Moerdijk bridges connect the Island of Dordrecht (near Rotterdam) with the Dutch province of North Brabant (*Noord Brabant*) across the *Hollands Diep*. The first bridge for rail was built at the end of the 19th century. The second bridge was built in the 1930s for road traffic.



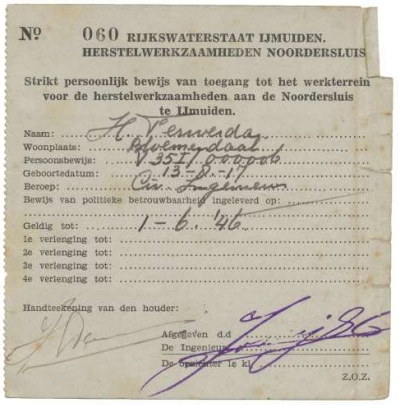


Photos: *Before (1940)* *After (1945)*

This was the last bridge available for the retreat from the vital Scheldt Estuary of the rapidly collapsing German defences near Antwerp in World War II. And, both bridges were destroyed by the fleeing Germans[366] to prevent the Allied Forces from reaching South Holland.

However, the first project Hans was involved in after the war was the repair work on the Noordersluis (Northern Lock) in Ijmuiden for the Rijkswaterstaat (Dutch Water Board – Public Works and Infrastructure).

[365] Pers.comm Hank, early 2018
[366] Wikipedia- Moerdijk Bridges [October 2018]


№ 060 RIJKSWATERSTAAT IJMUIDEN.
HERSTELWERKZAAMHEDEN NOORDERSLUIS

Strikt persoonlijk bewijs van toegang tot het werkterrein voor de herstelwerkzaamheden aan de Noordersluis te IJmuiden.

Naam: H. Flerwerda
Woonplaats: Bloemendaal
Persoonsbewijs: V 3511 000006
Geboortedatum: 13-8-17
Beroep: Ass. Ingenieur
Bewijs van politieke betrouwbaarheid ingeleverd op:
Geldig tot: 1-6-46
1e verlenging tot:
2e verlenging tot:
3e verlenging tot:
4e verlenging tot:

Handtekening van den houder:

Afgegeven d.d.
De Ingenieur
De Opzichter te K
Z.O.Z.


Staff Officer Security Ymuiden № 377

Naam Hans Flerwerda
Adres Dr D.Bakkerlaan 88 Bloemendaal
Persoonsbewijs V 351 - 000006
Geboortedatum 13-8-1917
Beroep uitvoerend Rijkswaterstaat
Hij heeft vergunning zich te begeven naar/te bevinden op
DUINTERREIN IJMUIDEN
voor zijn werkzaamheden.
Geldig tot 1 Juni 1946
Geldig tot / valid till
1 JUN 1946
STAFF OFFICER
ROYAL NETH NAVY

Images: *These documents attest to Hans's political reliability ('politieke betrouwbaarheid') and give him permission to be on the Ijmuiden Port area and the Dune Area, Ijmuiden until 1 June 1946.*

Piet Blankevoort dies

On 16 February, 1946, Hank's tante Janny wrote at the end of Piet's diary:

> *"P. Blankevoort Czn[367], author of this diary, died, just a week after his 83rd birthday, after a short illness he has quietly fallen asleep."*

So, sadly, our 'war reporter' dies. It is gratifying though to know that he survived long enough to experience the end of the war and some gradual improvement in conditions. We owe a lot to Piet, and those who transcribed his diary … thank you.

Dutch Colony or Indonesian Republic?

In 1945, at the surrender of the Japanese, Indonesia had declared its independence from the Netherlands; however, the Netherlands did not recognise this till the end of 1949. In the meantime, the Netherlands rebuilt its army, while the Allies (largely British and Australian) moved into Indonesia to oversee the withdrawal of three and half years of Japanese occupation.

Frustratingly for Koo and his family, Koo's[368] military conscription was not yet over:

> *The work at the Lyceum didn't last long as on 12 March 1946 he had to register for the military in Breda, to prepare to be sent to the Netherlands Indies (Indonesia). Shortly after, he was sent to (SW) England for further training.*
>
> *His wife sought him out there at the end of July 1946 and (despite opposition from the army) was provided with a tent and sleeping bags so*

[367] Czn is short for Cornelis zoon ie son of Cornelis
[368] Koo's Story (1990s)

they could camp together.

On his return from England, around October 1946, he was sent to Wezep[369], as Adjutant or Aide-de-camp to the Commander. In November 1946, he was promoted to Reserve Captain and "for the duration, he was assigned to the 2nd division". As an Aide-de-camp, he was one of the first to view in-coming mail, where he saw his name on two contradictory missions to leave for Indonesia. He knew to get rid of the most unfavourable.

The most unfavourable being an earlier departure. This is understandable, as Uck was expecting their second child, Johan (Hans) and he wanted to stay for the birth.

Apparently travel to the UK at this time was still strictly controlled, as Hans and Hank were also considering a visit to Koo but without success[370].

Den Helder

In June 1946, Hans writes to Kenneth and his fiancé, Anne, who are both at that time based in Austria. Here are some extracts:

Dear Bridal pair

We enjoyed it very much to hear from Kenneth's mother that your wedding day is coming already so soon. We are afraid our best wishes for the big day 14th June will be late, but we both send our greetings for your future happiness. It is a pity your parents cannot be present, but you are right not to wait longer.

Next week I'll go to Den Helder (about 45 miles north of Bloemendaal) to carry out dredging and coastal defence works. It is very interesting work and I'll be very busy there so that Hank and I will see each other only on the weekends.

Last week we took a holiday, and we went to friends in the eastern provinces with Hank's father's car.

… we hope to meet up with you both before you start for the other side of the globe!

I'm not sure where Kenneth was going but it's quite possible, he was sent to Asia with the British forces[371].

Hank was soon to discover she was pregnant. I wonder what she thought about

[369] Near Kampen, south of the NOP
[370] Letter by Hans to Kenneth 8 June 1946 (not included in following extracts). We don't have Kenneth's letter but we have Hans's draft
[371] I've not found anything to support this theory

this work arrangement; it was to set the scene for much of Hans's later working life.

This project must have influenced Hans in his future career direction.

Den Helder, on the northern tip of North Holland was the target of both the Germans and then the British. It was one of the most heavily bombed cities in The Netherlands[372], during the war. The naval yard was based there, so was strategically important and a priority to repair.

[372] Ghost City – Den Helder Website, accessed 2021

A GROWING FAMILY

Hey, Marianneke!



De Heer en Mevrouw Ferwerda-Blankevoort
geven met blijdschap kennis van de geboorte van
hun Dochter

Marianne Elisabeth.

Bloemendaal, 4 Februari 1947.
Dr. D. Bakkerlaan 88.
Tijd. adres: St.-Elisabeth's Gasthuis, Haarlem.

Their first daughter Marianne was born in Bloemendaal on 4 February 1947. Marianneke was a nickname used by Oma Blankevoort, and maybe others, too.

Here she is at ten days old:





e Heer en Mevrouw Ferwer-
a-Blankevoort geven met
root blijdschap kennis van
e geboorte van hun Dochter
MARIANNE ELISABETH
loemendaal, 4 Febr. 1947
r. D Bakkerlaan 88
ijdelijk: St. Elisabeth's Gast-
uis.

Six weeks in they purchase a "Kelim" Armchair (imagine this is an armchair upholstered with Turkish carpet, and that it was for Hank's comfort in feeding Marianne). It was obviously a significant purchase as this receipt was amongst *The Collection (1938-1950)*.

And, at 2 months:







Photos: *Oma Blankevoort (on the left) and Oma Ferwerda come to admire and cuddle their new grandchild.*



Photos: *(left) Marianne with Jeanne, Hank's childhood friend (and co-backpacker to the Achterhoek) and (below) with Tante Lakeman (nee Klomp) Hank's paternal grandmother's sister who still lived in Monnickendam:*

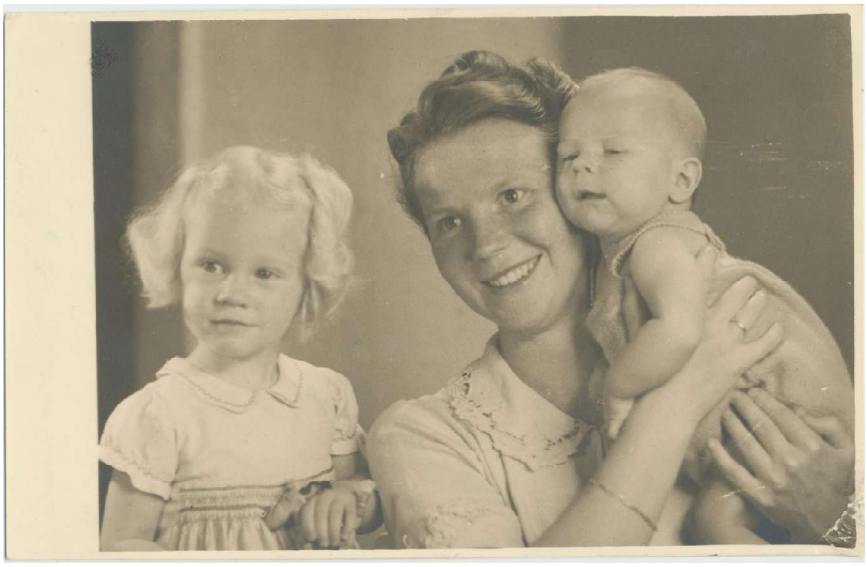




Photo: *At 6 months with Opa and Oma Blankevoort:*

Another cousin

About nine months after Uck's visit to the UK, Koo and Uck's second child, Hans[373], was born.



In cousin Hans' own words[374]:

> *[I] was born, 26 March 1947. Six weeks later Koo departed on the "Johan van Oldenbarnevelt" to Indonesia; in principle for two years. He arrived 5 June. The stay, in the end, was for 3 years.*

This must have been so difficult for the whole family, but particularly for Uck, Rinske and Hans (or Hansje[375], as he was called to distinguish him from his Oom Hans).

[373] Cousin Johan Gerrit (Hans) is born on 26 March 1947 in Rotterdam.
[374] Koo's Story (1990s)
[375] Pers. comm. Hans Ferwerda, b1947, 2019

Later that year, Hans and Hank receive a letter from Koo, based in Bandung, Java:

> *Thank you for your letter for my birthday … Also thank you for the letter from Hank dated 9 September, on the occasion of Uck's birthday.*
>
> *The enclosed pictures of Marianneke are lovely… She must have grown a lot more by now. I think she looks quite like Hans, when he was young, I mean.*
>
> *It must have been nice to see the children together when you were staying in Rotterdam. Could Marianneke appreciate it? Rinske was sometimes afraid of older children.*
>
> *…It was interesting to hear your stories about the work in Den Helder. Have the dredging difficulties in the port finally been resolved? A risky job, if there's still a chance to dredge up a hidden mine.*
>
> *Here in Bandung everything goes smoothly. I'm not very busy, but I can keep myself busy in all kinds of ways. The people are calm and friendly.*
>
> *Nov 22. Of course, I just got busy. Exam week correcting two classes at the same time. Besides, I was just shooting a colour film this week. And that material should not be exposed to the tropical atmosphere for a long time (rainy season!), so immediately after arrival: open, shoot and send back.*
>
> *I'll be interested to see the results of the colour film. But for this I must be patient, as it will take 4 ½ to 5 months, before I know if I've had any success…*
>
> *Hey, till the next letter. Kind regards and a kiss for Marianneke,*
>
> *Koo*

And here's Marianneke playing with her very serious cousin, Hansje:





From Hank's memories:

The lady who owned the house and her older sister who lived with her loved Marianne (a toddler). They would allow her to go downstairs to their lounge to play with their box of buttons.

Interesting! Hope they were largish buttons…

Jet is in Canada



Meanwhile Hank's friend Jet from Kindjeshaven, married a Canadian soldier (John Macey) in 1946 and moved to Manitoba, Canada. Hank and Jet kept in touch.

Photo: *Jet and John*

Here's an early letter from Jet soon after Marianne's first birthday:

Dear Hank

How are you, haven't heard from you in a while.

Your daughter is already a year old, how time flies. Congratulations to both of you. I imagine she's talking your ears off!

The people who tempted fate[376] *will now have a baby themselves in Aug. We are very happy…*

Is Hans busy?

Here we are waiting for spring. Timber for our house is already cut. John is now splitting it. Today he went to get hay, 10 miles there and 10 back. And, once again next week. It's a long way but the only place we can get it. He left at 7:30 and hopes to be back with supper.

It has been very cold here the last few days, now they predict a bit warmer again. It was not a very cold winter. Cold times, of course, but also many beautiful days. Also, a lot of snow.

John says that all will be gone by the first of April. We'll see, hope it's a nice early spring so that we have fresh vegetables early because my pantry store has shrunk enormously.

My plants all froze overnight, so did we. It was the coldest night of the winter. We had the heater on all night…

[376] Jet & John

I am baking bread today and do that 3 or 4 times a week. Three loaves at a time. Sometimes make some coffee cake which I'm quite happy with. My bread is not always good. Hope to bring it to the point where it's always good.

We have a new battery and now our radio is working great again. It's just a small one with only Canada and America stations. Not for Europe. And some stations give no sound at all or start well and if you are in an exciting moment of an audio drama, the sound disappears completely. And comes back when it's over…

A neighbour of ours saw the picture of your daughter and said in amazement "Hey! They wear the same clothes in Holland as we do here." They sometimes ask me the craziest things and have not much idea what it is actually like "overseas". But also, I'm sure the reverse is true.

How is Jeanne, what is she doing these days? …

Is your daughter potty trained yet?

One of the three cats is lying comfortably on my apron. They sleep during the day and play at night.

Write me back soon

Many greetings to Hans also from John

And steadfast post from

jet

The cabin was built and as you can gather from the letter, they were quite isolated and got snowed in during long snowy winters. Jet was obviously up for another very different challenge.



Ireland visits

During this time Hans was making visits to Ireland for work, to the counties of Wexford and Wicklow, on the east and southeast coast.

Photo: *Marianneke and Hans.*
On Hans'return from a trip to Ireland in March 1948 (Bloemendaal).

Also, from their letters, Hans and Hank made a visit to the Neelys.

The Alcantara Reappears

Letter: *Hans to Mr & Mrs Shean (?) (Wicklow, Ireland)*[377]

From Bloemendaal 25th April 1948

Dear Mr and Mrs Shean (?)



I suppose that you will think that I have forgotten you since I left Ireland, on the contrary, but I am a very bad correspondent, and another reason is that until about a fortnight ago there was a chance that you would see me in Wicklow again.

Since Easter however we succeeded in getting so many contracts in Holland that it has been decided now that I stay here to carry out a job in Harlingen (county Friesland).

I enjoyed my time in Ireland very much. I thank you very much for the hospitality which I received from you. I hope that there will be a chance to have you in Holland…

In Harlingen we shall live in a houseboat. I have never seen one in Ireland, but I suppose you will know the type. This is a rather big one – 35 yards long and 5 ½ yards wide – with four rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a closed veranda. We were very glad that we could get this one, as now I can take my family with me; otherwise, I could only come home at weekends. We'll take possession of it after Whitsuntide[378] *for they are now cleaning and painting it….*

We'll make a new pier for enlargement of the harbour; for that we shall take the sand from the sea with a suction dredge and we force it up with a pumping xxx xxx into the new dam. The sand will be covered with a mixture of sand and bitumen. This is a new way of covering dykes; we always did this with clay and basalt….

In May 1948, the family moved to Harlingen in Friesland and lived on the

[377] Presumeably a work-related connection
[378] Pentecost – seventh Sunday after Easter, usually toward the end of May beginning of June

houseboat, the “Alcantara”, the same one that Wim and Lelie Blankevoort-Schoen were living on when they had their first two children.

Hank at that time was about 7 months pregnant with her second child. She recalls that time:

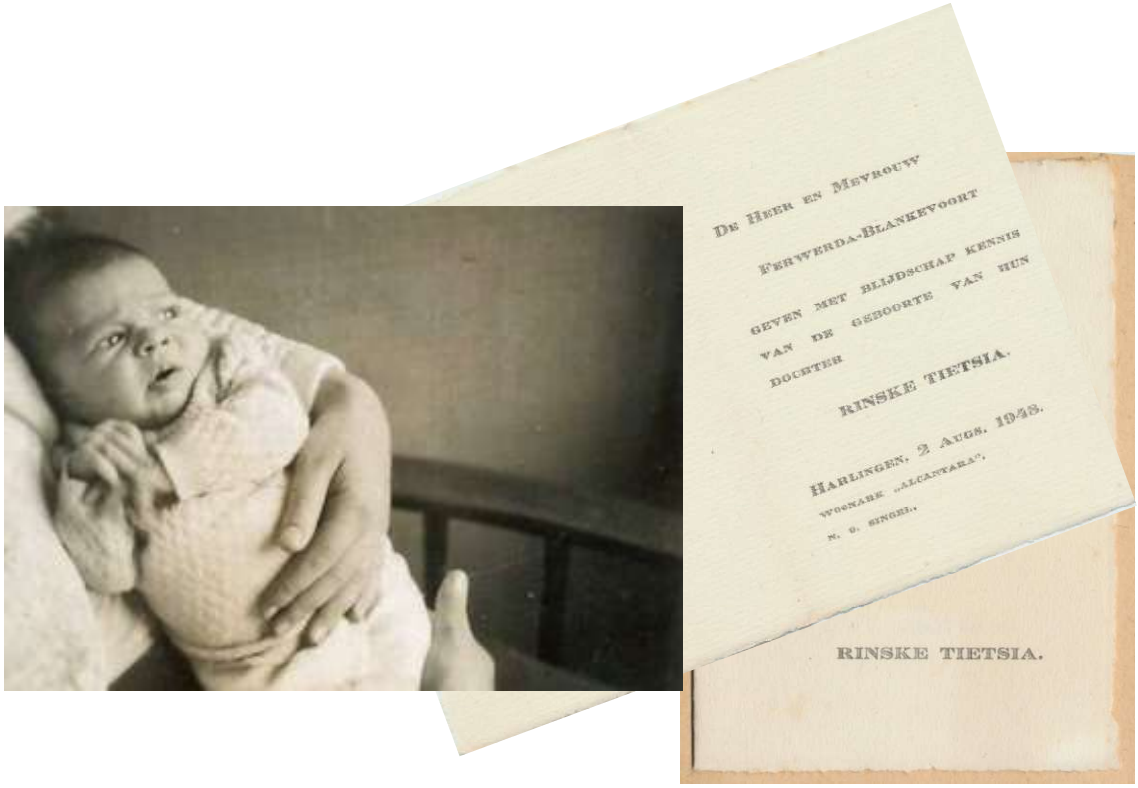
> *With the company that Hans worked for (van Hattum & Blankevoort) most engineers had a spell staying on the company's houseboat, "De Alcantara". We went to stay in the houseboat when it was moored in the small fishing village of Harlingen in Friesland[379]. At the time I was pregnant with Rinske, and she was born on the houseboat.*

Friese Rinske

To reflect her Frisian birth, Hans and Hank’s second child was given a fully Frisian name Rinske Tietsia Ferwerda. She was born on 2 August, 1948.

Rinske was named after a great aunt of Hans who lived, in Amsterdam, to the ripe old age of 104[380]. I wonder if cousin Rinske’s name was also inspired by this great aunt?

Maybe to distinguish her from her older cousin, baby Rinske was nick-named Pinkje (literal translation: little finger) or Pinkeltje! Very cute!



[379] On the NoordOoster Singel (NE canal), Harlingen

[380] Hans was aware of his Frisian ancestry but I don’t think he would have known at the time that he also has direct ancestors that were born and lived in Harlingen (from the 1700s, and possibly earlier, to about 1820).

Marianne was only 18 months old. She couldn't understand when I had to leave her on the houseboat while I got the pram with baby Rinske in it down the steps and then across the plank onto land. I could only take one at a time!



Photo: *Marianneke, at about 1 ½ on the Alcantara, on the boat, in the playpen*

The houseboat was very large, and well before we lived in it, it had a resident skipper and his wife who was probably the cook.

The company held meetings each Monday morning on board the houseboat. That was difficult because Rinske cried a lot in the first three months (I suspect she was hungry, and I couldn't provide enough milk for her. She was quite a big/long baby compared with Marianne) and I had to try to pacify her during those meetings.

At the time that we were there we were the only ones living there. It was quite an interesting experience, but Marianne found it a bit restrictive being in the playpen so often (a necessity when on board).



Prov. Friese Veren. „Het Groene Kruis"
KLEUTERZORG.

Naam: Marianne Kemperda
Geboren: 4-2-47
Adres: M.O. Lingel, a/b. Alcantara

CONSULTATIEBUREAU VOOR KLEUTERS.

No. 113 19 40 Datum 1e bezoek: 2./.'40

Datum van terugkomst: 4 Feb. '49 | Datum van terugkomst:

Image: *Marianne is sent to the local kindergarten or childcare (kleuterschool)… probably to give Hank a break?*



Photo: *Marianneke and Pinkeltje*

Back in Bloemendaal...

Photos: *Hank , Pinkeltje & Marianneke*







Beach Holiday – Wijk aan Zee



Photos: *Summer holiday - Wijk aan Zee, June-July 1949 with cousins Rinske and Hans and Oma Ferwerda (Uck was there too). "De 4 rode ruitjes" – The four red ginghams. [pers. comm cousin Hans: The story my mother used to tell was, that people around Wijk aan Zee "always thought that the 3 fair girls must be sisters, and the dark boy was probably someone else's"]*

ADVENTURE...

I'm not sure what choice Hans had in where he was sent next for work, but I do know he wanted an adventure, and he was not keen in staying in the Netherlands…

That opportunity came, because of the rapid growth of the vH&B Company after the war. The international focus of the company till 1950 had been mainly South America and some Western European countries. Around this time the picture broadened to include Australia, Middle East (particularly Egypt), and Africa (Nigeria and South Africa).[381]

Hans's adventure was to be in Australia, based in Williamstown, Melbourne for three years. vH&B had been contracted for major dredging works in Port Phillip Bay.

The project was to be carried out in collaboration with the Dutch company Adriaan Volker, and together they formed a new company Australian Dredging & General Works Pty. Ltd. Initially, both personnel and equipment came from the Netherlands. In later years, the company "acquired an increasingly national face"[382].

An adventure for Hans is also an adventure for Hank![383] Here's Hank's recollection of the family's move to Australia.

> *Van Hattum & Blankevoort asked Hans to go to Melbourne, Australia, to manage a project involving the dredging of Port Philip Bay…He flew to Australia in February 1950, arriving on Marianne's birthday.*
>
> *I wasn't so happy to go so far from home to a place I knew very little about, and to leave my parents who were having health problems. However, my father made it easier for me as he said "You are a married woman. You go wherever your husband goes". Hans arranged for me and our two girls (Marianne aged 3 and Rinske aged 18 months) to fly to Melbourne in May. At the airport there were quite a few relatives. The two Omas kept asking Marianne if she needed to go to the toilet, and she replied "als ik bij Pappie ben (when I'm with Daddy)". That stopped them! They were anxious too.*

[381] Stiksma (1982)
[382] Stiksma (1982)
[383] We have in the order of 90 letters between Hank and Hans for the 3 months they were apart. Maybe for another document! This includes a period where Hank and the girls stayed with Uck and her children in Rotterdam.

We were to have several stopovers on the way as Hans thought that would be easier for me. The stopovers were in Bangkok and Djakarta. The stopover in Bangkok was not too bad as KLM had a hotel which was made up of bungalows run by Dutch people and we could sleep quite comfortably. Not knowing what to do and thinking that it would be impossible to sleep with two little ones anyway, I decided to go on an organized bus tour. This involved going to lots of temples where you had to take your shoes off before entering. I remember feeling quite worried about finding our shoes back again. The stopover in Djakarta was not very pleasant. We were in a hotel with only single beds and Marianne and Rinske both wanted to sleep in my bed with me. So, one or other would fall out of bed from time to time. This was not good for sleeping well! It was also pretty hot.

The stewardesses on KLM were supposed to help me whilst on the flight, but they weren't at all helpful, and just appeared annoyed that I couldn't keep Rinske in her seat. She loved to crawl under seats and make contact with other passengers. Marianne was happy to sit and be read to, or do some colouring in. At one stage Rinske found a bag belonging to a mother with a baby and had great delight in sprinkling the baby powder that she found in the bag all over the plane! The section with BOAC was much better. The stewards on this flight were much more helpful and were quite happy for Rinske to crawl around as long as they weren't busy serving meals. I didn't know what to do with the dirty nappies, so ended up by packing them up and disposing of them in the bins in the toilets at the airports we stopped at.

I was very pleased to get to Sydney where Dad was waiting for us. When Marianne finally saw her father the first thing that she said was "Pappie heeft een nieuwe regenjas (Daddy has a new raincoat)". She was right and I was amazed that a three-year old would notice such a thing. Now we were together as a family, and I don't remember the trip to Melbourne.



Photo: *Hank, Marianneke (with doll) and Pinkeltje (with teddy bear) about to board the plane at Schiphol Airport, May 1950*
Image: Equator Crossing Certificate for Hank

AUSTRALIA



Photo: *Arrival in Sydney and the family is reunited, 22nd May 1950*

Although the contract in Melbourne was for three years, Hans and Hank decided to stay on. Both loved walking and nature, and their discovery of Wilson's Promontory National Park in their first year in Australia, I'm sure played a part in their decision to stay. They also made some lasting friendships from their time in Williamstown. And importantly there was plenty of work for a dredging company in the region.

POSTSCRIPT

Wim and Lelie

Unrecorded by any of our family sources, is that Wim and Lelie hid a young Jewish woman on the Alcantara during the war[384].

> *On September 6, 1984, Yad Vashem recognized Willem Nicolaas Blankevoort and his wife, Leliana Blankevoort-Schoen, as Righteous Among the Nations.*
>
> *Willem and Leliana Blankevoort lived on a houseboat called the Alcantara in Dedemsvaart, Overijssel. Despite the risks of being caught, the young couple agreed to hide an 18-year-old Jewish girl named Alida Montezinos. The Dutch Resistance brought her to them on December 7, 1943, Willem's 26th birthday. Earlier Alida had been smuggled out of the Hollandsche Schouwburg, an old theater which the Germans used to assemble the Jews before sending them to extermination camps. The Blankevoorts pretended to their neighbors that Alida was a servant, though some of them guessed she was Jewish. However, Willem and Leliana made every effort to conceal Alida's identity. They renamed her Annie at first and for a time she had false identity papers under the name Efia Reinders. Alida maintained good relations with Willem and Leliana and kept in touch with them after the war. In 1961, she married a Polish Jewish chess player, Ignacy Branicki. She died childless in 1970.*

Truitje and Jet

Truitje and Jet have also been recognised by Yad Vashem[385]:

> *Geertruida (Truitje) van Lier was studying law in her hometown of Utrecht when the Germans invaded Holland. She postponed her studies and after six months of underground work, She and her friend Henriëtte (Jet) Berdenis van Berlekom established a day-care center, which they named "Kindjeshaven" (Shelter for Children), in Utrecht. When the deportations began in July 1942, Truitje and Jet cleared as much space as*

[384] Yad Vashem Website The World Holocaust Remembrance Center, accessed 2021
[385] Yad Vashem Website The World Holocaust Remembrance Center, accessed 2022

possible for extra Jewish children, who came to the center before being moved to permanent shelters elsewhere. Most of the children who came to the center had been smuggled out of Amsterdam by members of the UKC. When this group was short of safe addresses, it could always rely on the Kindjeshaven to provide temporary refuge. Through the center, Truitje and Jet helped dozens of Jewish children. Two of them, Judith and Deborah Schavrien, twins, stayed at the Kindjeshaven for the duration of the war…

In late 1944, the Sipo[386] started looking for Truitje. She could no longer work at the Kindjeshaven and so she went into hiding with her fiancé in Culemborg, Gelderland, where she remained until the liberation. In the meantime, Jet continued working at the center until February 1945 and then moved the children to various safe houses.

On February 11, 1992, Yad Vashem recognized Geertruida E. van Lier and Henriëtte Berdenis Macey-van Berlekom as Righteous Among the Nations.

There's now a plaque at the old location of Kindjeshaven, Prins Hendriklaan 4 Utrecht. The original building no longer exists.

Deetje and Joekie



***Photo:** 1942, Some children from the childcare center Kindjeshaven (Prins Hendriklaan 4) in Utrecht during a walk to the Wilhelminapark; right Deetje and Joekie, the Jewish twins from Amsterdam and the first to be hidden; Koningslaan in the background.[387]*

[386] Security Police - Gestapo
[387] Utrecht Archives, accessed 2022

The twins, Deetje and Joekie, as we know were taken to Rotterdam. The people who took them in were the family van der Wyck. H. W. van der Wyck has recorded his memories in "De Tweeling van Kindjeshaven"[388] or “The twins of Kindjeshaven” written in 2004. A copy is held at the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD). (Unfortunately I haven’t yet seen it). In the Utrechts Archive, however, I found a photo of the twins from 1942.

I believe the twins made it safely to Canada and hope they were able to have happy and prosperous lives.

Laurens and Hans Heringa

Hans Heringa wrote[389]:

> *In a letter from Bloemendaal dated 10 November 1947, Hans [Ferwerda] gave my father the tip that van Hattum & Blankevoort needed an extra civil engineer like him. And so, the circle closed: my father started work at vH&B on 1 February 1948. And his son [H.H] started work at vH&B as well on 1 September 1968.*

Koo Ferwerda

Koo had been in Indonesia since mid 1947:[390]

> *Few details are known of his activities there. The facts are that he was primarily deployed as a teacher/instructor in mathematics but also, for example, aerodynamics for trainee pilots. His posting was mainly in Bandung, Java. He was very charmed by the country, its natural environment and its people. Several hundred stereo-photos and some films attest to this.*
>
> *While in military service he made plans, for his return to civil life, to work at a local Observatory, where many of his colleagues worked. There were also plans to bring his wife and family over. She had in principle, also found a job at the Pasteur Institute in Bandung. However, opposition by the authorities in the Netherlands meant that this beautiful plan did not go ahead.*
>
> *On 19 July 1949 he was promoted to Reserve Major, and “stays attached to the 7th Regiment Field Artillery.”*
>
> *On the 10 March 1950, he “returns home on the “MS General Stuart Heintzelman. Arrives in Amsterdam 13 April 1950. Given long-term leave 26 May 1950.*

[388] NIOD Website, accessed 2022
[389] Email Hans Heringa June 2019)
[390] Koo’s Story (1990s)

After a holiday he returned to teaching, this time at the High School (later the 'Stedelijk Lyceum') in Zutphen, where Uck, his wife had attended the interview for him.

Koo taught part-time till Sept 1951 at the Public Lyceum in Winterswijk. The family remained in Rotterdam till January 1951 when they moved to Zutphen, where on 22 April 1951 Tyco was born.

I wonder how Koo's experience affected him. This is a controversial period of Dutch history, involving much violence.

Apparently, Hans and Koo tried to meet up on Hans's journey to Melbourne, but this did not eventuate[391].

Johan (Georg) and Bets Ferwerda-Advokaat

In 1951, Hans's father, Georg, was knighted in the Order of Orange-Nassau (*Ridder van Oranje-Nassau*), for his distinction as a surveyor, first class of the Cadastre in Haarlem, a civil honour. Although we don't know much about Georg's experience during the occupation, he obviously managed to steer a clear path through that ghastly time, but it can't have been easy.

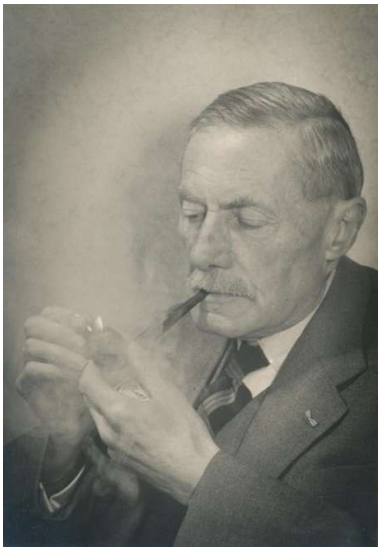


Photo: *Classic photo of Georg, with pipe and what appears to be the ribbon bar in his lapel (taken c1955)*

Georg and Bets were able to celebrate 60 years of marriage together in 1969 and visited Hans and Hank and family in Australia on a couple of occasions.



Image: *Ribbon bar of the Order of Orange-Nassau*[392]

[391] In a letter to Hans from Hank (1950)

[392] The Order of Orange-Nassau …is a civil and military Dutch order of chivalry founded on 4 April 1892 by the Queen regent Emma, acting on behalf of her under-age daughter Queen Wilhelmina.
The order is a chivalric order open to "everyone who has earned special merits for society." These are people who deserve appreciation and recognition from society for the special way in which they have carried out their activities…. titles, prefixes or post-nominals (other than academic ones) are not used in the Netherlands (the only exception being for members of the Military William Order). Wikipedia, Oct, 2021

Dirk and Mientje Blankevoort-De Ronde



Image: *Mientje at van Dyke's Garage with Wheel Balancer (1955)*

Hank's father Dirk died in 1954, at the age of 65. This must have been very difficult for Hank being so far away. and this photo is most likely taken soon after.

This photo is of Hank's mother Mientje gifting a wheel-balancer to the van Dijk's, at the opening of their renovated Garage. They were the good friends who had hidden Dirk's 'pride and joy', towards the end of the war.

Dirk and Mientje never made it to Australia, but Hans and Hank visited with family a number of times during the 1950s. Sadly Mientje died in December 1959.

Nic and Mary

According to Hank, after having a series of 'unsuitable' girlfriends, her brother Nic met and married Mary Scheffers. This was in the summer of 1957. Hank was extremely happy with his choice!

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Note: All translations from the Dutch are by the author, with a little help from cousins and Google Translate.

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NIOD Website, Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD) website

<https://www.kamparchieven.nl>

The Dutch National Archives, National Archives of the Netherlands.
<https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>

Canon de NOP Website, History or Canon of the North east Polder
<https://www.canondenoordoostpolder.nl>

Dutch War Records Website, An entry point to documents, photos etc. of the second world war
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