

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies
NIOD Archives, 251a LO-LKP LO-BP2 File 118
Persecution and Deportation in Western Europe
– Rescue and Survival of Jews in Occupied Western Europe – A Reappraisal
Translation: E04 Testimony on the the work of the underground Dutch Union

LO.work. War 1940-1945. [LO stands for *Landelijke Organisatie voor Hulp aan Onderduikers/National Organisation for Assistance to People in Hiding*]

"I refuse to work with you any longer and I no longer wish to be loyal to the occupier." "I find my own way." ---

"Then, go your own way, but be careful" ...

These words were spoken at a meeting of people from Huizen with one of the Triumvirate of the Ned[erlandsche] Unie [the Dutch Union, a Dutch political movement during the Second World War, founded by three men – Louis Einthoven, Johannes Linthorst Homan, and Jan de Quay – known as the “Driemanschap,” or Triumvirate]. We wrote December 1940. That was when the LO. work began.

[“]You ensure that it reaches the destination, I will ensure that it comes “. Thus spoke my friend “De Wig” (“The Wedge”), at which point the first financial resource began to flow. This resource has continued to flow as long as the money was needed and had value. We had begun.

First, no candidate but not land [long?] after that: Persecution of Jews, Strike February 1941 – Victims and people in hiding, they were the first we got to work with. The vouchers problem emerged.

Our friend Hendrik had a leading position in the local Distribution Office. He helped. We were still decent people. Pseudonyms [code names] we did not have yet. Unfortunately not. Long anymore, for soon we were asked for advice. Then we lost identity papers [P. B.'s = *persoonsbewijzen*, or identity cards/papers]. Again there was a task and also an employee added, our friend Arie, “Chem. Drs.” [graduate student in chemistry] whose expertise came in extraordinarily handy in adapting PB's [identity papers]. Warrant of arrest of several citizens and pursuit of them followed. The police were then still involved.

Arie de Waal. He was the young police officer, to whom many here i [n] Huizen owe, if not their lives, then at least their freedom. Day and night he has stood ready for us.

Unfortunately, by the end of September 1944, after prolonged hearings and abuse, during which he revealed nothing, he was shot like a dog by the enemy.

Arie and Jan, would you take a few pictures of some Jewish people for P.B.s [identity cards]?

"Agreed," and six Jewish people were immediately taken care of and the prints were delivered the next day. The men were in hiding at Lous[’s house], the transit home for Jews. Alarm. In Amsterdam, two Jews of the same family who were in Lous[’s] house, have been arrested. They had talked. So, everything had to go. We succeeded, but Lous was arrested by the SD [Sicherheitsdienst] and incarcerated in the local police station.

A sign from the police: "Immediately do a house search at Lous’s and remove the incriminating papers, because the S.D is coming there soon.["]

And so it happened. The S.D. came, but found nothing. Lous was released that evening, but with the assignment to twice deliver within 24 hours wanted people, or to report herself. It was not the best sort of Jews that we protected this time. We knew that if ever arrested they would again betray various non-Jews. What were we to do? Surrender them to the "moffen" ["Jerries"/Germans]? No, then it is better to clear out these people yourselves, or to hide them in such a way that further danger was excluded.

This was decided and it worked as well. Lous, however, had to turn herself in. She did so and how she managed, after three days she was back in front of us and the drama was over. We thought so, but a few weeks later there was again a raid at her place. They were seeking a communist and those Jews, for they had addresses that were fairly accurate. Lous, however, misled them and managed to send a warning, with the result that the S.D. failed again. The S.D. should have known as they were sitting there on a couch in that home there that those being searched for "could have bitten them in their calves" [that is, they were practically next to them].

Someone from Blaricum approached me: "Would you like to be a local representative of NSF?" and there followed a general explanation. I declined, because I felt it was not for me, to work in such....

translated by Jeremy Schreiber