

Before the war

Egbert Bultsma is born in Dronrijp on March 15, 1910. Dronrijp is already an important village in those years with a around 2,000 inhabitants. There is animal husbandry, agriculture, trade and industry. There is also a dairy factory there. The large and important Harlingen canal that connects Harlingen with Leeuwarden runs through the village. The village has mainly gravel roads but directly to the north of the village runs the large brick paved road from Leeuwarden to Harlingen. Just south of the village is the station of the railway Leeuwarden-Harlingen.

Egbert is the son of Taeke Bultsma (Oudehaske 1878-1918). Taeke Bultsma is a member of the reformed church and works as a customs officer for the state taxes, an official function. In that position he is transferred several times.

In 1905 Taeke married in the community Weststellingwerf with Jeltje Dijkstra (Oldelamer 1877-1947). Taekes stand as customs officer is Emmen at that time. Their daughter Pietje is born there in 1906. A few years later, Taeke is transferred to Dronrijp. There four children are born: Jelle (1908), Egbert (1910), Wiebe (1911) and Geesje (1913).

At the end of 1915, Taeke was transferred again. This time the family moves to Leeuwarden. Egbert is almost six when the family starts living there. He will not have received much from Dronrijp.

Leeuwarden is the capital of Friesland and by far the largest city in the province. At Egberts birth there are already more than 40,000 people and the city is growing fast. By the time the war breaks out, that has risen to 55,000.

The city is a real hub in those years. There are large brick roads towards Harlingen, Groningen and Zwolle and railways to Harlingen, Groningen, Zwolle, Stavoren and Dokkum. There are also many important waterways that connect the city with the surrounding large cities.

All religious denominations are represented with numerous churches. There are schools of all denominations. Leeuwarden has a Jewish community of a few hundred people.

There are many secondary schools, including HBS and gymnasium. Industry, trade and wholesale are very important. About a quarter of the industry in Friesland is around that time in the capital.

In Leeuwarden a third daughter is born: Antje (1917). When Egbert is only 8 years old, his father, 39 years old, dies in September 1918. It is the time of the Spanish flu and it mainly affects people between 20 and 40 years old.

Egbert's mother is left behind as a widow with six young children. She is going to earn a living as a guest house keeper at Willem Sprengerstraat 50. In 1921, Egbert goes to the mulo school in Leeuwarden. When he passes the exam, he becomes a sales assistant.



Egbert on the mulo, first row at the left

From the Reformed Church in those years much is done to the formation of the youth. In addition to ecclesiastical training through catechism, attention is paid to the role in society. Egbert is formed in the Reformed youth association.

In 1929 Egbert is accepted as a regular conscript. He belongs to the 1930 generation. On 1 July 1930 he leaves for Workum. On 12 October 1931 his service time is over. He returns to Willem Sprengerstraat 50 and picks up his old profession of shop assistant again.

Egbert starts the following year in Leeuwarden De Friesche Kruidenhandel, a trade in butcher's supplies. In the Leeuwarder Courant of December 27, 1932 we see the registration:



Egbert regularly advertises in the magazines in the period 1933-1935 until the shop stopped on 17 August 1935. Already in 1934 he submitted an application for leave B - as referred to in the law on drinks - in the Grote Kerkstraat number 5 below. Apparently he has plans to start a cafe. At the end of 1934 he was called a shopkeeper in cigars.

Nevertheless, Egbert does not execute the plans to start a café. The first half of 1936 he is in the city of Utrecht. He is back at the end of July. We do not know what he did there. At the end of 1936 Egbert starts a new business, but in a very different direction this time.



Egbert regularly advertises in the magazines in the following years.

On 14 December 1938, Egbert married Grietje Jantina Venhuis (Huizum 1911 - 1992 Los Angeles), known as Zus. She is a daughter of Jacob Garmt Venhuis (Uithuizermeeden 1875 - 1958 Zeist), head of the Christian national school in Huizum, and Martha ten Hoor (Wolvega 1882 - 1965 Zeist).

Egbert is a traveler by profession at his marriage. He works for the trading company R.S. Stockfish from Rotterdam, a company that sells all kinds of hardware. He and his wife have a total of six children. Oldest son Teake (1939) is born before the war.

His wife later tells in an interview in 1963 that Egbert wanted to go to America to build an existence there before the war. Then it did not happen.

Egbert is not mobilized at the end of 1939. He did belong to the years that are called, but he does not have to go into the army again for some reason.

During the war

Egbert is in Leeuwarden during the German invasion. After the capitulation, ordinary life continues for him for the time being. On 20 July 1940, for example, he was elected chairman of the Christian office and trade clerks.

Jacob Garmt (1940) and Martha (1942) were born in the first years of the war. Then it seems that getting children is sidetracked: according to an advertisement from early 1943 in the Friesche Courant, Egbert Bultsma wants to exchange a pram for wool.

Armed resistance

As far as the resistance is concerned, Egbert only plays a role very late. Until the arrival of Piet Oberman as armed resistance leader, we have not been able to find anything about Egbert's possible resistance activities. Pieter Wijbenga writes that Egbert was "aware of a lot of illegal work."

Oberman appoints the thoughtful Egbert Bultsma as an adjutant, alongside the impetuous Wim Stegenga. Oberman reports after the war that Egbert did not participate in the resistance until late. Once in the resistance Egbert seems to be more of a controller than an active resistance man. We do not see his name with any raid or distribution crack. He always operates in the background.

In an interview from 1992, following the emergence of the film made by Egbert just after the war, Taeke Kuipers - one of the people at the listening post - reports that Egbert is known to his fellow resistance fighters as extremely serious and conscientious and with little sense of humour.

The raid on the prison of Leeuwarden

Around the beginning of October 1944 Piet Oberman receives instructions from the regional command of the NBS to make plans for a raid on the Blokhuispoort, the prison of Leeuwarden. The

plan must in any case be ready to relieve the prisoners immediately at the end of the German occupation. This is to prevent the Germans from liquidating these prisoners in a final action.

In the two months before the raid at the Leeuwarden prison, Egbert and Piet Oberman and Wim Stegenga are working on the plans for this. Egbert seems to have played the most important role in the preparation. It is actually his one and only task for the time being.

It is only at the last moment - according to Obermans - that Egbert is asked to actually take part in the raid. He could then possibly replace Oberman as a leader, if he unexpectedly was killed. It sounds like something Oberman thought up afterwards. Egbert is completely inexperienced as a armed resistance leader. A man like Chris Hofing as a deputy would have been much more obvious.

On December 8, 1944, Egbert is part of the group of Gerben Oppewal, who seven men strong right behind the group Oberman enter the jail. Egbert runs with Alle Ytsma and Willem Leistra to the second floor. Willem and Egbert then proceed to the women's department. Egbert has to get a number of women out of their cell.

Egbert takes care of released prisoners Jurjen Dreeuws and Klaas Leijenaar afterwards. Prison Guardian Tiemersma is still there. Tiemersma was taken along as agreed to function as a scapegoat.

Egbert first goes back to the bakery where the raid started for his bike. He transfers Tiemersma to Taco van der Veen. Then Egbert appears to have no address for the other two men after leaving. He then goes back to get Wim Stegenga who just arrives from prison. Together with him he then places them at their own dive address, while he and Wim look for another address. They arrive there just after seven.

The time after the raid

Egbert makes a report of his role in the raid on December 12 1944. This report can be found in the memorial album that was made immediately after the war of the raid.

After his active role in the raid, Egbert goes back to the organizing role. He is the coordinator of the listening post, where the activities of the SD are monitored. He now also has the role of commander of the regional intelligence service. He is also deputy commander of the sabotage group of the BS. He also coordinates the action to prevent the German telephone exchange being blown up by the Germans at the end of the war.

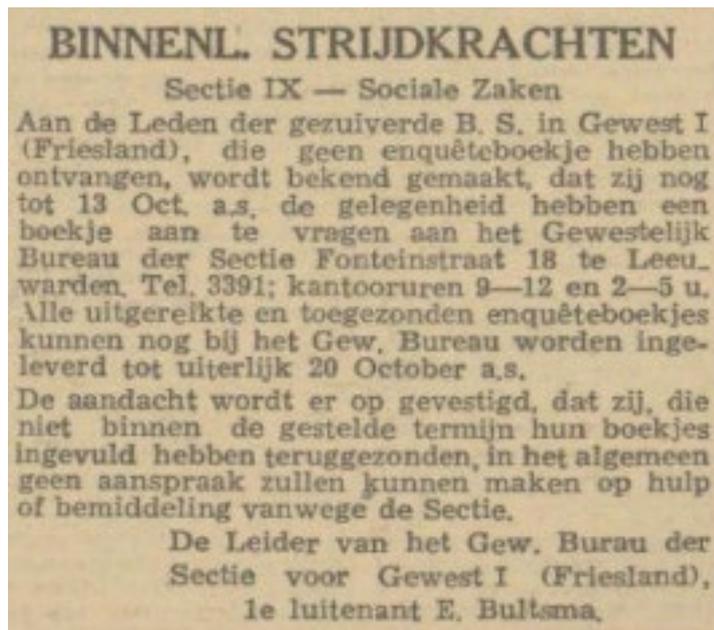
After the war

Immediately after the war, Egbert and his wife had two more children: Jelle (1946) and Jeltje (1947). In the Friesch Dagblad of May 18, 1945 Egbert, together with Piet Oberman, tells how the raid was done work. He is involved in the development of the memorial album that will be presented to all raiders on December 8 1945. We come across four photographs of him.

Egbert receives the rank of first lieutenant after the war and is leader of the regional office of the section for province I (Friesland). For this rank he - just like lateron Gerard Reeskamp and Joop Willemse - must have attended an abbreviated officer's training, probably in Leeuwarden itself.

Egbert is occupied with all sorts of organizational matters in his new position. For example, he defends the interests of demobilizing soldiers against their employer. His service, until his departure in 1949, dealt with the cases of some 5,000 people of whom 4,000 have already been demobilized. Of those 4,000 men, 1,800 come from Indonesia.

In the Heerenveensche Koerier of October 5 1945 we read:



On October 3 1949, Egbert is honored for this work by the Queen's commissioner, Linthorst Homan. The ceremony takes place because Egbert and his family emigrate to the United States. He gets a cigarette case as a souvenir.

On December 6 1949 the family sailed with the Nieuw Amsterdam to New York. From there they travel on to Bellflower, in the Los Angeles area. Egbert and Grietje are going to be called Elbert and Grace. They get another daughter there: Cornelia (1952).

As we have written before, Egbert, according to his wife, wanted to go to America before the war and in 1949 they finally get the chance. After a difficult initial period, he managed to set up a thriving company in floor coverings. At the end of 1952 they let themselves be naturalized to American.

It is certain that Egbert had contact with Hans Deinum in America who also lived in Los Angeles in those years. Tjitze van 't Zet also lives there. We have not known whether they have met each other there.

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ORIGINAL
(To be retained
by Clerk of Court)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION
(Under General Provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act)

No. 184338

U.S. DISTRICT COURT, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

To the Honorable the _____ Court of _____ at _____

This petition for naturalization, hereby made and filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My full, true, and correct name is EGBERT BULTSMA

(2) My present place of residence is 16251 Woodruff Ave., Bellflower, Calif. occupation is carpet layer

(3) My former place of residence is _____ occupation is _____

(4) I am 45 years old. (5) I was born on March 15, 1910 in Dronrup, Friesland, Netherlands.

(6) My personal description is as follows: Sex M complexion med color of eyes brn color of hair grey
height 5 feet 10 inches, weight 155 pounds, visible distinctive marks none; country of which I am a citizen
subject, or national Netherlands (7) I am married; the name of my wife or husband is Grietje Jantina (Venhuis)
we were married on Dec. 14, 1938 at Huizum, Friesland, Netherlands
he or she was born at Huizum, Friesland, Netherlands on Aug. 27, 1911
and entered the United States at New York, N. Y. on Dec. 14, 1949 for permanent residence in the United States
and now resides at W/me and was naturalized on _____
at _____ certificate No. _____; or became a citizen by _____

(8) I have 0 children; and the name, sex, date and place of birth, and present place of residence of each of said children who is living, are as follows:
Teake; M; Brn. Netherlands, 11/27/39;
Jacob; M; Brn. " 12/28/40
Martha; F; Brn. " 10/8/42;
Jelle; M; Brn. " 3/18/46;

(9) My lawful admission for permanent residence in the United States was at New York, N. Y. under the name of
Egbert Bultsma on Dec. 14, 1949
on the Nieuw Amsterdam (Name of vessel or other means of conveyance)

(10) Since my lawful admission for permanent residence I have not been absent from the United States, for a period or periods of 6 months or longer, except as follows:

DEPARTED FROM THE UNITED STATES			RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES		
Port	DATE (Month, day, year)	VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE	Port	DATE (Month, day, year)	VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE
<u>Jeltje; F; Brn. Netherlands</u>	<u>9/25/47</u>				
<u>Georgia; F; Brn. Bellflower, Calif.</u>	<u>8/31/52</u>	<u>all res.</u>	<u>W/me</u>		
<u>CORNELIA; W.</u>					

(11) It is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and entirely all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which at this time I am a subject or citizen. (12) It is my intention to reside permanently in the United States. (13) I am not and have not been for a period of at least 10 years immediately preceding the date of this petition a member of or affiliated with any organization proscribed by the Immigration and Nationality Act or any section, subsidiary, branch affiliate or subdivision thereof nor have I during such period engaged in or performed any of the acts or activities prohibited by that Act. (14) I am able to read, write and speak the English language (unless exempted therefrom). (15) I am, and have been during all the periods required by law, a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. I am willing, if required by law, to bear arms on behalf of the United States, or to perform non-combatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States, or to perform work of national importance under civilian direction (unless exempted therefrom). (16) I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of 5 years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since Dec. 14, 1949 and continuously in the State in which this petition is made for the term of 6 months at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since June, 1952; and during the past 5 years I have been physically present in the United States for at least one-half of that period. (17) I have not heretofore made petition for naturalization: No. _____ on _____ at _____ in the _____ Court, and such petition was denied by that Court for the following reasons and causes, to wit: _____

(18) Attached hereto and made a part of this, my petition for naturalization, are the affidavits of at least two verifying witnesses required by law.

(19) Wherefore I, your petitioner for naturalization, pray that I may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America, and that my name be changed to no change. I, aforesaid petitioner, do swear (affirm) that I know the contents of this petition for naturalization subscribed by me, and that the same are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that this petition is signed by me with my full, true name: SO HELP ME GOD.

ALIEN REGISTRATION NO. 7 378 333

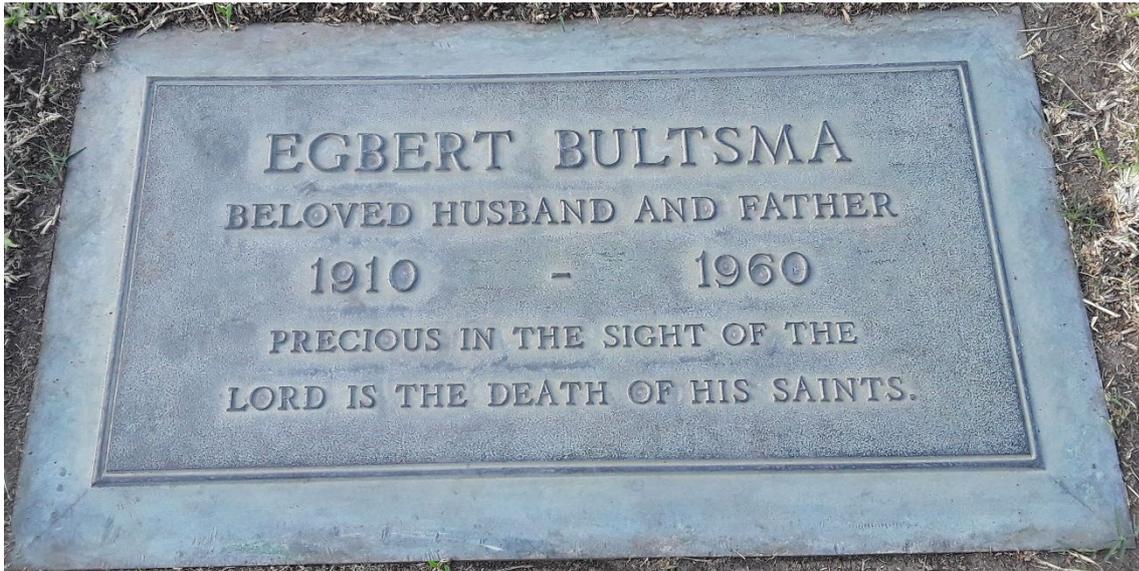
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X Egbert Bultsma
(Full, true, and correct signature of petitioner, without abbreviation)

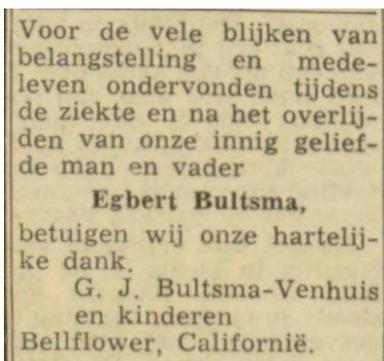
In 1956 Egbert with his wife and youngest daughter Cornelia is on holiday in the Netherlands. Family visit will have been the goal. His parents have both already died before leaving for the United States. The parents of his wife are both still alive. Egbert also visited Jelle Visser. We assume that he will also have visited others - such as Piet Oberman. On May 10, 1956 they leave again, with the Queen Elizabeth from Cherbourg, to the United States.

A lot of contact with his resistance in Friesland would not have had Egbert after that. But at a meeting of the Friesland 1940-1945 association in April 1960 it is already clear that he will not live much longer. He suffering from cancer.

Egbert dies after a long illness on June 3, 1960. He is just 50 years old. In the Leeuwarder Courant of 7 June 1960 we find a short necrology. He is buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park (Cypress) Cypress,



After he passed away



In August 1963 Egbert's wife Grietje is back again for family visits in the Netherlands. Her mother is 80 years old. The film *De Overval* is already history, but just like the raiders, Queen Juliana also invites her to Soestdijk Palace.

Many years later, a street is being named after Egbert Bultsma in the new Leeuwarder Vrijheidswijk: Eppie Bultsmastraat.

Even before his mother's death, son Jacob (Jake) sends a film from the legacy of his parents to the resistance museum in Leeuwarden. It appears to be a personal registration on film, by resistance man Egbert Bultsma. The film contains images about the resistance, the liberation and the visit of Princess Juliana in 1947.

It is this film that Fokke Sierksma has interwoven in his book *Border Conflict*, written in 1945. Sierksma was one of the people who manned the listening post. We also find images of this listening post on the film.

In the NRC of 17 February 1992, the following article by journalist Karin Mik about this film by Bultsma is published:

The document has recently surfaced in the legacy of former resistance man E. Bultsma. The footage of an unknown filmmaker from Groningen shows resistance activities in and around Leeuwarden and

two days after the liberation of the Frisian capital, on April 15, 1945, commissioned by Bultsma. The resistance people play themselves at the original locations in this "docu-drama".

A spokeswoman for the National Institute for War Documentation (RIOD) calls the film unique. "Never before has there been filmed material of resistance activities. We do have photos, for example of falsifying ID cards. "Director G. Koopmans of the Resistance Museum speaks of" unimaginable material ". "This is an authentic and unique film about activities of the resistance. We see a scene from De Luisterpost: resistance people write what they hear and then call a courier who sets off. A number of scenes have been edited, so there is clearly a story in it ", says Koopmans. Furthermore, there are images of the preparation of sabotage activities. Koopmans: "There is some footage of daily life during the occupation, but not of the resistance."

The Resistance Museum in Leeuwarden recently received three film clips from the son of Bultsma, who emigrated to the United States in 1949. Koopmans states that the film has surfaced in a somewhat "silly" way: "After the death of his mother, he cleaned up his parents' house and found the film and other material such as photographs, newspapers and 24 sheets typewritten by his father about his resistance work. He wrote that he had wanted to throw it away first, but had sent the package to us. "

Document never shown before

Director G. Koopmans of the Resistance Museum calls it remarkable that former resistance man Bultsma kept the film with him all the time. "We are now figuring out who will stand up. One person has already been traced, but he did not remember that a film had been made. "

The film also contains unique images of the visit of Princess Juliana and Prince Bernard and Prime Minister Gerbrandy to Leeuwarden in July 1945. According to Koopmans, the Polygoon news was not yet active. According to him, it is unclear why Bultsma, head of the intelligence service of the resistance in Leeuwarden and the man who prepared the famous robbery at the Leeuwarden prison jail, never showed the film or made mention of its existence. Koopmans: "He has kept the film with him all the time and cherished it, as it were. When he emigrated, he took him with him, so he did have value for him. But he never "exploited" him, nobody knew he had him, and Bultsma had no contact with his former fellow resistance fighters. "According to Koopmans it is possible that the result of the reconstruction of resistance acts Bultsma has been somewhat disappointing." It may be that he wanted to make a nice film about the resistance and was disappointed with the result, because the image vibrates and the film sun is in the picture. "

Avro's Televizier airs a documentary in 1992. In this documentary, in addition to film footage, we also see interviews with, among others, Taco van der Veen and Jelle Visser, both of which can be seen on the images.

Grietje Venhuis dies on 12 October 1992 and is buried next to her husband Egbert. We find her obituary in the Leeuwarder Courant of October 14, 1992:

Artesia, California, U.S.A.
12-10-'92

She went to the Lord

God nam tot Zich, na een kort ziekbed, onze innig geliefde moeder, schoon-, groot- en overgrootmoeder

**GRIETJE (Zus) JANTINA
BULTSMA-VENHUIS**

op de leeftijd van 81 jaar, sinds 1960 weduwe van Egbert Bultsma.

Verdrietig achterlatend, maar dankbaar voor het vele goede dat zij voor hun betekend heeft:

haar 6 kinderen en echtgenoten

haar 15 kleinkinderen

haar 10 achterkleinkinderen

Correspondentie-adres: Jake Bultsma
17615 Barber Ave, Artesia California 90701 USA.