

Report by Mr. Ebert Bulstma.

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On Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1940 Hitler ordered his troops to invade the Netherlands and occupy it. I was not a military<sup>man</sup>, so I could not participate in real warfare. I reported myself for volunteer-service, but it was not possible in Leeuwarden to be of any help one way or another.

On Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, the Germans were already in Leeuwarden. We saw the German army-divisions pass through L., even from our house in the Leeuwerikstraat.

It was so impressive, such an overpowering army! It was clear to us all, that to provide such an army, must have taken years of preparations and then to say: "they had peaceful intentions", it was a big lie!

It was perfectly clear that Germany was aiming to have the dominion over the whole world. This gave most people a feeling of antipathy, but also a feeling of impotence against such a tremendous display of power.

Right from the beginning I have seen the German victory as impossible and I kept to that idea all the time. Several of my acquaintances differed <sup>of opinion</sup> with me and even good patriots did not agree with the departure of the Queen and Government to England.

I have always seen this as the right decision and even a farther emigration of the governments of England and Holland to the U.S.A or Canada in the future, if Germany would succeed to occupy England. Luckily the Germans did not get that far. England could stand its ground.

Later on, when the Germans made the mistake to attack Russia and it seemed they would succeed, I still never doubted they would ever get that far. My reasoning was always: it looks as if Germany is the strongest now. (they prepared for years) but at the end, they have to loose, for in their attacking they become weaker. But the Allies become stronger on the long run and then will come the time, that the balance of power is restored. When it is that far, then the Allies will begin with their counter-attacks and will gain strength and Germany will get weaker and weaker.

The German resources will diminish gradually and at last they only have their own impoverished country to rely on. The resources of the Allies are practically inexhaustible, when everybody and everything is mobilised, then Germany can

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I heard an old man of 80 say in the first year of the war: You can buy more for a dollar than for a quarter, that is to say: The Allies together possessed the dollar and Germany probably only the quarter. All my actions in the time of the occupation were therefore influenced by these thoughts.

As representative of the N.V. Stobvis at Rotterdam special for the department of iron, steel and tools, I had several customers in Free-land. They were soon compelled to help Germany in its war-efforts. As much as was in my might I worked against this and did not visit these customers regularly any more and tried to dismiss their orders. Even though my superintendent often advised me, special in the beginning, to visit these customers, but I hated to serve them if they worked for the "Wehrmacht".

I worked along with customers, who made articles for our own industry in Holland and helped them in getting raw materials, which were rationed by the Germans, to finish their products.

Some people thought, that I was involved in the "Black market" by doing this. But my point of view was: Does it serve the general well being and is it in the interest of our nation?

And practically it was that way always.

Personally I did not really earn with this business I determined the sale price; my cost plus a little profit. In this way I made some extra funds for my family and for the support of the underground.

Quite a few persons I gave free board and room during these years and this was only possible through this trade. The total amount of this extra income over 4 years was  $\pm$  75000.- of this was after the war nothing left.

I have here given a short overview of my normal conduct, now I will write more fully about my positive attitude in the resistance.

In 1940 my first action was to work along to organise meetings of members of the Chr. A. R. party

One of the first meetings in R'warden - West was Oct 1940 at my house, with ± 20 persons present.

Unfortunately the board of the A. R. Party thought these meetings too dangerous, so we stopped that. During the years of the war, I had not much contact with the A. R. practically except in 1944 I had contact with a few persons once in a while.

As chairman of the district R'warden of the Chr. Union of commercial representatives, I made plans with about 10 boardmembers in 1941 to support some members, who were in trouble. All our members were advised not to pass on to the National Labour Front, when the Chr. N. V. had to be

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Personally I collected money (monthly) from  
± 20 members total £30 - Until Oct 1944 I kept  
this up, then it was not possible anymore, because  
of all the work I had to do in the underground.

The 11 boardmembers met regularly and then  
we talked about the stand of affairs. In the winter  
months we met in clubs of 10-15 persons, mostly in  
my home. After the amalgamations of the unions  
they send me the paper "Labour", but I sent it back  
right away unopened, with the notice: No-members  
of the N.A.F., I don't want to read "Labour". After  
sending it 4 or 5 times they stopped it.

In the winter of 1942-43 I came for the first  
time in contact with a person, whom I suspected  
to be a member of an underground organisation.  
I talked with him (Kees Plantinga, baker in town  
and asked him, how I could be of any use in the  
work. Although we knew each other for years,

and were friends so to say, he kept silence about his work. He only said, I could help young people who did not want to go for work to Germany and support them and take their I.D. cards and ration cards and bring them to him and he would take care of the rest. That was all he said. I suspected soon, that he had more dangerous work to do, but he kept it to himself.

In Febr. 1943 I got my first call for work in Germany, I did not report, then I got a 2<sup>nd</sup> call after 3 weeks again, I ignored it. So I had to dive under practically and slept at night at somebody else's place.

But then they told me, that the doctor, who did the examining, was quite easy on people with stomach trouble and as I had undergone 2 stomach operations, I had a good chance to be disqualified.

As soon as the doctor saw the scars on my body, I was rejected for work in Germany, so I could sleep



Then a week later I got my first undercover  
 Kees Plantinga did not know, what to do with that  
 man of #30 years old, who had worked as a draftsman  
 that man stayed in our house for about a year and  
 that was quite an "endurance test" for my wife!

He was not a real "diver" out of principles, but a  
 did not want to go to Germany. It was an executive  
 person and he gave my wife lots of trouble. He was  
 the son of a well-situated family, he could easily be  
 paid for room and board, but he paid next to nothing.  
 After 6 weeks, he was out of work, so he just sat the  
 whole day close to the stove and did nothing to the  
 great annoyance of my wife. I found a job  
 for him at a nursery, but that did not last too long.

In July 1943 Kees P. talked with me about the  
 possibility, that he had to go into hiding for his  
 illegal activities and he wanted me to take over  
 his responsibilities. However in the beginning of

Kees ~~became~~<sup>was</sup> arrested on a Saturday night 11 o'clock

He did not have a chance to escape. At first they brought him to Groningen in Jan '44 to camp Vught and later on to a camp in Germany.

After the liberation he came home again, very skinny but in good health and unbroken.

After his arrest, the wife of Kees gave me a package with all papers, I understood most of it, but not everything. There were about 20 names of boys, to whom Kees gave ration-cards every month, but it did not say, where he got them from, and where the J.D cards were. His wife however told me some names of persons, friends of Kees and when I came in contact with them, n.l.: Ate Douma (baker) and Taco 't Veer (baker) I knew more. The first one had the "Stamkaart" J.D.'s. in his possession, so that I regularly from him the ration-cards received. The number of cards varied, mostly from 20-30 persons

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The amount of money I received for it was \$...

Not only the spreading of papers I took care of, but also hundreds of photos, which I received from Klaas's Bo and sold them. The total amount of them was \$...

In the long run Klaas became the Trouw contact for L'warden and surroundings and he also took care of the persons, who became "divers" through Trouw contacts and gave them ration-cards and so he became also for me the man of the "free" ration-cards.

That number of people went up gradually for me, so I had to hand over this job also to S. Bultman in Oct. and gave her the names of 20 boys, who had to receive a free ration-card. All J.D's and other falsifications I gave to Klaas and he took care of them further on. About Sept. '44 I came in contact with J. Eissen the falsifier, who was working for the L.O. group (Nat. organization) At the same time I met Anke Brouwer, who worked also for the L.O.

I had no further illegal actions with Ate.

Later on he received the papers, "Trouw" and photos of the Dutch Royal Family from me.

In July 1943 they asked my friend Klaas Vos to take the spreading of the "Trouw" papers <sup>for L'woudes</sup> upon him.

He accepted this and he visited me and together we made plans, to divide the city into 5 districts.

In every district a chief leader, who had several contacts in his district. Those contacts delivered the papers at special addresses. I took care of L'woudes - West and started with 5 papers, after half a year it had increased to 160 papers. I made a special effort to receive money for it and for several months I made \$300 - \$400 for "Trouw". Until Oct 1944 I took care of the papers myself in the West of L'woudes, after that date I asked my cousin Sippy Bultma to take care of it, because to do with the N.B.S. (Nat. Internal Fighting forces). The number of papers (Trouw) was in the West were:

Then I gave always everything into their hands.

In the summer of 1944 I laid hands on a negative of a photo of the Royal Family. I ordered some "dures" to make 1500 reprints. I gave 600 of them to Klaus, he sold them for the benefit of "Frons". of the other 900 we sold them and from the profit I paid the cost of printing and the rest of the money went to the N.S.F. fund.

In the winter of 1943-44 I put several underducks to work. They sat at home and had nothing to do and in this way, they could earn a little bit.

I bought remnants of hardwood (oak, beech, acacia) from my business-relations and let them saw that wood in different sizes and brought them to the boys. They had to sand and furnish them and assemble the pieces, the end result was a beautiful game or table ball. For the tongues I used scrap-ends of steel-pipes (I also bought them from business-relations)

of different sizes. They also sanded and afterwards sprayed or chromed them. I took care that all the boys could work regularly, they did their work at home. The one did this part and the other that, the assembling we did at our house. At the end we had a nice product, they sold like hot cakes! To get the highest possible price, we sold them to private persons. About 30 co-workers helped to sell them. Totally there were produced ± 500 gongs and they brought up of 10.000.- 10 Boys worked on them for more than half a year, the one somewhat longer the other somewhat shorter. When the boys worked for a week, they earned f 25.- Total wages for the boys were f 4000.- The price cost of the gongs were f 4 a piece. In total I paid about f 2000 for wood, pipe paint, varnish. for the sanding, sawing and spraying. In the end I could hand over to the N.S.F fund f 3000.- I had a lot of work and trouble with

this business, but I was thankful I could do it.  
 In Sept. 1944 I still had  $\pm 50$  gongs delivered to  
 discs persons, but I could not find time to cash  
 the money for it.

In Oct. 1943 I came in contact with Mr. D. Witteren.  
 He became my financial contact. I handed him  
 the money, that I collected one way or another, only  
 the money for "Frown" went to Klaus Pos.

Witteren gave me also the U.S.F. seals, whereabout  
 they passed so much criticism. I let several persons  
 sell these seals  $\pm 15$  co-workers took care of them.  
 and placed them under the common people.  
 Several months I could pass on  $\$2000$  - or sometimes  
 $\$3000$  - to Mr. Witteren.

In July 1944 Witteren had to "die" under, then  
 I got in contact with Mr. D. Ohma; I passed the mon  
 I received to him, until Oct. 1944. Then Mrs. Bulter  
 took care also of this collecting money.

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In total I passed on to the N.S.F. fund for  
the requests for support I gave to W. Petersen, later on  
to Okme, who then took care of the payments. Personally  
I dealt with only a few support requests.

In March 1944 came a cousin Eppie Dykstra  
to my house. He was a K.P. er from Meppel, who could  
not work there safely any more. He had 2 K.P. ers  
with him, nl. his brother Wietse and a friend Toon.

I found a place to live for them. Within 14 days  
these people from Meppel were joined by relatives  
10 persons alto gether, n.l. Eppie and his fiancée Jannie  
Toon and his wife Sientje, Jannie's brother Proer and  
uncle Bram or Vouk with his wife and 2 sons.

For this whole group I found hiding- addresses.  
quite often they were at my house, regularly I  
had one, sometimes 2 or 3. In connection with the  
fact, that my house became more and more the  
focus-point of dangerous activities, I thought



it advisable to look for another place for my  
"diner  
undershaker", for he saw too much of what was going on

\* In June 1944 I tried, via Mrs. Witterman, to get these old K.P. ers from Meppel included into the Friesian K.P., but this was not easy. However in Aug. 1944 there was the first meeting of the crew of 5 from Meppel with Piet Kramer and Piet De Boer at my house.

Moreover somebody by the name of Willem Smit, who liked to join the K.P. also, was there too. This man was in hiding in my house also.

They came to an agreement and the group "Sjors" became incorporated in the Friesian K.P. with general consent. Just before that an illegal worker from South Holland v.l. Flip Hofstede was arrested in Heersum.

Through Taco 'Ja Veen I had met this Flip before. As soon as he was arrested I discussed with Taco and Kleas, the plan to free him, as he would be transported out of Leeuwarden jail, to another place of detention.

this is where Kleas stopped typing \*

Soon it became known to us, that he probably as a P.O.W. would be transported to Amersfoort.

Mrs. Wetterer told me on Saturday night 10 o'clock, that Flip would go on Sunday or Monday morning by 7.30 train to Amersfoort. The same evening I warned Spors and we agreed to be at the jail the next morning to see, if we could free Flip. We were at 6 o'clock at Toon and Broer's place and with the four of us we kept watch in front of the jail.

Spors and Broer were instructed to act in case it was necessary to eliminate the guards of Flip.

Toon had to cover them both and I was going to take Flip for my account. Was Flip was not transported that morning, so on Monday morning we were there again. Broer however was not able that morning and instead of him Kless came along. At 7 o'clock Flip came, accompanied by an S.D. er out of jail with the ~~Escorts~~ Messersgraadt, Toon and Kless.

passed the pair two, while Spors and I slowly biked behind them. Before we entered the Kraiss Spors asked me: "Well Eppe, shall we do it or not?"

I was at that moment not convinced of the necessity yet, therefore I told Spors to wait a minute, till I gave him a sign. At the same time I passed Flop and his P. D. er on my bike and greeted him, so he could see my face. I expected him to give me a sign and he reacted right away and shook his head, what meant not to do anything. Calmly I biked further on and turned to the Blokhuisplein. Spors knew now, what I meant, we would not go ahead. As soon as I passed Kleas and Toon I told them, that Flop meant, not to intervene. After that I went to the railway station right away, bought a ticket and waited for Flop to come to his train. In the train compartment I found an opportunity to talk with Flop a moment. He thanked us for our help, but told us that there was a chance

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that he in Amersfoort would get dismissed probably for he had simulated to suffer from epilepsy and it seemed, that he would get free quite soon then. He travelled to Amersfoort in good spirit, there they believed him and after 2 weeks, he was a free man and could do his work again.

This was the first K.P. action, wherein I was an active member, although we did not have to shoot, we were fully prepared for this operation. Douwe Wittereen in full agreement with our plans and approved them.

In Aug 1944 Spors and Broer were charged by the K.P. management of the attempt of the execution of Schleiffer. Also this failed. Five minutes after the attempt the boys dropped in at my house and Spors asked me to scout the terrain of the attempt. I was there after 10 minutes and I observed the situation.

Not the least trace <sup>led</sup> ~~lead~~ to my house, where the boys were and so I could set them at ease. The signalement

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were very vague. Goss and Broer stayed home the first days, nevertheless, and when they went outside, they were wearing my clothing.

In Aug. '44 I lodged Chris Kiering in my house for some weeks, because his old address was not safe anymore in connection with the arrest of Ben DeVries and Erenhuis. Later on Chris and I slept in an empty house, the owner a teacher, was on vacation with his family. Gradually my house became a very dangerous place to be in. It became evident, for there were always young men going in or out. Lots of people dropped in, because of their spreading of the paper "Grouw", collecting money or getting ration cards or P.B.'s and handing over money or falsifications. At night I was often away from home, before 11 o'clock I went with Willem or one of the other boys, who were in my house, to the house of my neighbour lady Mrs Koning. Quite often there were already

2 boys, then I went with Chris to a house further on.  
In the attic at my place, I always had the radio  
and regularly we all went to listen to the B.B.C.

My secret documents and weapons had a good  
hiding place, all papers with names from people  
who needed ration cards, had a different hiding place  
n.l. in the pipes of the electricity lights and they were  
practically not to be found. In case there was a raid  
of the Germans and when there was found something,  
they should not lay hands on names or addresses.

Opposite of my house was a gas station and they  
had a German "Dienststelle" stationed there.

These men working there, had my house in view and  
could see what happened there. They thought probably  
that I was in the black market; some mechanics,  
who were known to me, told me so.

At last the Sept. days of 1944 dawned and prince  
Bernhard gave mandate to form the N.B.S.

On Monday-morning Sept. 5 I came in contact with different persons and in the afternoon at 3 o'clock we had a meeting in the attic of my house with ± 18 persons among others Piet de Boer on behalf of the Prov. K. P., the group of Spors, Klaas Pos and Jan 't Meer as belonging to "Frouw". Ake Douma and Taco 't Veen as old-servant men, Wassenaar and Wessels as subaltern-officers

We talked about amalgamating and they all put themselves available to canvass for members in their circles, who then via Spors, could be passed on to the Prov. K. P. and eventually to the O. D.

In the evening the women made hundreds of arm-badgets until late at night. Tuesday was a very busy day. Lots of persons were contacted. We talked with small existing groups of persons and on Wednesday Spors, who regularly was in contact with the K. P. told us, that also the contact with the O. D. had good results, a full agreement on all points,

discussed, was not yet reached; however the expectations for the future were quite hopeful. There would be reached an agreement for Beuwardin and also for Erisland probably.

In the mean time we all were busy to canvass for members, preferably under the old militiamen.

Abe, Taco, Wassenaar and Wessels, Weerda, Klaas and myself gave our lists with names & Goro who gave them to the K.P. Headquarters. There were these names classified in groups and sections.

Some men were requested to take the lead of these groups and already the first week were there in Beuwardin a considerable amount of persons incorporated. Personally I was incorporated as a member in a battle unit under command of Mr. ...

However I never had trained in this group or received instructions. As far as was known to me, the commander was dismissed in the beginning of Dec. 1941.



and so we lost this group. The members of this group, heard of this not any earlier, what had really happened, than at the liberation. Several persons were later brought in. The reason I did not work in the group was, that I had immediately other contacts.

To come back to the first week in Sept. '44.

On Friday, Spors came home with the news: the German K.F. gets an important job to do, namely 2/3 of the existent German K.F. had to be moved on Monday Sept. 12<sup>H</sup> under command of Piet Kramer to be a part of the Gysel-line. Their task would be to take care of the Gysel bridge near Zwolle, so that it would fall undamaged into the hands of the Allied Force.

Spors with his group would go along too. Then Reenwarder was without of a K.F. group; so they would transfer 4 K.F.-ers out of the Province to the city to expand the group. Spors suggested that Klaus Vos and I would come in contact with K.F. Headquarters.

This intervention was brought about on Saturday morning.

We met Piet Kremer, Henk Bonnema, W. Kessens and ("Geale") P. Wijbenza.

Geale explained the plans and what we in L'waa were about to do. Geale charged us to take care of the new K.P.ers, have good lodging for them and keep them in contact with Headquarters. In the meantime I had to work along with Wim and take care, that the group L'waa was extended up to 25 persons.

In the afternoon the same group met, who came first to my house on Monday, now we were at the hardboard-factory of uncle Piet. Epke Wiersma was there too and Geale told us of the plans and what had happened in the past week. He informed us that the problem of armament caused much anxiety, seeing that there were hardly any weapons at hand. They expected an amount shortly, but the airlifting had to be regulated. There was formed a trio in Friesland, that would take the command.

So there was quite a bit accomplished already the first week. On Monday the first group of the Friesian K.P. left and in L'warden the work went on as normal.

I came in contact with several boys, who were considered for the K.P. Wim interviewed ± 15 persons at my house. I dropped in at Headquarters every day but the cooperation between Geale and me was not very smooth. He gave me several orders, but as soon as I carried them out, it turned out several times that somebody else had done it already. Other preparatory actions were stopped eventually then. It was in everyth a searching and groping.

Also in the first week of Sept. I came in contact with a Mr. Bangma from Noordahrison, who thought he knew that somewhere in the neighbourhood of Crouw, a shipment of weapons was dropped and transported to L'warden.

I investigated this thoroughly, but it became evident that this was a false rumor. We advised Mr. Bangma

to start organising several boys, later on he became  
Commandant of this group. In Feb. 1945 he was  
arrested and died in a camp in Germany also. He  
was a fierce and quiet resistance fighter.

In the meantime I contacted some prison guards  
M.L. Kurpess and 'Old Vegte' on Geale's advice. According  
to Mark Biruda, these 2 men had thought of a new plan  
to "raid" the jail. After having reported these plans  
to Geale and Wilm, they rejected those plans. They did  
not charge them to make new plans.

On Wednesday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> Geale and Went departed from  
R' warden to Eernewoude and on Thursday Wilm went  
there also, so that practically the K.P. Headquarters  
did not exist in the city. Together with D. Hofstra  
at whose place the Headquarters were housed, I kept  
in contact by phone with Eernewoude. Properly  
speaking, we in Leeuwarden were left to our fate it  
seemed like and mainly I did that, whereas I took

the initiative myself, I was very busy yet every day. The next week changed for me the whole picture through all the illegal business with the boys, going in and out, my address got the attention of the German Dienststelle, which was housed in the gas-station opposite my house. Tuesday night a friend of mine, told me, that my name and address were passed on to the S.D. and that I could expect a visit from them shortly. When I got this warning, I decided the same night to move out of my house Leuwestraat 140. Wednesday-morning at 4 o'clock my friend Kees Schoon was at my backdoor and we started the moving. Everything went through the backdoor over the fence, divided to the houses of my 2 neighbours Mrs. Koning and Jd Schaaf. At 10 o'clock in the morning our house was empty. Only we left the curtains hanging and flowerpots standing in the window.

For the eyes of the world all looked the same.

In the afternoon I went with my wife and children to Hysum

where we all could stay with my sister and brother in law. The same night I went back to L'wadder and could stay at the 1/4 Schaeff family in the Schubertstrasse.

Only on Sunday's I went to my family in Hyjum, but on weekdays I was in the city, so the work could go on.

On the 20 of Sept. we got a phone call from Geale with the news of the sudden arrest of P. Brower and Siertsema of Dokkum. Geale gave the foolish mandate the jail has to be opened this afternoon yet.

I got this mandate personally and on my question in what way "he answered: Try to speak with Mr. Ja Herberg, Bergstra and Camping." they have the plans for it." I called these men together and at Headquarters these plans were discussed from all angles. In the meantime I spoke with Mark Wierda, and told him, what was the score and what had to happen that day. When I arrived at 5 o'clock at Headquarters, there we decided that one of them would go to the staff of the jail.

to bear pressure on the director. Max Wierda

The meantime went to the jail and talked with one of the guards, about what was going to happen that day.

Alas the guard could not keep his mouth shut (he should not have known it) and within 5 min. all the personnel of the H of B. knew practically that something was going to happen. The adj. director got to know this too in his office and that spoiled the discussion with Mr. Camping totally. So the plans had to be cancelled and the prisoners remained in the jail. They put extra guards in the jail, but nothing happened.

This big failure was in the first place the result of prematurely talking of one of the insiders, but also the result of a thoughtless mandate, without any preparation for such a plan.

Shortly after this failure, we heard that Geule had departed to the South, to come in contact with the High Command of prince Bernhard.

Moreover there was the fiding, of that through the failure of the landing at Asscher, the operation at the Ysseltime became senseless, so Piet Trainor decided to come back to Freeland. At first he stayed some days in Eernewoude, however he returned pretty soon to his old Headquarters at the lakes (Hofstede) in Reeuwoude. He had plans for several missions.

One of the first was, the blocking of the Kolonel's dike to prevent, that all the food out of Freeland would be transported by boat to Germany. Piet gave me charge to buy 80 ton of gravel. When this was done, we chartered a motorboat of 136 ton in Reeuwoude, with the intention to sink it in the Kolonel's dike. This happened at last in Oct. 1944. I had much support of 4 boys of the combat group namely: Toon Alderliesten, Jan Alberda, Klaus Wassen and Egon Brink. I came then also in contact with Gaurange, he brought with the others the operation to a good end. I got to know him as a plain downright fellow.



Skipper Va Velde was the person, who gave the ship at our disposal. This operation was carried out quite well, so that the Germans thought for more than 3 weeks, that it was an accident. That was, why they did not take reprisal. When they at last found out the Beauprêtre Ross thought it was not wise to take still reprisal, on which the S. D. insisted. Anyhow this did not happen. The Canal was blocked at least for 2 weeks.

Another plan of action, that Piet wanted done in Reeuwijk, was the raiding of the fuel. He was a week in L'wardes, already and had talked about it with somebody else, but then he gave me the charge to get all necessary information and to prepare with him the plans. Everything that happened in connection with this, I put in a special report. We worked more than 2 months in preparation for that event. On the 8th of Dec. we carried out this operation.

In total were 51 persons liberated by the K.F.

Personally I participated in one of the groups, which went into the jail. Also on this action followed no reprisals. The S.D. would have liked to do it, but it was finally cancelled by Headquarters in the Hague on the grounds, that nobody had been killed or wounded. It was well prepared beforehand.

About in the middle of Oct. 44 I was with my family in Nijmegen. My wife was not very happy there and so we decided after some talking to go back to R'warsde and live in the empty house of my mother on the Groningerstraatweg. Although the accommodation was quite small, my wife was more at ease than on the farm. Just before the moving came the Prison K.F. back from the Guelde and the group of Spors returned to R'warsde many happenings. The boys returned mainly to their old addresses and Willem came to us again, as soon as we moved on the Gron. str. weg, although the house existed

livingroom and 2 small bedrooms. He really wanted to be with us and slept in the living room on the

Sunday Oct. 9 the first Sunday that we lived there, was a day, we would not easily forget.

The day started off on 5 o'clock in the morning when Mark Weerda climbed over the fence and my wife cried: "What is that?" Mark came in and brought the tidings, that he knew the address of the man, who tried to get in contact with the underground organization and that man was probably a S.D. spy. In the evening at 8 o'clock we arrested him; his name was Piet Gathiard of Groningen, a notorious S.D. man, we made away with him. What all happened before this arrest and detention of this very dangerous man, I have reported separately.

Quite soon already the house on the Gron. sh. weg was not safe anymore also, for in connection with the gravelship, that blocked the water traffic on the Kolonel. deep

on Oct. 18, we were obliged, Willem and I to seek  
 another shelter. We found this at Ate Douma's  
 place further on on the Gron. st. weg and this was  
 for both of us a blessing. On the Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> they held  
 a big "razzia" in Reeuwijk and at 7 o'clock in the  
 morning the block at the Gron. st. weg where my wife  
 and children still were, was raided. My wife  
 was very happy that we were not in the house, for the  
 Germans kicked the windows in at the back and stepped  
 into the house just like that. By Ate they did not  
 search the house and so we did not get arrested by  
 God's providence. However the events of that day  
 were so interesting, that I could write a book about it.  
 On that day I got to know Gien Leemeyer for the first  
 time, as she visited Ate's place and that is why she after  
 that became our lady-courier ("koerster") She stays  
 since that day with the Reeuwijk K. B. and became  
 one of our best "koersters" especially for long distance

Through the work of Gien we got to know, what happened in the city. In the meantime, she brought tidings about how it went with the ship, and she told us what happened at Head quarters.

At the evening the Germans discontinued the rassi and was it again possible to move oneself in the city, at least when you had a stamp or Ausweis ~~on~~ your P.B. We got that ready the same day again, thanks to the actions of the National organization.

While we were compelled to sit at home in Alte's house there occurred something, that could have had serious consequences, but it turned out quite well.

About ± 150 M. away from the house, was a small toolshed in a vegetable garden, that was fenced in. Early in the morning at 7 o'clock, when the Germans came from Groningen, they paused there and they tore a piece of that fence off, to make a fire. Moreover they pulled some planks out of the door of the toolshed.

and burned them also. That was not so bad in itself, but what was worse, they found in that shed, covered under a tarp, a motorcycle with side-car which was hidden there. This discovery was for the Germans very interesting, however the personal greediness played an important part here too. Those, who made the discovery, did not report it, but must have said to themselves, we will pick it up in the afternoon.

They covered the motorcycle up again, so that nobody could see it. But some Dutch labourers, who were busy along the road to dig up a telephone cable under supervision of the Germans, had seen what had happened. At about 10 o'clock we went all three outside and talked with the labourers. They told us that the Germans had found the motorcycle in the shed. When we were in the house again, Abe told us that the motorcycle was standing without wheels and the side-car also. Immediately we made plans to try to get the thing going

and bring it to another safer place. We agreed to look at it, all three of us went to the little shed, we tried to look like the labourers, work clothes on and shovel in hand; there was only one shovel to be found, but Ate and Willem tried to find more, but I went as well to look in the direction of the highway, the labourers were still working in front of Ate's place and there was no German to be seen. I found an old dungfork without handle so I had something in my hands. I looked at the motorcycle again, it was clear that the German had meddled with it, the license-plates were on the ground in front of the door. While I was waiting for Ate and Willem I looked again to the highway and saw a German standing, I noticed that he had seen me too, so I decided as if I belonged to the workers there and got to work at the cable. The German was about 20M. away from me.

Originally I cannot handle the shovel very well, but with the dungfork I was entirely at a loss

especially one with a broken handle. Still I did the best I could and heard the German asking one of the workers; what is that man doing there? I did not understand the answer, but I heard the Prof saying: "I will have a look" and yes, there he came. In one moment I was aware of the fact, that my papers were legal. On the paper it said, I was a mechanic, but I did not have a stamp for working on the road. Anyway I waited and kept on working to move some dry clay from my dungfork to the side and hoped it would be all too visible, that half of it ran through the teeth. I hastened to put the fork right away in the soil again and then there was the German looking at my work. I looked at him and said: "Guten Morgen" and went on with my hard labour. He answered me the same way and walked away quietly in the direction of the other group further on. I heard a sigh of relief, that was through the eye of a needle!



As soon as the "Prof" was out of sight, I returned to the house of Ate. There they recessed me with loud cheers. Behind the window they had seen everything and feared for my life. We were all glad that it had turned out this way. I told Ate how the motorcycle looked and we decided to take measures immediately at 12 o'clock, when the labourers had their lunchbreak and so it happened.

Ate and William were going to fix the motorcycle in the meantime I would keep an eye on the highway. It took them 1½ hours to get the motorcycle running again.

After that the workmen started digging and we disappeared in the house again. At about 2 o'clock I put on my work clothes and wooden shoes, found a real shovel and went to the men again to talk with them. I offered them a cigarette and asked them, what the German had asked. It turned out the same as I had understood, but the workman had said, he did not know. Just as we talked, there came the same German supervisor, riding a bicycle. He stopped,

and they all started digging again and so did I

It went better than in the morning with a real shower  
the Prof gave orders: Stop immediately and report yourself to the headoffice. So a new problem arise. He went a little further to bring the same order. To other work

As soon as he was about 20M further and was hand looking the other way, I hurried away and behind the house. In the house again I looked through the window to see the labourers move to the spot. Then I stayed home for the time being. To escape the danger thrice on one day, was enough for me.

In the afternoon we all stayed in the house. In spite of the blocking at the water tower, Russia & Gien ran the risk twice to bring us reports of the actions in the city. About 4 o'clock the Germans withdrew the sanctions and most of the arrested people could return home with a stamp on their Ausweise but also there were many men, who were compelled to work in Drenthe. The train with which several hundreds

did not look like a deportation-train, for to the great annoyance of the <sup>honour</sup> ~~real~~ resistance people, the men left singing and jubilant the city...

In the evening at 6 o'clock Abe started the motor-cycle and without papers, he drove the thing to the other side of the city, where he found a good hiding-place for it. The next night Willem and I still slept at the place, however on Saturday we made again contact with the boys of the gravel-ship, and then it seemed possible again to stay at the address at <sup>the</sup> Oyon. str. waf.

The carria had given extra worry and work to my wife. The Germans, when they searched the houses at the Reeuwijkstr. discovered, that the house on no. 140 was empty. They made a note of it and when they examined the house on no. 138 (Mrs. Koning) they found there a great amount of furniture in the attic.

They questioned Mrs. Koning about it and she did not dare to lie about it and told them, that it was of the neighbour

of house no. 140. They gave her the message, that they would pick it up within a short time.

When we heard this it was for us a reason to move to another place. Notwithstanding the fact, that our highest desire was to get to the end of the war ourselves, specially my wife would like to save her "things" for later on.

The preparations for the "break" at the jail had to go ahead, also the sinking of the gravel ship, brought along very many difficulties.

At the same time, the taking care of the several K.P.ers. was my responsibility for the greater part, but later on Henk took this over gradually.

The last great care was, how to get fuel. In cooperation with the secretary of the fuel-committee, I had the disposal of 100 units of coke, which became divided to several addresses. Moreover I came in contact with Mr. Faber, a commissionaire, who

had several hundreds of blocks of pees at his disposal.

I got 35 000 blocks of pees for illegal addresses from him. The distributing of them over ± 100 addresses all over Recuwarden, was not easy. It had to be done in the dark, or in the early morning or at dusk.

About 8 boys of the Internal fighting forces helped with the work. They used carts or transport bicycles.

Fortunately this always worked out well. At the end however a controller of the fuel-committee found out the fact, that the stock of pees of Mrs. Faber, which was seized by the fuel-committee and put in trust of Faber, dwindled down quite a bit.

He was called to account for it, but he insinuated that the underground had taken most of it, but they did not accept that. Then he, finding himself in trouble, mentioned my name. He threatened that if the committee made it so hard on him, they themselves should take the consequences.

The secretary then called me to account and then it became evident, that Faber, above what he had supplied me with, had still delivered 100.000 blocks to others, not in the normal way. But it was too dangerous to make this business public seeing that Faber knew too many persons and addresses from people, who had been involved.

I made then a report, concerning this affair and brought this to the fuel-committee and after much trouble, I succeeded to hush up this matter.

One of the men, who did a lot of work with the delivery of the peat, and who I met then for the first time, was John Nieuwland, Mendelsohnst. Alas he was arrested one week before the liberation and executed at Dronrijp.

Early Nov. 1944 my wife got home sick and wanted to live in our own house again, so we decided to live there again, at least my wife and children with

Gjeesty, our daily helper. Everything was furnished again and soon they were installed in our own home. My wife said, "Dad how you please will get me out of here, come what may!"

But I thought different, I did not want to be home again. Some weeks I was then in the home of G. Venema, Cr. Kerksb., but this did not last too long then I moved again to the 'da Werff family, Reeuwijk<sup>"b"</sup>

At these 2 addresses I had real good care all the time. Both families were very sympathetic and supported me in everything. They did not ask guests but surrounded me with care. I came home only in the daytime for only half an hour, at least when the work permitted. My children did not like better, than that dad had to work for the Germans, and hardly was allowed to come home. My wife kept herself very well and felt at ease at home again. She had a lot of support of our helper Gjeesty Hockst.

she assisted her in everything and a friend  
Annie 't'd Schaaf helped her a lot too

On Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 44 I had to leave the address of  
Reeuwijk 116 in connection with the preparation  
for the "crash" or raid of the Reeuwijk jail.

Together with Piet Kramer and Wim Stegenga  
we lodged with my uncle W. Bultma, Voorsteek 38

Here we put the finishing touch to the plan.  
All things were worked out on paper. On Thursday  
evening of Dec. 7 I dropped in at my house to tell  
my wife, what was going to happen the next day.

One moment she was troubled, for I wanted her  
to leave the house at 8 o'clock in the evening the  
next day. She should leave every thing the way  
it was and she was not allowed to tell any body  
about it. The only thing she asked me was: "Are you  
going along too?" I said "yes" She answered: "It  
is good, but be careful!"  
I hope that you all may succeed. She was



She accepted it, as if it was just a normal thing, she did not complain and did not ask anything, just by acting that way, she really supported me without showing it. We kissed goodbye, but there was no doubt and we both knew, may be this is the last goodbye, but there was no doubt or hesitation. We put our trust in the Lord and knew, who trusts Him is safely kept. And when duty calls, then we cannot lack behind.

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. One of the most important days of my life. Everything worked out according to wishes and in the evening we all who were involved, were in a very thankful frame of mind. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of Dec there was great alarm in the morning, we were on our guard. The six of us were in a hiding place at van Dyk's house in the Boeksh. When all danger had passed my wife came for a short visit and then I really discovered, how great the tension must have been for her

and how difficult those frequent nights must have been. Brave woman, she played her part in the work of resistance, as well as any resistance-

worker! The last half of Dec. I stayed at the home of the baker Hofstra, where Wim was too and before Christmas Piet came also. That month we talked a lot together in the evenings and we got to know and appreciated each other real well.

It was a nice time, we worked again on new plans and other plans, but we had to get rid of our tension, which resulted in romping around.

We took off our coats and rolled up our sleeves and Wim and Piet rolled over the floor as young kittens or Uppie wanted me to help her to get Piet under once. The baker himself liked to join us too sometimes.

We had a couple of real pleasant weeks here, but this could not last long. It was irresponsible to live with the four of us at such a dangerous address.

Peet and I departed then in the beginning of June

I had a couple of rooms at Meunested 35 with Mrs. Salomons and Truus was there too. We stayed there until a week before the liberation. At that time we worked to get the N.B.S. in good shape.

On Dec 12<sup>th</sup> the K.P. and O.D. amalgamated. The commandant of the O.D. became the Provincial Commandant of the N.B.S. (hetk. Internal Fighting Force)

He became the commandant of all the combat groups.

The commandant of the K.P. became the Prov. Sabotage-leader. He had the command over all the sabotage-groups.

Every group consisted of 6 men plus 1 commandant. If possible every group consisted of 3 K.P.ers and 3 strong fellows of the combat group. These sabotage-groups were spread all over the Province. They got their

orders via the District Commandant of the G.S.R.

before they could give orders to the Sabotage-workers.

The G.S.R. needed all the info necessary,

So they assigned me in Jan. '45 to take care of the Intelligence Service. Since this work was important and comprehensive Piet advised me to ask Truus to be my typist and secretary or really my direct co-worker. Truus was an old co-worker of the L. O. Croninger, but she could not stay there any longer. After that she worked in Zwolle for the time being but ultimately she came to Renwarden. From the time that I got to know Truus, we got along quite well.

When Piet suggested to me to take her as co-worker, I agreed right away wholeheartedly. I never regretted it, for she was not only a faithful co-worker but also very courageous. It was never too much for her and she was ready for the most difficult or most awkward jobs.

We had our office and living quarters at an ideal place, in total we had to our disposal 5 sleeping accommodations and quite often this house was the refuge

for people, who were sought after by the Germans.

Originally, Mrs. Salomon took care of our rooms and of the food, but after a month, we became on our own and Ann 't Schaaf came every day to look after our food etc. so we had our hands free and we could do our work as we pleased. Lots of plans were worked out here and performed. It would be too much, if I should report everything, but in a bird's eye view, I will tell of the most important events.

At the beginning of Jan '45 I had to take care of all the illegal addresses in R'warden, so that at those addresses no evictions were placed. There were in total about 200 addresses in R'warden, where they could not use unwanted outlookers. We came in contact with Mr. Ridderome, who was in charge of this service and later on with Mrs. 't Wal, both of them gave us their full cooperation. Every day we met together and they showed us their lists. The evacuation controllers

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placed often 1 or 3 evacuees on illegal addresses  
we got then the forms from these gentlemen and burnt  
them in the stove and on the official evacuation - lists  
they worked it out again perfectly. When through  
special circumstances these illegal addresses still  
got evacuees, they found an opportunity to transfer  
them again. All honours to these gentlemen!

Further on Truus and I worked on new plans for  
a new raid on the jail. These preparations took a lot  
of time, but in Feb. we were able to show Piet a whole  
new plan howbeit roughly worked out, which had  
even more potential to succeed than the former  
one, because we figured it out in a total different way.

At the end of January, Piet charged me to prepare  
a raid on one of the Banks in L'warden, to supply  
the N.B.S. with funds, to keep the organisation running.  
Sometimes there were difficulties to get money for all  
the expenses. The money flow was sometimes stagnant.

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for the N.B.S. needed just an amount!

Different Banks were examined, some persons gave their full cooperation to give the necessary information, but these were also persons, even when they seemed to be good patriots, who did not want anything to do with it, nevertheless we succeeded completely. However we showed Piet a complete plan to raid the Netherland Bank on the Tweebabri markt. Notwithstanding that the Bank was guarded day and night by 3-5 "Rand wachters" / collaborators of the Germans / our plan was very well feasible and the supply of money of that Bank was the highest n.l. of 23.000.000. However it was not necessary, that this raid was performed. The money supply by the N.S.F. went practically flawless during the last months of the occupation.

At the end of January I received my official appointment as head of the Intelligence Service of Section II B.

This section took care of Sabotage work in Friesland under the leadership of Piet Kramer. Piet himself got this function from the G. S. B.

At the beginning of February the G. O. B. in the South of Friesland was arrested. Immediately after the arrest all in R'wards were in action since they suspected that the G. O. B. with his adjutant would be locked in at the Leeuwarden jail.

There were made plans almost directly to raid the building of the S. D. In a hurry the plan was possible, but it was very dangerous, for the V. P. ers.

In spite of all the investigations through the whole province, we were not able to find out, where these two persons were confined. We did our utmost, but could not succeed. To free them, was not possible either.

These men must have suffered immensely, for the German knew, who they were. When they were found, they had hardly with them, an almost complete dossier, about the N. B. S. in Friesland on them.



All plans about the military operations, sabotage actions etc. fell into German hands. Although the Waffen-SS must have known, who they were, the men had not said a single word practically, for one of the men, Mr. Weeda, who was seen in charge of the weapon-arsenal, was seen in the car with the S.D. agents. They wanted him to show them the storage-places of weapons in the province probably, but they hardly found any. Shortly after the liberation it became known, that the Germans murdered these two brave warriors, just a few days before the city of Zwolle was liberated, they had been confined there the last days.

On account of the falling out of the G. O. L. (Prov. Operational Leader) in this way, Piet Kramer was put in charge of the operational section, so he was a very busy man, from that time on. There had to be new plans, seeing that the existing ones, could not be worked out. I had to give him lots of information. Plans were made for water, rail and road-sabotage actions.

The most impossible things had to be controlled  
Regularly I had to control the civil servants of the  
waterworks, as well as Federal as Provincial.

Escheron Truus and I worked on new plans for a new  
raid on the rail. Also contacts with the navigation and  
broker officials had to be made. It was very difficult  
to keep the contact with personnel of the railways. These  
men disappeared so often from their "onderduik address"  
and they never left new addresses behind. This was  
always a problem in itself, to get hold of these persons.

It was quite difficult to decide, when to bring the  
railway-traffic to a halt, yet this came to a stop just on  
the cardinal moment!

Moreover we prepared another raid on a train, which  
could depart from Leeuwarden to Germany with  
political prisoners of importance. This raid never  
happened, since practically no political prisoners of  
importance were transported to Germany any more.

Then I prepared a little raid on the "Rani" in P. Ward.

In March 8 persons of the Sabotage group carried this out. They seized there 23 outboard-motors, packed in 16 boxes. The funny thing was, that in the "Rani" building on the top floor 6 Germans were sleeping.

4 of our boys went in the evening after 8 o'clock to the house beside the "Rani". The inhabitants of that house were kept under surveillance that whole night.

Our boys heard the Germans speaking together in the evening and after 12 o'clock the Germans went to bed. Then

our boys started their action via a flat roof and through a cut out window in the garage, they searched

the place and found the 16 boxes at the marked place, transported them via the flat roof again in the house,

when they kept watch, and brought them downstairs into the hall. At 6 o'clock in the morning, there appeared

just in time three transport bikes, whereon they loaded all the boxes and at 7 o'clock all the boys were home again.

and the ~~boxes~~ motors hid in our storage places.

The Germans must have looked foolish, when they missed their whole supply and found their neighbour ~~murdered~~ in their house.

At the end of Feb. I received an important mandate from Piet. We had heard that the S.D. had plans to move away from the Savings Bank building to the

Burmense-house. We got the message about one week before hand. How we succeeded to put in 3

microphones under the eyes of the S.D. and then to thumb 4 telephone lines and <sup>installed</sup> ~~bring~~ it in a special

hiding-place, made for the occasion, you can read that in appendix no V. This has been an apparatus, which

performed to us invaluable services for the last 2 months of the war. All the telephone-conversations at the S.D.

building, we could listen to. Several times we could

follow hourly interrogations. By keeping this

listening-service in function constantly, we were

able to warn illegal workers almost always in time

Day and night this service was working, about 4 boys did this regularly. They had a difficult time their leader was one old K.P. er named Kopic.

Especially the last days before the liberation, were a nightmare. Until the 5<sup>th</sup> of May this apparatus worked perfectly. Many of us saw their life saved by means of this listening post and lots of things could be done in time. Although the Germans knew, that something was not right, they never found out, how it was possible that they were always too late!

Then I have yet to state, that in Feb. 45 I was charged by the Districts. commandant with the leadership of Section IX Information, special for district X

Together with Mark Wierda, we could take care of this yet. All military informations out of the district were gathered and assembled on cards, while we regularly passed everything through to the Dis. and at the same time

To the Provincial Intelligence Service.

We also tried to seek out traitors and S. D. spies. Especially the case of Dr. Brouwer [an evacuee out of Arnhem] gave us lot of trouble and extra work.

Just when we were ready to arrest this S. D. er, the S. D. was ahead of us and arrested him. Looking at things afterwards, it became evident, that his so-called wife had betrayed him to the S. D. since he played a double game. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of April he was shot by the Germans.

Working together with Mark Wierda for several months was very nice. He was always a very enthusiastic resistance man. Always ready to do his utmost. We worked together till deep in the night to sort out the incoming information. Special the last week we worked under high tension. We received many mandates from the Die. B. as well as from the G. I. R. One of these was to find a dropping place

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and if possible to make the preparations for dropping weapons. Personally I programmed one in the neighbourhood of Hallum. I did this in cooperation with Mrs. Westerman (Hammalda) from Woburn.

On that day, when I visited this terrain, I could have made a special story. That day I was so fortunately to crawl three through the eyes of a needle and escape an arrest by the Germans (Appendix II).

However this terrain was not used. The same with the terrain, that Mark developed in the Hempener-polder. This last mentioned one was card-indexed and would be passed on. But it did not happen on account of the approaching liberation.

The last week of his life, Mark prepared a great sabotage-action. I executed namely a small block of trottyk from head office, this block belonged to a load, which was put in by the Germans in the P.T.T. Centre. (Post. Telephone and Telegraph Centre) in Dec. 1944.

Together Mark and I talked about it, to imitate these blocks, and after about three days, he succeeded in it to proceed with the idea, so they could be made precisely the same. On April 7<sup>th</sup> in the evening, between 7 and 8 o'clock we talked about the men and out for the last time and he would put the men to work on Sunday, to get about 75 pieces ready.

Alas, he was arrested in the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of April and with him 3 younger brothers. During the interrogation he behaved himself as a very faithful and steadfast fighter: "I cannot betray him", he wrote after a day of torture. He had to give the German my address, but Mark did not do it. Through Mark's silence, I could do my work undisturbed the last week. And Mark had to pay his silence with his death. On Wednesday-afternoon April 11<sup>th</sup> he was shot with his 3 brothers and 10 others at Broussin. In spite of that, his last work, that he had to break off.



b5

was finished. After Mark was arrested,  
I talked about his business with Adie de Jong and  
that man had, in spite of all the difficulties, had  
brought this affair to a good end. On Friday  
April 13 the real explosives could be exchanged  
by 2 P.T.T. civil servants with the fake ones and  
the Germans discovered on Saturday, when they were  
intending to blow up the building, that they were  
deceived.

The P.T.T. building was saved by Mark's last  
deed.