

Remembrance of the fallen 1940-1945

During the Second World War, thousands of Dutch people became victims of war, murder and famine. Among them were many employees of Nationale-Nederlanden's legal predecessors. By mentioning their names, we want to remember these employees.

Among the collaborators of our legal predecessors were soldiers who fought for the defence of the Netherlands and the Dutch East Indies, and died in battle or in captivity. Many Jewish employees were deported by the Nazis and were murdered in concentration camps. Among the victims were also many resistance fighters who were betrayed and shot, or deported to camps and killed there. There were also many civilian casualties who died as a result of bombs or other acts of war.

Mobilisation and occupation

In August 1939, all conscripts in the Netherlands were called up for general mobilisation. In this way, 280,000 soldiers were prepared for a German attack. On 10 May 1940, fighting began in various places in the Netherlands. Eight employees of the Utrecht branch of De Nederlanden van 1845 fought at the Battle of the Grebbeberg. There, the young sergeant Andries van der Windt was hit by shellfire from the Germans. He died along with a number of comrades of his group on May 13, 1940.

The seven office workers who survived the battle wrote an account of the events on the battlefield. This was sent to the head office in August 1940 and it is still in the historical archive. The report on Sergeant Van der Windt was written by Corporal J.C. Borgdorff, who had spent the last days with him. Borgdorff witnessed Van der Windt's death and wrote: 'It was around 6:00 in the morning, Whit Monday, God has taken our comrades, amongst them our beloved sergeant Van der Windt. May He concern the bereaved and relieve their sorrow. They died in fierce battle.'

Many civilians died when they were caught up in the fighting, in bombing and shelling or because they walked in the firing line.

A female insurance agent of the insurance company Arnhemsche, Maria Bonhof-Van Heusden, lived in the town of Culemborg that had to be evacuated in May 1940. Maria was hiding in a truck alongside other civilians when Germans soldiers, thinking the truck was full with Dutch soldiers, fired on it. Maria was the only fatal victim. She left an orphan son, age 12. Her husband had died a year before, also suddenly.

Jewish employees

The German occupation brought with it many prohibitions that particularly affected the Jewish population. For example, Jews were no longer allowed to participate in public life, to work in the civil service, to go to school, they had to wear the Star of David and surrender all their possessions. Many Jews committed suicide, some as early as May 1940, but Jews also took their own lives later when the threat of deportation approached, or when discovery in hiding was imminent. Although at the time they could not have known what atrocities awaited them in the extermination camps in Germany and Poland.

Many Jews were also in the resistance, such as the Nederlandse Volksmilitie (Dutch People's Militia), a communist-oriented resistance group, led by Cornelis van der Kraats and Sally Dormits. The group was large and diverse, and carried out several sabotage attacks on Germans. Eventually, hundreds of members of the

group were arrested and murdered, including Sally's cousin, Josef Dormits, who worked for the RVS and died while fleeing somewhere in Germany in February 1945.

Jews were no longer allowed to work and had to be fired without entitlement to benefits. In the case of De Nederlanden van 1845, the management had already decided early on to dismiss the Jewish employees themselves so that they could leave with retention of salary. All parties involved made use of this scheme. However, it did not help them survive the war. Twelve Jewish employees are known to have been deported to the extermination camps in Germany and Poland, such as Bergen-Belsen, Sobibor and Auschwitz, where they were immediately murdered.

Resistance

During the war, the resistance in the Netherlands had many facets: from participating in strikes, helping people in hiding, distributing illegal newspapers to committing armed robberies. Many former soldiers joined the resistance. Furthermore, there were certain professional groups that could easily go freely and therefore be able to carry out resistance activities, such as insurance agents and inspectors. Women and the elderly also participated, often on a small scale, but certainly not without danger.

Van Oostveen

The list of fallen includes a number of employees who were arrested for their acts of resistance, were immediately shot, or were deported to concentration camps and died there. A large number of them were insurance agents or inspectors, such as Gijsbert van Oostveen who was employed at De Nederlanden van 1845 since 1942 and in possession of a service bicycle. Partly because of this, he easily got to many places in and around Zutphen, where he lived. At the end of the war, the hunt for the resistance became grimmer. The SS (Schutzstaffel) hired Dutch people to do the dirty work. Van Oostveen, who, despite the fact that he was in hiding, occasionally went out on the streets, was arrested and imprisoned in the House of Detention. Many prisoners were tortured and executed there. On 31 March 1945, Van Oostveen, together with nine others, was taken to the IJsselkade in Zutphen and was shot without mercy. Their bodies were thrown into the river and only found later.

Frits Nieuwenhuijsen

A big name in the resistance was that of the insurance inspector Frits Nieuwenhuijsen, who worked for the insurance company the Hollandsche Societeit of 1807. Soon after the occupation in May 1940, Nieuwenhuijsen engaged in espionage and other activities for the Ordedienst, a nationwide illegal organisation. In March 1941, he was arrested, but soon got released due to lack of evidence. However, he continued to do resistance work, this time as a contact man for the well-known banker Walraven van Hall. In January 1943, Nieuwenhuijsen took part in the establishment of the

National Committee of Resistance, the first alliance of a number of resistance organisations. In July 1944, he was elected secretary of the Contact Committee of the Illegality and also as secretary of the National Work Committee. The meetings took place at the office of the Hollandsche Societeit on the Herengracht in Amsterdam, under the code name 'Tariefcommissie' (tariff committee). At the end of January 1945, Frits Nieuwenhuijsen, together with Walraven van Hall, was arrested by the Sicherheitsdienst at a betrayed meeting of the National Work Committee, and on 12 February both men were publicly executed in a reprisal on the Jan Gijzenbrug in Haarlem. He was posthumously awarded the Resistance Cross on 9 May 1946 by Queen Wilhelmina. Later, he was granted the military rank of colonel, relevant to his wife's widow's pension.

Dora and Titia Gorter

Several employees died for their acts of resistance, such as the Gorter ladies. In May 1940, Dora was still working at De Nederlanden van 1845; Titia had just retired. Both sisters almost immediately became involved in resistance work, in addition to making and distributing illegal newspapers. Their house was also open to people in hiding. Unfortunately, they were betrayed and on 13 February 1942 the Germans arrested them at home. After spending a year in Scheveningen prison, they were transferred to Ravensbrück, where a terrible regime prevailed. Shortly before the liberation, Dora and Titia were murdered by the Germans.

Dutch East Indies

De Nederlanden van 1845 had insurance activities in the Dutch East Indies, with its own agencies, and through subsidiaries such as Verzekeringsbank Victoria. Many Dutch employees went to the Dutch East Indies for a longer or short period of time. After the Japanese occupation in January 1942, Dutch men were mobilised for the KNIL (Royal Dutch East Indies Army) to fight alongside the Allies against the Japanese. The capitulation followed in March, after which the troops were taken prisoner of war and interned in 'Japanese camps'. Civilians were also imprisoned in camps, men and women with children separated. The prisoners of war were put to work, such as for the famous Burma Railway. Thousands of people died in the camps where a harsh and very cruel regime prevailed. Among them were 24 employees of our predecessors.

Junyo Maru

One of the biggest shipping disasters in history occurred on September 18, 1944. The Japanese allowed more than 6,000 prisoners of war to board an old and rickety cargo ship, the Junyo Maru. In the two days the ship sailed in the direction of Sumatra, many prisoners died from overheating and diseases. The ship did not carry a Red Cross, which was agreed in the Geneva Convention, so the Allies knew nothing about the human cargo of the ship. On Monday 18 September, HMS Tradewind, an English submarine,

torpedoed the Junyo Maru. Within 15 minutes, the ship sank and more than 5,500 men drowned. The survivors were eventually employed as forced labourers in the construction of yet another railway. Three employees of De Nederlanden van 1845 were on board, including Herman van Laer. The correspondence between the management and his father shows that the family has been in uncertainty about the fate of their son for more than a year.

The Monument

A commemorative plaque was unveiled in 1946 for the victims who worked at De Nederlanden van 1845. It has been renewed and moved over the years. The last plaque hung in the Haagse Poort from 1994, with forty names. In the meantime, after research in the NN archives, the list has been expanded to include names of employees of all legal predecessors. A new memorial column now lists the names of 81 names of employees of the predecessors of NN who died during World War II. We are never sure if the list is complete, the war still has secrets and there are still victims missing. But at the moment, these are the names that are known.

This additional list contains the name, age, position, place of death and, if known, their final resting place to commemorate all fallen employees.

Many names can also be found on the website of the War Graves Foundation. The Jewish victims are also on the virtual Holocaust memorial.

On 4 May, all war victims are commemorated.

List of the fallen 1940-1945

De Nederlanden van 1845

Karel Algra, 45 jaar.

Procuratiehouder kantoor Batavia, Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in krijgsgevangenkamp Pakanbaroe op Sumatra op 28 augustus 1945. Ereveld Leuwigajah. KNIL. Indonesië.

Izaak Gerrit Barentsen, 58 jaar. Inspecteur kantoor Batavia, Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in burgerkamp Adek in Batavia op 16 juli 1944. Ereveld Menteng Pulo, Indonesië.

Jan Berendsen, 55 jaar. Commissaris van De Nederlanden van 1845 in Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in burgerkamp 5 Baros in Tjimahi op Java op 1 april 1945. Buiten Ereveld Jakarta, Indonesië.

Nicolaas Hendricus Burgman, 26 jaar. Medewerker Transportverzekeringen Batavia, Nederlands-Indië. Gesneuveld in Subang, Kali Djati op 5 maart 1942. Buiten Ereveld. KNIL. Indonesië.

Constant Cohen, 53 jaar. Chef bureau van Collectieve verzekeringen. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Sobibor, Polen op 5 maart 1943.

Jeanette Jacoba Davidson, 27 jaar. Typiste. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Bergen-Belsen, Duitsland op 11 april 1945.

H.J. Derkzen, 54 jaar. Boekhouder in Batavia, Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in september 1945. Geen verdere gegevens bekend. Indonesië.

Rebecca van Dijk, 26 jaar. Medewerkster Leven. Omgebracht bij concentratiekamp Auschwitz, Polen op 12 februari 1943.

Willem Hendrik Gerhard

Doorman, 44 jaar. Commissaris van de Nederlandsch Indische Zee- en Brand Assurantiemaatschappij in Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen als krijgsgevangene aan boord van de Junyo Maru op 18 september 1944. KNIL. Indonesië.

Elie Johannes François van Dunné, 54 jaar. Commissaris van De Nederlanden van 1845 in Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in gevangenkamp Tjimahi op Java op 17 maart 1945. Ereveld Leuwigajah, Indonesië.

Pay Thaysen Elfring, 54 jaar. Commissaris van De Nederlanden van 1845 in Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in een burgerkamp in Batavia op 13 juli 1945. Buiten Ereveld, Indonesië.

Abraham Gazan, 23 jaar. Medewerker kantoor Utrecht. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Sobibor, Polen op 7 mei 1943.

Johanna Theodora Gorter, 56 jaar. Medewerkster Leven. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Ravensbrück, Duitsland in februari 1945.

Titia Gerardina Gorter, 65 jaar. Medewerkster Leven. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Ravensbrück, Duitsland in februari 1945.

Maurits Cornelis van Hall, 48 jaar. Medewerker kantoor Batavia, Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in krijgsgevangenkamp Kinsayok Tjimahi, Thailand op 6 april 1943. Ereveld Kanchanaburi, Thailand. KNIL. Indonesië.

Willem Kerkhof, 55 jaar. Inspecteur Haagsche van 1805. Omgekomen bij bombardement op het Bezuidenhoutkwartier, Den Haag op 3 maart 1945.

Jacob Keij, 44 jaar. Inspecteur

in Oegstgeest. Gefusilleerd in Leusden op 8 maart 1945. Begraafplaats Amersfoort.

Isak Koppel, 66 jaar. Medewerker afdeling Geldbelegging. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Auschwitz, Polen op 29 oktober 1942.

Hermanus Hendrik van Laer, 33 jaar. Actuaris Victoria in Batavia, Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen als krijgsgevangene aan boord van de Junyo Maru op 18 september 1944. KNIL. Indonesië.

Wibo Sjerp Lans, 58 jaar. Inspecteur Leven. Gefusilleerd in Leusden op 5 februari 1943. Erebegraafplaats Bloemendaal.

Klara de Leeuwe, 30 jaar. Medewerkster kantoor Rotterdam. Omgebracht in Auschwitz, Polen op 30 september 1942.

Louis Joseph Philippe Lefèbre, 35 jaar. Medewerker kantoor Batavia, Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in krijgsgevangenkamp Maoemere in Flores op 12 mei 1943. Ereveld Menteng Pulo, Jakarta. KNIL. Indonesië.

Frederik Legger, 37 jaar. Inspecteur Leven Groningen. Gefusilleerd in Norg op 6 november 1944. Erebegraafplaats Groningen.

Barend Machiel Levie, 60 jaar. Inspecteur Leven. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Auschwitz, Polen op 19 februari 1943.

Jan Peter Casper van der Linden, 25 jaar. Medewerker kantoor Batavia, Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in het Tjimahi Militair Hospital op Java op 8 november 1943. Buiten Ereveld. KNIL. Indonesië.

Alijda Logger, 20 jaar.
Typiste. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Auschwitz, Polen op 12 februari 1943.

Christianus Ludovicus van Melsen, 29 jaar. Medewerker Fatum. Omgekomen in concentratiekamp Neuengamme, Duitsland op 27 februari 1945.

Johanna Mooyman, 26 jaar.
Typiste. Omgekomen door bommen van Engelse bommenwerper op de Vogelwijk in Den Haag op 1 augustus 1941.

Anne Mulder, 35 jaar. Medewerker kantoor Amsterdam. Omgekomen in Berlijn, Duitsland op 24 april 1945.

Hendricus Franciscus Nater, 60 jaar. Medewerker Leven. Omgekomen in concentratiekamp Buchenwald, Duitsland op 8 januari 1945.

Frits Oerlemans, 34 jaar.
Medewerker Fatum. Omgekomen in concentratiekamp Neuengamme, Duitsland op 10 november 1944.

Gijsbert van Oostveen, 37 jaar.
Inspecteur Leven. Gefusilleerd in Zutphen op 31 maart 1945. Ereveld Loenen.

Isaac van Otterlo, 22 jaar.
Hoofd Boekhouding. Gefusilleerd in Overveen op 26 oktober 1942. Ereveld Loenen.

J.I.F. Pessy, 51 jaar. Medewerker kantoor Batavia, Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen op 8 februari 1945. Geen verdere gegevens bekend. Indonesië.

Eliza Ploos van Amstel, 47 jaar.
Commissaris van de Nederlandsch Indische Zee- en Brand Assurantiemaatschappij in Nederlands-Indië. Geëxecuteerd in Batavia-Antjol op 23 september 1943. Ereveld Ancol, Jakarta. Indonesië.

Izak Polak, 32 jaar. Hoofd Boekhouding Leven. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Auschwitz, Polen op 30 september 1942.

Saint Jean Albert Paul Rancuret, 53 jaar. Chef Brand kantoor Batavia, Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen als krijgsgevangene aan boord van de Junyo Maru op 18 september 1944. KNIL. Indonesië.

Antonie Renes, 39 jaar.
Inspecteur Leven. Omgekomen in concentratiekamp Hamburg-Neuengamme Stadtkreis, Duitsland op 15 december 1944. Ereveld Hamburg.

George Frans van 't Sant, 26 jaar. Hoofd Boekhouding. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Bergen-Belsen, Duitsland op 6 februari 1945.

Louis Sluizer, 50 jaar. Inspecteur kantoor Haarlem. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Sobibor, Polen op 9 april 1943.

Gerrit van der Star, 23 jaar.
Medewerker kantoor Arnhem. Omgekomen in het Kanaal aan boord van sleepboot Lauwerzee op 3 oktober 1940.

Marinus Wilhelmus Adrianus Stoof, 46 jaar. Chef Transport kantoor Batavia, Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in krijgsgevangenkamp Kinsayok, Thailand op 30 mei 1943. Ereveld Kanchanaburi, Thailand. KNIL. Indonesië.

Andries van der Windt, 29 jaar.
Medewerker kantoor Utrecht. Gesneuveld in Rhenen op 13 mei 1940. Ereveld Rhenen.

Rudolph Zion, 28 jaar.
Medewerker Leven. Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Auschwitz, Polen op 30 april 1943.

Jan Hendrik Zwart, 29 jaar.
Medewerker Drukkerij. Omgekomen in concentratiekamp Eichenberg, Landkreis Stadtroda, Duitsland op 18 maart 1945.

Nationale Levensverzekering-Bank

Abraham Ledeboer, 41 jaar.
Commissaris van de Nationale. Omgekomen in concentratiekamp Neuengamme bij Hamburg, Duitsland op 28 oktober 1944.

RVS

Jan van den Berg, 42 jaar.
Assistent Chef. Omgekomen in concentratiekamp Langenstein-Zwieberge, Duitsland op 26 januari 1945. Ereveld Quedlinburg.

Arie Zeeger Braakenburg, 52 jaar. Afdelingschef. Omgekomen in concentratiekamp Hamburg-Neuengamme Stadtkreis, Duitsland op 7 januari 1945. Ereveld Loenen.

Jozef Dormits, 35 jaar.
Kantoorbediende. Omgekomen in Duitsland op de vlucht voor de nazi's in februari 1945.

Anton Marie de Haas, 27 jaar.
Agent-incasseerde. Gefusilleerd in Rotterdam op 3 april 1945. Begraafplaats Essenhof Dordrecht.

Anthonij Janssen, 25 jaar.
Agent- incasseerde. 25 jaar, gesneuveld in Rhenen op 11 mei 1940. Ereveld Rhenen.

Herman Jongh, Inspecteur Leven. Omgekomen tijdens het bombardement van Enschede op 22 maart 1945.

Adrianus Petrus Gerardus Klomp, Medewerker Personeelszaken. Omgekomen door een rondvliegende kogel in Rotterdam in mei 1940. Geen verdere gegevens bekend.

Johannes Petrus Joseph Landman, 50 jaar. Afdelingschef. Omgekomen in concentratiekamp Bergen-Belsen, Duitsland op 31 mei 1945.

Lambertus Johannes Mier, Controleur RVS. Omgekomen door een granaatscherf in mei 1940. Geen verdere gegevens bekend.

Krijn Jan Meijer, 23 jaar.
Kantoorbediende. Omgekomen in Walsrode Landkreis Fallingbostel. Duitsland op 1 januari 1944. Ereveld Lübeck.

Jacob van Ojen, 32 jaar.
Kantoorbediende. Omgekomen in concentratiekamp Hamburg-Neuengamme Stadtkreis, Duitsland op 1 maart 1945.

Willem Treffers, 29 jaar.
Kantoorbediende. Gefusilleerd in Brandenburg, Berlijn, Duitsland op 16 oktober 1944. Ereveld Loenen.

Jan Wagenaar, 38 jaar. Inspecteur Leven. Gefusilleerd in Exloo op 19 september 1944. Ereveld Loenen.

VICTORIA

Christiaan Jacobus Hermsen, 35 jaar. Incasseerde in Arnhem. Gesneuveld in kamp Waalsdorp bij Den Haag op 10 mei 1940. Militair Erehof Den Haag.

A.H. Bidlot, Inspecteur.
Omgekomen door een landmijn in maart 1945. Geen verdere gegevens bekend.

W.B. Hermeling, Incasseerde. Omgekomen door bomscherf op 6 oktober 1944 [in Hengelo].
Geen verdere gegevens bekend.

Jacob Krüse, 39 jaar. Medewerker Binnendienst. Omgekomen in concentratiekamp Oranienburg Sachsenhausen, Duitsland op 9 oktober 1944.

Catharina van Kempen, 20 jaar.
Kantoorbediende te Amsterdam.
Waarschijnlijk omgekomen bij operatie Blackcock in Limburg in januari 1945. Geen verdere gegevens bekend.

Louis Hessel Sondaal, 45 jaar.
Inspecteur. Omgekomen bij bombardement op Ede op 17 september 1944.

Cornelis Bastiaan van Vooren, 54 jaar. Commissaris Victoria in Batavia, Nederlands-Indië.
Omgekomen in de Soekamiskin gevangenis te Bandoeng op 15 april 1944. Ereveld Pandu, Bandung. KNIL. Indonesië.

VESTA

Abraham de Jong, 33 jaar.
Chef binnendienst te Arnhem.
Omgekomen in Wöbbelin, Landkreis, Ludwigslust, Duitsland op 26 februari 1945.

HOLLANDSCHE SOCIETEIT VAN LEVENSVERZEKERING

Marinus Engelbertus Jonker, 40 jaar. Generaal-Agent te Arnhem. Omgekomen in Iundersdorf Landkreis Dachau, Duitsland op 8 maart 1945. Ereveld Loenen.

Frits Nieuwenhuijsen, 39 jaar.
Generaal-Agent te Amsterdam.
Gefusilleerd in Haarlem op 12 februari 1945.
Erebegraafplaats Bloemendaal.

Paul Herman Sluiter, 30 jaar.
Afdeling Collectief. Gesneuveld op 11 mei 1940 te Kinderdijk.
Algemene Begraafplaats Vught.

NOORD-BRABAND LEVENSVERZEKERING

Timotheus Johannes Verschuur, 59 jaar. Commissaris. Omgekomen in Pölitz Stettin, Duitsland op 17 april 1944.

NEDERLANDSCHE LLOYD
Sikke van der Veer, 44 jaar.
Inspecteur. Omgekomen in Duitsland (waarschijnlijk in Bergen-Belsen). Geen verdere gegevens bekend.

AMSTERDAMSche MAATSCHAPPIJ VAN LEVENSVERZEKERING

Hendrik Colijn, 75 jaar.
President-commissaris.
Omgekomen in ballingschap in Ilmenau, Duitsland op 18 september 1944.
Begraafplaats Kerkhoflaan, Den Haag.

Gerard Wilhelm de Groot, 29 jaar. Medewerker in Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in een krijgsgevangenkamp te Chungkai, Thailand op 22 april 1943. Ereveld Chungkai, Thailand. KNIL. Indonesië.

Tonny Kok, 36 jaar. Inspecteur Amstelveen in Soerabaja in Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in een krijgsgevangenkamp te Kawasaki Camp, Osaka, Japan op 4 januari 1944. Ereveld Menteng Pulo, Jakarta. KNIL. Indonesië.

S. Nijveen, inspecteur.
Omgebracht in een van de Duitse concentratiekampen.
Geen verdere gegevens bekend.

Oscar Peirera, medewerker in Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen krijgsgevangenkamp Kamioka, Osaka, Japan. Ereveld Loenen. KNIL. Indonesië.

Christiaan Wilhelmus Peterse, 43 jaar. Inspecteur in Bandoeng, Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in een krijgsgevangenkamp Maoemere, Flores op 17 mei 1943. Ereveld Kembang Kuning, Surabaya. KNIL. Indonesië.

Herman Martinus Storm, 44 jaar. Medewerker in Nederlands-Indië. Omgekomen in een krijgsgevangenkamp te Chungkai, Thailand op 1 juni 1943. Ereveld Chungkai, Thailand. KNIL. Indonesië.

ARNHEMSCHE VERZEKERINGSMAATSCHAPPIJ

Maria Hendrika Bonhof-Van Heusden, 46 jaar. Agentesse te Culemborg. Omgekomen door Duits geschut op 15 mei 1940 bij Ravenswaaij. Oude Begraafplaats, Culemborg.

O.W.J. SCHLENCKER
Jansje Italiaander, 33 jaar.
Kantoorbediende in Amsterdam.
Omgebracht in concentratiekamp Auschwitz op 30 januari 1944.
Geen verdere gegevens bekend.