

# INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

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## INTRODUCTION

It was not easy to find texts for this bulletin in these politically turbulent times. I feel pushed back in my childhood fears and feel solidarity with the war children of the present. My hope is plummeting down. I reach to stories giving hope and in this issue you may find some of them: First, a sheepdog receiving an award for his heroic deed. Then, the salvage of a German plane crashed in the Netherlands during the war and lifted now from the sea bottom with the German family members as guests. And last but not least the interesting story of the 6888<sup>th</sup> female battalion.

I received a report from the Norwegian Vennetreff, an organisation that joined the Bulletin some years after the start.

One by One sent information about activities that took place in March of this year. Still interesting to read.

One of our readers wrote a book about his parents and although written in Dutch, I am glad to draw your attention to it.

There is some turmoil in the Netherlands about the online placing of the documents about collaborators or presumed ones. The (grand)children of the collaborators fear that their family stories will give people a reason to start again the discrimination against them. The offspring of Jewish families or resistance fighters want to be able to search the people who betrayed their families.

I found an article about the transport lists of the so called Kindertransporte which were presumed to be lost. A list with 9000 names and correct data was found. An important source for the survivors and their (grand)children.

In the blog of Dorothee Schmidt-Köster I found an article about a lost and now regained archive about the mother home of the Lebensbornproject in Steinhöring. Now people can go in search for more information about their families.

I wrote a text about the reliability of the news in newspapers and in television journals, inspired by my profession of historian and my experiences in the secondary school for adults.

Two poems are inserted as well. I hope you will appreciate the content of this bulletin. Commentaries and new texts are welcome!

In case you change your email address, please let me know, so that we can remain in contact. The next issue will appear in October 2025.

Warm regards,

Gonda Scheffel-Baars

### **AWARD FOR A SHEEPDOG, WAR DOG 147**

Stories about the war are most of the times serious and painful, but sometimes we learn a story that let us feel good. This is the case with the story of Khan. His boss had given him to the British Army and he served in the 6th battalion of the Cameronians (the Scottish Rifles). He had been trained to trace mines and explosives. Dogs who had followed this training did very important work during the war.



When the Allied Armies had liberated big parts of Belgium, they started to attack the German troops in Zeeland, the Dutch province in the South-West. In the night of 3 to 4 November 1944 Khan and his accompanist, Jim Muldoon, sat in one of the assault-boats. It was hit. The boat began to sink. The soldiers sprang in the water and started to swim to the coast. But Khan's accompanist could not swim. The dog had already made some meters when he looked back and heard the voice of Jim. He saw his friend sinking in the water and was just in time to take the collar of his uniform in his mouth and started to drag him to the beach. There he brought him some meters from the water and laid down on him to keep him warm. In this situation they were found, hours later, and taken to the hospital. Also at that place he watched over his boss.

This story has all in it to be spoken of, from generation to generation, to do honour to the loyalty and fearlessness of this dog and its colleagues. In the Museum dedicated to the Liberation of Zeeland they pay attention to his heroic deed. In the autumn of 2024, 80

years later, a bronze statue of this beautiful dog has been unveiled. It is situated at the side of the monument commemorating the victims of the war.

The statue is the initiative of the Cameronians who were present at the moment the statue was unveiled. They wanted to express their gratitude for the inhabitants of Zeeland. It is an expression of the gratitude of the Dutch people as well for the help that led to the liberation of their province.

Children are allowed to climb on Khan's back and to glide to the ground. A multi-functional statue!

GSB

(source de Telegraaf, Octobre 15, 2024)

## **DISCUSSION WITH ONE-BY-ONE**

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, 2025, the German Consulate Boston and Northeastern University will have a discussion with the founders of [One-by-One-International](#), an organization based in Boston, Massachusetts and Berlin, Germany, whose work aims to transform the legacies of mass atrocities by bringing descendants of victims and perpetrators into dialogue with one another.

One-by-One's book, *Journeys of Transformation: Confronting the Legacies of Conflict, War, and Genocide*, will be referenced during the discussion (see attached).

I would like to invite you to join in-person or via zoom, or to request a recording of the meeting. Dr. Martina Emme and Rosalie Gerut will share their personal stories and present the origins and method of the One-by-One-International project. Following the presentation, they will join Northeastern University College of Social Sciences and Humanities Professor Simon Rabinovitch and volunteers with Action Reconciliation Service for Peace for a panel discussion on the multi-generational work to address the legacies of the Holocaust and other genocide-related trauma.

When: January 27, 2025 from 6-7:30 p.m. EST

Where: Northeastern University, Robinson Hall 109, 336 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA or on zoom at <https://northeastern.zoom.us/j/92412011896>

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/transforming-trauma-the-legacy-of-the-holocaust-tickets-1137778469029?aff=oddtcreator>

Kind regards,

Julie H. Bernstein

Volunteer

One-by-One, Inc.

website: [one-by-one-international.org](http://one-by-one-international.org)

facebook: [one-by-one-international](https://www.facebook.com/onebyoneinternational)

contact number: 929-344-2535

email: [onebyoneinformation@gmail.com](mailto:onebyoneinformation@gmail.com)

## **A SONG ABOUT FORGOTTEN CHILDREN**

Where are the Ukrainian children from Marioepol  
deported to Russia in 2022  
in order to rob them from their national identity  
and to be framed into true Russians?

Who is the girl left alone in the street  
when the Taliban dragged her mother into a bus  
because her head-shawl had not be draped correctly?

Who is that Jewish boy in Toronto, stopped by big boys,  
asking him: 'Gaza or Israel?'  
snatching away his yarmulke from his head  
and playing football with it when running away?

Who is that girl, the sole survivor of her family,  
when a missile destroyed her home,  
Sudanese against Sudanese, Moslim against Moslim?

Who is that Oeigurian boy watching  
Chinese men arresting his parents,  
to be sent to a re-educationcamp?

Who is,  
where are?  
Thousand times,  
hundred of thousands times.  
Children paying the price.

Gonda Scheffel-Baars

## **THE RELIABILITY OF NEWS**

The daily news reports in newspapers or on television try to supply the actual news people are looking forward to. We want to know how political and social-economical changes find place in the world. But how can we know what is true, what is news and what is fake news?

I will start with an example of my profession, history studying and writing. As soon as I have decided what historical event or development I want to explore, I start to seek sources which can provide me with information I need for my study. In the case I find a big number of sources I have to determine which sources I will use and which not. This is per definition a subjective choice. From the chosen sources I do not use all the information, I make a selection, which is again a subjective choice. Then I try to make a coherent text, analyzing the information and constructing a conclusion. The result can only be provisional and a hypothesis of what happened. Documents found later on can confirm my

conclusions or prove they are wrong. Moreover, we have to take into account that the sources we used were themselves interpretations of interpretations, because it is impossible to find THE truth.

So how reliable is my study and are the studies of my colleague historians?

Sometimes new found information can change the conclusions of historical research. There have been published quite a lot of studies about the colonial war between the Netherlands and the nationalists in the Dutch East Indies between 1945 and 1949. The Dutch troops tried to restore the Dutch authority over the colony, but the opponents fought as guerrillas and the Dutch had no answer to cope with this way of fighting. The historians mentioned the use of violence in several villages, but the official governmental answer to these suggestions was always, that there might have taken place incidents, but they were exceptions, not the rule. When the archive of our most honoured prime minister, Dr. W. Drees, was opened, the truth was revealed. Documents showed that the government had permitted the use of violence if necessary to restore peace. We always had appreciated Drees as a frugal man that had integrity. This picture proved now to be incorrect: even this politician had lied.

There have been written a huge number of books about the storm catastrophe which struck the coast of the Netherlands in 1953, February 1. The Dutch people was in shock: how could this have happened? For one man this was no surprise. In 1930, as inspector engineer Van Veen had written a report about the bad condition of the dykes of the different islands in the south- west. He had given a couple of advices and designed a plan to block the estuaries with dams, provided with sluices to let water in or out. But as so many of his plans, his chef took the information not seriously, the design landed in a drawer. In the office he worked at the ministry of Water Management, he was seen as a troublemaker. In 1953 the negligence proved to be unforgivable. Had the minister decided to start the improvement of the dykes and building dams in 1930, a lot of the damage of 1953 had been prevented. Very soon the department undertook action, a plan comparable to Van Veen's design was approved by the government. The plan, named Deltaplan, was praised all over the world, the minister, the officials, the engineers, shared in the glory, but nobody praised Van Veen. They could not praise him, because then they had had the need to admit there would have been less damage (1800 people, thousands of dead cattle, thousands of houses ruined, the salinization of the fields) if they had followed Van Veen's design.. Later on, one journalist heard his story and has worked on his rehabilitation. But even that action was never on a prominent place in the newspapers. How important is it to hide the truth?

What is applicable to studies on academic level, is applicable to the news information of news papers and radio and television services. The time to make choices and select the information given by very different services and sources is very short. A book writer has weeks and months to take the best possible decisions, news correspondents have only some hours. When they send their texts to their chefs, it is up to the editorial committees to decide what they will print in the papers or give some room in the news programs. These committees are fond of figures, statistics and pictures which provide the arguments for the accuracy of the reasoning in the news bulletin. But there is a big difference between the offered news in democratically governed states and that in dictatorships. These last give one sort of news that does not allow criticism and questions about the reliability: the news items present the truth with regard to the item, no doubting allowed. News providing in

democratic states can be criticised, can be confronted with news contrary to the first given information.

There is a tendency that editorial committees prefer the news of the dictatorships, because of the statistics, the figures and the pictures. This has been written and analysed in the book 'Het lijken net mensen' (They're just like people') written by the journalist Joris Luyendijk, for decades a correspondent in the Middle East. This is a dangerous tendency and a constant problem to the journalist to convince their chefs to make up their mind and becoming aware of the differences in reliability of the offered news. Liberal and socialist democrats cannot imagine what living in a dictatorship is all about: no freedom of speech and the lack of the other civil rights. They know the facts, but simply cannot imagine such a situation. Therefore, the report of a journalist's encounter with a citizen of a dictatorship is often not accepted by the editorial committee, because it is just one story and there is no verification. But exactly in these encounters the truth can appear, because the encounter partner can stay anonymous (in order to minimize the risk for this man or woman to be caught by the government). These things seem so clear and evident, but in the practice of every day they are underestimated. So can we really know what happens somewhere on the globe when there is a crisis?

I will give you an example. In our community of 20 000 inhabitants, the community board had the intention to build an adoption center for 1500 asylum seekers, refugees or immigrants. Many inhabitants did not agree at all with this plan. Some did not want any adoption center, others thought a less big center, for at most 500 people, was acceptable. When the community board discussed the issue in the city hall, some hundreds of protesters had gathered around the building. They held up banners and signs with slogans, a couple of people scanned loud '500'. At some moment a pebble hit the glass of the room where the board was gathered. The mayor, in panic, called the police and only then the protesters became aggressive. My neighbours were there and immediately left the place, many others did as well. But the clash between citizens and the police escalated and the special ambulant unit was asked to come. Very soon then the clash was over. There was one wounded woman who needed her wounds be treated in the hospital.

What happened precisely that evening? Who started the provocation? The coming of the police worsened the thing. The member of the special unit that wounded the woman declared that the woman had behaved aggressively against him. Did she? I know her well, she was two years my pupil. It is impossible to me and many others to see in her an aggressive person deserving a professional clap.

We have in total 6 different narratives of that evening. Four of them are compatible, the two others gives substantial different data.

One small incident and nobody in our community will ever know what really happened.

What about the big events in the world?

For the last exam test, my pupils of the school for adults could make a choice between two options: to study 4 different newspapers of the same day, or to watch the journal news of 4 different television companies. They had to make a list of the most important issues of the day and then compare the differences, or similarities, in the ways the items were presented. Then they had to try to explain were these differences originated in. It was an eyeopener for all the students to become aware of the fact that news is not just news, but has to do with political and social- economical differences between the editorial committees. They understood that no one can say any longer: 'But is true, I read it in the paper, I saw it on television.'

Still, there is the question: how can we know how reliable the news we read or hear in fact is?

Gonda Scheffel-Baars

## **SALVAGING A CRASHED PLANE**

On 31 July, 2024, a special ceremony took place when a German wreck of a plane crashed during World War II was lifted from the waters of the Waddenzee, in the very north of the Netherlands. Before the small group of people involved in this ceremony went to the small village near the dyke where the plane had plunged in the sea, there was a welcome by the mayor of the city Dokkum. Family members of the German pilot which found his grave in the sea were the guests of that day. They had known from the end of the war, that Wilhelm's plane disappeared in the soft soil of clay in the sea, permitting the plane to dive for 7 meters deep. At that time there were no machines which could lift the plane, but in the 21st century special instruments were developed. The salvage operation could finally take place. There had been a number of crashes in that region, of Allied and Germans planes. The dates had been noticed and after the war a research group asked information from the German Luftwaffe. They could give the name of the pilot and the type of plane in which he flew. Thereafter, the family could be informed about their missing son, by then 21 years old, an inexperienced pilot. His mother traveled each year to the place where her son had found his death.

What moved the family the most was the fact that the Dutch group of salvage services did not make a difference between a pilot of the Allies, or one of Germany. In their disaster they had been just human beings with family mourning about them. The mayor hinted to this situation, when saying that one could have mixed feelings when rescuing the remains of a former enemy. But the clearance service had done this work already immediately after the war. The group went to the village of Hallum where the services were ready to start the salvage itself. The remains of the pilot were buried there in a temporary grave to be taken afterwards to the German military cemetery in IJsselstein. The German guests used the Dutch language in their speeches and the Dutch speakers used the German language. The family declared after the ceremony to be very moved, far more than they had imagined before. They expressed their gratitude and said this event was a kind of reconciliation. Former enemies can overcome their feelings of hatred and share emotions for their loved ones.

GSB

(De Telegraaf, August 1, 2024)

Dear Gonda,

**To The International Bulletin**, a message from **Norway**

Thank you for writing the International Bulletin. Here is some news from "Vennetreff for NS-etterkommere" in Norway. We now do welcome not only children of the members of

the National Unification, but also their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We still meet about three times a year.

In 2018 the prime minister of the conservative party, Erna Solberg, made an excuse to the war brides. They were interned and the ones who married their German soldiers lost their Norwegian citizenship, without having broken any laws. At the same time, the prime minister announced that the Government office of learning and studying the same autumn would study the fate of the children of the members of the National Unification. The year after, I published my book "The sunken country, a history about a family, a factory and a burial place", which is the story of my own family as an example of what could happen between 1930 and 1960. As it was also my story, I found it could be interesting for those in that department studying the fate of the NS-children. There were none! Then we in "Vennetreff for NS-barn" wrote and asked for this study. We were invited to the department just before the Election in 2021. The result was that a study was started. Lars-Erik Vaale completed the study in February 2023. Despite our request, nothing happened until we in December 2024 again were invited to the Government office of learning and studying. Meanwhile, our case was initially managed by the Ministry of Justice and subsequently transferred to the Government Office of Employment, under the Integration label. Despite the study made by Lars-Erik Vaale for several reasons recommended that the Norwegian government owed us an excuse, that was not granted.

In the latest meeting of Vennetreff in January there was a great-grandson of a man who was arrested in February 1950 for "A new book attacking the Legal Settlement". It was his fourth book, and what he wrote was true. That did not help him. He was severely punished.

In this meeting we discussed a book and a movie about "The last days of Quisling". It was based on the notes of the prison chaplain assigned to him, and the book was written by a journalist who was a grandson of the chaplain. The professional secrecy of a chaplain is holy, but obviously not holy towards members of the National Unification. The journalist claimed that as Quisling did not have children, it was ok. However, in the book there are four pages about the first prisoner executed after WWII in Norway. His son, who was born after his father was shot, still lives. The book and the movie continued the tradition that nothing negative should be uttered about the official "right side", and nothing positive about the official "wrong side". Our next meeting will be in Oslo in May 2025.

Leif Runar Forsth

Rolv Olsen

Inger Cecilie Stridsklev

## **THE COST OF TRANSPARENCY: Nazi collaboration files spark painful Dutch reckoning with WWII past**

Eight decades after the defeat of the Nazis, a debate in the Netherlands asks how much of the largest Dutch war archive should be made available online.

World War II may have ended 80 years ago, but its painful legacy has been brought to the surface once more in the Netherlands, after a large archive on suspected Nazi collaborators was made public for the first time.



A Dutch law restricting public access to the Central Archives of the Special Jurisdiction (CABR) — which contains information on about 425,000 people accused of collaboration during the German occupation of the Netherlands — expired at the start of this year. Despite the lifting of the restriction last week, critics complain that the archive is still not truly open, as only the physical version in the Hague can be accessed. Online publication had been planned, but the process has been stalled because of concerns it would breach the data privacy of living people who appear in the files. As such, only a list of the names of deceased suspected collaborators has been made digitally available.

The developments have sparked a nationwide debate in the Netherlands, pitting the right to privacy against the need for transparency about the country's wartime past.

In interviews with Euronews, historians, archivists and descendants of suspected Nazi collaborators spoke about the case's complexity and the breadth of opinion it has generated.

Some of the children of the accused, for example, fear potential repercussions if the CABR is made fully searchable online. They recall their struggles during the post-war years, when they were often ignored and discriminated against by their compatriots.

However, others believe that privacy concerns are less important than the public's ability to scrutinise all of the available evidence and to reckon, more fully, with the past.

This desire can be personal, including for the descendants of Jewish victims, who might want to see if their relatives' plight is recorded in the archive. More than 102,000 Dutch Jews — three-quarters of the country's Jewish population — were killed by the Nazis, following collaboration from the state and individuals.

Martijn Eickhoff, the director of the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, told Euronews that both views in the debate should be taken seriously.

"On the one hand, historical transparency is very important. But so, on the other hand, is the privacy of citizens. At the moment, we are looking for the right balance between these two ideals and that's an important ethical discussion," he said.

"I expect that legislation in the end will follow these social debates on morality," he added.

Although Eickhoff urged caution, he mentioned that digitization would allow the country to gain "an additional layer of knowledge about the past". It would help future research into Dutch citizens' behaviour and experiences during World War II, he added.

The Netherlands' understanding of its own World War II history is now much more nuanced than in the past, when the heroism of the resistance was given more attention than collaboration with the Nazis. The CABR can further improve Dutch society's knowledge of the period, Eickhoff said.

"We expect that this digitised archive will allow us to develop new insights. That amid all the mass of information, you can ask questions about the role of gender, class, and region in the country," he added.

NIOD is part of a collaborative project called Oorlog voor de Rechter (War in Court), which seeks to make the complete CABR widely accessible.

"The reason why we supported the [War in Court] project is because we want to keep the memory of the Second World War alive, with new digital research tools," Eickhoff explained.

The National Archives, one of NIOD's partners in the War in Court consortium, aims to digitise the CABR in its entirety by 2027.

The process will take that long because, at 30 million pages, the CABR is the country's largest archive on what took place during the German occupation from May 1940 to May 1945. The files vary from single pieces of paper to extremely large dossiers, and feature material such as witness accounts, photographs and diaries.

## **Complex historical context**

Now, it remains uncertain when this trove of information might be shared online.

In an intervention last year, the Dutch Data Protection Authority (AP) warned that publishing the archive's contents online would fall foul of privacy laws, which pertain to the living but not the dead.

"The problem is that in this big archive there are not only the accused and the investigated, but also in the larger files hundreds of names that appear," said Charles Jeurgens, a professor of archival studies at the University of Amsterdam.

"And those people can be family members, witnesses, doctors. And we don't know which of these people are still alive and which aren't."

"We have to find a way to do it that is ethical, so that the children of [suspected collaborators] aren't hurt"

*Michael Schuling, the chairman of Stichting Werkgroep Herkenning*

So far, only the names of deceased suspects from the CABR have been made digitally available. But their files have not, as it would be impossible to check the living status of everyone named in them.

The possibility for wider digital publication is made by Recital 158 of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Jeurgens said.

It allows members states to provide for the processing of archival data relating to information on "the political behaviour under former totalitarian state regimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, in particular the Holocaust, or war crimes."

To take advantage of this possibility, Recital 158 would have to be anchored in the Netherland's national legislation, something which is not currently the case.

Jeurgens said that if the CABR is opened up more fully, it is critical that people understand the complexity of its historical context.

"The archive is very problematic and difficult. It's not easy to understand," he noted. That is because the CABR consists of records made by more than 200 local police departments, political investigation units, tribunals and courts.

The files were consolidated in the early 1950s at the end of the "special jurisdiction", the legal system through which alleged Nazi collaborators were investigated.

Some of the original records are missing and the files are not all well ordered and well documented, owing to the chaos that followed the end of World War II, Jeurgens said.

## Wide range of collaboration charges

Jeurgens and Eickhoff also stressed that the majority of the archive's suspects were not found guilty of wrongdoing. Some would have been groundlessly accused in the months and years after the end of the German occupation.

Of the roughly 425,000 people accused in the CABR, only 66,000 were brought to court. About 35,000 suspects were given prison sentences from the 50,000 who faced a tribunal, while most of the 16,000 people whose cases were heard by the Special Courts of Justice were also sent to jail, according to the War in Court project.

In total, 40 of the 152 people given the death penalty were killed by the state for their crimes. The rest had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

Michael Schuling, the chairman of Stichting Werkgroep Herkenning, a group that supports 300 descendants of the accused, said there is a real spectrum of collaboration charges within the CABR.

"There were people who did really bad things, who, for example, chose to betray the Jewish people," he said.

"And there were also those who were suspected because of their connections with the occupiers. One of them was my grandmother, who had a child with a German soldier." Schuling's grandmother gave birth to this child — his father — in a Lebensborn clinic in Steinhöring, Germany, on 21 June, 1941.

As a result of her liaison with the soldier, she was taken to an internment camp in late 1944, after her part of the Netherlands had been liberated from the Nazis. She was released in January 1946, but her assets were seized, she was barred from holding a government position and she was made "stateless" for 10 years.

During her time in the camp, her two children were separated from her. Schuling said his father was mistreated in one of the children's homes to which he was sent, and that he carried the trauma of that period into adulthood.

Ashamed by what had happened, Schuling's grandmother told her family that she had been raped by the German soldier. The pair had actually had a romantic relationship, Schuling said, citing evidence he has read in her CABR file and a happy photo of the pair that was discovered among his grandmother's belongings.

Schuling said the piecing together of her and her son's past allowed him to feel more empathy towards his relatives.

"You can better address what happened in your own life," he reflected. "This is why my father did this, this is why he was so angry, this is why he was so sad."

Sharing details about his family history was a personal choice, he said, something that other descendants might not feel comfortable doing. "There are, of course, different opinions among our members about these really sensitive files."

His organisation recently sent questionnaires to its members asking whether they were for or against the CABR's digitisation. Of the 153 forms returned to date, 16.3% believe the archive should be fully searchable online, while 26.1% of respondents are against any digitisation. The rest said they were somewhere in the middle.

## **A filmmaker's personal connection**

Other descendants would like the files published online sooner.

One is Eline Jongsma, a documentary maker who, along with her partner Kel O'Neill, made an animated film called *His Name is My Name* about the crimes committed by her great-grandfather, Gerrit Jongsma, who was the mayor of Krommennie, a small town north of Amsterdam, during the war.

Jongsma only found out about her great-grandfather and his crimes a decade ago, as her family had shrouded his life in secrecy. Many other families are in the same position, she said.

"A lot of people contacted us privately, and wanted to confess their tragic collaborator family member story that cast a shadow over their family," Jongsma told Euronews.

These confessions showed how the secrets of your ancestors can really weigh on people for generations. That's what you see with my father's generation," she added.

"My dad took on an attitude of silence and, I think, guilt and trauma. A lot of people are in that position."

This is the attitude she wanted to break by releasing her and O'Neill's "Instagram documentary", which consists of 10 chapters that last around three minutes each.

Her own family's secret began to unravel in the wake of a family dinner 10 years ago. "I don't know the exact words my dad used, but he casually asked whether I knew whether my grandfather was a Nazi," Jongsma said.

## **Opinion of an advisor for digitalization projects**

One of the persons who praise the digitalisation of the CABR is Rinke Smedinga. As early as 1999 he put his family story on the internet, to share it with the public. For more than 10 years he visits schools to tell the children his family tale and that becoming a perpetrator is not just something that can happen to anyone, but mostly is a result of making bad decisions under difficult circumstances.. And therefore, that everyone is responsible not to become a perpetrator. How currently commentaries and criticism are shaped on the basis of only some elements. The 'career' of his father in the national-socialist movement shows how involvement starts small and then can grow bigger and bigger.

Smedinga is an advisor in the domain of computer technology and digitalization. The government asks regularly his advice. The online placing of the digitized CABR has been accompanied by encounters with regard to the juridical, ethic and privacy aspects. Smedinga signals a fundamental problem: a lack of service. This applies first of all to those who cannot read or use a computer. There is no tailor-made help for them. This applies to 3 million Dutch people. But the need for support is much greater. The information of CABR is complex, incomplete and full of lies. Contextual knowledge is needed to interpret the content properly. Even scientists specialized in this field say it is hardly possible for them to come to a clear conclusion about suspected collaborators being guilty or not. The government does not take responsibility for this and hopes that society will solve it itself. The attention for the social impact of CABR-online is limited to the legal aspects, not the ethical risks. Because of privacy problems the procedures have stopped for the moment, time to develop practical and secure tools for research.



## **FOUND DOCUMENTS KINDERTRANSPORTE**

From December 1938 till August 1939 900 trains brought Jewish Children from Austria and Germany to the Netherlands, the Uk and some to France, Belgium, Sweden and Switzerland. This action was organised in order to help children in danger by bringing them to safer places in Europe under the threatening shadow of the Nazi- regime.

Researchers presumed that the lists of these so called Kindertransporte had been lost. Amy Williams, for 10 years already free-lance researcher in the Commemoration Museum Yad vaShem in Jerusalem, found to her surprise archives which contended the transport lists. Together with retired researcher Bill Noven she published the lists, which were very accurate. A 9000 names were found on the lists, with the birthday of the children, their last address, the names of their parents and the transport number.

The publishing of the lists allow people to reconstruct the story of their families, with data about their grandparents or great grand parents. One of those 9000 children, Hannah Zack Miley (92 years old) told how important it has been to her to find her name on the list. What had been a story in her life, became suddenly history, because she found now the confirmation that her memories proved to be correct, they were no fantasy. She lives now in Arizona (VS).

In Hoek van Holland, located in the most western part of Holland, a monument reminds people of the Kindertransporte. Hoek van Holland was the end of the lines that started in Austria and Germany.

Other Transporte had been taken place as well. From the Dutch concentration camp Vught 1300 children has been transported to Sobibor. In the last months of the war, there had been more razzia's and so there were also a lot more children in the camp. As the health conditions deteriorated with outbreaks of whooping-cough, measles and mumps, the SS commander decided to make more place in the camp and dropped the surplus of children in trains taking them abroad.

## **SAVED DOCUMENTS**

(summary of an article written by Barbara Moser, February 13, 2025 in the Süddeutsche Zeitung)

For decades the archive was part of the Ebersberg Landesamt's archive, and was almost destroyed some years ago. But Florian Robida found at his surprise maps containing documents of the Steinhöring's administration. The quality of the documents is precarious

There are typed documents but also documents hand written in the old German letters, bleak and difficult to read. Studying the documents can only take place after conservation of the paper.

Steinhöring was the first home in the Lebensborn program which opened in 1936. Married and unmarried women could give birth in the home and leave her baby there for adoption. The mother and father had to be acceptable according to the Aryan criteria of the Nazi's race ideology. In this home 'Hochland' in Steinhöring about 1500 children were born. The documents will be sent to the Staatsarchive München where the conservation will take place.

How could those documents have been forgotten? The truth is hard to be reconstructed. In the world of Archives, documents are to be destroyed after a certain period. These forgotten documents belonged to the ones destined to be destroyed. But for some reason, they got the notice 'Specials' and that was the start signal to ask another archive to accept them in their collection. There are two opposite opinions at this point: the Staatsarchive München did not answer to the request of the Ebersberger Archive or, the Staatsarchive did not receive the request at all.

Whatever, the decision was made not to destroy the documents, but keep them. Unknown to the children mentioned in the documents or to researchers.

Someone suggested to Schmalz, conservator in the Staatsamt München, that the documents were still in the Ebersberger Archive. That proved to be right. Although they are copies, the content could be interesting because they may give information about the general methods of taking care of the mothers and the children and of the adoption procedure. They may give information about the intentions and procedures of leading a Lebensborn home as well.

Until now it is not possible to form plausible opinions about the documents. The number of them is high and first of all the paper on which the reports are written has to be prepared. Only after that operation, real research is possible to be done. The documents need to be kept under optimal conditions of temperature and light and humidity. The documents can be studied only by a small group of persons, because the law on privacy mentions the conditions under which a person is allowed to read the documents. They will not be accessible to everyone.

Moreover, the documents could give more information about Josef Wintrich. He was a lawyer, and has been the director of the court who played an important role in the choice of adoption parents. In Ebersberg this man was seen as an example to be followed. The secondary school and a bridge are named after him. Maybe, after all, this glorious picture of him needs to be corrected..

GSB

## THE WAR IN MY HEAD

The war in my head  
has deprived me  
of who I am.

Without bonding, no pain!  
So no bonding.

To feel is shame and guilt  
so no feeling

The war of my parents,  
not to conceive what a suffering,  
so it is not Me who matters.

The war in my head  
has deprived me  
of who I am.

Nynke Muntedam

**CHRIS VAN DER HEIJDEN: OVER DE RAND LAAIT VUUR; my parents and the war**  
ed. Boom, March 2025

Reconstruction of the life of 'wrong' parents

Miep van der Velde and Henk van der Heijden, Chris van der Heijden's parents, stood during World War II at the wrong side of the political spectrum. Their choice cast a shadow over their lives and that of their family. The current reaction on such a war inheritance is being silent, denying or running away. Chris van der Heijden does the opposite and analyses scrupulously the lives of his parents in his book 'A fire is spreading over the edge'. He reconstructs without respect of persons their fate before, during and after the war.

Which circumstances influenced their choices? What happened during the war and which were their convictions? What factors did they take into account and what did they neglect? And what was the meaning of all those events after the war?

This book is an outspoken and vulnerable book. It is the story of two people motivated in very different ways by the same fire. It is that fire that drove them to choices that influenced deeply their lives and that of their children.

In an interview Bas Kromhout, editor of the Historisch Nieuwsblad, asked Chris why he has written this book. Chris gave three reasons. First of all, he has had good emotional relationships with them, he loves his parents. Moreover, whenever he published a book, the reviewers talked always also about the wrong choice of his father that brought him in

the national-socialist camp. And, also very important, Chris had so much written information about his parents that it would have been a historical mistake not to use it. He is aware of the reactions of this book, the discussions and prejudices, but his motives for writing this book were not provocation, but revealing the complexity of events of the past.



## THE 6888TH BATTALION

### *National Archives*

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was a mostly African American battalion of the Women's Army Corps (WAC). They had members of Caribbean and Mexican descent as well. Congress established the WAC on July 1, 1943 from what was previously the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. (WAAC). The women trained four to six weeks in basic training, and then an additional four to twelve weeks of specialist training. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune successfully pushed for the admittance of Black women into the WAC. Mail written to the troops would be sent overseas to Europe and processed by a postal battalion, but by 1945 multiple warehouses in Birmingham, England contained mail for soldiers that had not been distributed. The backlog would take six months to process. At the time, there were about 7 million American soldiers and government workers in Europe. Service members were frustrated about not receiving their letters.

The challenge was to get the mail out in a timely manner. There were postal personnel stationed in Birmingham, but not enough to alleviate the problem. Various African American organizations demanded that Black women in the WAC get the same opportunity to serve overseas. In 1944 the War Department gave in to their demands, and the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was created.

Major Charity Adams (the highest ranking female African American officer) was selected to serve as the battalion leader, and on February 3, 1945, they sailed for Britain. They were met with warehouses full of packages and letters. The buildings lacked sufficient lighting and they were inadequately heated. The windows were covered to prevent them from becoming a target during nighttime raids. The unit was broken into three eight-hour shifts, and they worked seven days a week. Through the challenges they organized the mail by creating information cards with serial numbers for proper identification. They identified mail that was not correctly addressed and used clues to see who it was intended for.

Through heavy work demands, they had to adjust to increased attention. The locals came to watch them at work. They made friends and were welcomed into public spaces. The women stayed in Old King Edward School, and the officers were spread among two houses. Living and eating facilities were segregated by race and gender. Black male soldiers were allowed into a local club for enlisted soldiers, but the Black women soldiers were not. Major Adams led a boycott of the alternative segregated facilities that were offered to the women. They decided to run their own food hall, hair salon, and refreshment bar. The women were subjected to slander spread about by male soldiers who resented that Black women were allowed in the Army.



The 6888th Battalion did not allow those distractions to affect their work. With their system in place, they were able process about 65,000 pieces of mail per shift and cleared the backlog in three months. Their motto was “No mail, low morale.” They focused on getting mail to soldiers and raising their morale. With the inventory in Birmingham cleared, the 6888th Battalion sailed to France after V-E Day. They traveled to Rouen, where they participated in a victory parade. Their unit was stationed in the old French Barracks. Their arrival prompted the attention of many service members, and they had to increase security efforts around their compound.

After clearing the mail backlog in Rouen, the 6888th moved to Paris in October 1945, and they were able to enjoy a “better taste” of living. In February 1946, the unit was sent back to the United States where they received no welcoming ceremony. The 6888th Battalion was the only all-Black Women’s unit to serve overseas. In 1981, a few of the women returned to England to be honored by Birmingham’s mayor. In 1989, Major Adams released a memoir “One Woman’s Army: A Black Officer Remembers the WAC” chronicling her life experiences. In 1996, the Smithsonian Institution National Postal Museum honored Major Adams as the commander of the 6888th Battalion. The 6888th veterans received certificates and letters of appreciation signed by the Army Chief of Staff.

On February 28, 2022, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 422-0 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. The Senate passed a similar measure in 2021, honoring the hard work of the Six Triple Eight.

One member of this battalion was

### **EMMA BROWN**

Home State: Arkansas

Dates of Service: 1943-1946

Highest Rank: Technical Sergeant

“It was a wonderful experience, I learned so much about people - you'd be surprised at the people you can meet and every last one of them is an individual in themselves...” (Audio interview, 20:24)

Emma Brown enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) immediately after high school graduation, attracted by the prospects of advancing her career opportunities and traveling the world. She initially trained as an administrative clerk, and worked as a records clerk in Army medical facilities in the United States, where she encountered wounded American service members and returning prisoners-of-war, an experience that exposed her to the brutal realities of war. Despite witnessing such suffering and experiencing discrimination within the military—as well as a lack of understanding overseas—her optimism and sense of humor endured. After the war, she completed a degree in history and worked in a college library, then as a teacher, and also served as a government employee.

## WEBSITES

Organisation of Children of Dutch Collaborators:

**[www.werkgroepherkenning.nl](http://www.werkgroepherkenning.nl)**

Organisation of Danish Children of War, Danske Krigsboern Foerening:

**[www.krigsboern.dk](http://www.krigsboern.dk)**

Organization of Norwegian NS Children:

**[www.nazichildren.com](http://www.nazichildren.com)**

Krigsbarnforbundet Lebensborn, Norway:

**privetadress: [k.e.papendorf@jus.uio.no](mailto:k.e.papendorf@jus.uio.no)**

Organisation of NS-children Vennetreff:

**<http://www.nsbarn.no>**

Risikoforbundet Finska Krigsbarn: (in swedish)

**[www.finskakrigsbarn.se](http://www.finskakrigsbarn.se)**

Tapani Ross on Finnish War Children (blog)

[www.krigsbarn.com](http://www.krigsbarn.com)

Organisation of Finnish Children of War, Seundun Sotalapset:

**[www.sotalapset.fi](http://www.sotalapset.fi)**

Organisation of children of victims and children of the perpetrators:

**[www.one-by-one.org](http://www.one-by-one.org)**

Dachau Institut Psychologie und Pädagogik:

**[www.Dachau-institut.de](http://www.Dachau-institut.de)**

Kriegskind Deutschland:

**[www.kriegskind.de](http://www.kriegskind.de)**

Website for the postwar-generation:

**[www.Forumkriegsenkel.com](http://www.Forumkriegsenkel.com)**

Evacuees Reunion Association

**[www.evacuees.org.uk](http://www.evacuees.org.uk)**

**Researchproject 'War and Children Identity Project', Bergen, Norway**

**[www.warandchildren.org](http://www.warandchildren.org)**

**Researchproject University München 'Kriegskindheit'**

**[www.warchildhood.net](http://www.warchildhood.net)**

**Coeurs Sans Frontières – Herzen Ohne Grenzen**

**[www.coeurssansfrontières.com](http://www.coeurssansfrontières.com)**

Organisation d'enfants de guerre

**[www.nésdelalibération.fr](http://www.nésdelalibération.fr)**

Organisation of Us-descendants in Belgium

**[www.usad-ww2.be](http://www.usad-ww2.be)**

Childsurvivors of the Holocaust in Australië

**[www.paulvalent.com](http://www.paulvalent.com)**

International organisation for educational and professional development focused on themes like racism, prejudices and antisemitism

**[www.facinghistory.org](http://www.facinghistory.org)**

Aktion Sühnezeigen Friedensdienste

**[www.asf-ev.de](http://www.asf-ev.de)**

Organisation of German Lebensbornkinder

**[www.lebensspuren-deutschland.eu](http://www.lebensspuren-deutschland.eu)**

International Network for Interdisciplinary Research on Children born of War (INIRC)

[www.childrenbornofwar.org](http://www.childrenbornofwar.org)

Organisation Genocide Prevention Now

[www.genocidepreventionnow.org](http://www.genocidepreventionnow.org)

Basque Children of '37 Association UK

[www.basquechildren.org](http://www.basquechildren.org)

International Study of the Organized Persecution of Children

[www.holocaustchildren.org](http://www.holocaustchildren.org)

Partners in Confronting Collective Atrocities

[www.p-cca.org](http://www.p-cca.org)

War Love Child – Oorlogsliefdekind

[www.oorlogsliefdekind.nl/en](http://www.oorlogsliefdekind.nl/en)

Children of Soviet Army soldiers

[www.russenkinder.de](http://www.russenkinder.de)

Stichting Oorlogsgetroffenen in de Oost

[www.s-o-o.nl](http://www.s-o-o.nl)

Philippine Nikkei-Jin Legal Support Center

[www.pnlsc.com](http://www.pnlsc.com)

Austrian children of Afroamerican soldier-fathers

[www.afroaustria.at](http://www.afroaustria.at)

Organisation tracing American GI fathers

[www.gitrace.org](http://www.gitrace.org)

Children in War Memorial

blog: <http://childreninwarmemorial.wordpress.com>

Stichting Sakura (Dutch/Indonesian/Japanese children)

<https://stichting-sakura.nl>

Stichting JIN (Indonesian/Japanese children)

<http://www.jin-info.nl>

Encounter, organisation planning a yearly encounter between descends of victims and of perpetrators of WWII of any nationality

<https://encounter2022.wordpress.com/home/the-encounter-2>

<https://encounter2022.wordpress.com>

<https://encounter2022.wordpress.com/home/the-encounter>