

TRANSCRIPTS OF TESTIMONY CLIPS

**Clip 1: Klara Aardewerk (01:23)**

**Interviewer:** How did the neighbors and the non-Jewish population react?

**Klara:** Well, there were a lot of nice people too, but there were some bad ones, too.

**Interviewer:** Can you tell me any incidences?

**Klara:** My neighbor was so good to me. He brought away my children, which was beautiful, but after the war, he took all my furniture upstairs. And my husband had a chance from Westerberg to go to Amsterdam because they needed strong men to help putting things away, empty buildings and things like that. I was already at Westerbork. And when my husband came upstairs, my neighbor and he sees my furniture, and my neighbor said, "When you come back, you can have it all back. I saved it all for you." When I came back, he didn't want to give it back.

**Clip 2: Agnes Sereni (03:11)**

**Interviewer:** Did any of the non-Jewish people surrounding the Jewish houses have any contact with you or your family?

**Agnes:** A handful of people remained to stay non-Jew in that building. They kept contact with us, but they didn't come close to us. They didn't bring us food or anything because they were scared. Even those who were nice and humanitarian didn't want to jeopardize their safety, you know. So, we couldn't expect too much from them.

**Interviewer:** Were you still able to get food at this time?

**Agnes:** That was a very interesting experience, also. One day, I was again, there, a German soldier came to that building wearing a German uniform, Warmark uniform. He said, "Don't be afraid, don't be afraid, I am your friend." By that time, my aunt and my cousin disappeared from the building and we had some wide idea where did they run. My cousin and aunt lived in another yellow star building.

**Interviewer:** Did you tell us the name of your aunt and your cousin?

**Agnes:** My aunt is Aranka Spiegel Rosenfeld and my cousin's name is Vera Spiegel. They were in a different building far away from us and we took a chance. We asked this German soldier to go and get them and bring them to us so we should all be together and he did that. He brought them over and then he went out to the store and he brought us food. He brought us egg, and bread, and oil and he asked us to make, go up from the basement and make in that kitchen, in little apartment kitchen, scrambled egg for him and for us. And he came back time-to-time to helping us and one day, he didn't show up. He just disappeared. We found out later that he was a deserter and he was shot.

**Interviewer:** Did you ever know his name?

**Agnes:** I just know his first nickname. He called himself "Booby."

**Interviewer:** Did you receive help from any other people after that?

**Agnes:** No.

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Clip 3: Lisa Derman (06:28)

**Lisa:** And the rest of the Christian girls...and we came to her house. That was Thursday night and Friday morning. On the 14th, Nov. 14, 1941, there was a knock on the door to this woman, Stefgar was her name to say that they are killing the Jews in Slagne... and she became very frightened and she would not let us stay in her house as much as we begged her that no one saw us come in. We cried. We fell to our knees to keep us, to hide us. Nothing is written on us that says we are Jewish. No one saw us come into the house. But she would not let go and we had to leave her house. She told us we should go a little further away from this house was a forest. She said to go and hide in the forest for the day. We had no alternative. It was cold and it was winter.

And my sister and I came to the forest. We came to the forest and there we were sitting, both of us terribly frightened but hoping that we would somehow survive the day. But all of a sudden there was shooting in the forest and bullets flying and we ran past... there was a meadow in the middle, like, you know, and we ran to hide further. And as we passed by the meadow, we came to the scene of the massacre and we saw the scene and we ran from the blood and the shrieks and the scene and we ran to the opposite part of the forest to hide.

We were sitting there for a while and all of a sudden a ranger came in the forest and the shooting was going on and the screams. He wanted to know what we were doing in the forest. And my sister told him that we came to collect some wood for the winter and our parents were coming to fetch us and he believed us. He walked in and heard all the shooting and the commotion and he walked in deeper in the forest past the meadow and he saw the scene of the massacre. He came with such a rage to us that we told him a lie that we are Jewish and that we ran away from the pits and we have to be killed like the rest of the Jews. Imagine the viciousness of man? But he didn't take us to the pits. He took us to the road where the Jews were being led to be killed.

I will describe the scene. The women walked with the children, some holding on with babies. They were surrounded by an army of killers. Were they to run, they would be shot instantly. The men were on trucks and there was a machine gun in back of the truck and the trucks were moving slowly and the men and German guards were walking all the way. Now we walked on the walker's path. And the ranger behind us, he came from the road. He had a bicycle that he probably came from home wherever he was. He had a rifle behind, on his shoulder and an axe behind his back and he told us to go straight and as we meet up with the group of the people who are being led to be killed to join them and go into the pits to get killed. We walked for a distance, not far really, and my sister turned her head back and when she saw that he was a distance from us, she grabbed my hand and screamed, "Run, run in the field and run in all directions. Run, run." The two of us ran in the field. Evidently, the ranger, if he was shooting at us, his aim was poor because he didn't hit us. And we ran and we were not really far from him. Now the *Eizengruppen* that were leading the Jews to be killed did not shoot at us. In his rage, he threw the axe in the field and it hit the back of my sister's leg. She had a cut. We had to stop. We had scarves. We took off the scarves and we tied it around her leg and the blood was gushing, but we ran. We ran, ran, ran.

And we came back to the community that we started from. And for you to know, that no one would let us come in to their houses. And by this time, my sister was bleeding. Little children, boys and girls, Poles or White Russians, not older than 7, 8 or 9 ran after us, "Jews, Jews, you took off your yellow stars. The Nazis will kill you. The Nazis will kill you." Where would we disappear?

And aimlessly, both of us walking, she bleeding, and we came, we passed by a house, and the children left us, and the door, the gate was open. There was a barn and the dogs were not barking. And we tried to hide, running into this barn. At the side there was a house. And there was a door and there was a little window in the door. And a

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**Clip 3: Lisa Derman (cont'd)**

woman opened the door and as she opened the door, we were terribly frightened that she, too, would turn us away. But this Christian woman with her hands clasped, said to us these words, “You do not have to tell me where you are coming from. I know God brought you to the right house. I will save you.” A very, very special saintly Christian woman that did not know us, took us in the house, attended to my sister’s wound, gave us food, gave us food. And they opened up a sleeping sofa. Took out the insides of the sofa, put us in. Left enough air for us to breathe and kept us there the day of the massacre. I am alive today because somebody cared. Were more people to care, more and more Jews would have survived.

**Clip 4: Philip Markowicz (02:24)**

**Philip:** And then we were going in the train... and people died in the train. It was a miracle happened in the train. I would like to mention it ‘cause this actually saved our lives. I had in Auschwitz, made myself a piece of knife, not supposed to, and I hid it in my jacket and I kept it with me so that... to have it. And then I cut out....

**Interviewer:** How did you make a knife?

**Philip:** By, taking a piece of iron and you bend back and forth until it breaks and I had a short piece and then no one can see it and a stone on a stone, I cut on the edge, over and over, day in and day out, day in and day out, sharpened it just so I could have something to have it. And when I was in the train, there was openings that much at the bottom and I was laying on the floor and I kept cutting it. I was very good at wood cutting and I just had more air to look out. And then a miracle happened. Somehow I was on the train and the train stopped on the side for a long, long time at night and then at daybreak, a passenger train came by and then stopped right in front of me a door to go down. I saw people go down. I could only see their feet. I couldn’t see anything else. I put my hand through and somebody put a sandwich in my hand. And I grabbed it and put it back in the place. Without that sandwich, me and my brother Henry... it was bread with fat, I don’t know what kind of fat it was smeared on; it could be goose fat or chicken fat, whatever it is. But I hid it hard right away and me and my brother Henry survived because of that piece of bread. I wish I could find who did it. This person must have been an angel sent from heaven to save me...I am choked now from this what happened. It was unbelievable such a thing should happen.