

Hester Kool

Video Transcripts

Video 1: Hester Kool – Running Away

We had to move to Amsterdam and uh—one of my father’s sisters had room to put us up. And um—my parents of course, we didn’t have a job or anything, or my brother, uh—but I found a job working in a factory, learning how to sew. And so—and one day my parents and my brother got a notification in the mail that they had to come and go to the work camps in Germany, but I did not get the notice. So when they left, it was very difficult because I really wanted to go with them—I didn’t want to be left behind. But they said, “No, as long as you can stay, you stay.” And so I stayed and then oh—a few months later, I had a girlfriend who worked for the resistance who told me I could go into hiding, and she says to me, “I can get you into hiding, and because eventually they will get you also.” And so she got me a false passport, and I had to go on the train, and I had to meet this gentleman in a church—he was the church organist. And I guess I looked pretty good to him, and he took me home, and I stayed in his house for two and a half years.

Video 2: Hester Kool – Hiding

I got to the family there, and they had three little children—very little children. One was still in diapers, and a two and a three year old. And I was going to be like a nanny, and keep the house clean. I was very lonesome, and of course I didn’t have any family to talk to. I didn’t have any friends. I was staying in the house—I never went outside. And many, many nights I was crying upstairs in my—in my room, but there was no other choice. And they saved my life while I was staying with them. I was never really close with the people, and, but the children were very good—I like little children. And, I just had to make the best of what I had to do. I had a notebook, and so, every night I wrote something in there how unhappy I was, and that I miss my parents. Every time it was like, my parents’ birthday I kept on thinking of them and hoping that once the war is over, that I will see them again, and that is how I had to deal with it.

Video 3: Hester Kool – Possessions

As a young girl, kids have an autograph book in school and all her friends write a little poem in there, and I have also my father wrote a poem in there and my mother and my brother did. And, so that was very good. Well, somehow, I have no idea what happened to it, but after the war, somehow, I got it again. And I don’t know because I couldn’t take anything with me when I went into hiding with my name on it, but I do have it. And so—to me, this is my most precious thing that I have.

