

(7)

Bob is my artist name

Bob Denneboom
Julianaweg 50
Egmond a/d Hoef
Holland

2/15
—

4th February 1973.

Dear Mrs. Donia Rosen,

Re: Kasper Klein Jan- Holland

With reference to your letter dated 7.12.72 I am giving you herewith detailed story as required.

First of all I would like to give you the names of the three survivors, hidden with Jan Kasper Klein; my wife Roza Denneboom-Rijksman (22-08-16), under-signed Aaron ^(Bob) Denneboom (23-12-09) by profession artist, living at the address written above. We have one daughter, Therese Deborah (21-6-46). And Mr. Barend Visschoonmaker, brother of my brother in law. The last address known to me was: Duivelhofstraat 31, Bergenhout Antwerp, Belgium.

Story

We were hidden with my intimate friend Jan Kasper Klein from the end of February 1942 till February 19.44. Together with his best friend Mischa Elkan he lived at Denneweg 16 in the Hague. Mischa Elkan died some time ago in Israël, Kibboutsh Dorot-Doav-Nah-Chof. His wife is still alive and living at the same address.

The situation already described in my letter dated 27.10.72 I'll try to complete according to your requirements.

Story

I was the first person who went into hiding at Denneweg 16, ^{The Hague} actually the house was a very small one; on the first floor was a small room size 4x4 m. with a small kitchen, on the second floor same size room and a small hall, on the attic (third floor) a kind of special hiding place was created. The house was situated in a rather quiet surrounding. The lower department was a very seldom used working place of an old carpenter. No suspicion was raised that in the very same house so many people were living.

Altogether 17 hidens found shelter with Jan Klein and his friend Mischa Elkan. Mr. Elkan was a jew from Letland, however he had told the Germans that he had only two jewish grandparents, so he was not considered fully jewish, that is also the reason why he was not deported.

The responsibility of organisation was in hands of Jan Klein and the same was very beloved by his hiding friends, his nickname was "Gesjiewes". Also Mischa was a very noble minded person, but his personality was not so strong as Jan Kleins, however, his cooperation was great.

There were more confident people involved to help us, par example by providing us with food. A man from the resistance movement came also to the house. With him we felt morally supported. We do suspect him that he was the very person who betrayed us, however there is no proof and we never investigated the matter thoroughly.

The Hague
As it became too crowded at Denneweg 16 I moved to Jan Kleins mother (Mrs. C. Klein- Manherst, Den Haag-Agathastraat 43. Hiders also changed place between Denneweg and Agathastraat for variation. Neighbours never became suspicious in spite of the fact that actually 18 people were living their life. Daily it was necessary to bring a lot of bread to the house and Mr. Klein had told the neighbours that he owned a bread-crumpp factory. Distribution cards were obtained by relations of Jan Klein. Each month again tension was almost unbearable whether they would succeed to get 17 distribution cards. Never they failed.

All was going so smoothly that it was almost unbelievable, we all felt just safe by the management of Jan Klein, also we kept believing that war was going to be over soon. We never thought about possibility of betrayal.

Black Day

On February 16, 44 I had to leave for Amsterdam for a very personal reason. Jan accompanied me to the station and with great danger for my life I left for Amsterdam. Three days later Jans sister Co Wolters-Klein (she as well did much good to us) came to Amsterdam and told me the awfull message that both addresses were rolled up. We were absolutely sure that it was a case of treachery as both buildings were surrounded by police and Germans. Hiders did not even get time to fly to the underground shelter.

Survivors

Of all jews who were deported to Auschwitz my wife returned, she escaped the death by flying during a walk transport. Her story was published in a book. Also Barend Visschoonmaker returned.

Jan Klein, his mother and Mischa were deported respectavely to Dachau, Vught and Bergen-Belsen. All returned to my great releive.

Recapitulation

Jan Klein did recover quite soon, mainly because of his very strong constitution.

During many years he worked as teacher for gymnastics at Technische Hogeschool, Delft. However, he had to retire prematurely as he never recovered psychical. He is still under treatment of Dr. Cohen, Arnhem. He is suffering from a sense of guilt, probably because he had not been able to save all. Maybe his mind is tormented just because the result reached by him was not sufficient.

Once again we sincerely hope that a reward of your country may be considered. Thanking you in advance for cooperation in this matter, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

B. Denneboom

P.S

To complete the information we are giving below names of all jewish persons hidden with Jan Kasper - Klein but unfortunately did not return from Auschwitz:

- | | |
|---|--|
| My father | Joël Denneboom 25-10-83 |
| My mother | Deborah Denneboom-Gazan 25-10-86 |
| My sister | Marianne Visschoonmaker-Denneboom
21-6-08 |
| My brother in law | Philippe Visschoonmaker 27-5-11 |
| One brother of Ph. Visschoonmaker | Siemon Visschoonmaker |
| My friend | Siemon Vos 30-8-16 |
| One friend of Siemon Visschoonmaker | Manie Glasbeek |
| Miss | Pimmetje van Buuren |
| Mr. | Max van Praag |
| Lad | Jackie Zeldenrust |
| Mrs. Swaab and her ^{two} three daughters, Ellie and | |
| An old gentleman, but also his name I forgot. | |
| The mother of Ph. Visschoonmaker . . . | Mrs. Mietje Visschoonmaker |

P.S. ADDRESS: Jan Kasper Klein is now: "DE LEPERKOEN" LUNTEREN GELDERL. - HOLLAND