

The responses below were submitted by some of the readers of the Thesis concerning the Dutch migrants to Kingston.

I have included all the responses received, whether I agree with them or not. Some notes are quite general, others are quite specific. I am sure that when all the comments are weighed, an accurate picture of the situation can be resolved.

Should you wish to also make a response to what you've read, please use the 'contact us' page of the DAS website. If it aids the debate, it will be included on this page when I get around to it.

Especially helpful will be original documentation from the period - letters, diaries, photos.

There are many things not known about the Dutch migrants to Tasmania - important matters such as age, size of families, number of people each person knew, marital status, occupational skills, religion etc, let alone how they coped in the first years, how many returned to the Netherlands, when they started building their own houses, how many married non-Dutch partners.

Any contributions to the pool of knowledge gratefully received and handled with due care. especially sensitive family information. Please call me (03 6229 4272) any time if you would like to discuss any of the above.

thanks,

Kees

COMMENTS

The argument putting down the value of memories was too strong, otherwise really enjoyed it. Klaas Laning. 18/01/2006.

Had forgotten three things -:

1. the fear of the Russians. Daily aircraft movements overhead [associated with the Berlin airlift] were a constant reminder that the Russians were perceived to be aggressive and ambitious. Father said he was pleased I was leaving, that I would be far away and safe.
2. how unprepared we were. The decision was made to go, to leave, but little effort was made in gaining knowledge of destination or language skills. Did PoF in March, decided to leave in May?, got married in June, left in August, 1950.
3. how frustrated the men were. After several years underground during the war, and all the limitations of that, then three years service in Indonesia. Efforts not appreciated there, nor back in the Netherlands. Life and limb had been at risk for all those years, and time was marching on. To start fresh was not a major decision.

Found the academic presentation difficult to read, but essentially correct.

Elly Schuth. 13/01/2006.

I have read your thesis with much interest. Most of the stuff you wrote about I hardly knew about; apart from running away once, and being told "Klaar is Kees" by the people who looked after me when mum gave birth to Rex, I remember nothing about my years in Little Groningen. Maranoa Road, that's the place! That old Mr van der Laan and Eb Pinkster even existed - or for that matter, that Henk (?) Folkerts died in an accident on Bonnet Hill - didn't make into my consciousness until late puberty. I can still remember being shocked when I encountered the first Dutch migrant who was not Reformed; I was 13 at the time, I think.

I think you have done a good job of sifting through all the available information, and sorting out fact from fiction. Judging from my own experience, you tell different stories even to yourself. That's because people rarely make rational decisions, because most situations in life are too complex to oversee. Instead, we make decisions, and then rationalise them. I even have that with chess moves.

I like the ending: it's like the Acts of the Apostles, not ending with Paul's death or whatever, but with a moment which communicates that the protagonist (in that case, the early church) has arrived.

Regards,
Hans. 27/01/2006.

"Ik ben het niet met je eens dat de Groningers gingen emigreren met het doel gelijk met de Australiërs te worden. Volgens mijn mening ging jouw Vader uit Nederland weg omdat hij teleurgesteld was. Teleurgesteld omdat de mensen van de oorlog niets geleerd hadden. Wij en velen met ons hadden verwacht dat na de oorlog alles beter zou worden. Maar daar is niets van terecht gekomen. Erger nog, er was van saamhorigheid niets te vinden. Het was ieder voor zich, als ik het maar heb en er beter van kan worden. Daar komt nog bij dat jouw Vader in de oorlog ondergedoken gezeten heeft. Hij voelde zich erg in zijn vrijheid beknot. Hij zocht de vrijheid, hij ging eerst naar Arnhem terwijl er in en om Groningen ook werk genoeg was. Ook had hij genoeg van alle voorschriften en regels waar we eens aan moest houden. Daarom liet hij alles achter en vertrok naar Australië".

Janna de Jongh, 17/01/2006.

(response to mentions in family Christmas letter, i.e. before reading thesis.)

I can see that there is a lot of work in this, and think the facts back up the arguments. My wife found it difficult to read.

Jerry de Groot. 19/01/2006.

To see the history of ordinary people, the micro picture, helped me understand the big picture stuff of history.

Peter van der Schoor, 26/02/2006

The link between Jan Boot and Eerke van der Laan came about in 1949 because Jan Boot was in Twente researching for his PhD thesis into the textile industry of that province. Eerke van der Laan worked for a business that supplied sacks, a woven product, and no doubt an end user of some of the product of Twente weaving mills.

Elly Schuth, 26/03/2006

The G7 changed the name of their corporation from Tasmanian Building Corporation, when they produced the English version of their Deed of Agreement, to Australian Building Corporation. This was because, on reflection, they saw that the initials of the first, TBC, were the same as that of a virulent form of tuberculosis, a contagious disease prevalent at the time.

Geert de Haan, 26/03/2006

The only drug effective against TB in 1951/52 was streptomycin. It was expensive and availability was limited. It was thus decided [by who?] that the entire supply would be used in Tasmania. The logic was that all the patients could be treated, as opposed to some (and then who chooses?) in Melbourne or Sydney.

Betty Murrell, 9/2/2006 (head nurse, Creek Road TB Hospice, 1950+)

Thanks for the lend of your thesis. I have thoroughly enjoyed it, read all the footnotes also along the way. You have done a good job on this, I hope you are well rewarded for it. Fills in plenty of gaps for me too, and things I did not know at all also. At first I thought I could not make any comment, but after just seeing you on Saturday I read your note on p vi again and made my notes. Use whatever you want of them. I'll talk to Hillie about DAS m'ship - she may be interested.

Comment [code]: p... T(ext)L(ine); p... F(ootnote)L(ine)

p. iv Hfl. In business and finance reporting in the press, I think the reference was always Dfl.

p.7. TL4 ... ten other building companies &

p.51. TL1 was that building firms only or did it include building trade firms: electrical, plumbing, painting, etc.? If excluding, then the total of buildings and related trades firms would have been quite a lot higher with interesting effects on the local economy etc.

p.7. TL6 "local partner" Clarification: meaning Aus born, or from another migrant nationality?

p.7. F37L1 what does the first sentence 'stay at homes' mean?

L2 ration s/be 'ratio'

p.7. TL14 COMMENT - staggering proportion. You note elsewhere that the government established 300 migration (info?) offices. The pillars had migration information services e.g. Christelijke Migratie Centrale.

p.8. TL14 ... public transport replace by ... toilets (ref p.15.TL28)

p.8. F49 Mrs Dineke Laning

p.10. TL8 ... in this study - which study - generally of the subject of memories, or

Halbwach, or yours?

p.11. TL20 the G7 were the inspiration for ... I didn't realize it was so marked. Off memory the Association was formed in July 1954, I think with (a protocol and) an initial members list (still on a wall at Calvin Secondary). By then a number of migrants unconnected with the G7 were also in Kingston, equally desirous of Chr. Edn for their children. My parental family was one such. I think my brothers John and Theo and I (then 13 y.o.) are the only schoolboy members on that membership list.

p.15. F8 de Spiegel ... No.7, 14 Nov. 1953, s/be No.31, 1 May 1954, pp.28-31.

p.20. F50L7 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “

p.27. F2L4 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “

p.29. F8L3 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “

there was no advice about G7 or migration to Tas generally in no.7, so how does reference to apparent 'follow-up article' in Trouw (your p.27 and p.29) of 21 Nov. 1953 relate?

p.17. TL3 Could benefit from an explanatory note that G7 ABC was offering employment for such people and assistance with securing accommodation. As per p.47 para 2. They were in effect recruiting / sponsoring people.

p.17. TL4 and

p.17 F19L1 was that a bit derogatory to Aus & Netherlands governments goodwill? The context of F19 is more like "doesn't need to be a 'first class' carpenter, as long as he is a 'reasonable'? carpenter, etc."

p.17. TL15 By 1955 economic need might no longer have been a driving force, but prior to that it was for many Dutch migrants, I think, although not for the G7 themselves as you have noted.

p.19 TL1 ... poverty (economic need)

p.19. L15*6 would benefit from adding a comment about the emotions of desolation felt by both sides about the departure.

p.21. F53L4 ... and some of their six children.

see also Q's raised in Tasman Telegraph Dec 2005

See de Spiegel No.39, 26 Jun. 1954, pp.28-31:

* Dr Boot arrived in Aus in 1936, Tas in 1939

* all their children (in the end 8 in total) were born in Aus, NONE in Holland (so none would have been counted in the census 1947).

* Dr Boot was a Dr of Economics before leaving Holland in 1936.

They were on holidays in Holland in 1949-50 when met with the G7.

p.22. TL5 unwelcome in the Netherlands ... maybe add when they were repatriated there.

p.30. F15 8 guilders at that time, not 4. (confusion with still about 4 to \$Aus when it introduced (1966?)).

p.30 F16L8 who is Bart?

p.34. T1, para 1 and

p.48. TL 17/18 the disgust a supposed soft treatment of Nazi collaborators could be referenced at p.34. I think. I also thought that disgust was widely felt by patriotic Dutchmen. I remember hearing of it from a number of people and reading about it in, I think, the book *De Bevrijding van Groningen*.

p.36. TL4 I think the G7 reasons for sponsoring other Dutchmen was not just altruistic, which the first lines tend to indicate. The reasons included, I think, wanting workers for the G7 ABC.

- p.36. F12L3 replace 'deze' with 'zal'
- p.37. F13L11 in Snug ... maybe add 'a township 20km south of Kingston'.
The reference to 12 Feb 1967 may not be strictly relevant to vdL & P. vdL deceased 1959 and I don't know if P was still here in 1967?
- p.37. F20 ... St Johns, maybe add 'Presbyterian Church, Hobart'
- p.39. F34 I think the name was D. HARTLEY WILSON. Dick Bolt went to work for him and became a partner in due course (late 60's I think). HARTLEY WILSON & BOLT. I have a letter from Dick Bolt somewhere here on that letterhead. I think their practice was at 149 Macquarie Street.
- p.41. F44L2 ... administratieve
F44L15 ... zo gauw mogelijk naar toe
F44L16 delete last word 'on'.
- p.42. F50L1 rephrase maybe "over the next few years the most skilled of the carpenters arriving were employed in the ABC joinery factory, and Australian ...
- p.42. F51L4 I don't think Henk Sikkema was a tradesman. I think he was an extra labourer, like vdL and P. I think he had been a clerk in Holland and was back in his 'right' work on your p.51, even though he might have taken the job so he could go to university.
- p.43. TL21 delete last word 'in'.
- p.47 TL5 Netherlands s/be Netherlanders.
- p.48. TL3 ... minor reasons ... They were more significant than 'minor' indicates. Perhaps rephrase to "There were also additional reasons including perceived impression Migrants that followed the G7 left for various other reasons, possibly in addition to sharing those of the G7. Nobody left for any one reason only. Reasons ranged from a sense of adventure ...
- p.48. F1L1 delete word 'eldest'
- p.48. TL13 It is unlikely that they owned their homes. I've been to a number of locations you show on p.1. and they were rental homes owned by the (usually pillar) Building Societies rented by the occupants. Pinkster, Steen, Folkerts and Groothuis all lived within a stone's throw of each other (which I could show you on the city map). People in good positions still generally rented and there was not much individual private ownership in the cities at that time.
- p.48. TL19 THAT IS JUST AN EXCELLENT SUMMATION OF THIS UNIQUE SITUATION VERY SUCCINCT.
- p.49. TL10 I think your statement is possibly a bit slighting on the governments. As you know there were several migrant camps in NSW and VIC. Our family went to Bathurst because we had been duped by a fellow Dutchman who failed to deliver the paid for sponsoring services (acco & empl) in Melbourne. Bathurst acco was primitive, but meals were plain but good, and the weather there, in May 1951, was very salubrious.
- p.49. F6L12 Are there any other details of up to 20%. Surely not of the total population of Tas born? What was it, a certain age cohort - young people?
- p.50. F15L1 'criteria' s/be 'criterion'
- p.51. F18L1 I think there was at least a tacit agreement of minimum 12 months. It is possible that RO Doedens' leaving at 9 months was with some friction. KR Groothuis worked his 12 months, and left on the day of that.

Andrew Van Der Schoor, 27/03/06

From:
"Robert Boot" <robert_boot@hotmail.com>

To:
kmww@postoffice.utas.edu.au

Date:
Sat, 01 Apr 2006 17:22:48 +1100

Subject:
RE: Your enquiry
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Hallo Kees,

My recollection of the cause of my father's interest in the twentsetextielgeschiedenis is that he was working voor the textile industry in Almelo (Twenthe) after he finished uni. He was fascinated by Twenthe and its people. I know of no other cause. The more he researched, the more his interest flourished.

I don't know where the family lived in Beilen in '49-'50, but a subsequent visit by the whole family in 1956 had us again living at Beilen, firstly staying with my late mother's sister and her husband (he was the superintendent of the local lunatic asylum). I have the exact address somewhere but, as i mentioned previously, Annette and I are living out of boxes at present and I can't find a thing. Hopefully by the end of this year, I can start unpacking in our own, new home.

Thank you for your condolences. His death was not a shock as he had been declining rapidly of late. We are grateful that he died peacefully from a surfeit of years and did not succumb due to illness.

Hartelijke groeten,

Robert.

From: kmww@postoffice.utas.edu.au
>Reply-To: kmww@postoffice.utas.edu.au
>To: robert_boot@hotmail.com
>Subject: Your dad
>Date: Sat, 01 Apr 2006 17:00:17 +1100

>

>Hi Robert,

>

>First, my condolences on the passing of your father. He sure left a mighty legacy, and much work for historians to do. From what I've read, his contribution to Tasmanian development, culture and history was more than most migrants managed.

>

>On the same day as your last email, I rec'd another from Kusha Bolt. She notes that your father rented a house in Beilen from her father in 1949-50. What remains unclear is how the link was made - through his research into the textile industry? friends of friends? the only vacant house (big enough for your family) to let in Holland at that time? Perhaps your eldest siblings remember something?

>

>That's quite a treasure trove of books and stuff that went to Enschede. Not a wonder that the room in 'Meyendell' which house much of it was constructed of solid concrete. I shall put Enschede on my list of 'must see next time in Holland'.

An uncle of my wife was an authority on traditional costumes, but he

>unfortunately died in a car crash some years ago. The only thing I really gathered from him, 'cos the subject didn't interest me much, was that the costumes were nominated by the tax farmers (just like in ancient Rome, as also described in the New Testament) in days of old. They were a sort of uniform, so he could tell who belonged in his parish, but also so that his subjects didn't fritter their money on fancy clothes and so could afford to pay more tax!

>

>My arithmetic was a bit off the other day, as was my reading of the article in de Spiegel. You do get a mention after all, not by name but that there were 8 children in the family. Not much of a claim to fame, I'm afraid. Anyway, I'm a bit behind you after all - I was born in the Queen Alex in Battery Point on 5 Feb 1954.

>

>AOTM = Australia on the Map. It celebrates the fact that it is now 400 years since Europeans first began charting the Australian coast line. (that this was mostly accidental is incidental) There are all sorts of events all over Australia to mark the occasion, one of which will be next weekend in Triabunna, another, we hope, at the end of November in Kingston and Dunally.

>

>That'll do for now, de groeten van Kees.

A very interesting read. Thanks.

Adriana Hall 26/04/06

From:

"Henk Sikkema" <hsikkema@datacodsl.com>

To:

<kmww@postoffice.utas.edu.au>

Date:

Wed, 03 May 2006 17:10:55 +1000

Subject:

G7 story.

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Hi Kees

Thanks for sending me your magnus opus on the G7 - what a monumental piece

of work - must have kept you busy for quite some time. . To a person like me who was so closely associated with it all (and from the beginning) it made interesting reading. To others though there may be too much detail the relevance of which may not always be obvious? You won't mind me saying this - after all you asked for my comments etc.

I am surprised that so much source material is still available e.g. all the ABC letters. You certainly went through it all with a fine-toothed comb and plus all the other publications you consulted gives an overall impression that you have produced a thoroughly researched piece of work. I trust it was accepted by the powers that be as being of honours standard? I wonder how they coped with the Dutch in some of the footnotes?

Allow me some nit picking comments:-

p1 - you describe Fokke Haan as a 'manufacturer' - more accurately, he had a laundry business which he advertised with the slogan "geeft voortaan uw was aan Haan".

p7 -n 37male female 'ratio'... I suggest

p11 - you make the assertion that "the G7 were the inspiration for the the Christian Parent-Controlled School Association in Australia" I think this overstates matters somewhat. The Calvin Christian School Association (if that was its proper name) was formed at a time when there was already a sizable Dutch community in Kingston i.e. the impetus for a Christian school came from that community rather than from just the G7?

p21 -n53 - you count Gerard Rhee's wife amongst the 13 Dutch born individuals in Tasmania in 1947 - actually she was a 'local' girl -certainly not Dutch born .

p23-26 - you discuss the importance of the Calvinistic world-view of the G7 - true enough for most of them but I wonder whether Tom Steen would have recognised himself being characterised in those terms. The G7 attracted many other likeminded people (not necessarily as a deliberate policy but more as the result of a natural process) and recruited tradesmen from amongst them. They had the same church background by and large. They also shared a common lifestyle including e.g. prayer before meals - I can still visualise a lunchbreak on one of the early ABC construction jobs (a new wing to the Clarendon Children's Home) when all the workers (probably some 10 to 15 or so -your dad included) seated themselves on the floor of the verandah observing a moment's silence before getting stuck into their sandwiches.

p37 -n13 - you speculate that on Sunday 11 June (1950) the scouts if they had been in Hobart at that time they would have been in contact with Dr. Boot and Rhee and gone to church with them.....
However -a- the Boot family was still in Holland at that time and -b- the

Boots and the Rhees were not church going types.

p37 -n17 - Dr. Boot and Gerard Rhee had a house each on the same property in Taroona. The Boot's house was called Meyendel(I?) and the scouts 'lived' there for a while as it was unoccupied (see fn 13 above) rather than with the Rhees (if my memory serves me right).

p37 -n22- The G7 certainly were not averse to alcohol. Piet Laning whom you describe as a 'representative' on p 1 was a sales representative for Heineken's and I attended a number of planning meetings/social occasions of the G7 in Holland prior to their emigration (I was a frequent visitor at the van der Laan's place there as a close friend of Guusje (Kusha) vd Laan.) where no inhibitions to alcoholic beverages were on display. Also in Tasmania after the first families had arrived, the Saturday evening get-togethers were very happy occasions. I shall never forget my first (and last) hangover experience.

p38 -n26- About calling Tasmania 'home' - by contrast the following: after a year or two in Tasmania Gilbert van Munster and I did a bit of a trip around the island and we got talking to a woman somewhere - towards the end of the conversation in the best English we could manage at the time she enquired 'when are you going home' and we said 'next week' - 'really' she said 'all the way back to Holland?'

p42 -n51- 'The four men were tradesmen' - only Jetze Schuth (carpenter) and Reg Doedens (plumber/electrician) were - my brother Wim had no building experience whatsoever (liked tinkering with motor cars and prior to his migration was employed in our family business as a storeman) and I had just finished high school but we were considered usable as labourers.

p45 'The G7 were in a position to sponsor migrants....' The Reformed Church after it was established was also in the sponsoring business. I served on its first sponsoring committee with i.a. your father -he was the treasurer and I recall one particular meeting when in reporting on the committee's finances he produced a little cigarette tin in which he kept 'all' our money and I commented that that represented real progress since earlier accommodating all our funds in a matchbox (ha ha).

p45 -n66- 'The first major job.....' I don't know how you define 'major' but the ABC's first (outside) job was building an extension to the Kingston Primary School in Hutchins Street. The G7 probably would have considered this a major job - it certainly was a very profitable one - tenders for it had been called a number of times without attracting any - the G7 knew this and factored it into the price they submitted!

p46 -n73- 'Better painter than a priest' reminds me of another comment about a preacher on another occasion: we attended the St. John's Presbyteruan Church service one Sunday and the guest preacher was the Moderator (of the state of Victoria) or possibly the Mederator General (of Australia) , in any

case one of the church's bigwigs and as was the custom after the service stood at the door to shake hands with everybody - when it was vdLaan's turn he said (in the bluntest possible Dutch fashion): 'you are a good story teller but a bad preacher'.

p46 -n74- re holding services in the C of E building - we actually had Presb. church services in a little clubhouse on the oval behind the Kingston community hall.

p48 -n1- '.....eldest son of vdLaan...' There was only one son in the family.

So these are some of the nits I enjoyed picking. Hope you do too. Actually it would be nice meeting you (again) one day. So if ever you find yourself in Melbourne.....? I still have a bit of a photo collection about the early days you might like to see. I find it fascinating that a second generation migrant like you still has an interest in our early history. Did you learn Dutch in the process? Well done and congratulations.

Henk Sikkema

05/05/06

Hi Henk,

It is my plan to rewrite my thesis for the general reader, corrected for the comments I have been generously given. There is, however, no time frame yet. As far as I can gather, the examiners ignored the Dutch in my thesis. Two were enthusiastic in their marking, one marked me down, so I was given upper second class honours. This cut me out as far as scholarship for further study was concerned, which didn't stop the uni from inviting me to continue! Now I can continue informally and thus unconstrained by the ethics committee.

At the moment am exploring some other questions. These include -
a/ the origins of the Reformed Church in Tasmania - the account by Robert van Zetten in "A Church En Route" is far from satisfactory.
b/ linked with this will be some study of the events in Penguin. Additionally, there also, a group of migrants put a building company together in Holland, sent de Vries on ahead, who bought seven adjacent blocks, etc. = similar establishment pattern to Kingston. This will be a compare and contrast exercise, which will shed light on both.
c/ a Q you maybe able to help with - when Boot talked to the G7, he was renting a house in Beilen. This house was partly owned by vd Laan. What we are trying to establish is - how did Boot get hold of this house - friends of friends? his study into the textile industry of Twente and the zakkenhandel that vdL was involved in? the only house in Holland with room for all his family AND available for rent? We know that Boot went from Beilen to Groningen to address the G7, but the Q is,

how did he get to Beilen in the first place? Let alone the dates.

Since writing my thesis I have discovered not only that Margaret Rhee is a local girl, she's a sprightly 85 y.o. living in Huonville, and full of stories about those early days.

Freddie and Elsje Steen assured me early this year that their father, among other things, couldn't stand controversy, esp. in relation to religious matters, and was quite happy to be a member of the Presbyterians.

I have discovered, this year, that the Boots and Rhees were not church going types, as you note. There is a ref. in the ABC letters that Rhee took vdL & P to the Taroona Presb. Margaret was a bit vague about the scouts living with her, so your explanation makes sense. Maybe they moved to K Beach 'cos Boot came back?

Q - concerning the planning meetings / social occasions of the G7 in Groningen - do you have any papers at all? photos? memories? Whatever you have will enrich Guusje's book, and my understanding and ultimate book.

Considering your labourer status, do I guess you emigrated less for reasons of principle or prospects or fear of Russians or lack of employment/housing and more from a sense of adventure? (=about half of all migrants)

Although I have yet to exhaust the possibilities, I have not yet found any records of the migrant sponsoring committee. I hope they are not lost.

It seems that the ABC was quite profitable early on, and some of these profits were spent on cars. Have yet to find a source of documents about the jobs the ABC did - only have snippets and hearsay so far.

I wonder if that comment by vdL to the Moderator was that Sunday in November 1951 ? Reg and Aart remember the Moderator preaching on that Sunday, with the text on David and Absalom (OT) and Paul being accepted by the disciples after his conversion (NT) - the message being that we should be tolerant of one another.

I learnt Dutch before I embarked on this journey - in fact I think it's my mother tongue, although I misplaced it for a while. Going over there and having BVN helps to keep it current. This year I had my Dutch citizenship restored, mostly for the sake of my children, 'cos it gives them unrestrained access to the EU.

I look forward to hearing from you again sometime.

Kees Wierenga.

From: "Dianne" <sunsett@zonnet.nl>
To: <kmww@postoffice.utas.edu.au>
Date: Tue, 04 Mar 2008 8:43:10 +1000
Subject: Re: Dianne Meindertsma,Holland

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Dear Kees

Great to have contact with you and Yes,Guus and Dirk Bolt have been here last week and spoke to Jeroen Onderwater.

We,as in the Abel Tasman Commity got a email from Jeroen that he had spoken to Guus and Dirk Bolt and that they are writing a book,in Dutch on the same subject as your thesis.

He did`nt explain anymore but I have read your thesis and found it very interesting,also as you explained in the car that day that there were different factors for the Big Migration Gulf as they call it here, in Dutch of course.

Made me think of my fathers diary which he wrote on the 4 weeks that it took us by boat from Holland to Sydney.

He wrote it in dutch of course and my sister translated it in english years later and I have both.

His religion,Gereformeerd was so strong combined with the factor of The Cold War Threat and the program of migration,as you stated in your thesis Holland having 300 migration offices then, was ,Holland is too full.

He, like so many people in the top of Groningen and Friesland had people hiding in the farm sheds,under the hay bales where tunnels were made to hide them,including Mum`s 2 younger brothers and Dad`s 2 younger brothers + what came dropping in for food or shelter but he did not work as you call it in your thesis,underground

It confirmed a lot of things that my father wrote at the time or makes me understand it a little better, only he did`nt know like so many at the time that this was also a "Beleid van Drees"and of the Government at that time and the housing problem.

I do remember that they had other Dutch visitors from the Dutch Reformed Church,Blacktown were we went also and the visitors,at the time were angry and felt cheated when this became known.

Because I worked on the farm with Dad from the age of 14 yrs,heard some of the discussions between them.

I came back to Holland for the 1st time in 1980,left in March1955 and read newspapers here and was reading about all those refuges coming into Holland and could`nt understand how that could be, keeping in mind that Dad had past away in 1970 and the subject of Holland or migration was not allowed to be discused at home by Mum.

Also coming back to live in Holland heard about the shortage of labor/workers and that Holland 10 years after the Migration Gulf had to bring people/workers in from different countries to do the labour here because there was a shortage of them.

This made me search for answers and I found most of them.

Even received a booklet from someone who had received it from the Government/migration office as to what was going in Australia regarding wages and work and living conditions for migration purposes but they never migrated.

Must end now,its bedtime.

Hope to hear from you again,

Take care, regards to your wife, Irene
Dianne Meindertsma

----- Original Message -----

From: <kmww@postoffice.utas.edu.au>
To: <sunsett@zonnet.nl>
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2008 10:08 PM
Subject: Re: Dianne Meindertsma, Holland

> Dear Dianne,
>
> YES, it is still the same.
>
> TWO - you should have had two visitors from Scotland in your town during
> the past week, Guus en Dirk Bolt. She is the daughter of Eerke vd Laan,
> and is writing a book on the history of the Aust. Building Corp.
>
> THREE - I remember you well, but in three years time you'll probably look
> different when Irene & I come over - doesn't matter, I'll remember your
> voice.
>
> I look forward to hearing from you.
> de groeten van Kees.
>
> =====Original message text=====
> On Mon, 03 Mar 2008 22:08:23 +1000 "Dianne" wrote:
>
> Dear Kees Wierenga
> I first wanted to check if your email address is still the same as the
> year of your thesis, 2005.
> When I hear from you via email will communicate with you.
> Was of the party from Grootegast Council ,Holland.
> I sat with you in the car that day, with my blue/black eye after visiting
> the doctor.
> Yours sincerely
> Dianne Meindertsma=====End of original message text=====

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