

HESTER KOOL

Survivor Voices: Online Video Testimonies (3 short clips)

CLIP 1: Going into Hiding

So we had to move to Amsterdam. And one of my father's sisters had room to put us up. And my parents of course didn't have a job or anything or my brother – but I found a job working at a factory learning how to sew. And so – 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 – that 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 they eventually will get you also – and so she got me a false passport. And I had to go on the train. And um, 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 at his house for 2 and a half years.

CLIP 2: Loneliness

I got to the family there. And they had three little children. Very little children. One was still in diapers and a 2 and a three year old. I was going to be like a nanny and keep the house clean.

I was very lonesome and of course I didn't have 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 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 uh, but the children were very good. I liked the little children and uh I just had to make the best of what I had to do.

I had a notebook and so every night and, so I wrote something in there how unhappy I was and that I missed 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.

CLIP 3: My Most Precious Thing

As a young girl, uh kids have autograph book in school and all of their friends write a little poem in there. I have also my father wrote a poem in there and my mother and my brother did. And uh so that was very good. 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 read this as my most precious thing that I have.