

Letter from Henry Rodrigues to Yad Vashem
Department for the Righteous
March 10, 1986

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Tel.: (718)471-4425

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Yad Vashem
Har Hazikaron
Jerusalem, Israel

Att: Dr. Mordecai Paldiel
Director
Department for the Righteous

Dear Dr. Paldiel,

I request that the following people be properly honored at the Yad Vashem memorial because they saved both my sister's and my own lives during the Holocaust:

1. Miss Grietje Bogaards
Place of residence: Gemeneuweg no. 7, Hazerswoude, Netherlands
Born at the above-mentioned address on February 2, 1899
Died in Leidendorp on July 17, 1964
2. Mrs. Aartje Ketel, born Bogaards, place of residence: Hooftstraat, Alphen a/d Rijn
(sister of the above-mentioned Miss Grietje Bogaards)
Born in Hazerswoude, Netherlands on August 9, 1892
Died in Alphen a/d Rijn on June 22, 1970
3. Mr. Jan van Rosendaal
Place of Residence: Van Hemessekade, Woubrugge, Netherlands
Born on October 3, 1880 at Krabbendijke
Died on January 25, 1948 at Woubrugge
4. Mrs. Bastiaantje Van Rosendaal, born De Boon (wife of Mr. Jan van Rosendaal)
Place of residence: Same as above
Born December 27, 1882 at Hardinxveld
Died on October 13, 1966 at Voorschoten
5. Miss ^{DIETJE} Van Rosendaal (daughter of Jan and Bastiaantje Van Rosendaal)
Presently living at Van Hemessekade 21, Woubrugge 2481 BG, Netherlands
Telephone: (01729) 8472.
6. Mrs. ^{DIETANILLA} (Nel) Pasveer, born Van Rosendaal (daughter of Jan and Bastiaantje Van Rosendaal)
Presently living at Amstelkade 24, Woerdenseverlaat, Netherlands

My name is Henry Rodrigues. At present I reside at 210 Beach 17th Street, Far Rockaway, New York 11691, telephone: (718) 471-4425. I am married to Renee Rodrigues, born Dubinsky, and I have two children namely Albert Joseph Rodrigues, my son, age 30 and my daughter Lea Tannenbaum, age 27.

I was born in Amsterdam, Holland on March 11, 1930. My parents were Abraham Rodrigues, born in Amsterdam on July 25, 1900 and Lea Rodrigues-Coopman, also born in Amsterdam on June 19, 1901. My sister, Elisabeth Cassuto-Rodrigues, was born in Amsterdam on April 23, 1931 and passed away in Baltimore, Maryland on May 5th, 1984. Both my sister and I are survivors of the Holocaust. Both my sister's life as well as my own were saved by the persons mentioned earlier in my letter.

Since my sister passed away and is therefore no longer able to bear witness, I want to give the following brief testimony on her behalf:

On November 15, 1942, my family consisting of my father, mother, sister and myself went into hiding. Our first hiding place was in the small town of Huizen, approximately 30 miles southeast of Amsterdam. My father had made the required contact and arrangements. All of us stayed at this first hiding place until the summer of 1943. We spent the summer of 1943 at a home which my father had rented in the town of Garderen in the province of Gelderland. By "we" I mean my sister and myself, our parents remained at the first hiding place. My sister and I were cared for by two women who would play a major part in the rescue of my own life later in the war. These women are persons numbers 5 and 6 at the beginning of my letter. After the summer, my sister went to live with Miss Grietje Bogaards at Gemeneweg no. 7 in the town of Hazerswoude. My sister remained there until the end of the war except for a very brief period in December 1943/January 1944 when she had to stay somewhere else because my parents had been betrayed and arrested by the Germans.

Miss Grietje Bogaards is without any doubt the person who saved my sister's life. She cared for her like she was her own daughter. She clothed her, fed her, sheltered her and while doing so risked her own life every day she was hiding my sister. For this she might have received some remuneration from my father in the beginning. But certainly once my parents were gone, she continued taking care of my sister without any remuneration. I am convinced that she did it strictly for humanitarian and religious reasons. My sister moved about Hazerswoude comparatively freely. She even attended the local parochial school for a while. She lived there under the false name of Van Tol, the assumed name my father and mother had on their own falsified identify cards. Miss Bogaards became my sister's stepmother and was always lovingly referred to as "Tante (Aunt)" Grie. This relationship continued after the war was over and until Miss Bogaards passed away in 1964. If anyone must be honored as a righteous person, it is "Tante" Grie Bogaards.

As for myself, the chain of events is the same up to and including the summer of 1943. After the summer came to an end, I was brought to the home of Mrs. Aartje Ketel (person no. 2 mentioned in my letter). The family Ketel owned a textile store located on the Hoofstraat in the city of Alphen a/d Rijn. Mrs. Ketel was a sister of Miss Grietje Bogaards. I lived with her and her family until December 1943. They also sheltered me, fed me and hid me from