

A World War II Timeline

A Perspective from within The Netherlands

Compiled by Jo Kruithof - December 2004



01

12 April 1945

Canadian troops liberate the town of Steenwijk, where I was staying with my family at the time I was six years old then.

A World War II Timeline

a Perspective from within The Netherlands

INTRODUCTION

This document is based entirely on information and pictures found on the Internet. It is a brief illustrated timeline of the events of World War 2, as seen from within the Netherlands. When I first came across a basic timeline on the (Dutch) web site <http://hetillegaleparool.nl>, it occurred to me that, if I ever got around to writing up my life's story, this would paint a good picture of the background against which I lived my first six years. However, before it would be any use to my descendants, I would either have to translate it, or find an alternative in the English language. Any writings presenting the unique view of the war by Dutch people living in the Netherlands is much more likely to be in Dutch than in English (and a quick scan of the Net supported this notion), so I decided on the translation option.

In the process of checking out a few facts, events and names, I came across large amounts of other material, but I have only used those bits and pieces that helped to flesh out my timeline into a record that can be read and understood by those who weren't there or who haven't heard the stories from parents or older relatives.

The original timeline was more or less a day-by-day diary. To improve the flow, I have simplified it by making it a month-by-month record, with the exception of a few particularly eventful months. On the other hand, I have added a number of illustrations to help bring the narrative to life.

At the end of the war I was 6 years old, so I do have some memories of the later years. I have not included those - I will write about them elsewhere. And when I do, I hope that the present offering will help to make them more meaningful.

1940



02

4 April 1940 - Queen Wilhelmina inspects the 1st Squadron of the 3-3-Hussars Regiment. The bicycles are a fair indication of the state of the Netherlands army at the time.

10 May 1940:



03 - Invasion

In the early morning Germany invades The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg. Airfields are bombed and paratroops land on airfields and near strategic bridges in the Western Netherlands. The Dutch government interns Germans and members of the Dutch Nazi Party ("Nationaal Socialistische Beweging" or NSB). Queen Wilhelmina condemns the German invasion and despatches a senior minister to London to request assistance.

12 May 1940:

The strategically important City of Breda is evacuated - some 50,000 citizens leave on their way to Amsterdam. Princes Juliana, her husband Prince Bernhard, and their two infant daughters Beatrix and Irene leave for England. Princess Juliana and her daughters would move to Canada in 1942, whilst Prince Bernhard would continue to spend most of his time in London, assisting the Queen and the government-in-exile.

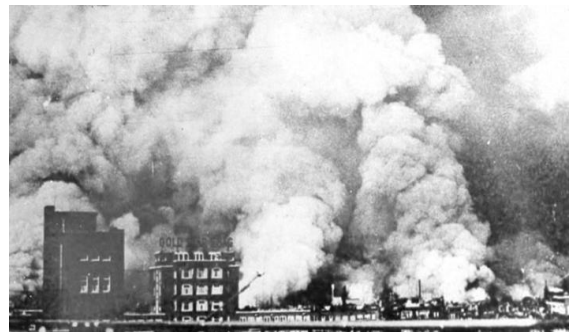
13 May 1940:

Queen Wilhelmina moves to London. Many Dutch people feel they have been abandoned. Her cabinet, led by Prime Minister Gerbrandy, follows later that same day. They would reside in London for the rest of the war.

As German troops advance further, they encounter fierce, but short-lived resistance at Grebbeberg (in the Eastern part of the province of Utrecht) and at Kornwerderzand (near the Friesian end of the Enclosure Dyke).

14 May 1940:

A supposed letter from Queen Wilhelmina offering capitulation has not been received or is ignored, and a large flight of German aeroplanes bombs Rotterdam. Within minutes the whole City centre is ablaze. At least 900 people die and 24,000 homes are destroyed.



04 - Rotterdam burns

05 - Rotterdam:
the "City without a heart"**15 May 1940:**

When the Germans threaten to mete out the same treatment to the city of Utrecht, The Netherlands capitulates formally (although fighting in some areas would continue for two more days).

16 May 1940:

The invaders take control of the Netherlands Press Bureau and of the various broadcasting organisations.

17 May 1940:

As armed resistance still continues in the province of Zeeland, the Germans bomb the city of Middelburg, causing heavy damage. The day becomes known as Frightful Friday ("Vreselijke Vrijdag"). This marks the end of the fighting war - it had lasted just seven days.



06 - Frightful Friday

19 May 1940:

07

Arthur Seyss-Inquart

Hitler appoints Arthur Seyss-Inquart, an Austrian-born Nazi official, as Reichs Commissioner for The Netherlands. The objective is to install a civilian government, rather than a military one.

During the rest of May 1940:

The first issue of "Volk en Vaderland" (The People and the Fatherland) is distributed. This was to be the official news weekly of the Dutch Nazi Party (the NSB). Although going back to 1933, this was the first issue under its new, greatly enhanced status. Also making its appearance was "De Weg" (The Way), a weekly publication of the National Front, a strongly right-wing, even fascist, movement, but distinguished from the National Socialists by being fiercely Netherlands-centred.

The Department of Social Services orders that job seekers can be offered positions in Germany and that those who refuse will no longer receive unemployment benefits. Hitler decrees the formation of a Dutch division of the SS.

Government of the Netherlands is formally transferred to Seyss-Inquart and Christiaansen, the commander of the German armed forces in the Netherlands. Seyss-Inquart is officially installed as “Reichs commissioner for the occupied Netherlands Territories” in the Knights Hall in The Hague. He solemnly promises to respect the rights of the Dutch people. As a gesture of goodwill, Dutch prisoners of war, taken captive earlier in the month, are set free.

June 1940:

Rationing of foodstuffs is introduced. The first items affected are coffee, tea, bread, and flour.

More first issues of new publications appear. First The German Times in The Netherlands (“Die Deutsche Zeitung in den Niederlanden”), then the Digest of Regulations for the occupied Dutch Territories (“Het verordeningenblad voor het bezette Nederlandsche gebied”). This latter was to be used to record and publicise all regulations and measures introduced by the new order. Also making its first appearance is a circular of the Advisory Board for the Dutch Press (“Raad van Voorlichting der Nederlandsche Pers”).

Seyss-Inquart formally meets for the first time with Anton Mussert, head of the Dutch Nazi Party, the NSB. He urges him to strengthen the Party and to do whatever he can to win the Dutch population over to National Socialism.



08

A later issue of “Volk en Vaderland” with a picture of Mussolini



09

Anton Mussert

Work starts on the building of German airfields.

Seyss-Inquart suspends the remaining activities of Dutch parliamentary bodies. Three prominent politicians form the Triumvirate of the Netherlands Union (“Driemanschap van de Nederlandsche Unie”). This is a moderate right-wing movement dedicated to building a new Netherlands, but rather accommodating towards the National Socialists and the German occupation. They would become progressively less accommodating and will eventually be banned.

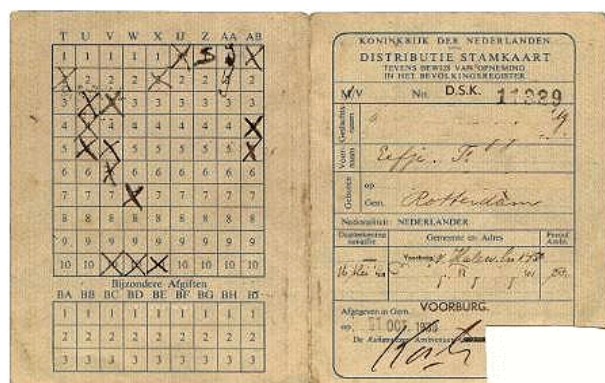
The various protestant denominations in Holland and Belgium agree on a policy of co-operation with each other.

On the 29th, there are widespread demonstrations on the occasion of “Carnation Day” - Prince Bernhard’s 29th birthday.

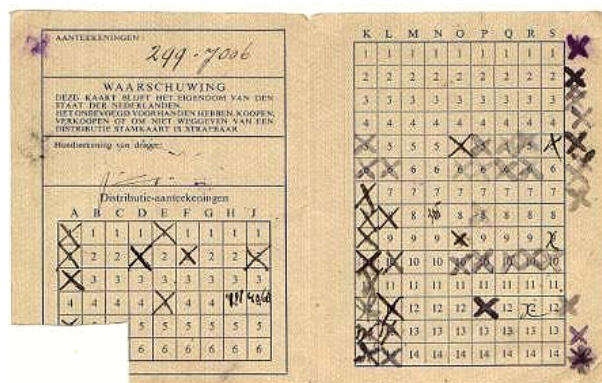
July 1940:

The Mayor of The Hague is dismissed as a consequence of the Carnation Day demonstrations.

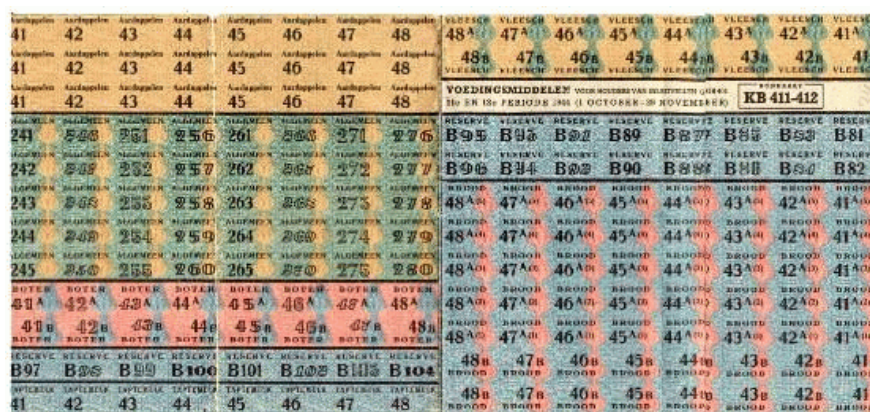
Butter, margarine, cooking fats and oils, rice, cornflour, vermicelli, and footwear are rationed.



10 - Ration card - front



11 - Ration card - back



12 - Sheet of ration coupons

The first antisemitic measures are announced: Jews are no longer permitted to serve as air raid wardens, and Jews resident in the Netherlands are no longer allowed to work in Germany.

Seyss-Inquart outlaws the CPN (Netherlands Communist Party). It re-organises its leadership and begins to play an active part in the resistance movement. General Winkelman, supreme commander of the Dutch armed forces at the time of the capitulation and outspoken critic of the occupation, is arrested. He would survive as a prisoner of war until freed by the Russians in May 1945.

Listening to (and/or spreading messages from) radio stations other than Dutch and German ones is prohibited. Professional soldiers are required to swear an affidavit declaring, amongst other things, that they will not do anything, either by commission or omission, that will cause damage of any kind to the German Reich.

A number of measures are put in place to consolidate control: The “Opbouwdienst” is created - an organisation for the indoctrination of young people. Another new organisation is the National commission for economic co-operation (“Nationaal Comité voor Economische Samenwerking”). It incorporates most of the existing economic organisations and has as purpose “the facilitation of contact with the authorities and to provide urgently needed economic leadership”. Two prominent labour unions (the Christian Netherlands Union and the Roman Catholic Employees’ Union) have German “controllers” installed. An NSB functionary is appointed as commissioner for the NVV (Netherlands Association of Labour Unions). Another is appointed commissioner for Marxist activities.



13

Queen Wilhelmina broadcasts
on Radio Oranje

Queen Wilhelmina addresses her people in the first transmission of “Radio Oranje” from London.

Mussert meets with Heinrich Himmler for the first time.

August 1940:

Rationing of soap and textiles is introduced.

Seyss-Inquart assumes the authority for hiring and firing over a broad range of government functions. First issues appear of the (legal) weekly of the Netherlands Union and the (illegal) newspaper “Vrij Nederland” (The Free Netherlands).

Formation of the OD (“Ordedienst”), an organisation to prevent a left-wing revolution when the war is over.

NSB chief Mussert writes a note to Hitler in which he suggests the formation of a League of German Nations, with The Netherlands as one of its members.

The first secret agent is air-dropped into Holland from England.

Relatively quiet demonstrations take place on the Queen’s 60th birthday (31 August).

September 1940:

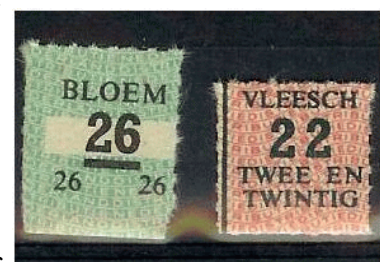
Mussert writes Hitler again, promising to execute all his orders without question. He creates the Dutch branch of the SS and, later in the month, has his first audience with the Führer in Berlin.

A notable WA-man is shot dead during riots in The Hague. The WA (“Weerafdeling”) was the “physical” arm of the NSB. A 22:00 to 4:00 curfew is introduced in the coastal regions.

Meat and meat products are rationed and the price of petrol is increased nearly ninefold - from 1.75 to 15.5 cents a litre.

Jews are excluded from markets in Amsterdam, all organisations without a specific economic purpose must be registered, and the first NSB-burgomasters are appointed.

As a measure to control the arts, a first gathering is held of the “Netherlands Culture Circle”, under a Nazi-friendly academic. Its terms of reference are based on *“the conviction that a new order and a new rhythm have announced themselves in Europe”*.



14

Flour & Meat coupons

A circular is sent to all local government bodies, defining a Jew as “someone with one Jewish grandparent who has been a member of the Jewish community”.

October 1940:

Everyone has to carry some kind of personal identification (passport or ration card with photograph). Later in the month a decision is made to introduce special personal ID cards.

All government institutions, including schools, receive a circular requiring them to declare any Jewish personnel. Within days, the so-called Aryan Declaration is circulated. This is a declaration, to be completed by all Government employees, stating that neither the person him/herself, nor their partners, parents, or grandparents have ever been members of the Jewish religious community. A few weeks later, this leads to the first formal church-led reaction when a letter of protest is read from the pulpits of the Netherlands Reformed Church.

Coal, peat and cheese are added to the list of rationed goods.

The first issue of the illegal news sheet "De Geus" appears.

Jewish businesses are ordered to register with the Economic Investigation Bureau ("Wirtschaftsprüfstelle"). The order includes the definition that a Jew is anyone who has two Jewish grandparents. Representatives of a number of protestant churches deliver a protest to Seyss-Inquart against the announced exclusion of Jewish civil servants.

Winterhulp Nederland (WHN) is founded. Ostensibly an organisation to gather funds (via collections, concerts, lotteries, etc) to assist those in need, it is widely (and accurately) seen as a Nazi front for siphoning money and goods from the Netherlands into Germany (or private Nazi pockets). Another special organisation is formed to reorganise trade and industry.

November 1940:

Eggs, cakes, pastry, barley and legumes are rationed.

Regional employment bureaus are set up. Jews are dismissed from all government employment.

Students at Delft University conduct a general strike in protest against the dismissal of three Jewish professors. A few days later, students at Leiden University also protest against the sacking of a Jewish professor. As a result, both Delft and Leiden Universities are closed indefinitely. The first issue of "De Waarheid" (Truth) appears - this is the illegal newspaper of the illegal Dutch Communist Party. It carries an editorial against both German and English imperialism.

Two more ideological controlling bodies are created: the Department of Enlightenment and the Arts ("Departement van Volksvoorlichting en Kunsten" or DVK), and the Department of Education, Science and Cultural protection ("Departement van Opvoeding, Wetenschap en Cultuurbescherming" or DOWC)".

Model A

De ondergeteekende.
betrekking
van beroep _____)

geboren den _____ **te** _____)

wonende te _____)

verklaart, dat naar zijn/haar beste weten noch hijzelf/zijzelf, noch zijn/haar echtgenoot(e) (verloofde), noch een zijner/harer (hunner beiden) ouders of grootouders ooit heeft behoord tot de joodsche geloofsgemeenschap.

Den/Der ondergeteekende is bekend, dat hij/zij zich in geval vorenstaande verklaring niet juist blijkt te zijn aan onmiddellijk ontslag blootstelt.

_____)

_____)

15 - Aryan Declaration Form

December 1940:

As a reaction against increasing discrimination, the Jewish community creates the Jewish Co-ordination Commission, to advise Jews and to represent their interests to the authorities.

A Nazi-sympathiser is appointed to the newly created position of Deputy for the Amalgamation of Broadcasting Societies. (At that time, and for a long time after the war, there were a variety of broadcasting societies who hired blocks of time on the few available radio stations).

Gas and electricity are rationed.

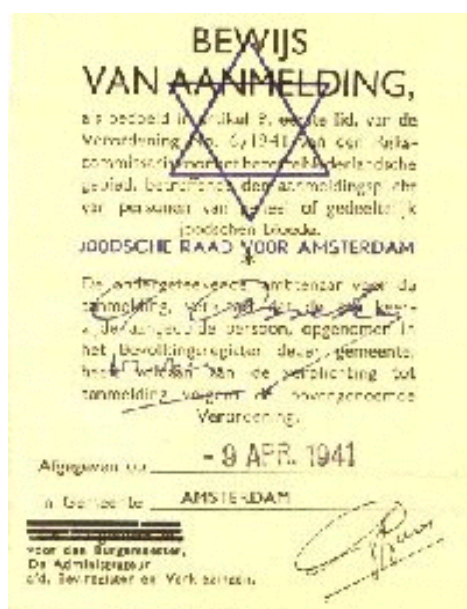
Germans are no longer permitted to work in Jewish households. They are given one month to wind up any existing service agreements.

1941

January 1941

First issue of the illegal news sheet “De Vonk” (The Spark).

A compulsory licence fee is introduced for owners of radio sets. The government announces its decision to take full control of prices.



16

Jewish Registration certificate

Seyss-Inquart decrees the registration of all Jews and persons with Jewish blood. The Netherlands Cinematic Union decides to ban Jews from attending cinemas.

Start of the so-called English “V-action”, via a French broadcast of the BBC.

An episcopal pastoral letter against the NSB is read from pulpits in Catholic Churches - Catholics are prohibited from being NSB members.

February 1941

Medical doctors are compelled to declare whether or not they are Jewish. The first issue of “Het Parool” hits the streets. (This was to be a highly influential newspaper of the resistance throughout the war and went on to become a major Amsterdam-based newspaper which still exists.)

There are riots in the Jewish quarter of Amsterdam - a member of the WA is killed by a Jewish strong-arm group. Measures are introduced to curtail the activities of Jewish students. The so-called “Jewish Corner” in Amsterdam is closed off.

The Jewish Council for Amsterdam (“Joodsche Raad voor Amsterdam”) is formed. It consists of prominent members of the Jewish community, who basically find themselves between a rock and a hard place. They are expected to co-operate with the authorities and eventually would advise on who should be deported and who could stay. On the other hand, they see themselves as a moderating influence, without which the Jewish community would be totally ‘fair game’ for the Nazis.

Mussert calls on the Dutch to take up service with the Waffen SS. In any case, all professional officers must report for possible duty.

Unrest grows, especially in Amsterdam. Metal workers in northern Amsterdam go on strike. The “Grüne Polizei” (German Police) conducts a raid on a known gathering place of Jewish strong-arm groups, which leads to a number of riots. In reprisal, the first “razzia” is conducted in the Jewish Corner, and some 400 Jewish men are arrested and led away to the Mauthausen concentration camp. (A “razzia” is a raid in which people are rounded up and led away).

In the face of these mounting attacks and raids on the Jews, council workers in Amsterdam hold a meeting on the 24th in the Noordermarkt district and decide to strike. That night the illegal Communist Party delivers a manifesto to all parts of the city, calling on the population to: “strike, strike, strike”.

PROTESTEERT TEGEN DE AFSCHUWELIJKE JODENVERVOLGINGEN!!!

De Nazi's hebben Zaterdag en Zondag, en Maandag is dit voortgezet, als beesten in de wijken met veel Joodse bevolking huisgehouden. Honderden Grtine Feldpolizei kwamen zwaar bewapend plotseling de huizen binnen en andere wijken binnenhalen. Bezorgd tienduizend vrees-

17 - Masthead of pamphlet calling for a general protest strike

Tram drivers, dock and metal workers, civil servants and factory employees of all persuasions - Christians, Liberals, Social Democrats and Communists - answer the call and bring the city to a standstill the next day. Strikes also take place in Haarlem, Velsen, Utrecht, Weesp, Hilversum, Muiden (near Amsterdam), and the Zaan region. The German authorities are taken by surprise and respond with bullets, grenades and arrests. The strike is called off after two days. Nine people are dead, 50 injured and another 200 arrested.



18

February strike scene in Amsterdam

Jewish blood donors are deregistered and restrictive measures are announced against Jewish organisations that do not have a specific economic purpose.



19

National Socialism saves!

March 1941:

Fifteen members of the resistance group “De Geuzen” and three activists of the February strike are executed.

Seyss-Inquart delivers an oration in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, in which he urges the Dutch to freely adopt National Socialism. The State-run “Netherlands Broadcasting Society” is formed and all other broadcasting societies are disbanded. An order is posted to the effect that all Jewish businesses will have a State-appointed manager. A prominent Nazi sympathiser is appointed Chairman of the Bank of The Netherlands.

A pastoral letter is read in the Netherlands Reformed churches. It rejects totalitarianism and urges merciful and charitable treatment of all races.

The Bureau for Jewish Emigration (“Zentralstelle für jüdische Auswanderung”) is founded. Under the pretense of offering Jews the option of emigrating, the bureau’s real function is to prepare for the deportation of Jews to concentration and destruction camps.

Surrogate coffee is rationed.

April 1941:

The beginning of the end for the Netherlands Union - they are no longer permitted to solicit membership.

The English V-action begins to aim itself at The Netherlands. In BBC broadcasts, people are urged to daub the letter “V” for Victory on walls and fences.

The first personal I.D. cards are issued. The Boy Scout movement is outlawed.



20

Front cover of an I.D. card



21 - All sides of an I.D. Card

The first issue of the Jewish Weekly is published by the Jewish Council for Amsterdam. The first issue of “Storm SS”, a weekly newspaper of the SS also appears. All Jews are ordered to hand in their radio sets.

Various artists associations protest against the formation of the Chamber of Culture (“Kultuurkamer”), an attempt by the state to control all forms of artistic expression.

Milk and potatoes are rationed. All images of living members of the Royal house are prohibited.

May 1941

Many people commemorate the first anniversary of the invasion by passive protests such as closing their curtains and placing flowers in significant places.

It becomes mandatory for all journalists to join the Union of Netherlands Journalists and they are expected co-operate loyally with the occupation. However, no Jewish members are permitted, effectively disenfranchising Jewish journalists. The Friesian Daily newspaper “Friesch Dagblad” ceases publication in protest against restrictions on the freedom of the press.

A number of further antisemitic measures are introduced during this month: Restrictions are placed on the extent to which Jews may work in non-government occupations. Jewish doctors, pharmacists and interpreters are no longer allowed to work for non-Jews. Jews are barred from the stock exchange and from trade fairs. Certain streets in Amsterdam are marked as "Jewish Streets". Jewish musicians must resign from non-Jewish orchestras. Jewish-owned agricultural land must be registered. Jews are barred from public swimming pools and parks, and may no longer take rooms in certain designated tourist resorts.

June 1941

A resolution is announced that all Dutch Jews will get a letter "J" stamped in their passports. Razzias are conducted against Jews in Amsterdam. Jewish lawyers may no longer have non-Jewish clients. Opening of shops on Sundays is prohibited - this primarily affects Jewish shops.

Requisition of metals is announced. It becomes mandatory to hand in all objects made of copper, brass, lead, tin and nickel.

Some 400 members of the Communist party are arrested. The first secret agent (dropped in August 1940) is captured and executed. The Communist Party declares its solidarity with the allies and the House of Orange, and redefines its "war on imperialism" as a "war for freedom".

Seyss-Inquart holds a mass meeting in Amsterdam on the occasion of the German invasion of the Soviet Union. Mussert also delivers a speech. Arnold Meyer, leader of the National Front, proposes the formation of a Netherlands Legion "to help the Germans in their battle against the bolsheviks". A prominent Nazi sympathiser is appointed "Deputy for the reorganisation of the Netherlands Police Force".

All traditional political parties are now officially prohibited. Gas and electricity rations are further reduced.

July 1941



22 - Original German V-poster, defaced to read "Germany drowns on all fronts"

An NSB member is appointed Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice. Mussert rejects the idea of a Dutch Division to fight the Soviet Union. The Netherlands Union echoes this view. The traditional political parties, recently prohibited, are formally disbanded.

The Netherlands is ordered to pay Germany a levy of 50 million Reichsmarks a month.

The English V-action intensifies. Across the country, letters "V" appear in all sorts of likely and unlikely places, as well as other slogans such as "Oranje will prevail", "England wins out", and "Long live the Queen". The mayor of Zandvoort (a coastal resort near Haarlem) receives a beating when he tries to prevent his house being daubed with V-signs. To confuse the issue, the Germans reply with a V-campaign of their own: "V = Victory - Germany wins on all fronts".

Propaganda material and badges of the Netherlands Union are prohibited.

Major Dutch newspapers are gradually “aligned” with the new order. A “Volunteer Netherlands Legion” is founded in spite of opposition from various quarters. The Netherlands Red Cross decides to offer its support. The first group of Dutch volunteers departs for the Eastern front later in the month.

Jam is added to the growing list of rationed goods. The “Nederlandsche Volksdienst” (NVD) is formed - another organisation to assist those in need. Unlike “Winterhulp” this seems to have been relatively above-board, although of course with heavy ideological overtones.

August 1941

Consumption of full-cream milk is limited to those under 14 years of age. Others are allowed only skim-milk.

Jewish estate agents are no longer allowed to act for non-Jewish clients. Jews with assets exceeding 10,000 guilders and an income exceeding 3,000 guilders in the year 1940 must deposit all cash and cheques over 1000 guilders into a bank account. Jewish students are removed from schools and placed in all-Jewish schools.



23
NVD Poster ca. 1942

The “Führer” system is introduced for provincial and local government. The so-called “Peace Court” is formed to deal specifically with the prosecution of transgressors against NSB members and against National Socialism generally.



24
Orange cigarettes
(on display in the Resistance Museum
at Amsterdam)

Employer organisations announce a policy of non-cooperation with the authorities. Protestant church services include protests against the “alignment” of the Christian Netherlands Labour Union. The Catholic church issues an episcopal pastoral letter protesting against this same treatment received by the Roman Catholic Employees’ Union. In support, the board and editors of “De Volkskrant” (the Catholic daily newspaper) resign and the staff go on strike. The paper would only survive a matter of weeks before ceasing publication.

On 31 August, Queen’s Birthday, RAF planes drop 75,000 orange-coloured packets of cigarettes over the country (other reports say they were packets of tea). There are demonstrations in various parts of the country.

September 1941

Normal operations of Provincial Government and Local Government Councils are suspended.

A pastoral letter protesting against the “alignment” of the Catholic Netherlands Agriculturalists Union and the Catholic Teachers Association are read during masses in Catholic churches.

Razzias are conducted against Jews in the Twente region (in the Eastern Netherlands).



25

Jews not desirable in the town of Vinkeveen

(Originally Jewish-owned, the Lippmann-Rosenthal Bank had been taken over and “emptied” of assets and directors. It is now being set up to become the central repository for all looted Jewish funds in the Netherlands, including stocks, securities and, later on, even valuables, all of which had to be deposited there after successive Nazi decrees).



26

Jews not permitted here

October 1941

On the 3rd, Rotterdam is bombed by the RAF. The objectives are the larger docks, but more than 100 people are killed by bombs that fall on residential areas instead.

Razzia against Jews take place in various parts of the country - Arnhem, Zwolle, Apeldoorn, and the Achterhoek region. The Jewish Council accepts a brief to start compiling a Jewish demographic record. Announcements are made that Jews must resign from non-Jewish organisations and that the Jewish Co-ordination Commission is to be wound up.

Formation of the “Nederlandsche Landstand”, a public corporation of which all farmers automatically become members.

November 1941

Work permits of some 1600 Jewish textile traders are withdrawn. Jews may not be members of any association or organisation that is not specifically Jewish. Special Jewish markets are set up in Amsterdam.

Jews must obtain a permit before travelling or moving house. Jews are barred from bridge clubs, tennis clubs and dancing clubs. The Jewish Co-ordination Commission is dissolved.



27

Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema

The Netherlands Culture Council (“Nederlandsche Kultuurraad”) and the Netherlands Chamber of Culture (“Nederlandsche Kultuurkamer”) are formed.

Rationing of cocoa is introduced.

Secret agent Peter Tazelaar of the group Hazelhoff Roelfzema is landed at Scheveningen. After the war, Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema and his exploits would be remembered and honoured in the book, and subsequent film, “Soldaat van Oranje” (Soldier of Orange).

December 1941

Some 70% of the country's medical doctors protest against the intention to create a Chamber of Medical Practitioners ("Arstenkamer"). In spite of these protests, the Chamber is inaugurated later in the month.

The RAF makes air-drops of toffees to celebrate St Nicholas.

All non-Dutch Jews living in the Netherlands must register for "voluntary emigration".

The National Front and the Netherlands Union are disbanded. The NSB becomes the only legal political party.

The first zinc coin appears - the "stuiver" or 5-cent piece, to replace the nickel version..



28

Secret message in tiny handwriting



29

Zinc Stuiver

1942

January 1942:

The various radio listening guides are replaced by a single publication, “De Luistergids” (The Listening Guide).

The first group of Jews is transported from Amsterdam to Jewish work camps. The first measures to concentrate Jews into Amsterdam are introduced: Jews from the Zaandam area (north of the City) are ordered to move into Amsterdam proper.

It is announced that Jewish I.D. cards will be endorsed with the letter “J” at least twice. Jews are no longer permitted to drive motor cars.

Zinc versions of all other coins are brought into circulation to replace the bronze 1-cent and 2½ -cent coins, and the silver 10-and 25-cent pieces.

The first issue appears of the fortnightly (later monthly) publication “De Schouw” (something like ‘Arts Digest’), the official journal of the Chamber of Culture.

The para-military arm of the Communist Party attacks a houseful of NSB students in Amsterdam. A further RAF bombardment of Rotterdam harbour kills 71 civilians.



30 - Zinc Coins

February 1942:

150 stateless Jews from Utrecht are transferred to Amsterdam or Westerbork. The latter is a transit camp in Drenthe, which will become known as “The Gateway to Auschwitz”. Ironically, it was originally established in 1939 by the Dutch government as a camp for Jewish refugees from Germany.

Representatives of various churches lodge a protest with Seyss-Inquart against the treatment of Jews.

Some 2400 artists lodge a protest with Seyss-Inquart against the formation of the Netherlands Chamber of Culture. An artist from The Hague makes the first forged I.D. cards.

“Arbeitsinzet”, a structure to facilitate the sending of Dutchmen to work in Germany, is put in place. As a start, all unemployed must formally register.

March 1942:

The so-called “Englandspiel” begins. This is a somewhat euphemistic description of the furtive travelling back and forth between The Netherlands and England of resistance leaders and undercover agents. In spite

of the name ("England game") this is a serious and very dangerous business. In fact, a long series of agents dropped from English planes runs into German traps.

Jews are no longer permitted to sell their furniture and other household items. The so-called "Nuerenburger laws" are surreptitiously introduced. Marriages between Jews and non-Jews are prohibited. Extra-marital relations involving Jews are made subject to severe penalties. Jews may no longer marry in Town Halls but only in special Jewish "marriage rooms". (The standard Dutch way of conducting marriages is a compulsory Town Hall ceremony, followed by an optional church ceremony). A number of mixed couples in Amsterdam about to be married are arrested in the middle of the night by the German Police.

April 1942:

All artists of any kind must register with the Chamber of Culture.

Six months service in the "Arbeidsdienst" is made compulsory for certain groups of younger people. (In spite of the name, which literally means Labour Service, this effectively amounts to attendance at indoctrination camps). Those affected are: Students who wish to apply for places at universities or other tertiary colleges, people wanting to apply for government or educational positions, people in the age range 18-24 who are already working in such positions, and people in the age range 18-24 who are not in full-time employment.



31

Tobacco, chocolate, and other confectionery are rationed.

A letter of protest against the conduct of the occupiers, and of the SD (German Secret Police) in particular, is presented to Seyss-Inquart. Corresponding messages are read in both Protestant and Catholic churches later in the month.

Germany orders Seyss-Inquart to provide 30,000 metal workers for Germany by the end of the month.

The whole of the North Sea coastline is closed to everyone. (A response to the Englandspiel - most of the secret traffic from Holland to England is by sea).

Eight members of the illegal Marx-Lenin-Luxembourg Front are executed by firing squad.

Jewish butcher shops are closed.

May 1942:

Seyss-Inquart decrees the formation of the Netherlands Labour Front ("Nederlandsche Arbeidsfront"). Its charter is *"to unite and look after the interests of all Dutch people who provide for their own needs through their own labour; to educate them in a mutual understanding of their economic interests and of their social and cultural needs in the pursuit of their daily bread"*.

The compulsory wearing of the "Jodenster" by all Jews is introduced (previously only German Jews were required to wear this). This is a yellow Star of David with the word "Jood" (ie "Jew") in the centre. At Leiden University, 53 of 68 professors submit their resignation. Jews are no longer permitted to have a "Postgiro" account. (A money transfer service run by the post office).



32

Inscribed Star of David - the so-called "Jodenster"

Nickel 5-cent pieces and bronze 1-cent coins are removed from circulation.

About 2000 professional officers of the Netherlands armed forces are arrested and led away as prisoners of war. Seventy-two OD members are executed in Camp Sachsenhausen. In a so-called “hostage action”, hundreds of people are arrested and held.

The first illegal newspapers reach England. Some 30,000 copies of the pamphlet “De Vliegende Hollander” (The Flying Dutchman) are dropped over the Netherlands.

The next chapter in the acquisition of Jewish assets: All assets exceeding 250 guilders must be deposited with the Lippmann-Rosenthal bank by 30 June.

Jews can no longer hire bank deposit boxes and are prohibited from fishing.



33 - Are you as happy as he is?
He works in Germany!

June 1942:

The formation of the Netherlands East Company (“Nederlandsche Oost-Compagnie”) is announced. One of its first tasks is to recruit agricultural workers for the occupied areas of the Soviet Union.

Jews may only travel after making prior application for permission. Jews are barred from fish markets and can no longer buy fruit and vegetables in non-Jewish shops. They are also barred from all forms of organised sport. A decree is issued ordering them to surrender their bicycles and other means of transport.

The first group of workers is transported against their will, to work in Germany. A resistance member reaches Switzerland and starts the espionage and escape route known as “The Swiss Route”.

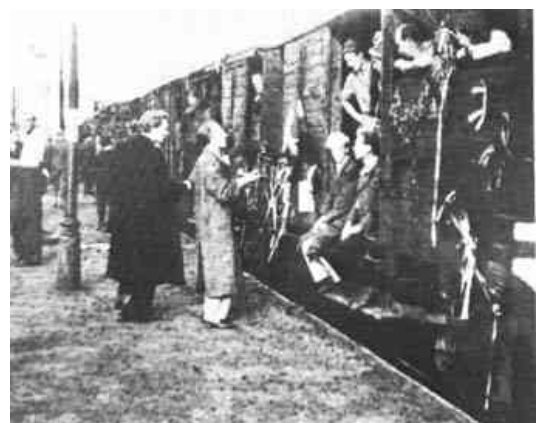
The NSB executive confirms Mussert as its undisputed leader. The first prisoners arrive in the new concentration camp at Ommen.

The Jewish Council is informed that deportation of Jews will commence soon. An 8 pm to 6 am curfew is announced for Jews. Jews may no longer ride bicycles or use public transport. Restrictions on professions and trades are further tightened.

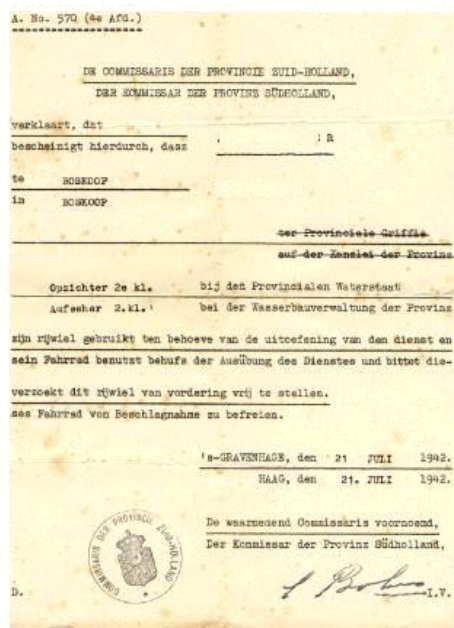
July 1942:

A building freeze is announced. The status of Westerbork as a transit camp for Jewish deportees is officially confirmed.

Jews may no longer use the telephone and cannot visit non-Jews. The churches protest against the announced deportation of Jews, which doesn’t stop the first groups being taken from Amsterdam to Westerbork. Hitler’s “final solution” is now openly in force and large numbers of Jews are arrested in Amsterdam and led away. A number are transported by train to Eastern Silesia in Poland under the “Labour Placement” system. The first transports of Dutch Jews leave for Auschwitz.



34
Deportation train leaving Westerbork



35 - Exemption from bicycle confiscation

Rations of butter, fats, and cheese are further reduced.

Jews may now only do their shopping between 3 pm and 5 pm. This is more far-reaching than it appears as, due to rationing, many articles are sold out quickly - well before 3 pm.

Start of “bicycle-razzias” - the rounding up and confiscation of bicycles in all towns and cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants. Seyss-Inquart also orders the handing in of all objects made of metal - any metal.

Prime Minister in exile Prof. Gerbrandy uses Radio Oranje broadcasts to urge people to help the Jews as much as possible. Protests against the Jewish deportations are read in most churches.

Many Jews ignore their individually-addressed orders to register for work in Germany and hundreds are arrested and held as “hostages”.

August 1942:

Throughout the month, many razzias are conducted against Jews in Amsterdam and elsewhere. A special raid is conducted on Jews with a Catholic connection, in retribution for the pulpit protests of the previous month. All streets with Jewish-derived names are renamed.

A resistance group carries out a raid on the railway near Rotterdam. A week later, five hostages are executed in retribution. A Jewish escape route from Rotterdam to Switzerland is organised. The illegal communist newspaper *De Waarheid* calls on policemen and railway workers to sabotage transports of Jews.

Start of the evacuation of the island of Walcheren in connection with the construction of the “Atlantikwall”. This Atlantic Wall is an extensive system of coastal fortifications built by the Germans along the western coast of Europe as a defence against an anticipated Anglo-American invasion from Great Britain. (It was never completed, consisting primarily of batteries, bunkers, and minefields, which during 1942-1944 stretched from the French-Spanish border into Norway. A number of the bunkers are still present, for example near Scheveningen, The Hague, and in Normandy).

Germany demands a quota of 40,000 workers for placement in Germany during August and September.

September 1942:

Silver coins (2½ guilders, 1 guilder, 50 cents, 25 cents and 10 cents) and the bronze 2½-cent coin are removed from



36
Razzias against Jews in Amsterdam

circulation. Skim-milk is rationed. In a second “hostage action” many communist party functionaries and members are arrested.

Jews with non-Jewish spouses must be registered. Jewish students are excluded from the education system. The first so-called “Exemption stamps” are issued. Theoretically these give the persons concerned immunity from deportation. In practice, they provide only very temporary protection.

October 1942:

The town of Geleen, near Sittard in Limburg, is bombed by the RAF by mistake - the raid was meant for the German city of Aachen. Eighty-three civilians die.

Continuing razzias against Jews. In total some 14,000 Jewish men, women and children are transported to work camps in Upper Silesia.

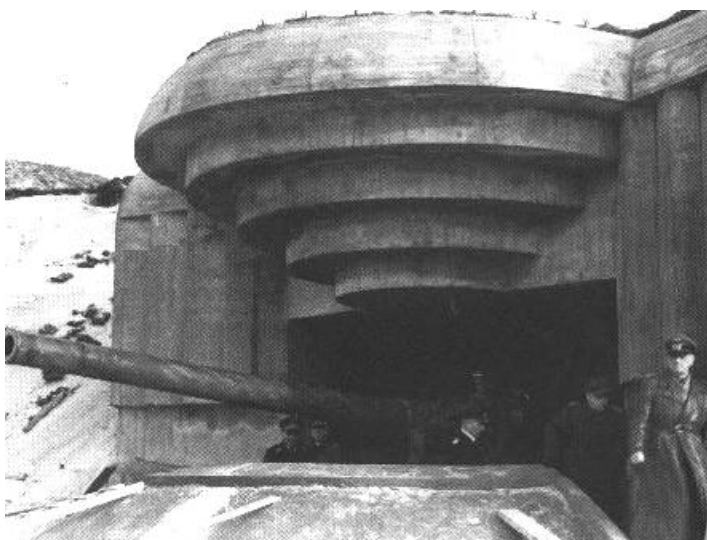
Resistance fighters raid a rationing office in Joure (Friesland). Two days later, five “hostages” are shot dead in retribution.

November 1942:

The November quota for forced labour in Germany is set at 35,000.

Organised co-operation between the newly-formed “Council of Nine” (the student underground movement) and “De Geus”, another significant resistance group. One of the major barriers to an effective resistance movement is the difficulty of communication between various initiatives.

Church bells are confiscated (to be melted down for weapons manufacture).



37

A bunker in the Zeeland section of the Atlantic Wall

December 1942:

A start is made with the demolition of several residential quarters in The Hague, as part of the construction of the “Atlantikwall”.

The Philips factories in Eindhoven are bombed by the RAF. Poor aim causes heavy damage in residential areas and 138 people are killed.

Universities are advised that half their students will be called up to work in Germany. The resistance conducts a raid on the student record office of Utrecht University. The Council of Nine calls for a general students’ strike. On Radio Oranje, Queen Wilhelmina speaks about a new structure for the Kingdom after the war.

Mussert and Seyss-Inquart meet with Hitler. The tenth anniversary of the NSB is celebrated. Mussert gets the official title of “Führer of the people of the Netherlands”.

Formation of the (illegal) “LO” (Landelijke Organisatie voor Hulp aan Onderduikers) - a resistance-led organisation to provide assistance to those who have gone in hiding (and hence have no legal access to ration books and coupons, or other necessary documents). The National Committee for the Resistance is formed.

Apples are rationed.



38

Stamps issued in 1942 to raise funds
for the Netherlands Legion

1943

January 1943:



39

A poster from January 1943 in which Mussert calls for people of goodwill to stop being mere spectators

An Amsterdam-Paris escape route is established. Some 1000 people are subsequently smuggled out of the occupied territories via this route.

The first contingent of deportees arrives at the newly-established transit camp at Vught. The inmates of the well-known Jewish psychiatric clinic “Het Apeldoornsche Bos” are led away to an unknown fate.

The Council of Nine advises students to return to their universities. The resistance conducts its first action against a civic registry, at Wageningen. Rations of milk and meat are reduced.

The Dutch authorities are ordered to make 22,000 metal workers and 78,000 unskilled workers available to Germany by the end of March.

On the 19th, Princess Margriet is born in the Ottawa Civic Hospital, which has been declared Dutch territory for the occasion.

The first issue of the illegal newspaper “Trouw”, a spin-off of “Vrij Nederland”, is published in Meppel. Its first edition is called “Oranjebood” and is issued in honour of the birth of Princess Margriet.

It carries the name “Trouw” from the second issue onwards. (The word “trouw” is a multi-faceted Dutch word that can mean faith, faithful, faithfulness, loyal, loyalty, true (to), accurate, honest, steadfast, etc.) Based on (protestant) Christian principles, “Trouw” would also become a major national newspaper after the war.

February 1943:

Ten hostages are shot in Haarlem as a reprisal for activities of the resistance. The Prime Minister in exile uses Radio Oranje to spur on those in influential positions to intensify their resistance efforts.

General Seyffardt, Deputy for the Netherlands Legion, is liquidated by the resistance. His dying words are “They were students”. The next day, hundreds of students are arrested in Amsterdam, Delft, Utrecht and Wageningen and sent to Camp Vught. Many students go in hiding and the universities come to a virtual standstill.

An attempt is made on the life of Reydon, newly-appointed NSB secretary-general of the DVK (Department of Enlightenment and the Arts). An attempt to burn down the regional employment bureau in Amsterdam is unsuccessful. A special razzia is conducted against “the sons of plutocrat families”, identified by the NSB.

Jews are no longer permitted to address petitions to the German authorities, but must direct everything to the Jewish Council. Another letter of protest against the governance of the occupiers is read in the churches.

March 1943:

A ruling is announced whereby students are required to sign a declaration of loyalty to the regime. The Council of Nine advises students not to sign.

Start of deportation of Jews to the destruction camp Sobibor.

Formation of “Landstorm Nederland”. Operating under the auspices of the Waffen SS, it is described as “a territorial organisation for the defence of the country against both foreign and interior enemies”.

500-guilder and 1000-guilder banknotes are declared null and void. It is announced that so-called luxury businesses and professions will be discontinued. This affects, amongst others, fashion houses, jewellers, stamp dealers, luxury hospitality businesses, etc.

There is a general protest by Dutch doctors against the Chamber of Medical Practitioners. The underground conducts a raid on the Amsterdam registry office. Six leaders of the Delft students’ resistance are arrested and condemned to death.

There is another air raid on the Philips factories at Eindhoven - 20 people are killed. About 100 US Air Force planes bomb Rotterdam - their objective is the shipyard of Wilton-Fijenoord, but due to strong winds, most bombs fall on residential areas killing 400 people and wounding another 400.



40

A set of stamps with fine Germanic symbols, issued in 1943

April 1943:

Jews are barred from all provinces except North Holland, South Holland, and Utrecht. Those from the eight other provinces must report to the camp at Vught. These provinces are declared “Judenrein” (cleansed of Jews).

Some 85% of students refuse to sign the Declaration of Loyalty.

In an RAF air raid on railway workshops at Haarlem, significant damage is caused to residential areas with the death of 85 civilians.

All Dutch ex-soldiers are called up to be led away as prisoners of war.

A series of protest strikes (to become known as the April-May strikes of 1943) begins in the Twente region. Radio Oranje calls for calm, but also urges defiance against the call-up of ex-soldiers. By the end of the month, strikes have spread to all parts of the country. The power of summary justice is given to police in four provinces. The Council of the Resistance (“Raad van Verzet”) is formed as a central body to co-ordinate resistance activities. This leads to some friction in the ranks, as there is already a “Central Committee of the Resistance”.

May 1943:

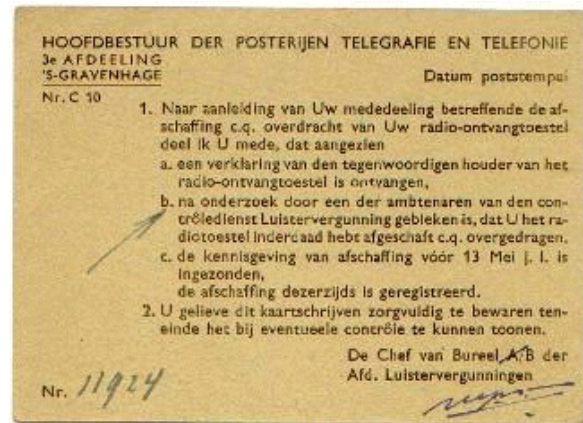
The power of summary justice is extended to police across the whole country. German patrols fire on groups of people in the streets. People are arrested randomly and led away to Camp Vught.

Gerbrandy, the Prime-Minister in exile, urges the sabotaging of attempts to take ex-soldiers out of the country. A number of students who have refused to sign the Declaration of Loyalty are arrested and taken to the infamous camp at Ommen.

It is announced that all radio sets must be handed in.

All males between 18 and 35 years of age must register with their regional employment bureaus.

Jews in mixed marriages are given the choice between deportation and sterilisation. The order draws strong protests from all churches. The churches also make statements supporting the strikes.



41 - Certificate proving that the holder has surrendered his/her radio

Seyss-Inquart makes a speech in the city of Hengelo, in the industrial Twente region. He distances himself from the churches' standpoints and points out the fragmentary nature of the resistance efforts.

Massive razzias are conducted in Amsterdam. The Jewish Council is ordered to select 7000 previously exempt members for deportation.

June 1943:



42

A haul of ration books and coupons

A "knokploeg" or "KP" (strong-arm group of the resistance) raids the town hall at Langweer (near Joure in Friesland) and carries off thousands of ration coupons, for use by the resistance, those in hiding, and others who no longer have means to obtain coupons legally. Many more such raids would follow.

Unrest at the top: During a leadership meeting of the NSB in Utrecht, Mussert strongly criticises the SS.

More massive razzias take place in Amsterdam's South and East quarters.

Doctors who have not joined the Chamber of Medical Practitioners are being persecuted.

July 1943:

The US Air Force bombs the Northern quarters of Amsterdam. Their objective is the Fokker aircraft factory, but many bombs miss their target and more than 150 people are killed. The espionage and escape route "The Swedish Route" is forced to shut down.

Twelve perpetrators of the raid on the Amsterdam registry are executed.

Razzias extend from the cities to the countryside.

August 1943:

Vegetables and fruit are rationed.

September 1943:

The illegal news sheet "Het Parool" makes mention of gas chambers in Poland. This is the first public indication of the extent of Hitler's "final solution".

The last major razzia on Jews takes place in Amsterdam. Some 10,000 people, including the executive of the Jewish Council, are arrested and deported.

The Chief Commissioner of Police of Utrecht, an NSB-er, is shot dead by a resistance fighter. The perpetrator is caught. She is subsequently executed at Camp Sachsenhausen.

October 1943:



44

Posters try to convince the populace that the meat shortage is due to the black market and not to the fact that more and more foodstuffs are being spirited away to Germany

of I.D. cards. More communist leaders are arrested. More resistance fighters are executed at Sachsenhausen, the youngest being a 21-year old woman.



43

Twelve death sentences

The US Air Force misidentifies its target and bombs the city of Enschede - some 150 civilians are killed.

The stiff-arm Nazi salute is introduced in the "Arbeidsdienst" (Youth indoctrination camps). Two leaders of the illegal communist party are arrested and executed.

The Director-general of Food Supplies warns the authorities of the deteriorating food distribution and health situation amongst the populace and demands far-reaching reforms.

November 1943:

Razor blades are rationed. Nearly all textile products are not only rationed but are now only available with special permits.

Formation of the "Nederlandsche Landwacht". This organisation is similar to the "Nederlandsche Landstorm", formed in March. The latter carries out military activities, whereas the newer organisation is concerned with police activities. In practice, it is an NSB self-protection organisation against attacks from the resistance.

The underground "LO" organisation starts a special division for the forging



45 - Underground Forgers

December 1943:

A second version of the rations card is issued. Everyone with a current card must apply for the new one. The purpose of this measure is to deny rations to those in hiding, as they have no means of applying for the new card without revealing themselves. The new measure is widely sabotaged.

In Amsterdam, the first Jews in mixed marriages are called up for transportation to work camps.



46

The second ration card

1944

January 1944:

Start of “Operation Carpetbagger” - regular air drops of equipment and supplies for the resistance movements in The Netherlands, Belgium, France and Italy.

A resistance raid in Tilburg nets some 100,000 stamps needed for the validation of I.D. cards.

There is mention in the press of possible inundation of low-lying areas as defence against invasion by the allies.



47

I.D. Card validation

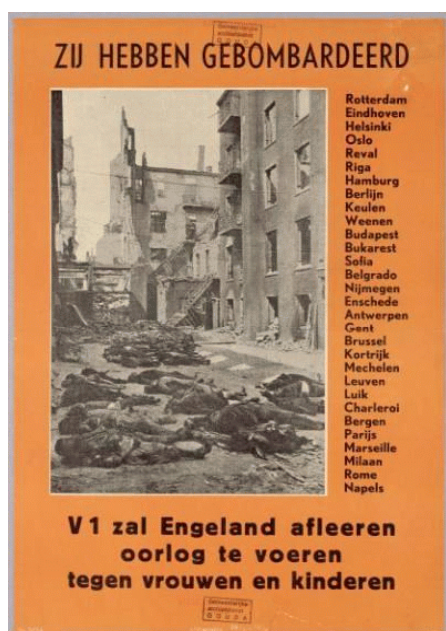
February 1944:

Through misidentification of targets, the US Air Force erroneously bombs Nijmegen (800 dead), Enschede (40 dead), and Arnhem (60 dead).

March 1944:

The first members of the new “Landwacht” appear in the streets.

April 1944:



48

Capitalising on the erroneous bombings - the V1 bombs will cure them from waging war on women and children!

The central bureau of civil registers in The Hague is successfully bombed by the RAF. A resistance raid on a printing works manages to “lift” a large number of blank I.D. cards from the safe.

May 1944:

A resistance raid on one of Amsterdam’s prisons fails, but a “knokploeg” raid on a printing firm succeeds in seizing nearly 135,000 sheets of ration coupons.

Razzias are conducted against gipsies and “antisocials”.

The US Air Force bombs the strategic railway junction at Roosendaal. Stray bombs account for 73 civilian deaths.

June 1944:

Start of the German V-1 offensive against London

Mussert heroically announces that he has made himself available as a volunteer for the Wehrmacht (i.e. the German army).

Queen Wilhelmina and PM Gerbrandy urge the various resistance groups to co-ordinate their efforts.

Seven perpetrators of the failed Amsterdam prison raid are executed.

The second ration card is finally validated in spite of attempts to sabotage its introduction.

July 1944:

Fish is rationed.

Another raid on the same Amsterdam prison also fails.

The first razzias to round up forced labour are conducted in Amsterdam. Some 450 prisoners in the camp at Vught are summarily executed. Twenty-two resistance and other illegal organisations are represented at the formation of a central Contact Committee in Amsterdam.



49

Set of stamps issued in 1944 to raise funds for "Winterhulp" and "Volksdienst"

August 1944:

Twenty-three employees of "Trouw" are arrested, in an attempt to force closure of the newspaper.

The co-founder of the LO is betrayed and arrested. She will die later in Camp Ravensbrück.

The first aerial drop of weapons for the resistance take place on the "Veluwe" a wilderness area in the province of Gelderland.

US Air Force bombardments of the Maas bridges cause 91 deaths in a residential quarter of Maastricht.

2 September 1944:

NSB-ers flee Southern Limburg in large numbers. (Limburg is the Netherlands' most southerly province and the allied armies are advancing in this direction).

3 September 1944:

The organised departure of German nationals begins. The last deportation train for Auschwitz leaves Westerbork. Queen Wilhelmina addresses the people via Radio Oranje and tells them that "liberation is at hand". Prince Bernhard is appointed Commander in Chief of the Netherlands armed forces. "Knokploegen" of the resistance start a systematic campaign of sabotage of the railways.

4 September 1944:

The last deportation train for Theresienstadt leaves Westerbork. The government information services spread the erroneous news that the city of Breda has been liberated. Mussert decides to evacuate NSB members from Western and central regions to the East of the country. Seyss-Inquart declares a State of Emergency - a blanket 8 pm curfew is introduced.

5 September 1944:

There are mass desertions from the indoctrination camps. Start of the deportation of prisoners from the concentration camp at Vught to Germany. Today becomes known as Crazy Tuesday ("Dolle Dinsdag"). The populace celebrates the "liberation". Many NSB-ers flee to Germany.

By Royal decree, the Netherlands Interior Armed Forces ("Nederlandse Binnenlandse Strijdkrachten" - BS or NBS) is formed. This is an attempt to bundle the various armed resistance groups into a single co-ordinated fighting force.



50 - Crazy Tuesday
People in The Hague wait in vain for
the arrival of their liberators

6 September 1944:

Second mass transport of prisoners from Vught to Germany.

8 September 1944:

The first V-2 rockets are launched from Wassenaar, near the Hague, towards London and Antwerp.

10 September 1944:

The British Second Army crosses the Kempen canal (also reported as the Albert Canal) at Beringen in Belgium - a strategic bridgehead.

11 September 1944:

The head of the Secret and Security Services orders a reign of terror and zero tolerance towards the populace - the so-called "Niedermachungsbefehl".

12 September 1944:

American troops cross the Dutch border in Southern Limburg. The first Dutch villages are liberated.

14 September 1944:

The first attack by Canadian troops on the defences of Zeeuws Vlaanderen (in the South-west) is repelled. Maastricht, the Netherlands' Southernmost city (in the South-east), is liberated.

16 September 1944:

SS General Rauter orders the summary arrest, and transportation to work in Germany, of any males between 16 and 50 years old found in the streets.

17 September 1944:

The Reichskommissariat moves to Delden, in the Twente region (not far from the German border). "Operation Market Garden" commences. Airborne troops land at Arnhem, Eindhoven, Grave and Nijmegen ("Operation Market") coupled with a rapid northward advance of troops in North Brabant ("Operation Garden"). Several hundred civilians die as a "by-product" of the Operation Market Garden bombardments. The government-in-exile orders a general railway strike. In reprisal, the Germans halt all food transports to the West of the country. This will lead to the infamous "Hunger Winter".

18 September 1944:

The City of Eindhoven is liberated.

19 September 1944:

The food and fuel situations in the West are already becoming critical. The electricity ration is halved.

Eindhoven is bombed by German planes. There is much damage and some 180 people die. The effect is exacerbated by munitions and petrol explosions on the ground.



51 & 52

Operation Market Garden begins

20 September 1944:

Part of Zeeuws-Vlaanderen is liberated. Nijmegen is liberated and its bridges over the river Waal are secured by the Allies after heavy fighting. British paratroops are forced to surrender the bridge at Arnhem (the "Bridge too far").

21 & 23 September 1944:

Massive destruction by the Germans in Amsterdam and Rotterdam harbours. A number of leading figures in the resistance decide on the formation of the "Stoottroepen" (Shock-troops) in readiness for the end of the occupation.

22 September 1944:

The Germans round up some 1200 men from factories at Hengelo and redeploy them at Zwolle.



53 - The Bridge at Arnhem

25 September 1944:

End of the battle of Arnhem and Operation Market Garden. The British paratroops depart the scene via Oosterbeek (in the direction of Wageningen). Seyss-Inquart confirms prohibition on all transport of food to the Western Netherlands. The commander of the Shock-troops circulates instructions for the arrest and detention of NSB-ers and other German sympathisers after the war.

1 October 1944:

A razzia is conducted in Putten, following an attack on German soldiers. All males of the village between 18 and 30 years of age (some 600 men) are led away to a camp at Amersfoort. Eventually 58 are released, the rest are transferred to the concentration camp at Neuengamme in Germany. Fourteen manage to escape during the journey. Eventually only 49 men return, of which 5 die of exhaustion.

2 October 1944:

During RAF bombardments of German troop concentrations, stray bombs kill 100 inhabitants of the village of Huissen. The Netherlands government appeals to (neutral) Sweden to send food to help the starving provinces.



54 - Westkapelle after the attacks on the sea dike

3 October 1944:

The RAF bombs the sea dike at Westkapelle in Zeeland. The village of Westkapelle is also hit, with about 150 deaths. The radio transmitter “Herrijzend Nederland” (Re-emerging Netherlands) starts up in Eindhoven. The first Shock-troop companies are set up in the liberated areas.

4 October 1944:

The RAF bombs the sea dikes of Walcheren again, in an attempt to inundate the island.

5 October 1944:

Via Radio Oranje, the government urges the continuation of the railway strike.

6 October 1944:

The US Air Force bombs the railway marshalling yards at Hengelo. The centre of the city is also hit and some 100 people perish. Canadian troops start their move from Belgium into Southern Zeeland.

7 October 1944:

German troops conduct massive razzias in Utrecht, Amersfoort and Kampen. This marks the start of a month-long campaign of razzias against men in the 17-50 year age range. RAF Bomber Command makes a third (unsuccessful) attempt to flood Walcheren.

11 October 1944:

RAF Bomber Command has another go. An episcopal pastoral letter is published announcing the formation of a Church-driven foundation to aid victims of the acts of war.

13 October 1944:

Formation of the Foundation 1940-45 ("Stichting 1940-1945"). Its purpose is to provide, after the liberation, financial assistance to the families of deceased resistance fighters. More civilians are killed in RAF raids in bridges on the rivers Maas and IJssel.

18 October 1944:

Requisitioning starts of textile goods from the civilian population for use by German troops.

23 October 1944:

Twenty-nine hostages held in Amsterdam are shot in public, after an attack on a member of the German Secret Service.



55 - Soup Kitchens
Putting a cheerful face on a
desperate situation

A kind of soup-kitchen arrangement is started in Amsterdam and elsewhere to try and relieve some of the suffering from starvation.

24 October 1944:

The headquarters of the German 15th army in Dordrecht is bombed by the RAF. Stray bombs falling in residential areas kill 40 people.

25 October 1944:

A KP springs 45 prisoners from the cells of the Rotterdam Police Headquarters. In Amsterdam, supplies of fuel gas are discontinued indefinitely.

27 October 1944:

North Brabant cities 's-Hertogenbosch (aka Den Bosch) and Tilburg are liberated. The Northward push in Zeeland continues. The Germans are ordered to consolidate on Walcheren (which still hasn't been flooded).

28 October 1944:

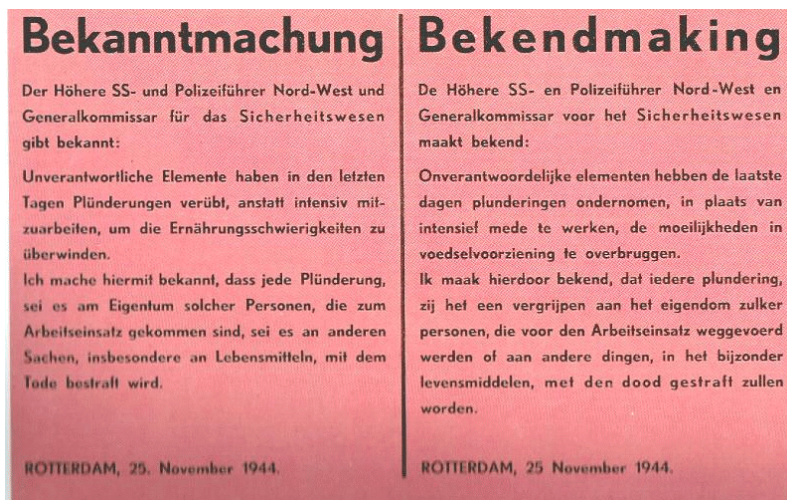
Air raids on the IJssel bridges cause 40 civilian casualties in Deventer.

30 October 1944:

The island of Tholen, in Zeeland, is liberated without German resistance. The allies prepare to move against Walcheren.



56
Liberation of Den Bosch



57

Warning against looting - punishable by deporation to forced labour or, if it involves foodstuffs, by death

50,000 men are led away. Further razzias in The Hague and surrounding districts, and in the North-east Polder.

Prince Bernhard establishes his headquarters at Breda.

The Vondelpark in Amsterdam is closed off, to stop people chopping down and removing trees for fuel. Disgruntled residents of Eindhoven hold a hunger strike in sympathy with their Western countrymen.

A KP raids a bank in Almelo and gets away with 46 million guilders.

Seyss-Inquart appoints an NSB official as head of the Netherlands Red Cross. He takes measures for the organisation and management of the distribution of food and later gives the churches permission to take an active part.



58

Rotterdam, November 1944
Destination: German Aircraft Factories

Throughout the month, civilian casualties due to both allied and German actions, continue.

December 1944:

Start of an exodus of people from the larger Western cities to rural areas. The bread ration in the Western provinces is reduced to 1000 gram per week. Shipments amounting to 130,000 tons of potatoes reach the West from the North-east, via the IJssel Lake.

The German military inundates a large part of the fertile Betuwe region ("Holland's Orchard"), to hamper allied troop movements along the rivers. They also remove much rolling stock from the railway workshops and destroy overhead wiring. They wreak further destruction in IJmuiden harbour.

A KP raid on a prison in Leeuwarden liberates 51 inmates.

All use of electricity is prohibited in the provinces North- and South-Holland.

Mussert dismisses his senior deputies and bans them from the party. Start of the so-called Liese-Aktion - all men born between the years 1905 and 1928 living in the provinces North Holland, South Holland and Utrecht must report for work in Germany. The commanders of the three armed resistance divisions seek guidance from the government in London on how to react to this action.

An episcopal letter is read, urging farmers to help freely with the relief of the starvation situation in the West.



59 - Gallows Humour

"11 November, 7am:

Message for the man of the house!"

BEVEL.

Op bevel der Duitse Weermacht moeten alle mannen in den leeftijd van 17 t/m 40 jaar zich voor den arbeidsinzet aanmelden.

Hiervoor moeten **ALLE** mannen van dezen leeftijd onmiddellijk na ontvangst van dit bevel met de voorgeschreven ultrusting op straat gaan staan.

Alle andere bewoners, ook vrouwen en kinderen, moeten in de huizen blijven totdat de actie ten einde is. De mannen van de genoemde jaargangen, die bij een huiszoeking nog in huis worden aangetroffen, worden gestraft, waarbij hun particulier eigendom zal worden aangesproken.

Bewijzen van vrijstelling van burgerlijke of militaire instanties moeten ter controle worden meegebracht. Ook zij, die in het bezit zijn van zulke bewijzen, zijn verplicht zich op straat te begeven.

Er moeten worden medegebracht: warme kleding, stevige schoenen, dekens, bescherming tegen regen, eetgerei, mes, vork, lepel, drinkbeker en boterhammen voor één dag. Medegebrachte fietsen blijven in het bezit van den eigenaar.

De dagelijksche vergoeding bestaat uit goeden kost, rookartikelen en vijf gulden.

Voor de achterblijvende familieleden zal worden gezorgd.

Het is aan alle bewoners der gemeente verboden hun woonplaats te verlaten.

Op hen, die pogen te ontvluchten of weerstand te bieden, zal worden geschoten.

60 - The Message

1945

January 1945:

Via Radio Oranje, the government urges total non-co-operation with the Liese-Aktion. More companies of Shock Troops are formed in the liberated regions. Queen Wilhelmina appeals to President Roosevelt and King George VI to provide more assistance to The Netherlands.

Razzias continue throughout the month in various places.

As potatoes are no longer available, every Amsterdammer is issued 3 kg of sugar beets. The soup kitchens are forced to reduce their daily rations.



61

Sugar beets become almost a staple food in many areas

The village of Montfort, just South of Roermond in Limburg, is accidentally wiped off the map by the RAF, with 183 casualties.

Several cities in Limburg considered in the firing line are evacuated. There is some disagreement in the Dutch ranks: Gerbrandy's cabinet resigns.

Two Swedish ships with food for the starving West are allowed to dock at Delfzijl, in the far North-east (but distribution would not start until the end of the following month).

February 1945:

Gerbrandy is able to form a new cabinet. Food from the Swedish ships is finally distributed in the Western provinces.

1945 - March

Evacuated cities in Limburg (Roermond and Venlo) are liberated after a tank battle at nearby Overloon.

Still hopeful: a number of NSB-ers who had fled to Germany return to the Northern provinces.

The RAF accidentally carries out a heavy bombardment of the extensive and historically significant Bezuidenhout quarter of The Hague. There had been a mobile launching pad for V-2 rockets there, but this had moved away some time ago. However, the bombardment reduces a large residential area (some 60,000 people live here, including refugees from Rotterdam) to rubble. At the end of the day, 510 people are dead and 230 are seriously injured. 3300 private homes, 290 businesses, 9 schools, 5 churches, and 10 public buildings are destroyed. A further 1200 houses are severely damaged.



62

Bezuidenhout rubble

SS General Rauter is ambushed, and his driver and orderly are killed. Rauter is seriously wounded but survives. In reprisal, 263 “hostages” are shot. In Amsterdam, a senior SS officer is killed in an exchange of fire with a resistance group. In retribution, 36 political prisoners are shot in the street, with passers-by being forced to watch.

Queen Wilhelmina pays a series of fleeting visits to the liberated Southern provinces.

Razzias still continue in various parts of the country, as do casualties due to wayward air raids by the US Air Force. The liberation of the Eastern and Northern Netherlands begins.

1-6 April 1945:

In quick succession the cities and towns of the industrial Twente region (including Hengelo and Enschede) are liberated.

2 April 1945:

Seyss-Inquart discusses the possibility of an armistice with other German officials, to facilitate the distribution of food.

4 April 1945:

Mussert flees to The Hague as the allies advance on the North and East.



63

Germans & Georgians on Texel

5 & 6 April 1945:

There is a revolt/mutiny by Georgian auxiliaries of the German army on the island of Texel. These Georgians (about 800 of them) were originally Red Army soldiers, captured and enlisted by the Germans in 1941. Guerilla warfare continues for more than two weeks. In the end, some 570 Georgians, 469 German soldiers, and 89 civilian islanders are dead.

6 April 1945:

Coevorden, in the South-east of Drenthe, is liberated.

7-8 April 1945:

Forty-six small units of French paratroops are dropped in the triangle Groningen-Coevorden-Zwolle (“Operation Amherst”).

10 April 1945:

The 1st Polish Tank Division liberates Emmen in Drenthe.

11 April 1945:

Canadian troops cross the River IJssel between Zutphen and Deventer (“Operation Cannonshot”), and subsequently occupy Deventer. The Germans blow up the IJssel bridges.

12 April 1945:

Transit camp Westerbork in Drenthe is liberated. British and Canadian troops cross the IJssel and attack Arnhem ("Operation Anger").

Seyss-Inquart refuses to consider a Dutch capitulation unless Germany capitulates. He is prepared to resume food transports to the West on conditions that the allies halt their advance at the so-called "Grebbe line" and the Resistance ceases all its actions.

13 April 1945:

Queen Wilhelmina sets foot on Dutch soil again - this time permanently. For the time being, she and her government settle in Breda. Princes Juliana and her three daughters would not return until 2 August.

Canadian troops enter a number of towns and cities in the North-east. The list of liberated towns grows at an accelerating rate. Most of Drenthe, including the cities of Meppel and Assen, is freed.

14 April 1945:

Arnhem and Zwolle are liberated.

15 April 1945:

Almost all of Friesland is liberated.

16 April 1945:

German troops in Groningen surrender.

17 April 1945:

The Wieringermeerpolder in North Holland is inundated by the Germans, seemingly out of spite, as there was no strategic advantage. Rapid evacuation prevents serious casualties.



64

Hannie Schaft

Hannie Schaft, "the girl with the red hair", one of the best-known resistance fighters of World War 2, is executed in the dunes near Overveen, West of Haarlem. She is just 25 years old.

Apeldoorn and Harlingen are freed. Canadian troops reach Lake IJssel (the former Zuiderzee). Apart from a few isolated pockets, the whole North-east has now been liberated.

19 April 1945:

The staff of an illegal radio station in Amsterdam are arrested and shot.



65

Liberation of Apeldoorn



66
Aerial Food drops

29 April 1945:

First aerial drops of foodstuffs over Ypenburg Airfield near The Hague. This so-called “Operation Manna” continues for the next nine days.

30 April 1945:

Seyss-Inquart approves measures for urgent relief of the situation in the Western provinces.

2 May 1945:

First road transports of foodstuffs to the Western provinces.

2 & 3 May 1945:

Seyss-Inquart departs for Flensburg to confer with Dönitz, the new German leader.

4 May 1945:

Montgomery accepts the capitulation of the German forces in North-western Europe. The last issue of the NSB’s “Volk en Vaderland” appears.

5 May 1945:

In Hotel “De Wereld” in Wageningen, the German general Blaskowitz receives the order to capitulate. Ships carrying foodstuffs arrive in Rotterdam. Queen Wilhelmina makes a radio broadcast about the liberation (this time it’s real!). In Dutch history, this day is celebrated as Liberation Day, the end of the war in The Netherlands.

6 May 1945:

Blaskowitz officially signs the capitulation papers in the auditorium of the Agricultural university at Wageningen.

7 May 1945:

There is a rearguard shooting match in Amsterdam. Mussert is arrested in The Hague. Germany capitulates unconditionally.

8 May 1945:

The Canadians secure Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. The Netherlands are free again.



67

First Canadian armoured car in front of SS Headquarters in Amsterdam, just before the SS officers on the balcony start shooting into the jubilant crowd



68

Het Parool, 8 May 1945, 100th edition

69

Germans, go home . . .



70

. . . and welcome back to the House of Orange

Map showing most places mentioned in the narrative



For clarity, I have used a map showing the provinces in different colours. This is a recent map and, although I have doctored it a bit to roughly reflect what it looked like in the 1940s, there will still be some inaccuracies.

(Original Source: The Wikipedia on-line encyclopedia)

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	See NBS
CNV	Christelijk Nederlandsche Vakverbond - Christian Netherlands Labour Union
CPN	Communistische Partij van Nederland - Dutch Communist Party
DOWC	Departement van Opvoeding, Wetenschap en Cultuurbescherming - Department of Education, Science and Cultural protection
DVK	Departement van Volksvoorlichting en Kunsten - Department of Enlightenment and the Arts
KP	Knokploeg - Fighting Party, ie a resistance strong-arm group.
LO	Landelijke Organisatie voor Hulp aan Onderduikers - a resistance-led organisation to provide assistance to those who have gone “underground”.
NBS	Nederlandse Binnenlandse Strijdkrachten - the Netherlands Interior Armed Forces
NSB	Nationaal Socialistische Beweging - National Socialist Movement = Dutch Nazi Party
NU	(Driemanschap van de) Nederlandsche Unie - (Triumvirate of the) Netherlands Union
NVD	Nederlandsche Volksdienst - an organisation to assist those in need
NVV	Nederlandse Vereniging van Vakbonden - Netherlands Association of Labour Unions
OD	Ordedienst, an organisation to prevent a left-wing revolution when the war is over.
RKVV	Roomsche Katholieke Werknemersverbond - Roman Catholic Employees' Union
SD	Sicherheitsdienst - The German secret police
WA	Weerafdeling - the “physical” arm of the Dutch Nazi Party
WHN	Winterhulp Nederland - an organisation to gather funds to assist those in need

SOURCES of the TIMELINE

This document is extracted and translated from the following major sources, with some minor augmentation from other sources:

Primary Source:

A timeline published on the web page:

<http://hetillegaleparool.nl>

The same timeline also appears, in a different format and with a few illustrations, on the following web pages:

<http://www.geschiedenis.com/wo2/data/1940.htm>
<http://www.geschiedenis.com/wo2/data/1941.htm>
<http://www.geschiedenis.com/wo2/data/1942.htm>
<http://www.geschiedenis.com/wo2/data/1943.htm>
<http://www.geschiedenis.com/wo2/data/1944.htm>
<http://www.geschiedenis.com/wo2/data/1945.htm>

Secondary Sources:

(a) Timeline of the Dutch resistance movement, published on the following web pages:

<http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1940txt.html>
<http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1941txt.html>
<http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1942txt.html>
<http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1943txt.html>
<http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1944txt.html>
<http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1945txt.html>

(b) A timeline of all aspects of the Second World war (in Dutch), accessed via:

<http://www.go2war2.nl/> (Choose “*Algemeen*” on the top menu bar and then “*Timeline*” from the drop-down menu)

PICTURE CREDITS

No.	File name	Source URL
01	Liberation of Steenwijk.gif	http://members.lycos.nl/steenwijkdome/wo2.html
02	Bicycle Parade.jpg	http://www.mei1940.nl/Foto2_Mobilisatie_4R.I/Parade%20Noordwijk%204%20april%201940.htm
03	Invasion.jpg	http://www.geschiedenisvoorkinderen.nl/eeuw/wo2inNed.htm
04	Rotterdam burns	http://www.vanbeuzeekom.com/Rotterdam01W.jpg
05	Rotterdam ruins	http://www.geschiedenisvoorkinderen.nl/eeuw/wo2inNed.htm
06	Frightful Friday.jpg	http://www.geschiedenisvoorkinderen.nl/eeuw/wo2inNed.htm
07	Seyss-Inquart.jpg	http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/GERseyss.htm
08	Volk en Vaderland.jpg	http://www.bangabookproductions.nl/mydata/boeken/doordeogen/doordeogen_m1.htm
09	Anton Mussert.jpg	http://www.expatica.com/source/site_article.asp?subchannel_id=1&story_id=91
10	Ration Card - front.jpg	http://users.raketnet.nl/h.vd.heuvel/kaarten/distributiestamkaart/distributiestamkaart.htm
11	Ration Card - back.jpg	http://users.raketnet.nl/h.vd.heuvel/kaarten/distributiestamkaart/distributiestamkaart.htm
12	Sheet of coupons.jpg	http://users.raketnet.nl/h.vd.heuvel/diversen/bonnen/bonnen.htm
13	Queen Wilhemina.jpg	http://www.parkstad.com/nl/hist.html
14	Flour & Meat coupons.jpg	http://www.parkstad.com/nl/hist.html
15	Aryan Declaration.gif	http://www.parkstad.com/nl/hist.html
16	Jewish Registration Certif.jpg	http://www.Engelfriet.net/Alie/Hans/verseput29.htm
17	Strike pamphlet.gif	http://www.geschiedenis.com/wo2/data/1941.htm
18	February strike scene.jpg	http://www.expatica.com/source/site_article.asp?subchannel_id=1&story_id=91
19	NatSoc saves.jpg	http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1941txt.html
20	ID Card cover.gif	http://superspike.scep.nl/verzet/propaganda/
21	ID Card - all sides.jpg	http://www.geschiedenis.com/wo2/data/1941.htm
22	Graffiti'd V poster.jpg	http://users.raketnet.nl/h.vd.heuvel/kaarten/persoonsbewijs/persoonsbewijs.htm
23	NVD ca 1942.jpg	http://superspike.scep.nl/verzet/propaganda/360.html
24	Orange cigarettes.jpg	http://www.groenehartarchieven.nl/impod.htm
25	Jews not desired.jpg	http://superspike.scep.nl/verzet/propaganda/360.html
26	Jews not permitted.jpg	http://www.geschiedenisvoorkinderen.nl/eeuw/wo2inNed.htm
27	Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema 1939.jpg	http://www.geschiedenisvoorkinderen.nl/eeuw/wo2inNed.htm
28	Secret Message.jpg	http://www.soldaatvanoranjje.net/images.html
29	zinc stuiver.jpg	http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1941txt.html
30	Zinc Coins	http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1941txt.html
31	Tobacco coupon.jpg	http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1941txt.html
32	Star of David.gif	http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1941txt.html
33	Working in Germany.jpg	http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1941txt.html
34	Train from Westerbork.jpg	http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1941txt.html

35	Bicycle exemption.jpg	http://users.raketnet.nl/h.vd.heuvel/kaarten/fietsvrijstellingprovincie/fietsvrijstellingprovincie.htm
36	Razzias against Jews.jpg	http://www.februarietaking.nl/gesch.html
37	Atlantikwall.jpg	http://home.planet.nl/~j.n.houterman/st2_3.html
38	Stamps Legioen 42.jpg	Internet stamp dealer 'PhilaPost.nl'
39	Mussert calls Jan 43.jpg	http://groenehart.pictura-dp.nl/index.php?option=com_memorix&mr_x_mod=result&mr_x_photo_tpl=tekstlijst&Itemid=28
40	Stamps Germanic Symbols 43.jpg	'qoop.nl' auction site
41	Radio confiscated.jpg	http://users.raketnet.nl/h.vd.heuvel/kaarten/radioafgedragen/radioafgedragen.htm
42	Pile of coupons.jpg	http://proto.thinkquest.nl/%7Ejrb042/voedselbonnen.htm
43	Twelve death sentences.gif	http://www.verzetsmuseum.org/educatie/leerlingen/tijdsbalk/tijdsbalk1943txt.html
44	Black market.jpg	http://www.scep.nl/verzet/digexpo/187.html
45	Forgers.jpg	http://www.geschiedenisvoorkinderen.nl/eeuw/wo2inNed.htm
46	Second Ration Card.gif	http://www.geschiedenis.com/wo2/artikel/distri.htm
47	ID Card validation.jpg	http://www.geschiedenisvoorkinderen.nl/eeuw/wo2inNed.htm
48	Naughty England July 44.jpg	http://groenehart.pictura-dp.nl/index.php?option=com_memorix&Itemid=28&mr_x_offset=2
49	Stamps WHN & NVD 44.jpg	'qoop.nl' auction site
50	Dolle Dinsdag	http://www.digischool.nl/kleioscoop/camerascoop/w.o.ii/dolledinsdag4.htm
51	Market Garden	http://www.multied.com/ww2/events/MarketGardenFails.html
52	Arnhem Drop.jpg	http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/september/17/newsid_3662000/3662264.stm
53	Bridge at Arnhem	http://www.euronet.nl/users/wilfried/ww2/1944.htm
54	Westkapelle	http://home.planet.nl/~j.n.houterman/iwm2g.htm
55	Soup kitchens.jpg	http://www.scep.nl/verzet/digexpo/187.html
56	Liberation of den Bosch.jpg	?
57	Warning against looting.jpg	http://www.engelfriet.net/Alie/Gastenboek/razziagerard.htm
58	Forced labour - razzia.jpg	http://www.engelfriet.net/Alie/Gastenboek/razziagerard.htm
59	Forced labour - humour.gif	http://www.engelfriet.net/Alie/Gastenboek/razziagerard.htm
60	Forced labour - notice.gif	http://www.engelfriet.net/Alie/Gastenboek/razziagerard.htm
61	Sugarbeets.gif	http://oregonstate.edu/dept/kes/sugar.htm
62	Bezuidenhout Rubble.jpg	http://www.bezuidenhout.nl/html/geschiedenis.html
63	Georgians.jpg	http://www.hetopenboek.nl/html/rebellion.htm
64	Hannie Schaft - 2.jpg	http://www.hannieschaft.nl/
65	Liberation of Apeldoorn.jpg	http://www.apeldoorn-canada.com/start.html
66	Food drops.jpg	http://www.mei1940.nl/Popup/Voedseldropping-Valkenburg.htm
67	Canadians in Amsterdam.jpg	http://collections.ic.gc.ca/taconis/lib/elib.htm
68	Het Parool 100.jpg	http://www.iisg.nl/collections/zk17397.html
69	Germans leaving.jpg	http://collections.ic.gc.ca/taconis/lib/elib.htm
70	Royal Family 1945.jpg	http://worldroots.com/brigitte/royal/wilhelminanether1880.htm