

RUT MATTHIJSEN
RG-50.579.0005

Rut was born in 1921 in Sumatra, Indonesia where his father was working as an engineer. The family moved back to Utrecht in Holland in 1933 and Rut attended gymnasium. In 1940 he joined a student club that had students who were anti and pro German. He first started working to help Jews in 1942, when someone asked him to let Jews use his apartment in Utrecht during the day while he was at work the leader of this group was Jan Merlibault and also included Hetty Voute and Ankie Stork.

At first, they thought the Jews were being sent to Westerbork to work and then found out about the transports. At first children were sent to different places outside Utrecht. They paid the foster parents 50 guilders per month per child. They got the money in various ways; selling prints and poems was one way. They got 10,000 guilders from Archbishop DeJong of Utrecht. The children were usually transported by train. Children under 15 didn't need IDs. To take babies, they would have both a man and a woman traveling together pretending they were the parents.

Not only Jews, but also young men went into hiding because they didn't want to be sent to Germany to work as slave labor. Rut had a fake ID from the railroad system and could travel for free. Rut states that things got really bad in Holland after 1945 and there was very little food. After the war he married a woman whose father was Jewish and who emigrated to Holland after Kristallnacht.