

Free translation from Dutch into English.

From the Diary of a Mr. Katier, Headschoolmaster in Rietmolen Holland who was called by a Dutch Farmer that was Hiding the Two Pilots.

"In the middle of February 1945 during the German occupation, an old pupil of my school came to my house in the afternoon to tell me that in one of their barn at their farm, two man were hiding, dressed in uniforms.

He could not understand them but they were pointing with their fingers to the sky, whereupon the Farmer concluded that they came out of the Sky. One of them had CANADA on a shoulderpad on the uniform.

He asked me to come over and talk to them.

I told him that this was a very dangerous game he was playing and he should talk to nobody about this, since he was most certainly hiding British and Canadian Pilots.

But I told him that I would help.

I assured him that I would be around 12.30 that afternoon at his Farm.

I put on a cap, something that I never wear, but this time it was for reasons not to be recognized.

After my arrival Farmer Temmink brought me to the barn with the two Pilots.

What should I say? They sat neatly next to each other, and I said I am very glad to see you.

Immediately the two Pilots jumped up and said: Do you speak English? In order not to be seen by anyone, we moved further into the barn. And that's were they told me their story.

They were attacked above Rheims in Germany on thier 37th trip.

They were with 4 Pilots in the plane and had jumped out with their parachutas and had found each other shortly after their jump.

They had heard the other two call that they could not get out of the plane and they hoped that somehow they would have made it out alive.

They had been on the road for the last two weeks from Rheims and had slept in all kinds of places and in the open air.

They looked rather unkept and had long beards.

The Farmer came with a razor to shave themselves and also with some soap so they could wash themselves.

When Mack had shaved himself, He strook himself along his cheek and said I'm ready for dancing.

He wanted to clean the knife of the razor with a towel that he was wearing around his neck.

I had seen allready that this was a silk scarf with a map on it.

He offered it to me wich made me very happy.

He had heard in England about underground organizations and had tried in vane to get in contact with such an organization.

When I assured them that I would be albe to get them in touch with such an organization, they were over-enjoyed.

The I asked them if they were hungry and they confirmed that were. They had been eating turnups only.

Mack asked: How are the Jews here? When I did not understand what he ment with the word Jews He explained: Moses in the Bible.

After school time I went to the Catholic Priest in Haaksbergen for more contact with the local underground.

First I had written on a piece of paper "I am very glad to see you"

I tore this piece of paper in half and gave one part to the Farmer.

They should have contact with persons that had the other half of the piece of paper.

The other half I took to the Priest in Haaksbergen.

He asked me for a secret sign and liked the idea of the piece of paper.

The Priest said that he would make sure that the next day someone would come over to pick-up the two Pilots.

He told me also not to go to the two Pilots again so I did not know who the people were that would pick-up the Pilots.

That way we could never say who was who.....

That night the Farmer made sure the Pilots received warm hay and blankets which we brought to the Farmer.

When I asked Max if all was O.K. He said :I only miss my wife to kiss me a goodnight.

The Farmers wife had prepared a nice warm meal which we brought to the Pilots. When they saw the meal their eyes almost popped out and Max said:That's a very big meal.

Boy could those two eat.

Before they started to eat Max asked me to thank the Farmer for all they did for them.

Hank also wanted to give something but said He was sorry that he did not have anything to give and felt very sorry.

What He did have was a small bag that was hanging from his belt.

I asked him if I could exchange his map with the one from Max and he gave it to me.

We said goodbye to both of them .and I also got the adress from Max.

After the War was over I wrote him and I received his reply. I still have that letter.

The next day two people came to the the Farmer to pick up milk and they asked for the two Pilots.

The Farmer was much suprised and said Two Pilots?

I don't know of two Pilots.

After they gave the Farmer the one half of the piece of paper he introduced them to the Pilots.

Max wanted to know everything and wanted to know how many people lived in the Farm.

He thought onehunderd. but there lived only 9 people.

He also wanted to know if the woodenhood that Temink

was wearing would be trown out after they heds been worn or that they would have to be repaired?

After those two days untill the liberation of Haaksbergen I did not sleep anymore since I did not know how and what happend to the two pilots.

Now I know everything and it was very nice to have met the family Lottering.