

ESTHER AND SAMUEL VAN DAM (Netherlands)

I don't know if the people in Holland could have done more to protect the Jews. It's hard to say. It was very dangerous for them too. It's a small country and very densely populated. It's hard to hide somebody over there. We were afraid all the time we were in hiding. We were in a walk-in closet when the Germans were searching the house. We were holding the door from the inside. We were just lucky that they didn't look in there. Nobody can understand it. Quite a few of our relatives were in hiding but they were found. We were lucky.



VICTORIANS

SPOKE OUT IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY.

THE VICTORIA BRANCH OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS SOCIETY HELD A PUBLIC MEETING AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AUDITORIUM TO CONDEMN THE PERSECUTION OF JEWS AND ADVOCATED HELP FOR REFUGEES TRYING TO ESCAPE.

RESISTANCE

Many individuals resisted Nazi rule.

Although many nations fell to Nazi occupation, some citizens fought against oppression. In February of 1941, the people of Amsterdam held an anti-Nazi general strike. In Denmark, 7200 Jews were secretly ferried to Sweden and safety. Risking their own lives and the lives of their families, Europeans of many religious and cultural backgrounds hid Jews in their homes, sometimes for years at a time. But still, two thirds of European Jewry fell victim to Nazi extermination.

Jews in Europe resisted where they could.

Jews risked their lives to continue working to feed their families and hide from arrest and deportation to the concentration camps. When possible, they left the only communities they had ever known to start lives in new countries. To the Nazis, the very act of Jewish survival was an act of defiance.

When escape became impossible, some staged revolts.

During April and May of 1943, tens of thousands of Jews living in Warsaw rose up against Nazis control. The Jewish Fighting Organization held out for 40 days during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, before German troops surrounded and burned the ghetto to the ground. The Sondercommando, those Jews who placed bodies into the crematoria, rebelled at Treblinka Concentration Camp and destroyed the ovens.

This wedding portrait is of SOLOMON SCHRIJVER (age 25) and FLORA MENDEL (age 22), taken in Amsterdam's Jewish Quarter in the spring of 1942. They were both deported from the Netherlands to the extermination centre at Sobibor in Poland, where they were killed on 9 July, 1943.

