

Biographical Data Form

To ensure inclusion in the Veterans History Project, this form must accompany each submission. **Please use reverse or additional sheet if service was in more than one war or conflict.**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Veteran Civilian ADRIAN COR VAN DE REE
first middle last maiden name

Place of Birth MIDLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY Birth Date 1924 /year

Race/Ethnicity (optional) CAUCASIAN Male Female

Branch of Service or Wartime Activity SLAVE LABOR - RELEASED & DRAFTED INTO U.S. ARMY

Commissioned Enlisted Drafted Service dates 1944 to 1945

Highest Rank CORPORAL

Unit, Division, Battalion, Group, Ship, etc. (Do not abbreviate.) _____

War, operation, or conflict served in TRILPORT, FRANCE

Locations of military or civilian service TRILPORT, FRANCE

Battles/campaigns (please name) _____

Medals or special service awards. If so, please list (be as specific as possible): _____

Special duties/highlights/achievements INTERPRETOR FOR U.S. ARMY &
GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR

Was the veteran a prisoner of war? Yes No

Did the veteran or civilian sustain combat or service-related injuries? Yes No

Interviewer (if applicable) _____

(Please use reverse for any additional biographical information.)

Additional Service History Information

Branch of Service or Wartime Activity _____

Commissioned Enlisted Drafted Service dates _____ to _____

Highest Rank _____

Unit, Division, Battalion, Group, Ship, etc. (Do not abbreviate.) _____

War, operation, or conflict served in _____

Locations of military or civilian service _____

Battles/campaigns (please name) _____

Medals or special service awards. If so, please list (be as specific as possible): _____

Special duties/highlights/achievements _____

Was the veteran a prisoner of war? Yes No

Did the veteran or civilian sustain combat or service-related injuries? Yes No

Additional Biographical Information

ADRIAN VAN DE REE WAS BORN A U.S. CITIZEN WITH NETHERLAND PARENTS. WAS TAKEN TO EUROPE AT AGE FOUR. WAS THERE WHEN W.W. II BROKE, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN BY THE GERMANS TO SLAVE LABOR CAMPS FOR 3 YEARS, RELEASED BY THE U.S. ARMY. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE CAPTAIN MAURICE J. ERICSON, THE COMMANDER OF THE 1961 LABOR SUPERVISORY CAMP, UPON REALIZATION THAT MR VAN DE REE WAS A U.S. CITIZEN, INDUCTED HIM ON A 6-MONTH CONTRACT WITH A TITLE OF CORPORAL, TO SERVE AS AN INTERPRETER.

A NOVEL "SLAVE LABOR" BY JOEL BERMAN IS A COMPLETE NARRATIVE OF MR VAN DE REE'S LIFE & WAR EXPERIENCE.

Adrian Van De Ree Regular 6 Year school 6 to 12 years old
Then business school ULO for 3 Years (Business) grad
Finished school in Feb 1939

War started May 1939 Rotterdam/south overrun by German parachutists German Army overtook
Waalhaven the only airport in
Holland South

I had just started a job in March Feb. 39 as apprentice in Import/export company
(Accounting) Employed 2 months Then Office closed due to German Occupation
No Office Business jobs available because all the import/export office were closed

Then started a new carrier as Apprentice (5 Year contract (optician)
Master G.J.Hoebe Workshop in Rotterdam North
G.J. Hoebe was of German decent seemed a decent man

When the Germans invaded The Netherlands nobody knew what was going on
Woke up one morning by gunfire and walked to the school a block away from our second story condo
where I knew that The
Dutch soldiers were stationed They were shooting at the Germans who were laying on the ground who were
returning fire and
threw the handgrenates that were actually not thrown by hand, because the grenades were attached to
round wooden sticks,
Some of the German soldiers that later were captured were wearing Dutch soldier uniforms and spoke
Dutch, but not good enough
so the Dutch soldiers had them talk Dutch to them and picked some words who were very obvious, only a
Dutchman could say correctly

The airport Waalhaven was located south on the river Maas and was taken by the para troopers early in the
morning, The transport

planes dropped the motorcycles for their soldiers
There was only one bridge in Rotterdam at that time. The bridge was defended by the Dutch Marines who
were stationed on the
north side of the bridge in the harbour. Maybe not more than 50 strong.

So the Germans tried to cross the river by boats they had stolen from the Dutch people. But the Marines on
the other side were
picking them off one by one and the Germans were unable to overpower the few Marines

This lasted three days Then German Commander send a message to the Mayor of the City to give up or the
city would be bombed by
the Diving Stukas

The Mayor never did get a message to the commander and the Stukas bombed the City using fire bombs
The Dutch could not fight
the fires and the City burned to the ground and burned for weeks as all the Depots were full to the top with
all kind of materials stored
in a Harbor town waiting to be shipped

At Home Cor my brother and I climbed on top of the roof of the house and watched the dogfights between
the English and the Germans
Of course we had no idea who the planes belonged to at the time. Not knowing we were rooting for the
Messerschmitts

There was no television and only a few people owned a radio and there were no newspapers delivered
The radio's at that time were powered by a 12 volt battery typical like a car battery and needed to be
charged practical every other
day and the place that had the charging equipment was a kilometer from our apartment So Cor and I took
turns to carry that heavy
battery. Cost was 10 cents

Our radio had the capability to tune in to two stations as at that time radio's did not have dials to tune in to a
frequency.

You needed plug-in coils and we only had two
Holland only two stations one I remember one was in Hilversum in Holland South

So we were completely in the dark and only received the news by word of mouth. Which of course not
always was correct.