



בזכירה סוד הגאולה
(הבשמים)
Remembrance is the
Secret of Redemption
(Baal-Shem-Tov)

כל המקיים נפש אחת

WHOEVER SAVES ONE LIFE IS AS THOUGH HE HAD SAVED THE ENTIRE WORLD

כאילו קיים עולם מלא

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תעודת כבוד Certificate of Honour

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT IN ITS SESSION OF OCTOBER 4, 2021 THE COMMISSION FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS, ESTABLISHED BY YAD VASHEM, THE HOLOCAUST HEROES & MARTYRS' REMEMBRANCE AUTHORITY, ON THE BASIS OF EVIDENCE PRESENTED BEFORE IT, HAS DECIDED TO HONOUR

וזאת לתעודה שבישיבתה מיום כד תמוז תשפ"א החליטה הועדה לציון חסידי אומות העולם עליד רשות הזיכרון יד ושם על יסוד עדויות שהובאו לפניה, לתת כבוד ויקר ל

Johannes Jacobus Hendricus & Elisabeth Helena Maria Heurkens - van Grootel

WHO, DURING THE HOLOCAUST PERIOD IN EUROPE, RISKED THEIR LIVES TO SAVE PERSECUTED JEWS. THE COMMISSION, THEREFORE, HAS ACCORDED THEM THE MEDAL OF THE RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS. THEIR NAMES SHALL BE FOREVER ENGRAVED ON THE HONOUR WALL IN THE GARDEN OF THE RIGHTEOUS, AT YAD VASHEM, JERUSALEM.

על אשר בשנות השואה באירופה שנו נפשם בכפם להצלת יהודים נרדפים מידי רודפיהם ולהעניק להם את המדליה לחסידי אומות העולם. שמם יונצח לעד על לוח-כבוד בחורשת חסידי אומות העולם ביד ושם.

Jerusalem, Israel

JUNE 14, 2022

Dani Dayan

דני דני 111

בשם רשות הזכרון יד ושם
ON BEHALF OF THE YAD VASHEM DIRECTORATE

ניתן היום בירושלים

טו סיון תשפ"ב

J. Turkel
יעקב טירקל

בשם הועדה לציון חסידי אומות העולם
ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS

WHOEVER SAVES ONE LIFE IS AS THOUGH HE HAD SAVED THE ENTIRE WORLD



תעודת כבוד

CERTIFICATE OF HONOUR

Nederlandse vertaling:

ERE OORKONDE

Deze oorkonde bevestigt dat in haar zitting van 4 oktober 2021 de Commissie ter Ere van de Rechtvaardigen, ingesteld door YAD VASHEM, het Instituut ter Herdenking van de Martelaren en Helden, op basis van de door haar ingewonnen getuigenissen, eer wil bewijzen aan

**Johannes Jacobus Hendrikus Heurkens and Elisabeth Helena
Maria Heurkens-van Grootel**

**Hermanus Heurkens and Petronella Hendrina
Heurkens-van Haren**

**Adrianus Petrus van Boxtel and Antonia Anna
van Boxtel-Heurkens**

die met gevaar voor eigen leven, gedurende de Holocaust in Europa, vervolgte Joden hebben gered.

Derhalve heeft de Commissie aan hen de medaille van 'Rechtvaardigen onder de Volkeren' toegekend.

Hun namen zullen voor altijd worden gegraveerd in de ere-muur in de "Tuin der Rechtvaardigen" bij Yad Vashem in Jeruzalem.

Jeruzalem, 14 juni 2022

**Heurkens Johannes Jacobus Hendricus and Elisabeth Helena Maria (van Grootel)
Heurkens Hermanus and Petronella Hendrina (van Haren)
Boxtel van Adrianus Petrus and Antonia Anna (Heurkens)**

Johannes Jacobus Hendricus (Jan) Heurkens lived with his wife Elisabeth Helena Maria (Bets) van Grootel in Geldrop, in the Dutch province of Noord-Brabant. Both were born in 1907. Jan Heurkens was part of a nationally organized resistance group (LO: 'Landelijke Organisatie') and had contact with local clergymen and resistance members. Jan was Municipal Secretary; thanks to this position he had access to the person registers of the town. He falsified details and identity cards, arranged food coupons for hidens and organized hiding places for shot down pilots.

In their home in Geldrop, Jan and Bets Heurkens hid a Jewish boy. His name was Lodewijk Theodoor Manne (Luuk) Ornstein and he was about twelve years old. Luuk's father was a famous professor of physics (Leonard Salomon Ornstein), who had passed away in 1941. Luuk's mother Sophia Estella Ornstein-Meijer took Luuk and his brother Mathijs Alexander Manne (Thijs) to Eindhoven, Brabant, in the South of Holland. Many of Leonard Ornstein's former students worked there in a physics laboratory. In Eindhoven mother and sons Ornstein went into hiding separately.

Luuk was sheltered by Jan and Bets Heurkens. He was called 'Luuk van der Steen'. After a raid on the distribution office in Geldrop and the town hall in Mierlo in 1944, Jan Heurkens went into hiding. In the meanwhile, an infiltrator in the resistance group betrayed resistance members, among them the persons who performed the raids. 17 Persons were arrested; Jan Heurkens was not between them. After a week, Jan returned home for Bets Heurkens' birthday on May 22th. That moment Nazi policemen arrested him; they had been waiting for his arrival at the other side of the street. The Sicherheitsdienst regarded Jan Heurkens as the leader of the resistance group. In Haerendaal, Jan was interrogated brutally and then transferred to Camp Vught. On August 9th Jan was shot, shortly before the liberation of Noord-Brabant.

In the meantime, Luuk Ornstein remained with Bets Heurkens. The Nazis had no idea that the Heurkens were also hiding a Jewish boy. During his stay with the Heurkens, Luuk Ornstein played with the neighbors' daughter, who was three years younger. Luuk went to school in Eindhoven during his hiding time, under a false identity.

Thijs Ornstein, Luuk Ornstein's younger brother by two years, was hidden by some families in Waalre, while he attended school in Eindhoven. He was called Thijs van den Broek. On his eleventh birthday on February 4th 1944 he was in immediaty danger due to betrayal and he was transferred to farm of Jan Heurkens' parents Hermanus (Herman) and Petronella Hendrina (Nel) Heurkens (van Haren) in Nederasselt. They had 13 children, of whom Jan was the eldest. Petronella Heurkens, Jan's mother, was a strong and special lady, who was sheltering evacuees and hiders, so that they were sometimes with 30 persons at the table. Thijs was presented as a child from Rotterdam whose father had died and whose mother and brother stayed at other addresses.

Towards the end of the war, after the arrest of Jan Heurkens, Thijs was temporarily sheltered by Adrianus Petrus (Adriaan) van Boxtel (b. 1910) and his wife Antonia Anna (Tonny) Heurkens in Lienden (Gelderland). Tonny was Hermanus and Petronella Heurkens' daughter. After Jan Heurken's death, Thijs returned to the Heurkens family in Nederasselt, where he stayed until the liberation in September 1944. With chalk he wrote his real name Thijs Ornstein on one of the tanks. In the evening they feared for a counterattack by the Germans and Thijs was very worried that his name on the tank would give him away. Fortunately, that did not happen.

After the war, Thijs and Luuk Ornstein and their mother reunited and they settled in Amsterdam, first with Sophia's brother and his family. The Ornsteins remained in warm contact with their rescuers and their families.

On 4 October 2021 Yad Vashem recognized Johannes Jacobus Hendricus & Elisabeth Helena Maria Heurkens (van Grootel), Hermanus & Petronella Hendrina Heurkens (van Haren) and Adrianus Petrus & Antonia Anna van Boxtel (Heurkens) as Rigitheous Among the Nations.

Jerusalem, 24 April 2022

Mr. Jan Bruijsten
Sultzbachstraat 2
5371 ES Ravenstein
The Netherlands

Mr. Herman van Boxtel
Helfrichstraat 43
6562 WX Groesbeek
The Netherlands

Dear Mr. Bruijsten and Mr. van Boxtel,

We are pleased to announce that the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous has decided to award the title of “Righteous among the Nations” to **Hermanus & Petronella Hendrina Heurkens (van Haren), Johannes Jacobus Hendricus & Elisabeth Helena Maria Heurkens (van Grootel) and Adrianus Petrus & Antonia Anna van Boxtel (Heurkens)** for help rendered to Jewish persons during the period of the Holocaust at the risk of their lives.

A medal and certificate of honor will be sent to the Israeli embassy in Den Haag, which will organize a ceremony in their honor. Please take into consideration that the process of preparing the awards may take more than three months.

We kindly suggest that you establish contact with the embassy (see contact information below) in order to finalize the date and particulars of the ceremony.

In the future, the names of the Righteous will be engraved on the Wall of Honor in the Garden of the Righteous at Yad Vashem.

In addition, we would appreciate receiving photos of the Righteous, preferably from the wartime period.

Finally, if the spelling of the names of the Righteous is incorrect, please let us know as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joel Zisenwine, Director
Righteous Among the Nations Department

Cc:
Mr. Leonard Ornstein - Tuin van Hera 16, 1093 NP Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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Mr. Maurits Ornstein - James Wattstraat 3, 2561 XK Den Haag, The Netherlands
Mr. Pepijn Ornstein - Michelangelostraat 20, 1077 BC Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Ms. Marijn Ornstein - O.Z. Voorburgwal 107D, 1012 EM Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Drs. Anna Maria (Miep) Turken - Beukelaar 30, 5664 XC Geldrop, The Netherlands
Mrs. Christien Roelofs - Ruijterstraat 12, 5361 GC Grave, The Netherlands
Mr. Lex Menco – Commission for the Designation of the Righteous
Dr. Haim Gertner – International Relations Division, Yad Vashem
Mr. Yossi Gevir – Senior Advisor to the Chairman and Director of External & Governmental Affairs,
Yad Vashem
Mrs. Karin Eliyahu Pery – Embassy of Israel, Johan de Wittlaan 5, 2517 JR Den Haag, tel: (31) 70-
3760533

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