

Recruitment of Dutch Nationals
in the United States for the
Netherlands Armed Forces in
the Second World War

by

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Summary

A study of Dutch recruitment of Netherlands citizens during the Second World War and the response of Dutch immigrants residing in the United States. An attempt to explain the limited response.

Outline

1. Dutch recruitment policies 1940-1945.
2. U.S. Cooperation with Dutch authorities 1940.
3. U.S. Cooperation with Dutch authorities 1941-1945.
4. Response of Dutch immigrants to the call.
5. Assessment

Bibliography

The paper is based on unpublished archival materials. I can only recommend my forthcoming article in Mededelingen van de Sectie Militaire Geschiedenis Landmachtstaf.

RECRUITMENT OF DUTCH NATIONALS IN THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE NETHERLANDS ARMED FORCES IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Unlike the French government which concluded an armistice with the victorious Nazi regime on June 22, 1940, withdrawing from further participation in the war, the Netherlands decided to continue the struggle after the surrender of its armed forces on May 15. However, the Netherlands government in exile in London had very limited military resources to fight the Axis powers. Very few men escaped to England in May 1940 where they and others formed a small fighting unit later called the Princess Irene Brigade. Furthermore, various naval vessels and ships of the Dutch merchant marine contributed to the war effort.

In order to increase the size of its fighting unit in England, to arouse interest in the war effort among Netherlanders abroad, and to impress the Allies of its determination to combat the Axis powers, the Netherlands government decided to recruit nationals residing in various nations or to persuade them to enlist in its armed forces. Special efforts were to be made to recruit men in South America, South Africa, Canada, and the United States. Dutch nationals in the United States the Netherlands government could draw upon were a small number of employees with various shipping and other firms, a few refugees from the occupied homeland, and immigrants. It was particularly from this latter group Dutch officials hoped to be able to recruit many young men. This paper discusses especially

the recruitment of such permanent Dutch residents in the United States and is based on unpublished Dutch and American archival sources. I also tried to communicate with Dutch nationals who in 1939 were immigrants in the United States and who served in the Princess Irene Brigade by placing announcements in the D.I.S. Magazine and The Windmill Herald. Although more than 400 Dutch-Americans served in the Netherlands armed forces during World War II I did not have much of a response.¹ It is difficult to believe that all or most of them are no longer living today. I hope this article might stimulate them to contact me.

Already in May 1940, shortly after the defeat of Dutch armed forces at the hand of the Nazi juggernaut, some efforts were made to recruit Netherlands in the United States.² As will be seen below, these efforts did not produce the expected results. On August 8, 1940, by royal decree, all Netherlands in the United Kingdom, United States, and Canada who were born between January 1, 1904 and January 1, 1921, were ordered to register for military duty with Dutch officials in those countries. Later in the war, the decree was modified to include Netherlands in other parts of the world and those born between January 1, 1900 and December 31, 1924. During the latter part of the war those born between January 1, 1904 and January 1, 1927 were declared eligible for military conscription. Furthermore, the decree of August 1940 made it possible for men between the ages of 18 and 55 to enlist in the Netherlands Armed Forces.³

The task of registering Netherlands in the United States was initially undertaken by the Netherlands Consulate General in

New York. In December 1940 a special Registration Bureau was established in New York which was headed by a Consul General in Special Service, M.J. van Schreven who was later succeeded by S.J. van den Bergh and A. Kerkhoven.⁴

Later, in March and May 1941, registration bureaus were established in Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, close to the major centers of Dutch settlements in the United States, which were supervised by the New York office. The entire recruitment system in the United States as well as in Canada was under the supervision and direction of Lieutenant Colonel G.J. Sas the head of the Netherlands military mission in Canada. Sas seems to have spent much of his time and energy on recruitment efforts and work in the United States. Much to his chagrin he was replaced in early 1942 by the former minister of War Major-General A.Q.H. Dijxhoorn.⁵

One of the major problems Dutch officials faced from the very beginning was how to obtain names and addresses of Netherlands residing in the United States and how to inform them of their military duty without violating American laws. According to American officials neutrality legislation forbade recruitment of foreign nationals residing in the United States.⁶ This was incorrect, however. But recruitment did violate the Criminal Code of 1909 as amended in 1917. Section 10 of that Code stipulated that it was illegal to enlist or to hire or retain

another person to enlist or enter himself, or to go beyond the limits of the jurisdiction of the United States with intent to be enlisted or entered in the service of any foreign prince, State, colony, district, or people as a soldier or as a marine or

seaman on board of any vessel of war

However, the article also provided that the law would not apply to "any citizens or subjects of any country engaged in war with a . . . country with which the United States is at war" ⁷ Until December 1941 the United States was a neutral power and not a cobelligerent or ally of the Netherlands. Thus during much of this period American officials insisted that the law be respected. Officially, the United States did not approve of conscription of Dutch nationals residing as permanent residents in the United States and even warned Netherlands officials not to make any recruitment propaganda. Yet, at the same time the American government acknowledged that the "liability of any such persons for service in the Dutch armed forces was a matter for ⁸ the decision of the Dutch government." This kind of ambiguity made it difficult for Netherlands authorities to determine how much freedom they would have in recruiting nationals of the Netherlands. They simply would have to test the waters.

In the summer of 1940 they placed an announcement in the Knickerbocker, posted a call for military service in Netherlands consulates, and informed various Dutch organizations. In July 1940, A. Hartog, the Netherlands consul general in Los Angeles, placed an announcement in local papers and in store windows, and ⁹ informed local ministers. Apparently, American officials considered all of this a violation of the law, and in August of that year Hartog was instructed by A. Loudon, the Netherlands minister to Washington, to try to persuade local editors to refer ¹⁰ to the royal decree in their editorial pages. Dutch officials also contacted various American businesses such as Shell Oil.

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Corporation of Texas and the National Brass Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan, to provide them with names of Dutch employees. However, not all of these firms were very cooperative including branches of Dutch businesses in the United States who were often anxious to keep their employees.

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Once names and addresses were obtained, circulars were sent to the men in which they were requested to register for military service. American officials objected to this type of communication, however, and in January 1941, informed Dutch authorities to cease all recruitment propaganda. Loudon promised to discontinue the use of the circular, but apparently, the practice was resumed shortly after.

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However, obtaining the names of eligible men continued to remain a difficult task. Thus, in the summer and again in December 1941 Dutch officials sought to resolve their problem by requesting American authorities to allow them to inspect all alien registration cards of Dutch citizens born between 1904 and 1924. Until very recently, all aliens residing in the United States were required by law to report annually their status and presence in the United States. Initially, the State Department seemed sympathetic to that request which came at a time when the United States was no longer strictly observing its neutrality in the war as it had been in 1940. However, the Immigration and Naturalization Service took a dim view of the request and rejected it with the observation that a study of millions of registration cards would simply involve too much work while making them available to a foreign power would create "an

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embarrassing precedent."

In the early summer of 1941 the United States made some minor concessions. Thus it allowed the display of recruitment posters in the Netherlands Consulates and made it possible for Dutch officials to draw upon the pool of so-called declarant aliens. Declarant aliens were immigrants who had indicated their wish to become citizens of the United States by applying for so-called first papers. By the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, declarant aliens had to register for military service and were subject to conscription. Dutch officials mistakenly believed this number of declarant Dutch nationals to be larger than that of the non-declarant and were very anxious to conscript them. However, they were unable to do so because declarant aliens were to register for American military service.

Furthermore, American officials agreed in January 1941 that declarant aliens were not permitted to return their first papers and would be punished if they refused to register under the Selective Service Act.¹⁵ The concession of June 1941 made it possible, however, for declarant aliens, who had been classified I-A by their local draft boards, that is those to be called first, to be reclassified II-B or deferred status. Once they had been reclassified as such, they could be drafted by the Dutch government.¹⁶

After the United States entry into the war the Netherlands expected to secure much more cooperation from American officials. It would take some time, however, before a new agreement was negotiated, and even then Dutch officials were not entirely satisfied. In January 1942 they obtained a major concession when

the United States agreed to refer all names and addresses of
 Netherlands registered under the American Selective Training
 and Service Act.¹⁷ This concession resolved one of the major
 problems Dutch officials had encountered in the preceding months.
 However, in late March the United States informed Dutch officials
 that only Dutch subjects who were non-declarant aliens could be
 accepted for military service in the Netherlands Armed Forces;
 thus henceforth so-called declarant aliens could no longer be
 drafted. Dutch officials were quick to point out that this new
 regulation reduced the pool of available potential draftees since
 in their opinion, the number of declarant aliens was larger than
 that of the non-declarants.¹⁸ As will be shown below, they were
 mistaken in their estimate; the number of non-declarants was
 larger than those of the declarants.

In spite of Netherlands protest the United States refused to
 alter its policy. On May 6, 1942, the Department of State
 informed Loudon that the old policy had been instituted before
 the United States entered the war. The new policy constituted
 "the most liberal regime from a practicable point of view which
 can be placed in effect for all the various belligerent
 countries."¹⁹ Most likely, the new American policy was motivated
 in part by a desire to secure as much manpower as possible for
 its own armed forces. Although the number of declarant Dutch
 aliens in the United States was comparatively small if those of
 other nationalities were added the total figure might have been
 considerable.

Further protests by Dutch officials brought no changes and

finally, on July 8, 1942, the Netherlands and the United States reached an agreement that confirmed previous understandings. Furthermore, it stipulated that the Netherlands would not use "any threats or compulsion of any nature to induce any person in the United States to enlist in its armed forces" and not to accept enlistments of aliens who had declared their intent of becoming American citizens and who were subject to registration under the Selective Service Act.

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Apparently, there were no further major problems between Dutch and American officials. Especially state Selective Service Boards were very cooperative in providing names and addresses. After the names had been secured circulars were sent to the men requesting them to register. If no reply had been obtained within eight days a new letter would be sent. If again no reply was received a staff member would visit the young man trying to persuade him to comply. Subsequently, the local draft board was notified of the agreement or the decision. Finally, in spite of the restriction to draw upon declarant aliens, Dutch officials were still able to enlist them if the local draft board was willing to grant a release. However, apparently such releases were seldom granted.

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The only major problem after July 1942 between American and Dutch officials concerning recruitment was the de Vogel affair. While American officials had rendered their "valued assistance" in returning a few deserters to Netherlands authorities they stubbornly refused to comply with Dutch requests to hand over de Vogel to them. Even Minister Loudon was unable to secure American compliance and cooperation. Charles Emil de Vogel was

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born in the Netherlands ca. 1908. In 1927 ne served for a short time in a Dutch officers training school and later went to the Netherlands Indies where he became a corporal in the colonial army. From 1938 to 1940 he visited California where he married an American citizen. In 1940 he returned to the Indies and early 1941 was admitted as an immigrant to the United States. In July of that year he registered for American military service and was given a 4-C or alien status by the Selective Service Board of Glendale, California. In October 1941 he applied for his first papers declaring his intention of becoming an American citizen.

However, Gerard J. Droste, head of the Netherlands Registration Bureau and Consul General in Los Angeles informed de Vogel of his military duty under the royal decree of August 1940. De Vogel complied and after his medical examination was ordered to proceed to Stratford, Ontario for military training. In February 1942, his local draft board released him from any military obligation under the Selective Service Act and in the same month de Vogel proceeded to Canada. After he obtained the rank of corporal, de Vogel was sent to Curacao where he remained until April 1943. Subsequently, he was ordered to return to Canada via Los Angeles where he was permitted to settle some personal affairs. However, upon his arrival in Los Angeles he informed officials of the Registration Bureau that he was unwilling to proceed to Canada. Instead, he reregistered with his local draft board in Glendale which classified him I-A and ordered his induction.

Dutch authorities informed American officials of de Vogel's

desertion and requested his arrest. The Department of War complied, and on June 21 de Vogel was arrested in Los Angeles. Subsequently, the Inspector General of the Ninth Service Command of the U.S. Army investigated the matter and recommended on July 27 to the Inspector General of Washington, D.C., to determine if de Vogel's enlistment had not been in violation of Section 10 of the U.S. Criminal Code or "otherwise unlawful." The investigating officer of the Ninth Service Command also questioned Droste who defended his decision to induct de Vogel by correctly pointing out that at the time of the latter's induction "no agreement had been reached between the United States Government and the Netherlands Government for enlisting of Netherlands nationals in the United States." ²⁴ However, on October 5, 1943, the American Judge Advocate General agreed with the Ninth Service Command's conclusions that de Vogel had been inducted in violation of the U.S. Criminal Code. Furthermore, ²⁵ he even recommended possible criminal action against Droste. Subsequently, in October, Secretary of War Henry Stimson ordered ²⁶ de Vogel's release and induction into the U.S. Army. However, Stimson decided not to instigate legal proceedings against Droste by exercising his prerogatives under a provision of the same Article 10 of the Criminal Code that supposedly had been violated. The provision on which Stimson based his decision not to prosecute stipulated that the law would not apply to citizens of nations who were engaged in a war against a country with which the United States was also at war. ²⁷

In April and May 1944, Minister Loudon filed his protests with American authorities by contending that at the time of de

Vogel's registration with the Selective Service he was an "enrolled member of the Armed Forces of the Netherlands." Therefore, the Netherlands minister contended, de Vogel's registration could not have been accepted.²⁸ The State Department replied that on the basis of all the available evidence, de Vogel had been inducted as a result of "threats and other improper representations by Dutch officials."²⁹ Dutch officials denied such allegations and contended that de Vogel's induction had occurred at a time when there was no agreement between the Netherlands and the United States. Furthermore, on June 24, and October 13, 1944, Loudon informed Secretary of State Cordell Hull that the provisions of the Criminal Code were not applicable because de Vogel was not an American citizen at the time of his induction into the Netherlands Armed Forces. Finally, the Netherlands minister concluded that "no matter whatever the merits of the case may be the unilateral induction of a soldier into the army of the United States who is in the active service of the Armed Forces of a country which is allied with the United States in the present war, is an action which is not furthering the close cooperation and harmony which should exist between the armed forces of countries fighting the same enemy."³⁰ However, Hull and Stimson refused to budge, and de Vogel remained in the U.S. Army.

What were the merits of the case? Unfortunately, we do not know if Droste used "improper representations" to persuade de Vogel to join the Netherlands Armed Forces. Perhaps he told him and other Netherlands nationals of possible "dire consequences"

if he would not comply. Most likely, this empty threat had been used by other Dutch officials ever since 1940 but had never led to any kind of confrontation with American authorities. Nor had the agreement of July 8, 1942, been violated since de Vogel had been inducted into the Netherlands Armed Forces in February 1942. One could argue, although American officials did not press this point, that de Vogel should not have been drafted because he was a so-called declarant alien. As will be recalled, American authorities stipulated in March 1942 that such individuals were not to be inducted into the Netherlands Armed Forces. However, de Vogel's Selective Service Board had released him from any American military obligation. Thus de Vogel's induction seems to have been proper and not in violation of any agreements or understandings. American officials overreacted and misjudged the case. Perhaps even Stimson finally realized that the American case was not too persuasive when in November 1944 he declared the case closed not because de Vogel had been improperly inducted but because he had become an American citizen and was now serving in the American Armed Forces.³¹ Apparently, de Vogel had quickly completed his naturalization process while serving in the U.S. Army. He was now completely safe from any kind of prosecution by Dutch authorities.

How did Dutch nationals living in the United States respond to the call for military service in the armed forces of the land of their birth? Recipients of the Dutch circular or notification requesting them to register with a Netherlands Registration Bureau often had a great variety of concerns and questions. They wanted to know if Dutch authorities had the power to conscript

them and what the penalty for refusal would be. They also wanted to know if declarant aliens could be conscripted. Some were concerned that a person who had taken out first papers might no longer qualify for American citizenship if he would serve with the Netherlands Armed Forces. Others wondered if they could serve while they were registered under the Selective Service Act. A few individuals were concerned about the problem of reentry into the United States after they had completed their military service with the Netherlands Armed Forces. One person even wanted to know what would happen to him if he refused to serve but would might some day return to the Netherlands for a visit! Finally, there were questions about family allowances and maintenance.

Perhaps one of the most typical inquiries came from Roy Broersma, Bellflower, California. Many individuals of Dutch extraction who had first lived in Iowa settled in the Los Angeles area where they lived in such communities as Bellflower and Hynes. The latter even became known as Little Netherlands.³³ Roy Broersma arrived in the United States in 1926 and settled in Bellflower where he became a dairy farmer. In August 1941 he received a summons to join the Netherlands Armed Forces in Canada. This call prompted his inquiry with the State Department which had received similar inquiries in previous months from anxious Dutch nationals. Broersma wrote on August 20, 1941

I have been informed by an agent of the Holland Government that I have to go to Canada to join the Dutch Forces there and have to leave from Los Angeles Wednesday August 27, 1941. I have been a resident alien of this country for 15 years and I am married and have dairy business of my own. And I also have

filed for my first citizen papers. Has the Holland Government authority to make me join the Dutch Military Forces in Canada. Or will the American Government force me to leave this country. I have never been in [the] Dutch Army before. I would greatly appreciate [an] answer before Wednesday Aug. 27, 1941. I am enclosing a [sic] envelope [sic] with stamp.³⁴

To these and other inquiries the State Department tried to reply as well as it could. Thus it reassured the inquirers that Dutch authorities had no power to force them to comply with Dutch draft laws.³⁵ The problem of reentry permits was not fully resolved until after Pearl Harbor. Until that time recruits were able to obtain reentry permits as long as they would not divulge the reasons for their departure from the United States.³⁶ Many inquiries of Dutch nationals were probably attempts to find legitimate excuses to evade induction in the Netherlands Armed Forces. Netherlands officials soon complained and during the entire war continued to feel a sense of frustration over the lack of response by Dutch nationals to rally to the support of their fatherland in time of need. Already in the summer of 1940, shortly after the Nazi assault on the Netherlands when one would have expected a considerable amount of enthusiasm and patriotism, Dutch officials voiced their disappointment. Thus they complained that while a few hundred volunteered in May 1940,³⁷ few did in the months following. In late 1940 Hartog lamented that he was "at a loss to know what to do about it"³⁸ In October 1942 Loudon expressed his dismay that some 907³⁹ Netherlands had not responded to the call to register and in August 1943 Dijkhoorn charged there were at least 703⁴⁰ "deserters." In December 1941 Sas complained about the "indolence and unwillingness to make sacrifices" and even

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"obstruction" on the part of his countrymen. W.F. Kroon, head of the Registration Bureau in Chicago, voiced his anger and frustration at W.J. van Wagtendonk who refused to respond to the draft call. Van Wagtendonk was born in Java, graduated at the University of Utrecht and came to the United States in 1939 where he studied at Stanford University and later taught chemistry at Oregon State College.⁴² Since he refused to register with the Chicago bureau, Kroon accused him of being a draft evader and expressed his anger by saying it was "beyond his imagination" to understand why a "learned man" would refuse to do his duty to the Netherlands without "sound reason."⁴³

Apparently, one of the legitimate means of escaping conscription was to change one's status from non-declarant to declarant alien. Thus Pastor Jacob Van Dyke of the First Christian Reformed Church of Ireton, Iowa, noticed that many young men in his congregation rather suddenly decided to take out their first papers.⁴⁴ On the other hand there were also some who, in order to escape American military service, changed their status from declarant to non-declarant alien! Furthermore,⁵³ men obtained a legitimate escape by receiving a deferment.⁴⁵ Some Dutch shipping firms in New York were able to persuade Netherlands authorities to grant some 50 of their employees special status which required them to perform weekly military exercises while they were permitted to keep their regular employment. This was the so called "fountainpen brigade" whose members would now also be protected against a possible American draft call.⁴⁶

D. Hudig, President of the Netherlands Shipping and Trade Commission in New York, even charged that young men who wanted to serve were dissuaded not to enlist because they were told their office work was more important than military service. Hudig even contended that Loudon had approved of this policy. This accusation brought a quick response from the Netherlands minister who informed his foreign minister in London that they were doing "everything possible" to persuade Netherlands to register.⁴⁷ Yet, a special Advisory Commission established in 1941 to hear and decide requests of deferment resigned in 1942 because⁴⁸ Dijkhoorn granted exemptions to one or two individuals.

The lack of response about which Dutch officials complained can be explained in part by the attitude of many Dutch immigrants in the United States. Most of them had left their native land because of frustration and failure over their station in life in the Netherlands. Many had done much better in their adopted land while the country of their birth often reminded them of less pleasant experiences. Furthermore, they had emotionally and mentally identified themselves with the United States and gradually loosened their ties with the Old World. There might also have been materialistic reasons since many immigrants expected to receive more pay and benefits in the American Forces. However, the pay of a soldier in the Dutch and American Forces⁴⁹ was about the same, \$21 per month, while the famous Servicemen Readjustment Act which granted considerable benefits to American veterans was not passed until June 1944 a year in which recruitment of Netherlands in the United States had virtually come to a halt. Some 200 Netherlands did serve in the American

Armed forces. Perhaps most of these were declarant aliens. All
 Netherlanders serving in the American Forces were given the
 option to enlist in Dutch military service. Apparently, few of
 them did.⁵⁰ Finally, there were undoubtedly many so-called
 "tepid" Netherlanders, as Loudon called them, who simply were not
 eager or anxious to serve either in the Netherlands or the
 American Armed Forces and who could think of many excuses for
 their failure to respond.⁵¹

What could Dutch officials do to persuade these tepid
 countrymen who refused to serve? They had little if any power of
 coercion. American authorities would most certainly not
 cooperate, as happened in South Africa,⁵² in rounding up
 recalcitrant Netherlanders. Nor could they as Belgian officials
 did, threaten to confiscate properties of Dutch nationals in
 their native land if they had any.⁵³ At best they could refuse
 to renew their passports or not to render them consular
 services.⁵⁴ Of course they could always threaten their
 countrymen with "dire consequences" if they refused to comply.
 Thus N. van Leeuwen was told by a Dutch official in New York if
 he refused to go to Canada he would encounter great difficulty in
 becoming an American citizen. Furthermore, they warned him that
 "there were other means" by which they could put pressure on him.
 Van Leeuwen did not seem to be impressed and considered the
 threats very vague and an attempt to scare him.⁵⁵ Similarly,
 B.C.G. Buss of New York, who denied ever having been a Dutch
 national and refused to register, was informed in September 1941
 by Van Schreven to appear at his bureau between 3 and 5 p.m. or

be faced with "dire consequences."⁵⁶

Yet, the response of Netherlanders in the United States to the call for military duty in the armed forces of the land of their origin, was not as negative as we have been led to believe. Dutch officials estimated that in 1940 there were some 32,000 Netherlanders in the United States of which some ten percent or 3200 were eligible for military service.⁵⁷ Other sources⁵⁸ estimated the number of eligible men to be 8,000 or 10,000. Neither one of these estimates is correct. The census of 1940 shows that the total number of Netherlanders in the United States at that time was 108,640. Of these 78,000 were naturalized, 8,560 had obtained their first papers, 13,000 were non-declarant aliens, and 8200, many of whom might have been illegal residents, had not provided any information on their citizenship. The figures for the Dutch male population in the United States were 47,360 naturalized, 6,080 declarant and 6,140 non-declarant⁵⁹ aliens, and 4,440 having reported no information. Thus the principal pool upon which the Netherlands could draw was that of the non-declarant aliens to which one could add, but with a high degree of uncertainty, the 4,440 who had not reported their citizenship status. Of the possible total of 10,580 men perhaps only one-fourth or some 2,645 was of military age but in reality this figure is much lower.

It is not easy to determine how many men were notified by Dutch Registration bureaus of their military duty. The available figures might not be completely reliable because in various cases men were notified more than once. Furthermore, some of the data is incomplete. We do know that at least 1943 were notified by

mid-January 1941 and that by the end of 1941 2,600 had been notified.⁶⁰ Let us assume that 2645 men were sent a circular requesting them to register. We do know that 1548 men did respond to this notification and that some 1200 were medically examined; furthermore, 640 indicated either before or after the medical examination they did not want to serve. Of the remainder 53 were granted a deferment or exemption and 475 were rejected for medical reasons. The percentage of rejectees was so high because Dutch military authorities expected all the men to do combat duty. Thus it happened that individuals who were rejected for Dutch military service were drafted by the United States. Finally, 420 men were accepted for service and sent to Canada and England.⁶¹ Thus of a possible total of 2645 men 420 or 16% served. Considering the various circumstances discussed above and the mentality of many immigrants this response to the call to arms to help their fatherland in time of great need was not as negative as was often alleged. This figure also compares well with percentages given for South Africa, Argentina, and Canada which were 33%, 17%, and 13%, respectively.⁶²

Perhaps it could be argued that more men would have been drafted if American authorities had been more cooperative and helpful in 1940 and 1941.⁶³ This is highly unlikely. Although recruitment became much easier in 1942 because names and addresses were now more readily available, it seems that Dutch authorities had notified most men by the end of 1941. Furthermore, relatively few men were drafted from 1942 to 1945 when recruitment was supposedly much easier.

By late 1943 Dutch recruitment officials concluded that they had more or less exhausted the pool of available manpower in the United States.⁶⁴ Thus in August 1942 Dijkhoorn ordered the closing of all the bureaus and transferred their activities to the consulates and the embassy.⁶⁵ T. Elink Schuurman, the Consul General in New York, would now have to assume the task of supervising recruitment in the United States a duty he did not accept with great alacrity since he considered it more important to cultivate better relationships with the Netherlands community.⁶⁶ Yet, he continued to be assisted by A. Kerkhoven and others who shouldered most of the administrative responsibility.

Very few men were called up in the period 1943-1945 and Kerkhoven and his staff were mainly preoccupied with handling administrative matters concerning men already serving. For the period November 1943 to May 1945, 65 men registered of which 49 were called up for a medical examination and 25 inducted. Most likely most of these men were individuals who might be called up by the American Selective Service System but who preferred to serve in the Netherlands armed forces.⁶⁷

Because of the limited recruitment possibilities and the approaching and expected liberation of the Netherlands in the fall of 1944 the Netherlands minister of war, O.C.A. van Lidth de Jeude, decided in August 1944 to discontinue recruitment overseas. There were to be no more draft calls except in certain categories, he instructed. But he also warned that the Allies not be informed of this decision for fear that it might be misinterpreted. It was agreed only to register and not to

conscript the men but to accept them as enlistees.⁶⁸ Thus only a few men left for England in 1945 and by the fall of that year all recruitment activities ceased in the United States. The war in Europe and the Far East had now come to an end, and the men who survived came home. Did any of them ever regret the decision to serve their native land? It is difficult to answer that question until I hear from many Dutch-Americans who served in the Princess Irene Brigade. Since I like to make a similar study of Dutch-Canadians who served I like to hear from them as well. My⁶⁹ address is listed below.

ENDNOTES

1. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Cnossen, Escondido, California, Mr. Jan Peyrot, Glastonbury, Connecticut, and Mr. John Pais, Carmel., California, for furnishing me with valuable information. Messrs. Cnossen, Peyrot, and Pais are veterans of the Princess Irene Brigade. I also wrote to many members of the Vereniging van Oudstrijders van de koninklijke Brigade "Prinses Irene" residing in the United States. However, all of those who responded to my inquiry came to the United States after World War II.
2. See A. Loudon to Netherlands Government, May 15, 1940 and other documents in Gezantschap Washington, P-1.8. Recruitering van Nederlanders in de Verenigde Staten. Londons Archief Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, The Hague. Hereafter, Buitenlandse Zaken cited as BZ.
3. There is some confusion about those eligible for military conscription. Londons Archief, AZ/JZ REG. Alg. AI, does 396. Archief BZ; A. Kerkhoven to Loudon, February 11, 1944 and Recruiting Rules for Use in the United States of America, February 3, 1944. Gezantschap Washington, P-8.1./41.1. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. Archief BZ. See also copy of a registration form in Gezantschap Washington, P-8.1/41.2. Registratie Bureau New York. Archief BZ.
4. Kingdom of the Netherlands. Staten Generaal, Tweede Kamer. Enquete Commissie Regeringsbeleid 1940-1945. Verslag houdende de uitkomsten van het onderzoek (The Hague, 1946), 8 A and B: 66-70 and bijlage 1, p. 13; bijlage 5, p. 22.
5. Enquête Commissie, Verslag, 8 A and B: 55.; G.J. Sas to Minister of War, January 9, 1942. Gezantschap Washington, P-8.1/41.1. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. Archief BZ.
6. Memo Ray Atherton, January 22, 1941. Records of the Department of State, 856.2222/25. Record Group 59. National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Sas to Minister of War, December 1, 1941. Gezantschap Washington, P-8.1/41.1. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. Archief BZ. Hereafter Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59 cited as RG 59 with appropriate decimal file number.
7. The Statutes at Large of the United States of America . . . (Washington, D.C., 1918), 40:39-40.
8. Green H. Hackworth to Rene Lord, March 15, 1941. 856.2222/24. RG 59.

9. Consul General J.A. Schuurman to Loudon, June 21, 1940. Gezantschap Washington, P-1.8. Recruitering van Nederlanders in de Verenigde Staten. Instructies New York. Archief BZ; A. Hartog to Loudon, July 6, 1940. Gezantschap Washington, P-1.8. Recruitering van Nederlanders in de Verenigde Staten. Instructies Los Angeles. Archief BZ.
10. Loudon to Hartog, June 28, 1940. Gezantschap Washington, P-1.8. Recruitering van Nederlanders in de Verenigde Staten. Instructies Los Angeles. Archief BZ.
11. E.A. Bunge, Netherlands Consul in Port Arthur, to Texas Shell Oil Corporation, April 7, 1941. Gezantschap Washington, P-1.8./41.1. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. Archief BZ; State Department to F.B.I., August 6, 1943. 856.2222/58. RG 59.
12. Atherton Memo January 22, 1941. 856.2222/25. RG 59.
13. Memo Hugh S. Cumming, August 4, 1941. 856.2222/33. RG 59; Memo Netherlands Legation, December 12, 1941 and Cordell Hull to Henry Stimson, January 21, 1941. 856.2222/37 and 856.2222/38. RG 59.
14. Department of State to Netherlands Legation, August 7, 1941 and Department of Justice to Secretary of State, January 14, 1942. 856/2222/33 and 856.2222/42. Ibid. Dijkhoorn even tried to obtain the census data but was told that such information was secret. Enquête Commissie, Verslag, 8 A and B: 70.
15. Van Schreven to ?, March 26, 1941. Gezantschap Washington, P-8.1/41.1. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. Archief BZ; F.C.L. Weijerman, Military Attaché, Netherlands Legation, Washington, D.C. to Van Schreven, January 14, 1941. Gezantschap Washington, P-8.1/41.1. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. Archief BZ.
16. Loudon to Hull, April 17, 1942. 811.2222/712. RG 59.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Hull to Loudon, May 6, 1942. Ibid.
20. Charles I. Bevans, ed., Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States of America, 1776-1949 (Washington, D.C., 1972), 10:149-153. Apparently, the stipulation that Netherlands who were declarant aliens could not enlist in the Netherlands Armed Forces was not rigidly adhered to. See Kerkhoven to Loudon, February 11, 1944. Gezantschap Washington, P-8.1/41.1. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. Archief BZ.

21. Report on recruitment by Consul General T. Elink Schuurman to BZ, March 8, 1944. Londons Archief, AZ/JZ. Reg. 7A. Reorganisatie en opheffing van het Nederlandse Detachment in Canada en van de recruteringsbureaux Archief BZ.; Recruitment Rules for Use in the United States of North America . . ., February 3, 1944. Gezantschap Washington, P-8.1/41.1. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. Archief BZ.
22. Loudon to Department of State, April 25, 1944. 251.2 Netherlands. Records of the Army Staff. Record Group 319. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
23. Most of the information on the de Vogel case was obtained from a report by Major William J. Wynn to the commanding general Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, June 21, 1943 and Report to the Inspector General, September 1, 1943. Records of the Office of the Adjutant General, AG 091.713. Record Group 407. National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Charles de Vogel to State Department, May 18, 1943. 856.2222/51. RG 59.
24. Report to Inspector General, September 1, 1943. Records of the Office of the Adjutant records of the Office of the Adjutant General, AG 091.713. RG 407.
25. Major General Myron C. Cramer, Judge Advocate General, to Adjutant General, October 5, 1943. Ibid.
26. War Department to Adjutant General, October 11, 1943. Ibid.
27. War Department to Inspector General, November 30, 1943. Ibid.
28. Memo Netherlands Legation April 25, 1944. 251.2 Netherlands. RG 319.
29. Memo Raymond T. Yingling, May 22, 1944. 856.2226/4. RG 59.
30. Loudon to Hull, June 24, 1944; and October 13, 1944. 856.2226/G-2444, 856.2226/10-1344. Ibid.
31. Stimson to Hull, November 16, 1944. 856.2226/11-1644. Ibid. Droste could be rather persistent. See the case of Olof T.C.C. Janssen. 356.117/43. Ibid.
32. See 856.2221-2222 and 356.117. RG 59.
33. On Dutch settlement in the Los Angeles area see Jacob van Hinte, Nederlanders in America, transl. Adriaan de Wit (Grand Rapids, 1985), pp. 808-809 and Gerald F. DeJong, The Dutch in America, 1609-1974 (Boston, 1975), p. 165.
34. 856.2222/31. RG 59.
35. 856.2222. Ibid.

36. Enquête Commissie, Verslag, 8 A and B:69.
37. Loudon to Government in London, May 15, 1940. Gezantschap Washington, P-1.8. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. London. Archief BZ.
38. Hartog to Loudon, July 6, 1940. Gezantschap Washington, P-1.8. Recruitering van Nederlanders in de Verenigde Staten. Instructies Los Angeles. Archief BZ.
39. Loudon to Buitenlandse Zaken, October 12, 1942. Gezantschap Washington, P-8/41.1. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. Archief BZ.
40. Dijkhoorn to Buitenlandse Zaken, August 27, 1943. Londons Archief. AZ/JZ Reg. 7A. Reorganisatie en opheffing van het Nederlandse Detachement in Canada en de recruiteringsbureaux Archief BZ.
41. Sas to Minister of War, December 1, 1941. Gezantschap Washington, P-8/41.1. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. Archief BZ.
42. F.A. Gilfillan, Acting President Oregon State College to State Department, January 12, 1942. 356.117/46. RG 59.
43. Kroon to Van Wagtendonk, December 31, 1941. Ibid.
44. Dr. Louis Y. Van Dyke to author October 27, 1987.
45. Enquête Commissie, Verslag, 8 A and B:72.
46. Ibid., pp. 71 and 83 and bijlage 1, p. 10.
47. Hudig to Minister M.P.L. Steenberghe, May 29, 1941. Gezantschap Washington, P-1.3. Rapporten aan BZ van Hare Majesteits Gezant te Washington. Archief BZ; Loudon to BZ, July 16, 1941. Archief BZ.
48. Enquête Commissie, Verslag, 8 A and B:72 and bijlage 1, pp. 13-14.
49. Ibid., bijlage 1, p. 6; Statutes at Large of the United States of America . . . (Washington, D.C., 1941), 54:895; On benefits see also Kerkhoven to H. N. Boon June 6, 1944 and extract of Handbook for Servicemen and Servicewomen . . . of World War II and Their Dependents. Gezantschap Washington. P-8.1/41.2. Registratie Bureau New York. Archief BZ.
50. Kort Overzicht betreffende de recruitering in Canada, U.S.A. en Argentinië. London, March 27, 1944. Londons Archief, AZ/JZ Reg. Alg. E. Verslag van recruitering in Canada, U.S.A., en Argentinië. Archief BZ.

51. Loudon to BZ May 29, 1941. Gezantschap Washington, P-1-3. Rapporten aan BZ van Hare Majesteits Gezant te Washington. Archief BZ.
52. On this see Enquête Commissie, Verslag, 8 A and B:73-80.
53. Ibid., p. 69.
54. Loudon to Buitenlandse Zaken, October 12, 1942, Kerkhoven to Loudon, February 11, 1944. Gezantschap Washington, P-8.141.1. Recruitering in de Verenigde Staten. Archief BZ.
55. N. van Leeuwen to State Department. December 29, 1940. 856.2222/22. RG 59.
56. B. C. G. Buss to Department of State, September 27, 1941. 856.2222/35. Ibid.
57. Enquête Commissie, Verslag, 8 A and B:72.
58. Kort overzicht betreffende de recruitering in Canada, U.S.A. en Argentinië. London, March 27, 1944. Londons Archief, AZ/JZ Reg. Alg. E. Verslag van recruitering in Canada, U.S.A., en Argentinië. Archief BZ; Memo Cumming, August 4, 1941. 856.2222/33. RG 59.
59. United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1920. Population (Washington, D.C., 1943), p. 81.
60. Kort overzicht betreffende de recruitering in Canada, U.S.A., en Argentinië. London, March 27, 1944. Londons Archief AZ/JZ Reg. Alg. E. Verslag van recruitering in Canada, U.S.A., en Argentinië. Archief BZ.
61. Enquête Commissie, Verslag, 8A and B, bijlage 1, pp. 15-16.
62. Kort overzicht betreffende de recruitering in Canada, U.S.A., en Argentinië. London, March 27, 1944. Londons Archief AZ/JZ Reg. Alg. E. Verslag van recruitering in Canada, U.S.A., en Argentinië. Archief BZ.
63. Enquête Commissie, Verslag, 8 A and B, bijlage 1, p. 15.
64. Already in July 1942 Van Schreven concluded that after the U.N. Declaration Netherlands recruitment organization had lost all "viability" and considered curtailing its task after August 1 of that year. Van Schreven to Loudon, July 27, 1942. Gezantschap Washington, P-8.1/41.2. Recruiterings-bureau New York. Archief BZ.
65. Dijkhoorn to Buitenlandse Zaken, August 27, 1943. Londons Archief, AZ/JZ Reg. Alg. E. Verslag van recruitering in Canada, U.S.A., en Argentinië. Archief BZ.

66. Elink Schuurman to Buitenlandse Zaken, October 29, 1943. Ibid.
67. Elink Schuurman to Buitenlands Zaken, June 5, 1945. Ibid.
68. O.C.A. Lidth de Jeude to Buitenlandse Zaken, August 28, 1944, to Minister of Colonies, September 13, 1944, to Van Kleffens, September 13 and 29, 1944, Van Kleffens to Van Lidth, September 25, 1944, and to Loudon, October 2, 1944. Londons Archief, AZ/JZ A 111. Reg. Algemeen, doos 396. Archief BZ.
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