

The Ten Boom Family

The Netherlands

Casper Ten Boom and his two daughters, Cornelia (known as Corrie), and Elisabeth (nicknamed Betsie), owned a shop where they sold watches and clocks in Haarlem, Holland. The Ten Boom family were members of the Dutch Reformed Church which protested the Nazi persecution of Jews. The Ten Boom family strongly believed in the equality of all human beings before God as it was a major principle of their religion. Dedicated Christians, the family home above the shop was always an “open house” for anyone in need.

After World War II began, members of the Ten Boom family became involved in resistance efforts. Casper, Corrie, and Betsie joined the Beje Resistance group. The Beje group found shelter for dozens of Jews, including many children. Corrie then helped the children find a safe house or passed them on to a representative from another area. The Ten Booms also opened their home to a large amount of fugitives and Resistance workers.



Corrie Ten Boom

During the war about 80 resistance workers belonging to various underground movements were regular visitors at the Ten Boom’s home. Throughout all this time, Corrie took charge of providing food for the many people hiding in her home, including several Jews: Meijer Mossel (alias Eusie) and Hansje Frankfort-Israels (alias Thea), a nurse.

Additionally, Corrie looked out for fugitives hiding elsewhere. Whenever safe houses were located, Corrie insisted on checking them out before sending people to hide in them. After Jews had moved into a hideout, Corrie maintained regular contact with them and supplied them with ration cards. Throughout the war, the Ten Booms managed to maintain good relations with the police. This proved especially useful after Corrie’s sister Nollie was arrested and the police warned Corrie of imminent problems. Nollie knew about the Jews hiding with the Ten Booms and about Beje, and therefore all those involved fled to various other addresses.

On February 28, 1944, the Ten Boom family was betrayed and their home was raided. The people in hiding managed to escape in time. However, all the members of the Ten Boom family and 30 other co-workers were arrested and taken to prison for interrogation. The prisoners did not reveal any new information to their interrogators. Casper, who was 84 at the time, held out for 10 days before he died. The Jewish fugitives remained hidden for the rest of the war.

Throughout this period, Corrie and Betsie remained interned in various concentration camps. They were held in Oranjehotel for 3 months before being taken to the Vught concentration camp. In September 1944, they were transferred along with all the other inmates to Ravensbrück. In December 1944, Betsie died as a result of the brutal conditions in Ravensbrück. Corrie was released two weeks later - in actuality a mistake that was made because of a clerical error - and returned to Haarlem where she stayed until the liberation in May 1945.

On December 12, 1967, Yad Vashem recognized Cornelia Arnolda Johanna Ten Boom as Righteous Among the Nations. On July 22, 2007, Yad Vashem recognized Casper and Elisabeth Ten Boom as Righteous Among the Nations.