

## Survivor Leesha Rose on the Successes of the Resistance

Leesha Rose was brought up in The Netherlands. She was a teenager when the war broke out and later played an important role in the Resistance Movement. In her book, she describes the hardships of the Dutch Jews in the war, as well as the activities of the Resistance Movement.

The Resistance movement became more aggressive and more dangerous to the Germans with each day. The Nazis were able to keep themselves well informed of the many activities of the Resistance and about its Underground news setup and distribution of papers by using informers and quislings. They learned about the care of “hidden” people, financed by the Dutch government-in-exile. They were painfully aware of Underground acts of sabotage, of the infiltration of German-controlled government and municipal offices, of the Allied droppings of arms and equipment for the Underground Resistance and the B.S. – the Netherlands Forces of the Interior.

The Germans feared the Underground Resistance groups and did everything in their power to crush them. They extracted whatever information they could by torturing and eventually killing captured members of the illegal Underground Resistance Movement.

The most spectacular act of resistance was executed when the Dutch government-in-exile, in a broadcast from London, ordered all railroad personnel to go on strike in order to hinder movements of the German army. On the following day all railway traffic came to a halt. This strike was an extraordinary and sensational act of moral defiance on the part of the Dutch railroad men and it gained the admiration of each Dutch citizen.

The underground took care of the strikers financially and arranged for their leaders to go into hiding. The Germans were furious at the strike and threatened to starve the population by seizing all trucks and barges and

placing an embargo on food transportation from east to west in the Netherlands. Nevertheless the strike of the railroad men continued.

**Source: Leesha Rose, *The Tulips are Red*, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem 1978, pp.184- 185.**