

- Today, Yad Vashem honors Mrs. Jeanne Oussoren-Treffers.

- Jeanne Oussoren-Treffers was born in Rotterdam in 1921. In 1936, she started to work in the home of the Bosnak family. She worked there until the middle of 1942, when to her great sadness, the Germans forbade non Jews to work for Jews. Jeanne went to work in a childrens' home called Zonneheuvel, in Bilthoven. Together with Chris Bruins, she began to work in a resistance group helping Jews find hiding places and thereafter bringing them to the Dutch-Belgian border where, once safe into Belgium, they could begin their journey to Switzerland. With the permission of the director of Zonneheuvel, Jeanne brought many Jewish children there to stay temporarily until a hiding address could be found for them. Chris organised forged identity papers and Jeanne brought the children to the other members of the resistance group and they in turn brought them to their hiding places.

- Mr. and Mrs. Bosnak went into hiding in Soest. They received false identity papers and were taken to the Belgian border by Jeanne and given over to the Belgian resistance members. They reached Switzerland safely. Sometime later, Evelyn, the 8 year old niece of the Bosnaks and her grandfather were brought to the Belgian border by Jeanne and they also reached Switzerland safely. Evelyn's mother was also in hiding, but her father, who was in London on business when the war began, was forced to remain in England where he remained in uncertainty about the well-being of his family.

- Jeanne, together with Chris Bruins brought at least 12 people to the Belgian border. Unfortunately not all of them managed to reach Switzerland. The plan was that she travelled by train from Utrecht to Tilburg. There she took a bus to Baarle Nassau.. By the border the people fleeing had to hide in the bushes until members of the Belgian resistance brought them over the border. Jeanne and Chris returned to Bilthoven.

- There were still two members of the family Bosnak who were brought to Zonneheuvel, the half sister of Evelyn, Marion Koperberg, who was one year old and Simone Boedels, a three year old niece.

- By treason of one of the employees of the children's' home, it became too dangerous to hide and Marion there any longer, Jeanne left Zonneheuvel with them and went to an acquaintance of the Bosnaks in Huis ter Heide. Simone stayed with this family, but Jeanne kept Marion with her. She took care of her for more than two years, living with a farmer's family, the family Rans in Bommel, who had more people hiding in their home. Because of Jeanne's work in the resistance, it became necessary that another address be found for the baby. Marion went to stay with the family Montens in Blaricum. Jeanne worked until the end of the war as a runner (koerier) for the resistance group Loze. This group organised food coupons for people hiding from the Germans, for false identity papers, and for guiding people to the Belgian border who were fleeing Holland. Jeanne worked in the resistance with her entire heart and soul and thereby was able to save many. It is a great honor for Yad Vashem to be able to give her the title, Righteous Among the Nations."

*Jeanne Oussoren*