

J. Windt

Out of the blue

A Nuclear Attack on the Netherlands
During the Cold War
And the Consequences for
the Rest of the World

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the Rest of the World**

The Reaction of NATO?

J. WINDT

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	Foreword	11
1	The Netherlands after the Second World War	13
2	The world in two camps	29
3	Small mistake	61
4	Major consequences	67
5	Wide water	75
6	Out of the blue	85
7	Pentecost sun	111
8	Places of horror	133
9	Dismantling and Stabilisation	167
10	Moscow tribunal	191
	Epilogue	227

Abbreviations

ARE, Current Regional Evacuation value
BB Protection Population
BVA/MGD Bureau of Defence Affairs and Military Geological Survey
BVD Internal Security Service
DCB Defence Crisis Management Centre
DHS, Warsaw Pact Air Defense System
DPO Defence Pipeline Organisation
GDR German Democratic Republic
GEVD Municipal Evacuation and Security Service
GGW Group Guided Weapons
KGB Komitet gosudarstvennoj bezopasnosti, (Committee for State Security)
KMC Corps Mobile Columns
MAD Mutual Assured Destruction
MfS Ministerium für Staatssicherheit (Stasi)
MHD Social Assistance Service
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NORTHAG Northern Army Group
NVA Nationale Volksarmee (of the GDR)
OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
SALT Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
SERB Soviet External Relation Bureau
SFR Stabilisation Forces Russia
UNIFOR United Nations International Forces
UN United Nations

People

Bannikov, Alexander (Sasha), piece loader on a Russian tank
Bartosz Pavel, Ritmeester Polish Reconnaissance Squadron
Belenko, Russian Air Force pilot who deserted to Japan with his MIG 25

Brinke Frits ten, Chief Warden 41 Armoured Infantry Battalion

Brinke Monique ten, wife of Frits

Bruce Lockhart, Sir Derick, UN High Commissioner in charge of decommissioning

Di Angelis, Pietro, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Dien, woman from the East of the country

Dingemanse, Arie, anti-aircraft gunner at the IJsselline

Dokkum, Tom, resident of Bilthoven

Gatalimosov, Ivan, Marshal, Commander-in-Chief of Russian Armed Forces

Gilsdonk Leo van, commander 898 liaison battalion Holterhoek

Gurulev, Andrei, Russian general, planner

Harrison, David, UN High Commissioner for Stabilisation

Hekman, farmer in Markelo

Henryk Dabroski, Ride Master Polish Tank Battalion

Hulshof, Henk, history teacher in Hilversum

Johan, youngest son of Dien

Karel, eldest son of Dien

Knobben Gerda, wife of Leo

Knobben Leo, Ritmeester 41 Armoured Infantry Battalion

Kowalczyk, Szymon, tank gunner in a T-55

Mitrochin, Vasili, ex-KGB officer, defected to the United States

Navrov, Sergei, Minister of Defense

Nus, Theo van, anti-aircraft gunner at the IJsselline

Obayana, Benjamin ("Benji"), Chief Prosecutor Moscow Tribunal

Parker Philips, Samuel ("Sammy"), chief drill sergeant.

Petrov Stanislav, observer at a control center near Moscow
Pitlo Alex, employee BVD
Putikov, Dimitri, Minister of Security, former KGB chief
Radstake, commander of the BB in Hilversum
Reefman Henk, pilot group light aircraft
Reiman, Kees and Droede, elderly couple in Hollandsche Rading.
Reiz, Ammy, life partner of Johan, son of Dien
Rooyen, Harry van , Ambassador of the Netherlands to the
United Nations
Scholten Klaas, tank driver
Serebrjakov, Leonid, commander of the Warsaw Pact armies
in the GDR
Shesto, Yakov, part loader in a T-55 tank
Shtemenko, Chief of Staff Warsaw Pact Armed Forces in
East Germany and Poland
Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr, Russian writer
Telyakov Nikolai, Tank Battalion Commander 3rd Division,
2nd Russian Guards Tank Army
Vooy, Harry de, general practitioner in Eemnes
Westra, Ate, ambassador and diplomat
Wiegman Helmuth, Lieutenant Bundesgrenzschutz
Wroblewski Mariusz, commander of the Polish infantry battalion
Yekorov, Lavrenty, head of public works Moscow
Serge, pilot on a Russian Mi6 (Hook)
Zinoviev, Leonid, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Foreword

This book is about a war, which never took place, but which many have seriously reckoned with. That war, also known as the Pentecostal War, had its origins in the Cold War, a period of armed peace between the capitalist and communist worlds in the second half of the 20th century.

The Cold War began when the joy of the end of World War II was soon tempered by the rising fear that the battle might not be over. The alliance of the communist Russia with the Western democratic countries, which together had conquered the hated fascism and National Socialism, was viewed with increasing suspicion in the Western world. Finally, there was an unexpected large-scale conflict: the Pentecostal War.

The Pentecostal War may be assumed to have broken out sometime towards the end of the last century, at the time of the Soviet Union's existence, and lasted only a few days. The Western Allies united in NATO faced the Warsaw Pact armies, mainly those of the Soviet Union. The war begins with a conventional attack by the Warsaw Pact by unexpectedly advancing into the North German plain with the aim of reaching the North Sea coast. The attack stalled and the Warsaw Pact resorted to a nuclear weapon to force a breakthrough, causing a nuclear explosion over the city of Utrecht. There is an appropriate response from the Western side, followed by summit talks between world leaders via the red telephone, which is unsatisfactory. It brings about a pre-emptive nuclear attack on the Warsaw Pact countries. The nuclear attack on Utrecht has escalated into a global nuclear war, known as the Pentecostal War.

With the necessary assumptions and above all with the necessary imagination, a penetrating description of the course of events

is given. In the end, they are no more than a realistic fiction. The fiction also includes a number of people who present an oral tradition, also referred to as "oral history", of their experiences of the events.

Following in the footsteps of previous armed conflicts and wars, the instigators of the Pentecostal War have had to answer to the international community. To this end, the United Nations drafted a Charter governing the composition, jurisdiction and function of a Tribunal, to be held in Moscow.

After the Pentecostal War, Russia had to try to navigate a period of political uncertainty and looming social unrest. A motley collection of individuals and organizations emerged with a heightened awareness and commitment to political and social issues. There was a more informed and active civilian population that was involved in the policy-making process. Russia became a different country than it had been.

1

The Netherlands after the Second World War

Recovery and change

The Netherlands after the Second World War is not the complete story of the post-war history of the Netherlands, but rather a summary of a few episodes and events that have kept people quite busy. Furthermore, some Dutch people have been asked to share their memories of that time with us.

Immediately after the Second World War, life was dominated by the liberation from the German occupier. There were parades, many wore clothes in the national colors and there was music in the streets. It was celebrated exuberantly, so exuberantly that less than a year later the Netherlands was engulfed by a baby boom, which we will have to deal with a lot until the beginning of the 21st century.

I spoke to Dien after the Pentecost War, then an elderly woman who lived in a small factory town in the east of the country. "Only in the first weeks after the Second World War had there been a cheerful and carefree mood and celebrations everywhere. Large arches had been erected in the streets, decorated with branches of green and with flowers of orange crepe paper. Dien had never sung the national anthem as often as he did then, because in the first days after the liberation it was sung all the time. Almost every night there was a party. Tables were dragged to the street and everyone had to bring

their own chair. There was a lot of dancing and drinking, which often ended in naughty things. Many young girls were completely detached from God and many Treesjes, as those girls were called, walked on the arm of a Canadian. Quite often a small Canadian was added as a lasting reminder of the great Canadian who had long since left, but that did not really spoil the general fun in the Netherlands. In short, the liberation was celebrated exuberantly.

Traitors of the nation

But there was also a downside to the joy. During the war, Queen Wilhelmina had spoken from London about the "traitors", for whom there would no longer be any place in a liberated Netherlands. After the war, part of the Dutch population wanted to take revenge on the Dutch, who were considered 'wrong'. Thousands of Dutch people were arrested and tried. To this end, the Special Judicial Procedure, specially established tribunals and courts that dealt with cases of treason, collaboration and war crimes, served. The Special Administration of Justice was not without controversy. There were discussions about the fairness of the trials and the proportionality of the sentences. Furthermore, arbitrary indulgence of feelings of revenge was the order of the day, with the treatment of women who had committed "horizontal" collaboration as the low point.

Kees Reiman, whom I visited before the Whitsun War in Hollandsche Rading, where he and his wife enjoyed his retirement, told me: "I was living in Utrecht and studying geology when the occupying forces closed the university. I still attended some clandestine lectures and

spent a lot of time working from home. Then came liberation. I have experienced Axe Day, which in reality lasted many days, even weeks. Men of the BS (Domestic Forces) in their blue overalls with an orange armband and the rifle menacingly at the ready triumphantly led some "prisoners". This includes women with torn clothes, sometimes half-naked and often visibly abused. A jeering crowd followed behind. Publicly, the women's heads were shaved and smeared with pitch or menie. I thought it was more than embarrassing and my revelry was very far away."

Women in the Netherlands (but also in other countries) frequently entered into relationships with German soldiers. Sometimes these were short loves, no more than affairs, but there were also women who had a long-term relationship with a soldier and sometimes even married. It is estimated that between 120,000 and 150,000 women had contact with Germans during the war.

Even during the occupation, a negative image of these women emerged. It was assumed that they were mainly out for self-enrichment, that they would have gone with one soldier after another or that they had NSB sympathies. It was only years later that it was realized that an intimate relationship between a Dutch woman and a soldier of the occupying forces could hardly be seen as treason, but the damage had already been done.

Postwar reconstruction

After the war, the Netherlands was a plundered country. Cities

had been bombed, infrastructure destroyed, and the population severely traumatized. 60% of the production apparatus was destroyed, 10% of the houses destroyed and 27% damaged, and the Dutch Railways were missing 12,000 freight wagons and 650 steam locomotives. The Wieringermeer and Walcheren were flooded. There was also a severe shortage of food, clothing and fuel. Almost everything was on the voucher and distribution would take until more than three years after the war. Housing and work, reconstruction and the slow trial of war criminals were the subjects that moved the Dutch. The reconstruction of the Netherlands after the war was a period of intensive effort, innovation and social change that shaped the country into what it is today.

Shortly after the end of the Second World War, fears arose that the battle might not yet be settled. The alliance of the Western democratic countries with the communist Russia was viewed with increasing doubt in the Western world as to a good outcome. This doubt was determined to a considerable extent by the fact that agreements that had already been made between the Allies during the war were interpreted in different ways after the war. The Soviet Union wanted to create a buffer zone of communist states on its western border, while the United States and its allies sought economic recovery plans in Europe and for a new Germany, starting with the merging of the British and American occupation zones. In doing so, the Soviet Union thwarted itself and when the (West German) D-mark was introduced, which would also apply in West Berlin, this prompted the Soviet Union to close all supply routes on June 24, 1948 and the blockade of Berlin began. Because the Western Allies did not want to use force, but neither did they want to bow to the Soviet Union and because access to Berlin was never stipulated in the treaty, the problem was solved with

an airlift. After ten months, the blockade proved to be a failure for the Russians and they lifted it.

Iron Curtain

It was Winston Churchill who, in 1946, had already used the term "Iron Curtain" to refer to the physical and ideological division of Europe into an Eastern Bloc (under Soviet influence) and a Western Bloc (under American influence). These developments and the associated tensions between the Soviet Union and the Western Allies, in which there was neither war nor peace, were commonly referred to as the "Cold War". There were two irreconcilable camps facing each other, each of which was ideologically motivated. The democratic, free and capitalist West was opposed to autocratic communism that was guided by a Marxist-Leninist ideology. In addition, the relations were hostile and attempts were made to intimidate the opponent mainly verbally, via radio, TV, propaganda and militarily through an arms race. Two irreconcilable camps, in other words. But first things first.

The communist party

The Netherlands also had the communists, the followers of the Marxist-Leninist ideology. That a totalitarian regime with a superior disregard for human rights would be established if their ideas went ahead was not seen as an obstacle. They had gained a good reputation from their organized resistance against the German occupation and shortly after the war the membership of the Communist Party (CPN) rose to fifty

thousand, the number of seats in the House of Representatives to ten (out of a hundred). Locally, 30 to 40 percent of the votes were obtained locally – East Groningen, the Zaan region, Amsterdam, Twente. The Communist Party, however, remained a revolutionary party, the party of the class struggle. In accordance with the Leninist party model, the party had a highly hierarchical and centralist structure. Its authoritarian leader held the party in an iron grip. After a major electoral defeat a few years after the war, radical changes and innovations of the party began. In addition, many relatively well-educated students, teachers and social workers, and later also the feminists, rebelled against the autocratic Stalinism in the party. They won the party struggle of the orthodox wing. After that, the party quickly changed its radical character in a number of steps. As a result of this ideological renewal, the CPN had become an "ordinary" party, which had seen its revolutionary flame extinguished and no longer played a significant role.

"Yes, of course I've heard of the Cold War," Dien said, "but it didn't bother me that much." Those Russians were certainly difficult guys and the blockade of Berlin was impressive, but I still had too little compassion for the Germans to sympathize with them. "By the way, I had very different concerns and 200,000 other mothers in the Netherlands with me, namely about the "warm" war in the Dutch East Indies, where our sons were staying.

Dutch East Indies

The struggle for the preservation of the Dutch East Indies

(present-day Indonesia) was one of the most complex and bloody issues that the Netherlands faced after the war. After the Japanese capitulation in August 1945, nationalist leaders Sukarno and Hatta proclaimed the independence of Indonesia, but the Dutch government refused to accept this. Independence was not recognized, and the Netherlands sent 200,000 soldiers to restore order in the colony. In good spirits, war volunteers and conscripts left for the Dutch East Indies to liberate the population from the terror. The reality turned out to be different. The soldiers were not welcomed as heroes, but ended up in a complex chaotic situation and violent conflicts regularly broke out. In the meantime, attempts were made at the diplomatic level to establish a partnership, which was already a major concession for the Dutch, but for the Indonesians it did not go far enough. On the international stage, there was a furious reaction to the Dutch military actions in Indonesia. The Security Council adopted a resolution calling on the parties to cease all violence. In addition, international sanctions were threatened against our country, including the shutdown of the Marshall Aid, the economic drip on which the destroyed Europe, including the Netherlands, was located.

Karel, Dien's son, also had to stand up for military service in 1947. He was deemed suitable for the Dutch East Indies and left a few weeks later by boat for Batavia. Although most of the boys cheerfully walked up the gangway of the troop transport ship to the Indies and waved cheerfully to the many people on the quay, at home those who stayed behind were very worried. Cheerful letters from Charles that everything was going well did not change anything against the oppressive feeling that Dien pressed on his chest every day and again and again: Charles is in the Indies. Things weren't going well at all over there in the Indies. That's what you read in the

newspapers. There were deaths and more and more. First, there were short reports in the newspaper that Dutch soldiers had been killed. A little later a column with exactly how much and finally half a page with names. It became even more confrontational when the names of sons of acquaintances and friends were included. But the postman never delivered the infamous gray telegram to Dien with the message that the son had fallen for the fatherland. Until the moment, almost two years later, when an army bus, full of Dutch East Indies soldiers, stopped in front of her house, Karel got out and was cheered on by the many local residents, friends and acquaintances who had flocked to welcome him, that oppressive feeling persisted and only then did life slowly get color again. Many of the Dutch East Indies who returned went into a mass silence. What they had experienced was often too intense to tell and family and friends found it difficult to imagine what "our boys" had experienced there. The boys in question suffered from a lot of fear from reliving the events. In addition, there is an increased risk of violence, relationship disorders (marriage), alcoholism and suicide. It wasn't until much later that a name was attached to it: the traumatic neurosis, which was rather stigmatized by the term neurosis and later called post-traumatic stress disorder. In the decades that followed, more and more historical research into the military actions of the Netherlands took place. Excesses of violence by Dutch soldiers in Indonesia were increasingly in the public spotlight. It is now assumed that the military action of the Netherlands was particularly violent and that war crimes did indeed take place. These conclusions have caused much grief and anger among veterans and their families.

BB (Civil Protection Organisation)

The postwar reconstruction period was also a time of political stability. Dutch politics was characterized by the so-called 'pillarization', in which society was divided into different pillars (Protestant, Catholic, Social Democratic and Liberal). These pillars each had their own organizations, schools, newspapers, and broadcasters, and this system dominated social and political life well into the second half of the last century. The Cold War was lurking in the background and there were echoes of threat and oppression and resistance, but it didn't really bother the majority of the Dutch. The government didn't let that go unnoticed. On the initiative of the Dutch government, a civil defense organization was set up in the early 1950s with the aim of preparing the population for a new war with the help of able-bodied, militant civilians. They were trained on a voluntary basis in the basics of rescue and firefighting activities. This civil defence organisation was called the Civil Protection Organisation (BB).

The BB published several brochures. In the early 1950s, for example, the "Guidelines for Protection against Nuclear Danger" was published. The 35-page work describes the consequences of the explosion of an atomic bomb using the so-called "nominal bomb" or "standard bomb". This is the designation for a bomb with a force comparable to the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Although it is admitted that there were already bombs that were 25 times more powerful at that time, everything is discussed further on the basis of the nominal bomb. The optimistic starting point was that in every city with a well-functioning warning system and with a civilian population, which – after air raid sirens – takes cover as quickly as possible in shelters that have already been prepared in peacetime, the number of casualties can be greatly reduced.

All-out nuclear war

Five years later, the picture of a third world war had changed to an all-out nuclear war. The intention was now to protect the population from overly negative thoughts about an all-out nuclear war. The response was a new brochure "Atomic Danger? Then definitely BB!", a title from later years. Again, the general tone of the text is that with a few simple precautions without much danger, the consequences of the explosion of an atomic bomb are manageable and manageable. And what can citizens do themselves? The public will also have an answer to this. Measures are: evacuation, quick coverage and combating a possible spread of the disaster. The phenomenon of evacuation is interesting. For example, it is referred to as the "suspected target". There, the living quarters have to be evacuated and only people who work in or near the suspected target are present there during their work. There must be good hiding places for them. How one imagines this logistically and how one (the BB?) knows which the probable targets are (and when?) remains unclear. In the event of an air raid, the BB will warn the eligible cities of air danger. If you hear the alarm, find an air raid shelter, is the message. Then there's the "quickly find cover". If you are in the vicinity of an explosion, you need a shelter with walls with a thickness of 1.3 meters of reinforced concrete. However, if we are at 400 meters or more, 60 cm of concrete will suffice. Outside the danger zone, "simpler types of shelters" such as shelters in basements will suffice. Unfortunately, we are not told at what distance we are outside this danger zone. Now it can also happen, the brochure states, that we are surprised by an atomic bomb explosion. Extremely fast action is now required, because the heat radiation is over in 0.6 seconds and half of the initial radioactivity is emitted in

1 sec.' The advice is to do a jump of 1 to 2 steps behind or under a staircase to take cover. Also, "a dip in a pond, canal or ditch" or even dropping to the ground "with your hands under the body can be enough," it says.

Harry Mulisch

Harry Mulisch, a well known dutch author got too much for it all and wrote the satirical "Dropout aimed at the (...) disastrous insinuations of the "Protection of Population" that there is a reasonable possibility of surviving another (nuclear) war. In his version 'Hints for the protection of your family and yourself, during the last day', he advised, among other things,

You should expect temperatures in the order of five thousand degrees Celsius. It is therefore important that you have stocked up on ice cream. It is best to pour it into a bathtub, fill it with water and let each of you take turns taking a bath in the cool water.

The citizen must also have put together an emergency package, the BB recommends. Advice was given for that too, because when the bomb had fallen and you had "barricaded the door and taped it shut with putty", you had to check the food supply. This is Mulisch's list per person:

Two slices of bread, jam, an egg, coffee, three slices of bread, tea, three to four potatoes, 100 grams of meat, half a cauliflower, gravy and pudding. There also had to be: salt, matches, soap, detergent, toiletries, ladies'