**Frank Nederland**

**Dutch Army**

Submitted by Nederland’s son, also named Frank.

Born in Dordrecht, South Holland, Netherlands November 28, 1913

1936 traveled to the Dutch East Indies as an enlisted Dutch Soldier. Because of the Depression in Europe that is what a lot of Dutch men, my dad included, ended up doing.

January 1942 married his first wife.

In February 1942 participated in the Dutch Army's attempt to defend Java. The Dutch Authorities capitulated after only two weeks of fighting to save Jakarta from being sieged by the Japanese. My father wanted to escape to

Australia which was still possible even after the surrender but his wife, who was 1/2 Indonesian, did not want to go so he ended up staying and turning himself in by the date the Japanese had set for all enlisted Dutch soldiers to report.

He participated in the Burmese Railroad construction from sometime in late 42 to June 44 when he was shipped off to Japan and was interned at Omuta until the end the war.

After he recuperated in Manila, he was obliged to return to Indonesia to find his first wife remarried and in shock to see him alive because so many never returned. Dad then participated as a soldier in the Dutch action against the communist insurgency that occurred from 1946 to when it was given its independence in 1949. But my Dad left the Dutch Army, not because they let him go but because he forced them to let him go.

He returned to Holland and stayed with his youngest sister until she, and Dads parents emigrated to Utah and then stayed with another sister until he was able to join his family who all, with the exception of one sister, had emigrated to Utah.

My Dad arrived in the US in 1951. He married my mom in 1952, she had emigrated from Holland to Utah in 1950. I was born in 1953 and my brother in 1958. Even though my father had spent over 13 years in the Dutch military they (nor the Japanese Government) never offered to give him any back-pay for the 3 and 1/2 years he was a POW and

never any pension for his 13 + years of service. That was not until my Dad finally went back to Holland in the late   
80's and received a small sum for his war service and then later received some financial assistance (after much documentation and discussion with the Dutch Consulate) the last 3 years of his life which he spent in a nursing home with advanced Parkinson's Disease.

I sure hope that our US vets got better treatment from their government!

My Dad and Mom are survived by two children, 5 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.