MASTER INDEX (P-Scheme)

i. Index Number: P.III.g No. 830
   (Holland)

2. Title: A Dutch Jew's unsuccessful attempt to save his children from the gas chambers.

3. Period covered: 1940-1944

4. Number of pages: 5
   Language: German

5. Source or Author: Jacob van Hasselt, Amsterdam

6. Recorded by: Miss Elli Kamm

7. Received from: The Recorder, Dec. 1957

8. Form and Contents: Record of an interview. - Mr. van Hasselt is a Dutch Jew, a notary by profession. After the invasion of Holland by the Nazis he assisted a resistance organisation founded by his friend and colleague Abma, a non-Jew. Eventually Abma's activities were discovered by the Germans and he received a prison sentence of 1 year. When the deportations started, van Hasselt and his wife escaped to Belgium, leaving their 2 children in the care of Christian friends. His mother-in-law, who was also living "underground" in Holland, was denounced to the Nazis, and this also led to the whereabouts of the children being discovered. They were sent to the Westerbork camp. Van Hasselt crossed back into Holland in an attempt to save his children. He was promised help by the Dutch resistance movement. However, the plan to smuggle the children out of Westerbork miscarried; they were deported to Auschwitz and gassed.

Von Hasselt states that up to 1943 the spirit of resistance was much stronger in Belgium than in Holland and comments unfavourably on the attitude of the Jood'sche Rat. He mentions the Jewish SS spy de Jaques, whose activities led to many arrests of Jews in Belgium.