

riding or golfing and so on, and that was done.

Q.1196 Yes, but that was for the purpose of relieving the soldier, and, the civilians were employed so far as it was possible to do that. But, I take it that you don't mean to suggest that we should take on civilians who were not needed, -- to take the place of soldiers or to perform their necessary tasks?

A.1196 I don't understand your question.

Q.1197 Well, you draw a distinction between employment of people who have no duties to perform and who may be called to perform unnecessary duties and those employed for a legitimate useful purpose?

A.1197 Well, I can only say that every unit and headquarters in Holland employed civilians. I am quite sure that possibly that had a dual purpose, -- to free the soldier and to help in the rehabilitation of the country because not only was the civilian paid but he and she was also fed, and, as you probably know, there was a civilian scale of rations approved by Army Group.

Q.1198 Now, in connection with the Dutch civilians in whose good graces we wish to be, did you think that that would improve relations or otherwise, for us to retain requisitioned properties for which there was a civilian need?

A.1198 There was no particular need. The thing that the Dutch were chiefly concerned with was the freeing of their schools, factories and such like which were used as barracks by the various regiments.

Q.1199 But you will agree with me that there was a very great shortage in accommodation for civilians in Amsterdam, was there not?

A.1199 Accommodation was difficult to obtain.

Q.1200 You were unable yourself to obtain accommodation for Mrs. Brouwers and that is the reason you told us you made the arrangements you did?

A.1200 That is true.

Q.1201 And, therefore, didn't you think the Dutch would be welcome for the release of the house or so-called flat that you had?

A.1201 I can only say that there was never any move made by the Dutch to have it retained.

Q.1202 Do you expect that it would have met with much success under the circumstances?

A.1202 Possibly.

Q.1203 Will you tell me, was the property 58 Oranje Nassaulaan derequisitioned with effect as of the 15th August, or 10th August rather, done at your instruction?

A.1203 Yes. Yes.