



MEMORIES OF A DEAR FRIEND
Greet Vastert-Holtslag

By Marie Jose Temmink

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We met in Nursing school in 1960
In Oldenzaal The Netherlands



A note out of my diary:

There was lot of fellowship among the nursing students, and we shared our experiences and valued each others input. My friend Greet,s family lived in town. Her mother often invited us to spend time with their family. Oldenzaal was almost as a foreign country to me. Their dialect was not anything like I had heard before. On my first assignment in a men's surgical ward I politely had asked a man to repeat his question. His response was: "if you do not understand me, what are you doing here?"

Nothing like the way foreigners are treated in the USA, where one can get by without speaking a word of English, even citizens. I prefer the old way, maybe unfriendly at first, but it forces one to learn a dialect or language if you want to stay, and make a living away from home..

1961

**We received
145 Guilders
a month for
training 45
hours a week**

**We traveled
to Lugano
Lake at the
cost of 145
Guilders**

**10 days va-
cation for
145 Guil-
ders.**

**The amount
we earned in a month!**

**But it was including food and
a bed in a bungalow tent.**

**It was money well spent as
we had a great and exiting
time.**



1962

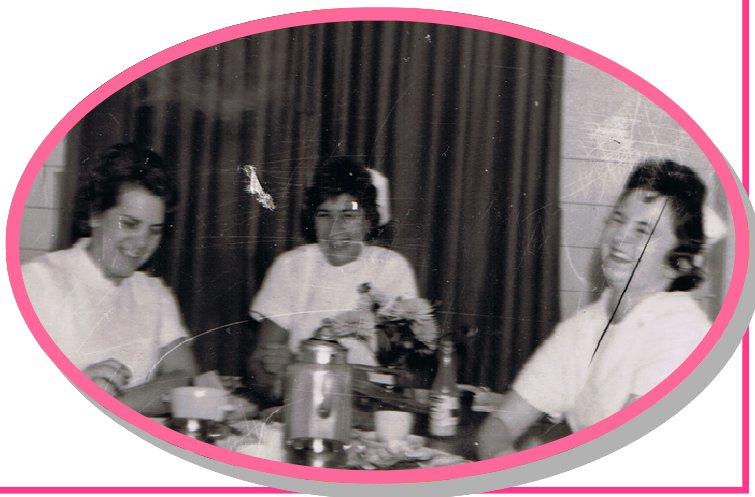
A note out of my dairy:

Coffee breaks late at night kept us going. From left: Greet Vastert, me, Ria Leu-sink and Wil Gales. We were very close and supportive of each other and always felt up-beat together..



The last night shift just before graduation

We always had such fun!

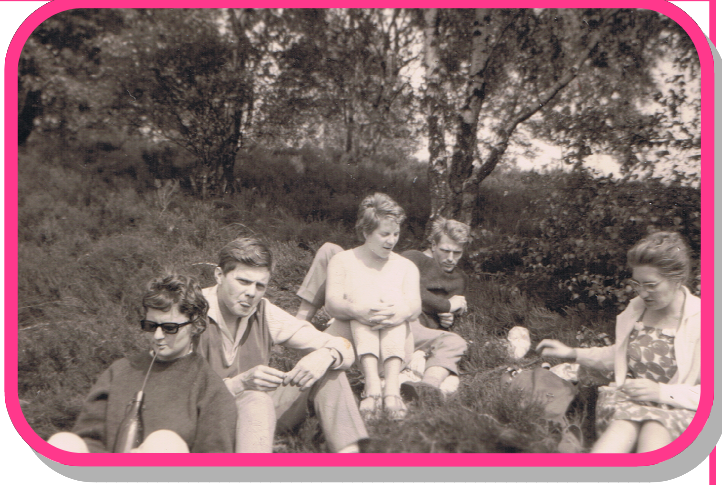


1963

Greet had met Gerard in Limburg!

And therefore often came home with me on our days off

We had a picnic in the Hamert with my sister Anny



And sat by the river Maas.

Riet , Greet's sister came along once also.



Even the winters were not too cold for Greet to come and see "her" Gerard



1963

She was there to celebrate my engagement to “My” Gerard



And traveled by train with “her” Gerard to see my wedding to “My” Gerard



1970

Gerard and Greet settled in Wellerlooi as Gerard had his work there.



We visited here at my parents home when I was on vacation.

We corresponded by mail and shared our experiences. Her letters like all others are all scanned into my day to day program, and I treasure them very much.

The years slipped by too fast and contact became less frequent. But when we reconnected we picked up where we left off.

We kept up to date with each others experiences and I was happy she could visit me here in California, in October 1988

**Considering the distance,
no e-mail,
no face book,
no twitter
and no Skype
we were able to (even though sporadic) nurture our friendship by phone and mail.**

2005

**I am very happy she met
Frans.**

**My last picture of her is when
Gerard and Greet visited us in
Wellerlooi in 2005**



**Our last visit was in May 2008
when we had a wonderful
lunch at her home.**

**Our last Skype visit was July 19
2011. We both felt the end was
near, but I did not expect the
news of her passing would come
so soon.**



**Thank you Greet for being my
friend.**

**You were very courageous in
coping with your illness.
You were very strong in dealing
with everything that came your
way.**

**You loved your husband and
daughters and all family
You instilled your values into
your daughters.**



You can be proud of your accomplishments while on earth!

A job well done!

Rest in Peace

Your friend in eternity

Marie-Jose Temmink

**Gerard, Nicole, Marie Jose, Jantine and families my thoughts are
with you. I will keep in touch.**