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Foreword and Acknowledgments

Behind the high walls of the Scheveningen Penitentiary Institution lies the National Monument *Oranjehotel* (NM *Oranjehotel*). The original 500 cells were built shortly after the First World War to hold the large number of detainees awaiting trial. Between 1940 and 1945, the building served as the Scheveningen *Polizeigefängnis* (police prison). The occupying forces imprisoned over 25,000 people here for interrogation and trial on grounds of petty crime, religious beliefs, ethnicity, or resistance activities. In tribute to this last group of prisoners, the cell barrack soon became known as the *Oranjehotel* (Orange Hotel).

Some were allowed to resume their normal lives after a period of incarceration, but for most, the *Oranjehotel* marked the beginning of years of imprisonment in both Dutch and foreign camps. For over 250 prisoners, however, this was the end of the line. They were executed by the occupying forces on the nearby *Waaltdorpervlakte*.

After the liberation, the cell barrack commander, E.P. Weber, established the *Oranjehotel* Foundation, partly composed of former prisoners, to keep the memory of the war years

alive. The entrance gate on Van Alkemadelaan and Cell 601 were declared monuments, and a relief was placed in the prison wall. Starting in 1946, an annual commemoration was organized, including a silent march past Cell 601.

The cell barrack remained in use as part of the Scheveningen prison until 2009, after which it was decided to open them to the public. The opening of the NM *Oranjehotel* in 2019 was the start of a new era for the former police prison. Through permanent and temporary exhibitions, the *Oranjehotel* Junior corridor, and numerous events, the story and significance of the *Oranjehotel* are shared with an ever-growing audience. The many young visitors to Scheveningen, in particular, learn about the vulnerability of our constitutional state through the story of the *Oranjehotel* and its “guests.”

This book marks the next phase in the life of the NM *Oranjehotel*. More than five years after its opening, the stories in this book offer a fresh perspective on the many events that unfolded not only within the walls of the *Oranjehotel*, but also far beyond. It tells the story of the prisoners and their guards, of the home front, and of



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■ Left: Replica of a metal drinking cup as a commemorative souvenir, NM *Oranjehotel* collection (OH.0110). Above: The small “Gate” and the large entrance gate. Both provided access to the *Oranjehotel* during World War II.

the ones left behind. The authors have not only managed to draw and write stories from a new perspective, but have also focused on new audiences. We hope that this medium will generate renewed attention for the story of the *Oranjehotel* and its significance within our history, as well as for the enduring vulnerability of freedom and democracy.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to a large number of people for the creation of this book.

Kees Ribbens, senior researcher & team leader of Public History at the NIOD and initiator of *Het onvoorstelbare verbeeld* (Picturing the Unimaginable), who, inspired by the embroidery in our collection, suggested telling the story of the *Oranjehotel* in comics form. He also acted as a critical reader. The authors who masterfully captured these stories in their own way, in alphabetical order: Pieter Brouwer, Tânia Alexandra Cardoso, D’Avallonne van Dijk, Guido van Driel, Nova de Hoo, Gemma Plum, Sterric, and

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Anke van der Laan
Director of the NM *Oranjehotel*



