



BRILL

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Press in 2010. Next to this account there is ample room for Punt's own story, only recently recorded by Punt's granddaughter Nicola Meinders. His memory is astounding and results in a lively and exact account of affairs, especially on the *Junyo Maru*. Punt's will to survive and his inventiveness confronted with life threats are extraordinary, and make for special reading.

Art de Vos, *Gordel van geweld: Overleven in Indië, een familiechroniek*. Schiedam: Scriptum, 2018, 400 pp. ISBN: 9789463191265, price: EUR 24.99 (hardback).

Historian Art de Vos worked ten years to write this family chronicle about the turbulent life of the KNIL non-commissioned officer (NCO), later officer, Henk Navest (1913–1994), his wife Trijntje (1919–2008), and his sons Ab (1939–2013) and Ceel (1940) during the years 1940–1950. The basic sources for his narrative are interviews, diaries, military reports, and other literature. De Vos does not rework this in an account following scholarly conventions. He creates 'embellished non-fiction,' or, in his own words using contemporary terms, 'the spirit of the past is evoked.' Information on his approach, and which passages are fictional or non-fictional, is scanty. This of course diminishes the historical value of this book, however much De Vos sticks to the facts. In this way Henk Navest's experiences in the war against the invading Japanese on Java, his internment and work as a convict on the Burma railroad and in Singapore are narrated. Upon Japan's surrender in August 1945, he is drafted again by the colonial army and sent to Belitung, Bangka, and Surabaya. Especially in East Java, he was involved in 1949 in an intense guerrilla war against the Republican forces. He was in command of a unit of Madurese soldiers, called the Tjakras, who detested the Republic and sided with the Dutch. Navest was involved during 1950 with the organization of the Dutch soldier's repatriation. His family was interned during the Japanese occupation, and experienced its hardships in Cideng, Jakarta. After August 1945, they had to go through many more hardships before they were evacuated to the inhospitable Netherlands. In all, this is a well-written account about the turmoil an ordinary Dutch family went through. It is not a trustworthy historical source—a pity, as more on the Tjakras or the interesting account of the stay of Soekarno, Hatta, and Roem on Bangka during the first months of 1949 would have been welcome. The book is marred by a great number of misspellings of Indonesian geographical names and words. It is both sloppy and disrespectful to have not made the small effort to check these words and names.