

The eyewitness story of Mr Guus Kole (90 years old) translated, audiofile is in Dutch

The very first, who was there. Yes, for I was in the Nieuwstraat in Goes, and my uncle, that was Scheffe,..... because he was rather a sportsman, from the trading company in farming machines, in the Nieuwstraat, and I was there all the time. And we were standing outside, and we heard of course the machine-guns, we heard them shoot, I saw him come and he was attacked by a number of fighters.

Now it is like this, that those German fighters operated usually with three at a time, the staffel, we call that a staffel, they were following them, they dived at them and this was already burning, a motor, a wing, but hey kept turning full gas around in circles, I saw the parachutists jump, how many that I cannot say precisely, about five, six, but they know how many crew were inside, and the was at a certain altitude, let us say maybe two thousand meter rather low, it was burning, exploded and fell down. 1. 56 First the wing and then the covers. I jumped on my bicycle, near Oudkerk, near the little Blacksluice, you know [Menno: no]

[a short conversation follows during which a lady explains the exact spot where the sluice is].
3.04 I was here in the Nieuwstraat, oh that must have been here, I was by bike, he explains the route he took.

I dropped my bike on the Seadike [time 3.56] , and the airplane was here [points to a spot on the map] I went there, jumped across this brook, because I was not, I did not have wet feet, and I just walked, those were all woods, and here was the plane and here the parachutes. 4.38 That was a piece of land that was covered with flax and flax that is a very beautiful green field and the flax was this long.

The casco or the fuselage was burning here, I stood here I was standing a while next to it and there was nobody. I have also, I have seen the parachutes, but I did not go to them, I went directly to the fuselage and when I went there, I saw everywhere pieces of plexiglas, I put them in my pocket, I could make something with that. And some others pieces, because it was exploded and had fallen down.

I stand here next to the airplane and maybe I stood there for a quarter of an hour. I could not come close but I was eager to get a bomberjack. I was standing for some time, it was beautiful weather, in the morning, about ten hrs, ten thirty, there come two cars at high speed, military cars of the Germans, that were Germans who were located in the HBS [high school] , that was the old HBS. [a discussion follows where the school was] ...7.56 So those two cars approached, oh there come the Germans, I am going to leave, so I turn around, and the cars were here and turned to get to this road, so I turn around and wanted to walk away, but I had to halt but I did not hear [the command] then they gave - racketacketack- they fired. 8.36 I heard the bullets whistle and I heard them shoot so I halted, they came walking up to me, about four, five soldiers, common military men, and about three, four officers, with long coats, flat hats, and they approached me and asked: What are you doing here? I stood there, I had no explanation and said: I am here by chance, so I gave my identification card to a man of about 17 and he started searching me, so he saw my pockets and he saw the stuff I had. Is there more? I answered not fast enough and he hit me a few times and of course I defended myself and I hit his glasses and they flew into the flax

3.45 so then he became livid so I started searching and I find the glasses so he could wear his glasses again. In th meantime the pane was burning, it burned like hell. Then I was allowed to go. Scram!

They understood that I had nothing to do with the whole incident. So I walked away, I had covered some distance, they called me back, and I got my identity card back. Then he said again: scram! Then I was a little afraid, I was here, and I kew on the dike, there was my bicycle somewhere, here somewhere [points at he map]. And then another man walks up to me. I did not know that man and shouted: come along, away from here, because they will shoot at you, hear me! And I jumped into the Schenge [name of the brook] and I stumbled to the other side. The other man thought this is serious, he als jumped and went back, so we had to wade through the water to the dike.

Here, with all the stinking mud and I am sure it was on a Monday, so at about 12.00 - 12.15 I reported to my mother, smelling of the black rotten mud, she fortunately had some laundry water so I could wash up. That is all. ***