

## Douwes, Arnold

(b. 1906), Member of the Dutch underground who rescued hundreds of Jews during the Holocaust. Douwes carried out most of his activities near the town of Nieuwlande where, due to his efforts, almost every family hid a Jew. Douwes also recruited the help of several hundred Dutch families in the countryside near Nieuwlande.

After being summoned for deportation, Jewish families would be directed to Douwes by the underground. He would pick them up himself in Amsterdam or at the train station in his district, and place them in safe havens. He would then personally take care of all their needs, including food, money, and false identity papers. When the Germans raided homes in the area, Douwes would use his bicycle to move Jews to safety.

The Nazis sought to arrest Douwes, so he disguised his appearance with a mustache, glasses, and hat. Nonetheless, he was caught and imprisoned in January 1945; the underground managed to break him out of jail before his execution.

After the war Douwes moved to South Africa, and then settled in Israel in 1956. He was designated as Righteous Among The Nations by Yad Vashem in 1965. Later on, over 200 inhabitants of the town of Nieuwlande were also given the title.