

The Kingdom of the Netherlands
Posthumous Medals Award Ceremony
Dutch consulate's house—June 8th, 2021



- + Mobilization War Cross
- + The Star for Order and Peace
- + The Demobilization Insignia



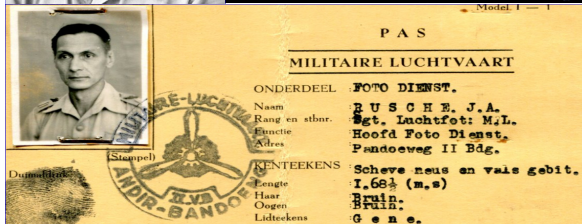
Johan Albert Rusche

September 27, 1907—April 10, 1980



Born in Solo (Surakarta),
Dutch East Indies (Indonesia)

Son of Albert and Diena Rusche
The last of their 12 children



July 29, 1942 - Captured as Prisoner of
War of the Japanese Empire.
He was a POW for 1,215 days.

The Sinking of The Junyo Maro

September 16 – 18, 1944



Junyo Maru

Johan was transported on this
“Hell Ship” with the POW Java Party
23 to work on the **Pekanbaru Death
Railway**. The Junyo Maru was struck
by several torpedoes from the
British submarine HMS Tradewind.

**5,620 Prisoners lost their lives in
the sinking. Only 723 Survived.**

**It was the worst single ship-
wreck in the Pacific Theater**

Out of the 723 POWs that survived
the sinking, only 96 survived the war.

Johan was amongst the 96



*Thank you for honoring our father for
the great deeds and tremendous
suffering they all had to endure.*



Survived by his children:
Joyce Margeriet Woodard,
Arthur Denis Rusche and
Peggy Minke Rusche-Cook

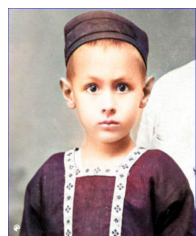
Also surviving are Joyce's children,
Tanya Marisa Emerick and
Ryan James Chester

and her grandchildren of Ryan,
Michael Schuyler Chester And **Lucy Mullin.**
Peggy's children, **Lauren Ashley Cook** and
Graham Alexander (Alex) Cook

Please see more at:

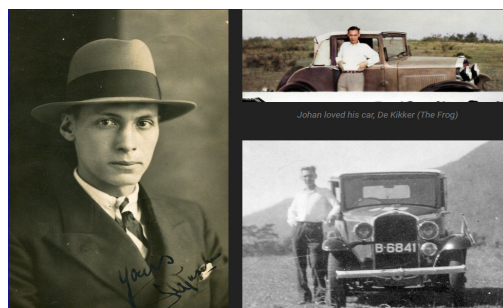
<https://RuscheFamily.com>

Johan Albert Rusche



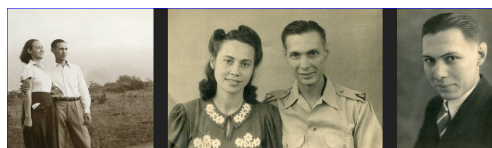
Johan grew up in The Dutch East Indies, now known as Indonesia. He lived in Solo (Surakarta) in the West and Central part of the island of Java, the

stronghold of the Dutch occupancy. He worked at the Rusche family businesses and was known as Joopie Slim. "Slim" is the Dutch word for smart.



June 24, 1938

Johan Albert Rusche (age 31) and Constance Anna Herrebrugh (age 24) become engaged.



April 10, 1941—Marriage to Conny



March 9, 1942 The Netherlands surrenders the Dutch East Indies to Japan. Johan goes in hiding for almost 5 months and then was captured by the Japanese.



September 16, 1944 The Junyo Maru Incident

Johan's story:

Johan said he found himself in shark infested waters through the night and into the next day. He said the gunboats would pick up survivors but only if you could climb up the rope they would send down to you in the water. With hands soaked for 24 hours in water, he climbed aboard one of the boats. He said you had to remain silent and awake. If anyone tried to sleep they were kicked overboard

The Pekanbaru Death Railway in Sumatra

The surviving prisoners were transported by truck and train to work on The Pekanbaru Death Railway. It has been said that the 723 POWs who were rescued were "only to be put to work in conditions, perhaps worse than their comrades who died!"

August 15, 1945 The railway was completed and was only ever used to transport POWs out of the jungle. **Same Day, Japan Surrenders.**

August 20, 1945 Work parties cease.

October 6, 1945 POW camps close down.

November 25, 1945 Last POWs depart Pekanbaru.

Post-war Indonesia 1945-1950

Johan becomes a teacher at the Electrical Technical School in Bandung. Teachers and professors are among the few Dutch Nationalists that remain in Indonesia.

1947 Joyce Margeriet Rusche was born in Bandung

1950 Family flees from Indonesia

In Indonesia's strive for independence, violence increased toward the former Dutch occupiers that had remained.

The Netherlands 1950-1960

The family took refuge back in The Netherlands. Johan worked for the South Holland Brewery (ZHB) in Den Haag for 10 years.

1956 Arthur Denis Rusche was born

1959 Peggy Minke Rusche-Cook was born



The United States of America

Family immigrates to the USA.

February 20, 1961 Arrives in New York City via The Holland American Steamship SS Ryndam. Johan (54), Conny (47), Joyce (14), Arthur (5) and Peggy (2) were sponsored by The First Baptist Church of **Olympia, Washington**. Granted K-13 Visas (Dutch National Refugees from Indonesia).

Olympia, Washington

Johan worked many odd jobs when getting re-started in America. He washed cars and along with Conny cleaned office buildings. He then



learned transistor technology and opened his own radio and TV repair business inside Modern TV of Olympia.

He liked to travel and take the family camping around the Olympics and to the ocean. Paradise at Mt Rainier was a frequent trip!

He liked playing Chess, his pipe and taking 8mm movies and was always in for a "lekker rijsttafel met veel sambal!" He attended many of the early Seattle Sounders matches with Art in Memorial Stadium.

His cars were a Ford Station Wagon, Plymouth Fury and a Mazda RX-4 Wagon.

April 10, 1980 Johan Albert Rusche passes away at age 72 in Olympia Washington and was cremated at Forest Memorial Gardens in Olympia, Washington.