

First-Hand Accounts of War: War Letters (1935-1950) from NIOD Digitised

"This project preserves, scans, transcribes, and annotates a collection of personal correspondences related to the German Occupation of the Netherlands in World War II and the War of Independence in Indonesia to create a structured, enriched, and machine-readable dataset for the Digital Humanities."



Postcard with stamps, NIOD collection 247

Answering difficult questions through multi-disciplinary conversation and exchange

- How have personal letters become part of the NIOD's archival collection since 1945? In what condition? And how did this impact the current digitisation project?
- How to deal with variation in handwriting, language, writing paper quality, color, or size?
- How can we understand digitisation and transcription as radical transformations in the 'life' of a historical war letter?
- How can we create and enrich a digital dataset with the computer and the crowd?

Facts & figures

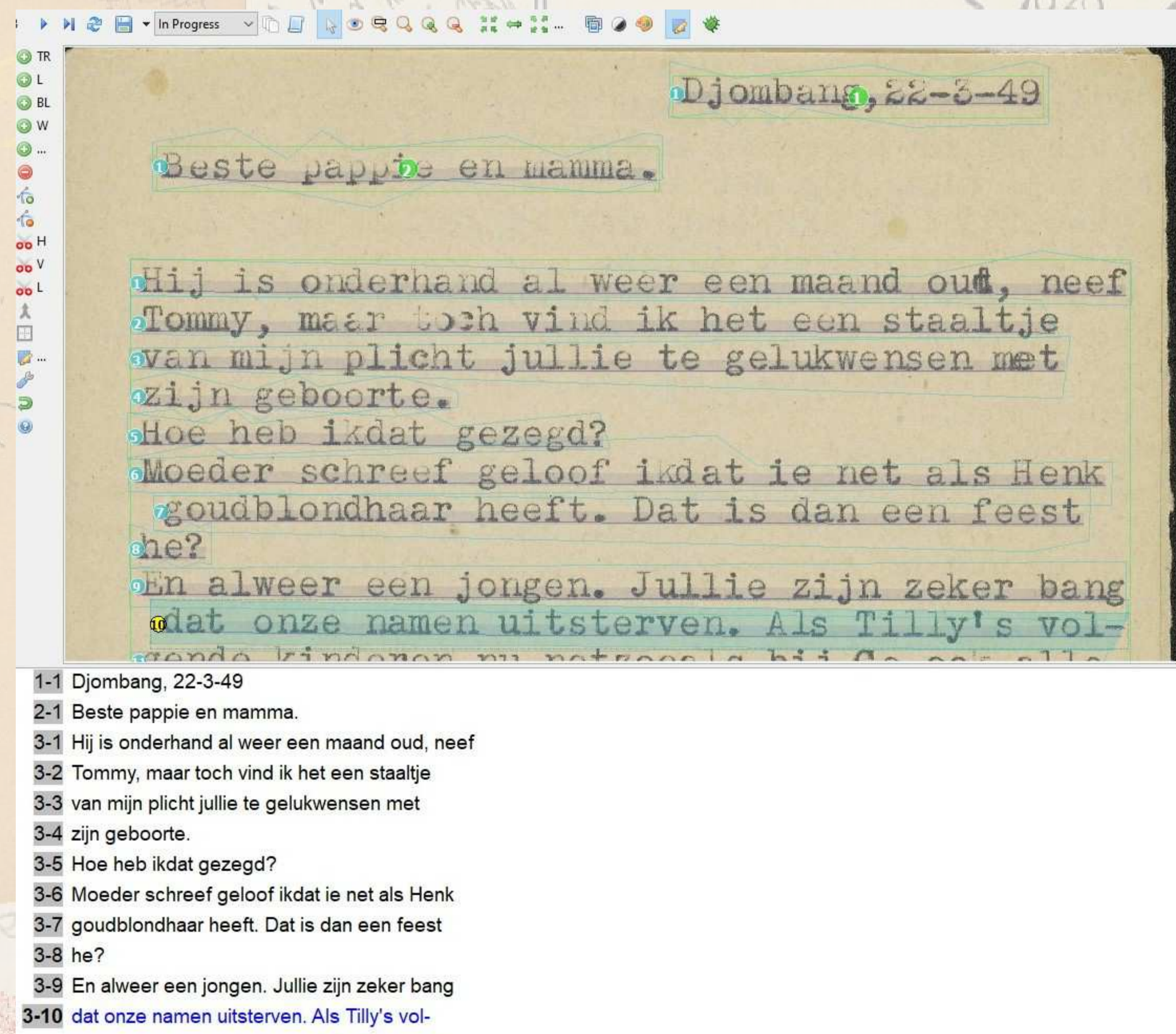
- 14,1 meters of paper archive
- 1483 inventory numbers
- 160.000+ high-res scans
- 140.000+ transcriptions
- 3 types of digital datasets
- 2 HTR-models for historical handwritten Dutch

Find out more in the NIOD blog series:



A digitisation project as an opportunity for collaboration

- Annelies van Nispen (Information Analyst)
- Carlijn Keijzer (Archivist and Policy Advisor)
- Milan van Lange (Researcher 'Digital History')
- Sergio Leatomu (Preservation Specialist)
- Muriël Bouman (Intern, RMA History Student)
- A team of *Citizen Scientists*



Transcribed war letter, NIOD collection 247



Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,
Welzijn en Sport



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instituut voor
oorlogs-, holocaust-
en genocidestudies



Browse NIOD
collection '247
correspondence'
online:

