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Execution Wetering Park (Amsterdam, March 2, 1945, 9:15-9:35 a.m.)

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**Execution Wetering Park
(Amsterdam, March 2, 1945, 9:15-9:35 a.m.)**

I did not see the men;
they told me. Oh, my God!
They were placed ten and ten
before the firing squad.

They shot them down in haste.
A volley of fire and lead
echoed four times, well-spaced,
then all of them were dead.

And those, who from disgust,
escaped this cruel scene,
were dragged through the vile dust
to see this act so mean.

They saw how man or child
collapsed in blood and death.
For a farewell he smiled
when he let his last breath.

He'll find me at his side,
convinced that we are one.
In God I do confide
and in a well-aimed gun.

I will, with steady hand,
wait for the order brute,
seek justice in this land,
laugh while I shoot and shoot.

I did see all the men.
I did hear the remark.
They were all, ten and ten,
murdered in the park.

I am not revengeful,
but full of bitter pain.
My heart, a restless pool,
wants to be more humane.

And therefore I shall stand,
and with a well-aimed gun
I obey the command
that my heart had begun.

Jan H. de Groot
translated by Case J. Boot
from *Moder Koren*