In June 1721 Pieternella was faced with the difficult task of notifying her family and friends that her 'very worthy and dear husband', Jan Trip de Jonge, thirty one years of age, had died following a short illness that left him emaciated. Only one month earlier Jan and Pieternella had celebrated Jan Willem's fifth birthday. Shortly afterwards Pieternella had heard news from Rogier van Heijningen in Batavia that her grandfather's condition had worsened and not long thereafter news of his death was passed on from English ships that had stopped over at the Cape of Good Hope and were now anchored in Great Britain. As she could not ascertain the reliability of this news, she wrote a letter to grandfather to tell him about Jan's death. Sadly and unbeknownst to Pieternella, grandfather Van Outhoorn had passed away seven months earlier.

Willem van Outhoorn died on 27 November, 1720, at eight o'clock in the morning, at his residence on the Tijgersgracht. The funeral was held at the Dutch Church and took place on 2 December. From the various descriptions and reports Pieternella received from Batavia, she was able to envision her grandfather's final farewell. She knew Batavia well and could therefore easily imagine the funeral route of the procession that had escorted her grandfather to his final resting place – next to his deceased wife.

In keeping with his true Van Outhoorn character, grandfather had prepared his funeral arrangements right down to the last detail. He had even managed to arrange permission to have his coffin transported on a cart, a novum for Batavia, where normally the deceased would be carried by pall bearers and the rest of the entourage would follow on foot, all dressed in heavy black mourning clothes, no easy accomplishment considering the sweltering tropical temperatures.

No doubt Van Outhoorn was inspired by the difficulties during the funerary procession of his colleague Abraham van Riebeeck, some seven years earlier. Although he had been too ill to attend, he certainly will have heard how Van Riebeeck’s coffin proved to be too heavy to be carried by the honorary pall bearers. Thus forty muscular carpenters from the Company wharf were recruited. Dressed in black but hidden under the large shroud that covered the coffin, they carried the bier, no doubt half suffocating. They had to work in shifts and it must have been a curious spectacle to see the bier stop at intervals, while underneath trestles were placed so the next shift could take over, and then start moving again. Presumably all forty carpenters, some of them carrying the trestles, remained under the shroud.

In his typical no-nonsense approach, and being utterly practical, he stated:

‘En dewijle sijn hoog Edelheijt de heer gouverneur generaal toegestaan heeft, dat ik in mijn doodkist op een wagen gelegt, en soo door paarden twee of meer alsser nodig sulden wesen, ten Grave naar ‘t nederlands kerkhoff sal gebragt werden, soo sullen daer toe geen ambagtsgesellen van nooden wesen, vervolgens ook uijtgewonnen werden de kleeren, koussens en schoenen, en wat dies meer voor haar te laten maken, seer dienstig om mijn uijtvaart te verhaasten …’

‘And because His Excellency, the governor general, has allowed, that in my coffin I will be placed on a cart and thus be drawn by two or more horses, as many as are necessary, and brought to my grave in the Dutch Churchyard, it will not be necessary to employ artisans to that end. Moreover this will save [the expenses] for preparing the garments, stockings and shoes etcetera for them. Also it serves to speed up the funeral …’

Although, awaiting the decision of the governor general, mourning attire for the artisans had already been prepared, they could now, being new and unused, be sold at a public auction. Grandfather’s coffin had been assembled in his tuyntje. No doubt it was put together by Paris, a former slave, to whom he bequeathed his carpenter's tools. According to grandfather's instructions, the coffin was to be placed in the large room in his house on the Tijgersgracht, on a table with its legs standing in porcelain bowls, filled with water. Thus insects like ants would be prevented from 'coming and disturbing him too soon'. Black woolen cloth used as mourning garments for all the mourners concerned and
dyed black stockings for the members of his guard were laid out. Of his 95 gold commemorative medals, only the date of his death needed to be engraved. The civilian, Charles le Roux, would be responsible for the engraving and charged fifty guilders for his service.

Grandfather's arms and ornaments, consisting of a tunic, helmet, sword, gloves and spurs were carried in the funeral procession. The procession started with six members of Van Outhoorn's guard in mourning dress, followed by his clerk Balthasar Franck and the corporal of the guards Jacob Servaas, both in long coats, but without hats because after all, they were merely employees. Behind them the cart followed, with the coffin draped with a black velvet cloak on which 'His Excellency's Armorial Bearings' were attached. Two horses, caparisoned with black velvet, were harnessed while the cart was surrounded by thirty four pallbearers, all 'qualified persons' or high emissaries including the upper merchant and the equipagemeester, the man responsible for all VOC ships and shipping, high-ranked military officers and other Company servants. Grandfather's only remaining relative Rogier van Heijningen, took his place directly behind the coffin accompanied by the High Council member Matheus de Haan and the merchant Jacob van Loo. All three had been appointed by Van Outhoorn as executors of his last will and testament.

As was appropriate protocol for a former governor-general, Van Outhoorn was honoured with a state burial. Thus, the funeral procession included the governor-general Hendrik Zwaardcroon and the entire High Council, followed by just about everybody of rank in Batavia. In attendance was Quebanqua,