

## **Wolfstraat 6**

### **Giel Ummels**

#### **Resistance from the Butchery**

When the war begins, Giel Ummels lives at Wolfstraat 6 in Maastricht, where he owns a butchery. He is married and has two young daughters: Mieke and Tonny. He starts to work as a resistance fighter in 1942, when Chaplain Joosten of the Onze-Lieve-Vrouwebasiliek (Basilica of Our Lady), who is already active in the resistance, asks him to assist with the distribution of food stamps. At a later point in the war, Giel is also asked to gather people for a raid on a German distribution office.



#### **Food Stamps in a Doll Carriage**

As a member of the LO (the Dutch organization that offers help to persons in hiding) Giel's prime task entails the collecting of distribution stamps for persons in hiding. His butchery is a shelter for Jews, as well as for Belgian and French war prisoners and French, American and British pilots. Giel aids their escape, sometimes with the help of his daughter Mieke. She would grab the allied pilots by the hand and walk them the Zusters Ursulinen or the Zusters Onder de Bogen, two female Catholic religious congregations. Mieke's doll carriage is also used to hide food stamps, which she brings to another resistance fighter, Jo Lokerman. The Ummels' butchery becomes the regular meeting place for the LO to discuss the ransom of resistance fighters.

## **Betrayed, Interrogated, Captured**

Due to the betrayal to the SIPO by Ms. Zeguers-Boere, 50 members of the resistance are arrested on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1944. Amongst them are Giel and his wife Truike (Gertruda) Meijs. The couple Ummels and their neighbour Edmond Houtappel are interrogated at the SIPO headquarters at the Wilheminasingel, after which they are imprisoned at the Minderbroedersberg. Meanwhile, Mieke and Tonny, Giel and Truike's daughters, are still at home. During the three days after their parent's arrest, they live under the supervision of German soldiers in their own home, after which they are immediately hidden by their father's colleagues of the LO.

## **Murdered in Sachsenhausen**

After three weeks, the wives of both Giel and Edmond are released. Ms. Ummels immediately goes into hiding with her two daughters. Giel is sent to camp Vught. The resistance plans a raid on the transport near an overpass in Sittard to release him, but once again, Ms. Zeguers-Boere betrays the resistance and causes the raid to fail. From Kamp Vught, Giel is deported to the concentration camp of Oranienburg. Eventually, he is murdered in concentration camp Sachsenhausen on December 2, 1944, at age 35. His brother Mathieu, one year his senior, with whom he was arrested, is murdered at May 6, 1945, at concentration camp Neuengamme.