

## Sint Servaasklooster 37

### Jo Lokerman

Born in 1901, Jo Lokerman was an engine driver with the Dutch railways. He was a social democrat, active in the union movement and the SDAP, which he represented on Maastricht City Council. Immediately on the day of occupation, in May 1940, Jo Lokerman caused a disturbance on Wilhelminasingel, which allowed some Belgian prisoners of war who were to be taken to Germany to escape.

Led by Woudenberg, the union adapted to the German regulations. For Lokerman, this was a reason to renounce his membership of the Netherlands Association of Trade Unions. Straight afterwards, he was given a lower position and worse timetable with the railways.

As an engine driver, Lokerman was in a position to distribute the illegal press, particularly *het Parool* and *Vrij Nederland*, across the border as well. He was also able to smuggle many pilots across the border.

He became the Maastricht head of the National Organisation for Aid to Those in Hiding (L.O.), helping prisoners of war and Jews, and seeing to distribution coupons.

A member of the resistance (Hooghuis) came into contact with the 25-year-old Mrs Zeguers Boere, who moved from Heylerhoflaan to Sint Servaasklooster 37, where she organised parties with the Nazis. Through Zeguers, the Sicherheitspolizei (Sipo) informed the resistance that a few members of the resistance could be released for payment. Zeguers was trusted by the resistance, as she also had someone in hiding in her home. The money was to be handed over to the butcher Ummels, where the L.O. meetings took place, which were

always attended by Zeguers. At this contact address at Wolfstraat, the Sipo wanted to take action at the end of April. Ummels' home was closed off by a Sipo Commando, but Lokerman did not turn up and no arrests were made. A second attempt at the beginning of May also failed, as Lokerman was ill at the time. Then Zeguers asked Jo Lokerman to come for a meeting at her home at 10.00 pm on Tuesday 9 May. After half an hour, when Lokerman wanted to leave, the Sipo leaders Nitsch and Ströbel appeared from behind a curtain. They arrested Lokerman, the person in hiding, Mrs Zeguers Boere and, over the course of the evening and following day, a further 50 people.

This betrayal led to the arrest and death of Edmond Houtappel, Hubert Jamin, Hein Lochtmann and Giel Ummels, among others. Mrs Zeguers was released immediately, and it was Giel Ummels who managed to get the message from Kamp Vught that Zeguers-Boere had betrayed everyone.

Lokerman was first imprisoned in Vught, then in Oraniënburch, and was finally killed in Neuengamme.

Lokerman received a posthumous Yad Vashem honour from the State of Israel on 26 December 1994.