

Rechtstraat 35

Icek en Siegmund Gold



Father and Son Gold

The Polish Icek Gold (also called Izaäk) marries Rosa Kempinski in Duisburg in 1926, with whom he has two children named Jenny and Siegmund. Already six years later, in 1932, they flee to the Netherlands and move into a house on the Schoolstraat in Heer, Maastricht, where they live until 1938. In Heer, Siegmund goes to primary school. On Sundays he takes the steam train to the city centre where he takes classes at the synagogue on the Capucijnenstraat. In 1939, the Gold family moves to Rechtstraat 33, from where Icek sells textiles to markets and shops.

Separated Education for Jews

In the summer of 1941, Siegmund finishes his first year at a public secondary school at the Helmstraat when the Germans issue ordinances against the Jews and Jews are no longer allowed to follow classes with non-Jewish students. About 18 Jewish students are forced to leave the public secondary school.

Jewish Classes from Louis Gobes

In October 1940, the 13-year-old Siegmund becomes a Bar Mitzvah. In preparation for the ceremony, Siegmund practices the Parsha of the week, under supervision of cantor Louis Gobes. His sister Jenny remembers how, at certain sentences of the Tanach, Louis Gobes

seemed somewhat uncomfortable. His face became red: “Let’s skip that part, it is not that important,” Jenny remembers him saying. Later, Siegmund and Jenny try to translate the part themselves, but are unable to. “What could the words ‘he confessed her’ have meant?”

Icek: Murdered in Auschwitz

One year after Siegmund passes his Bar Mitzvah ceremony, his father Icek is arrested when the Germans decide to randomly arrest ten Maastricht men as a form of payback for the attack on a German soldier. After spending two days in a local prison, nine of the ten arrested men are released, but when his wife and children await Icek at the train station, he does not return.

By then, their father and husband, being Jewish, has already been deported to Amersfoort, from where he eventually is transported to Westerbork and Auschwitz on July 16, 1942. He is murdered in Auschwitz on August 18, 1942.

Siegmund: Murdered in Central Europe

Siegmund faces a similar fate. In November 1942 two Dutch police officers force him to leave his home. After being transferred through the camps of Westerbork, Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, Siegmund ends up in Gross Rosen. When the Allied Forces get too close to Gross Rosen, the camp is burned down to the ground and all survivors are forced to walk to Buchenwald. Years after, their walk becomes known as one of the infamous death marches. The majority of prisoners die along the way, often due to a combination of exhaustion, hunger and disease. It is not sure if Siegmund made it to Buchenwald. The Red Cross reports that he was murdered ‘somewhere in Europe’ on May 2, 1945, at the age of 18, but where exactly remains unknown.