

Alexander Battalaan 74

Louis Salomon

Louis Salomon

Louis Salomon, his wife Yvonne Salomon-Mertens and their two children Roos and Jeanny move around all around Maastricht before they settle at the Alexander Battalaan 74. As a result, during the dawn of the war, Louis and Yvonne, who sell textiles and underwear, work from various addresses throughout the city (on the Gubbelstraat, the Statensingel and eventually the Alexander Battalaan) and on the public market in the city centre.



Jewish Resistance

Louis is very active in the Maastricht community life. He's a player of the first team of footballclub MVV, but leaves his sports activities for what they are when the war starts. He starts to work for the resistance and has contacts in Antwerp and Amsterdam. In the resistance he becomes the contact for a Belgian resistance movement: de Witte Brigade (the White Brigade). When Jewish people are not allowed to go to the cinema from May 1941 onwards, Louis gets 16mm sound films from Amsterdam to show at his home at the Alexander Battalaan.

Louis is with his wife Yvonne in Amsterdam when the Germans arrest 10 Jewish men as a reprisal. One of the arrested Jews is Salomon's brother Max. A day later, the Germans knock at Louis' door to pick him up. His

daughters are threatened and he has to report no later than May 26, 1942, at 4 p.m. at the Sicherheitsdienst in the 'White house' on the Sint Lambertuslaan 7. His refusal could have grave consequences for the 10 arrested Jews in Amsterdam, he hears from his daughters. The resistance activities of Louis are revealed because of betrayal in Maastricht. In Amsterdam, people recommend Louis not to return to Maastricht but to go into hiding. However, Louis's fear for the lives of his wife, his children his brother but also the other captured Jews, causes him to return to Maastricht and report at the SD's 'White house'. As soon as he gets back home, however, **his wife Yvonne is kicked down the stairs** and Louis is imprisoned. He spends 14 days a Maastricht prison, after which he is transported to Vught and later to Amersfoort. Though, like Leonard Salomon, Louis is married to a non-Jewish woman, the charges against him are so grave that this fact does not change his fate. After his arrest, Yvonne changes the name of the textile shop into her own to continue the shop's activities and make sure that she is able to provide for her family.

Trampled to Death

In the camp in Amersfoort, Louis is caught when he offers a fellow prisoner a tomato. As a humiliating form of punishment, he is placed in a doghouse on July 2, 1942. German camp executioner Hugo Herman Wolf forces him to imitate a dog and then kicks him to death. Louis is then 42 years old. After the war ends, Hugo Herman Wolf is sentenced for life after the war by the Amsterdam court. Louis receives a posthumous resistance memorial-cross in 1981, which is now on show in the war museum in Overloon.

Truly Loved by Their Parents

Roos, Jeanny and Yvonne live through the war. “My sister Roos and I were really loved by our parents,” says daughter Jeanny in 2016. “All I can say is that, despite the heavy suffering our family was forced to endure, it was an honour to have Louis Salomon and Yvonne Salomon-Mertens as parents – an incredibly large honour.” The days they spent on the market, selling their goods, still makes their surviving daughter Jeanny (1929) smile.