

## **Scharnerweg 57**

**Nachman Butterteig (54)**

**Frimet Butterteig-Klotz (53)**

**Josef Butterteig (7)**

### **Personal Biography**

Nachman Butterteig was born in Podgorze (near Krakow, Poland) in Januar 25, 1889. He married his wife Frimet in 1920 in Krakow. Before that (until the end of World War I) they lived in Galicia, which initially belonged to Austria, and later to Poland. In Krakow, Nachman and Frimet worked in the textile industry, one of the traditional occupations for Jews since they were denied access to guilds which regulated trade and business. Nachman worked as merchant in a shoe factory, and Frimet owned a fashion studio, employing 4-5 workers.

Nachman and Frimet had two children: Jaques (later Yizhak Nir) was born in 1922, and Josef was born in Heer in July 17, 1935.

In 1926, Jaques' leg started hurting presumably due to a infection in the hip bone caused by TBC. The family hoped to cure their son in Germany and moved to Essen in 1927, where Jaques was medically treated by Professor Kepling and his assistant Dr. Wagner. Jaques had to wear a cast for more than two years, and subsequently a metal-leather appliance that stabilized his leg. In 1932, Jaques was declared cured.

In August 1933 (year of Hitler's *Machtergreifung*) family Butterteig decided to leave for Lille, France. After half a year, the residence permit was not renewed by the French authorities, and the family had to leave for Heer near Maastricht. Again, just as in Poland and in Germany, Frimet opened a fashion studio, which, however, was not as successful as in Krakow and Essen. Jaques visited the elementary school in

Heer, and later the *MULO* (middle school) in the Lencuelenstraat in Maastricht.

In 1935, Josef was born, and two years later the family moved from Heer to Maastricht. They first lived in the Akerstraat and later in Scharnerweg, where they stayed until May 10, 1940 (when the Nazi's occupied the Netherlands).

In November 1942, while Jaques was in a hospital again in Maastricht, his parents were deported to Auschwitz. In the mean time, Arie van Mansum, a resistance fighter, visited Jaques and convinced him to go into hiding and provided him with a fake identity and a hiding place. Nachman always refused to hide because he did not fear the hard work that might await him. However, the family did not assume that the consequences of the Nazi occupation would be as severe as death.

At the beginning of 1943, Jaques was taken to the family of Simon and Annie Spinder in Treebeek. In 1944, Jaques was brought to the family of Albert Koops and Aukje Koops-Hoks and their three children in Brunssum, because the neighbours of the family Spinder were suspected of collaborating with the Nazis. Just like the Spinders, the Koops family was a Protestant family in a predominantly Catholic environment. They believed that their Christian faith demands to help people who were persecuted. Arie van Mansum continued to support Jaques and the Koops with meal tickets and other necessities until he himself was arrested. His work was continued by his sister. Jaques found shelter at the Koops' until September 1944 (Liberation of the Netherlands). In 1969, Koops were honoured with the title *Righteous Among the Nations* by the Yad Vashem Centre in Isreal. Yizhak Nir (formerly Jaques Butterteig) himself initiated the honouring process after moving to Isreal, where he still lives.

Nachman, Frimet and Josef were deported in 1942 to Auschwitz. Nachman always said that he did not fear hard work and that difficulties will be overcome. However, the family could not imagine that they could be murdered shortly after their deportation. Nachman, Frimet and Josef were murdered in Auschwitz in February 26, 1943.

### Sources

- Son-in-law Mr Wiel Vogt
- Mr Yizhak Nir
- [www.joodsmonument.nl](http://www.joodsmonument.nl)