

Exhibition ‘Struikelsteentjes in Maastricht’

13 April till 30 May 2016

City Hall Centre Céramique, Maastricht

Introduction

350 Stumbling Stones for the Nazi victims of Maastricht

During the Second World War, over 350 inhabitants of Maastricht were deported and murdered by the Nazi's. A Stumbling Stone creates a lasting memory to these Maastricht Jews, Sinti and resistance fighters. Stumbling Stones are placed in the pavement right in front of the houses from which victims were deported. Up to today, one can find, 125 Stumbling Stones in and throughout Maastricht, all of them placed and financed by private individuals. Stumbling Stones facilitate the commemoration of victims of the Nazi regime on a local level. Those who were brutally taken from their homes now have a tangible monument of their own.

But when searching for Stumbling Stones, what should you look for? Stumbling Stones are small, concrete bricks of 10 by 10 centimetres with a layer of brass on top, on which the personal details of Nazi victims – their names, their birth dates, and the time and place of their murders – are die-cut manually. Stumbling Stones tell us about the

victims of the Nazi ideology; those who were killed for being who they were – be their identity based on religion or on personal convictions. Characterized by its own unique inscription, each stone reveals an individual fate, allowing it to be publicly recognized.

Public recognition

This sense of recognition by a wider audience is essential. The suffering can never be made undone, but public recognition ensures that the relatives of the victims are now able to connect to the Jewish citizens and resistance fighters from whom they descend.

A European Project

The processes of recognition and commemoration which are triggered by Stumbling Stones transcend borders of a nation. The Stumbling Stones are a European project initiated by German artist Gunter Demnig (1947), who placed the first *Stolpersteine* (translated as ‘Stumbling Stones’, ‘Pavés de Mémoire’, ‘Struikelsteentjes’, or ‘Gedenkklinker’) in Cologne in 1995 and in Berlin in 1996. In 2007, the first Dutch Stumbling Stone was placed in the village of Borne in the region of Twente. Since 2012, Stumbling Stones are placed in Maastricht. Once they entered the streetscape of Maastricht, Stumbling Stones have also become more and more common in Sittard-Geleen, Valkenburg, Heerlen and Kerkrade. At the moment, 56.000 Stumbling Stones have been placed across 1600 European cities and villages in countries varying from Norway to Ukraine to the

Netherlands to Italy. Demnig chose the term ‘Stolpersteine’, or ‘Stumbling Stone’ because he wants people to literally stumble over a stone, both with their minds and with their hearts.

Towards the future

In practice this means that people stop, reflect and bend over to read the details of the lives and deaths of the former residents. Stumbling Stones are a European homage on local scale in your own neighbourhood, causing one to not solely reconsider the past, but also the present and the future. Embedded in the current anti-discrimination movement, a Stumbling Stone not only generates both a sense of remembrance of the past and prevention of such a tragedy in the future.

The acknowledgement of WWII war crimes is thought to aid the prevention of anything similar in the future. Denial, however, may be seen as a continuation of the genocide. Awareness and cooperation with movements that fight against discrimination and for the rights of refugees is of great importance.

In relation to these beliefs, a Stumbling Stone is more than a place to remember and commemorate. Rather, it represents a building block for a better society and a warning from the past, translated into the present.

On the Second World War in Maastricht

Of the 350 citizens deported from Maastricht, over 50 belonged to the resistance movement of the *Landelijke Organisatie Hulp aan Onderduikers*, abbreviated ‘LO’ (the National Organization for Aid to Persons in Hiding). While the majority of the Jewish, Sinti and Roma populations of Limburg were deported in groups throughout the war, nearly all members of the Maastricht resistance were arrested in two mere days. On May 9 and 10, 1942, the betrayal of the 25-year-old Ms. Zeguers-Boere led to the arrest of a substantial segment of the Maastricht resistance. 50 fighters of the Dutch resistance were arrested by the local *Sicherheitspolizei* (SIPO) and interrogated by the *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD) – the German Secret Services, whose activities were often deeply intertwined with those of the SIPO.

Many of the Stumbling Stones, are in honor and commemoration of these members of the Maastricht resistance. Their personal stories are often intertwined with those of the people they tried to protect: Jews from Maastricht or elsewhere who were brutally murdered between 1939 and 1945, as well as the happy few that managed to escape such a horrible fate.

[Pommée]

The First ‘Gypsy’ Arrests of in Limburg

Maria Agnes Pommée is born on 17 August, 1939, at the Gronsvelderweg in Maastricht. She grows up in a Sinti family of eight children, amongst three sisters: Maria Francisca, Anna and Margaretha, and four older brothers: Dirk-Hendrik, Johannes Hubertus, Karel and Antoon. All children are born in different towns in Limburg, as – like most Sinti – the family regularly changes its place of residence. Father Benedictus, born in Rotterdam, is a painter. His wife, Anne, originates from Stromberg, Germany. The family Pommée lives in a trailer park, called ‘De Kleine Heide’ in Venlo.

Raid at ‘De Kleine Heide’

On May 14, 1944, the Sicherheitspolizei (the German Security Police) orders the arrest all Dutch Sinti and Roma. As most local police forces don’t really know who belongs to the Roma or the Sinti, arrests are primarily based on the physical appearances of what police officers believe to be ‘Gypsies’. Early in the morning of May 16, 23 persons are forced to leave ‘De Kleine Heide’. Among them is the family Pommée. Before 8 o’clock in the morning, the unfortunate group of 23 is transported to camp Westerbork. Five days later, on May 19, mother, father and children Pommée are sent from Westerbork to Auschwitz.

A family Torn Apart

The Pommées find themselves on a transport of 453 people of which 245 are Sinti and Roma. Three days after departure from Westerbork, mother Anne dies due to the pitiful circumstances of the transport, right before arrival at Auschwitz. As soon as the train stops in the camp, father Pommée is separated from his children and is transferred to Mittelbau-Dora, an external section of camp Buchenwald. In Mittelbau-Dora, he is forced to build, among other things, V2 rockets, which would later be used against the UK. Benedictus Pommée dies on March 8, 1945, at the age of 38.

Gassed

Maria Agnes Pommée is four years old when she and her seven siblings are gassed in Auschwitz-Birkenau (II), the camp division for women and children, on, or right after the 2nd of August, 1944.

Settela Steinbach: not Jewish, but Sinti

In Westerbork, on May 19, 1944 – the exact day on which the Pommée family is transported – the German-Jewish photographer and prisoner, Rudolf Breslauer, takes a photo of the nine-year-old Settela Steinbach, peeking through the doors of a transportation wagon that just arrived in camp Westerbork. Several decades later, the photo has become *the* symbol of the Nazi prosecution of the Jews – incorrectly, as it turns out in December 1994, when journalist Aad Wagenaar

discovers that the unknown girl in fact is Settela Steinbach: not a Jewish, but a Sinti girl. Settela is born on December 23, 1934, in Buchten, a small village in the centre of Limburg. She is the seventh child of the ten children of Heinrich and Emilia Steinbach.

Settela arrives at camp Westerbork on the 16th of May. Here, she then spends three days in barrack 69 before she is placed on transport to Auschwitz. In the night of 31 July, 1944, she is gassed, together with her mother and four of her siblings. None of her other five siblings survive.

[Jo Lokerman]

Betraying Resistance Fighter Jo Lokerman

From the first day of the German occupation onwards, Jo Lokerman is involved in the resistance. As soon as the Germans occupy Maastricht, train driver Lokerman causes a little riot which allows several Belgian war prisoners to escape. This aside, he quickly gets involved with the spreading of illegal newspapers such as *Vrij Nederland* and *Het Parool* and smuggles allied pilots out of the country. When the trade unions decide to conform to German rules and demands, Jo decides to

end his membership of the Dutch Association of Trade Unions, which automatically leads to his degradation.

‘Good Evening, Thijs’

In line with his social democratic background, (Jo is a member of the city council for the SDAP, the Social Democratic Workers’ Party) Jo becomes chairman of the Maastricht department of the LO, a national organization that offers help to those in hiding. He arranges hiding places for Jews and prisoners of war and provides them with distribution coupons (for food), until he is betrayed by the 25-year-old Ms. Zeguers-Boere, who pretends to be a member of the resistance movement. After winning the trust of the LO by providing shelter for a Jew in hiding in her own home at the Sint Servaasklooster 37, Ms. Zeguers Boere informs the Sicherheitspolizei (SIPO) about an important LO meeting at the Ummels butchery in the Wolfstraat. More by hit than by wit, Jo is ill that night and thereby evades his arrest. At the evening of May 9, however Jo attends a meeting at the house of Ms Zeguers-Boere herself. She greets Jo with the words ‘Good evening, Thijs’, after which SIPO officers Richard Nitsch and Max Ströbel appear from behind a curtain and arrest him.

Murdered in Neuengamme

Ms. Zeguers-Boere’s betrayal leads to the arrest of 50 other members of the resistance, among which are Giel Ummels, Edmond Houtappel, Hubèr Jamin and Hein Lochtman. Jo is sent to camp Vught and from

there transported to concentration camp Oranienburg, to eventually be murdered at concentration camp Neuengamme. After the war, Jo received several posthumous honours from the Netherlands, Belgium, the United States, France, England and Israel. To honor his name, the municipality of Maastricht even names a street after Jo Lokerman: the Jo Lokermanstraat in the Scharn district.

[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 (a national 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 Jewish persons in hiding, Belgian and French war prisoners, but also for French, American and British pilots. Giel helps them to 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. The doll carriage of Mieke 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 9th and 10th 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 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.

[Edmond Houtappel]

A Wine Merchant Educated in Bordeaux

Edmond Houtappel, a vintner from Maastricht, and his wife Maria live at the Franciscus Romanusweg in Wyck, Maastricht. When the Germans claim their house, they move with their daughter Maddy to the family's wholesale business at Wolfstraat 8. Edmond is reserve captain in the 13th regiment infantry of the Dutch army and is supervisor of the border guards in Wahlwiller. In his military function, he photographs the terrain of the German troops. His brother in law passes these pictures on to the Belgian consul in Maastricht. "After the

German invasion in the Netherlands, Edmond becomes an active member of the LO (the Dutch organization that offers help to persons in hiding) via his neighbour Giel Ummels. Houtappel aids in the search for possible shelters and provides distribution stamps,” Ms. M. Frijns-Ummels – his neighbor’s wife – explains later on.

More and More Persons in Hiding

The basements of the Houtappels and the Ummels family are connected to each other in order for their ‘secret guests’ to escape in case of emergency. By no means an unnecessary luxury, it appears: in 1944, the number of persons in hiding, assisted by the LO, has grown to approximately a thousand persons. Each month, about 20.000 Gulden (Dutch currency) is being paid as aid payments. In addition, the LO founds a special fund meant to ransom resistance fighters who are captured by the SIPO. This fund becomes the motivation for Ms. Zeguers-Boere’s betrayals. She betrays the resistance and in return, she gets to keep the money that the resistance gathered for the freedom of its comrades. Her betrayal is unexpected: with her husband sent to Germany as a prisoner of war only four years before and a Jewish refuge in her own house, the resistance fighters considered her trustworthy.

German Parties at the Van Heylerhofflaan

Ms. Zeguers-Boere regularly organizes parties for German soldiers and prostitutes at her home on the Van Heylerhofflaan and engages in

illegal trade and smuggling practices. In December 1941, she moves to Servaasklooster 37, where she is arrested under suspicion of activity on the black market. Unexpectedly, her imprisonment turns out to be anything but unfortunate. During the months she is held captive, she starts a relationship with Max Ströbel, the head of the Sicherheitspolizei (SIPO) in Maastricht. In the eyes of the resistance movement, this relationship seems an ideal cover for her activity on the black market – a cover which Ms. Zeguers-Boere is more than happy to use in her own advantage. Eventually, it becomes clear that Ms. Zeguers-Boere uses this fake cover to betray nearly all members of the resistance.

Edmond Dies in Neuengamme

As a result of Ms. Zeguers-Boere's actions, 50 people are arrested on May 9th and 10th in 1944. Amongst them are Edmond Houtappel, his wife Maria Houtappel and fellow resistance fighter Giel Ummels and his wife Truike, who are all imprisoned at the Minderbroedersberg. Three weeks after their arrest Mrs. Houtappel and Mrs. Ummels are released. Their husbands, however, will not survive the betrayal of Ms. Zeguers-Boere. Giel Ummels is murdered on December 2, 1944, in concentration camp Sachsenhausen. Edmond Houtappel is murdered in concentration camp Neuengamme, on November 24, 1944.

[Lambert Kraft]

A Communist Resistance Fighter

Throughout the war, Lambert Kraft, a travelling salesman of vacuum cleaners, lives at the Gronsvelderzijweg (currently the Wim Duisenbergplantsoen). He is married to Maria Agnes Renkens, with whom he has four children: Sybilia, Mia, Jean and Barbara, who dies at a very young age. Lambert would become one of the few communist resistance fighters.

In 1939 he joins the town council as a representative of the communist party of the Netherlands. Already in the 1930s, Lambert Kraft is involved in the organization of sheltering Communist refugees from Germany in Maastricht. While doing so, he even takes in a man named ‘uncle Dirk’, a communist worker from the Ruhr area who would be involved in the first attempt to kill Adolf Hitler.

Arrested Twice...

Lambert is a member of the resistance group called *De Vonk* (The Spark). The group’s opposition newspaper, which goes by the same name, is printed in his own house – with all risks such activities entail. On December 8, 1940, Lambert is arrested by the SIPO for his involvement in the aid to German refugees during the second half of the 1930s. He is released, but only to be arrested again by the SIPO and the SD in February 28, 1941, in response to the February Strike in

Amsterdam on February 25. Lambert is held captive at the police station in Wyck until March 28, 1941. His imprisonment is the end of the clandestinely published opposition newspaper *De Vonk*.

... And Arrested Once Again

On June 25, 1941, Lambert Kraft is arrested for the third and last time. This time, his arrest is an inevitable consequence of the German hunt for communists after the breaking of the *Molotow-Ribbentrop* pact. Along with three other communists, Lambert is placed in the prison at the Minderbroedersberg, after which is he taken to camp Schoorl. Subsequently he has been imprisoned in three different concentration camps. The last concentration camp is Neuengamme, where he is forced to do heavy labour under miserable conditions

Death in Neuengamme

At age 40, Lambert Kraft dies on June 22, 1944, in concentration camp Neuengamme. Though he has by now left the city decades ago, his name is still inherently connected to Maastricht: in honor of the two resistance fighters who were member of the City Council – Jo Lokerman and Lambert Kraft – the City of Maastricht has named two streets after them. Both streets can be found in the Scharn neighbourhood.

[Van Assen]

Resistance Out of Christian Beliefs

Derk and Berendina -or Berendje- van Assen are 59 and 56 years when the war begins. They live at the Cannerweg 24A in Maastricht. Derk is a bailiff for direct taxes and a respected man in town. He owes this respect in part to his position as chairman of the Christian labour union for tax officers. Both Derk and his wife and Berendina are convinced Christians and members of the Dutch Reformed Church. Founding their acts in their religion, both are willing to risk their lives to save the lives of others, believe that all people are equal to God and act from this belief.

Together in Marriage, Faith and Resistance

As soon as the war begins, Derk is an active member of the resistance. First he operates by himself, but soon he joins the resistance movement of *Versleijen*. This movement consists of tax officers who work within the LO (the Dutch organization that offers help to persons in hiding), but also cooperate with other resistance groups such as the Bongaers group from the mining region and various resistance groups from Belgium. They cooperate in order to orchestrate the escape of Jews to Belgium and the neutral Switzerland. On top of all this, also Derk's wife Berendina is a member of the LO and Derk also aligns with *Trouw*, a national Christian resistance movement. Because of his powerful social status, Derk reinforces the cooperation between

Protestant- and Roman Catholic resistance groups and he supports and facilitates the publication of opposition magazines and the establishment of various nation-wide information networks. Derk and Berendina even offer their home as a workstation for professional document forgers.

Though it often involves risky situations, the Derk and Berendina do whatever it takes to keep their friends safe. When, in the summer of 1942, the Schaap family, living at Grote Staat 19, has to report for deportation, Derek arranges their hiding place, as well as the necessary falsified identity cards on which the letter 'J' of 'Jew' is removed.

Deliberately Infected

On July 24, 1943, the Sicherheitspolizei arrests Derk, together with the family Sandhaus-Hoffnung, who are in hiding in Derk and Berendina's home. The three of them are taken to the Minderbroedersberg prison. *Oberscharführer* Nitsch interrogates Derk for weeks. Meanwhile, members of the LO think up a plan to release Derk. Doctor Castermans deliberately infects Derk with paratyphoid and has him brought to the adjacent hospital Calvariënberg. From there, it would be fairly easy for members of the resistance to liberate him.

Posthumous Honours

Unfortunately, the Germans see through this plan. Rather than taking Derk to the hospital, Brigadeführer Karl Eberhard Schöngardt of the SIPO in The Hague, orders to immediately shoot him. The SIPO Maastricht obeys him at once. On September 14, 1943, Richard Nitsch, Hans Conrad and chief of the SD in Limburg Max Ströbel, execute Van Assen at the Schadijkse Forest in Horst-Meterik (present-day Horst aan de Maas). The location of Van Assen's death was chosen symbolically: even a forest, with more than enough places to hide, does not stop the Germans from quelling the resistance.

In the mean time, also Van Assen's wife Berendina has been arrested. After she is imprisoned in Maastricht for some time, she ends up in camp Vught, from where she is deported to the concentration camp of Ravensbrück. She is murdered on February 18, 1945 at the age of 50. After the war, the couple van Assen receives the posthumous Yad Vashem honour from the Israeli state and a Dutch decoration for helping the navy, the land forces and the air forces.

Discovering Derk's Final Resting Place

It is only thanks to Mathieu Jenniskens that we know where Derk van Assen is buried. On the morning of Van Assen's execution, the fifteen-years-old Mathieu Jenniskens was on his way to a remote piece of land, owned by his family, when he chose a shortcut right through the Schadijkse Forests. Moments after he hears the salvo that murders

Van Assen, he is stopped by a German soldier who asks if he could borrow Mathieu's horse. Though frightened, Mathieu answers his demand. As it turns out, the car with which the German company drove to Meterik has gotten stuck in the loose sand. After Mathieu's horse has pulled the car out, both parties are on their way and Mathieu continues with 42.5 cents of German tip.

Once the war is over, the Dutch authorities question Richard Nitsch about the locations the executions of over a hundred resistance fighters – all murdered by the SD – primarily in the forests and moorlands of Central and Northern Limburg. Richard Nitsch states he doesn't remember most of them, but admits he still recalls the execution of Derk van Assen: "In the Schadijkse Forests a farmer's son helped us when our car was stuck in the loose sand. If you find that boy and ask him where he was when he lent his horse to us, then I can show you the place of the execution."

The entire Jenniskens family was picking potatoes when a detainees car arrived with Richard Nitsch in the field of Meterik. Mathieu points out the road in question and Nitsch resolutely walks to the place of execution. 'This is where you will have to dig,' he exclaimed. Ever since, the Jenniskens family has taken care of the simple, wooden cross on that place to remember Derk van Assen for decades. The remains of Derk van Assen have been reburied at the Dutch field of honour in Loenen.

[Hein Lochtman]

The Spirit of Chaplain Hein Lochtman

Hein Lochtman is born in Kerkrade as one of the six children of innkeeper Jacob Lochtman and his wife Maria. When Hein is nine years old, his father dies. Because Hein wants to become a priest, he decides to go to the Christian school of Rolduc from 1932 until 1936, after which he studies at the Seminary in Roermond. On the 9th of March 1940, Hein is ordained to the priesthood. Six months later he is appointed to chaplain in Limmel-Maastricht. A well-known statement of Hein Lochtman during this period is: “Der Löwe ist gekettet, seine Kraft rüstet sich.” A pithy sentence, by which he wants to make clear that the Dutch capitulation does not mean that the fight against the Nazi’s is a lost cause: quite the contrary, as in his eyes, the fight has only just begun.

Interrogation and Torture

Lochtman is an active member of the LO (the Dutch organization that offers help to persons in hiding). He arranges hiding places, money, toiletries and food stamps and offers shelter at his home on the Populierenweg 36 to three students from Kerkrade: Jan Boumans, Piet Buck and Martin Kloot. All three go in hiding to escape the penal servitude which they because they refuse to sign the German declaration of loyalty.

Like many other members of the resistance, Lochtman is arrested on May 10, 1944, due to the betrayal of Ms Zeguers-Boere. Officials of the SIPO interrogate and torture Hein in their headquarters at the Wilheminasingel 71. On June 8, 1944, Hein is transported to camp Vught, where he grants pastoral care to fellow prisoners, despite the grave conditions.

Resistance Memorial-Cross

From camp Vught, Hein is deported to the concentration camp Oranienburg, where he is forced to first work in the aircraft factory of Henschel, and later on in a quarry. When Hein gets ill, the Germans send him to the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. Here, the 33-year-old chaplain is killed on February 27, 1944. Six years after his death, and five years after the war has ended, in the 1950s, one of Lochtman's deepest wishes is fulfilled: a community house is built in Limmel. The community house is named after Hein himself: Chaplain Lochtmanhouse. Decades later, on June 21, 1982, Hein receives a posthumous resistance memorial-cross. Since January 24, 1995, there is a bust of chaplain Lochtman standing in the hall of the chaplain Lochtmanhouse.

[Hubèr Jamin]

Prison Guard and Eavesdropper for a Good Cause

For being a member of the resistance movement, Hubèr Jamin has an unusual occupation: Jamin is a prison guard at the Mindersbroederberg prison, where he most likely did not only guarded the prisoners, but also took care of the ill in prison. When, over the course of 1943, circumstances in the prison worsen because of the shortage of food, Hubèr Jamin smuggles sandwiches into the prison – sandwiches which his own family saves during dinner.

Failed Train Robberies

Guards in the resistance like Hubèr Jamin do not only operate within prison walls, but even more outside of them. Hubèr and his fellow prison guards provide members of the resistance with information about the interrogations, which allows the resistance to sabotage several planned arrests by hiding the concerned individuals in time. Next to clues about the interrogations, Hubèr also passes information about dates and times of the transports of resistance fighters to camp Vught. He thereby provides the resistance with the chance to arrange several raids on trains with captured resistance fighters. In spite of Jamin's efforts, however, all of the train raids fail due to betrayals by someone in the organization – most likely Ms. Zeguers-Boere.

Hubèr Ends Up in Buchenwald

Though Ms. Zeguers-Boere's involvement with the failing train raids is mere speculation, it is a fact that also Hubèr is arrested by her doing. On May 9, 1944, he is arrested at his home on the Statensingel 84. Hubèr is murdered at concentration camp Buchenwald. Right after the arrest of Hubèr and 50 others, Ms. Zeguers-Boere goes on a holiday with SS Hauptscharführer Max Ströbel. As soon as she returns to Maastricht, her treacherous activities continue. The money she earns with these activities provide her the extravagant and comfortable life style she strives for.

[Marcelle Devries]

The Fate of an Influential Jewish Family

Sigmund Devries originates from a Jewish family in the German Oost-Friesland. He moves to the South, to Maastricht and marries Elvira Heijmans in 1905. Two years later, the couple complete the construction of their house at Bosscherweg 185, with a leather tannery behind it. Sigmund and his wife run their business together and live in Maastricht with their two daughters and their son. If not working, the Devries family is rather active within the Jewish community in Maastricht. Father Sigmund is a member of the synagogue board.

Mother Elvira is councillor of the women's group, and daughter Marcelle is a member of the Jewish social club *Amicitia*.

Evicted from Their Home

From the start of World War II, the persecution of Jews becomes a grave part of the Devries' family life. From the winter of 1941 to the summer of 1942, the Devries family takes in the befriended Zilversmit family, after a member of the NSB (the Dutch Nazi party) has seized the Zilversmits' home and hat shop at the Maastrichter Brugstraat. Later on, when the Germans later also claim the Devries house at the Bosscherweg, they are forced to move into in their warehouse behind their house, but quickly after they go into hiding. The Zilversmit family finds a hiding place with another Jewish family and later seeks shelter in Belgium.

Transport to Auschwitz

On Tuesday August 25, 1942, Marcelle has to report for 'work' (forced labour) in Germany. She hopes to save her parents this way and together with 290 others from Limburg, Marcelle is transported to camp Westerbork. Three days later, she is deported to Auschwitz. Immediately after her arrival, on Monday August 31, Marcelle is murdered at the age of 36. Her parents are able to submerge in Liege. Her sister submerges in Haarlem, is betrayed, but manages to escape to Liege. Her brother flees to Switzerland. All family members survive the war, except for Marcelle.

[Léonard Salomon]

A Loving Father

Léonard Salomon has a textile shop at the Grote Gracht, next to the butchery of Drielsma. He is divorced from his non-Jewish wife and lives with aunt, Carolina Haguenaer-Karels, at the Stenenbrug. His son Emile grows up at the Drielsma family, while his other son, Jackie, lives with their mother (and Léonard's former wife), Rosalie Karels. Léonard Salomon often visits the Isaack family, which owns a leather shop on the same street (Grote Gracht).

It is likely that Léonard has been in the resistance and has spread illegal opposition papers. On suspicion of these acts, the Germans forbid him to trade in textiles any longer.

Betrayed by the NSB

Together with the Isaack family, Léonard is arrested for the first time in August 1942. They have to report at a school at the Professor Pieter Willemsstraat and are then brought to the transit camp of Westerbork. One month later, Léonard is released in order to make sure that his half-Jewish children can be left behind properly – a rare privilege which he owes to his mixed marriage. On November 11, 1942, he is arrested for the second time. These days, it is believed that he spent some time in a Maastricht prison. A member of the NSB (the Dutch Nazi party) who lived in the Ridderstraat probably betrayed him. Son

Emile saw his father until just before he was arrested for the second time. When wondering about how it could get as far, Emile presumes that his father never went into hiding because he could never afford to do so.

Murdered in Sobibor

After his second arrest, Léonard spends nearly 7 months in camp Westerbork. On May 3, 1943, he hears that he will be transported to the East. In the night that follows, he cannot sleep. He writes a moving letter to his sons Emile and Jackie: "Now everything is over en I will leave for an unknown world, in which I will not hear from you again." Just before the transport to Sobibor leaves, he is able to throw the postcard out of the train for Emile and Jackie: 'I hope the best for you, I will keep courage and always think of you, your father will always be with you in your hearts'. Léonard arrives in Sobibor on May 7 and is murdered on that same day.

[Louis Salomon en Max Salomon]

Siblings Louis and Max 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 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 do 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. 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 made their surviving daughter Jeanny (1929) smile.

Max Salomon and his Family

On May 20, 1942, ten prominent members of the Jewish community are arrested as a reprisal for the anonymous removal of the signs reading the words ‘Forbidden for Jews’ in the Maastricht city park. One of these ten unfortunate Jews is businessman Max Salomon.

Within a few days after their arrest, Max and two others, Eduard von Geldern and Salomon Brünn, are released as they are married to a non-Jewish women. Howeverm as they get off the hook, multiple others are arrested in their place, among them Max’s brother, Louis Salomon.

His freedom does not last long. Max Salomon and his family, including his non-Jewish wife Sophie and their sons Bernard, Manus (nickname Emile), Louis and their daughter Rosalie (nickname Roos), are arrested on the 13th of October 1942 and deported to transition

camp Westerbork. They spend eight months in Westerbork, where they also meet their brother and uncle Léonard Salomon who stays there from November 11 1942 until May 4 1943 when he is deported to Sobibor. A month later, Max, his wife Sophie and their sons Bernard and Louis are also transported to extermination camp Sobibor, to be gassed upon arrival. Max is 45 years old. Sophie is 38 and their children, Bernard and Louise are 13 and 7. Only Rosalie and Manus survive. They are first deported to Auschwitz and then to Bergen Belsen. Once the war is over, both of them immigrate to Canada.

[Karels]

The Sad Story of a Textile Salesman's Family

Max Karels is married to Paulien Hertz, with whom he runs a shop in textiles and sewing material at Wolfstraat 12, where the two of them live with their sons Julien (nickname Jules) and Louis Robert. Julien works as a shop assistant and Louis Robert is waste sorter. On October 2, 1942, the Karels family is arrested. Max, Paulien and Julien are all sent to Auschwitz on the 2nd of November 1942, where all of them are murdered directly after their arrival. Only Louis Robert lives one month longer: he is deported to Auschwitz on November 16,

1943 where he is also murdered upon arrival on the 20th of February 1943.

Deportation

Louis Karels, Max's brother, lives at the Zakstraat, number 6. He makes a living by selling fruits and vegetables on the market. Louis is divorced from the Roman Catholic Maria van der Venne, with whom he has a son named Edmond. Though his father is arrested together with a group of Limburg Jews, Edmond escapes arrest due to the Catholic faith of his mother. He stays with her throughout the war and survives.

His father is less fortunate: on August 25, 1942, Louis arrives in Auschwitz via Westerbork. In Auschwitz he is murdered on August 31, 1942. All known information about the Karels family comes from Max and Louis's cousin, Carla Pirnay-Karels. Her parents flee with the 18 months old Carla to the South of France and then to Switzerland. In 1945, the family returns to Belgium, when Carla is six years old.

[Wajnkowski]

Harald and Lieske: A special friendship

Bernhard and Frieda Wajnkowski flee from Hamborn (Germany) to Maastricht with their son Harald. It is assumed that they were part of a group of refugees that tried to find shelter at the monastery in Amby. They eventually settle in a spacious house at the Kleine Stokstraat 1, living together with widow Johanna Os-André and her children Simon and Mieneke. On October 28, 1938 Bernhard and Frieda have a daughter: Iza.

Growing up in the Stokstraat, Harald becomes friends with Lieske Slangen, who lives several houses further. Lieske is one of the few who still remembers the Wajnkowski family. She remembers how she and Harald always sat on the porch, reading. Annie, Lieske's sister liked to play with Iza.

A Lucky 'Disease'

On August 24th, 1942 the Wajnkowski family is told to report at the school on the Professor Pieter Willemsstraat. Sources differ on what happens afterwards. According to some, the complete Wajnkowski family was transported to Westerbork immediately, but Frieda, who was pregnant at the time, and her children were allowed to go home on the same day. Others, however, claim that only Bernhard was

transported to Westerbork one day later, leaving his pregnant wife and his children behind.

This second version could be confirmed by a letter, written by the Commissioner of the Maastricht Police on August 26, 1942, to the Prosecutor. The Commissioner encloses a list of names of Maastricht Jews that were to be deported to Westerbork. The name of Sara F. Wajnkowski-Piotrkowski, Kleine Stokstraat 1, number 90 on the list, is crossed out, with a notification of the fact that the mother is ill, which could be the reason for the Wajnkowski's not to be on the train that day.

Straight after being called to the Professor Pieter Willemsstraat, Frieda and the children move to a new address: the David family, at Hoofdstraat 36 in Amby.

Transport 74 to Auschwitz

On November 12th, 1942 Frieda has to report to inspector Kraay, who, though he is a member of the municipal police and assists them in making Maastricht 'Judenrein', arranges false passports and postponement of transportation because Frieda is simply too weak. Seven days after Frieda reports to Kraay, she gives birth to baby Stella, who dies on the second day of her short life.

On April 9, 1943, Frieda is arrested for the last time and, she and her two children are deported to Westerbork. On August 31st, 1943 are sent to Auschwitz, were they are gassed.

[Kaufmann]

A Stateless couple

Salomon (nicknamed Sally) and Walter Kauffmann are both born in the German village of Hüls, near Krefeld, where their father deals cattle. Once grown up, in 1936, Salomon marries a girl from his birth village: Betty Davids. Two years after saying their vows, the couple decides to leave Germany due to the growing anti-Semitic sentiments in Hüls. Within a year, they end up in Amby, a village near Maastricht. Though in safety, their migration causes them to lose their German nationality: born in Germany, but living in the Netherlands they have become stateless.

The Professor Pieter Willemsstraat

In Amby, Salomon starts a store in electronic products with a repair facility. In 1939, the parents of both Salomon and Betty also move to Amby and Salomon's brother Walter moves to Amsterdam. In 1940, Lazarus dies and his widow Paula joins Walter in Amsterdam. On August 25, 1942, Salomon and Betty are arrested and taken the place of assembly for all Limburg Jews: a school at the Professor Pieter Willemsstraat in Maastricht.

German Labour Camps

Around midnight, all present Jews has are told to leave the Professor Pieter Willemsstraat and walk to the station, from where they are brought to Hooghalen by passenger train. From Hooghalen they walk to Westerbork – about 7 kilometres. Three days after their arrest, on August 28, 1942, they are transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Among the 608 passengers, 208 originate from Limburg.

Unlike most deported families, the Kaufmans find themselves on a transport arranged by Albrecht Schmelt, an SS-Oberfuerer in Upper-Silesia, who has been granted the privilege to pick 5000 Jewish men from the Netherlands, Belgium and France from the trains for the industrialization of his area. The train stops prematurely at the Polish town of Cosel, about 80 kilometres from Auschwitz, where 78 men from Limburg are brutally separated from their wives and children to

be spread over different German labour camps; among them is Salomon. His wife, Betty Kaufmann-Davids, continues her journey, only to be murdered upon her arrival at Auschwitz-Birkenau on the 31st of August 1942.

In 2016, more that 70 years after Betty and Salomon are separated from each other on the train, a monument is unveiled in Cosel for over 7000 Jewish men that were killed.

Salomon Returns to Amby

Salomon works as an electrician and car mechanic in camps such as Sakrau, Annaberg, Reigersfeld and Blechhammer. Sick and emaciated he returns to Amby in June 1945. In 1946, Salomon remarries Henny van Gelder, who was deported with the last transport to Auschwitz on September 3, 1944. Though she obviously was unaware at the time, Henny was on the same transport as the Frank family, including Otto, Edith, Margot and Anne. Like Otto Frank, Henny survives Auschwitz. Salomon's mother is murdered in Sobibor at the age of 64. Salomon's brother Walter is 31 years old when he is murdered 'somewhere in Eastern Europe'.

[Familie 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, Sigmund 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 passed 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 unknown 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.

[Esther Kozenicki]

“New Address Unknown”

All that is known about Esther Kozenicki can be accredited to her childhood friend Catrien Hein-Hardenberg, with whom Esther went to school until the Nazi’s forbid Jewish students to follow classes with non-Jewish students in 1942.

Though both her parents, Joseph Kozenicki and Neche Kozenicki-Fessel, originate from Poland, Esther Kozenicki is born in Düsseldorf. Already in her early childhood, the Nazi regime comes to power and the family flees to Maastricht and settles at the Wilheminsingel 88 in Maastricht. In Maastricht, Esther joins Catrien’s classes at the public secondary school at the Helmstraat and soon, they become friends.

Catrien gets to know the Kozenicki family and remembers them as a devout Jewish family.

On August 25, 1942, the Kozenicki family is part of the first group of Jews that is obliged to report themselves. All are deported, except mother Neche, who misses this first call as she has been hospitalized, but is sent to Westerbork on the 4th of November 1942 , nonetheless.

”I will never return”

On the evening of August 25, Joseph, Esther and Felix report at the school at the Professor Pieter Willemsstraat. Catrien has spent the day with Esther and joins her to the gathering point at the school. By then, Esther already knows then that she will not return. They are deported to Westerbork. Though Joseph is a textile salesman, he works as an electrician in Westerbork. On the designated ‘writing day’, Esther writes Catrien from Westerbork – letters which Catrien’s mother burns right after Catrien has read them. Catrien only manages to keep two of Esther’s letters.

Over the mail, Esther reveals that her life in Westerbork has a great impact on her. “I have gotten completely different ideas here.. You would be surprised to hear my thoughts on things these days,” she writes on July 16, 1943. Unfortunately, Catrien will never know how Esther’s thoughts have changed. Quickly after the last letter, Catrien

receives a change of address: 'New address unknown'. Where Esther has moved, she can only guess.

The Kozenicki family is placed on the 72th and last transport from transition camp Westerbork to extermination camp Sobibor. On July 23, 1943, the entire family is murdered – most likely immediately after they arrive.

[Schmidt]

The Schmidt Family: Flee Until the Last Resort

In 1932, Salomon and Pinie Schmidt live in Oberhausen, together with their four children: Maks, Erna, Emiel and Wita. Already then, years before the actual war would start, anti-Semitic sentiments start to thrive in Oberhausen. When local Jewish shops start being rampaged systematically, the family decides to flee to Limburg. In Maastricht, the Schmidts settle in a house on the Capucijnerstraat, number 96, where the Salomon and Pinie start a furniture shop.

One year after their arrival in Maastricht, in 1933, their youngest son David is born.

A Frank Love Letter

Their years on the Capucijnerstraat pass quietly. Wita goes to primary school together with Henriette Retrot, with whom she walks to school every day. Wita's brother and sister Erna and Emiel start going to Jewish classes once the Germans expel Jewish students from Christian or mixed-religion classes. They end up in class with Siegfried Pakula, who soon develops a passionate crush on their sister Wita. Siegfried may have been one of the very few to see a positive development coming from the German occupation. Over the summer of 1942, he writes her a passionate love letter in which he nearly thanks the Germans for bringing him and his beloved Wita together.

"I could always turn to her"

Though putting their own lives at risk, the Schmidt family regularly provides shelter for refugees. One of them, their cousin Morris Schnitzer, remembers Mother Schmidt – to whom he refers as Gusta – as “a beautiful and sweet woman. I could always turn to her and in 1938, she even visited me at a shelter in Rotterdam. She spent all day looking for me until she found me.”

To Westerbork ...

Morris's visits to the Schmidt family end abruptly when he flees from the Nazis through Belgium and France. On November 11, 1942 the Schmidt family is arrested by a police inspector in Maastricht. The whole family is placed on transport to the transit camp Westerbork.

On the 16th of February , 1943, the two eldest sons, Maks and Emiel, are sent to Auschwitz. Two and a half months later, Maks is murdered there at the age of 20. Nineteen-year-old Emiel is killed on November 30, 1943. On May 18, 1943, Josheph, Pinie, Erna, Wita and David are deported to Sobibor. On May 21st, 1943, the whole family is dead.

The Lost Love Letter

Siegfried Pakula's love letter never reached its destination. It was eventually found in his former home at Landweringstraat 13 in Sittard, long after the end of the war. Wita never had the chance to read it.

[De Vries]

A Butcher's Family

One may notice that many Jews were involved in businesses surrounding the sales and processing of animal products (such as meat and leather). That may seem odd, but can be explained fairly easy: the professions of tanner and butcher were some of the few professions in which the Germans did not intervene. Jewish butchers could work and live without any restrictions. One of the butchers in Maastricht was Isidore de Vries, who lived at Koningsplein 20B, together with his wife, Mietje, and two daughters, Bep-Sonja and Carla.

Isidore De Vries was president of the Jewish Council of Limburg. Therefore, as soon as the German presence in Maastricht increases, Isidore, Mietje and Bep-Sonja go into hiding in Brussels – where they were eventually arrested. Through the transit camp Mechelen (the barracks of Dossin), they are deported to Auschwitz on July 31st, 1943. On August 3rd, 1943, Isidore, Mietje and Bep-Sonja are murdered.

The last Jewish Wedding in Wartime Maastricht

The only one who does not go into hiding is Carla. She marries a man named Paul Sommer on August 7, in 1942. Their wedding is the last Jewish wedding ceremony to be held in Maastricht between 1939 and 1945. The newlyweds desperately try to flee to Switzerland, but does not manage to cross the Swiss-French border. They survive the war nonetheless as they roam across the mountains and find refuge in the countryside.

In Amby

When the war ends, Carla and Paul return to Maastricht, where they no longer have a home nor a family. They are taken in by the Devries family at Bosscherweg 185, which has also returned after being in hiding. At the Bosscherweg, Carla and Paul's first daughter is born in 1945. They name her Irene. Two years later, their son Charles follows.

Eventually Carla and Paul moved to the village of Amby, where their third child Ingrid is born in 1953.

[Löwenstein]

The Six talented Daughters Löwenstein

Between 1899 and 1914, in the German village of Ahaus, Alfred and Hannchen Löwenstein bring seven children into this world: six daughters named Bertha, Martha, Else, Regina, Lydia, and Ruth, and one son named Max. Their only son, Max, dies at the age of two in 1911, but their six daughters remain both healthy and smart. The Löwensteins provide for their family by running a tannery and a wholesale business in leather and shoemaker materials.

Unlike most other parents at the time, Alfred and Hannchen Löwenstein value their daughters' education very highly. All daughters receive the opportunity to study whatever they want, resulting in the fact that Else obtains a PhD in chemistry and Bertha does a secretarial course in England.

Moving to Maastricht

At dawn of the war, father Alfred still responds rather laconically to the warnings of some of their neighbours in Ahaus. The Löwensteins have always been very committed to the community in Ahaus, and thus Alfred assumes that his family can rely on the city for protection – an assumption that could not have been more off. In 1938, during the night of November 9 to November 10 – Kristallnacht – the family's shop is destroyed. From then onwards, all Jews are expelled and prosecuted, leading to the imprisonment of 30.000 German Jews during the weeks that follow. In response, the family decides to move to Maastricht. In the spring of 1939, daughter Bertha sells the house and the family business. She and her sisters move abroad, but their parents settle in the Maastrichterbrugstraat 31, where they live until their arrest in 1943.

Once arrested, the couple is transported from Westerbork to Sobibor, where they are murdered upon arrival on July 23rd, 1943.

Two Stumbling Stones

On the Maastrichterbrugstraat, one can find two Stumbling Stones for the Löwenstein. Though the family's history is as tragic as most other stories, the Löwenstein monument is quite exceptional: Alfred and Hannchen Löwenstein were the only ones who did not make it. Their six daughters survived the war.

[Albert en Sybilla Drielsma]

"Take care. We will too."

Just like his parents, Albert Drielsma owns a butchery in Boschstraat in Maastricht before the war begins. Also his brother Joep runs a butchery, only located at the Grote Gracht. Together, they are known as the Drielsma Brothers. In 1936, Albert marries Sybilla Goldstein (also known as Bila). As time passed by, they would relocate their butchery to the Frankenstraat.

Member of the Red Cross

As the war begins, many injured Belgian and French soldiers cross the border to be cared for in Maastricht, mostly by a large number of volunteers and nurses. Albert, who had joined the Red Cross, was one of them. After the Germans seize his butchery, Sybilla and Albert move to Brusselsestraat 43 and get more and more involved with the activities of the Red Cross. This unexpected event is likely to have been his rescue: on November 12 in 1942, Albert is released from his duty to go to a working camp for the Germans.

Jewish Emergency Hospital

Albert is a very creative, caring, gentle and modest man. Together with Sybilla, he receives permission to establish a Jewish emergency hospital for elderly and sick Jews. While Albert and Sybilla care for

the weak, Albert's brother Joep, Joep's wife, Mathilde Salomon and their three eldest children go into hiding at pharmacy Schoep at the Grote Gracht. Their two youngest children go into hiding at different addresses. Their shelters are arranged by Ger Pisters, a close friend of Albert who was active in the resistance. Ger arranges the Drielsma's hiding places, food and medical care, and always made sure, Albert stays informed about the whereabouts of his brother and his family.

The Last Letter

In the meantime, thanks to a non-existent 'infectious disease', diagnosed by Dr. Mendes de Leon, Sybilla's mother is admitted to Calvary Hospital. The doctor thereby saves her life, together with the lives of many others. Unfortunately, Albert and Sybilla Drielsma are not as lucky. On October 20th, 1943, they are deported to Westerbork. Doing whatever he still can, Ger Pisters is only able to send them sent toiletries and food for their travels. On November 16th, Albert manages to throw out a postcard from the train to Auschwitz, addressed to his mother in law, Mrs. L. Goldstein-Hartog, is hospitalized when they leave. Still not knowing what awaited him and Sybilla, he wrote: "We are on the train at the moment, and we are trying to be strong. Take care, we will too."

The postcard was the last sign of life from Albert and Sybilla. Both were killed in Auschwitz, Sybilla on the 19th of November 19th 1943 and Albert on the 31st of March, 1944.

[Gobes]

The Chazan of Maastricht

Louis Gobes is the Chazan (or cantor) in the Synagogue in Maastricht, secretary of the Jewish Council and the headmaster of Theology of the local Jewish community. Together with his wife, Friederieke Gobes-Nussbaum, he has two children: Elisabeth and Emanuel.

Already during the first years of the war, Friederieke's parents come to live with the Gobes family at Tongerseplein 19A. By the time they arrive, the old couple Nussbaum has already survived a horrible trip: they have been chased away from the grocery store they once owned, they have been sent to Buchenwald, released soon after, after which they immediately fled to their daughter and her family.

Their journey to Maastricht, however, turns out to be nothing but a stay of execution: on April 8, 1943, Friederieke's parents are deported to concentration camp Vught, and from there to Westerbork and Sobibor, where they were murdered on July 23rd, 1943.

Selected for the Gas Chambers

Louis, Friederieke and their children are arrested on February 11, 1943, and deported to Westerbork. On September 7, 1943 they arrive in Auschwitz, where Friederieke and the children are immediately selected for the gas chambers. On September 10, while Louis is working in the camp, his wife, son and daughter lose their lives. Months later in Warsaw, also Louis himself is killed on December 31, 1943.

[Gerhard Soesman]

Resistance fighter at Age 18

On the 9th of November, 1940, Gerhard Soesman, a Jewish student at the HBS in Maastricht Helmstraat, attends a speech of the Resistance movement at school which inspires several of his (anonymous) fellow students to send a letter to the Ortskommandant, addressing the 'Lumpen' Ortskommandant in Maastricht. This mysterious letter, in which not only the local commander, but also Hitler himself was ridiculed, was signed by "Die Organisation tötet Hitler, class 2a, 3a and 4a. The police's attempts to find the senders are all in vain. Yet, to punish all students, the school is closed for eight days.

Betrayed by an Infiltrator

A little more than one year after the Ortskommandant receives his hate mail, Gerhard Soesman has developed into a rebel just as brave as the secret senders of the letter. On January 24th, 1942, he, together with two fellow students – W. Hack and M. Hoppers – is arrested for distributing *De Vonk* (The Spark), a communist opposition magazine, in Maastricht. The boys are betrayed by Engwirda, a policeman working for the *Sicherheitspolizei* with extensive knowledge of the Communist movement due to his own experiences in the communist militia in Spain.

Soesman Remains Imprisoned

The three young criminals are transferred to the German political prison at Grote Looiersstraat, after which one of the three: M. Hoppers is released quickly. Soesman's second companion, Hack, is bailed out by his father one year later. Only Soesman himself, then 19 years old, however, is unable to get out. After eighteen months, he is transferred to Camp Vught, from where he is deported and murdered in Auschwitz on the 21st of January in 1945, mere days before the liberation of the concentration camp.

[Léon Wesly]

A Photograph of Léon

Léon Wesly is three years old when the City of Maastricht takes the first steps in the systematic arrest and deportation of Jews. In response, his father Emile, mother Fränzi and sister Leonie abandon their home at the Koning Clovisstraat 49 and go into hiding at various addresses. Léon is separated from his sister, who gets to live with the Schmidt family in Voerendaal (a village close to Heerlen) and their parents go into hiding in Treebeek. It does not take too long before it becomes clear that the little boy is seriously neglected by his own shelter family and Léon is reunited with his sister in Voerendaal, where neighbours and occasional visitors are told that Léon and Leonie are two orphans who have lost their parents in the bombings of Rotterdam.

Betrayal

The unification of Léon and Leonie is short-lived. Vague friends of Léon's last hiding address betray him and in November 1943 the Security Police raid the house of their shelter family in Voerendaal. Surprisingly, only Léon is deported to Westerbork, where he spends several months in the camp's so-called 'orphanage'. On February 8, 1944, the four-year-old Léon is deported to Auschwitz. His travelling certificates for this trip state that he was 'Schwach und ohne Beruf' (weak and unemployed).

Léon is thought to have died either during the three days of transport or in the gas chambers upon arrival on February 8, 1944.

Léon is the only member of the Wesly family that did not survive the war. After the war, Emile and Fränzi Wesly had three more children: Benoit, Augusta-Tova and Jenny Wesly. Their births, however, by no means imply that Léon has been forgotten. Every night, before father Emile went to bed, he took a moment to look at the photographs of his son, his sister and his mother, whom all three did not make it through.

[Moszkowicz]

Only Max Returns to Maastricht

In 1933, Feiga and Abraham Moszkowicz flee to the Netherlands because of the rising anti-Semitism in their hometown Essen, Germany. At the time of their flight, their children Max and Helga are eight and two years old. Once they arrive in Maastricht, the family is taken in by the Committee for help to Jewish refugees. The family settles in a house in a street which is today known as the Ambyerstraat. They most likely move to the district of Amby as its housing policies are not as discriminating against Jews as those of many other districts in Maastricht.

In Amby, they can live and practice their professions without a having to arrange specific permits. Abraham opens a store which deals in textile. Yet, later on, when district policies allow it, the family moves to the city centre: to Grote Gracht, number 4. On March 22nd, 1940, their second son Joop Moszkowicz is born.

Forced Labour and Murder

On August 25, 1942, the Moszkowicz family is arrested and deported to Westerbork. One month later, they are sent to Auschwitz. Feiga, Helga and two-year-old Joop are gassed upon arrival, but Abraham and Max are selected for forced labour. Both are sent to Mauthausen, where Abraham works himself to death in the tunnels in which missiles are constructed. He dies on April 15th, 1945 – only a month before the liberation of the camp by the Americans. Max is sent to work elsewhere in the area of Mauthausem. He is the only one in a group of one hundred deportees from between August 28th and November 10th, 1942, who survives.

From Shopkeeper to Lawyer

After the liberation in 1945, eighteen-year-old Max returns to Maastricht, being the only survivor of his family. A catholic family (family Bessems) from Amby, take him in. On October 5th, 1948 Max marries Berthe, the daughter of the family, with whom he has four sons. David, Max Jr., Robert and Bram.

In the tradition of Max's father, Max and Berthe start a yarn and tire shop. Their business thrives, but as Max desires more of an intellectual challenge, he decides to continue studying. He finishes high school in a year and studies law in Nijmegen, while Berthe keeps the business running. After his studies, Max opens a law firm in Maastricht, which quickly gains a widespread reputation. Max Moszkowicz would defend anyone, except for those accused of war crimes.

Though defending criminals never seemed a problem, Moszkowicz was never able to talk about the war to his children. Yet, perhaps unexpectedly, his experiences in Auschwitz and Mauthausen did not make him bitter or convinced him of mankind's evil nature. Quite the opposite: his most renowned and repeated quote is the following: "I believe that man is by far not as bad as most people think."

Throughout his career, he held on to the belief that those who can commit an unnatural act like killing a fellow human being cannot be anything else but ill and deserve help.

[Servatius Ritzen]

Shot at the Vrijthof

The Ritzen family lives in a street with a peculiar name: in a the backstreet of the city theatre, the Bonbonnière, they live at ‘Achter de Comedie’, number 2. It is a convenient location for the father of the family, Servatius Ritzen, who is supervisor and caretaker at the Bonbonnière until the Germans occupy Maastricht. Extremely suspicious of Servatius, SIPO leader Max Ströbel decides to occupy the ground floor of the theatre to host meetings of the Nazi party.

As time passes by, Ströbel’s suspicions about Servatius turn out to be correct: the supervisor of the Bonbonnière passes on information about those meetings to the resistance and allows his house to be used as a clearing house – right under the noses of Nazi officials. Yet, though Ströbel regularly invades the theatre’s basement, he never finds any incriminating evidence against Servatius.

It turns out, however, that such evidence is not needed to do harm. On September 4th, 1944, when Max Ströbel drives past the Vrijthof in a cabriolet, he notes Servatius talking to an acquaintance. Ströbel stops in front of restaurant Monopole to ask Servatius how he is doing. Before Servatius has even answered, Ströbel shoots Servatius in the abdomen.

After a stop at the police station, Servatius is brought to the Calvary hospital, where he, according to the stories of others, spent the remaining days of his life with an orange flower in his hand. On September 14th, 1944, the day of Maastricht’s liberation, Servatius

dies of blood poisoning at the age of 56. During his time in the hospital he never spoke of his involvement in the resistance.

[Victor Hertzdahl]

A Business Man from Sittard

Victor Hertzdahl is born in Sittard on August 3, 1887. Once grown up, he becomes the director Wolf & Hertzdahl clothing company.

Together with his brother Sylvain, he is responsible for the stores in Heerlen, Maastricht and Sittard as well as the company's design studio.

After his marriage with Marie Hertzdahl in 1919, he starts a family at Stationsstraat 31 where they live with their children, Thilly and Karel. In the late 1930s, when the atmosphere in Limburg worsens, Victor considers fleeing to America with his family. Though he has the chance, he decides to stay in Maastricht either way, primarily because he did not want to abandon the staff of his company with the eye on the difficult circumstances the city is in. On May 21, 1942, Victor is arrested by the Sicherheitspolizei.

He is one of the first ten Jews to be arrested in Limburg – primarily for their wealth. Their arrest is a direct and exaggerated consequence of an earlier protest action: the removal of a sign reading "No Jews" in the Maastricht city park. Victor's family desperately tries to get him out of prison, but the Sicherheitsdienst (SD) is only willing to let Victor go if his son Karel takes his place. Victor refuses. Two months after his arrest on July 16th, 1942, he is transported from camp Amersfoort to camp Westerbork to Auschwitz. In Auschwitz, Victor is killed on the 30th of September 1942, at the age of 55.

Marie Survives Auschwitz

Victor's wife and children try to flee to Switzerland in vain. Instead, they go to Brussels, where they are betrayed. The children manage to escape and go into hiding in Smeermaas (Belgium) but Marie, is deported through Camp Mechelen (the Dossin Barracks) to Auschwitz-Birkenau (II) on April 19th, 1943. Miraculously, she survives the hardships in Auschwitz and is reunited with her children Thilly and Karel after the war.

Spying for the Dutch Intelligence Service

Ernst Berets is married to the German Adele, with whom he runs a grocery in Krefeld, Germany. Already in Germany, Ernst is involved in the Dutch resistance: he spies for the Dutch Consulate, providing information about the military and industrial developments in Germany.

When their grocery shop is destroyed in the Kristallnacht (November 9th/10th, 1938), Ernst and Adele flee to Venlo, where Ernst opens a library. Later on, they move to Maastricht, where Ernst expands his new business with a shop selling magazines in the Dominicanerstraat, while Adele holds a library in the front room of their house on the Wykerbrugstraat. In Maastricht, Ernst continues his activities in the resistance. He regularly visits a café in Welkenraedt (Belgium), where he speaks with machinists to learn more about troop movements – information which (though he did not know) eventually would be passed on to the British Secret Services.

On May 18th, 1940, Ernst is arrested when he visits his mother in Amsterdam. On accusation of espionage and high treason against Germany, Ernst spends one year in custody, after which he is imprisoned in Münster and the Kingelpütz prison in Cologne – a prison notorious for its torture practices. From Kingelpütz, Ernst is eventually transferred to a prison in Berlin-Tegel. Despite his poor treatment he continues to reassure his family through the mail: "Du brauchst dich um mich keine Sorgen zu machen. Ich habe noch immer Sorgen um euch." (You don't need to worry about me. I am still worried about you.)

Show Trial in Berlin Ends in Auschwitz

When he is finally put on trial in August 1942, Ernst's Jewish background is heavily emphasized and he is sentenced to five years imprisonment with deduction of his time spent in custody. This sentence, however, is never carried out: in December 1942, Ernst is deported to Auschwitz, where he dies on January 18, 1943. Though his death certificate states his death cause was heart failure, Ernst was most likely shot around 8:00 o'clock in the morning by camp executioner Walther Quakernack.

Also Ernst's mother was killed during the war, as were seven of his siblings. The only family members who survive the war are his oldest and youngest siblings, his wife Adele and their two children.

[David Leo Cahn]

Jewish Resistance Fighter of Orange

David Leo Cahn grows up above his parents' butcher shop at Lenculenstraat 9 – a business which he would continue as he grows older.

When David Leo is 15 years old, the war breaks out. Young as he is, David Leo joins the resistance and is the cofounder of the illegal and

short-lived magazine *De Oranje Koerier*. The first edition appears on November 1st, 1941, and on November 20, the second and final issue follows: one week after the appearance of the second edition, the magazine staff is arrested after being betrayed by *Sicherheitspolizei* officer Engwirda.

Murdered at 18

On April 17th, 1942, three of *De Oranje Koerier*'s staff members are sentenced to death and nearly all of them are deported to concentration camp Neuengamme. David Leo escapes the first betrayal of Engwirda, but is arrested nonetheless on May 22nd 1942 as part of the first large-scale arrest of Jews in Maastricht.

David Leo is deported from Westerbork to Auschwitz on July 16th, 1942, where he is murdered on August 14th, when he is 18 years old.

The Tragic History of the Kleine Stokstraat, Number 1

On October 16th, 1912, Salomon Os from Venlo marries the Maastricht woman Johanna André . Salomon works as a yardman, and his newfound wife is a maid, who already has a son named Mauritz. Together, Salomon and Johanna have four children: Bernard, Michael, Simon and Mary, who goes by the name of Mieneke. Their second son

Michael dies at age two and in 1930 Johanna André becomes a widow. After Mauritz gets married and Bernard moves to Rotterdam, the Johanna and the remaining Os children move to a spacious house on the Kleine Stokstraat 1, where they live together with Johanna's sisters Bertha and Celine and her cousin Leneke (Celine's daughter).

A Letter from Camp Westerbork

Like so many others, also this Jewish family does not escape the war. On August 21, 1942, Bernard, who has been deported to work in Westerbork, writes a letter to his aunt Celine and his cousin Leneke, describing his life in the camp: "Yes, I find it to be very difficult to be separated from my wife and child, but we'll have to be strong either way," he concludes. In his letter he encloses a wedding picture from labour camp Linde in Zuidwolde, and he asks his aunt to send his regards to his mother Johanna. It remains questionable if Celine and Leneke were ever able to pass on the message as several days after writing, Johanna Bertha, Simon and Mieneke are arrested on August 25, 1942.

Escorted Past the St. Servaas Bridge

On this tragic day, twelve-year-old Pierre Lumens stands on the corner of Kleine Stokstraat and the Maastrichterbrugstraat, near the home of the Os-André family. He remembers standing there around noon when he sees how Mieneke Os, her brother Simon and one

hundred of other Jews are forced to cross the St. Servaas Bridge and walk to the station.

From Maastricht to Westerbork to Cosel to Auschwitz

Soon after, Pierre Lumens finds out that it was the Dutch police itself that had initiated this parade of horror. Without any involvement of German forces, the Dutch police had demanded all Jews to gather at the Professor Pieter Willemstraat before being deported to Westerbork. Pierre remembers Mieneke looking depressed, though not crying. On August 28, Johanna, Berta, Simon and Mieneke leave from camp Westerbork to Auschwitz. The train stops in Cosel, about 80 kilometres before the train's final destination. Here, all Jewish men between 15 and 50, including Simon Os, are separated from their wives, sisters and children to be transported to various camps to carry out forced labour.

Once in Auschwitz, Johanna (57) Bertha (55) and Mieneke (16) are gassed upon arrival. Bernard is murdered in Auschwitz on February 28th, 1943 and Simon Os is killed "somewhere in Central Europe" on April 30th, 1943. On June 6th, 1943, Bernard's daughter Carolina Stella is placed on a children's transport from Vught to Westerbork, as is her mother Jeannette. Carolina Stella dies there on June 8th, 1943, at age three. Her mother Jeannette is murdered on July 16th, 1943 at the extermination camp Sobibor.

Only Celine and Leneke escape. Both go into hiding, but were arrested on March 31st, 1944. Celine ends up in Westerbork, from where she can return to Maastricht after six months of labour.