

Cortenstraat 4 - Olga Marie Mainzer-Salomon & Ernst Mainzer

Olga Marie Mainzer-Salomon was born on 2 October 1889 in Wirsitz, which was then in Germany and is now in Poland. Ernst Mainzer was born on 29 November 1886 in Dortmund.

Before he managed to leave Germany from Hamburg with the ship the St. Louis, Ernst Mainzer was imprisoned in the concentration camp Dachau.

Olga Marie and Ernst tried to escape to Cuba on the St. Louis and ended up in the Netherlands. The St. Louis was a cruise ship that left the port of Hamburg in 1939 with over 900 Jews on board. The fate of the passengers has been investigated in recent years in a project by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. To escape Germany, around 930 Jews left the port of Hamburg on this ship, with the aim of disembarking at Cuba. When they arrived, however, the Cuban authorities did not let them enter the country, as most of them had only a temporary tourist visa. The United States would not accept them either. So the ship returned to Europe with nearly everyone still on board. Eventually, England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands agreed to take in the passengers. The Netherlands took in 181 people, of whom 76 were still not able to escape deportation in the end.

It is remarkable that one of the passengers was Hannelore Grünberg-Klein, the mother of the author Arnon Grunberg. She survived the war and recounted her memories of the voyage on the St. Louis in the book *Zolang er nog tranen zijn (As Long as Tears Remain)*. A film was made about the voyage of the St. Louis by Stuart Rosenberg in 1976: *The Voyage of the Damned*.

Olga Marie Mainzer-Salomon and Ernst Mainzer were both killed in Auschwitz on 31 August 1942.