

Meta Sara Süskind

Meta Sara Süskind is born on 11 May 1888 in Oberdollendorf, Germany (currently named Königswinter) as the identical twin sister of Lilli. Her parents Maximilianus Süskind (1854-1909) and Amanda Cahn (1860-1917) have eight children: Hugo (1887-1941), Meta and Lilli (1888-1943), Paul Albert (1890-1938), Fanny (1892-1960), Ludwig (1894-1951), Else (1896-1915) and Gerta (1899-1976).

The growing antisemitism and the discrimination of Jews in Germany bring Meta's brother Paul to commit suicide in 1938. Also Meta, who is unmarried, feels increasingly insecure and in 1939 she decides to move in with her sister Lilli who lives with her husband Emile and daughter Els at the Prins Bischoopssingel 25 in Maastricht. Lilli's sons Max and Bob have settled in Buenos Aires, Argentina before the rise of Hitler. Meta and Lilli are trying to join them and apply for visas in 1939. But the application procedure takes time, too much time.

On 24 August 1942, 159 Jewish residents of Maastricht are ordered to report for deportation to camp Westerbork, a Dutch transit camp for Jews, the next day already. No shows will be punished, likely with deportation to the ill-famed concentration camp Mauthausen. Meta's name is on the deportation list, but she is allowed to stay in Maastricht because of her hospitalization since –notably- 25 August. She will be registered as a patient until October 4, 1942. It is unclear why she was hospitalized but her niece Els had some of her relatives delisted for reason of hospitalization – which was a ruse- and likely, she managed to achieve the same for Meta. Lilli and Emile have a "Sperre" that (temporarily) exempts them from deportation. But because it is clear that they are all at great risk of being deported at a later stage, they decide to go into hiding. This happens before the second deportation of Jewish residents of Maastricht that took place in November 1942. While Meta initially hides with friends in Amsterdam, Lilli, Emile and Els try to escape to Switzerland. The initial stage is to illegally cross the Belgium border and stay in Tongeren. Els goes first, then Lilli. Emile will follow last, but the developments in France impede him from going and disrupt further realization of their plans. As a result, Lilli and Els have no other choice than to stay put at the house in Tongeren. Although they receive food and goods supplies from Emile –who has gone into hiding in Maastricht- and Bob, their living conditions are poor.

When forced to leave her hiding place in Amsterdam, Meta moves to an attic in Utrecht. But without a bed to sleep in and with scarce food, she feels coerced to undertake the dangerous trip to Tongeren and join Lilli and Els. In the tram to Tongeren, she encounters Justine Pinkas, a resistance fighter who facilitated Emile's hiding and who illegally couriers his packages. While chatting together, Meta escapes a razzia and safely reaches the house where her twin sister and niece are hiding. But the reunion isn't to last. A few days later, presumably by the end of June 1943, their 'host' is arrested and immediately afterwards the house is invaded. During the commotion of the raid, Meta creates a distraction by locking herself in a pantry. Her quick thinking and courage provide Els the opportunity to escape; she manages to flee into the garden, jump over the garden wall with an enormous leap and reach a safe haven. Together with the other refugees in the house, Meta and Lilli are arrested and sent to Casern Dossin in Mechelen, Belgium. As from 1942, Jews Roma and Sinti were imprisoned here pending their deportation to extermination camps. Their living conditions in the Casern's 18th century barracks are ghastly.

Probably shortly after August 7th, Meta and Lilli are put on Transport XXI to Auschwitz Birkenau. Their deaths are recorded in August 1943. Meta passes away at the age of 55.

Emile and Els survive the war, as do Max and Bob.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Lilli's grandchildren Juan and Barbara Wijngaard and Alec and Guy Valk. We are grateful for your contributions to this biography.

Pictures:

Lilli (l) en Meta (r)



Family Lilli: Lilli Suskinds husband and children in 1947



Transport list Dossin Meta and Lilli Suskind:

8.7.43	III. TRANSPORT	94.
X 1184. Wagenaar-Suskind Lilly	11.5.88 Oberdollen-a/R dorf <i>Ep. de WYN 9 A A A D</i>	stl. F Hausfrau V
X 1185. S u s k i n d Meta	11.5.88 Oberdollen-a/R dorf	stl. F ohne V
V 1186. L e v i e Max Louis	18.2.21 Den Haag	stl. H Student V
X 1187. D e V r i e s Johannes 7 Rue Van Gaver	20.8.15 8.9.15 Duisburg	stl. H Musiker V
+ 7.7.43 : Werner-Schreiner, Lippa	15.10.93. Strassou- dorf	F Hausfrau V
1188. Israel Anderscht, 25 Rue Brugna	22.9.01 H E R G gedulor	stl. H Schneider V
Werner, Charles	13.2.31. LHerbech	stl. H Schneider V
1189. Warkowski Warkowski	8.8.37 Zbuzska 1014	stl. H Hausfrau V
O 1190. I g l i e k i SIMON	11.10.05 Kolbiel	stl. H Dekorateur V
V 1191. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx F r u e h t	Ep. de GYNBERG. Winda 14.2.28	stl. H Schneiderin V
1192. H A l p e r n Bernard 7 Rue de Brabant	6.2.77 Dublin	stl. H Kaufmann (Jugend) V
1193. Halpern-Joze ANNA	4.2.84 Warschau	stl. H Hausfrau V
O 1194. F e l d h o r n Adolf 280 Rue Brunelles	21.12.03 Podwoloczyska PODWOLCZYSKA	stl. H Pelzarbeiter V
K 1195. Feldhorn-Tritsch Martha	28.7.11 Wien	stl. F Schneiderin V
O 1196. F e l d h o r n Julius 288 Rue Brunelles	18.10.02 Podwoloczyska PODWOLCZYSKA	stl. H Hutstoffseuger V
V 1197. Bobker-Weinsteiner Lana Forest	10.8.03 Sokolow	stl. F Pelzsuschneiderin V

Lilli Wijngaard – Süskind

“Lebt Alle wohl, hoffen auf erneuertes Wiedersehen” - Lilli

Lilli Süskind is born on 11 May 1888 in Oberdollendorf, Germany (currently named Königswinter) to Maximilianus Süskind (1854-1909) and Amanda Cahn (1860-1917). Lilli and her identical twin sister Meta have three brothers and three sisters: Hugo (1887-1945), Paul Albert (1890-1938), Fanny (1892-1960), Ludwig (1894-1948), Else (1896-1915) and Gerta (1899-1976).

As a young woman, Lilli meets her future husband Emile Salomon Wijngaard during one of his holiday in Germany. Emile is born in Meerssen, The Netherlands, on January 27th, 1884 and is chief accountant of the Maastricht macaroni and vermicelli factory Pagnier Fils & Co. He is also involved with the Maastricht department of the Red Cross where he is ranked sergeant-major, a “bobo” to quote Lilli. Following their marriage on December 23rd, 1910 the couple settles in Maastricht where they live at Herbenusstraat 156a, subsequently at St. Jacobstraat 5 and Brusselsestraat 76 before finally settling in 1919 at Prins Bisschopsingel 25.

Lilli and Emil get three children: Max (born 1913), Emile (also called Bob, born 1916) and Els (born 1920). Before the rise of Hitler, Max teaches himself Spanish and migrates to Argentina, a country that offered good career opportunities to emigrants in those days. He settles in Buenos Aires and is joined by his brother Bob shortly afterwards. In the meantime, the growing antisemitism in Germany brings Lilli’s brother Paul to commit suicide in 1938. Also Meta feels increasingly insecure and in 1939, she decides to move in with Lilli, Emile and Els. From then on, Lilli and Meta are trying to obtain visas to travel to Argentina, but the bureaucratic assessment of their visa application takes time. Too much time, as will turn out.

Triggered by the German invasion in the Netherlands in May 1940, Max and Bob present themselves at the Dutch embassy in Buenos Aires to volunteer for the Dutch army in exile. Bob is accepted, goes through training in Canada and eventually is part of the Normandy landings as a logistical supply coordinator. Els becomes involved with the Red Cross in Maastricht as a nurse.

Then 24 August 1942 arrives, a black day for many Jewish residents of Maastricht who are ordered to report the next day already for deportation to camp Westerbork, a Dutch transit camp for Jews. Although Meta’s name is on the deportation list, she is allowed to stay because of her hospitalization –notably- as from 25 August. Why she was hospitalized is unknown but Els succeeded in delisting some of her relatives for reason of hospitalization –which was a ruse- and likely, she managed to achieve the same for her aunt Meta. Lilli and Emile have a “Sperre” that (temporarily) exempts them from deportation. Because Lilli and her family are at great risk of being deported at a later stage, they plan to flee to Switzerland, via Belgium and France. These events take place before the second deportation of Jewish residents of Maastricht in November 1942. Their flee costs 5,000.- guilders per person and the initial stage is to illegally cross the Belgium border and stay in Tongeren. Els goes first, then Lilli. Emile will follow last, but developments in France impede him from going and disrupt further realization of their plans. While Lilli and Els have no other choice than to stay sheltered at the house in Tongeren, their living conditions are poor. The house is cramped since other refugees are harbouring there as well, including Emile’s second cousin Max Louis Levie. Their ‘host’ snubbes them and charges exorbitant prices for the small food fringes he provides them. On top of that, he keeps the food and goods packages that Bob and Emile send to Lilli and Els, largely to himself. Lilli suffers from

diabetes and needs insulin injections on a daily basis. Nevertheless, she does not dare returning to Maastricht.

Meanwhile Emile has gone into hiding in Maastricht, helped by his colleague Justine Pinkas, and Meta is hiding at friends in Amsterdam. When she is forced to leave the place, she moves to an attic in Utrecht for several weeks. But the bad conditions there make her take the risk going to Tongeren. She joins Lilli and Els after having escaped a razzia in the tram she was traveling with. However, the reunion wasn't to last. A few days later, presumably by the end of June 1943, their 'host' is arrested and immediately afterwards the house is raided. During the commotion of the raid, Meta creates a distraction by locking herself in a pantry. Her quick thinking and courage provide Els the opportunity to escape; she manages to flee into the garden and jump over the garden wall with an enormous leap. She reaches a safe haven and is temporarily hidden in the basement of an abandoned house. But for her own safety and that of the people helping her, she is continuously moved from one place to another. Ultimately she ends up completely exhausted at the house of a Catholic family involved in the Belgian resistance, where she works as a 'Catholic housemaid'. Els, too, joins the resistance and arranges identity cards and ration books. She re-establishes contact with her father who occasionally sends her money and clothes via Justine Pinkas.

Lilli, Meta and Max Louis however, are arrested and sent to Casern Dossin in Mechelen, Belgium. As from 1942, Jews Roma and Sinti were imprisoned here before being deported to extermination camps. The prisoners had to endure the ghastly living conditions in the 18th century barracks. In a brief note dated August 7th 1943, Lilli writes from Casern Dossin: "Nichts mehr abschicken, lebt Alle wohl, hoffen auf erneuertes Wiedersehen." Lilli, Meta and Max Louis are deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau with Transport no. XXI shortly afterwards and probably murdered immediately upon arrival. Their death were recorded in Auschwitz in August 1943. Lillie passes away at the age of 55.

Emile and Els survive the war, as do Max and Bob. Soon after the liberation of Maastricht in September 1944, Emile and Els return to their home at the Prins Bisschopsingel. The house bears the scars of the war and the majority of the furniture robbed, yet it is liveable. Emile and Els have American soldiers quartered in their house and accommodate the office of the Committee for Israeli Interests, set up to ease the needs of Jews in the province of Limburg and headed by Emile. Still, there is a shortage of basic needs: gas, coal, electricity, warm clothing etc. As is the case of the majority of the Maastricht residents, Emile and Els depend on the council's soup kitchen. Bob and Max do everything within their power to help and support their father and sister. While hoping that Lilli will return safely after the war, they prepare for the worst.

Emile passes on in Maastricht on 23 November 1956. His grave is decorated with a memorial of his wife Lilli. Els marries an American soldier and moves to California, USA. She dies in 1990. After the war, Bob travels the USA, returns to Argentina and finally settles in London where he works as a guide and translator. He dies in 2003. Max passes away in 1986.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Lilli's grandchildren Juan and Barbara Wijngaard and Alec and Guy Valk. We are grateful for your contributions to this biography.

Pictures:

Lilli (l) en Meta (r)



Family wijngaard



Family Wijngaard 1947



Lilli Suskind - request for goods at CIB by Emile Wijngaard

8 Decemver 4.

Meubelaanvraag voor Emile Wijngaard PrinsBisschopsingel 25.

Voor keuken: *aflekbak* 1 klein kolenformuis, 1 droogrek, 1 afwasbak, 1 kolenkit, kopjes enz. *1 Kolenhoop + tang, schutels*
voor 3 personen, eenige ketels, ~~pannen~~, rasp, waterketel. *Schuim, lepel X*
voor slaapkamer: 1 linnenkast. *1 Tuinmeubel met spiegel*
voor woon-zitkamer: een pendule, 1 tafel, 2 fauteuils, 1 staande lamp,
1 haard. *een paar schuifstoelen*
1 Kolenkit
X Tuinwasku Bordspaan

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X 1185. Suskind Meta	11.5.88 Oberdollen-a/R dorf	stl. F ohne
✓ 1186. Levi Max Louis	18.1.21 Den Haag	stl. H Student
X 1187. De Vries Johannes 7 Rue Van Gaver	20.8.15 8.8.15 Duisburg	stl. H Musiker
+ 7.7.43: Here-Schumann, Lippa 15.10.93. Strasbourg stl. Hausfrau		
1188. Israel Andelecht, 25 Rue Brugnot stl. Hausfrau		
Here Charles 13.2.31. Elberbeck stl. Schüler		
1189. Wentkowski stl. Hausfrau		
O 1190. Igliok SIMON	11.10.06 Kolbiel	stl. H Dekorateur
V 1191. Frucht Herta	14.2.28 Danzig <i>Ep. de GYNBERG Winter</i>	stl. H Schülerin
✓ 1192. Halpern Haarbeck Bernard 7 Rue de Brabant	6.2.77 Dublin	stl. H Kaufmann (Jugend)
1193. Halpern-Jeze ANNA	4.2.84 Warschau	stl. H Hausfrau
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