

Palestine pioneers in the municipality of Weerselo

In the search for war victims from the municipality of Weerselo, I found a remarkable discovery in the municipal archives. It turns out that in this town between 1934 and 1942 thirty-six Palestine pioneers lived. Palestine pioneers were Jewish youngsters who, by following an agricultural education, were preparing for migration to what was then Palestine, split up in Palestine and Israel since 1948. Among them were also many German Jews. A few of them later joined the Westerweel group. One of the best known was Max Windmüller, who lived in Hasselo with the family ter Haar.

The history of Max Windmüller

Born 17-02-1920 in Emden, Germany. Deceased 21-04-1945 in Cham, Germany.
Parents Moritz Windmüller, butcher, and Jette Seligmann.



Max stayed from February 1939 until the end of December 1939 and again from June 1940 to March 1941 as a farm boy with the Dutch Reformed family ter Haar 'De Koekoek' in Hasselo no. 42. At the end of March 1941 Max left for Assen. He liked the family ter Haar, there was contact for a long time and there are also many photos from this period in his photoalbum.

Max came from a family of five children, his parents had a good running butcher shop in Emden, but their prohibitions made their work impossible. In 1933 they fled to Groningen, where his father died in 1937.

Once in the Netherlands, Max joined the group of Palestine pioneers, led by his brother Isaak. He received his agricultural education at the Zeijerveld in Drenthe. The so-called Deventer Association, with which Zeijerveld maintained close contact, did not have a home or work location of its own. The pupils lived and worked with farmers throughout the Netherlands. For theoretical courses and cultural activities they came together in the association building "Beth Chaloets" in Deventer. There were many mutual contacts, also with other associations.

When his brother Izaak embarked on the ship 'Dora', Max accompanied him. At the last moment he let himself be talked to stay in the Netherlands to give co-guidance to the Palestine pioneers. During his stay in the Loosdrechtse Rade, he met his later fiancée Metta Lande, a fleeing Jew from Vienna. From June 1940 until the end of March 1941 he stayed with the ter Haar family again, after which he left for Assen. Here he worked together with Schraga Engel, Harald Simon and Albert Berger in the paper factory. In 1942 he joined the resistance group of Joop Westerweel.

* On Sunday morning, July 16, 1939, the Dora departed from Amsterdam, with more than 300 Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany on board, and about 20 Dutch Jews. The ship went to Antwerp and Flushing and attracted some 200 German-Jewish refugees there. It was the last ship with refugees, who left the Netherlands.

Westerweel group

From the Loosdrechtse Rade - the residents of this pavilion were mainly young people from Nazi Germany and Austria, who were brought to the Netherlands in the autumn of 1938 without parents or family - the German refugee Joachim Simon (+1943) set up an extensive network in 1942 to accommodate people in hiding and to organize escape routes.

He did this together with the Rotterdam teacher and pacifist Johan Gerard (Joop) Westerweel (+1944) and his wife, Wilhelmina Dora Bosdries (+1999). The special thing of this resistance group was that both Jews and non-Jews were part of it. The Jewish participants were mainly Palestine pioneers. Members of the Deventer Association participated fully. Thanks to the efforts of the Westerweel group, some 400 young German Jews were rescued. Exactly in time this group came behind the plans to deport the children of the Loosdrechtse Rade. On 16 August 1942 more than thirty children were taken from there and taken to hiding places.

Arrest and hiding

Max Windmüller was arrested in Amsterdam on 14 August 1943 during a raid in Amsterdam and taken to Westerbork transit camp. Already after four days he managed to escape in a laundry cart and continued his resistance work. He got, together with his brother Emil, lodgings with Frans and Henny Gerritsen in Haarlem. As a printer, Henny Gerritsen was able to forge all kinds of official documents. Thanks to him Max Windmüller got a new identity: Cor Andringa.

Employed in France

Max Windmüller increasingly shifted his field of work to France. He became the liaison man of the Westerweel group in Paris, where he went to live with his fiancée Metta Lande. His task was to guide the refugees in groups of up to 4 people from the green border through Belgium and France to the Spanish border. Tirelessly he traveled between the Netherlands, Belgium, Brittany, Paris and southern France. In doing so, he managed to help a hundred young people, including his brother Emil, to freedom. Max had been working with the French-Jewish resistance movement for some time, this group wanted help from London and in the meantime had contact with two agents, who had issued as members of the British secret service. This was fatal, because these contacts were doublespioness, who also worked for the Gestapo. During a meeting between Max and the leaders of the French resistance in Paris on 18 July 1944, the Gestapo invaded and everyone was arrested. They were suspected of high treason and espionage and brought to the 'Durchgangslager Drancy' in the north of Paris. When the Allied approached Drancy, the most important political prisoners, including Max, were taken to the Buchenwald concentration camp with the very last transport on 17 August 1944. He was employed as a forced laborer in an armor plate factory in Bochum and brought back to Buchenwald shortly before the end of the Nazi dictatorship. From here, the prisoners were transported to Flossenbürg in a cattle truck, where the "death march" to Dachau began with the Allies on their heels. Max was also seriously weakened and half starved. On 21 April 1945, the fourth day of this trip, Max wanted to drink some water from a well and was shot by a guard. So he died one day before the liberation of this group of deportees in Winklarn, Kreis Cham. He was buried in Buchenwald.



Max Windmüller Strasse in Emden



Westerweel monument

Distinguished

In 1946 Max Windmüller received posthumously the medal of the French resistance 'la Résistance Française'. In the Westerweel Forest in Ramat Menashe/Israel there is a memorial for Joop Westerweel, Max Windmüller and their fellow fighters.

In Emden/Germany the Max Windmüller Foundation named after him, was founded and on 8 November 1998 the Webergildestrasse in Emden was renamed Max-Windmüller-Strasse. The ter Haar family was present.

In 2015 the new gymnasium at the Steinweg was named after him. And Stolpersteine were laid at the Mühlenstrasse 4 in Emden.

He is honored in the Dutch and French commemorative space in the Yad Vashem museum and in the museum of the Ghetto fighters Beit Lochamei Haghettaot, both in Israel and in the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Illinois / USA.

A book was published in 1997: 'Max Windmüller 1920-1945' and in 2010 a film/documentary about his life: 'Deckname Cor, die dramatische Geschichte des Max Windmüller'.

In Amsterdam a monument was unveiled in 1988, dedicated to the Jewish resistance fighters. At least a thousand Jews were directly involved in the resistance. Half of them had to pay for this with death. Max Windmüller was one of those five hundred.

His family

Salomon, Max's eldest brother, was deported to Westerbork in 1942, together with his wife and child, and with his mother and father-in-law. All died in Auschwitz. The widow Jette Windmüller-Seligmann had been married to the father-in-law of Salomon, Max Kornblum, but the marriage could not be completed because they were put on transport. Max Kornblum died on 15-12-1942, the same day as Jette Seligmann. Her other children Isaak (+1999), Emil (+1992) and Ruth (+2000) survived the war. Metta Lande also survived the war, she emigrated to Israel, where she married and was known as Shulamit Roethler.

The family ter Haar

The Erve Koekoek was originally the Weusthag farm. This farm on the Hesselder was located a short distance to the north of the Topweg, close to the Houtmaatweg exit. Now the A1 runs here and the residential area Vossenbelt has been realized.

The family ter Haar consisted of: father Berend and his wife Johanna Snuverink, his handicapped sister Johanna and his son Willem with his wife Gerda Brunnekreeft. Daughter Annie was born in 1940, later Jannie and Dientje followed. Except for Annie, everyone has already died. A conversation with daughter Annie Morsink-ter Haar shows that the pioneers were often talked about in the family, especially about Max and Schraga. A few pioneers later visited the family ter Haar. Mother told them about that, but she did not always remember the names. In 1980, Schraga Engel came on a visit and also Arie Windmüller (a son of Isaac) visited them. In 1998 the family went with a van to Emden at the unveiling of the Max-Windmüller-Strasse.

Foto's from the album of Max with own caption



Op de, koekoek
above f.l.t.r. pioneers Klara Rothenberg and Schraga Engel on visit, Gerda and Willem, under sister Johanna, wife Johanna and Barend Jan



Sommer
farm in the summer



Is de pannekoek al klaar?
Is the pancake ready?



mooi stillzitten
Max with Annie Morsink-ter Haar *1940

Max with other Palestine pioneers from Weerselo



Harald Simon and Max



In the middle Max and Schraga Engel 1941 te Assen

One of the letters from Max to Willem ter Haar.

Beste Willem!

Groningen 3 sept. 1939

Je zult wel opkijken mij hier in Groningen te weten. Het is alleen maar voor eventjes geweest! Ik weet niet, hoe later de treinverbindingen zijn, daarom ben ik nu 2 dagen thuis. Mijn moeder was niet goed in orde, maar nu gaat het weer.

Ik zal zoo spoedig mogelijk weer naar Hengelo terugkeren. De haver en het hooi zijn mooi zonder regen binnen gekomen. Alles gaat zijn gewone gang, je hoeft je nergens zorgen over te maken. Ik overleg alles wel met Barend Jan en de overigen. Frans wil, zodra de toestand anders wordt ook naar een andere boer. (Je hoeft niet te zeggen, dat ik je dit schrijf!) Ik zal jullie wel door deze tijd heen helpen, tenminste als er niets tussen komt.

Dat Vera* weg is weet je zeker al, hé? Maar we redden ons wel. Zeg, wat moet er gebeuren, als Sannie hengstig is?

Willem hoe gaat het met jou? Ik hoop dat jij je al ingeleefd hebt!

Ik weet op 't oogenblik geen nieuws mehr! Wanneer er iets bijzonders is, zal ik je op de hoogte houden. Morgen ben ik weer op jullie's bedrijf.

Wees van harte gegroet

door je trouwe vriend Max!

* Vera was een paard en Willem was toen opgeroepen voor de mobilisatie en zat in Woudrichem.

Groningen 3. Sept. 1939

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Je zult wel opkijken mij hier in Groningen te
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door je trouwe vriend

Max!

In all, there have been thirty-eight Palestine pioneers in the municipality of Weerselo as a farmer's servant/-volunteer. Most at addresses in Hasselo, furthermore in Deurningen, Gammelke and Klein Driene. Except for Klein Driene, they were all housed with Dutch Reformed farmers. One of these pioneers is even married in Weerselo.

Moser, Kurt Erich Israel

Born 03-06-1920 in Wuppertal-Elberfeld, Germany. Deceased 31-03-1944 in Auschwitz, Poland. Parents Salomon Moser and Jenny Heidt. Married to Ruth Liemann.



He stayed from September 1941 until December 1942 with the Sanderman family on the Erve Leuvelt in Hasselo No. 5. This farm is still on the Bartelinkslaantje in present day Hengelo and is now a care farm.

Kurt Erich was born in Elberfeld near Wuppertal in a family of three children. He came from Turin in early November 1938 to the agricultural training center the Wieringermeer, where his brother Hans also stayed.

In 1934, an agricultural training center was set up in the Wieringermeer, near the village of Nieuwesluis, to accommodate German refugees between 18 and 24 years old. Officially it was called: Werkdorp der Stichting Joodse Arbeid. The village was given the status of Hachsjarra institution, giving the students the opportunity to emigrate to Palestine after their training. The Werkdorp was closed in 1941 by order of the occupier. Some of the residents were arrested in Amsterdam during a major raid and deported to Mauthausen. Other former laborers have participated in the resistance activities of the so-called Westerweel group.



Werkdorp the Wieringermeer



erve Leuvelt

After the closure of the Werkdorp, Kurt Erich spent a month in 'De Korenbloem', a shelter for the Deventer Association on the Papenstraat and then came in September 1941 as a farmer's apprentice to the Sanderman family. He married on 11-08-1942 at Weerselo with Ruth Sara Liemann, born 16-02-1923 in Berlin. His parents could not give permission, since they were already untraceable. Both parents were killed in the extermination camp in Minsk. By order of Justice Almelo dispensation of proclamation and waiting time was granted. Witnesses at the wedding were father Hendrik Willem Sanderman and his son Hendrik Barend. He already knew Ruth from the training in the Wieringermeer and she also stayed in Deventer temporarily.

After their marriage, Kurt Erich and Ruth left for Amsterdam. Here they lived illegally in an apartment, which had already been evacuated and closed by the Germans. Together they had two sons, Rudi Max born 26 December 1942 and - at Ruth's hiding place in Velp - Kurt Eric jr. born 1944. Son Rudi Max was placed as a nine-month-old baby via the Underground to Cornelis and Isabella Pouwer-Ganzevoort in Arnhem, where he got the pseudonym Freddy Pouwer. After the war he was reunited with his mother, he was very missed by his foster parents. He survived the war thanks to them and had contact with them since 1971. In 1975 they were distinguished for their help by Yad Vashem. Rudi Max grew up with his uncle Hans after the second marriage of his mother, he chose the name Reuven as his new first name.

Kurt was arrested in Amsterdam and arrived in Camp Westerbork - prison camp 67 on 26 August 1943. He was deported to the concentration camp Auschwitz on 31 August. His death certificate was drawn up in Weerselo in 1951, his last official address. Both children survived the war. Reuven now lives in Israel and Kurt Erich in Denver, Colorado. Ruth Sara Moser-Liemann survived the war and died in 1954 in Israel. His brother Hans (Yochanan) and sister Eva also survived the war. Hans survived the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen and Eva left with the last children's transport to England. Kurt Erich is mentioned on the memorial for the victims of the Nazi regime in Wuppertal. In January 2018, Reuven has visited Weerselo and the War Victims Memorial.

A short explanation about the pioneers

In 1918 the vocational training for Palestine pioneers, the Deventer Association was established, where in the pre-war years hundreds of pioneers from home and abroad received their training. Young people who, by following an agricultural education, were preparing for migration to what was then Palestine, split up in Palestine and Israel since 1948. The building of a Jewish state in Palestine was seen by Jewish youth as the only answer to the growing anti-Semitism in Europe. The preparation, called hachsjará, was necessary to learn skills needed in the unexplored territory. The training was also a requirement to obtain a British immigration visa, a so-called Palestine certificate. For young pioneers there was a separate training program, the youth alijah, at the Vondelhof in Amsterdam and later in the Loosdrechtse Rade. Agricultural training centers were also the Zeijerveld at Assen and the Wieringermeer labor village at Nieuwesluis. In Deventer, the Jewish refugees were initially taken care of in a building of the Teuge flight school. From here they were often accommodated in Gelderland and Twente for a work address. Between two work addresses they often stayed in the club building at Brink 70, later in 'De Korenbloem' at Papenstraat 45 in Deventer. The pioneers from this region came together all fourteen days in Hengelo among others. The refugee policy was tightened up after 1933. This policy was prompted by the fear that, in the current crisis, an excessive influx of newcomers would damage the economic interests of the indigenous population and increase the problem of unemployment. The government finances were also not allowed to be burdened with the costs for poorer foreigners. For the pioneers, the access policy was a little easier since they were supposed to stay here only temporarily and the costs of maintenance were partly borne by the Jewish community. A few of them later joined the Westerweel group.

This resistance group, consisting of Jews and non-Jews, set up an extensive network in 1942 to accommodate people in hiding and to organize escape routes. The Jewish participants were mainly Palestine pioneers. Members of the Deventer Association participated fully, see also the story of Max Windmüller.

N.B. In many men, the name Israel and the women the name Sarah mentioned. This is a German measure of 17 August 1938. In this way, every official immediately became aware that he was dealing with a Jew.

Other pioneers at Hasselo no. 5

Russ, Günter

Born 21-06-1914 in Berlin, Germany. He must have survived the war.

Parents Moritz Russ and Jettel Kaiser.

He stayed here from November 1938 to February 1939, after which he left for Amsterdam. In July 1939 he left for Palestine.

- Günter was a pioneer of the Deventer Association. In January 1937 he lived for a short time, together with Walter Münzer, in the association building at the Brink 70 in Deventer. Before coming to this address, he lived at two other addresses in the municipality of Weerselo, namely Hasselo No. 42 and Deurningen No. 21.

His mother died in the Holocaust, the fate of the further family is unknown.

Marcuse, Erich Israel

Born 26-01-1921 at Greifenhagen in Pommern, Dtsl. Deceased 25-01-1943 in Auschwitz, Pol.

Parents Julius Marcuse and Wally Israelski.

He stayed here from June 1939 to November 1939, then left for Renkum.

Erich came from Bielefeld in January 1939 via the Teuge flight school to the Netherlands.

He was a pioneer of the Deventer Association. He first spent almost three months in youth hostel 'De Kleine Haar' in Gorssel, a branch of the Deventer Association for foreign refugees. In 1943 he was in the Central Israelite Insane Foundation Het Apeldoornsche Bos at Zutphensestraat 106 in Apeldoorn.



He was probably one of the many Jewish volunteers, who reported here after being forced by the occupying forces in 1942 to dismiss all non-Jewish staff members. On January 22, 1943, more than a thousand people were taken away from here to the extermination camp Auschwitz II-Birkenau, including Erich. No one has ever heard of anyone from this transport. His parents and sister Gertrud also died in the Holocaust.

Hasselo no. 7

With the Gerrit Huiskes family on the 'Erve Lansink', the farm was on the current Bartelinkslaan and was demolished around 1980.

Croner, Helene Sara

Born 03-01-1919 in Hamburg, Germany. Deceased 24 April 1999 in Zelhem.

Parents Walter Croner and Jenny Meijer.

Helene stayed here from April 1939 to the end of December 1939.

She then spent a few days in Deventer with Ru Cohen, the founder of the Deventer Association. After this she left for Brummen.

- Helene was the sixth out of a very poor family of seven children. She joined the pioneering association Gut Jägerslust in Flensburg in April 1938 and left for the Netherlands in March 1939, where she joined the Deventer Association.

After her stay in Hasselo and Brummen she married Michiel Asser Benjamin Jacob in August 1942. They decided immediately to go into hiding and were given a hiding place under the tower of the Protestant Lamberti Church of Zelhem. Here in December 1943 their son Jan was born. Because this was not a suitable place for a baby, he was placed with the family Gebbink and Helene was housed with the family Abbink. Her husband Jacob was discovered under the tower and transferred to Vught. He died in February 1945 in the concentration camp Gross Rosen (Poland).

Helene stayed in Zelhem, where she took over the shop in smoking articles from Jacob's parents. She later married Johannes Hendrikus (Han) Roenhorst, who died in 1997. Her mother, her sisters Ruth, Anna and Meta and her brother Leopold died in the Holocaust. Her father had already died in 1934. Her brothers Herman and Herbert survived the war.



Rothenberg, Klara Sara

Born 10-12-1919 in Vienna, Austria. Has survived the war.

Parents David Rothenberg and Rachel Grossmann.

She stayed here from June 1940 to November 1940. She belonged to the Deventer Association. Klara arrived in January 1939 from Karlsruhe to Apeldoorn.



There she trained as a nurse at the Centraal Israëlitisch Krankzinnigengesticht Het Apeldoornsche Bos. After her stay in Hasselo she obtained her milkers diploma in May 1941 in Albergen. In the course of 1943, in order to escape deportation, she was admitted to the Catholic St. Elisabeth hospital in Almelo and operated on her tonsils and blind gut. Afterwards she was housed with the gardeners' family Gerrit and Annie Nijhof from Almelo. She then went into hiding and worked as a housekeeper with the Wien family until the middle of 1944.

She joined the Westerweel group, her pseudonym was Jantina Martens. She was later accommodated with Tieke Jansma, who offered a hiding address to many Jews - Tieke lived in Denekamp as a child. When some people in hiding received typhus, they were cared for by Tieke, after which she ultimately died of typhus at the age of 31. After Tieke's death, on whose funeral Klara was, she stayed in her house with some others until the liberation in May 1945. She left for Palestine, where she in 1945 married Abraham van Praag - who also stayed in Hasselo in 1936. They later lived in Moshav Kfar Monash, Israel.

Hasselo no. 42

With the family ter Haar on 'De Koekoek', this farm on the Hesselder was a little bit north of the Topweg, close to the Houtmaatweg exit. Max Windmüller also stayed here.

Slijper, Joseph Leo (Joop)

Born 22-12-1910 in Amsterdam. Deceased 12-12-1986 in Tel-Aviv, Israel.

Parents Lehman Sharpener, broker in securities and Mietje Asscher. He stayed here from September 1935 to February 1937 and then left for Amsterdam.

- In March 1937 he left for Palestine, to return to Amsterdam two years later.



He worked there since November as a pedagogue on the Vondelhof. In November 1939 seventy young people were accommodated here through the Foundation for Immigration and Education of Children in Palestine, the 'youth aliyah'. These were Jewish children from Nazi Germany who had come here as refugees.

He later went to Palestine permanently, married Hannah Levi and had two sons. His mother and his sister Sara did not survive the Holocaust, his brother Isaac survived.

Russ, Günter

He stayed here from February 1937 to September 1937 and then left for Hengelo, Gld.

Rosenbaum, Martin

Born 24-06-1907 in Schlüchtern, Germany. Has survived the war.

Parents Jacob Rosenbaum and Mali Hausmann.

He stayed here from May 1937 to March 1938.

- He lived in Amsterdam since January 1934 and in Rotterdam from June 1935.

Until May 1937, he was active among others at the Rotterdam Association of Palestine pioneers. After his stay in Hasselo he emigrated to Palestine.

His mother and brother Ernst did not survive the Holocaust.

Engel, Ferencz (Schrage)

Born 07-09-1917 in Parkau, Czechoslovakia. Deceased 10-12-1987 in Yokneam, Israel.

Parents József Engel and Miryam Jólan Baig.

He stayed here from May 1938 to December 1938, then left for Almelo, Eerbeek and early 1941 to Assen. Here he worked with the 'Weerelose' pioneers Max Windmüller, Harald Simon and Albert Berger in the paper factory. Schrage knew Max from the Zeijerveld and also from the Deventer Association. Both became members of the Westerweel group. Schrage fled to France in January 1943, he was arrested on his way and ended up in Auschwitz concentration camp Flossenbürg in Bavaria. From there it went on to Cham, where they were liberated by the Americans. He has sat in a total of seven concentration camps and jumped out of the train several times after his arrest. Schrage returned to the Netherlands in May 1945. He married Winnie Nabarro in September 1945, after which they emigrated to Palestine in April 1946.



Schraga, Gerda and Willem around 1940

They set up a farm in Yokneam near Haifa, together they had five children. Winnie died in 2011. His family survived the war. Schraga came to visit the ter Haar family in 1980.



Schraga and Gerda ter Haar in 1980

Jacobs, Siegfried

Born 28-11-1914 in Amsterdam. Deceased 22-01-1943 in Auschwitz, Poland.

Parents Samuel Jacobs, office clerk, and Bella Reich.

He stayed here from March 1941 until December 1942, together with Rolf Rothmann.

Max Windmüller had left this address one day before his arrival.

- He stayed in Gorssel from January 1940 to September 1940. In February 1941 he left for Hengelo and then came to Hasselo. In September 1942 his search was requested.

Here the message from the Algemeen Politieblad: "The Major from Weerselo requests that Siegfried Jacobs, a farmer's assistant, living in the Hasselo 42 district in Weerselo, be located, detained and brought to trial. He is suspected of having changed his place of residence without having obtained the required authorization." This description indicated Jews who had gone into hiding.

He was arrested and arrived in Camp Westerbork on 30 September 1942. He was put on transport on 6 November to the Auschwitz concentration camp. His father and brother Frits did not survive the Holocaust, his mother had already died before the war.

Rothmann, Herbert Rolf

Born 18-03-1921 in Berlin, Germany. Deceased in 1945 in Palestine.

Parents Ernst Eisig Rothmann and Charlotta Joseph.

He stayed here from April 1941 to January 1943, in the same period as Siegfried Jacobs.

- Rolf came to the Netherlands in March 1939 via the flight school Teuge. In April 1939 he left for Hummelo, in October 1939 for Hoog-Keppel and then in February 1940 for Rheden. He also was a pioneer of the Deventer Association. He came into contact with Herman Smies and Hennie Smies-Vallinga in Hengelo who were members of the 'teetotallers' union and were also socialists. Hennie helped Rolf at Tilburg over the border, he had a passport in the name of Rolf Vallinga. Via Belgium and France (with the help of Max Windmüller) and a heavy trip across the Pyrenees (together with, among others, Emil Windmüller) he finally arrived in November 1944 with the 'Guinea' in Palestine. There he died in 1945 after a short but severe illness. His father died in the Holocaust.

Hasselo no. 46

With the family Jan Willem Huiskes. The farm was on the Achterhoekseweg, now the A1 near the PTT building.

Rath, Simon

Born 31-08-1919 in Stanislav, Russia. Deceased in 2010 in Omer, Israel.
Parents Nathan Rath, manager, and Mina Stopper.



He stayed here from June 1937 to February 1938.
- He came here from Amsterdam, where his parents lived.
After his stay in Hasselo he left for Brummen and a year later to Heemskerk. He left in July 1939 to Palestine with the last ship the 'Dora'. He married Deborah Schönfeld. His parents and his brother Gerchon also survived the war. His brother Rubin and sister Erna died with her family in the Holocaust.

Mühlrad, David

Born 03-04-1915 in Vienna, Austria. Has survived the war, deceased in 1986.
Parents Jacob Mühlrad, cinema owner, and Leie Flank.

He stayed here, coming from Rotterdam, from October 1940 to May 1941. Then he left for Hasselo No. 54. The family lived in Rotterdam in 1918, where his mother died. His father was director of various cinemas here.

Father remarried in 1920 with Fanny Rosenzweig., he died in 1934. They all had Dutch nationality since 1925. David lived in Lonneker for a short time in 1930. After his stay in Hasselo, he managed to flee to the free Switzerland, where he arrived in February 1943. His brother Izio also survived the war, he fled to Buenos Aires in 1937. His stepmother Fanny and his half brother and sister Max and Lottie died in the Holocaust.

Rajzenstadt, Heinrich/Hirsch Schija

Born 28-07-1922 in Essen, Germany. Has survived the war.
Parents Gustav / Godel Rajzenstadt, tanner, and Bertha Finkelstein.

He stayed here from May 1941 to January 1942.

- His father lived in Amsterdam since August 1938, his mother died in October 1938 in Essen, Germany. In February 1939 his father sent a letter to the ministry.

He wrote about his son Hirsch, who had been allowed to come to the Netherlands after a stay in a concentration camp of the authorities and stayed here since December 1938. In the meantime, he had been in quarantine for three weeks in Rotterdam and then taken care of in the youth hostel 'De Kleine Haar' in Gorssel, a branch of the Deventer Association for foreign refugees. He would now like to get permission to, as a caring widower of already two children, also bring this son to Amsterdam. Hirsch then came to Amsterdam after a short stay in Gouda. In 1940 he stayed in Rheden and in May 1941 he came to Hasselo. In January 1942 he left for Amsterdam again. He survived the war and married in Bussum with Getwa Clara Looije in 1946. Probably they moved to Argentina and later on to Amsterdam. His surname was later written as Reisenstadt. His sister Maria and brother Abraham also survived the war. His father and stepmother - his father remarried in 1942 with Regina Kahn - died in the Holocaust.

Hasselo no. 54

At the Snuverink-Hammink family near 'De Bongerd'.

Nowadays Borne's new housing estate near the city of Lover and Rozenhof.

Misch, Peter Salomon

Born 22-04-1915 in Berlin-Wittenau, Germany. Deceased 07-08-2005 in Israel.

Parents Willi Misch and Elsebeth Kinsky.

He stayed here from November 1938 to May 1939. He belonged to the Deventer Association.

- In 1935-1936 he was a farmers' hand in the municipality of Borne. In June 1936 he left for Hummelo and Keppel, in November 1937 to De Wijk and in May 1938 to Voorst.

After his stay in Hasselo he left for the youth hostel 'De Assumburg' in Heemskerck.

He married Charlotte Ebel (born in Beuthen) and left with her to Palestine in June 1939. In June 1942 they divorce followed, after which he married Margot Pinkus. Later he was married to the widow Annemarie Goldschmidt-Poser. Together with them he had five children/stepchildren. His mother died in the Holocaust. His father Willi, brother Klaus and sisters Suse and Lore must have survived.



Prinz, Leonhard Israel

Born 25-12-1919 in Allenstein, Dtsl. now Poland. Deceased 31-05-1945 in Bergen-Belsen, Dtsl. *

He stayed here from January 1939 to February 1940.

Leonhard came from Bielefeld in January 1939 via the flight school Teuge in the Netherlands. He was a pioneer of the Deventer Association. After Hasselo he left for Brummen and shortly afterwards to Deventer. He lived there in the Beth Chaloe's house 'De Korenbloem' on the Papenstraat. This house was managed by the Deventer Association for vocational training for Palestine pioneers.



He was deported to Camp Auschwitz concentration camp via Camp Westerbork on 6 November 1942. He was transported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on 15 March 1944.

* He appears to have survived the war. According to the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database, he was released from concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. More details are not known. Monument 'De Korenbloem' on the Papenstraat in Deventer.

Mühlrad, David

He stayed here, coming from Hasselo No. 46, from May 1941 to December 1942..

Verliebter, David

Born 21-04-1921 in The Hague, Deceased 16-02-2003 in New York, USA.

Parents Jacob Verliebter, merchant, and Rosa Sleyen.

He stayed here from April 1941 to January 1942.

- David came to Hengelo at the end of March 1941, a month later he came as a farm servant to Hasselo. At the end of January 1942 he left for The Hague again. In the same year he left for Belgium. He could also save the life of his sister Deborah from here when she had to leave her hiding place in The Hague. His parents died in the Holocaust. In September 1943 David arrived in Switzerland. He emigrated to the United States in 1950, where he died in New York in 2003. He was buried in Ramat, Israel.

Hasselo no. 55

With the family Jan Lambertus Snuverink on 'De Bongerd'.

The farm stood about 500 m. Westzuidwest from restaurant Boomkamp, nowadays the new neighborhood Borne near the streets Lover and Rozenhof.

Eiger, Horst

Born 01-04-1914 in Lötzen, Germany. Has survived the war.

He stayed here as a farmer, coming from Lonneker, from September 1933.



He was officially written off in November 1937 with the remark: probably to Romania. He went to Palestine together with his wife Dyna Goldberg in 1938. Photographer was mentioned as his profession. They lived in Haifa. Nothing is known about his family, possibly he had a sister Else, who also survived. It is not certain that he belonged to the Palestine pioneers.

Praag van, Abraham

Born 11-01-1910 in Amsterdam. Has survived the war.

Parents Joel van Praag, cigar maker, and Sophia Pepper.

He stayed here from June 1936 to November 1936.

- He came from Amsterdam to Voorst in August 1934 and was a pioneer of the Deventer Association. After his stay in Hasselo he left in August 1936 with his first wife Henriëtte Baars to Palestine. With her he was married in that same month in Hellendoorn, together they had one son. After a divorce he married in 1945 with fellow pioneer Klara Rothenberg - who stayed in Hasselo in 1940 - and lived with her in Moshav Kfar Monash, Israel. His parents and brother Arnold died in the Holocaust.

Weinberg, Willi

Born 21-09-1911 in Oelde, Germany. Deceased 17-03-1987 in Israël.

Parents Josef Weinberg, tailor, and Berta Lippe.

He stayed here from October 1936 to July 1937.

He probably belonged to the Deventer Association.

- He came here from Lange Strasse 13 in Oelde and left for Voorst.



His brother Erich regularly stayed there as a representative of the pioneers.

His mother died in 1940 in Oelde, and is the last one buried at the Jewish cemetery.

Willi married Margarete Grünebaum in January 1938 and left for Palestine in March 1938. They lived in Tel Aviv. His brother Erich also survived the war.

Leefsma, Eduard

Born 31-05-1917 in The Hague. Deceased 28-01-2009 in Israel.

Parents Mozes Leefsma, commercial agent, and Marianne Snijders.

He stayed here from June 1938 until February 1939.

- Eduard/Eddy came from Diepenveen to Hasselo, then he went to the Smit family in Zenderen. From the about thirty pioneers who lived in the municipality of Borne, ten persons stayed at this address in the course of the years. In July 1939 Eduard left, probably with the last ship the 'Dora', to Palestine. He later married the widow Clara Helena Goldschmidt-Leefsma. They had two children together. His parents, sister Ella and brothers Raphaël and Frits all died in concentration camp Sobibor, Poland.

Simon, Harald

Born 17-10-1920 in Bielefeld, Germany. Deceased 31-03-1944 in Auschwitz, Poland.

Parents Georg Simon and Johanna Humbert.

He stayed here from January 1939 to October 1939.

- He came from Bielefeld to Deventer at the end of December 1938, where he lived in the association building at Brink 70. From here he left for Hasselo and then for Hengelo and in April 1941 for Assen. Here he worked with Max Windmüller, Schraga Engel and Albert Berger in the paper factory. In Assen he married Meta Cohen in September 1942, also a Palestine pioneer. (He was previously married to Miriam Isak, who died in a concentration camp around 1940 - information family Humbert.) They then lived with her parents at Oosterparallelweg 69 in Assen. Together with his wife he tried to escape deportation by going into hiding, this failed.

Harald was arrested in Rotterdam and taken to Camp Westerbork on 19 October 1943, as was Meta. Both were transported the same day to the concentration camp Auschwitz, where Meta was killed shortly after arrival. His parents survived the war and later died in Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Hasselo no. 60

At the Gerhardus Leuveld family nicknamed 'de Kogelboer', at the crossing Bornsedijk-Hesselerweg, now Borne municipality.

Münzer, Walter

Born 28-04-1912 in Berlin, Germany. Must have survived the war.

Parents Max Münzer and Hedwig Dzialowsky.

Walter stayed here from February 1937 to February 1939.

- He came to the Netherlands from Berlin. He was a pioneer of the Deventer Association and stayed before he came to Hasselo in the association building at Brink 70. After his stay in Hasselo he left for the youth hostel 'De Assumburg' in Heemskerk. His father died in 1933, his mother became a victim of the Holocaust. His sister Dorothea survived the war, she left for Palestine. Where Walter went is unknown.

Meijerstein, Herbert

Born 12-06-1922 in Göttingen, Germany. Deceased 30-09-1942 in Auschwitz, Poland. Parents Siegfried Meijerstein, cattle dealer, and Rosa Gans.

Herbert stayed here from June 1939 to January 1940. He was, like Kurt Erich Moser, a pioneer from the agricultural training center the Wieringermeer. Before he came to Hasselo, he also spent a short time on 'De Korenbloem' from the Deventer Association.



After Hasselo he left for Brummen and shortly thereafter again to the Wieringermeer. He later lived in Amsterdam. He was transported via camp Westerbork to the Auschwitz concentration camp on 15 July 1942. His parents were also victims of the Holocaust. His brother Heinz left for Palestine on time and survived the war.

Deurningen no. 17

With the Arnold ten Kate family, the farm was located near the Oude Postweg.

Lesser, Siegmund Theodor

Born 04-08-1916 in Beuthen, Dtsl. now Poland. Deceased 04-07-1990 Kibbutz Gvaram, Israel. Parents Hugo Lesser, timber merchant, and Herta Goldstein. He stayed here, coming from Bussum, from August 1934 to August 1936. Then he left for his parents in Amsterdam.

He was very active in the Dutch Pioneers Association. He later emigrated to Israel and from then on named Shmuel Lesser. He married Josefa Freilich, together they got a son. Later he married Penina Pixler and had two daughters with her. His father died in the Holocaust. His mother, his brother Wolfgang and his sisters Charlotte and Eve survived the war.



Sondheimer, Ewald

Born 16-08-1919 in Neuhof-Fulda, Germany. Deceased 21-11-1996 in Beit Yitzchak, Israel. Parents Nathan Sondheimer, merchant, and Lina Sommer.

He stayed here from October 1936 to April 1938.

Ewald was a pioneer of the Deventer Association.

- He was the youngest of a family of three children. The family left for Hünfeld in 1929 and to Kassel in May 1933. Ewald left for the Netherlands in 1936, the rest of the family followed a year later. He then came to Deurningen as a farmer in October 1936 and then moved to the club building at Brink 70 in Deventer. He became very active with the Hachshara movement. His parents and sister Elli emigrated to Brazil in February 1939. Ewald - who wanted to go to Palestine - and sister Liesel - who had married in Amsterdam - decided to stay in the Netherlands. He lived among others in the 'youth aliyah' the Vondelhof.

Attempts to get an English visa failed, and in the autumn of 1939 he illegally left for Palestine with other pioneers. Ewald, who from then on called Shomo, founded there a kibbutz with them. Here he lived with his wife Hava Eva Levy, whom he knew from the Netherlands and with whom he married in Palestine. After a few years they left for Emek Hefer, where they started their own farm. Their two children were born here. Their farm became a great success and an example for many others. He became active in the political and later leading person in the contacts between German agricultural organizations and Emek Hefer. After he was diagnosed with cancer in 1990, he made a farewell trip with his family through his native Germany.

He died in 1996 in Israel and was buried there. His mother Lina left for Israel in 1952 after the death of her husband and lived with her son Ewald. Sister Liesel Wijnman and her family died in the Holocaust. Sister Elli survived and moved back to Germany in 1957 with her family.



Ebel, Sigismund

Born on 28-07-1915 in Beuthen, Dtsl. now Poland. Has survived the war.

Parents Emil Ebel, insurance agent, and Else Goldstein.

He stayed here from November 1936 to April 1938.

- Sigismund came from London to Deurningen. He left for the club building at Brink 70 in Deventer. From here he went to Klarenbeek near Voorst and later to the youth hostel in 'De Assumburg' in Heemskerk. From May 1939 he worked at the 'youth aliyah' the Vondelhof in Amsterdam, after which he left for Palestine in September 1939.

His family survived the war.

Spitz, David

Born 15-04-1918 in Hilversum. Deceased 30-09-1942 in Central Europe.

Parents Elias Spitz, diamond knot, and Rachel Rabbit.

He stayed here from May 1938 to March 1939.

David was a pioneer of the Deventer Association. In March 1939 he left to his father in Amsterdam. There he worked as a gardener at the 'youth aliyah' the Vondelhof. He married Marcella de Vries and in 1942 he lived with his wife in Wilp municipality Voorst. They were arrested on their flight to the south and ended up in camp Mechelen. They were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp on 1 September 1942, where Marcella was killed shortly after arrival.



Marcella and David

Both victims of the Holocaust, as well as his father, stepmother Lena Hoofien (his mother died in 1921) and his brothers Abraham and Jacobus. His brothers Isaac and Frederik survived and later left for Israel.

Kellner, Hermann

Born 20-05-1921 in Vienna, Austria. Deceased 02-09-1972 in Herzla, Israel.
He stayed here from July 1939 to February 1940.

- He came in January 1939 from Diepoldsau, Germany via the flight school Teuge to the Netherlands. He was a pioneer of the Deventer Association and then lived on 'De Korenbloem' at Papenstraat 45 in Deventer. In February 1939 he left for Wierden and then for Deurningen. After his stay here he left for Dieren. He fled to Palestine via Spain. In 1953 he married Mathilda de Liver from Nijkerk. Further information is not known.

Deurningen no. 21

At the family Herman Heutink, the farm was located near the Oude Postweg.

Russ, Günter

He stayed here, coming from Hummelo and Keppel, from May 1938 to November 1938.

Gammelke no. 6

At the Bosscha family on 'Het Vasterd', now the Gammelkerstraat no. 10.

Eisner, Hans

Born 21-01-1921 Hindenburg, Dtsl. now Poland. Deceased ca. 1950 in Davos, Switzerland.
Parents Hermann Eisner and Friedel Heymann.

- He stayed here from March 1939 to December 1939, then left for Rheden.
In March 1939 Hans came from Spreenhagen via the flight school Teuge to the Netherlands. He was a pioneer of the Deventer Association. He later lived with the Vallinga family in Deventer, the parents of Hennie Smies-Vallinga from Hengelo.

Hans became ill (TBC) after his stay in a German concentration camp. Around October 1945 he was in the sanatorium in Appelscha. In December 1949 he stayed in a sanatorium in Davos, Switzerland. Here he died of pneumonia, probably in the early 1950s. His parents, brother Walter and sister Helene may have survived the war.



Cohen, Emanuel

Born 26-05-1916 in Amsterdam. Deceased 31-03-1944 in Poland.
Parents Levie Cohen, diamond knot, and Elisabeth Esther Salomons.
He stayed here from August 1940 to December 1940.

- Emanuel arrived in February 1936 via Amsterdam to the flying school Teuge.
He was a pioneer of the Deventer Association. In February 1937 he left for Warnsveld and then from January 1938 to June 1940 to Zenderen. After a short stay with his parents he came in August 1940 as a farm boy with the Bosscha family. Then he left again for his parents in Amsterdam. Emanuel came to camp Westerbork on 18 October 1943. He was put on transport the next day to the concentration camp Auschwitz. His father also died in the Holocaust. His mother and brother Louis survived the war.

Balint, Istvan

Born 04-09-1918 in Szeged, Hungary. Deceased 16-04-1943 in Sobibor, Poland.

Parents Imre Balint and Margit Karliva Brummer.

He stayed here from December 1940 to January 1941.

- Istvan came from Hungary in February 1939 via the flight school Teuge in the Netherlands.

He was a Palestine pioneer of the Deventer Association. He stayed in the youth hostel 'De Kleine Haar' in Gorssel until February 1940, a branch of the Deventer Association for foreign refugees.

Then he left for Waddinxveen and then to Hasselo. In July 1941 he left for the Keizerweg 40 in Enschede. Later he lived with his fiancée Wilhelmina Esther Zion in Eibergen. Zion. The whole family decided to go into hiding at different addresses. One of the addresses was with the Kottelenberg family in Eibergen where several Jews were hiding.

Istvan was also housed here together with Julius and Johanna Zion - a brother and sister of Wilhelmina - and the baby of Johanna. In March 1943 an invasion was done on the farm.



Julius and Istvan had almost escaped when Johanna was arrested with her baby. To prevent the Germans from finding them all, Istvan emerged from his hiding place. They were all taken to the barracks in Neede and from there to Westerbork. Istvan came to camp Westerbork on March 27 - penal barrack 66. He was deported on 13 April 1943 to the Sobibor concentration camp. He became a victim of the Holocaust, his fiancée survived the war.

Klein Driene no. 8

At the Hasselerharm-Luierink family, at the Oldenzaalsestraat near 'Chinatuin'. The only Catholic farmer where pioneers stayed. All other farmers were Dutch Reformed.

Hirschfeld, Werner Ernst Israel

Born 26-04-1920 in Breslau, Dtsl. now Poland. Deceased 16-3-1986 te Israël.

Parents Willi Hirschfeld and Erna Peiser.

He stayed here from March 1939 to January 1940.

- Werner went to Havelberg, Germany for training as a Palestine pioneer. On

On 8 March 1939 he came from Spreenhagen to the flight school Teuge. He was a pioneer of the Deventer Association. From there, he went to Kleine Driene nine days later as an agricultural worker. After his stay here he left for Velp. Between 1941 and January 1943 he worked on a farm in Almelo, where he felt reasonably safe. During raids he went into hiding with the farmer's family. In January 1943 he left for a hiding place in Friesland. In January 1944 the risk of betrayal was too great and he left for Amsterdam. From here he would flee to Spain with a group, but they were arrested in Utrecht. After a short stay in the SS prison in Scheveningen they were deported to Westerbork. Here he escaped in March with the help of other Palestine pioneers. Via the flight route of Max Windmüller he arrived after a trip through the Pyrenees on 4 April 1944 in the Spanish town of Lérida. His passport was in the name of Willem Henskens. In November 1944 he left with the ship 'Guinea' to Palestine.

His name and date of birth were on the deportation list of 3 March 1944, with destination Auschwitz. On the basis of these administrative data, Mr. Hirschfeld was officially declared dead by the Ministry of Justice after the war. In 1958 it appeared that Mr Hirschfeld had escaped deportation and lived in Israel when he applied for a declaration of persecution through a lawyer at the Information Office of the Dutch Red Cross. His mother died in the Holocaust, his brother Heinz survived the war.



Verdere Deventer pioniers.

There are some more pioneers who have lived here according to information from Deventer, but their address I can not find.

Nassenheimer, Kurt

Born 04-08-1920 Hamburg, Germany. Has survived the war.

- He stayed, coming from Weerselo, from late June 1939 to mid July 1939 in 'De Korenbloem'. Then he left for Palestine.

Berger, Albert

Born 03-05-1919 in Bonn, Germany. Deceased 21-02-1944 in Auschwitz-Monowitz, Poland. Parents Salomon Berger and Elisabeth Berger.

Albert later lived in Siegburg. He was in Sachsenhausen concentration camp until the end of December 1938 and came from Bielefeld in January 1939 to the Netherlands via the Teuge flight school. Then in February 1939 he went to Almelo. He was a Palestine pioneer of the Deventer Association. He stayed in Weerselo (address unknown) from the beginning of October 1939 and left for 'De Korenbloem' in Deventer in mid-November 1939. He lived from April to September 1941 in Assen, together with Max Windmuller, Schraga Engel and Harald Simon. Then he left for the Veldbeekweg in Enschede.



Albert arrived in Camp Westerbork - barracks 58 and 64 on 3 October 1942. On 14 September 1942 he was transported from Westerbork camp to the External Command Auschwitz III-Monowitz. Here the prisoners were employed in the huge Buna factory complex of the German chemicals company IG Farben. His brothers Adolf and Herman left for Israel and survived the war.

Tansz, Janö

Born 30-07-1918? in Pöpayör, Hungary.

He came from Budapest on 16 June 1938 to the association building at the Brink 70 in Deventer and left for Deurningen a week later. Nothing else is known about him.

Of the 36 Palestine pioneers in total who have lived in the municipality of Weerselo, 25 have survived the war. This was partly due to the fact that they were young, strong and well organized.

Mariët Blokhuis

Sources:

1. Bevolkingsregister gemeente Weerselo/Dinkelland.
2. Max Windmüller 1920-1945 - Prof. Klaus Meyer-Dettum Ghetto Fighters House Archives
3. Eike Besuden (regisseur): 'Deckname Cor - Die dramatische Geschichte des Max Windmüllers' (Pinguin Film); zie www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvNDwpDLB0k en www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbIpyFqM9rM en
4. Jonge idealisten op het Assense Zeijerveld - Jan Ridderbos.
5. Ety Hillesum Centrum te Deventer - Herman Vrielink
6. communityjoodsmonument.nl en Ghetto Fighters House archives
7. Oriëntatie adressen onderduikers: Gerrit Welberg, Jan Aarninkhof en Annie Kamphuis-Aarninkhof.



Palestine pioneers on the roof of the Beth Chaloets house in Deventer.
no. 1 Max Windmüller, 2 Werner Hirschfeld, 3 Albert Berger, 4 Harald Simon



Palestine pioneers in Assen, together with Jewish girls from Assen.
no. 1 Harald Simon, 2 Hans Eisner, 3 Max Windmüller en 4 Schrage Engel.

This information can also be found on <http://www.communityjoodsmonument.nl>