

Subject: ALFRED GOLDSTEEN

**GOLDSTEEN family:**

**Background:**

In Müntz (Germany) on 06-03-1905 George Goldsteen (Hebrew name Gershon ben Abraham, b. 19-06-1878 in Amsterdam, d. 01-08-1934 in Lutterade, Dutch Limburg) married Carolina Mendel (also spelled Caroline and Karolina or Lina for short, Hebrew name Keilche bat Aaron HaKohen, b. 06-07-1880 in Tetz früher Jülich, d. 22-10-1943, gassed in Auschwitz).

They moved to Kohlscheid almost immediately, where they started a drapery business. Their son Alfred (Hebrew name Abraham ben Gershon, b. 06-02-1906, murdered in Mauthausen 10-04-1945 = 27 Nissan in Hebrew calendar = Yom HaShoah = Jewish Date to remember the Holocaust) was born there, as was his brother Carl (also spelled Karl or Karel, b. 01-07-1908, d. 07-06-2005 in Ottawa, Canada).

**Alfred:**

Alfred and Carl were brothers as well as best friends. They did a lot together but it would take up too much space to relate all the stories Carl told me. He always told me how practical and ingenious Alfred was.

In Aachen Alfred and Carl with their classmates formed the "Bund jüdischer Schüler und Schülerinnen Aachen" to be able to participate in social activities, as they were barred from joining clubs and the like, because they were Jews.

This "Bund" organised hikes through the Eifel and after they finished their schooling they organised their own hikes together with friends and their cousin Arthur Goldsteen

When they had moved to Vaals Alfred was obliged to serve in the Dutch Army. However instead of serving the required amount of time in one go, he volunteered to do short bursts of service. After he completed his duties in this way he continued as a volunteer right up until he was called up in 1939 for the general mobilisation.

In Holland he had various jobs, always selling something. In Rotterdam he was employed by a motorcycle shop, in Amsterdam he sold records in his uncle's business and in Nijmegen he worked for a company making recordings on 78 rpm for the general public.

He met his future wife Tine Hoen in 1933 at a boating event. They married on 27 November 1935 in The Hague. His father-in-law had hired him into his private health insurance company, where he worked until he had to fire him, because Nazi law forbade Aryan companies to employ Jews. I can't find the information right now, but I think it was during 1942.

When they lived in Voorburg, their backyard ended up on the river (actually a canal, called "de Vliet"). In that garden he built a "wherry", a fast row-boat, that enabled them to go on holidays, with and without friends, trekking on Holland's numerous waters and using accommodation in some bridge- or lock-master's house. He began to design a sailing yacht but the war intervened and he never finished the design. They did rent yachts, mostly in Friesland, for sailing holidays.

Alfred was exempt from forced labour in Germany, although I don't know why. He was also exempt from deportation because he was married to a non-Jewish woman. The J stamped in his "Ausweis" clearly identified him as a Jew and it was with this Ausweis he went to Amsterdam on 13-10-1942, as instructed in a letter by the Zentralstelle für jüdische Auswanderung Amsterdam (signed by I.A. aus der Fünfen, SS-Hauptsturmführer). It was stamped on that date with the usual "Inhaber dieses Ausweises ist bis auf weiteres vom Arbeitseinsatz freigestellt", also signed and stamped by "Der Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD für die besetzten niederländische

Gebiete" in Den Haag. As the date of issue of that Ausweis was 01-09-1941 I assume that was also the date on which the large "J" was stamped on it.

He had meanwhile begun to work for the underground, to find hiding places for both Jews and Gentiles. In order to be able to travel by public transport he needed a false Ausweis that did not show him as a Jew. He got this from an old Army buddy and had a Jewish photographer mount his own photo on it.

Alas on 14 Februari 1944 two Dutch Nazis accompanied by a German soldier checked papers on the train he was travelling on to Amsterdam. One of the Dutch Nazis saw that his Ausweis was falsified and put him under the guard of the German soldier while the Dutch continued checking. The soldier told him "I would let you go, but those two damned Nazis ....". He spent the night at a Dutch police station in Amsterdam, was then taken by two Dutch police officers to my grandparents' home in The Hague, where my mother had moved already in January. He was allowed to collect some personal belongings and say goodbye.

The police then took him to the large prison in Scheveningen (known as the "Oranje Hotel", because it contained mostly Dutch people who remained loyal to their Royal Family of the House of Oranje). There they discovered he was a Jew.

Six weeks after his arrest he was taken to the Westerbork transit camp, where he remained until September 1944, when he was deported on the last train from that camp to Auschwitz. He was evacuated from there on or about 25 January 1945 and brought to the Mauthausen complex satellite camp of Gusen where he was employed by the Messerschmidt company on the grounds he had claimed to be an "auto Schlosser and mechaniker" (which he wasn't, but he was very handy).

He became ill from hunger oedema and was taken to the sick bay at Mauthausen on 10/04/1945. Once inside he was practically beaten to death by the Kapo, who had brought him there, and left him for dead. Later that day, when it was discovered he was still alive, a fellow inmate (Polish and possibly with some medical skills) entered the barrack and injected him with air, which killed him almost instantly. There are conflicting testimonies as to where he was actually killed, either in Gusen or Mauthausen, however the scenario I just provided resolves these conflicts and so this is the most likely way it happened.

*October 2015, George Goldsteen*