

Tole Johannes (Rob) Madna

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June 8, 1931 - Tole Johannes Hendricus (Rob) Madna born in The Hague, The Netherlands

1936 - Rob's parents, Tole and Johanna divorced. Johanna lived across the street from a Jewish family, Gitel and Simcha Munzer, and their daughters Eva and Leah and baby son, Alfred. Rob would visit the Munzers frequently.

May 1940 - Germany invaded The Netherlands

September 1942 - Gitel Munzer asked Johanna to take Alfred. Johanna put him with her sister for one month but because there was a Dutch Nazi neighbor she took him to be hidden in Tole Madna's house. The other Munzers went into hiding at other locations

October 1942 to May 1945 - Mima Saina, an Indonesian nanny, raised Alfred. Rob and his sisters felt very close to the baby. Alfred remained in the house and the children did not speak of him to others.

September 1944 to May 1945 - Winter of Hunger, no food or heat. People cut down trees and ate tulip bulbs. Allied air raids and food drops towards the end of the war.

May 4, 1945 - Liberation by the British Army.

Gitel Munzer returned, stayed with Madnas until 1946. Her husband and 2 daughters did not survive.

Post war - Rob went to high school, became a musician, then a high school math teacher. and is now a professor of music.

Alfred Munzer has kept in contact with the Madnas, by letters and visits. Was very close to Tole, the only father Alfred had known, and came to Tole's funeral in the Netherlands when he died at age 96.

Rob came to Washington on April 14, 2002 for his family to be honored by Adas Israel Synagogue.