

Jonas Kessler (1908-1942)



Born on 24.03.1908 in Cologne

Son of Sara and Isaak Kessler, residing in Cologne, Karthäuserhof 8

Jonas attended a high school and became a merchant. It was a successful boxer, member of the Jewish sports club Makkabi

Marriage of a non-Jewish woman, two children

1944 shot dead in Plaszow

Hilde Langen writes about her father Jonas Kessler:

»Soon after the National Socialists came to power, they began to suffer; the couple was no longer allowed to have any relationship with each other; this had been a punishable offence since the Nuremberg Laws. They separated themselves and their children by a false separation, a meeting was now only possible in secret and under danger. Jonas was also no longer allowed to do his job and was particularly desperate that he could no longer support his family. In 1938, the day after the " Reichskristallnacht ", he fled with the Jewish members of his family via Belgium to Poland. Their journey led to the ghetto in Warsaw. Finally he came to the work camp Plaszow near Krakow known from the movie "Schindlers Liste", there he was shot on 05.08.1944. For me, his daughter, the world collapsed when he appeared on 10.11.1938 at the gate of the schoolyard, waved me out and said to me: "I can't find the mother, the whole family has to leave today. Promise me that you will always be kind and good" - as I know today - said goodbye to me forever.«

(Text and photos, Hilde Langen) <https://museenkoeln.de/ns-dokumentationszentrum/default.aspx?s=2523&sfrom=1196&stid=535&buchstabe=K> (translated by Klaus Hasbron-Blume)

source: NS-Dokumentationszentrum der Stadt Köln (NS-DOK), online documentation on stumbling blocks (Stolpersteine) - here: Stolperstein Jonas Kessler;
https://www.wikiwand.com/de/Liste_der_Stolpersteine_im_K%C3%B6lner_Stadtteil_Altstadt-S%C3%BCd