

Helene Mayer, was born on 09.10.1904 in Berlin, Barbararossa St. 32. She was the only daughter of Selma Mayer, née Giesenow, and Hugo Mayer.

Helene Mayer lived with her parents Hugo and Selma Mayer in Barbarossa Str. until she emigrated to Palestina in 1936 without her parents.

Helene Golomb née Mayer grew up in Berlin during the Wilhelmine period. At the end of the 1st World War she was 14 years old. In the 20s she got her car driver's license in Berlin, something that was certainly not a matter of course for women at that time. If you talked to her about the Berlin of the 20s, she mentioned the theater performances she liked to attend. But she was also interested in Zionism. In 1936 she left Germany via Italy without her parents and reached the then British Mandate of Palestine (today Israel) on a tourist visa.

Her Father Hugo Mayer was a merchant and owned a metal goods factory and stamping shop since 1906, initially at Oranienstraße 34, and since the 1920s at Köpenickerstraße 114 in Berlin-Luisenstadt (today Kreuzberg). The "Metallwarenfabrik und Stanzerei Hugo Mayer" produced pressed, drawn, stamped articles using "electroplating, soldering eyelet tinning, and increasingly construction components and accessory parts for the emerging radio and broadcasting industry. It was a widely known specialty company that also exported to European countries.

Her mother, Selma Mayer was instrumental in the factory management. She handled commercial matters on her own responsibility and had power of attorney. Her duties included bookkeeping, payroll, canvassing customers and taking orders. She also negotiated with banks.

From 1933 onwards, Selma and Hugo Mayer were increasingly exposed to harassment as Jews, as was their company, due to its Jewish ownership. Hugo Mayer was therefore forced to sell the factory on July 28, 1936. Payment of the purchase price was immediately blocked by the Berlin-Schöneberg tax office.

After immigrating to Palestina in 1936, she settled down in Tel-Aviv, where she met in 1937 Mordechai Max Golomb, born in Lodz on 13.3.1897, but moved with his parents and family to Wuerzburg as a small child and was raised there. Max Golomb was a merchant in the steel industry and worked with companies in Germany, France, South Africa and Holland, until he decided 1934 to immigrate to Palestina and became member of the Darom Yehuda bus cooperative, which merged 1950 with Egged.

Helene Mayer married Max Golomb in Tel Aviv on 29.4.1937. They lived in an apartment in Motzkin Blvd. Their son Gabriel Menahem Golomb was born in Tel Aviv on 18.09.1946.

After their marriage Helene and Max Golomb, on their honeymoon voyage, they met Helene's parents Hugo and Selma Mayer in Rome, Italy, to convince them to come also to Palestine, but they could not imagine leaving for Israel because they saw insurmountable difficulties in rebuilding their factory there. Instead, in 1938, they emigrated as political refugees via Italy to Brussels, Belgium.

There Hugo Mayer and his wife hoped to start a new factory. Helene corresponded with her parents living in Brussels until 1942 and since then she hasn't heard anything from them. After end of the second world war in 1945, she found out that they arrested in Brussels because they were Jews, and on Sept. 10, 1942, they were taken to the assembly camp at the Dossin barracks in Mechelen (Malines), Belgium. On 12.09.1942 they were deported from the assembly camp with transport IX to Koźle (Kozel), today Poland, and from there to Auschwitz-Birkenau and murdered.

In 1950 Helene and Max Golomb moved to a neighboring city Holon. She had a good command of English, used to read daily the Jerusalem Post and Readers Digest and had a pen pal in Illinois with whom she corresponded.

She did not want any contact with Germany after she learned that her parents were murdered by the Nazis in the holocaust. But in 1979, after receiving an invitation from the Senate of Berlin to her 75 years anniversary, she decided to visit her former home town again and found out how Germany looks today.

From that time onwards she liked to visit the Black Forrest and the grave of her grandparents in Bernkastel an der Mosel, Leo and Marianne Mayer, who had married in Bernkastel on 10/28/1859 and were buried in the Jewish cemetery in Bernkastel in 1909.

Later on, from 1993 until 1998 she lived for 5 years in Bad Godesberg, a city that she knew already in her childhood, because she had a cousin there to visit, together with her son, who served as an economic attachee at the Israeli Embassy in Bonn, and his family.

September 1998 She returned to Israel with her son and his family.

She died on 26.03.1999 at the age of 94 in Holon and was buried next to her husband Max Golomb who died in 1981.