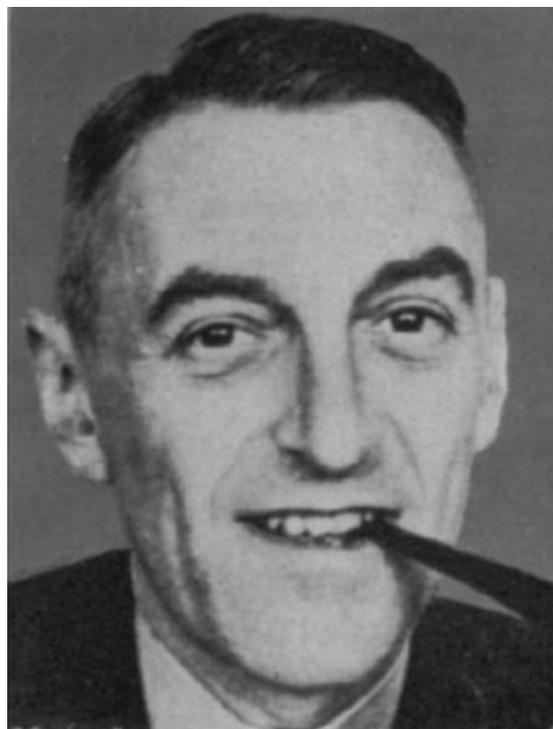


Wolfstraat 8

Edmond Houtappel

A Wine Merchant Educated in Bordeaux

Edmond Houtappel, a vintner from Maastricht, and his wife Maria live at the Franciscus Romanusweg in Wyck, Maastricht. When the Germans claim their house, they move with their daughter Maddy to the family's wholesale business at Wolfstraat 8. Edmond is reserve captain in the 13th regiment infantry of the Dutch army and is supervisor of the border guards in Wahlwiller. In his military function, he photographs the terrain of the German troops. His brother in law passes these pictures on to the Belgian consul in Maastricht. "After the German invasion in the Netherlands, Edmond becomes an active member of the LO (the Dutch organization that offers help to persons in hiding) via his neighbour Giel Ummels. Houtappel aids in the search for possible shelters and provides distribution stamps," Ms. M. Frijns-Ummels – his neighbor's wife – explains later on.



More and More Persons in Hiding

The basements of the Houtappels and the Ummels family are connected to each other in order for their 'secret guests' to escape in case of emergency. By no means an unnecessary luxury, it appears: in 1944, the number of persons in hiding, assisted by the LO, has grown to approximately a thousand persons. Each month, about 20.000 Gulden (Dutch currency) is being paid as aid payments. In addition, the LO

finds a special fund meant to ransom resistance fighters who are captured by the SIPO. This fund becomes the motivation for Ms. Zeguers-Boere's betrayals. She betrays the resistance and in return, she gets to keep the money that the resistance gathered for the freedom of its comrades. Her betrayal is unexpected: with her husband sent to Germany as a prisoner of war only four years before and a Jewish refuge in her own house, the resistance fighters considered her trustworthy.

German Parties at the Van Heylerhofflaan

Ms. Zeguers-Boere regularly organizes parties for German soldiers and prostitutes at her home on the Van Heylerhofflaan and engages in illegal trade and smuggling practices. In December 1941, she moves to Servaasklooster 37, where she is arrested under suspicion of activity on the black market. Unexpectedly, her imprisonment turns out to be anything but unfortunate. During the months she is held captive, she starts a relationship with Max Ströbel, the head of the Sicherheitspolizei (SIPO) in Maastricht. In the eyes of the resistance movement, this relationship seems an ideal cover for her activity on the black market – a cover which Ms. Zeguers-Boere is more than happy to use in her own advantage. Eventually, it becomes clear that Ms. Zeguers-Boere uses this fake cover to betray nearly all members of the resistance.

Edmond Dies in Neuengamme

As a result of Ms. Zeguers-Boere's actions, 50 people are arrested on May 9th and 10th in 1944. Among them are Edmond Houtappel, his wife Maria Houtappel and fellow resistance fighter Giel Ummels and his wife Truike, who are all imprisoned at the Minderbroedersberg. Three weeks after their arrest, Mrs. Houtappel and Mrs. Ummels are released. Their

husbands, however, will not survive the betrayal of Ms. Zeguers-Boere. Giel Ummels is murdered on December 2, 1944, in concentration camp Sachsenhausen. Edmond Houtappel is murdered in concentration camp Neuengamme, on November 24, 1944.