

Stationsstraat 31

Victor Hertzdahl

A Business Man from Sittard

Victor Hertzdahl is born in Sittard on August 3, 1887. Once grown up, he becomes the director Wolf & Hertzdahl clothing company. Together with his brother Sylvain, he is responsible for the stores in Heerlen, Maastricht and Sittard as well as the company's design studio.



After his marriage with Marie Hertzdahl in 1919, he starts a family at Stationsstraat 31 where they live with their children, Thilly and Karel. In the late 1930s, when the atmosphere in Limburg worsens, Victor considers fleeing to America with his family. Though he has the chance, he decides to stay in Maastricht either way, primarily because he does not want to abandon the staff of his company – especially with the eye on the difficult circumstances the city is in. On May 21, 1942, Victor is arrested by the Sicherheitspolizei.

He is one of the first ten Jews to be arrested in Limburg – primarily for their wealth. Their arrest is a direct and exaggerated consequence of an earlier protest action: the removal of a sign reading "No Jews" in the Maastricht city park. Victor's family desperately tries to get him out of prison, but the Sicherheitsdienst (SD) is only willing to let Victor go if his son Karel takes his place. Victor refuses. Two months after his arrest on July 16th, 1942, he is transported from camp Amersfoort to camp Westerbork to Auschwitz. In Auschwitz, Victor is killed on the 30th of September 1942, at the age of 55.

Marie Survives Auschwitz

Victor's wife and children try to flee to Switzerland in vain. Instead, they go to Brussels, where they are betrayed. The children manage to escape and go into hiding in Smeermaas (Belgium) but Marie is deported through Camp Mechelen (the Dossin Barracks) to Auschwitz-Birkenau (II) on April 19th, 1943. Miraculously, she survives the hardships in Auschwitz and is reunited with her children Thilly and Karel after the war.