

## Van der Voort, Hanna

Dutch woman who rescued Jewish children during World War II.

During the Holocaust, van der Voort and a man named Nico Dohmen were associated with a widespread underground network. The two worked together to find hiding places for 123 Jewish children in the southern Netherlands. Dohmen and van der Voort organized both temporary and permanent safe havens for the children in private homes. In addition, they transferred the children from place to place when they were in danger of being discovered. The underground provided funds for the children, and stole food coupons for them from the Germans. Dohmen acted as a messenger between the underground and the families who were providing refuge. He kept in close contact with the children, and became very familiar and devoted to them, acting as sort of a substitute father. He spent much time trying to cheer them and give them hope.

Van der Voort's activities were eventually discovered by the Germans. She was arrested and tortured, but she refused to slip any information about her co-workers or their activities. The brutal treatment she received in jail permanently damaged her health. Both she and Dohmen were designated as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem.