

Vught

Transit camp for Jews, located in the southern part of the Netherlands, which was established in late 1942. The first Jewish prisoners arrived at Vught in January 1943. By May there were 8,684 Jews in the camp, plus a number of non-Jewish prisoners. The conditions at Vught were quite bad until David Cohen of the Dutch Judenrat intervened; at that point, the living and sanitary conditions at the camp improved to a certain degree.

From April 1943 the male prisoners at Vught were sent to work outside the camp. The rest of the prisoners worked at Vught itself, where they manufactured furs and clothing. Some 1,200 prisoners were employed at workshops of the Philips company; this was considered the best place to work, as the company insisted that its Jewish workers be given better living conditions and a hot meal every day, and made sure that they were not deported.

Throughout the transit camp's existence, prisoners at Vught were transferred to the Westerbork camp, from which they were deported to their deaths at Auschwitz and Sobibor. The last group of Jews deported from Westerbork included the prisoners from Vught who had worked at Philips; ultimately, despite its efforts, the company was unable to save its Jewish employees.