

Hague, the

The seat of the Dutch Government.

The Germans occupied the Netherlands in 1940; at that time, 18,000 Jews lived in The Hague. The Germans set up their main government offices in The Hague, meaning that the city's Jews were dealt with directly by the Jewish affairs department of the Reich Security Main Office (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt*, RSHA). Thus, the Jews were treated especially badly: as early as September 1940, about 2,000 Jews who did not hold Dutch citizenship were forced to leave the city.

The Germans began deporting the city's Jews in August 1942. About 4,000 were ordered to travel to the Dutch transit camp at Westerbork, but only 1,200 appeared. The Germans then began arresting Jews in their homes. Large-scale deportations began again in January 1943. In April 1943 many Jews from The Hague were sent to the camp at Vught. Altogether, 15,000 Jews from The Hague were deported to Nazi camps, and only a few survived. About 2,000 Jews remained in hiding in The Hague. Jews married to non-Jews were drafted for forced labor instead of being deported.