

## **Wolfstraat 12**

### **Familie Karels**

#### **The Sad Story of a Textile Salesman's Family**

Max Karels is married to Paulien Hertz, with whom he runs a shop in textiles and sewing material at Wolfstraat 12, where the two of them live with their sons Julien (nickname Jules) and Louis Robert. Julien works as a shop assistant and Louis Robert is waste sorter. On October 2, 1942, the Karels family is arrested. Max, Paulien and Julien are all sent to Auschwitz on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, 1942, where all of them are murdered directly after their arrival. Only Louis Robert lives one month longer: he is deported to Auschwitz on November 16, 1943, where he is also murdered upon arrival on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 1943.

#### **Deportation**

Louis Karels, Max's brother, lives at the Zakstraat, number 6. He makes a living by selling fruits and vegetables on the market. Louis is divorced from the Roman Catholic Maria van der Venne, with whom he has a son named Edmond. Though his father is arrested together with a group of Limburg Jews, Edmond escapes arrest due to the Catholic faith of his mother. He stays with her throughout the war and survives.

His father is less fortunate: on August 25, 1942, Louis arrives in Auschwitz via Westerbork. In Auschwitz he is murdered on August 31, 1942. All known information about the Karels family comes from Max and Louis's cousin, Carla Pirnay-Karels. Her parents flee with the 18-months-old Carla to the South of France and then to Switzerland. In 1945, the family returns to Belgium, when Carla is six years old.

