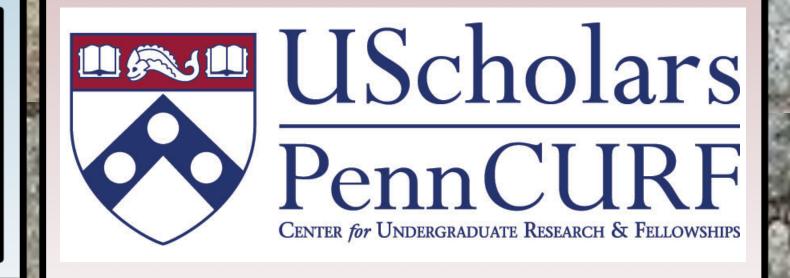


The [Re]habilitation, [Re]integration, and [Re]membrance of Holocaust Survivors in Post-World War II France



Historical Context

At the onset of the German Occupation of France in June 1940, the Jewish population in metropolitan France was composed of approximately 330,000 individuals. Two distinct groups comprised this population; 200,000 individuals were French citizens, while the remaining 130,000 were foreigners fleeing their home countries. These foreigners immigrated mainly from Russia, Romania, Poland, and the Mediterranean coastal states in the earlier waves of immigration, and from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia in the later immigration waves. Of the 200,000 Jews holding French citizenship, half had been residing in France for multiple generations, and were classified as les Israélites. The other half included naturalized immigrants and their native-born children.

Under the collaboration of France's Vichy government with the Nazi regime during World War II, it is estimated that 75,721 Jews were deported from France. Approximately 11,000 were children, 2,000 of whom were less than 6 years old. Only 2,564 individuals, or 3% of deportees from France, survived the war and returned from the camps. Although France represents one of countries with the highest survival rates of Jews during the Holocaust, it is nonetheless important to remember the lives of the individuals who were deported to concentration camps and murdered as a direct result of the collaboration of France's Vichy government with the Nazi regime.

Following the liberation of the camps, French deportees returning "home" were subjected to harsh realities in numerous regards. Upon their return, many Jews discovered that their apartments, businesses, and possessions had been expropriated by the Nazis or sold to non-Jewish French civilians. Not only were the deportees forced to grapple with the immense psychological trauma resulting from their grueling experiences in the camps and the loss of their loved ones, but in addition, many of them were now left with no choice other than to rebuild their lives from the ground up, with absolutely nothing in hand. The Holocaust survivors' ability to reconstruct their lives under such unimaginable circumstances serves as the ultimate representation of determination and resilience in the face of adversity.

Significance

- It was only in 1995 that French President Jacques Chirac acknowledged France's responsibility in the deportation of Jews to concentration camps during the Holocaust.
- According to a study conducted by the Claims Conference in 2020, 25% of French adults aged 18-39 surveyed had never seen or heard the word Shoah (Holocaust).
- Another 2020 study by the Claims Conference revealed that 63% of Americans aged 18-39 surveyed did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.
- Antisemitic acts have been rising in France (and globally)
- The number of living Holocaust survivors is dwindling each day. Now more than ever, it is critical that we shed light on the significance of first-person accounts of the Holocaust and ensure that they are being transmitted to future generations, so that history does not repeat itself.



Dana Raphael (COL 2022)

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Timeline of Key Events

ationality, as being born of

July 17, 1940

Opening of the Drancy

just 11 km north of Paris.

August 1941

Law restricting the medical French nationality, born of a French father or naturalized prior to 1927.

Roundup of 743 notable

esided in France for

enerations – including

doctors, lawyers, engineers,

businessmen, intellectuals

Dec. 12, 1941

sraélites" - Jews who had

August 16, 1940

1st Law on the Status of Jews Jews are excluded from public service (e.g. state, army, education) and media

October 3, 1940

round-up in Paris - 3,700 ithiviers and Beaune-la-Roland transit camps.

La rafle du Billet Vert - First

May 14, 1941

stipulating that businesses or property belonging to absent or arrested Jews would now belong to the governmen

July 22, 1941

Law requiring Jews to have the label "Jew" affixed to

their identity cards.

July 22, 1940 Sept. 27, 1940

aw revising naturalizations otained since 1927: out o stateless, including about

Census and affixing of lewish business" signs o

enactment of a law the occupied zone from

The SS authorities are

arresting all Jews.

charged with searching and

June 1942

April 1941

Opening of Pithiviers and Beaune-la-Rolande (French transit camps), situated 76 km and 104 km from Paris

June 2, 1941

which 13,152 individuals, among whom were 4,115 children and 5,919 women, were arrested and sent to Vel d'Hiv before being deported, the majority of whom to Auschwitz.

Vel d'Hiv Roundup – largest roundup

of French Jews from Paris – during

July 16-17, 1942

Dec. 11, 1942

August 20, 1941

2nd roundup of 4,200 men from the 11th arrondissement in Paris.

May 29, 1942

Law obliging all Jews over the age of 6 in the occupied zone to wear the Star of David on their clothing in

July 8, 1942

'Jews are prohibited from frequenting to the public.... Jews may not enter or stores and craft stores, or have their urchases made by others, except rom 3-4 p.m."

Nov. 11, 1942

The Nazis invade the "Free Zone" in the south of

RÉSERVÉ AUX ENFANTS









From Liberation to Post-War Period





Holocaust Remembrance













PLUS DE 500 ENFANTS VIVAIENT DANS LE 4^{ème} ARRONDISSEMENT, PARMI EUX LES ÉLÈVES DE CETTE ECOLE

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Survivor Testimonies

« C'est pour eux que je témoigne. Pour pas qu'on les oublie... qu aurait pu être là... qui sont morts... qui ont été assassinés... tout ça parce qu'ils sont juifs. » (Arlette Testyler, 8 septembre 2022).

"It's for them that I testify. So that we don't forget them... those who could have been here... who died... who were assassinated... all because they were Jewish." (Arlette Testyler, September 8, 2022).

« On ne voulait pas nous entendre. On ne voulait pas nous écouter

France it was very hard." (Arlette Testyler, September 8, 2

parler. En France c'était très dur. » (Arlette Testyler, 8 septembre 2022) "No one wanted to hear us. No one wanted to listen to us speak. In