

English summaries

A Document: Maître Lucien Vidal-Naquet's Journal

P. VIDAL-NAQUET

The author here gives us a brief biography of his father, Lucien Vidal-Naquet, a lawyer, and presents the journal he kept from September 1942 to February 1944. On May 15, 1944, Lucien Vidal-Naquet was deported to the internment camps of Baumettes, Drancy, and finally to Auschwitz, never to return. Lucien Vidal-Naquet was a "dejudaised Jewish bourgeois" (as wrote Raymond Aron) and a French patriot appalled by the armistice and the Vichy regime. Prevented from practicing law from 1942 on, he refused to flee a danger the seriousness of which he fully appreciated.

July-September 1942. Differences within the Nazi Police System in the Implementation of the Final Solution in France

S. KLARSFELD

Lawyer and author of many books and essays on deportation, S. Klarsfeld reconstructs in minute detail the tensions that divided the various German officials in charge in the Summer of 1942 of implementing the policy of extermination of Jews from France.

The Camps of Southern France: From Internment to Deportation

A. GRYNBERG

An estimated 40 000 Jews were imprisoned in the internment camps of Southern France in the month of February 1941. Owing to liberations and emigration, this number decreased to 10 000 in July 1942, of which 4 000 were deported, never to return, in August 1942. This study examines the demands of the German authorities, the role of the Vichy government, and the changes in French public opinion when massive deportation began.

An Alternative View: The Gypsies' Case in German Camps

H. ASSEO

It is not possible, in the present state of research, to draw up a full picture of the fate of Gypsies in occupied Europe, especially in France. In this paper, the author compares testimonies from mostly French deportees with that of Gypsies, and places such testimonies in the context of known SS administrative routines. She concludes that Gypsies, as they were labeled on the basis of genealogical information, never had a clear status in the extermination system, and that the SS re-labeled individuals accor-

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ding to criteria proper to each camp. Thus, Gypsies gave the SS the opportunity of experimenting with genetic criteria, a project which did not fully mature before the German defeat.

The Final Solution and the French Paradox

M. STEINBERG

Although the French state embraced the new order and its antisemitic program, only a quarter of the Jewish population of France was exterminated, as opposed to a half in Belgium and three quarters in the Netherlands. The author proposes an interpretation of this French paradox.

The "Final Solution" and the Hunt for Jews in France

R. THALMANN

How is it that, after the Wannsee conference set in motion the "Final Solution", Heydrich and the French undersecretary of State could conclude that the French would not oppose the deportation of the Jews? To answer this question, R. Thalmann analyzes three sets of data: the expulsion of Third Reich refugees, the gathering of information on individual Jews as well as the census of the Jewish population, and the first large roundups in 1941. Her analysis demonstrates that the Franco-German cooperation and synchronization both exceeded and facilitated the satisfaction of German demands. Using contemporary German documents, the author reveals that the Vichy Government had the means to limit and possibly even cancel German initiatives.

The Specificity of France in the Persecutions on the Jews, 1942

R. O. PAXTON

France's special place in the Nazi extermination of the Jews was shaped by: 1) a long-standing struggle between two concepts of citizenship (by roots and by contract); 2) the application of the Franco-German armistice; 3) the Nazi policy of expulsion (not yet extermination) in 1940-1941 when Vichy's own anti-Jewish policy was being put in place. Vichy's voluntary dispatch of Jews from an unoccupied area into Nazi hands in 1942 was one of only four such cases in Hitler's Europe. Although Vichy was isolated geographically from the pogroms in which Hungarian and Romanian troops participated on the Russian front in 1941, the Vichy government made less effort in 1944 to stop the deportations of Jews from its soil than did Admiral Horthy and Marshal Antonescu.

The French Resistance and the Jews

D. CORDIER

The author tells the story of two Resistance fighters: one of them, Jean Moulin, belonged to the anti-racist left; the other, the author himself, was connected to the anti-semitic extreme right. When they met on August 1, 1942, the author became Jean Moulin's assistant in the underground. The author relates here how he responded to the shocking antisemitic persecutions of the Summer of 1942, and he analyzes the definite impact these persecutions had not only on French public opinion but also on his own.

Memories: The Yellow Star

H. SZWARC

A biting account of the ways in which a young worker defied danger and thumbed his nose at the French police and the Germans.

**The Catholic Conscience and the Persecution of the Jews:
The Commitment of Lyonnais Theologians, 1941-1942**

B. COMTE

As of 1941, the persecution of the Jews prompted a movement of protest and solidarity in certain catholic circles of Lyon, a movement that increased during the Summer 1942. Certain aspects of this movement are already known: the battle of the clandestine Cahiers du Témoignage chrétien against antisemitism, the activity of the "Christian fellowship", and the attitude of cardinal Gerlier, Lyons' archbishop. After 1941, other Lyonnais theologians, notably the Sulpician Louis Richard, participated in the fight against antisemitism by covertly distributing publications. By analyzing several of these texts, written between June 1941 and October 1942, the author explains how catholic theologians progressively freed themselves from traditional antisemitism when dealing with such questions as the "mystery of Israel" or the "Jewish question".

1942: Which Sort of Change in French Public Opinion?

P. LABORIE

After a long period of public silence and indifference, 1942 undoubtedly reflects a significant turning point in reaction to the Jews' fate. The public was shocked by the summer roundups, and stimulated by the open protests of some religious authorities. With the Jews increasingly perceived as victims rather than criminals, operations targeted at rescuing the Jews became more efficient. Such operations should therefore be understood as part of a larger public opinion trend. Yet the many ambiguous perceptions and conflicting behaviors that persisted call into question the true significance of 1942.

Memories: Pieces of a Jigsaw Puzzle

S. ACHACHE-WIZNITZER

A child at the time of the war, the author describes the network of mutual assistance through which she was saved and evokes the difficulties she experienced at war's end when her parents did not return from deportation.

Testimony on Rescuing Jewish Children

L. KLEIN-LIEBER

A member of the "Eclaireurs Israélites de France" since the early 1930s, the author met most of the men and women who became the leaders of a group within the underground Jewish resistance called "La Sixième". She became one of the social workers who helped many children left behind when their parents were killed, held in the detention camps of Southern France or deported.

***Awareness and Guilt:
The Jews in Palestine and the Extermination of the European Jews*** I. ZERTAL

This study raises the questions of what the Jews living in Palestine knew about the extermination taking place in Europe, what they understood, and how little they helped the persecuted European Jews.

Reflections of a Witness S. VEIL

A survivor of the Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen camps, the author records the convergence of memories by camp survivors, stresses the opacity of a program of extermination that reduced the abilities of the victims to defend themselves, and call attention to some dangers which still threaten.

On the 1992 Commemoration A. WIEVIORKA

1992 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the massive deportation of Jews from France. Until the 1960s, commemoration was largely a traditional republican ceremony. Today, as many Jews tend to equate Vichy with Nazi Germany, question the republican model of national identity, and rethink their Jewish identity within an international context, these new perceptions have affected the 1992 ceremonies.

Brittle Artifacts: Commemorative Plaques on the Streets of Paris M. SAUBER

There are a great many plaques commemorating such events as World War 2, the Resistance, the deportation of Jews and the fights for Liberation, particularly in Paris. Some, unauthorized, were spontaneously put up immediately after the war. Others resulted from a well-documented administrative process. As many of these brittle artifacts are threatened to disappear, the author reminds us of their archival value as well as their emotional charge.

Writing the Monument: Site, Memory, Critique J. E. YOUNG

As contemporary monument-makers begin to challenge the very idea of the monument, the author suggests an alternative approach to our critical writing about monuments. Public art in general, and Shoah memorials in particular, tend to beg traditional art historical inquiry. Most discussions of Holocaust memorial spaces ignore the public dimension of those spaces. In this alternative critique of Holocaust monuments, the author finds that it may be precisely the public's interaction with the monument that finally constitutes an aesthetic performance. In looking at the ways our memorial representations of history may finally weave themselves back into the course of ongoing events, the author proposes a critique of these memorials that would both reinvigorate the monument with the memory of its own coming into being, and recognizes the role of the critic-viewer within the memorial text.

An Impossible Justice

H. ROUSSO

With the indictment of several former high civil servants for crimes against humanity, the French have recently refocused their attention on Vichy's policy towards Jews. They may have forgotten, the author argues, the violent postwar purges in which most of the visible war criminals, be they officials or intellectuals, were tried, and many sentenced to death. The issue remains of whether and to what extent the legal system could directly address antisemitic attitudes, ideology and action.

On the Historiography of the Holocaust

M. R. MARRUS

This paper suggests that with historical writing on the Holocaust we have passed from a literature conditioned by a few, grand visions, to a body of writing shaped by discrete, not necessarily interconnecting perspectives. With significant exceptions, historical writers today are uncomfortable with the frameworks they have inherited. They spend much of their time pointing to variety, paradoxes, complexities and contradictions. Their writing is less informed by single, unitary perspectives than was the case with their predecessors, and they have advanced our knowledge on many, smaller fronts, rather than the massive, coordinated campaigns of those who went before.