

Installation and stay in the host region until October 1940

Again all stories follow some general rules, especially for evacuees in September 1939, although the two waves starting with unpreparedness to host regions was the same.



Arrival of evacuees from Sierck-les-Bains at St Georges-les-Baillargeaux.

With the aid of a cart pulled by a donkey, the meager furniture collected locally is moved into the house assigned to this family.



Installation of railroad shop employees of Yutz to Bordeaux in autumn 1939.

Among the specially affected there were employees of the railway and in particular the staff from workshops in Yutz. Apparently the food and wine were not yet gone at the end of 1939. The meal takes place just after a wash if we judge by the abundance of hanging clothes drying behind the group.

For evacuees of May 1940, the period of "exile" having been shorter and the military defeat having occurred very shortly after their arrival in the reception area, the memories are mixed and the friendships forged on site rare, although the time was sufficient for the emergence of romances ending after the war

with weddings. This is especially true among villages evacuated in September-October 1939, the memories and the ties are strong. The best proof of the strong ties forged between refugees and local populations is that Mosellans are measured today by continued coupling and group excursions are organized every year between host communities and refugee towns.

At the Volmerange-les-Mines, for example, reciprocal visits with accommodations in the homes of hosts, common meals, sports competitions and musical festivities are ongoing with St Genest Ambière while three generations have passed since the evacuation and stay in Poitou. In other places such as Buding the links are currently tightened and coupling somehow reactivated. I bet that the festivities of 2004 will boost the movement more broadly.



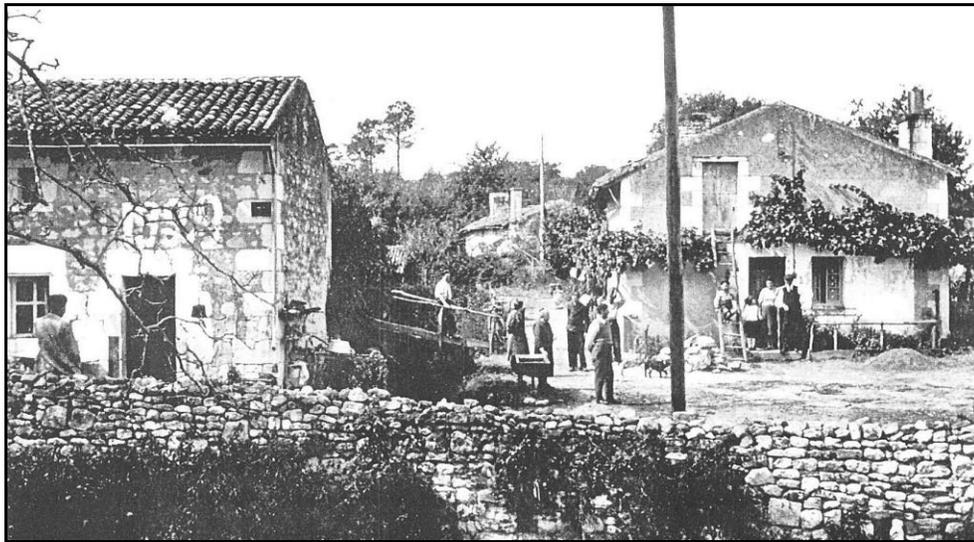
***The Salomé family from
Sentzich at La Touche.***

Depending on the size of the family the accommodations with 2, 3 or 4 rooms was allocated to refugees. The Salomé family with several children lived in a house under renovation. Carefree children play among the animals of the barnyard.

1) The home was originally restricted if not hostile, but the atmosphere changed rapidly and became warm.

If a few testimonials speak of exemplary and excellent support at the outset, however, it seems that the standard is different. Once off of the train, the Mosellans had, more often, the feeling of being cattle assessed before agreeing to support. Each family in the host village indeed chose the family that was going to stay, with sometimes derogatory comments or at least with restrictions (no families with young children for example). It must be said in defense of the host families they had also been warned at the last moment that they would be requested to host a number of refugees often greater than the population itself at the place of reception. In some localities where they had already been hosting refugees from northern France, some of which had behaved badly, they resented this second obligation to host. Also among the arrivals, all adults or almost, in all cases all seniors, spoke a dialect and was therefore received as "Boches". This means to say that the loss of the Moselle would be okay and that in any event the villages had German names. Probably some from Mosellan villages didn't jointly have a positive attitude on arriving, frustrated by a difficult rail route, and therefore were partly responsible for the coldness of the hospitality received. And if it had been necessary to be the host the other way around, how would things have happened differently?

Three people then play a decisive role on each side and turn the situation and feelings of each other in a few days: the mayor, the teacher and the priest.



*Residents of the three villages Halstroff, Grindorff and Bizing are assigned to Beaumont, jointly
Composed of several hamlets including La Tricherie.*

*The Mosellans get makeshift housing and basic comfort but integrate quickly after a mixed reception. It
was by their capacity for work and their skill that they acquire the respect of the Viennese.*



Mr. Vitacolonna of Basse-Ham poses in front of the panel Beire-le-Chatel.

*The village of Basse-Ham was evacuated in May 1940 to the Côte d'Or and several villages around
Beire-le-Chatel for a stay of a few months.*

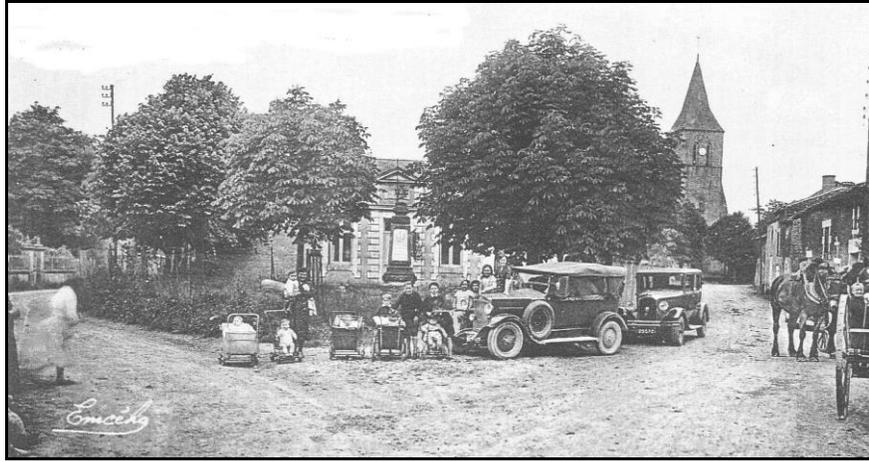


*The Trap family from Sentschich during the evacuation to La Touche.
In spring 1940 the Trap family had two of its members mobilized during the stay in Vienne.*



*Sentschich residents were evacuated in October 1939 to Cherves and La Touche.
Two rooms have been allocated as housing for the Reitz family posing here in the spring of 1940 returning from Sunday mass.*

First, the two mayors, especially if the Mosellan mayor speaks French: in a few days the housing issue is resolved and the families have one or two rooms to organize, except in rare cases where it was necessary to stay in a cellar and develop a new living space. Often some mayors thought to give stocks of uncooked food to evacuees and organized soup kitchens and communal meals around large pots. Benefits came quickly and put a little balm to the heart of the expatriates. The French government allocated 10 francs per adult evacuated (and even that was denied if the adult was allocated labor, thus obviously encouraging "black market" work) and 6 francs per child. It was inadequate housing but soon the speed at which the Mosellans cleaned the premises commanded respect. They were, however, generally well nourished, at first, as already mentioned, with meals and groceries, organized and provided collectively, in time the available housing for the Mosellans was equipped with stoves and cookers, to prepare each meal.



Evacuation to Craon.

The inhabitants of the village of Berg-sur-Moselle were shipped to Craon in Vienne in spring 1940 and a photographer immortalized their stay during which apparently there were recorded several births

They organized a kind of soup kitchen during the first 15 days and during October the government of the third Republic sent to the refugees, besides the daily allowance, mattresses, linen, furnaces, cookers and other absolutely essential utensils, as well as food among which was the famous potato indispensable to all Mosellans who respect themselves and was not always available locally.



Potluck evacuees Sierck-les-Bains.

The early days after their arrival in Vienne, Mosellans organized group meals with food provided by the host municipality or services of the Red Cross. Then everyone would go home. Here is the chore of "potato peeling".



*The villagers of Kirsch-lès-Sierck at Port-de-Piles in October 1939 at the potluck:
Like other villagers evacuated to Vienne, it took time to adapt the people of Kirsch-lès-Sierck that had to show solidarity until everyone had the equipment to be autonomous. Meals are collective at first and big pots were placed into service.*



...Here again many families from Kirsch-lès-Sierck pose for posterity at the potluck.



The Krier family go to work in the forest.

The Krier gentlemen helped by Niles Kieffer go into the forest of Port-de-Piles for firewood in November 1939.

Apparently morale is good. The villagers begin to work with a good heart and refuse no activity for their livelihood.

To get an idea of the lifestyle, you should know that a large loaf of bread of three pounds cost 3 francs, a liter of milk from the farmer was 1 franc and a bottle of wine was 1.50 francs at the vineyard. Short enough compensation just to get basic food every day. In addition, the arrival of thousands of additional consumers was not a bad deal for the local economy.

Then the two teachers collaborated to provide education for all their mixed group and as here the common language was French, friendships established themselves very quickly, the more so as the situation stimulated school competition between the two communities of children. According to the school there were two different situations: either create only one class with the local children and the evacuated natives of the Moselle region, or, most frequently, there were two different classes and each one kept its own teacher.



Children from Kirschnaumen and Haute-Kontz at the primary school at Naintré.

Evacuation was not synonymous with great school holidays but, with either the school in Vienne, or in the special school with their usual teacher, classes resumed. Here it is time for recess.



Schoolchildren from Fixem at Amberre.

Youth from Fixem continued their courses in a local school made available at Amberre from October 1939 to May 1940. From May 1940, however, school days were rare, given the tragic events.



The schoolchildren of Oudrenne at Rochereau.

Refugees in Vienne with their parents, children attend classes taught by their teacher until the end of May 1940.

The fate of the Mosellan children was then better than on their return where the German school which awaited them had with at the very least authoritative teaching methods and contents of Nazi propaganda and anti-patriotic lessons. However, the last quarter of the school year 1939/40 was seriously cut in May 1940 by the German troops lightning advance and the number of school days after May 10, 1940 was very few in the whole area of Moselle.

Finally, the two priests, whose role was essential. Cohesion of refugees was much greater where there was a spectacular return to religious practice; Sunday Mass was the great moment of gathering Mosellans while the locals were less eager to attend the office. Throughout the duration of stay in Vienne or in Charente, Haute-Marne and Côte d'Or, the religious fervor of Mosellans was unabated. We take refuge around core values while living in adversity. This trend was evident from the start of convoys from Hagondange because we prayed and sang hymns in those trains every day. The clergy even organized many ways of the cross as was the case in Benassay, Lavausseau and La Chapelle-Montreuil for residents of Koenigsmacker and of Métrich.



Visit of Episcopal Bishop Heintz to Dissay.

On 27 April 1940, the Bishop of Metz, who was also expelled from Moselle and withdrew to the Lyon region, came to visit the inhabitants of Contz-les-Bains in Dissay in Vienne and encourages them to practice to maintain morale and hope.



Communion of Jeannine Salome of La Touche in company with Suzanne Schoumacher



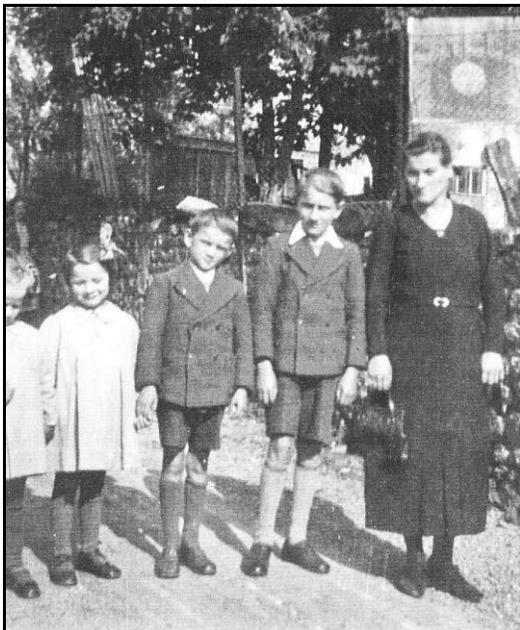
Sexton in full unifrom



Coming Out of the office of Father Potier of Oudrenne.

The village of Oudrenne was evacuated to Rochereau in Vienne and as elsewhere Sunday services were full. Note that almost all children wear a beret, hence the prohibition imposed by the Germans on return of evacuees to Moselle in autumn 1940. The beret is indeed regarded by the Germans as a manifestation of patriotism.

Religion in particular helped the elderly to support how they lived as an exile and mitigated many illnesses or crises of grief we would call depression today. Moreover, many villages hosting refugees were visited by two vicars general of the diocese of Metz, Monseigneur Louis and Monseigneur Schmitt, or even that of the bishop in person, Bishop Heintz, who spent a good part of the war in the Lyon region. The evacuated nuns of the Moselle, those called "dear sisters" were also installed in the Lyon region in October 1940. In some localities, however, they mocked the "bigotry" of the Mosellans.



Gall family of Koenigsmacker in Lavausseau.

Like the neighboring villages the evacuees of Koenigsmacker stayed for 11 months in Lavausseau. Here the family goes to Mass on Sunday.



Baptism during the evacuation.

During the evacuation, in the midst of troubles and trials, there was also good news and good times. Here families Scharff and Welfringer of Contz-les-Bains celebrate a baptism after birth occurred in Dissay.

2) The behavior of refugees tends to remove all traces of animosity and causes strong friendships quickly.

The Mosellans began soon in search of a job even if having a formal job lost the right to a per diem sum. Attitudes of the time were not for assistance but pride drove men to find a livelihood. The wages were daily (often without being declared as such) and they were recognized for their undoubted agricultural know-how. The Mosellans also found that the region lagged behind the Moselle in the comforts of home. Thus dirt floors were still widespread where tiled floors had been widespread in Moselle for years.

The evacuees were proud to have had a lead over their hosts on the level of agricultural machinery, agricultural farming techniques, and work methods, so that a fruitful cooperation began. One can note that the potato was introduced into the Moselle region from the late 18th century and spread during the Napoleonic wars across eastern France, this was still largely unknown in the Charente and in Vienne, where they cultivated the Jerusalem artichoke. In some places like Dissay in Vienne, where the inhabitants were refugees from Contz-les-Bains, the Mosellans did not hesitate to clear areas of marshes to create gardens and amazed by the quality of local vegetables (salads, turnips, peas ...) harvested in the spring and early summer of 1940, besides work in the vineyard had no secrets for them. Refugees everywhere created gardens and they were useful aids and appreciated, they were admired for their rapid adaptation to new agricultural work for them, as evidenced by the inhabitants of Halstroff or Fixem, very quickly experts for work in the vineyards of Beaumont and elsewhere.



Work of Mosellans in the vineyards of Vienne.
For many adults working in the fields continued in Vienne even if these fields were vineyards as was the case in Beaumont for the residents of Halstroff, of Grindorff and Bizing. Their ability to work quickly silenced the negative remarks against them given the large number of dialect speaking people who were unable to speak French.

Most young people were hired in the crafts in the industrial area (dairies, soap, glove makers, textile factories) and were noted for their expertise and dedication, to the point that employers sought to retain them when Germans asked for evacuees to return home in the summer of 1940. The Mosellans began to learn French and even older ones knew the rudiments well enough to exchange a few sentences in the street, even if it remained necessary to make signs to be understood.

New attitudes were forged and ties between the two communities benefited from the situation.



Work in a glove factory.

To live decently, the Mosellans did not hesitate to get hired in companies of Vienne close to their place of assignment. Here are women of Contz-les-Bains, employees in a glove factory in Dissay, as a provocation against the photographer all have a cigarette in hand or mouth.



Buding families during their stay in the Allier.

Inhabitants of Buding, part of which had been evacuated to Montaiguët-en-Foréz, found accommodations in the center of the old town of Allier and the jobs available in local trade were quickly taken by the Mosellans.

The communities spent the first few days discovering each other, it was a life in harmony which ran for the 11 or 12 months of the stay of the Mosellans. Gradually they achieved normal daily life and the refugees even managed to forget their worries (eg they learned very quickly of the looting of deserted villages in Moselle) to participate in village festivals and attend dances of their home region. The return to a normal life with joy, celebrations, entertainment on Saturday and Sunday was first, and of course the fact of adolescents and young adults who began to travel by bicycle, bicycles purchased through compensation paid by the government of the Third Republic. Some Mosellans even took advantage of their stay to get their license. Romances were forged and weddings were celebrated or were preparing for a year's stay. Even adults eventually got used to their stay in Poitevin, only seniors were struggling. At Beaumont was celebrated a concert on July 14, 1940 and the inauguration of the Mosellans home, just days before the arrival of the Germans and their military victory.



Halstroff Mayor's speech.

Mr. Jacques speaks at the inauguration of the Mosellans home in Beaumont. At his side is recognized Mayor Evendorff, Mr Berg also who was advisor general of the Canton of Sierck-les-Bains



Celebration of 14 July 1940 in Beaumont.

Joint ceremony between Mosellans and those of Vienne in Beaumont to celebrate July 14, 1940, just days before the entry of German troops into the town.

But in July 1940, it was again panic and anxiety when the Germans, after forcing the French to sign the armistice in June and to recognize its total defeat, also occupied the villages of home. The hosts and the Mosellans are now under the rule of Nazi troops. Very soon, in July 1940, the German orders arrived to return to Moselle in current August or September. Those who had taken refuge in the Metz region or in the Meurthe-et-Moselle and Meuse were first to return and limited their losses.



Laundry during the evacuation in the Vienne.

In January 1940 in the hamlet of Liniers, belonging to the municipality of Amberre, the Leguil-Kaiser family of Fixem established a laundry for the former (soap, brush in hand, and much "elbow grease"). Three generations are represented.

The return to Moselle between late July and early August and October 1940

The Germans having defeated the French army as early as late June 1940, the armistice was signed, instructions were given to the Mosellans as early as July 1940 to return starting with those who were in Burgundy and then, in August and September 1940, the order was given to return to their communities as soon as possible to those who were evacuated to Poitou. Often at the beginning of July a few volunteers sought to return as scouts to abandoned villages without waiting for the official order of the Vichy Government, itself driven by the Germans. These individual returns were most often by bicycle, by short cuts.

Soon these spontaneous returns were prohibited by the Germans who declared the Moselle area prohibited and wanted to control the flow. Returns ranged on for three months, and once again the situation was found to be the same in one locality as another. Having just returned home, refugees learned of the formal annexation of the Moselle by Nazi Germany on November 30, 1940 and thus they were to become German citizens. It was in a great speech in Saarbrücken that Gauleiter Bürckel, District Manager of the Gau Westmark of National Socialist Germany (Western territory consisted of the Palatinate, Saarland and Moselle), announced the annexation. It was also the annexation which explains why those of non-Mosellan strain were expelled. In effect if the Moselle was to be appended they must decide if the Mosellans are regarded as Germans or not. Nazi ideologues believed that a Mosellan strain is evidence of "German race", which was not the case of individuals born in a French Department of the Interior, these individuals were not permitted settlement in the annexed Department. Gradually the German legislation replaced the French legislation and it ended with the enactment of the German civil code in January 1943.

1) First not everyone is allowed to go nor to stay.

DEPARTEMENT DE LA VIENNE RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Assistance aux Réfugiés Civils privés de ressources

COMME SE de *Saint-Sylvestre*

CARTE D'IDENTITÉ

N° Matricule : *32*

TAUX DES ALLOCATIONS JOURNALIÈRES au-dessus de 13 ans *10^e*
au-dessous de 13 ans

Du Chef de Famille : *M^{me} Jean HELLINGER-PAYOT*

Du Conjoint : _____

NOMS ET PRÉNOMS _____

Des Enfants mineurs (indiquer leur âge) _____

Domicile actuel : *Saint-Sylvestre (Vienne)*

Commune d'origine : *Lusoch-le-Sec (Moselle)*

Date d'admission : _____

Le Maire. Signature de Titulaire ou mention certifiée de l'impossibilité de signer

*Official Identification Card of evacuee.
During these months of evacuation a special
refugee status ID is created for the Mosellans.*

Heimkehrerlager Saint Dizier

Inhaber dieses Ausweises ist lothr. Flüchtling aus dem Kreis Châlonville

Name Gall Victor Vor- und Zuname Beruf machiniste

geb. am 8 decembre 1904 in Kuntzig
Tag Monat Jahr

letzter Wohnort in Lothringen Königsmacker

Bergungsgebiet Departement Vienne Ort Lavaussau

Heimkehrort Königsmacker

Angehörige

Ehefrau Bun Caroline geb. am 4-11-1906 in Münster
Vor- und Zuname Tag Monat Jahr

Kinder über 15 Jahre

Name _____ geb. am _____
 " " " " _____
 " " " " _____

Kinder unter 15 Jahre

Name Rene geb. am 18-8-29
 " Hubert " " 26-11-32
 " Germaine " " 31-1-34
 " Marthe " " 26-10-35

Sonstige zum Haushalt gehörende Personen

Name _____ geb. am _____
 " " " " _____
 " " " " _____

Geprüft!
 Der Befehlshaber der Sicherheits-
 polizei und des SD
 in Lothringen-Saarpfalz

**Für den Chef der Zivilverwaltung
 Die Flüchtlingskommission St. Dizier**

Dieser Ausweis ist sorgfältig aufzubewahren und gilt als Fahrausweis.
 Deutliche Ausfüllung mit Tinte oder Schreibmaschine.

Authorization to return to the Moselle region.

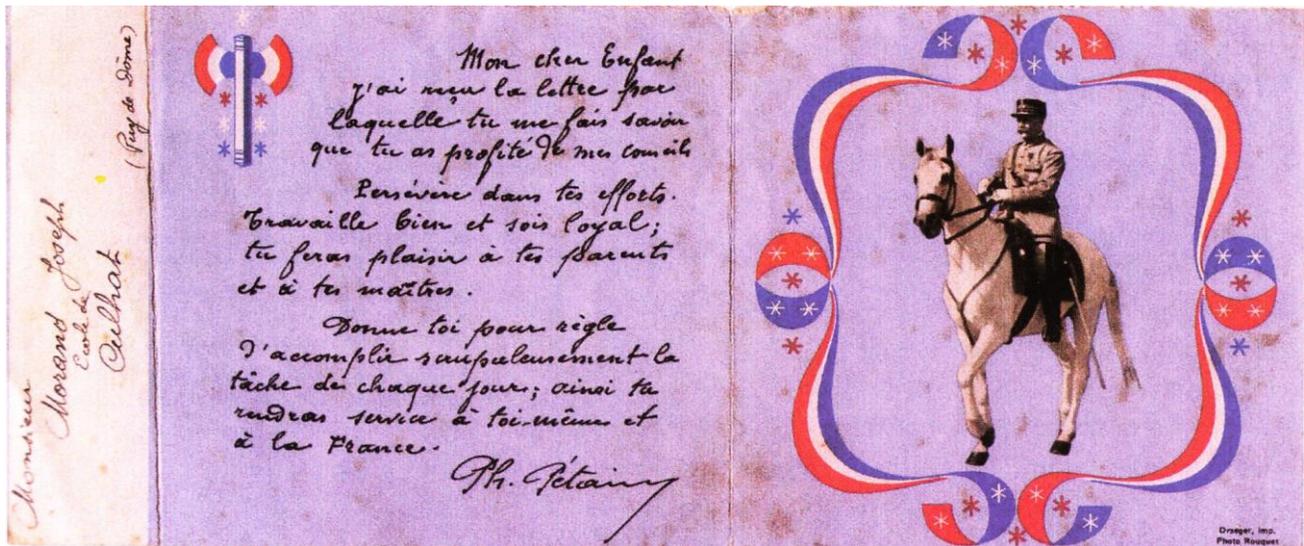
To return the Mosellans had to go through the classification center at St-Dizier where German authorities issued return authorizations. Here is the pass of the Gall family of Koenigsmacker. At this stage families were repulsed.

The Germans set up a classification center in St-Dizier, crossing point of railway trains for refugees returning home. They had to obtain the right to enter with a pass issued at St-Dizier, and anyone who was not of Mosellan strain was repulsed and returned to the free zone with banishment from the Moselle. Studies estimate that approximately 10,000 people were repulsed, since entire families were involved simply because one spouse was not Mosellan. It also happens that the Germans, who had infiltrated a number of villages in 1938 and 1939, consulted their lists of suspects and prohibited the return of certain families classified as francophiles. A number of repulsed persons were expelled as early as August or September, 1940, as at Guénange, for example, where the Mayor was deported to Haute-Vienne as a French Patriot on 30 August 1940, with other evictions, 178 in total, of which included the parish priest, taking place in November 1940. It must be said that the German attitude was stiffened after a demonstration both religious and patriotic in Metz, at place St-Jacques (laying of wreaths which were all tricolor), to the column and the statue of the Virgin Mary on 15 August 1940, the event orchestrated by the clergy and which earned Monsignor Heintz, the next day, and the religious teaching congregations to be deported to Lyon in the South-West of France. In September 1940 a whole convoy was created to expel the refractories.



Expelled from Terville on 14 November 1940.

The non Mosellan strain of people of suspected Francophile sentiments were expelled unceremoniously to Free France. Whole buses were filled with those expelled from the autumn of 1940 from the locality of Terville.



[My Dear Child
I received the letter by which you made known to me that you have taken advantage of my councils. Persevere in your efforts. Work well and be loyal; you shall be a pleasure to your parents and your teachers. Give yourself a rule to perform carefully the tasks each day; so you will serve yourself and France. Ph. Pétain]

Pétain handwritten response to a letter from a young Mosellan evacuee.

The young Joseph Morand, expelled with his parents to Culhat in Puy de Dôme, wrote a letter to Philippe Pétain in 1941. The Marshal replied in a handwritten way and it is a fine example of a "waffle".



Guénange expellees.

As part of the french-speaking Mosellans, the commune of Guénange experienced evictions in large numbers starting with the Mayor and the parish priest. Here is a group of deportees in Haute-Vienne around the Abbot Leroy during their stay in 1942.

Similarly the Mosellans who were reluctant to return and were only after two or three months turned away or put on a list of suspects and were then expelled in November 1940, or often subsequently sent to camps in Germany (Thuringia, Harz,...) or even to Bohemia and Moravia and Silesia in 1942 or 1943, in the company of those who refused to sign their belongings to the German community or "Deutsche Volksgemeinschaft". Even in the non-evacuated municipalities as in Terville for example, the first complete bus with expellees is ready as early as November 14, 1940. The expelled are led to Moyeuve-Grande from which a train takes them, via Lyon, to Clermont-Ferrand or to Nérac, the return being in August 1945. Elsewhere, as in Guénange, for example, some expelled notables are back with the Mayor in December 1944 but the other deportees return in May or June 1945. The deportees are entitled to 50 kg of luggage per adult and 30 kg per child plus a sum of 2,000 francs.

It is estimated that 100,000 Mosellans departed voluntarily from the early days that followed the official announcement of the annexation. Altogether there were 280,000 Mosellans driven from their homes in late 1940, and we know for certain that 66 trains with nearly 58,000 people arrived at the station in Lyon, between 12 and 22 November 1940.

On several occasions, including in 1941, the German authorities had launched an investigation, announcing that the Mosellans could opt for a return to free France and it was enough to make the request in writing at City Hall or the sub-prefecture in Thionville, otherwise it was German ipso-facto rights and obligations on this account. As participants approached 50% of the total population of some localities, the authorities changed their policy and threatened registrants with deportation to Silesia. Many families then withdrew their applications and remained on the spot but with a label of suspects; some families only returned to the Vienne and Charente to the village of their 1939 home or in other departments of the free zone. Known as the "voluntary option"

Der Befehlshaber
der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD
in Lothringen - Saarpfalz.

Saarbrücken, den 30. August

B. Nr. 2/II /40 Ia

Mitteilung.

Der (Name u. Vorname, Beruf) P e r r i n , Ludwig, Gastwirt und Bsp
Met
 geboren am 3.9.96 in Mereville
 wohnhaft in (Ort, Straße u. Hausnummer) Niederginlingen Nr. 51
 wird davon verständigt, daß er mit seiner Ehefrau Emilie, geb.
17.661 Audison geb. am 20.1.01 in Frivillers/Lothr. und seinen Kindern
17.662 Antonette geb. am 3.6.24 in Niederginlingen
Hermann geb. am 4.2.30 in " "

(Namen der Kinder)

aus Sicherheitsgründen aus Lothringen in das unbefestigte Frankreich befördert wird.

Sür jede Person ist mitzunehmen:
 Verpflegung für einige Tage, Eßbesteck und Trinkgefäß, eine Schlafdecke, nötige Bekleidung, ein ent-
 sprechender Geldbetrag bis zur Höhe von 2000 Frs. für jede erwachsene Person, bis zu 1000 Frs. für jedes Kind
 sowie ausreichende Personalspapiere.

Je nach Wunsch können mitgenommen werden:
 Eine entsprechende Zahl von Koffern, gebrauchte Kleidung, ein zweites Paar Schuhe, eine zweite Schlafdecke,
 Uhren und Schmuck in üblichem Maße.

Das gesamte Gepäck darf für jede erwachsene Person 50 kg, für jedes Kind 30 kg nicht
 überschreiten. Vor der Abreise wird das Gepäck untergebracht; deutsches Geld darf nicht mit-
 genommen werden.

Ueber Zweifelsfragen erteilt der Ueberbringer dieser Mitteilung Auskunft.
 Wer den gegebenen Anordnungen zuwiderhandelt, wird festgenommen und bestraft.

*The eviction notice of the Mayor
of Guénange.
Mr Louis Perrin was one of the
first deportees of the french-
speaking Mosellans. He left the
Moselle department on August
30, 1940, with his family and the
withdrawal was made through
Sisteron passing through Lyon.*

Der Befehlshaber
der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD
in Lothringen - Saarpfalz.

Metz, den August 1940

B. Nr. 2/II /40 Ia

Mitteilung.

Der (Name u. Vorname, Beruf) E i d e n Eugen, Buchhalter
 geboren am 5.3.93 in Hettingen
 wohnhaft in (Ort, Straße u. Hausnummer) Diedenhofen, Hettingerstr. 14
 wird davon verständigt, daß er mit seiner Ehefrau Johanna
Stadtler geb. am 19.9.94 in Diedenhofen und seinen Kindern
Johann geb. am 3.2.23 in Diedenhofen

(Namen der Kinder)

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// Oberführer

*Notice of expulsion of the
Eugene Eiden.
The Eiden family, which was
native of Hettange-Grande but
residing in Thionville, figured
among the Mosellans first
expelled in August 1940.*

I Angaben zur Person	
Familienname Hesse	Geburtsdatum 14.12.27
Vornamen Ooile Rosalie	
Geburtsort und Kreis raulbach/Diedenhofen	
Eigenhändige Unterschrift Kriegsmehrjähriger Vor- und Familienangehöriger (RAD-St.) Rosalie Hesse 17.7.44 Datum Unterschrift	
II Reichsarbeitsdienst-Entscheid	
1. Nichtheranziehung - K Datum: 17.7.44	
2. Heranziehung voraussichtlich Herbst 1944 Datum: 16.8.44	
Datum: Unterschrift des Meldeleiters	

4. Datum: Unterschrift des Meldeleiters	
5. Datum: Unterschrift des Meldeleiters	
III Dienstzeitbescheinigung	
1. Dienstzeit im Reichsarbeitsdienst vom 15.10.43 bis 2.3.44 im Kriegshilfsdienst vom 10.3.44 bis	
Entlassen als den 10.3.44 An. Heiliger Datum Unterschrift	
2. Datum: Unterschrift des Meldeleiters	

In 1941, each adult individual had a work book and it became increasingly widespread from 1942, he owed a working period in Germany in conformance with Reichsarbeitsdienst, which earned him a second book. He had to present these two documents to any control official. The R.A.D. existed before the war and theoretically served to initiate any German to manual work regardless of his social standing. The training period was to last one year.

Dienstlaufbahn		
Eingestellt als Arbeitsmann bei Nr. K3/322 mit RAD-St.-Rollen-Nr. (H322) 1147 am 6.10. 1941		
RAD-Stammrollen-Nr.	Datum	Vorgang
K3/322/1147	9.11.41	Auf den Führer vereidigt
mit St.R.Nr. K 3/322(H322) Einsatz im Gebiet des Westwallas im Rahmen des Heeres vom 6.10.41 bis 31.3.42.		
K3/322/1147	31.3.42	Entlassen als Arbeitsmann
Abkürzungen im Rasterfeld: „B“ = befördert, „Ern“ = ernannt, „K“ = kommandiert, „V“ = versetzt.		
Eignung:	Entlassendes RAD-Meldeamt	
Besonderes: Nichts zu bemerken.		
Datum: Unterschrift des Meldeleiters		

Booklet issued to Michel Hotton class 1922 who was enlisted from October 6, 1941 to 31 March 1942 in Kirkel, Saarland before being conscripted into the Wehrmacht.

By 1941 the R.A.D. became a paramilitary training period reduced to 6 months, then 3, then even 2 months in 1944. It was primarily an ideological training and a place of Nazi propaganda. The "cramming" is interspersed with pushed physical exercises and manual work. The symbol of the military service which hides his name is the spade, which is primarily used for parades and processions. It always had to be spotless.



Collective picture of Mosellans in the R.A.D.

In June 1943, in North Rhine-Westphalia, Mosellan youth from throughout the region of Thionville, Cattenom, Rodemack and Sierck-les-Bains are mixed with Germans and must complete their period of work and military life.



The Mosellans to serve in the R.A.D.

Group of young people from Fixem area during their time at R.A.D. in 1943.





The youth of Soetrich, summoned in 1943, celebrating their last moments of freedom at Marx home which was also the post office at the time.



The outfits and accessories of recruits in the R.A.D.

The RAD recruits were dressed in a uniform and the spade ascribed to them was used to teach the basics of handling a gun. Here the young people of Cattenom had to stand guard with their spade



The soldier Georges Nospelt of Elange on guard before the gate at the entrance to the camp.



Same pose for another "despite us" in 1942, a native of the Valley of the River Orne.



Maneuvers and work in the R.A.D.

Recruited youth spend a few weeks in the R.A.D to do military exercises with their spades, as those from Yutz here at Kirkel in Saarland.



Maneuvers and work in the R.A.D.

They also had to perform major works of earthmoving as these young people of Soetrich and Haute-Parthe.

As early as the second half of 1941 young Mosellan men underwent a kind of compulsory work coupled with an introduction to military life: in the Reichsarbeitsdienst, established by a decision of April 1941. Those who refused at the end of this paramilitary training of 2 to 6 months, to perform military duties inherent to German nationality in which they were uniformed, being considered refractory or draft evaders, were expelled or deported. On several occasions the occupiers incited the Mosellans to honour their duties as German citizens. The official decree on the Mosellan ethnic German nationality was published in August 1942 and in a speech on 29 August, by Bürckel, the highest German official stationed in Moselle, announced that now men would be conscripted into the Wehrmacht, without exemption or exception. The first departures took place from October 1942 for a class of 22 and on 5 December 1942, an official notice, published by newspapers and placed in all localities, imperiously recalled the obligation to serve the Reich. Until 1942 the Germans thought they could pass on Mosellan recruits and believed to have won the war, but as they learned that that was not so, they enlisted Mosellan youth. The choice of the date was not neutral either because the Mosellans had sometimes used the St-Nicolas, December 6, as a patriotic holiday. Those who continued to refuse to do their duty and continued to express patriotic ideas were sanctioned, at best with expulsion, most often by deportation or arrest and a stay in prison in the fort of Metz-Queuleu for example. Those refractory to German nationality, which some demonstrated against Bürckel's decision before Metz prefecture as early as August 30, 1942, were given the status of PRO, Patriots-Resistant to the Occupation. It is estimated that the Gestapo arrested more than 9,000 total in 1942 and early 1943, these Mosellans being deported then to Germany, to the Sudetenland or Silesia, sometimes even to Austria or Poland.

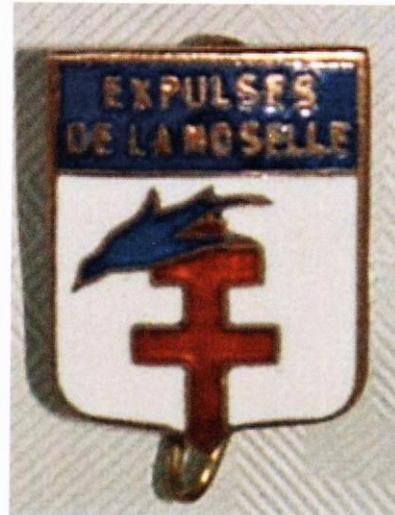
It is estimated that there were another 24,000 deportees expelled between July and September 1943 and we know that deportations to Bohemia and Moravia and Silesia were decided and implemented as

early as January 1943, as evidenced by the example of dozens of families of Veymerange, Mahato, Cattenom or Sierck-lesBains region. To find proof of deportation and friendly links with the people of the place of deportation is difficult to establish, the Germans regularly changing Moselle places and camps. They had to wait until May or June 1945 to be released and allowed to return home. As for expellees to the departments of the South of the country, most returned in August 1945.

Among the deportees there is still a separate category: that of the internal resistance. These are the Mosellans who were arrested and had actually resisted, by rescuing allied pilots whose plane had been shot down or sabotage in factories. There were small groups of resistance in several places as in the valley of the Orne and around Guénange. But internal also in families because a son fled the Moselle and joined the maquis in the South-West of France, the whole family suffering then to harsh reprisals including the departure to deportation or even concentration camp. This is what happened to the Noël Pierre family of Cattenom whose parents were deported.

Examples of expellees within the municipalities in the region of Thionville in November 1940 (study which incorporates the work of Philippe Wilmouth, work published in 2003)

Municipality concerned and population estimated on the eve of the war	Number of known and proven to be expelled	Arrival in Lyon recorded	Department residence
Basse-Ham, 877 habitants	1	22/11/40	Tarn
Garche, 560 habitants	4	22/11/40	Tarn
Guénange, 780 habitants (There would be in fact expelled 158 total based on the work of Mister Maljean)	90 52 3	12/1 1/40 15/11/40 22/1 1/40	Haute-Vienne Lot-et-Garonne Tarn
Hettange-Grande, 3222 habitants	7 2	15/11/40 22/11/1940	Lot-et-Garonne Tarn
Kuntzig, 704 habitants	1	22/11/1940	Tarn
Manom, 1683 habitants	1	15/11/40	Lot
Rustroff, 580 Habitants	1	16/11/40	Corrèze
Terville, 3000 habitants	79 10	15/11/1940 22/11/40	Lot-el-Garonne Tarn
Thionville, 18934 habitants	4 1 2 17 1 3 97	12/1 1/40 13/11/40 14/11/40 15/11/40 16/11/40 21/11/40 22/11/40	Ardèche Aveyron Lot Lot-et-Garonne Haute-Vienne Haute-Garonne Corrèze et Tarn
Volmerange-les-Mines, 1519 habitants	2	22/11/40	Tarn



2) Everywhere there is a village one finds devastation and looting.

First there was very different damage according to the localities depending on whether or not they had been the scene of fighting. In some villages the bombing of May and June 1940 disemboweled whole streets and destroyed many houses in Sierck-les-Bains, where the city suffered, or Roussy-le-Village burned to such a point that evacuees could not return until 1941, the time to rebuild the house. Damage is also important in the localities of the forts of the Maginot line as in Veckring or Monneren sectors. Other villages are intact or barely affected, and paradoxically Budling, close to Veckring and hardest hit Monneren. Often the steeples of churches, serving as lookout posts, had been bombed and the bridges blown up. Here and there, traces of shells or bullets on the facades but nothing catastrophic.



Impressive destruction in Escherange-Molvange.

The violence of the fighting was very uneven in May and June 1940 depending on location. Here in Escherange damage is impressive, which is also the case in the neighbouring villages sometimes downright burned as Roussy-le-Village.



Damage on the return from evacuation at Fixem.

Many villages bear the scars of the battles of May and June 1940, it is the case of some houses in Fixem, as the Klein Senninger Café, with the damaged roof.



The severely damaged Church of Usselskirch.
Damage to Haute- and Basse-Parthe especially for the Church of Usselskirch, very severely damaged in 1940 and downright destroyed in 1944.



Apach destruction.

Considerable damage also to Apach in the fall of 1939 as here in the current Cafe Greiner, because the town was taken by the Germans as early as October 1939. In the months that followed, and on several occasions there were French attempts to take back.



Mondorff border post after the fighting in 1940.

Powerful bombing seriously damaged surrounding Mondorff-les-Bains and Mondorff border. It must be said that the French army had penetrated inside Luxembourg on May 10, 1940 while the Germans had invaded the Grand Duchy the day before; German artillery then bombarded the town.



The main street of Zoufftgen.

The village was seriously marked by bombardements on 10-11 May in retaliation for the advance of the French army into Luxembourg in the area near Bettembourg.



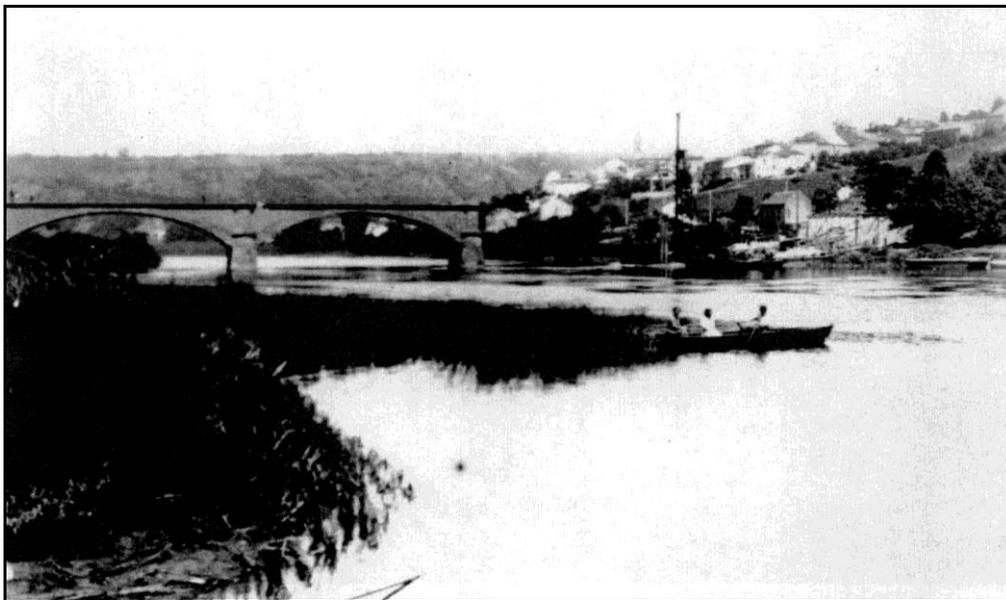
Sierck-les-Bains downtown damaged.

Much of the town was bombed in 1940 and it bears the scars in a sustainable manner. In 1944 a second battle during the liberation of the area compounded the damage to homes.



Hombourg-Budange station after the fighting in 1940.

Among the priority objectives of the enemy army there was to destroy the infrastructure of the Moselle region. This explains the bombing of big railroads of the region and therefore a number of stations were affected. Hombourg-Budange station lost part of its roof and its windows in June 1940.



Contz-les-Bains bridge partially destroyed.

Similarly, to facilitate their withdrawal and slow the enemy advance, the French were often blowing bridges, as evidenced by the photo taken at Contz-les-Bains late 1940 or early 1941 before the Germans rebuilt the destroyed arch.



Destruction of the centre of Thionville.

German officers inspect the damage to the center of Thionville, and here the commission has stopped in front of the building located opposite the current news galleries.



Thionville synagogue before the fire of 1940.

The synagogue of Thionville, a magnificent stone building built late 19th and early 20th century, did not escape the war. On 20 July 1940, while the Germans had made it a warehouse for flammable materials, having used it initially as a stable, a fire, it seemed accidental, so declared, destroyed most of the building. The Germans, in reality, sprinkled the walls with gasoline and prohibited firefighters from responding. The building remained in ruins for the rest of the conflict. Subsequently, the stones were recovered and used to build the basement of the houses in the surrounding streets. There is a new building rebuilt by the Jewish community later on the same location.

What branded however most minds, was the importance of the looting.

The troops, French before everyone, but probably also German, had gutted houses, shot wandering farmyard animals and pigs in the deserted villages and also had devastated homes looking for food. Many guards found the theft and sometimes tried to oppose it even when they understood their officers were enjoying in particular the radio stations. It was also possible that some of these guards took advantage of the bargain. In any case, food reserves disappeared, especially cured and smoked hams, as well as bottles of "schnapps" which were carefully and meticulously emptied. Among those guilty of larceny were also inhabitants of communes adjacent to those which had been evacuated in September 1939 and which were evacuated also in May 1940 or not evacuated at all. Truth may be of wrong doing but it needs to be said: Mosellans stole the goods of other Mosellans and French soldiers looted houses of French people!

Exceptions exist especially in the villages evacuated in May 1940. To prevent looting that had already been recognized, on this date, in the evacuated villages during the first wave, a poster was affixed to each House from the beginning by its occupants with the notice "No Trespassing" and Republican Guards were put in place, with some effectiveness but not total. It remained nevertheless easy to enter at night and loot the homes or to take the most valuable assets. Similarly among the anticipated returns, a handful of people disgraced by committing a petty theft and in stealing this or that beautiful piece of furniture, or collection of value. It was also noted the theft of collections of old stamps of renowned philatelists of the sector.



However, little is known of these things (and for good reason because the villages were empty) of the behavior of the German troops in the invasion in May and June 1940. It seems overall discipline was quite strict and misbehavior limited.

For parties of refugees in September 1939 mostly, what they found on returning was demoralizing because wild grass more than a meter in height in all the streets and villages squares. In many villages cereal seeds germinated and all kinds of oats or rye fields dotted the streets. Everywhere the rats and mice had multiplied in despite of the presence of a few cats and dogs which had found subsistence for one year. Elsewhere the shelling during the fighting in 1940 had devastated roofs and facades in many localities of the valley of the Sierck and it was a dead village where often the Bell Tower of the Church was destroyed, where sometimes the Town Hall and School were destroyed, as in September 1940.



Partially flooded village of Halstroff.

Early in October 1940 the village of Halstroff was still partially flooded before the Café Jacques. The French military in withdrawing blew the Rommel tunnel passing under the railway to sabotage it. The destruction of this tunnel blocked the drainage of the waters of the Creek and caused the flood, which in addition to the looting caused the homes to suffer and the general disorder in the streets of the village, was what was discovered in the village.



Another view of the village da Halstroff partially flooded.

A special case that attests to the hardness of the time: in Kirsch-lès-Sierck where there was only one well for drinking water in the centre of the village, there was during the summer months and throughout the war, a total shortage. It was necessary to go to Montenach to fill water barrels and other containers to meet the needs of the population and livestock. The case was settled after the war by the construction of wells.

More generally, we also saw that harvested grain in the summer of 1939 was not thrashed and that the harvest was lost. Often nothing had been planted in the fields and wasteland was very extended. Sometimes there were some potatoes in the cellars, but frequently barns and granaries were empty.



Damage in the village of Kirsch-lès-Sierck.

Very great damage to Kirsch-lès-Sierck where French, including colonial troops were entrenched and where the fighting lasted several weeks in 1939 and 1940. Upon their return from Port-de-Piles inhabitants discovered the importance of the damage caused by both the lodging and the living of troops in homes during the fighting.



Another view of the damage in the village of Kirsch-lès-Sierck.

3) Everywhere it was necessary to rebuild.

In short with a few exceptions, the inhabitants lost almost everything and had nothing. In many places, especially in the municipalities in the valley of the Sierck, there were not even doors nor windows because the French troops quartered in the surroundings used wood like fuel, the winter 1939/40 was unusually harsh. Courageously the population, always under the direction of their chiefs, reinstalled, repaired and redesigned. It took months or even years.

At the same time they must comply with the requirements of the occupier. These were all the more important in September 1940 and late 1942, the Germans believed they were winning the war. The French population also shared this point of view and all the more easily accepted these constraints that did not have an alternative. This conviction of having been wiped out by an enemy much stronger and well knit also explains the ease with which Pétain could impose his ideas. If there were notorious collaborators it is because these people were convinced also of the victory of the Third Reich.



The German troops settled in Kerling-lès-Sierck.

State of the village with the arrival of German troops after an intense exchange of artillery that we see the legacy on the roofs and facades of the houses

New public officials were organized in widened municipalities (that looked suspiciously like the current grouping of municipalities), because all small villages were grouped into larger administrative units. The Nazis even managed to implement "Ortsgruppenleiter" and "Bürgermeister" or create "Blockleiter" responsible for informing in larger municipalities; everywhere propaganda meetings with mandatory attendance were introduced. In many places, German families, coming from the nearby Palatinate or Bessarabia (region of Romania where a German minority lived) moved to fill the gaps left by those who had not returned or had been expelled. These settlers, known as "Settlers", occupied vacant buildings and reclaimed neglected land. Or then one spoke of "Estate" when building new farms. Such model farms were installed by the occupier in a few villages in the region around Hettange-Grande, on unused plots of land, and can still be admired in some localities as Boust or Kanfen (6 farms in all), several examples of these completely different farm bodies of Lorraine traditional farms. These are large houses U-shaped with a nearly closed court where the inhabited part occupies only one side and buildings of the operation the other two. German families took possession of these buildings as early as 1940 and then especially from 1941 until early 1943 and it was not rare that local inhabitants were forced to work there beside the labour consisting of the Russian or Ukrainian prisoners whose several camps were installed in the area. It is said that Bürckel was reaching for 150 inhabitants per km² and he planned to install a total of 700,000 German settlers in Moselle. At Escherange-Molvanche they had begun to raze a part of the community in order to develop such farms as were not finally in view, and a

camp for Russian prisoners had even been installed in the town. The same situation in Kanfen. At Rodemack they opened a kind of agricultural high school where young Germans settled and were made available for local farms on weekends, with no doubt hope of causing marriages with local boys and taking root at the German presence. It is even said that Hitler planned to build a small residence in Escherange-Molvange.



Agricultural work.

The Germans attached great importance to agricultural work and did not support lands remaining fallow. Many Russian or Polish prisoners were sent as reinforcements to the Moselle region to compensate for the absence of the conscripted or expelled. Here at Berg-sur-Moselle, the tractor from the farm Freindt is driven by a Polish prisoner in 1942. Note the two gasifiers for wood in the front of the tractor for its energy.



Agricultural school of Rodemack.

Rodemack Germans even opened an agricultural school and brought the daughters of German farmers. This school was also for recovering wounded German soldiers and civilian farmers. The idea of putting available Germans on local farms on the weekend and sending wounded German soldiers to the farms to provide advice probably was not without ulterior motives. The occupiers hoped no doubt to cause mixed marriages and anchor the German presence in the Moselle region annexed by this subtle policy.

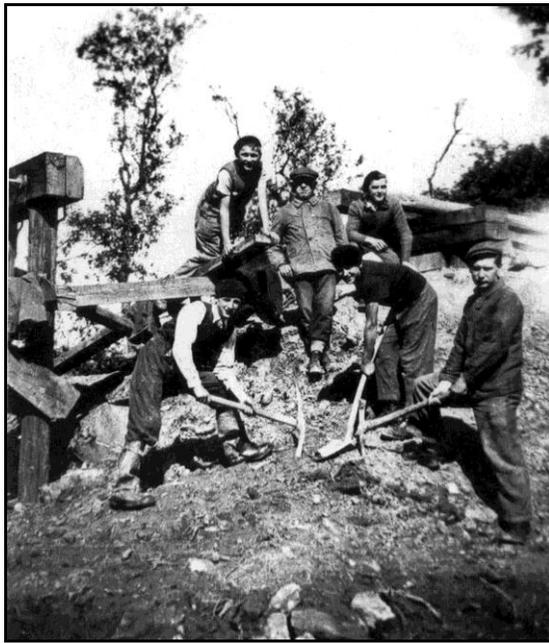


As early as the end of 1941, Russian prisoners dispatched to the Moselle region were made available, at the weekend, to local farmers for which they were helpful especially when the sons of the family were conscripted into the German army. Some of these prisoners also remained after the war as farmhands. What mattered to the German authorities was that agricultural production in the Moselle region ensure the auto-sufficiency of the population. The rest of the time the prisoners worked in local factories as at Contz-les-Bains or Sierck-les-Bains where they made shells, or the German model farms of the area. There were two Russian and Ukrainian POW camps installed at Hettange-Grande and they were a thankfully ready workforce to the model farms of the surrounding area. Among these prisoners it was in particular the Ukrainian to which was entrusted the heavy jobs better done by men.



Rehabilitation of the infrastructure.

At the end of the fighting in July 1940 the Germans wanted to rehabilitate damaged infrastructure. The supply of labour was provided by the Mosellans back from evacuation in August and September 1940. Thus in Contz-les-Bains reconstructing the destroyed bridge and redoing the roads was under vigilant surveillance of the Nazis. The construction was entrusted to a German company. Among workers Jacques Paradeis is recognized.



Everywhere the German authorities began the reconstruction of the infrastructure with priority to the repair or reconstruction of bridges, railways and roads.

Everywhere the German Executives took control of Lorraine businesses and German companies settled in Moselle. Hiring was sometimes mandatory and as of 1942/43 women as well as men. The German forced some people to work on behalf of the occupier in the positions of administrative responsibility with regular accountability. The craftsmen were required to contribute to the NSDAP if they wanted contracts or raw materials.

Divide and conquer, as the Romans did already! Everywhere it was Mosellans who supported these efforts and who collaborated!



Work in the Fields in September and October 1940 in Inglange and Valmestroff.

Residents of the cantons of Cattenom and Sierckles-Bains were back home in September 1940 and those who evacuated in May 1940 immediately went out to the fields for potatoes and beets. Those who had been evacuated in September or October 1939 rarely had the chance except in a few places where the military had planted the fields in autumn 1939 and planted tubers in the spring of 1940. The villages around Gavisse and Sentszich were part of those in the lucky Valmestroff sector.



Snack in the fields in October 1940.

In spite of the war we still had some flour until 1941 to make big round loaves of white bread. Short-term happiness because from 1942 the shortages and the rationing became widespread even if certain supplies were still available in quite close Luxembourg. In 1943 and 1944 it took cunning to try to steal deliveries imposed by the Germans and circumvent their restrictions.



Transport in a barouche.

The war was the opportunity to reconnect with the undemanding energy transport and those who had a hitch and a horse could travel. Here it is the wealthy because it isn't a horse which is coupled to a carriage of leisure. The scene takes place near Inglise.



Moselle pilgrims

If most of the Mosellans were allowed to return, others, either because they were not of Mosellan strain, or because they were deemed French patriots or for other reasons, were turned back or expelled in 1941.

Here Mosellan expellees went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes.



Family Retter in Bèze in Côte d'Or.

As just under half of the village of Cattenom, the Retters were settled in Côte d'Or for some months in 1940. The family was allowed to return to Cattenom in September 1940.



The Vichy regime.

While Mosellans were awaiting their fate, France abolished the Third Republic and entrusted its fate to Marshal Petain. This launched the "National Revolution" which returned to old values of agricultural France and rural areas, it adopted a new motto: "Work, Family, Fatherland", and required hard work and renunciation of leisure. This scheme did not take long for collaboration with the enemy. How not to be confused when the Mosellans were without defense from the occupier!