

# A Child in the French Resistance

## Leaflets of WW2

### Who is this child?

#### - Could you introduce your self?

- My name is Jérémie Rashford and I was 11 years old at the beginning of WW2 and I lived in Paris.

#### - Why did you join the resistance?

- I joined the movement because my parents had been taken by the French Milice in 1943.

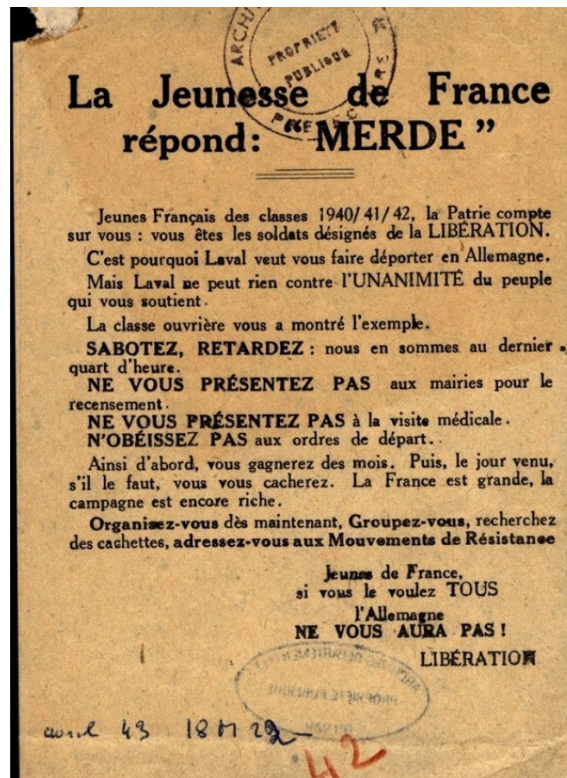
#### - Can you explain more?

- When I was 15 years old I was in my house with my parents and someone rang at the door. My mom opened the door and she was taken with my dad by two people with uniforms. They were put in a bus. My parents were arrested because they were considered as political opponents to Maréchal Petain.

### The Vichy Regime

#### - Can you tell me about the decisions made by the Vichy Regime?

- In 1943, the Milice was created by the Vichy regime to track resistants. The Milice is a fascist movement, created by Joseph Darnand. It was made up of volunteers, to help the Germans to track the French Maquis' members of the Resistance.



Archive département du Var, WW2

### His life during WW2

#### • What was your role in the French resistance?

- I was a violent child, I made sabotage on the railway, I also made street battles with occupying fascist forces and I dropped some leaflets. I wanted to help the resistance despite the risks.

#### - What did you have to do?

- I was forced to change my identity, change housing. I was forced to hide to survive the German Nazis.

#### - Did you have friends with you in the resistance?

- Yes, I had 3 friends, Victoria, Arthur and John. We made sabotage and street battles and we lived together in a Maquis. Today, Victoria and Arthur are dead and I'm still friends with John.

#### - How did you keep the activities secret?

- We hid firearms in the books. The women could hide their messages in a special dress for pregnant women and we listened to BBC to get the information and coded messages. Some moms hid firearms and bombs in her babies' prams.

## His feelings about this period

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- **Were you sad or determined to join the resistance after your parents' departure?**
- I was saddened by the departure of my parents but in my deep self I had a big determination to take revenge on the death of my parents (They were shot dead after their arrest). To take my revenge I had one choice... joining the resistance. And this is what I did.
- **And what about your feelings when you were in the resistance?**
- When I arrived in the resistance I was sad but impressed by the organisation of the resistance and by all the resisters because they were very courageous. I was too scared because death was always very present in the resistance and I didn't want to die because I was only 15 years old.

Fighters in the Shadow in the French résistance



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