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PATRIOTES AUX ARMES! (PATRIOTS TO ARMS!): THE UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE IN FRANCE, BELGIUM, HOLLAND, AND ITALY, 1939-1945



This collection consists of newspapers and periodicals; broadsides; leaflets; and books and pamphlets and other documents produced by or relating to the underground resistance in France, Belgium, Holland, and Italy.

Date Range: 1939-1945

Content: 21,348 images

Source Library: McMaster University

Detailed Description:

Resistance movements during World War II occurred in every occupied country by a variety of means, ranging from non-cooperation, disinformation and propaganda to hiding crashed pilots and even to outright warfare and the recapturing of towns. Resistance movements were sometimes referred to as "the underground." Among the most notable resistance movements were the French Forces of the Interior, the Italian CLN, the Belgian Resistance, and the Dutch Resistance.

After the first shock following the Blitzkrieg, people slowly started to get organized, both locally and on a larger scale, especially when Jews and other groups were starting to be deported and used for the Arbeitseinsatz (forced labor for the Germans). Organization was dangerous, so much resistance was done by individuals. The possibilities depended much on the terrain; where there were large tracts of uninhabited land, especially hills and forests, resistance could more easily get organized undetected. In countries like the much more densely populated Netherlands, the Biesbosch wilderness could be used to go into hiding. In

northern Italy, both the Alps and the Apennines offered shelter to partisan brigades, though many groups operated directly inside the major cities.

There were many different types of groups, ranging in activity from humanitarian aid to armed resistance. Resistance usually arose spontaneously, but was encouraged and helped mainly from London and Moscow. Resistance movements undertook many activities including: non-violent activities, including work stoppages and strikes and demonstrations; armed raids, uprisings and guerrilla warfare; espionage; illegal press; helping Allied military personnel caught behind Axis lines; propaganda activities and illegal press efforts to counter Nazi propaganda.

This last activity is the primary resistance activity highlighted in this collection from McMaster University.

Underground Resistance collection—France, [1936] 1939-1945

This collection consists of newspapers and periodicals; broadsides; leaflets; and books and pamphlets and other documents produced by or relating to the underground resistance in France. Also included are related materials: ephemera from the pre-War and "Phony War" periods; Free French and other foreign publications; items related to the liberation of Paris and to the period immediately after the liberation; autograph letters and manuscripts; and books inscribed by their authors. Most of the documents are in French, while some are in German or Yiddish.

The collection has been arranged in the following series:

Pre-War and "Phony War": ephemera

Underground Newspapers and Periodicals

Broadsides

Phony War" - 1939-1940

Broadsides of the Resistance

Administrative Broadsides of the Occupation

Execution Broadsides

Broadsides Issued by Vichy and the Pétain Government

Broadsides Issued During the Liberation of Paris

Broadsides Issued After the Liberation of Paris

Underground Leaflets

Anniversaries

Armed Insurrection

Catholics

Collaborators

Le Front National

Général De Gaulle

German Language Leaflets and/or Leaflets for German Soldiers

Germany-USSR Non Aggression Pact

Humour

Living Conditions and Hardship

Martyrs

Merchants and Farmers

Miscellaneous

Mouvement National Contre Le Racisme (M.N.C.R.)

Nazis

"Papillons"

Pétain

Prisoners Camps

Prophecies

Service du Travail Obligatoire (S.T.O.)

Socialiste, Parti

Thorez and the French Communist Party

USSR - Red Soldiers

Women

Workers, Unions and Strikes

Youth - Groupes de Jeunes and F.U.J.P. (Forces Unies De La Jeunesse Patriotique)

Underground Books and Pamphlets

Literary Publications

Éditions De Minuit (Underground Editions)

Political Publications

Underground Documents

Internal documents of underground groups

Forged documents used by the Resistance and the Allies

Related documents

Free French and Other Foreign Publications

Catalogued Publications

Printed material, typescripts, ephemera, etc.

Liberation of Paris

Catalogued Publications

Newspapers

Printed material, typescripts, ephemera, etc.

After the Liberation

Catalogued Publications

Printed material, typescripts, ephemera, etc.

Signed Documents: Letters, Manuscripts, Photographs, etc.

Inscribed Books

<http://library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/w/ww2France.resist.htm>

Underground Resistance collection—Belgium, 1940-1945

Collection consists of newspapers; broadsides; leaflets; and publications produced by or relating to the underground resistance in Belgium during the Second World War. Most of the documents are in French, while some are in Flemish or German.

The collection has been arranged in the following series:

Newspapers

Underground Newspapers

Foreign Newspapers re: Belgium

Broadsides

Broadsides from the Beginning of the Occupation

Broadsides from the Belgian Resistance

Broadsides of the Liberation

Broadsides concerning Bombings

Repression Broadsides

Execution Broadsides

Broadsides concerning Air-Dropped Leaflets

Administrative German Broadsides for Belgians

Administrative Belgian Broadsides

Underground Leaflets

The "V" Campaign

Other Underground Leaflets

Underground Publications

Publications relating to "L'Affaire Royale"

Other Underground Publications

<http://library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/w/ww2Belgium.resist.htm>

Underground Resistance collection—Netherlands, 1942-1945

Collection consists of books (1942-1945; 38 items in French, 3 items in Dutch); newspapers (4 titles; 1942, 1944); and other material (2 items) produced by or relating to the underground resistance in the Netherlands during the Second World War. Most of the documents are in French, while some are in Dutch.

<http://library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/w/ww2Nether.resist.htm>

Underground Resistance collection—Italy, 1945

This collection consists of one item only, the newspaper *La Voce De La Patria: Giornale Clandestino dei soldati italiani intelligent*, February, 1945. This newspaper was also used as safe conduct for soldiers joining the partisans or the Allies.

<http://library.mcmaster.ca/archives/findaids/fonds/w/ww2Italy.resist.htm>