

Witness Accounts of the January 4, 1944 Roundup in the Somme and its Aftermath

Between January 4 and January 8, 1944, eight months before the Liberation of Amiens by British and American forces allied with local French resistance, there was a mass arrest (“rafle”) by the Gestapo of the Jews of the Somme. Arrests occurred primarily in Amiens but also in outlying areas like Rosières-en-Santerre, Bouquemaison, Ault, Cayeux-sur-Mer, and Mers-les-Bains. In contrast to 1942 and 1943, those arrested in January 1944 were, for the most part, French citizens. They were transported by rail and bus under armed guard to Drancy, the “camp for the Jews” outside Paris.

Dr. David Rosenberg collected and annotated the following documents pertaining to the roundup from archival sources. The translation from the French was completed by volunteers affiliated with the French program at Grove City College (Marcus Henry, Cara Scott, Virginia Williams, Jaclyn Nicols, Katelyn Livorse, and Kelsey Madsen) and edited by Dr. Kelsey Madsen and Cara Scott in August, September, and October 2023.

The arrest of Renée Louria, 22 (survivor), and her father, Léon Louria, 64 (Community President), in Amiens.

From an interview published in the Courrier Picard between the 3rd and 5th of May 1945. "The account of a citizen of Amiens deported to Auschwitz." ("Récit d'une déportée amiénoise au camp d'Auschwitz")

On January 4, 1944, members of the Gestapo arrived at M. Louria's home on the Rue des Augustins. The Gestapo asked Mme Ponthieu and her father to come with them on the pretext that further information was needed from them at police headquarters. Both were immediately taken to a building on Rue des Jacobins, where many Israelite residents of the Somme had been taken. That same evening, everyone there who had been arrested was transferred to the camp at Drancy.

The full text in French was made available online on April 26, 2015 on COURRIERPLUS.

Translated by Cara Scott

The arrest of Raymond Schulhof, 45, Lucie (Fleurette) Schulhof, 42, Louise Levy, 70, and Georges Hirsch, 9, at 14 Rue Albéric de Calonne, at 6:00am.

From Ginette Hirtz (Schulhof), Les hortillonnages sous la grêle: Histoire d'une famille juive en France sous l'Occupation (The Hortillonnages Under Hail: History of a Jewish Family in France Under the Occupation), Mercure de France, 1982, pp. 91-92.

The afternoon and the evening of January 3rd are engraved in my memory, down to the smallest detail. In one of the two ground floor rooms where we slept, my grandmother and I ironed laundry on a special plank that I used as a desk. Among the shirts and the towels, I had placed a page of handwritten notes. There was also a large Greek dictionary which was salvaged a few days later by someone who passed by. Seeing the open door, he entered to take something, anything, out of defiance for the Germans and sympathy for us.

Lucie, Zaza and I left to go window shopping. We wanted to choose dresses. It had been a long time since we had walked side by side, all three of us. Mama said: "It seems strange, having such grown daughters!" She was forty-two years old.

The evening was like all the others, with the adults listening to Radio London in the cellar so that the scrambling of the radio signals wasn't audible from the street. We talked about the broadcast while the children played. The battle was raging in Italy, where there was an aggressive advance from the Allies. On every front, the German army was retreating. The end was near.

During the night, after everyone had gone to sleep, I tried to read a little in the silence next to the nearly extinguished stove. Then, I slipped into my bed, distractedly forgetting to say goodnight to my grandmother.

The next day, at six o'clock, the front door, close to my room, was shaken by violent repeated knocks. At daybreak on January 4, 1944, the Gestapo proceeded with the arrest of all the Jews who were still alive, whether they were French or not, in Amiens and in the region. Several dozen in all.

Knock. Knock. Knock. Like heartbeats. Scattering. Disappearing.

Excerpt used with the permission of Florence Politis, daughter of the late Ginette Hirtz Schulhof.

Translated by Marcus Henry

The arrest of Cécile Redlich, 14, along the Route d'Albert, Amiens, around noon.

From Claude Watteel, D'Amiens à Auschwitz: La tragédie des Redlich (From Amiens to Auschwitz: The Tragedy of the Redlichs), self-published, 2013, pp. 71-72.

Cécile spent almost 18 months at the Waeterloots' home. I had the opportunity to meet some people who knew her at this time, neighbors or old classmates. There are unfortunately not many memories of her.

However, and this is by chance, we know with considerable precision the conditions under which Cécile was taken on January 4, 1944 – a Tuesday around noon, after she got back from school. A black truck stopped at 79 Route d'Albert. The German policemen entered the Waeterloots' house. Cécile hid herself in a room off the hallway. She understood right away what was happening. While the policemen were speaking to the Waeterloots in the kitchen, she succeeded in leaving the house and took refuge at number 63, the Delmotte grocery store, belonging to her friend Eliane, who told me this story. Sadly, a German wearing civilian clothes, a member of the Gestapo, remained on the sidewalk, and he spotted her. All he had to do was pick her up. She was wearing a blue dress...

Translated by Marcus Henry

Testimony: The arrest and deportation of Berthe and Ferdinand Lazard, as told by their great-granddaughter, historian Louise Dessaiivre-Audelin

This abridged text from Louise Dessaiivre-Audelin is part of a work accessible on the website of the Archives départementales de la Somme.

In the autumn of 1943, Ferdinand and Berthe spent their days as peacefully as they could under the circumstances. They thought continually of their son Jean, who was deported to the Aurigny concentration camp in 1941. Ferdinand sketched constantly, Berthe “mended tirelessly,” keeping up her housework with care, despite the restrictions of this period of occupation...

The German policemen arrested them at their home on the morning of January 4, 1944. A few days prior, “anticipating their arrest,” Ferdinand and Berthe had entrusted their daughter with a small box containing “their most precious goods,” hoping to protect them from the Germans. The Gestapo would nevertheless seize these on the 5th, just as they would take possession of the house in the rue St. Rémy after putting it back in order so that it could be used again. Transferred from Amiens to Drancy the night of January 4th, Ferdinand and Berthe Lazard were deported to Auschwitz in convoy 66 on January 20th.

The rare survivors would bear witness to many acts of violence at each stage of the three-day journey. One of them, upon his return to Lutetia in 1945, told Simonne Audelin about the particularly tragic circumstances of her father’s death. Shocked by the brutality of an SS man who was assaulting one of his unfortunate companions in the freight car, Ferdinand Lazard attempted to intervene, crying out, “Oh, you brute!” He was instantly killed in cold blood by a bullet to the head. So, it was then alone, alongside the lifeless body of her husband, that Berthe Lazard completed the journey that would bring her – during the night between January 22nd and 23rd 1944 – to the crematorium of Birkenau. Ferdinand was 75 years old, Berthe 64.

Translated by Marcus Henry

The arrest of Armand Dreyfus, 71, and his wife, Fanny Dreyfus, 62, at 196 Rue du Maréchal Foch, Cayeux-sur-Mer, 5 January 1944

In this document from the archives, the arrest is primarily mentioned relative to its administrative consequences.

M. Boudierlique
Provisional Administrator
35 Avenue Paul Doumer
Cayeux-sur-Mer

Report Concerning the Enterprise “Les Nouvelles Galleries Modernes” at 195 Rue du Maréchal Foch

Cayeux-sur-Mer, 6 January 1944

Monsieur le Préfet,

I have the honor to inform you that yesterday, January 5th, a German officer working for the Commander of the Security Police [*Sicherheitspolizei*], accompanied by a plainclothes interpreter, presented himself at the establishment where M. and Mme Dreyfus reside in the adjoining private apartment and requested that they prepare themselves to follow him.

Upon the summons of the aforementioned officer, I went to the building.

After an examination of the document ascertaining my nomination to the role of Provisional Administrator, the officer informed me verbally that I should cease henceforth all activity, until the moment when I would receive, by your authority, instructions from the Commander of the Security Police concerning the continuation or the cessation of my duties.

All keys for the building were handed over to him, and, before my departure, the police officer proceeded to seal the doors of the building, barring all access to the establishment.

Please accept, Monsieur le Préfet, the assurance of my respectful and distinguished esteem.

Signed: Boudierlique

Care of Monsieur le Sous-Préfet d'Abbeville

Note: The prefect of the Somme at this time was Charles Daupeyroux.

Translated by Marcus Henry

Testimony: A woman from Amiens, detained in the Roundup of January 4th, saved at the Amiens train station

The following excerpt is from Ginette Hirtz (Schulhof), Les hortillonnages sous la grêle: Histoire d'une famille juive en France sous l'Occupation (The Hortillonnages Under Hail: History of a Jewish Family in France Under the Occupation), Mercure de France, 1982, pp. 96-97.

With permission of Florence Politis

The detainees of the roundup – several dozen – would remain cooped up in the court of the police station the whole day. I had to battle against the terrible desire to go over to see them, to speak to them. I thought that they were suffering from the cold. I told myself that Mama's only good pair of shoes were at the cobbler's... The fact that I was not able to attempt anything to help them torments me still many years later. At the end of the day, their convoy took the train for Paris and the Drancy transit camp, but the wife of Léo (a Turkish Jew already arrested the year prior) was saved by an anonymous person who threw himself on her behind a beam of the war-damaged train station. He pushed her under a parked freight car along the platform, and she rolled to the other side without anyone noticing anything. I knew these details, and my father

even alluded to them in his letter written from Drancy. Léo's wife never came back to Amiens, and I can't say what happened to her, but I haven't forgotten this life-saving deed ...

Note from David Rosenberg, December 2020: The woman saved at the station was named Rosa Doubchak. Her husband, Léon Doubchak, was a Russian Jew (and not a Turk), born in Odessa on 17 October 1895, who became a French refugee in 1905. He was in fact rounded up on 21 June 1941 and deported from Drancy to Auschwitz on the 14th of September 1942. It seems, however, that Mme Doubchak was present in Amiens after the war. She figures in the town directories at 30 Rue de la Contrescarpe, at least for the years 1947 ("textile") and 1948 ("bonnet-maker").

Translated by Marcus Henry

Testimony: the arrest of the Wajnberg Family at Rosières-en-Santerre

Montdidier, January 4, 1944

From the Sub-Prefect of Montdidier to the Prefect of the Somme, CABINET

Subject: Arrests by the German Authorities

I write to inform you that, today, the German Authorities arrested Dr. Benjamin Wajnberg, living in Rosières, his wife Chasia (née Ajzenberg), and their child Jean-Louis. The reasons for this action are not known. The Wajnberg family was taken to the Citadel of Amiens.

Dr. Wajnberg, an Israelite of Russian origin, became a naturalized French citizen on December 29, 1938. His attitude with regard to French laws was most proper ; mobilized as a doctor on September 1, 1939, he was commended by order of his regiment on July 10, 1940.

The Sub-Prefect,
[Signed]

Source: A.D.Somme 26 W 539

Note: for more information about this family, see the recent work by Martine Vasse, "Les Wajnberg, une famille assassinée," accessible through the online portal for the Archives départementales de la Somme.

Translated by Marcus Henry

Testimony: the arrest of Fernande Rakhowitz (née Zacharyus), 56, and Ginette Rakhowitz, 20, mother and daughter, at Bouquemaison (Somme) on January 7, 1944. Recounted around 2001 by Raymond Rakhowitz, son of Fernande and brother of Ginette, who survived the Roundup along with his father.

(I follow here the account referenced by Pierre Duséval in his work *Bouquemaison, 1939-1945: un village picard sous l'Occupation* (la Vague Verte, 2002), p. 81, "Les femmes Rakhowitz mortes en déportation".)

On the morning of January 7th, very early, Mama was busy making the "coffee" in the old way by making boiling water circulate and flow through a "sock" with some "coffee" powder in the bottom.

Suddenly, a car stopped, and I heard a voice with a German accent say to Mama, "You are Madame Rakhowitz, a Jew. We have come to arrest you. Prepare a small suitcase with some personal effects." My mother, unfazed, continued to make her coffee, and the agent of the Gestapo became annoyed: "Madame, prepare your bag, we are pressed for time."

Close by, still in bed because of a fever, I decided to try and escape from the raid. Stealthily, I put on slippers and a robe, I opened and leapt out the window and headed towards our neighbor's garden. Bypassing our manure heap and jumping over a thorny hedge, I went to ring Madame Béal's doorbell. She was astonished to see me at her door and asked, "Raymond, what is going on?"

"The German police are coming to arrest us!"

"Quickly, quickly, my boy, come in and get into bed!" I was safe for the moment.

My father, prevented from practicing his trade, had given himself over to fieldwork in nearby farms – he had headed there very early that morning, as usual. My sister Ginette had left to make purchases at the butcher's.

Many neighbors had gathered around the house, astonished and intrigued to see the Gestapo there. Ginette anxiously joined this group upon her return.

When Mama left, accompanied by the police officers, the neighbors rushed to kiss her and offer moral support, and Ginette approached and could not stop herself from crying "Mama, Mama!"

"Ah, your daughter!" shouted one of the police officers. "In that case, we'll go back to your home, and you'll prepare another bag."

For more information on the family and the village of Bouquemaison under the Occupation, see the aforementioned work by Mr. Duséval. See also the fiches from Drancy for Fernande and Ginette Rakhowitz.

Translated by Marcus Henry

Official Actions

The day after the Roundup, the Prefect of the Somme [Charles Daupeyroux] pleads the case of several of those who were arrested.

hd/lid

Amiens, January 5th, 1944

The Prefect of the Somme,
To Monsieur the Ambassador of France,
Secretary of State to the Chief of the Government
General Delegate of the French Government in the
Occupied Territories,
Cabinet of the General Delegate, in Paris

Subject: Arrests of Israelites

Reference: My prior phone call today

To follow up on my phone call earlier today, I write to inform you that the German authorities proceeded, yesterday, January 4th, with the arrest of all the Israelites of French nationality residing in my department. Moreover, I include here the provisional list.

Among the arrested people are:

Three Jewish children aged respectively 9, 9, and 14:

Hirsch (Georges), born June 14th, 1934 in Vienna, residing at 14 Rue Albéric de Calonne in Amiens

Redlich (Cécile), born April 29th, 1929 in Paris, residing at 9 Rue Cottrel Maisant in Amiens

The young Wajnberg (Jean-Louis), born April 24th, 1935 in Amiens, residing in Rosières-en-Santerre

Others seem to have been arrested by error:

M. Schulhof (Raymond) born March 25th, 1898 in Paris, residing at 14 Rue Albéric de Calonne in Amiens, along with his wife, née Levy (Fleurette) born April 2nd, 1901 in Verdun, and his mother-in-law Mme Levy, Louise, born February 26th, 1873 in Thionville.

M. Schulhof was in possession of the identity card [*carte de légitimation*] no. 800, valid until February 29, 1944; you will find the photograph of the card attached. As this document specifies, M. Schulhof, who served as Delegate of the General Union of the Israelites of France, was to be “spared any orders of detention”: the same protection was to extend to members of his family residing with him.

Finally, the following two individuals of Aryan race were also subject to a detention order:

M. Kasmine (Vladimir), Aryan, born December 24th, 1900 in Varonege, of French nationality, veteran of the 1939-1940 war, decorated with the Croix de Guerre, residing for more than 25 years in Amiens at 131 Rue Delpech.

The above-named individual was arrested at the same time as his wife of Jewish race.

M. Lehmann (André), Aryan, shirt-maker, born November 1st, 1893 in Besançon.

The concerned party was officially registered on the list of Israelites of the Department of the Somme at the express demand of M. the Commissioner General of Jewish Questions,.

However, it results from a definitive judgment rendered by the President of the Civil Tribunal of Amiens, on June 4th, 1943, a copy of which you will find attached, that the aforementioned Lehmann cannot be considered a Jew as defined by the Law of June 2nd, 1941.

Consequently, I would be very obliged to you if you would be willing to intervene, should you judge it appropriate, with the upper-ranking German authorities in order to obtain the release of these 8 people.

I will add that approaching the local services of the Sicherheitspolizei did not produce any effect and that all of these people were taken to the Drancy internment camp on January 4th at 8:20pm.

The Prefect

Source: Archives départementales de la Somme

Translated by Marcus Henry

Futile Intercession: Letters following the arrest of Rachel Hubault in the Roundup

Letterhead: GENERAL DELEGATION OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Paris, FEB. 10, 1944

Monsieur de Brinon

Ambassador of France

Secretary of State to the Head of Government

General Delegate of the French Government in the Occupied Territories

To Monsieur the Prefect of the Somme

A M I E N S

The attention of the General Delegation has been drawn to the arrest, by the German authorities, of Madame ZIMMANN HUBAULT, residing in Amiens at 39 Boulevard Thiers.

I would be obliged if you would send me, as soon as you can, all the intelligence that you are able to collect concerning this matter.

I would appreciate hearing if you deemed it appropriate to intervene in favor of the interested party, and, if so, what became of your attempts?

Stamped 12 FEB. 1944 Records Office of the Prefecture of the Somme

Note from David Rosenberg: Rachel Hubault had already been sent with convoy no. 67 from Drancy toward Auschwitz on February 3, 1944. The requested investigation, still in progress in Amiens on February 21, 1944 was therefore much too late.

Translated by Katelyn Livorse

“Jewish but Catholic”: The investigation into Rachel Hubault proceeded in Amiens; those inquiring were unaware of her deportation

Amiens, 16 February 1944

The Police Commissioner, Head of Department [National Security, Commissariat of General Intelligence]

To Monsieur the Prefect of the Department of the Somme at Amiens,

In reference to your letter dated 14 February 1944, relating to an inquiry on the subject of Mme Hubault, residing in Amiens at 39 Thiers Bd.

The aforementioned woman was arrested on 4 January 1944 by the German authorities on account of her Jewish origin. She currently finds herself interned at the Drancy camp (Seine).

She is Jewish but Catholic; a baptismal certificate was delivered from the Church of Saint Anne in Amiens dated 14 September 1921. Mme Hubault is very well-regarded in Amiens. A person of good behavior and moral conduct, she has not come under any prior judicial or political scrutiny.

Her two children are in possession of certificates delivered from the Commissariat-General for Jewish Affairs on 14 January 1944, under the terms of which they cannot be considered Jews according to the law of 2 June 1941.

I think that, given her situation, an intervention with Field Commander [*Feldkommandantur*] can be attempted in her favor.

Signed,

Source: AJ 38 5076/17

Translated by Jaclyn Nichols

Comment from David Rosenberg: In her fiche d'internement at Drancy, it appears that Rachel Hubault attempted to assert, apparently unsuccessfully, that she was (only) half-Jewish (« se dit ½ juive »). Neither that argument nor the fact that both her first husband and second husband were « aryens » or, apparently, that she herself was a baptized Catholic, who raised two children in the Catholic faith (facts adduced in this tardy « enquête » and no doubt also pleaded by her and perhaps others while she was still at Drancy), succeeded in forestalling her deportation to Auschwitz., though something managed to delay her departure, which, for the other arrestees of the Somme took place on January 20 (Convoy 66) while Rachel was deported on Convoy 67 which left for Auschwitz on February 3.

On the same convoy with Rachel Hubault, Jacob Katzenell, 73, and his wife Charlotte Katzenell, née Wiesel, 72, were present. They were Jewish refugees, ex-Austrians, who, at least in 1940, resided in Amiens at 11 Rue Pierre l'Hermitte and 6 Rue Porion. They were arrested in a round up on 22 January 1944 at Place Danube in the 19th arrondissement of Paris and taken to Drancy.

Testimony About Mordechai Behar and His Family, Taken at Mers-les-Bains in January 1944

An abridged transcription from a document which appeared on the website shoahpresquile.com but whose archives of origin and the reference code do not seem to be indicated.

Testimony of the ex-mayor of Mers-les-Bains, Étienne Chanterelle, written down in Gamaches, July 31, 1962, by Claude Baudoux, Gendarme, Agent of the Judiciary Police:

“I knew Monsieur and Madame Behar well, who because of their religion were the object of administrative harassment on the part of the occupiers.

“I know that one day they were summoned by the administration which was obligated to give them the yellow star. Monsieur Behar made his disgust to wear it known to me. In agreement

with me, it was decided that – by covering himself with a sweater – he would escape from the obligation of wearing this vile badge.

“Having been sent to prison, I did not see him again upon my return. In the meantime, he had been, I was told, arrested along with his family, which grieves me.”

DR's Note: Mordechai Behar, his wife Victoria and their daughter Lea were all three arrested in the roundup from 4-8 January in the Somme and died in Auschwitz. Albert Behar, the couple's son, seems to have escaped this roundup. A beautiful photo of this family is located on the website of the Memorial of the Shoah.

Translated by Marcus Henry

Testimony: Order for the Hospitalization of Louis Roos and Estelle Weiller, 6 January 1944

The following order was originally issued in German by the Sicherheitspolizei (Security Police), then translated into French at the Prefecture. The translation below is from the French version into English.

Sicherheitspolizei-SD-Kommando St. Quentin

Aussenstelle Amiens [*Amiens Branch*]

Amiens, 6 Jan. 1944

A request to take the following French immigrants of Jewish race to a hospital: Louis Roos residing in Amiens at 44 Rue des Trois Cailloux and Mme Estelle Weiller, née Hanem [*DR correction: Hanau*], residing in Amiens at 150 Rue Laurendeau.

Following the arrest of their relatives and loved ones, they became incapable of managing on their own.

As the house of Mme Weiller is to be [*note: unclear writing; alternate reading: "must be"*] closed by us, please inform us by telephone when the transfer will take place.

St. Scharführer [*Squad Leader*]

U. stv. Dst. Leiter

Signed: illegible

Handwritten and initialed note in the margin: “what was necessary was accomplished by telephone on 7 Jan. 43 [correction: 44 (DR)]”

Source: Archives départementales de la Somme, Séries W

Note from DR:

See also the following details from a document issued by the Commissariat of Police, Amiens District, dated the 8th of January 1944 which contains a list of persons arrested by the German authority in the roundup:

Those aforementioned, Roos, Louis... and Weiller, née Hanau Estelle..., were transferred by order of the Sicherheitspolizei. The first [M. Roos] to the St. Joseph Clinic at 47 Chaussée Jules Ferry and then directly transferred to the Hospice of Conty (Somme); the second [Mme Weiller] to the Nouvel Hôpital.

Following the completed inquest, it became clear that those named:

SCHULHOF, Ginette – SCHULHOF, Gisèle – SCHULHOF, Pierre – OBERLER, Samuel and LOURIA (née ARANIAS) Marguerite are currently without a known residence.

Sources: Archives dép. Somme 26 W 594

Translated by Marcus Henry

Lucien Aaron (1878-1976): The Aftershocks of the Roundup

In 1966, Lucien Aaron hoped to obtain an internment identification card to be able to benefit from State aid. His approach did not succeed. [Editor's note: the A.D.I.F. mentioned in the letter appears to be the Association des déportés et internés politiques et familles de disparus - the Association of Political Deportees and Internees and the Families of the Missing.]

Amiens, 11 December 1966, National Federation of Deportees and Internees, resisters and patriots, 10 Rue Leroux, P A R I S (16th arrondissement)

Dear Comrades,

Following our public appeals in the press relative to the lifting of the statute of limitations, I was called last week to visit, at his request, a formerly interned comrade. This comrade is an Israelite, he is very well known in Amiens, he is a member of the A.D.I.F. office.

He submitted his case to me, after having exposed it in vain to the heads of the A.D.I.F. I must add that this comrade is a partisan of unity and that, formerly, his contributions carried weight. It is quite different now, he doesn't attend the meetings anymore, he is 88 years old.

This comrade AARON, Lucien, born 22 April 1878, was interned as a Jew at the Drancy camp from 1/4/44 until 2/5/44 – M1e 17.701. Given that he was already old at the time and that he was married to an Aryan, a fact that he asserted, he was, he says, transferred from Drancy to the Lamblardie Camp – 7 Rue de Lamblardie Street in Paris – annex of Drancy from 2/5/44 to 6/15/1944. Then, from 6/15/1944 until 9/5/44, under forced residence at the Camp des Abondances, 11 Rue des Abondances in Boulogne-sur-Seine. He was liberated on that date.

He made a request for an internment identification card which was opposed through a decision to reject numbered 1550 on 4/8/1955. He did not appeal this decision.

The decision to reject was motivated by the fact that this comrade doesn't even have 3 months of internment, the commission only counting the period passed at the Drancy Camp.

He affirms that the Lamblardie camp was an annex of Drancy and that some deportation convoys left from this camp.

I asserted to this comrade that it was not possible for him to establish a new file following the lifting of the statute of limitations and also that he should have appealed the decision to reject his first request for a card. I promised him nevertheless that I would intervene in order to know how the Lamblardie Camp was considered and whether we had known of other comrades in a similar position.

He's a good man. I stayed two hours with him, and I saw him cry while telling me about all the hardships he endured before his arrest and about his suffering and his agony for his loved ones. He had four children who succeeded in hiding. I repeat that he is very well known in Amiens and in the department; he held an important role within the Jewish community for a period of time. I don't know what we can do for him; anything would doubtless be related to this Lamblardie camp. You will without doubt inform yourselves on this matter so that I can let him know what next steps we may be able to take in his case.

With my thanks, I beg you to believe, Dear Comrades, my feelings of friendship.

Not signed, but, based on other correspondence, this letter would be from the hand of Comrade Boen.

Sources: Archives of the ADIRP

Translated by Marcus Henry

Order from the Germans to the Prefect of the Somme commanding that three Jews arrested in the January 7 Roundup be transported to Drancy

In the archives, the following order is available in the original German and in the French translation completed at the Prefecture. English translations of both versions follow since some details from the original German (such as the clarification of citizenship) are missing from the French version.

English translation of the original German letter:

To Monsieur the Prefect of the Department of the Somme, Amiens

It is requested that three French citizens of the Jewish race be transferred from Amiens to Paris-Drancy by the Gendarmerie Nationale on Jan. 7.

The Head of the Field Office Demke

St. Scharführer [*Squad Leader*]

English translation of the French translation completed at the Prefecture:

We request that you arrange the transfer of 3 French Jews from Amiens to Paris-Drancy by the Gendarmerie Nationale on Jan. 7.

Translated by Kelsey Madsen

An intervention from the employer of Vladimir Kasmine in his favor after his arrest and that of his family at 131 Rue Delpech

(Letterhead of the Société Artésienne de force et de lumière, Rue du Crinchon at Arras)

17 Rue de la République, Amiens, 5 January 1944

Monsieur le Préfet,

We respectfully bring the following to your attention.

Our official, Vladimir Kasmine, born 25 December 1900 in Voronege (Russia), who became a member of our Society on 22 September 1922 and who resides at 131 Delpech Street in Amiens, was arrested at his home along with his wife and his mother-in-law on Tuesday, 4 January at 8:00am.

Kasmine is a naturalized French citizen. He served in the French Army from 1939-1940, is decorated with the Croix de Guerre, and is not Jewish (his father was an orthodox priest) [*the phrase between parentheses was added in ink*].

We believe that it was by error that he was subject to arrest, and we ask whether it would be possible for you to intervene to obtain his release.

Please accept, Monsieur the Prefect, the assurance of our distinguished consideration.

The District Chief (signed)

Source: Departmental archives of the Somme, Série W

Additional notes: The wife of Vladimir/Viktor Kasmine was named Nadia/Dvoira Kasmine (née Sobol), born in Brest-Litovsk, 5 April 1901; his mother-in-law was named Rachel Sobol (née Aizensteyn), born in Pinsk, October 17, 1888."

Nadine Kasmine and Rachel Sobol were deported to Auschwitz by convoy no. 66 on 20 January 1944, where they disappeared. According to a note at the back of his file, the interventions on behalf of Viktor Kasmine succeeded, and he was liberated from the camp at Drancy on 2 February 1944.

Translated by Marcus Henry

Jacques (Isaac) Louria asks the Prefect for a certificate attesting to the persecution of his mother during the Occupation

[Letterhead: Établissements LOURIA, 17 Rue des Augustins, Amiens]

November 30th, 1945

Monsieur le Préfet,

I have the honor of asking you for a certificate attesting that Madame Louria (née Aranias), of French nationality, was harassed several times during the Occupation by the Gestapo and the French authorities of the Vichy government due to her Jewish status.

She was arrested the first time by the German authorities in 1942 on the occasion of her husband's first arrest; he was imprisoned at the Doullens camp. During the roundup of the Israelites of the [*Somme*] Department on January 3rd, 1944, she evaded the Gestapo, who were hunting her down.

From that moment on, she lived in hiding in very poor conditions in Amiens on Rue Boucher de Perthes. There she fell ill, suffering from pernicious anemia.

It is formally recognized that it was because of these living conditions that she contracted this illness which caused her to die on April 13th, 1944.

Yours sincerely, Monsieur le Préfet,

[Signed:] Jacques Louria

Source: Departmental archives of Somme, Série W

Note from DR: Jacques Louria is wrong about the date of the Roundup, which in fact occurred on January 4th, 1944.

Translated by Virginia Williams

The Prefect's Response to Jacques Louria (see above letter)

Amiens, December 3rd, 1945

Monsieur,

I have the honor of acknowledging that I have received your letter from the 30th of November.

The certificate that you ask me for cannot be delivered to you. In fact, no document attesting that Mme Louria, your mother, was sought by the Germans was found in the archives of the Prefecture.

Sincerely,

The Prefect

(Without a signature, copy)

Source: Archives départementales de la Somme, Série W

Translated by Virginia Williams

The arrival of Georges Hirsch, 9 years old, in Amiens in June 1943, as registered by the German military police. He was arrested later at the home of the Schulhofs, his adoptive family, at 14 Rue Albéric de Calonne, in the Roundup of January 4, 1944.

Note from DR: Memories of Georges Hirsch can be found in the memoirs of Ginette Hirtz Schulhof and Jacqueline Blum Schulhof, cited above. A detailed account of him and his parents, Austrian Jewish refugees and members of the Resistance, may be found on “Le blog des amis Cazaux-Debat” and reproduced on the site of the AJPN.

Sicherheitspolizei (SD) [*Security Police*]

Aussenstelle – Amiens [*Amiens Branch*]

Registration number: 857/43

Amiens, 8 June 1943

To the Municipal Administration of Amiens

The stateless individual Georges Hirsch, born 6/14/1934 in Vienna (Germany), who was traveling with fake papers to Ancizan (Hautes Pyrénées), was brought to our unit. He has no papers regarding his origins. Ration cards must be established for him for the appropriate services.

The Branch Chief

Signed (illegible)

(French translation by the employees of the Prefecture)

Source: Archives nationales de France, AJ 38/5076 (micro) image #598

Translated by Marcus Henry