

LE DÉPARTEMENT DE L'ISÈRE  
PRÉSENTE



MUSÉE DE  
LA RÉSISTANCE  
ET DE LA  
DÉPORTATION  
DE L'ISÈRE  
GRENOBLE

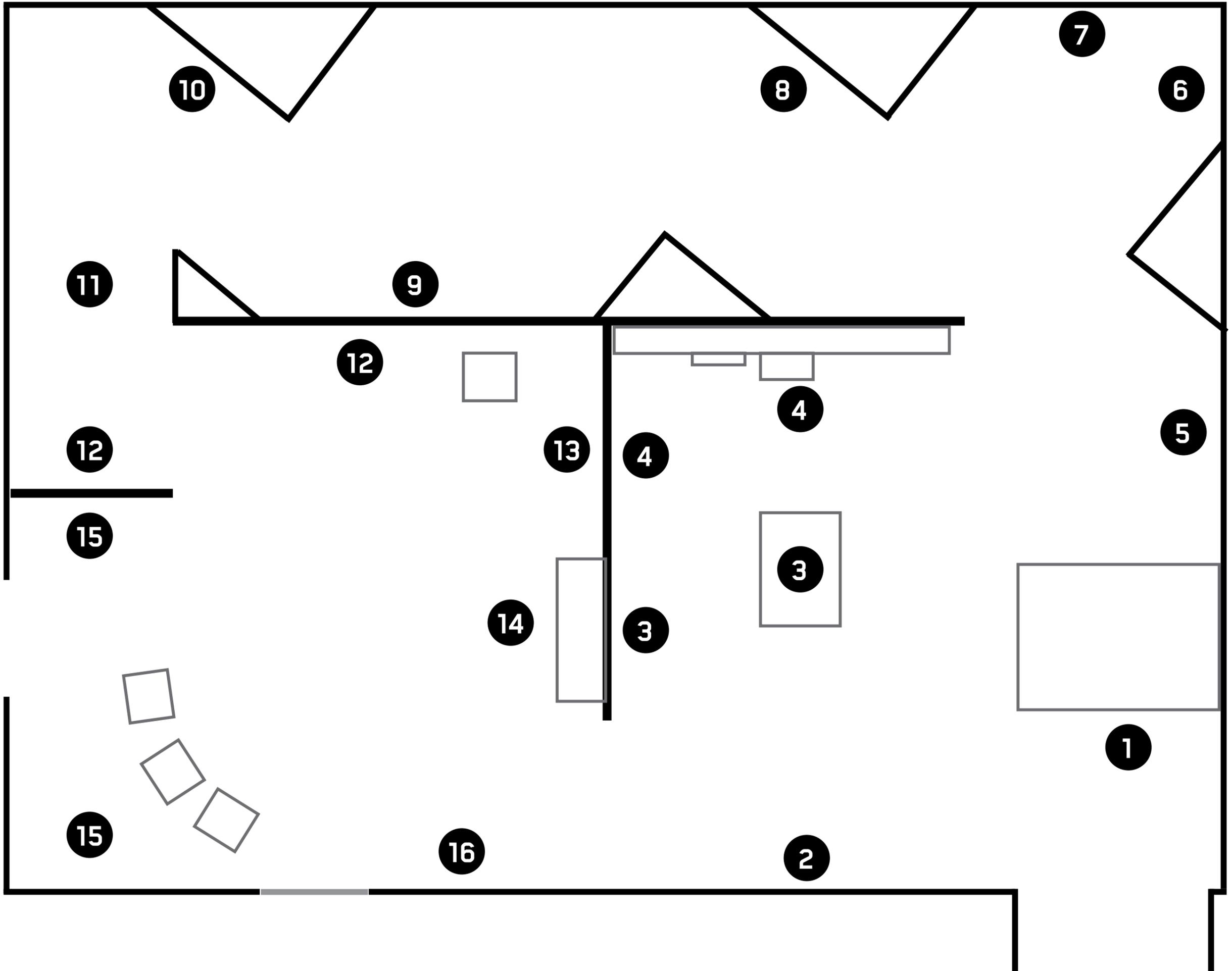
EXHIBITION TEXT

# FEMMES DES ANNÉES 40



ENTRÉE GRATUITE  
DANS LES 11 MUSÉES DU DÉPARTEMENT DE L'ISÈRE  
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**isère**  
LE DÉPARTEMENT



## EXHIBITION TEXT

## INTRODUCTION

In the story of the World War II, far from the prosperity of men, women and their actions have usually been forgotten or not enhanced enough. However, whenever they were members of the resistance, collaborators, soldiers, Jews, housewives or housekeepers, women had to get into position, join or simply try to survive during this tough period of History.

Throughout the exhibition *WOMEN IN THE 1940'S*, the Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation de l'Isère comes back for the first time on the story of iseroises women from the interwar period to Liberation of France. As the actual society questions which place should be devoted to women, this exhibition has the ambition to highlight their histories, their choices and their parts by relying on new historical works.

An unprecedented exhibition which invites visitors to look upon the daily life of women during the 40's.



Poster produced by French Union for Women's Suffrage (UFSF), 1925, Paris.  
Archives départementales de l'Isère collection

## WOMEN IN THE 1930'S

The First World War seriously upset the balance of population between men and women. By the end of the 1930s this situation had scarcely improved and the birth rate was low all over the country. Women had still not obtained the civic and political rights that feminist campaigners had been demanding for decades, despite their massive contribution to the 1914-18 war effort or as the heads of families. The battle for the vote carried on into the 1920-30s but with little hope of success: rightwing parties were against the move and radical secularists feared that the Church would influence the way women voted. The priority for politicians was to regenerate the population by encouraging births, so they called on women to become mothers above all. On 22 June 1940 Marshal Pétain signed an armistice with Germany and a few weeks later the 'Vichy' regime was established. He went on to redefine the role of women in the midst of a world war.

## LIVING AND SURVIVING

**'You will spend less with a woman at home!'**

Slogan from a propaganda poster issued by the Vichy government, 1941.

## THE MEN LEFT...

Largely dependent on their spouses, women were left to fend for themselves when France mobilized in 1939. More than 1.5 million men remained in German prisoner-of-war camps under the stringent conditions of the armistice that followed defeat. This upset the life of many households: loss of bearings, lack of resources and separation from loved ones caused genuine suffering. Many POWs worried about their wives being unfaithful. In a new departure the authorities could meddle with conjugal affairs, prosecuting women for adultery in the place of their husband. In 1941 Suzanne Lapierre founded the Union of Prisoners' Wives in Grenoble to demand the return of their menfolk and support mothers left on their own. Many women went without in order to send food parcels to their husbands. When the Relief system was introduced, enabling POWs to return home in exchange for labour supplied to German industry, it seemed conditions might improve. But the Compulsory Labour Scheme (STO), introduced in February 1943, dashed such hopes. Young men were taken away to work abroad, adding their number to their already absent fathers. Others refused to comply with the scheme and joined the *maquis* (French Resistance) in the hills.

**Extract from the film *Une mémoire vive: Les prisonniers de la Seconde Guerre mondiale et leurs familles*.**

Florence Levrat tells her story alongside her son André. He was taken prisoner on 15 June 1940, sent to Stalag IV C (Wistritz, Czech Republic) and liberated on 8 May 1945.

The film was directed by Daniel Pelligra for the Isère Association of Prisoners of War, veterans of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco (PG-CATM). Time: 4 minutes, 35 seconds.



**Letter from a prisoner of war to his wife, 4 April 1943, Moosburg, Germany.**

ADCPG-CATM collection  
Sent by Félix Thauray, a POW at Stalag VII A, to his wife, then living at La Tour du Pin, Isère. All letters from POWs were opened and checked by the German army at the time of despatch.

**Flyer published by the Isère Patriotic Committee, Grenoble, 1943.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 91.02.149

This flyer was handed out in the streets of Grenoble just after the Compulsory Labour Scheme (STO) was started.

**Propaganda for the purchase of armament bonds, *Petit Écho de la Mode* n° 11, 17 March 1940, p.13 and 14.**

Musée de la Viscose collection  
As soon as the war started women were targeted by propaganda encouraging them to make a financial contribution to equipping the French army.

**Propaganda for civil defence, Marie-Claire n°147, 22 December 1939, p.51.**

Musée de la Viscose collection

As soon as war was declared, long before any fighting started on French territory, the general public, and women in particular, received information on how to behave in the event of air raids.

**Flyer published by Union of French Women's Committees (UCFF), Grenoble, 1943.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 94.06.09

The flyer, printed by UCFF, close to the French Communist party, calls on French women to take action and do everything in their power to free POWs in Germany.



**Flyer published by the Working Women's Committee, Grenoble, 14 March 1943.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 91.02.168

The flyer is a call to demonstrate at Grenoble railway station against the forcible departure of young men leaving for the Compulsory Labour Scheme (STO) started on 16 February 1943 by the Vichy regime.

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## VICHY MADE MOTHERING THE TOP PRIORITY

Boosting the pro-birth policies of the previous government led by Édouard Daladier and promoting family values, the Vichy regime issued a string of decrees and laws designed to restrict the role played by women in public life and confine them to their homes. The law of 11 October 1940 banned married women from working, particularly in the public sector. Unmarried women were expected to take 'feminine' jobs, working as secretaries, librarians or nurses. But in 1941 labour shortages forced the government to allow women to return to work. The following year a circular issued by the Secretary of State for industrial output stipulated that 'nothing should prevent married women from working, even those whose husband can support the family'. Then the law of 4 September 1942 allocated unmarried women aged 21 to 35 to all 'public interest' jobs. Various decrees sought to 'restore the full force and stability of families', based on men and women's complementary roles and differences. Women must have babies and raise children, men must head the family and support its needs. In 1941 divorce proceedings became very difficult, except for mixed Jewish and Gentile couples. Women found guilty of adultery could be sentenced to two years in prison, whereas unfaithful men were simply fined. The Vichy regime tightened its grip on women's bodies and tried to prevent contraception and abortion. The latter was labelled 'a crime against the State', liable to capital punishment.



**A Vichy official decorating the wives of POWs and their children, Vichy, c.1943.**

Janine Rosmini collection

In the middle, Mrs Rosmini is holding her daughter Janine by the shoulders.

**Card promoting the first National Mother's Day, 31 May 1942.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 95.23.01

This card was intended for local councils, urging them to promote National Mother's Day all over the country. The idea started in a few villages in 1913. But the idea of a special day celebrating women for their role in bearing children was only officially established in 1942, by Marshal Pétain.

**Pro-birth propaganda poster published by the Vichy regime.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation de l'Ain collection

This poster was published by the Overall Commission for the Family and National Assistance, a body set up to support soldiers and their families. It shows how the Vichy regime blamed, at least in part, defeat in June 1940 on the dwindling birth rate.

**Poster published by the National Alliance against Depopulation.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation de l'Ain collection

This organization was originally founded in 1896 by Fernand Boverat as the National Alliance for Population Growth. It campaigned against falling birth rates in France and an ageing population. After 1940 triumphant Germany was depicted as having prevailed because of its very high birth rate.

**Make up of the assistance committee of Vienne town council, Isère, 6 November 1941.**

Archives municipales de Vienne collection

The Vichy regime left very little room for women in politics. Women were often represented on town councils, but were restricted to social and family affairs. Appointed by the local *préfet*, they were known as 'SMS ladies', (as in social and medical services). This was the case here for Henriette Noir, a Vienne town councillor.

**Certificate stating that Ms Adrienne Bigogno, cleaner, was not paid, Grenoble, 1943.**

Archives départementales de l'Isère collection

Some women were employed by the French State to keep house for officers in the German army. As the French authorities failed to pay their wages on a regular basis, the local Wehrmacht staff took care of payments.



**Letter detailing wages paid to ancillary staff in German billets, Grenoble, 1942.**

Archives départementales de l'Isère collection

**Permit to enter a brothel issued to a German soldier, Grenoble, 1944.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 91.02.347

Prostitution was strictly forbidden by the Vichy regime, but having occupied northern France in 1940 the German army encouraged brothels, opening them all over the area under its control for the benefit of its soldiers. Prostitutes were subjected to strict medical examination by army doctors in order to prevent the spread of venereal disease. The women were checked twice a week and subjected to dangerous, sometimes deadly medical treatment if contamination was suspected.

**Worker at the Viscose factory, Grenoble, c.1940.**

Musée de la Viscose collection

The Vichy regime adopted a more flexible position on women's work due to increasing labour shortages, many men being under arms, in prison, requisitioned, deported or underground. In particular in Isère women found work at the spinning shop at the Viscose factory in Grenoble, previously operated by an all-male workforce.

**A young woman cleaning a window at the school of housekeeping at the Viscose factory, Échirolles, Isère, c.1942.**

Musée de la Viscose collection

**Young women at a sewing class at the school of housekeeping at the Viscose factory, Échirolles, Isère, 1942.**

Musée de la Viscose collection

**Certificate of housekeeping aptitude issued to Josette Louis, Échirolles, Isère, 20 July 1943.**

Musée de la Viscose collection

As part of its plans for moral re-armament, under the banner of Work, Family, Fatherland, the Vichy regime set about 'organizing' youth by developing gender-specific activities. For women there was a school of housekeeping, designed to train good wives and proficient mothers, opened in October 1942 at the instigation of the social worker at the Viscose factory in Échirolles. It organized courses in cooking, dress-making and preventive medicine, among others. The factory took on 18 young women, aged 14 to 16, for a two-year course in housekeeping.

**Women's football team, Navis sports club, Viscose factory, Échirolles, Isère, c.1943.**

Musée de la Viscose collection

The ideology of the Vichy regime encouraged physical education and sports. Here was a means of preparing women's bodies to have babies, thus securing the quality of future generations. Many sports clubs were set up for women at this time. At the Viscose factory young women were encouraged to indulge in a sport. A specific instructor was hired in 1943 to supervise them. All women under the age of 18 were required to train for at least two hours a week, as part of their working hours.



**Group of young women from the school of housekeeping at the Viscose factory, posing for a photograph outside a house in the adjoining housing estate, Échirolles, Isère, c.1942.**

Musée de la Viscose collection

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## DAYS GOING WITHOUT

Under the terms of the armistice signed in June 1940 France had to pay heavy reparations to Germany: a daily cash fine, tonnes of coal, cattle by the thousand, essential foods, among others. This caused serious shortages. Staples such as coffee, bread, sugar, flour and meat ran short. This was the start of the 'days going without'. Rationing started on 23 September 1940 with ration books limiting purchases according to age and profession. The French needed all their native wit to manufacture substitutes. Various ways round the system appeared, with some people recovering or converting used goods, while others found new ways of serving leftovers. Many families had to resort to the black market, which became the main 'parallel' source of food. Thieving increased. Putting a meal on the table was a constant struggle for French women, who often had to queue for hours outside shops. Often the family went hungry even so. They would talk as they waited, swapping recipes and views on the harsh conditions. In 1941 housewives in the as yet unoccupied southern zone started staging demonstrations to protest against rationing. For some it was the first step towards more active resistance.



**Cover of Petit Écho de la Mode n°11, 17 March 1940.**

Musée de la Viscose collection

**Fashion in January 1940, Petit Écho de la Mode, 30 December 1939.**

Musée de la Viscose collection

**Workstation for darning stockings, 1943.**

Musée de la Viscose collection

The war put a stop to trade and shifted the focus of industrial output. France stopped importing and producing silk, switching to artificial silk (rayon, or *viscose* in French) chemically extracted from wood pulp. The resulting stockings were less robust than the 'nylons' that flooded the market after the war, so they often needed to be darned. This gave rise to a specific trade in the 1940s. Those not fortunate enough to be able to buy 'real' stockings, sometimes simply drew a pencil line down the back of their legs.

**Pattern for a simple jumper, Petit Écho de la Mode n°11, 17 March 1940.**

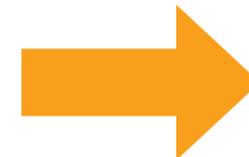
Musée de la Viscose collection

Women's magazines played an important part in life at home suggesting countless ways of substituting one ingredient for another or making clothes to get round restrictions. Re-using things was actively encouraged and French women proved extremely inventive, launching a specific "war-time style".

**Recipe for making soap, 1940s.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 2019.8.2

To cope with rationing everyday necessities were made using recipes in magazines, suggested by acquaintances or invented from scratch. They were carefully noted and constantly improved, providing they required few or easily obtainable raw materials. Soap, which is quite easy to make at home, came top of the list.





**Dress made from household fabric, Les Avenières, Isère, c.1942.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 2019.3.1

This dress was made from a linen sheet given to its owner when she was married. It is emblematic of how resourceful women could be in their efforts to reconcile shortages and elegance. In some cases such garments set trends that persisted after the war, typically trouser skirts that were handier for walking or cycling, or patchwork dresses, made of upholstery off-cuts.

**Extra beer for wet nurses, 24 June 1943.**

Bernard le Marec collection

Wet nurses received special treatment, qualifying for extra beer, thought to encourage lactation.

**Like Mum board game, 1941.**

Bernard le Marec collection

Rationing was omnipresent in French homes, even giving rise to a board game for young women, to help them to grow up to be good housekeepers.

**Flyer produced by the Working Women's Committee calling to demonstrate against rationing, distributed illegally in Grenoble and Seyssins on the night of 30 April to 1 May 1941.**

Archives départementales de l'Isère collection

**Flyer produced by the French Women's Committee calling for widespread protests against rationing, Grenoble, 1943.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 94.06.03

French women particularly resented the hardship caused by rationing. It soon became a political issue. Unable to feed their children properly some women went so far as to hand out flyers in protest at rationing. This was illegal. In the 'free' southern zone they took part in 'housekeeper' demonstrations, some quite spontaneous, others organized by the Communist party, which by then had gone underground.

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### COLLABORATING

In June 1940, when he was appointed head of government, Pétain was seen as a national hero, having saved France at Verdun in 1916. Many thought he could preserve the country's interests in the face of the enemy forces. But in October the Vichy regime started officially collaborating with the Germans in order to 'attenuate the occupation regime'. In particular this took the form of jointly organized efforts to deport French Jews. Some people joined collaborationist organizations such as the French People's Party (PPF) led by Jacques Doriot or the People's National Rally, under Marcel Déat. Women accounted for one-fifth of these party's membership. The most ardent supporters joined the French Militia, a paramilitary body. Industry and big business were also encouraged to collaborate with the occupying forces, putting their resources to work for the Nazi war machine. The Brun biscuit factory in Saint Martin d'Hères, headed by Claire Darré-Touche, wholeheartedly supported the regime. After the war about a fifth of the collaborators who were prosecuted were women, charged with various crimes ranging from betraying their fellows, through working for the Germans, to belonging to a collaborationist organization. Many women were accused of 'horizontal collaboration', in other words intimate relations with the Germans.



**Portrait of Claire Darré-Touche (date of birth and death unknown) by France Suc, oil on canvas, 1920s.**

Musée dauphinois collection, Isère department - 91.18.1

Claire Darré-Touche inherited the whole estate of Gaétan Brun, the son of Pierre-Jean-Félix Brun, who founded the Brun biscuit factory. She took over at the head of the company in 1923. She modernized the works in just a few years and introduced very strict organization of labour. During the occupation

the factory operated round the clock to provide German soldiers with bread. In 1941 she welcomed her 'friend' Pétain to the factory, when he visited Grenoble, obliging the workforce to applaud him. Following the Liberation of France Darré-Touche narrowly escaped execution by

running away to Switzerland. All her belongings and large amounts of food stored in her cellar were locked up by the French Resistance then distributed by the Purge Commission. In 1947 a court ruled that the company should be handed back to her and she went on running it till the 1960s.

**Portrait, front and side-view, of Simone Waro (1915-97) when arrested in Lyon, 12 May 1945.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 92.106.13

Simone Reboul (born Waro), aka Mireille Provence, was born in Lyon and became a particularly active member of the Isère militia. She was arrested on a charge of thieving in 1937 and sentenced to two weeks in prison, in Roanne, before running away to Paris, leaving behind her husband François Reboul and young boy Charlie. Married in 1935, they never divorced. In the late-1930s she started work as a singer in several Paris nightclubs, subsequently popular with German soldiers. On a visit to Isère she was picked up on 7 July 1944 by Vercors Resistance fighters, who thought she was spying. She was held at La Chapelle en Vercors. When the camp was broken up she became the mistress of Colonel Rudolph Selbrich, aka Oberland. He sent her on long walks round Saint Nazaire en Royans, where she extracted information from young *maquisards* who fell for her charms. She became known as the women with the dog or the Vercors spy. Prosecuted by courts in Drôme and Isère on charges of collaborating she tried to escape to Germany, but was arrested near Besançon in August 1944. She was brought back to Lyon and sentenced to death in October 1945. A month later, after pretending she was pregnant, General de Gaulle changed her sentence to penal servitude for life. Another trial was organized in February 1946. She was finally released 10 years later.

**Attestation that Mireille Provence rendered services to the occupation forces, Mâcon, 7 August 1944.**

Archives départementales de l'Isère collection

*Translation of a pass*

The French women Simone R(o)boul (Reboul), née Waro Mireille, born 26/2/1915 in Lyon, currently residing in Mâcon, is hereby recognized as a person worthy of trust working for the Feldgendarmarie in Mâcon. Of her own free will she assisted German forces. With her investigation, she has done exemplary work in the battle against terrorists.

**Arrest warrant for Simone Waro published by Les Allobroges newspaper on 26 February 1946.**

Archives départementales de l'Isère collection

After avoiding a death sentence Simone Waro has again disappeared and is now actively sought by former members of the Resistance movement. Certain documents suggest that Simone Waro has tried to pass herself off as being dead, in order to stop the search and avoid imprisonment.



**Monique Guyot (1906-2001), Villard de Lans, Isère.**

Guyot family collection

Monique Guyot and her mother ran the Sainte Marie boarding house in Villard de Lans. She also gave piano lessons. She kept a record of the years of occupation in seven exercise books. She was very worried about the

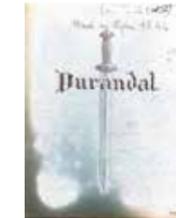
French Resistance yet hostile to the Germans, finding an outlet for her hopes and fears in writing. In an attempt to understand what was going on around her, this unusual, strong-minded woman visited *maquis* strongholds in the Vercors on foot. Her diary, heavily influenced by the Vichy regime, puts a fresh perspective on events. Though clearly pro-Pétain, she was against German occupation and scornfully dismissed the soldiers as 'Boches'. She was afraid of the Resistance fighters, calling them terrorists. She also feared a revolution led by Communist insurgents. From time to time she would re-read her diary, crossing things out. But she remained convinced that Pétain was right: the world was indeed run by free-masons, Jews and Communists. In the 1980s she considered publishing her work, under the title: *The other side of the coin. Tales of Vercors and other memories.*

**Picture thought to be of Maud Champetier de Ribes (1922-44), at Salle Pleyel, for a Francist Congress in Paris, 1944.**

National archives collection

Maud Champetier de Ribes, aka Danielle Jeanneret, was a member of the Fascist militia. She was reputedly cruel and ill-tempered. Her aunt brought her up to be right-wing and anti-Semitic. For a while she worked for the French Red Cross. Aged 21 she was recruited by the secret police in Lyon and tasked with spying on 'enemies' of France (Jews, free-masons and Communists). Adopting an assumed name,

she presented herself as a Swiss student, the aim being to intercept Jews being smuggled out of France. She became the mistress of Raoul Dagostini, the head of the militia then operating on the Glières plateau. She then passed herself off as a 'tourist' making trips into the hills to gather information on the Resistance. Styling herself as Colonel Maud, she subsequently led a militia group 'hunting' insurgents in the area between Lyon, Bourg en Bresse and Chalon sur Saône. A witness to the massacres perpetrated on the Vercors plateau in July 1944, she was arrested when Liberation forces arrived. At her trial she justified her involvement by claiming she had been passionately in love with 'Dag' (Dagostini). She was executed in Lyon on 11 September 1944.



**Monique Guyot's exercise books, Villard-de-Lans, 1944.**

Archives départementales de l'Isère collection  
These documents were given to the Isère departmental archives in 1987 and made available to the general public on 1 May 2017, exactly 30 years after the legal time limit for publication. This is the first time they have been exhibited.



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## RESISTING AND FIGHTING

*'I shall betray tomorrow, not today.  
Tear off my nails today, I shall not betray.  
You know not the limits of my courage.  
But I do.'*

Marianne Cohn · Je trahirai demain

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### THE PIONEERS

Some women refused to admit France had been defeated. Nor could they accept the armistice signed by Hitler and Pétain in June 1940, nor yet the loathsome Vichy ideology. Concealing their opposition to the regime they were among the first to take up arms again on other fronts. They contributed to launching the first underground movements in the southern zone, organizations such as Combat or Libération-Sud. In 1941 Marie Reynoard and Marguerite Gonnet took control of these movements in Isère. Distributing flyers and news-sheets, recruiting new members and organizing secret meetings, women took an active part in developing networks despite the constant danger. Betrayed, arrested and condemned they never gave up the fight, sometimes at the cost of their lives. There were fewer women in Resistance groups, making up about 15% of the total, and their work was often seen as of secondary importance - typing handouts, keeping watch, feeding Allied airmen on the run - and they were often excluded from decision-making roles

Combat movement news-sheet dated February 1943, circulated in the southern zone.  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 2006.02.02

Marie Reynoard (1897-1945), date unknown.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 92.07.1050

Marie Reynoard was born on 28 October 1897 in Bastia, Corsica. She was still a child when her family moved to Nice, and then Albi where Reynoard completed her secondary education. In 1921 she finished at the École Normale Supérieure in Sèvres with an agrégation degree in literature. In 1936, aged 39, she moved to Grenoble to take up a job teaching literature in a high school for young women. Following the outbreak of hostilities Reynoard helped Polish refugees. She then became an active member of the local Resistance in Grenoble, founding the Truth movement. On a trip from Grenoble to Marseille she met Henri Frenay, then head of the National Liberation Movement (MLN). At the end of November 1941 Reynoard, using the alias of Claude, organized a meeting at her flat, at 4 rue Fourier. It was attended, among others, by Frenay and François de Menthon, founder of the Liberty movement. They decided to merge Truth, the MLN and Liberty to create a new body, Combat. Reynoard was appointed to lead the new movement in Isère, but carried on teaching. On October 1942, after being reported, she was arrested with other members of Combat. She was imprisoned at Saint Joseph gaol in Lyon, tried by a military court, suspended from her work as a teacher, then released two months later, due to ill health. She then adopted the name of Claire Grasset and resumed her underground activities in Lyon and Toulouse. She was arrested again in Lyon, in May 1943, at the home of Mrs Dumoulin, who served as a letter box for Combat. She was interned at Montluc Fort, Lyon, then Compiègne, before being deported to Ravensbrück in February 1944. She died, not from the infection from which she was suffering, but because of the brutality of SS nurses who were determined to kill her.

Headlines of issue n°3 of the Liberation news-sheet, for the Lyon region, September 1943.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 92.200.24

Portrait de Marguerite Gonnet (1898 - 1996), 1930s.

Gonnet family collection

Marguerite Gonnet, also known as Anne or The Cousin, was the wife of the head of the Grenoble tourist board and mother of nine children. The youngest was less than two when the war broke out. In June 1941 she met Mr and Mrs Montigny, who were friends of Lucie and Raymond Aubrac. The latter had founded the Liberation South movement in Clermont Ferrand with Emmanuel d'Astier de la Vigerie in late-1940. Liberation was a civilian Resistance movement. Gonnet was tasked with setting it up in Isère. She circulated an underground newspaper, the first issue appearing in July 1941. During the following winter she headed the movement in Isère, but was arrested on 18 April 1942, following a report. Under interrogation she proclaimed that she was a 'fervent, rash supporter of De Gaulle'. She was moved in secret to a condemned cell at Saint Joseph gaol in Lyon. There she suffered a miscarriage but was let out on bail. She returned to Grenoble and promptly resumed the struggle. When the Compulsory Labour Scheme (STO) was introduced on 16 February 1943 young men fled to the hills rather than work in Germany. There they began to form small *maquis* groups. Gonnet set about helping the unit based near Allevard. In June 1944, realising that she was on the wanted list, she took refuge in the Oisans mountains. In recognition of her part in the Resistance movement she was appointed as a judge in the Isère court of justice after the Liberation of France. She joined the Isère committee for National Liberation tasked with children, prisoners and deportees, which led to her moving to Paris to search for deported Resistance fighters who had come back from the camps. She passed away in Paris on 27 May 1995.



**ID card belonging to Isaure Luzet (1899-1994), 1938.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 2015.17.01

Isaure Luzet ran the Dragon chemist's on Cours Jean Jaurès in Grenoble. A member of the Red Cross she volunteered to shelter and feed people in the event of air raids in the Saint Bruno neighbourhood. She hid Jewish families and children from Alsace in the flat she occupied over the shop, sharing this responsibility with the nuns of Our Lady of Zion living opposite. In 1943 she took in Rita Verba, a young Jew aged 10, whose parents had entrusted her to the nuns. Luzet received several decorations for her acts of bravery, including the Resistance Medal in 1947. She was elected as a city councillor in Grenoble in September of the same year, alongside Madeleine Perrot. On 9 June 1988 she was awarded Righteous among the Nations status.

**Pair of mountain boots belonging to Isaure Luzet, leather and wooden sole, with studs and hooks, used when carrying rations to insurgents.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 2016.13.02

**Red Cross arm band worn by Isaure Luzet for her civil defence duties in the Saint Bruno neighbourhood of Grenoble, 1940s.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 2015.17.01

**Portrait of nurses at the Resistance hospital, Saint Hilaire du Touvet, Isère, 1940s.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 93.07.53

Mrs Giret, Collier, Hecker and Poliack were nurses in the chest-surgery ward at the Rhône sanatorium, Saint Hilaire du Touvet. Two doctors, André Demange and Daniel Poliack, set up a secret hospital there to care for *maquisards*.

**Portrait of Simone Benielli, welfare officer for the Secret Army and Combat, c.1943.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 99.03.01

Simone was married to Pierre Benielli, a member of the Combat group tasked with infiltrating the civil service. She joined the movement as a welfare officer. In this capacity she made the first list of people who had been arrested in Isère and deported.

**Portrait of Raymonde Varnet, a nurse with the Oisans maquis, 1944.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 92.07.1058

**Portrait of Louise Collomb (1910-90), proprietor of Le Comptoir Lyonnais café in Grenoble, 1940s.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 95.02.65

The Comptoir Lyonnais was a cafe at 63 Avenue Alsace Lorraine in Grenoble, near the railway station. It served as a letter box for the Combat movement, becoming a key Resistance haunt and venue for secret meetings. Louise Collomb also accommodated fugitives there. For two years she sheltered Professor Jules Süßman, a refugee German Jew, who managed to escape to Switzerland in 1942. Louise was born in Great Britain and spoke English, which made it easier talking to British aircrews on the run. On 22 May 1994 she was awarded Righteous among the Nations status.

**Le Comptoir Lyonnais, 63 Avenue Alsace Lorraine, Grenoble, 1940s.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 95.02.68

**Portrait of Eugénie Basaldella.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department Eugénie Basaldella was born on 26 January 1909 at Ghislarengo, north-east of Turin. Before the outbreak of war she worked at the Cartier-Million (Lustucru) factory in Grenoble. In 1939 she did a Red Cross course in first aid. She got into trouble with the Italian occupation forces and was arrested in January 1943, but soon released. She joined the Pont de Claix branch of Combat and moved up into the Oisans mountains with her daughter to join the *maquis* there in the summer of 1944. There she worked as a nurse.

**Ménie Fracassetty (1917-2009) and her husband Joseph, Bourgoin Jallieu, August 1944.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 2013.07.02

Anne-Marie Fracassetty, aka Ménie, was married to Joseph Fracassetty, aka Rémy, the military leader of Sector 7 of the Secret Army (AS) and the Rémy battalion. In 1940 she refused to accept the idea of a lasting defeat. On 11 February 1941 she attended a meeting at Café des Marronniers, Jallieu, which created the basis for (military)



Infirmières Hopital  
la Résistance à St Hilaire du  
Touvet

**DAY-TO-DAY RESISTANCE**

Men tended to be recruited by way of former political networks, whereas women were more likely to join the Resistance thanks to friends or connections at work. Their family, neighbourhood or workplace played a key role. Trades traditionally plied by women came to be essential to the organization of the secret war: clerks at the local town hall with access to official forms and stamps; nurses or social workers assisting underground networks; owners of cafes acting as letter-boxes for activists; curators in museums taking note of all the art works stolen by the Nazis. At the same time the constant concern for feeding the family encouraged them to take action. Recruited as messengers, largely above suspicion or inconspicuous, they carried rations, weapons or leaflets, connecting different groups or members of the same network.

Sector 7 of Isère. She was its only woman member. In 1942 she joined Combat, taking charge of United Youth Forces (FUJ) in her area the following year. Under the assumed name of Yvette she took part in countless operations targeting local collaborators. In 1944 she served as the welfare officer for Sector 7. In August of that year she was appointed as a member of the Bourgoin Liberation Committee.

**Geneviève Blum-Gayet (1922-2011), liaison officer for Eugène Chavant, date and place unknown.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 91.03.1062

Geneviève Blum-Gayet, aka Germaine, started trying to join a Resistance network in 1941. She appeared in public on Bastille Day 1942 brandishing a tricolore, following which she was contacted by several organizations. She subsequently became the liaison officer of Eugène Chavant, leader of the Vercors *maquis*. She was decorated with the Légion d'Honneur in 1945 as well as the Croix de Guerre.

**Monique Rolland, in charge of liaisons at the Isère headquarters of FTP, Grenoble, 1940s.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department Monique Rolland, aka Monique Berlier, headed the liaison department at the Isère headquarters of the Francs-Tireurs and Partisans movement. She carried messages from runners to various letter-boxes. In August 1944 she was arrested with four other women and taken to the Gestapo gaol at 28 Cours Berriat. Released on 22 August when Grenoble was liberated, Rolland spoke of the women she supervised in the Resistance movement 'I gave them missions, sending them off without knowing if I would ever see them again. Even now I find it very upsetting.'

**Marie-Jeanne Bordat outside her inn at Col du Rousset, Drôme, 1940s.**

Mémorha network collection, rights reserved

Marie-Jeanne Bordat, also known as Granny Bordat or the Vercors Madelon, ran an inn at Col du Rousset, in Vercors, with her husband Jules. She supplied *maquisards* with food, while doing the rounds to local farmers. She kept watch at her inn, day and night, using her dog to send messages to Resistance groups. On 16 April 1944 the militia arrested her and her husband, and set fire to the inn. They were sentenced to death by a court set up by Raoul Dagostini and Maud Champetier de Ribes at Vassieux en Vercors. The couple was tortured in an attempt to obtain the location of *maquis* groups, but narrowly escaped execution. They immediately resumed their underground activities. In 1958 President René Coty decorated them with the Military Medal and the Voluntary Resistance Combatant Cross.

**Rose Valland (1898 - 1980) supervising the unloading of works of art recovered from Germany, 1945.**

Camille Garapont collection

Rose Valland was born at Saint Étienne de Saint Geoirs in 1898. Of modest background she enrolled at Lyon Art School in 1919. In 1932 she became a volunteer curator at the Jeu de Paume museum in Paris. In November 1940 Valland witnessed the looting carried out by the Nazis, as all the art they stole passed through the museum before being despatched to Germany. She kept a detailed record of all the pieces, noting the names of their legal owners and their destination in the Third Reich. Thanks to her painstaking work many of the art stockpiles were spared by Allied bombing. Following the Liberation of France Valland was appointed secretary to the Art Recovery Committee (CRA). She was subsequently given the rank of Fine Arts Captain in the French army.

She was sent to Germany to recover stolen art works working with other Allied forces. Nearly 45,000 items were saved in the process. On 6 February 1946 she attended the 52nd hearing of the Nuremberg trial which focused on Nazi looting and theft. Only in 1952 did she finally obtain the status of curator in France, in a world where women were still little represented.

An exhibition entitled *Rose Valland, In Search of Art* is currently on show at Musée Dauphinois.

**COMBATANTS**

In 1938 the 'Paul-Boncoeur' law on the nation at war considered the eventuality of mobilizing French women. In May-June 1940 the government issued several decrees authorizing all army units to recruit women. In November that year the Free French in London established the first women's volunteer corps. In 1942, given the shortage of men following the Allied landings in North Africa, the recruitment of women auxiliaries, particularly nurses and stretcher-bearers, was extended. General Merlin started a women's transmissions corps, known rather patronisingly as 'Merlinettes'. They were the first women soldiers in the army, trained to handle transmissions and decipher radio messages. Their number was still quite small when the first uprisings occurred in occupied France. There were very few women in the *maquis*, mostly nurses but some such as Gabrielle Giffard, in Oisans, or Paulette Jacquier, in Chambaran, were combatants. Following the Liberation of France women members of the *maquis* or the Free French Forces (FFL) were drawn into the ranks of the recently established First Army. Under its colours they pursued the Germans until their defeat in May 1945.

**Paulette Jacquier (1918-75), awarded the Légion d'Honneur by General de Gaulle, Lyon, 14 September 1944.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 91.05.758

Paulette Jacquier, aka Marie-Jeanne, was only 22 when she joined the Resistance as a messenger. She and her father formed an insurgent group that carried out various acts of sabotage on the railway line between Grenoble and Lyon. She was arrested at Bourgoin Jallieu while attempting to attack a German convoy in July 1944. Imprisoned, she managed to escape, linking up with the Chambaran battalion in the Secret Army's Sector 3 in Isère. After the Liberation of France, she joined the First Free French Division as a fusilier. On 14 September 1944 General de Gaulle awarded her the Légion d'Honneur in Lyon. She went on to fight in the front line in northern France until the end of the war.

**Paulette Jacquier at attention, the only woman combatant in the First Free French Division (FFL), 1945.**

Coll. Gilbert Mallein

**Gabrielle Giffard, a member of the Merlin *maquis*, in uniform for the 1944 Bastille Day parade, Place du Château, Vizille, Isère.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 91.07.179

### Portrait of Gabrielle Giffard (born 1925), c.1941.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department Gabrielle Giffard, aka Ariel while on active service, a reference to her favourite character in *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. She was arrested by the French police in May 1941 for distributing Gaullist propaganda, but released after two days' questioning on account of her youth. Three months later she moved to Vizille, where she served as deputy to the local recruiting officer for the Combat movement. As a member of the Merlin *maquis*, she played an active part in liberating Isère, notably during the battles to drive German forces out of Vizille and Gières in 1944.

### Voluntary Resistance Combatant cross posthumously awarded to Marie-Louise Cloarec, radio-operator, Quimper, Finistère, 30 June 1958.

Coll. Archives départementales du Finistère

### Marie-Louise Cloarec (1917-45), a radio-operator, recruited in Grenoble in 1942.

Coll. Musée des transmissions, Cesson Sévigné, Ille et Vilaine  
Coll. Association esprit de la Résistance en Rhône-Alpes (ERRA)  
Marie-Louise Cloarec, a young Breton, ran away from the occupied zone. On arriving in Grenoble she worked for a while in a nursery, then met a French army officer about to return to Algiers. She left with him in March 1942 and joined the Women's Transmissions Corps the following year. In 1944 second lieutenant Cloarec was parachuted into occupied France for a mission in Paris. She was arrested on her way there and deported to Ravensbrück on 18 January 1945, never to return.

### Portrait of Léa Blain (1922-44), messenger in Vercors.

Coll. Musée de la Résistance du Vercors, Vassieux-en-Vercors (Drôme)  
Léa Blain was born in Chatte and joined the French Resistance as a messenger in 1942. In 1943 she helped insurgents dodging the Compulsory Labour Scheme (STO). The following year she became a coding and cipher operator for several underground radio transmitters on the Vercors plateau, such as Bob and Eucalyptus. Eucalyptus was a group of American and British soldiers tasked with weapon-training *maquis* combatants and passing on tactical orders from Algiers, the headquarters of the French Committee of National Liberation. Bob group was tasked with guiding by radio parachute drops sent from Algiers. Both groups were taken by surprise by the Germans on the Vercors in July 1944. Blain opened fire, killing two German soldiers, but was then fatally wounded. She died fighting, aged 21, and was posthumously awarded the Legion d'honneur and the Resistance Medal in 1997.

### Certificate of posthumous award of the Resistance Medal to Léa Blain, Paris, 4 February 1997.

Coll. Association esprit de la Résistance en Rhône-Alpes (ERRA)

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## STANDING UP TO PERSECUTION

Persecution of Jews living in France was intensified in summer 1942, with the first mass arrests in the northern then southern zones. That autumn Italian occupation of the south-east corner of the country, purportedly more lenient, attracted a massive influx of refugees. Rescuing children became the top priority for Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, in which women played a leading role. Late in 1943 the Children's Aid Society (OSE) launched a cell in Isère. In partnership with the Israeli Scouts of France (EIF) they found families to look after children. Meanwhile the Zionist Youth Movement (MJS) was set up to organize Jewish resistance. The Grenoble cell was the most active and the city became the movement's key centre. It focused mainly on taking children to Switzerland, forging identity papers and hiding Jewish families. Other non-confessional bodies did a great deal to rescue young people. Under the leadership of Éva Péan-Pagès, the Inter-Movement Committee for Evacuees (Cimade) hid many children at the Brise des Neiges hostel in La Tronche. The nuns of Our Lady of Zion, a religious community led by Abbé Pierre, created false identities for children saved from the mass arrests. Acting on their own initiative some women hid and fed young evacuees in the homes all through the war. Since 1953 123 Isère people have been awarded Righteous among the Nations status by the Yad Vashem memorial in Israel. Women make up 73 of their number.



Zionist Youth Movement members, left to right: Erna Einhorn, Thea Epstein and Fanya Ewencyk, Grenoble, 1944.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 98.01.13

### Diploma testifying to Righteous among the Nations status, awarded to Anne-Marie Mingat-Lerme, on 18 April 1982.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 98.05.13

Coll. Association Esprit de la Résistance en Rhône-Alpes (ERRA)

### Pistol, calibre 6.35mm, and holster that belonged to Anne-Marie Mingat-Lerme, messenger in the Grésivaudan area and Righteous among the Nations.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 2015.02.01



Portrait of Hélène Guidi (1892-1980) at Les Tilleuls sanatorium, Prélénfrey du Gua, Isère, 1940s.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 98.37.06

Hélène Guidi and her husband André started Les Tilleuls sanatorium at Prélénfrey du Gua, specializing in the treatment of children suffering from tuberculosis. The Guidi rescued Jewish children in perfect health sent by the Children's Aid Society (OSE), taking them into care under a false identity with the support of the staff, in particular one of the nurses, Anne Wahl. They were awarded Righteous among the Nations status on 30 December 1993.

### Felicia Przedborski, aka Jeannine Chevalier (centre), a Jewish girl hidden by Anne-Marie Mingat-Lerme (1918-2017), (right) and her mother Marthe Lerme (left), Domène, Isère, 1944.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 98.05.10

Anne-Marie Mingat, née Lerme, started work as a clerk at Domène town hall in 1933. She took advantage of this position and the official stamps available there to forge identity papers. She also worked as a messenger for *maquis* groups in the Grésivaudan area. In particular she carried explosives in a sweet tin, and even a machine gun, hidden in a shoulder bag. Her mother, an unemployed widow, rented rooms in their spacious home. During the war Mingat, aka Mimi, took care of several Jewish refugee families who had landed in Domène, in particular the Przedborski family from Poland. The parents, who were in hiding nearby, entrusted their daughter Félícia, then aged 12, to Mimi, who presented her a cousin from Paris. Mother and daughter were awarded Righteous among the Nations status on 18 April 1982.

### Local group of the Israeli Scouts of France (EIF), comprising Paul Giniewski, Marianne Cohn, Jeanne Latchiver, Tony Gryn, Marianne Hartanu, Moshé Gorgiel, Sabine Roitman, Georges Schnek and Ruth Usrad at Saint Nizier du Moucherotte, Isère, 1944.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 98.01.01

### Forged ID papers used by Liliane Klein-Lieber (b. 1924), Grenoble, 1943.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 98.04.02

Liliane Klein-Lieber, aka Lyne Clerc or Luciole, became the head of the local branch of the Israeli Scouts of France (EIF) in 1942. Tasked with finding homes for adolescents in an area covering Drôme, Isère, Savoie and Haute-Savoie, she also supplied them with forged papers, clothing and basic necessities. In her work she was helped by Protestant scouts, meeting Isaure Luzet, Denise Aguidich-Paulin and Hélène Guidi. Klein-Lieber kept an eye on her young charges, visiting them at regular intervals.



Portrait of Fanya Ewencyk, member of the Zionist Youth Movement, 1943.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 98.01.22

Fanya Ewencyk was born in Poland but fled to France, settling in Grenoble. In 1943 she joined the Zionist Youth Movement (MJS) and set about identifying Jewish families hiding in the area. Depending on their needs she obtained forged papers or hide-outs to avoid arrest. She was also given the job of convincing parents to let her take charge of their children, prior

to entrusting them to Marianne Cohn, who would take them to safety in Switzerland. Though often checked by the Gestapo and local militia groups, Ewencyk was never arrested.

### Portrait of Madeleine Kahn-Meyer, welfare officer at the Children's Aid Society, and her husband.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department Madeleine Kahn-Meyer started work as a welfare officer at the Children's Aid Society (OSE) in July 1942. She arrived in Grenoble that November and was given the job of finding hiding places for refugee children. In 1944 a one-year-old baby girl named Corinne was hidden for a short while at a nursery. But the Germans found her and sent the infant to the Drancy transit camp where her parents were already being held. Kahn-Meyer despatched Ruth Shütz, a member of the Zionist Youth Movement (MJS) of German descent, with a forged pass and disguised as a nurse, to recover the child. Corinne was hidden by Jeanne Latchiver, a senior member of MJS who owned several properties in the Grenoble area which served as shelters for children waiting to leave for Switzerland.

### Portrait of Marianne Cohn (1922-44), member of the Children's Aid Society, 31 May 1944.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 98.02.02

Marianne Cohn was born in Mannheim, Germany. Her family of leftwing Jewish academics fled to Spain in 1938. Following the Republican defeat they were held at the Gurs internment camp, in southwest France, she arrived in Grenoble in 1941. She contributed to setting up the Zionist Youth Movement (MJS). Between September 1942 and January 1944, operating under the pseudonym of Colin, she smuggled Jewish children across the border into Switzerland. In May 1944, she and a group of 28 children she was conveying were stopped by the Germans, just 200 metres short of the border. They were taken to Annemasse and imprisoned. She was interrogated and tortured but

revealed nothing. At the same time she turned down the escape plans her network suggested, for fear of reprisals against the children. The Gestapo took her away on the night of 7 July and killed her, kicking and beating her with shovels. She was posthumously awarded the Croix de Guerre with a silver star.

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## WOMEN DEPORTEES

### 'At Ravensbrück in Germany They torture and burn women They cut their hair That cast light upon the world'

René-Guy Cadou - À Ravensbrück

Women - foreigners or French, undesirables, Resistance members or Jews - also underwent the terrors of Deportation. In France, following brutal arrest and interrogation, they were interned in camps operated by the Vichy regime - the centre at Rieucros, in Lozère, was used for this purpose - or deported straight away to Ravensbrück, a concentration camp, or Auschwitz-Birkenau, an extermination camp. Ravensbrück, in Germany, was the main camp used for women deportees. Here the Nazis subjected women from many countries to a process of de-humanization. On arrival they were stripped of all their belongings, shorn, named with their camp-number which became the only way of identifying them, and allocated a uniform, consisting of a striped dress, a pair of shoes and underpants. They carried out 'women's' work: weaving, braiding and tailoring. Most of the women sent to Ravensbrück had committed some act of resistance. From 1942 onwards Jewish women were sent straight to the Birkenau death camp. The conditions for pregnancy and childbirth at Ravensbrück were dramatic. Of the 522 births registered there, only 31 children survived. Between the time it was founded in 1939 and liberation by the Red Army in 1945, more than 120,000 women and children passed through the camp. Of their number 90,000 were murdered. In 1944 a gas chamber was built near the crematoriums. Some 5,000 to 6,000 women deportees were killed there.



Paulette Roche and Roger Fleury at a commemorative event in the gardens of Saint-Égrève town hall, Isère, in 1946.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 95.25.02

Paulette Roche was a Communist militant and the daughter of trade-unionist Georges Roche. On 4 February 1944 the Gestapo and a militia unit raided her father's home. Paulette and her mother Lucie were arrested and deported to Ravensbrück. Paulette worked in a factory manufacturing artillery shells. When finally

released she was seriously ill. The Swedish Red Cross took care of her and she was finally able to return home.

### Portrait of Jeanne Garraud, Communist militant, 1950s.

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 2018.43.01

Jeanne Garraud did the accounts at the Grand Hôtel in Bandol, Var. A Communist sympathizer, she was arrested in Grenoble on 4 November 1943. She was transferred to Vienne then Montluc Fort in Lyon, and thence to the Neuen-Bremen camp at Ravensbrück. Finally she was sent to Oranienburg where she was allocated to transporting gas masks. The camp was shelled by the Red Army in 1945, so the prisoners were moved to another one adjoining the men's camp at Sachsenhausen. She was taken to the gas chamber but narrowly escaped death; her group

was hurriedly evacuated when the camp under fire. She was among the many prisoners caught up in the Death Marches, but managed to escape with two comrades, finally reaching safety at the US assembly camp in Wistock.

**Menu for the party organized by Jeanne Garraud on returning from the camps, 17 June 1945.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 2018.43.01

**Lucette Blanc Fatin, member of the Corvette network on returning to Grenoble from the camps, May 1945.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 93.07.597  
Lucette Blanc-Fatin ran a little cafe at 10 rue du 4 Septembre, Grenoble. Her husband Lucien worked at La Manutention Militaire in the city. From August 1943 onwards the bar was used as a letter-box by the Corvette network, which covered Savoy and Dauphiné. Lucette Blanc-Fatin was arrested by the Gestapo on 14 December 1943. She was deported to Ravensbrück, returning in April 1945.



**Croix de Guerre with bronze star awarded to Lucette Blanc Fatin for her work for the Corvette network, c.1945.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 99.10.10

**Group of women digging a trench, Ravensbrück, Germany, c.1943.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 91.01.518

**Marie Roblès and her husband, Doctor Rosenthal, and the Ganimède family in the Luire caves, Saint Agnan en Vercors (Drôme), 1940s.**  
Coll. Musée de la Résistance du Vercors, Vassieux-en-Vercors (Drôme)  
Marie Roblès worked as an orderly at Romans hospital. Her husband was a porter. In 1943 Dr Ganimède appealed to the couple to look after wounded insurgents on the Vercors plateau. On 9 June 1944 Maud Romana, Marie and Jean Roblès and Dr Ganimède set up a field hospital at Saint Martin en Vercors. The Germans moved up into the hills on 21 July 1944, prompting the medics to evacuate their wounded to the hospital at Die. The most seriously injured were moved to the Luire caves. The Germans discovered them on 27 July 1944, leading to a fearful massacre, which Marie Roblès escaped by good fortune. The troops finished off 19 wounded insurgents. Seven nurses were deported. The two doctors and a priest were taken to Grenoble and shot.

**Olga-Lina Gugliel-Minotti outside the cell where she was held at 28 Cours Berriat, Grenoble, 4 July 1974.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 91.02.1449  
Olga-Lina Gugliel-Minotti was the youngest member of the Resistance to be locked up by the German secret police at 28 Cours Berriat, Grenoble, in 1943. She was subsequently deported to Ravensbrück, and thence to camps in Dresden, then Leipzig, before finally being liberated.



**Mireille Lahad-Malterre, in deportee uniform, 1945.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 96.23.01  
Mireille Lahad-Malterre was a messenger when she was arrested on 8 March 1944 and deported to Ravensbrück. She was liberated on 7 May 1945.

**Extracts from the film *Ils ont survécu, les déportés rescapés, 1945-2005* produced by Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation de l'Isère, 2005.**  
Magda Kahan, arrested in Hungary in early-May 1944 and deported to Auschwitz at the end of the month.  
Simone Floersheim, arrested at Albertville on 7 March 1944 and deported to Auschwitz on 27 March 1944.  
Simone Kadoshe-Lagrange, arrested at Saint-Fons on 6 June 1944 and deported to Auschwitz on 30 June 1944, aged 13.  
Time: 8 minutes, 18 seconds.

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## WOMEN AND THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE

*'Women shared the glorious suffering of our men. And, just as our men, side by side, had to defend France on our home ground and through fearful exile in Germany, so too did the women of France endure this two-fold suffering.'*

Mathilde Péri addressing the provisional consultative Assembly on 15 May 1945.

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## PURGE

The violent retribution that followed the Liberation of France reflected people's determination to quickly root out traitors of both sexes. Subjected and humiliated by defeat and subsequent occupation, male identity sought to re-assert itself through a show of exacerbated virility, largely in the form of a rash of corporal punishment. From the summer of 1944 onwards women suspected of consorting with the Germans were shorn, stripped bare and exhibited in public. Shaving the heads of women accused of 'horizontal collaboration' with the enemy was a symbolic means of depriving them of their femininity. They were forced to parade through the streets carrying signs daubed with insults, and treated as whores. In an article published in September 1944 by the newspaper *Combat*, writer Jean-Paul Sartre condemned such behaviour as 'middle-ages sadism'. A fresh wave of head-shaving occurred in spring 1945, coinciding with the return of many French POWs who suspected their partners of adultery. The number of women rose to 20,000. By early-1946 such barbarity had ceased but the number of divorces rocketed in 1945-48, with courts ruling in favour of the men.

In summer 1944 the first purge commissions were set up to investigate acts of collaboration. Women were prosecuted by special courts and some were sentenced to death, though most of them were subsequently pardoned. About 100,000 children were the fruit of Franco-German relationships. The mothers were immediately punished for their behaviour, but then had to endure the associated stigma in the years following the war. Deep-rooted prejudice and resentment wrecked the childhood of many 'Boche kids'. Although most of the relationships between French women and German soldiers during the war were consenting, there were some cases of rape too, in particular at Corrençon en Vercors on 26 July 1944.

**Shaved women outside Voiron church, Isère, 1944**  
Time: 2 minutes  
Coll. National Audiovisual Institute (Ina)



**Shaved woman, Voiron, Isère, 1944.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 92.07.1030  
Titled 'Mrs Marion', she is bare-chested and surrounded by armed men. A swastika has been daubed on her stomach.

**Shaved woman, La Côte Saint André, Isère, August 1944.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 91.07.233  
The sign reads: 'I soiled my country and family with the Boche'.

**Gilberte Beaugiraud, 17, was shorn for consorting with the occupying forces and betraying seven insurgents, *Les Allobroges*, 5 October 1944.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department

**Parading a shaved woman, La Côte Saint André, Isère, August 1944.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 91.07.234

**Militia agent Rachel da Souza, 24, from Péage de Roussillon, Isère, was sentenced to death for acting as a double agent, the mistress of a Gestapo operative and a member of the Resistance, *Les Allobroges*, 5 October 1944.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department

**Shaved women entering Saint Joseph prison, Grenoble, August 1944.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 2018.13.01

**Two women, Madeleine Rousset, 22, and Odette Démoulin, 27, where shorn for being the mistresses of SS soldiers in Grenoble, *Les Allobroges*, 5 September 1944.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department

**Shaved woman, Monestier de Clermont, Isère, 1944.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department



**Claire Darré-Touche, former head of the Brun biscuit factory was arrested in Marseille and the factory was taken over by the Purge Commission, *Les Allobroges*, 31 October 1944.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department

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## IN SEARCH OF RECOGNITION?

Following the Liberation of France the programme for government drawn up by the National Council of the Resistance made no provision for women's suffrage. The question was shelved because the Council, mainly comprising men, failed to reach a unanimous decision. However the ruling issued by General de Gaulle to the French Committee for National Liberation did give women the right to vote. It stated that 'women are part of the electorate and may be elected subject to the same conditions as men'. French women voted for the first time, in local elections held on 29 April 1945, then in a general election the following October. Thirty-three women were elected to the provisional National Assembly, out of a total of 586 deputies. The Liberation of France marked the start of a huge judicial and administrative effort to recognize French people's commitment to the Resistance movement. But this work largely disregarded the contribution of women. They only represented a tenth of all those awarded the Resistance medal. Six were made *Compagnons de la Libération* compared with 1,032 men. Attention focused mainly on armed combat, in which they only played a small part. Few women felt they had a legitimate right to recognition for what they had done. Only a few had streets named after them or appeared on war memorials; recognition came much later. In Grenoble the first street to honour a woman member of the Isère resistance movement was Avenue Marie Reynoard, opened in 1968. Marguerite Gonnet was only honoured in 2014. In 2015 the remains of two women members of the French Resistance – Germaine Tillion and Geneviève de Gaulle-Anthonioz – were laid to rest in the Panthéon, in Paris. In 2018 they were joined by Simone Veil, a former deportee and health minister, reflecting the desire for greater commemorative balance.



**Copy of the underground news-sheet *La Voix des Femmes*, published by the Union of French Women's Committees (UCFF), April 1944.**  
Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 92.200.40  
Trained by National Front (FN) and Communist party militants, the first French Women's committees appeared in Isère in 1943, prefiguring the start of the French Women's Union (UFF).

**Portrait of Madeleine Perrot, 1950s.**  
Patrice Perrot collection

In 1938 Madeleine married Jean Perrot, a widower with a young daughter. On 29 November 1943, by which time he taken the lead of the Francs-Tireurs et Partisans movement in Isère, he was murdered in a violent attack on suspected Resistance members. Madeleine decided to carry on the fight, but in politics. In 1945 she joined the People's Republican Movement (MRP) and was elected as a city councillor in September 1947. Of the seven MRP councillors three were women: Perrot, Isaure Luzet and Germaine Voisin, representing the Association of War Widows. On retiring she moved to Notre Dame de Vaulx, where she was elected as deputy-mayor in 1983. She concluded her account of her life, *Une vie donnée*, with these words: 'in this way we went on contributing to the common good to which Jean Perrot had devoted his life'.



**French women voting for the first time, local elections on 29 April 1945.**

Photo: Agence France Presse.

**Denise Meunier, a member of the Resistance, recalls at the age of 97 the first time she voted in Grenoble, 29 April 2015.**

Interview by Véronique Pueyo for France Bleu Isère.

Time: 46 seconds

**Tribute to the Women of France, *Les Allobroges*, 30 September 1944.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department

**Newsletter published by the French Women's Union, 1944.**

Archives départementales de l'Isère collection

The French Women's Union (UFF) was launched on 21 December 1944 at the instigation of the French Communist party. It aimed to mobilize large numbers of women to defend their rights and campaign for gender equality. An extremely powerful body, it boasted more than 600,000 members in 1945, drawing on women's involvement in the French Resistance to obtain greater recognition after the war. In 1998 the organization changed its name to Women's Solidarity (FS).



**Mathilde Péri at a commemorative ceremony at Mont Valérien, Suresnes, 12 November 1961.**

Archives départementales de la Seine-Saint-Denis collection

**Mathilde Péri and her husband Gabriel, date and place unknown.**

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation collection, Isère department - 92.07.939

**Mathilde Péri at a ceremony commemorating the atrocities at Mont Valérien, where her husband Gabriel Péri was shot, Suresnes, 19 December 1948.**

Archives départementales de la Seine-Saint-Denis collection

Mathilde Péri was born in 1902 at Canet en Roussillon, Pyrénées Orientales. Her husband Gabriel Péri, a militant Communist, was shot by a firing squad on 15 December 1941. Mathilde was a member of the Resistance and was interned on political grounds in 1940 at Rieucros camp, Lozère, with her mother, sister and young niece. Mathilde fell ill there and was moved to a sanatorium from which she later escaped, going underground. The speech she gave to the Advisory Assembly convened in Algiers in 1944 was the first one to be given by a woman parliamentarian. She was re-elected to the Constituent Assembly in October 1945, serving several terms until 1958. She had an extremely active career in politics, devoting much of her time to gaining recognition and support for families that lost one of their number during the war. She passed away on 16 December 1981 at Boulogne Billancourt.

**Élise Grappe on stage at a demonstration against the referendum instituting the Fifth Republic, autumn 1958.**

Grappe family collection

**Élise Grappe, Isère's first Communist woman deputy, and her husband Étienne Grappe join in the festivities on 14 July 1951.**

Grappe family collection

Élise Grappe was born in Saint Égrève in 1911. A primary schoolteacher and militant Communist, she taught at Merlas, Isère, then Longechenal, Isère, before moving to Drôme in 1940 with her husband Étienne Grappe to escape the anti-Communist laws introduced by the Vichy regime. In 1943 she joined the Resistance as a member of the National Front (FN). After the war the couple settled in Saint Martin d'Hères, teaching at Croix Rouge school. In 1951 Élise went into politics, elected as Isère's first Communist woman deputy. In 1959 Étienne was elected to lead Saint Martin d'Hères town council. Élise served two terms of office, under the Fourth Republic, focusing in particular on education issues. She took the head of *Les Allobroges*, a local newspaper, as well as the Isère branch of the French Women's Union (UFF). She passed away on 25 November 1996 in Saint Martin d'Hères.

**French Communist party membership card issued to Élise Grappe, 1952.**

Grappe family collection

**Notes and portrait of women deputies since 1945, published on 6 December 1994 by the National Assembly.**

Grappe family collection

**Extract from the film *Les pionnières en politique en Isère*, produced and directed by the Isère Association of Women Policy-Makers (AFEI), 2015**

When French women were finally give the vote in 1945 it did not prompt a sudden influx into politics. Despite several women leading exceptional careers in public life, policy-making remained a largely male preserve. Only 300 women were elected for the whole of Isère in the local council elections in 1945; less than 50 became mayoral deputies; not a single one was chosen to lead a council. In 1953 Rosalie Rousset was the first woman in Isère to attain this distinction, as the mayor of Murinais. Realising that men were monopolizing policy-making, a group of women councillors in Isère set up the Isère Association of Women Municipal Councillors (ACMI), now the Isère Association of Women Policy-Makers (AFEI).

In 2000 a law was passed by the National Assembly establishing parity. Henceforth political parties must field an equal number of men and women on their lists. In 2014 fines were added to this system to enforce compliance.

Time: 4 minutes, 8 seconds.

16



## DID THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE LIBERATE WOMEN TOO?

*'Less still known than the unknown soldier, his woman'*

Slogan, French Women's Liberation Movement (MLF), 1970.

Apart from giving women the vote French governments in the years following the war did nothing to extend women's rights. The laws banning abortion and contraception were upheld in order to rebuild and repopulate the country after two global conflicts. Indeed the post-war period saw the most severe clamp-down on abortion. On 10 June 1961 the first family clinic opened, quite illegally, in Grenoble. Only in December 1967 did the Neuwirth law finally legalize contraception. France's civil code remained deeply skewed. Not until July 1965 were women entitled to open a bank account without their husband's consent. France's Women's Liberation Movement (MLF) emerged amidst the upheaval of May 1968. In this second wave of feminist militancy demands focused on the body, sexual freedom and the refusal of any form of violence towards women. In 1971 Gisèle Halimi, subsequently a member of parliament for Isère, was one of the signatories of the manifesto of the 343. In this petition, drafted by Simone

de Beauvoir, women from all walks of life admitted to having had a 'backstreet' abortion and demanded legalization. Finally, on 19 January 1975 it was legalized by the Veil law, named after a woman health minister and former deportee.

International Women's Day was first celebrated in France on 8 March 1982, at the instigation of Yvette Roudy, minister of women's rights from 1981 to 1986.

In 2017 the #MeToo movement focused public debate on the harassment and violence to which women are still exposed, perhaps marking the start of a third wave in the campaign for women's emancipation.

**Demonstration for the right to abortion at a press conference by Gisèle Halimi and Dr Jacques Manent, head of the Grenoble Family Planning clinic, 8 May 1973.**

Le Dauphiné Libéré collection

**Launch of the French centre for happy motherhood, or Family Planning clinic, Grenoble, 9 June 1961.**

Le Dauphiné Libéré collection



# JANVIER 1940

Le plus  
Jour d  
une lettre



E. 89217



R 89056



500188



E 89212



E



E 89217. ROBE en trépis de laine. Devant, les coutures partent de l'emplacement se terminent du bas en pli creux. Le dos est monté dans un emplacement droit. Garniture de soierie.  
Métrage pour 11 à 13 ans: 1 m. 75 en 140; garniture, 0 m. 45 en 100.



R 89056. ROBE en marocain de soie. Le devant du corsage, froncé sur les épaules, est recouvert par des fronces au-dessus de la taille. Fronçailles à l'encolure et aux manches.  
Métrage: 2 m. 50 en 140; garniture, 0 m. 25 en 80.



500188. ROBE en laine. Devant, les coutures partent de l'emplacement se terminent du bas en pli creux. Le dos est monté dans un emplacement droit. Garniture de soierie.  
Métrage pour 11 à 13 ans: 1 m. 75 en 140; garniture, 0 m. 45 en 100.



E 89212. ROBE en trépis de laine. Devant, les coutures partent de l'emplacement se terminent du bas en pli creux. Le dos est monté dans un emplacement droit. Garniture de soierie.  
Métrage pour 11 à 13 ans: 1 m. 75 en 140; garniture, 0 m. 45 en 100.



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