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Candidate session number

Candidate name

School number

School name

Examination session (May or November)

MAY

Year

2012

Diploma Programme subject in which this extended essay is registered: HISTORY ✓

(For an extended essay in the area of languages, state the language and whether it is group 1 or group 2.)

Title of the extended essay: TO WHAT EXTENT DID THE REACTION TO THE GERMAN OCCUPATION DIFFER IN TERMS OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE FLEMISH AND WALLOONS (NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN PART OF BELGIUM)?

Candidate's declaration

This declaration must be signed by the candidate; otherwise a grade may not be issued.

The extended essay I am submitting is my own work (apart from guidance allowed by the International Baccalaureate).

I have acknowledged each use of the words, graphics or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual.

I am aware that the word limit for all extended essays is 4000 words and that examiners are not required to read beyond this limit.

This is the final version of my extended essay.

Candidate's signature

Date: 15/02/2012

Supervisor's report and declaration

The supervisor must complete this report, sign the declaration and then give the final version of the extended essay, with this cover attached, to the Diploma Programme coordinator.

Name of supervisor (CAPITAL letters) _____

Please comment, as appropriate, on the candidate's performance, the context in which the candidate undertook the research for the extended essay, any difficulties encountered and how these were overcome (see page 13 of the extended essay guide). The concluding interview (viva voce) may provide useful information. These comments can help the examiner award a level for criterion K (holistic judgment). Do not comment on any adverse personal circumstances that may have affected the candidate. If the amount of time spent with the candidate was zero, you must explain this, in particular how it was then possible to authenticate the essay as the candidate's own work. You may attach an additional sheet if there is insufficient space here.

_____ showed in her work on this extended essay that she was a hard-working student. She chose this topic, as she is a French-speaking Belgian from Flanders, who did much of her schooling in Dutch before coming to this school in grade 9. _____ was able to utilize sources both in Dutch and in French, which allowed her to get a good view of this topic. What most impressed me about her was that she was willing to spend hours and hours on this work, researching, writing, improving her essay. She spent a number of hours together discussing the strengths and areas that needed improvements. I was also impressed that _____ was able to write this essay using her third language, English. The difficulties that she encountered seemed to be most linked to finding sources with numbers to back up her arguments, which made some of the analysis more challenging for her. Considering the difficulty and sensitivity of this topic, she seems to have done rather well.

See

effort noted

This declaration must be signed by the supervisor; otherwise a grade may not be issued.

I have read the final version of the extended essay that will be submitted to the examiner.

To the best of my knowledge, the extended essay is the authentic work of the candidate.

I spent 5 hours with the candidate discussing the progress of the extended essay.

Supervisor's signature: _____

Date: February 27, 2012

An important topic with ongoing significance

- styled essay in point form does not lend itself to analysis.
- compares throughout - uses stats
- sources are NOT evaluated
- opinions accepted as evidence
- good effort especially in researching (see supervisor)
- good in attempt & see several points of view
- sufficient range of sources
- good k + u



Assessment form (for examiner use only)

Candidate session number

Achievement level

Criteria	Examiner 1	maximum	Examiner 2	maximum	Examiner 3
A research question	2	2	2	2	
B introduction	2	2	2	2	
C investigation	3	4	3	4	
D knowledge and understanding	3	4	2	4	
E reasoned argument	3	4	3	4	
F analysis and evaluation	2	4	2	4	
G use of subject language	2	4	2	4	
H conclusion	2	2	1	2	
I formal presentation	3	4	3	4	
J abstract	2	2	2	2	
K holistic judgment	3	4	3	4	
Total out of 36	27		26 (25)		

Needs more detail/explanation of points in key places

- Assertions in Concl = not effectively supported in 2 main body

best sit 4 Leo Sup comment

TK 52650

Name of examiner 1: _____
(PITAL letters)

Examiner number: _____

Name of examiner 2: _____
(PITAL letters)

Examiner number: _____

Name of examiner 3: _____
(PITAL letters)

Examiner number: _____

IB Cardiff use only: B: _____

IB Cardiff use only: A: 104465

Date: 7/3/15

Extended Essay

Belgium during the German Occupation in WWII

Why & for what reasons?

RESEARCH QUESTION

To what extent did the reaction to the German occupation differ in terms of collaboration between the Flemish and Walloons (Northern and Southern part of Belgium)?

Word Count : 3917

Abstract

This extended essay treats the issue of collaboration in Belgium during the Second World War. It outlines the historical research on the causes of the Belgian collaboration in terms of the context of the war and the types of collaboration on both the Flemish and Walloon side. It explains how the collaboration with the Germans has developed and the reasons for which one part of the country collaborated more with the occupant than the other. This essay deals with the economical, political, armed and denunciation collaboration that evolved throughout WWII. It investigates the main question:

To what extent did the reaction to the German occupation differ in terms of collaboration between the Flemish and Walloons (Northern and Southern part of Belgium)?

The sources used to help the research for this essay are mainly secondary sources. Sources in different languages of the concerned subject such as Flemish- and French-language books have been employed. This variety of sources is important to have the opinions and perceptions from both sides of the issue. Some primary sources have also been used, such as a book written by King Leopold III and documentaries.

This essay reaches the conclusion that the existing opinion concerning collaboration on the Flemish and Walloons is wrong; there have been both collaboration and resistance in the two regions. Belgians nowadays believe that the Flemish only collaborated and the Walloons only resisted. The results of this essay contradict this conclusion. This essay has concluded that even though the Flemish still collaborated the most, it was because of the similarity of culture with the Germans and their nationalism while the Walloons collaborated because of convictions close to fascism and economically.

Word count: 278

Table of Contents

Title Page.....	1
Abstract.....	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Development.....	5
1. The Beginning of The War.....	5
1.1 The Invasion.....	5
1.2 Occupied Belgium.....	5
1.3 The King's Issue.....	6
2. Into the Context of The War.....	7
2.1 Food Rationing.....	7
2.2 Collaboration For Needs.....	8
3. Types of Collaboration.....	9
3.1 Economic Collaboration.....	10
3.2 Political Collaboration.....	10
3.2.1 Significance of Political Collaboration.....	11
3.3 Armed Collaboration.....	12
3.4 Denunciation as Collaboration.....	14
3.5 Female Collaboration.....	15
3.6 Fear of Imprisonment.....	15
4. After The War.....	16
Conclusion.....	17
Appendix.....	18
Bibliography.....	20



V. specific TAC

Introduction

The Kingdom of Belgium is located in the North of Europe between two rival countries of Europe, France and Germany. The day the first King took his oath and thus the beginning of Belgium was on the 21st of July 1830, at the end of the Belgian revolution. Since the birth of the country, there have been conflicts between the Northern part of Belgium, Flanders, where the population speaks Dutch and the Southern part, Wallonia, where French is spoken.

Wallonia has historically been the wealthiest part of Belgium. In the 19th century it possessed coalmines and significantly big industries, which made it a developing part of Europe.¹ It was the second industrial power after Great Britain. However, many Flemish worked in these industries as laborers, which is one of the origins of their nationalism. They were fed up of working for the Walloons and desired independence and recognition of their culture. Still today there is a significant part of Flanders seeking independence. The Flemish culture was similar to the German culture in the way that both of their languages. The Walloons, on their side, are closer to the French culture in terms of language.

When the Second World War broke out, some Flemish nationalists saw the opportunity of stepping towards their independence and to collaborate with the invader, who considered the Flemish of the same culture as theirs. Wallonia was not a nationalist region, but they were, effectively, willing to collaborate with the occupant in a different way.

The question of "To what extent did the reaction to the German occupation differ in terms of collaboration between the Flemish and Walloons (Northern and Southern part of Belgium)?" has been examined since the day following WWII but tries to stay the quietest possible seeing the issues of Belgium is facing today. The events of the Second World War in Belgium were one of the major reasons for which Belgium is so divided today. Finding out why collaboration arose during the Second World War and how it became so significant towards the future situation of Belgium after the war and today is the reason why this subject it is worth of investigation.

¹ Fred Stevens, and Axel Tixhon, L'Histoire de la Belgique pour les nuls, (Paris: First Gründ, 2010), 309

during WWII

not the first

establishing context

Context / of grand

re?

To be shown

significance

some lack of clarity but context & sign. is clear
B = 2 → On balance, accept

Development

1. The Beginning Of the War

1.1 The Invasion

In 1940, Germany planned to attack France but sought to cross Belgium to reach France because they had to get around the Maginot Line. However, Belgium being neutral since 1830, it would not let Germany come through its territory in order to attack their neighboring country. On the 10th of June 1940 at around 4:30 am, Germany invaded Belgium by surprise for the second time in 30 years.²

The invasion through Belgium lasted exactly 18 days. During "The Campaign of 18 days"³, 6000 Belgian soldiers and 6500 Belgian ^{civilians} died, 106 000 Flemish and 65 000 Walloons prisoners of war were captured.⁴ Out of those prisoners, the Flemish were released but the Walloons were kept into prison because Hitler believed the Walloons could join the resistance and were untrustworthy. King Leopold III was assigned to live in the Palace of Laeken. ^{because?}

1.2 Occupied Belgium

In 1940, the Germans rapidly occupied Belgium. On the 18th of May, most of the current government left the Belgian territory to join their allies in London. The Belgian government decided to move after the campaign of 18 days and the capitulation of the French because it was easier to control the war with the Allies from an outside view. The King decided to stay with his population in Belgium. ^{because?}

"The Nazi regime finds in Belgium partisans, opponents and a population that is

resigned in its majority."⁵

² Ibid., 329. Translated by author of essay.

³ Ibid., 329. Translated by author of essay.

⁴ Ibid., 330.

⁵ Ibid., 331. Translated by author of essay.

1.3 The King's Issue

In the opinion of the parliament, the King was in control of power in of Belgium and should have left in direction of London with the government because the Allies could support him there. However, the King declared at the time of the invasion of the Germans "As my father did in 1914, I took control of our army, with the same faith, with the same confidence."⁶ Leopold III surrendered on the 28th of May 1940, against the government's will. He believed he had to stay with his troops in order to show solidarity. This decision of the King to stay in Belgium and to surrender was unacceptable from the point of view of the allies and the Belgian government. This is one of the foundations of the "Royal Question" (1960's) in Belgium, where the King was put into question because of the events of the Second World War.

Focus /
linkage

Will this be connected to "collaboration" ?

⁶ Léopold III De Belgique, Pour l'Histoire, (Bruxelles: Editions Racine, 2001), 33. Translated by author of essay.

2. Into the Context of War

The collaboration and other events of WWII can seem appalling and hard to grasp in today's day and age. In order to have a better understanding of these events of the war, we ought to put ourselves in the situation of the Belgian population during this particular period.

2.1 Food rationing

During the war, one of the principal issues was the establishment of ~~the~~ food rationing. The citizens of the occupied country collected their tickets that served as exchange against nutriment in the town hall. The population was divided into divergent groups, receiving different numbers of coupons. For instance, a pregnant woman could obtain more food than an "ordinary" citizen and an "ordinary" citizen would obtain more than Jews and handicapped. Jews obtained coupons for no more than 600 kCal of food per day.⁷ The goal of the Germans was to force the Jews into the black market in order to have an ostensible reason to arrest them without having to justify the real reason of their arrests. *Ref? or own opinion?*

'Who did they need to justify anything to?'

starts

The restrictions on food and supplies for each Belgian citizen started on the 25th of May 1941. Starting from that day, each regular Belgian citizen could obtain 225g of bread, 170g of flower, 500g of potatoes per day and other aliments.⁸ This adds up to a total of approximately 1380 kCal per day. Compared to the average of 2400 kCal per day that was consumed by each person before the beginning of the war⁹, this is a significant difference. The surplus of food supplies from Belgium was bought to be sent to Germany. It was also compulsory to declare everything produced to the German authorities.¹⁰

⁷ Dictionnaire de La Seconde Guerre Mondiale En Belgique, (Bruxelles: André Versailles Editeur, 2008), 29.

⁸ Jose Gotovitch, and J. Gerard-Libois, L'An 40 La Belgique Occupée, (Bruxelles: Crisp, 1971), 330.

⁹ Dictionnaire de La Seconde Guerre Mondiale En Belgique, 29.

¹⁰ Ibid., 30.

2.2 Collaboration for Needs

Since the extra Belgian production was sent to Germany, it made the black market difficult and extremely expensive. The collaborators ^{these being} helping the Germans received frequently more food rations than the 'regular' citizen, which worked as an incentive to trade with the invader. ^{How many?} Many people found in these restrictions a perfect opportunity for business. Huge ^{profits?} fortunes were created during the war by working in the black market. The poorer citizens in the countryside were still able to survive on fruit and vegetables because they started planting many fruit trees and crops in order to compensate for their hunger. Only the richest people could afford to buy goods on the black market, which drove the prices up. Some found more supplies by copying or stealing ration-tickets. Peasants and farmers sold the surplus of production that was not taken by the Germans at "golden" prices, which led city dwellers to go down to the countryside regularly. ^{Ref?}

In 1940, Germans seemed to be winning the war, which led some people in Belgium to start to collaborate with them. ^{Any details? "Some"??}

The Walloon and the Flemish communities both acted in a different way towards the occupant. The most striking resemblance between the Germans and the Flemish population was their language. Many Flemish could speak German due to the closeness of the two languages. The Walloons, on the other hand had the same language as France, so being likely to resist more than the Flemish because of their closeness of culture with the French. There was still ^{detail? eg?} a tiny part of the Walloons who were fascist and were more on the side of the Germans than anyone else. Both parts of Belgium collaborated. Today, there are more historians investigating the Flemish ^{because?} collaboration than the Walloon collaboration, which could be one of the reasons of the prejudice that "Flemish collaborated the most". ^{eg.?}

"The resistance was not especially a Walloon phenomenon, and neither was the collaboration especially Flemish"¹¹.

3 full mly provide
sim. languages
a reason.

¹¹ Jose Gotovitch, and J. Gerard-Libois, L'An 40, 301. Translated by author of essay.

This quote depicts that Walloons are remembered as being resistant even if they also collaborated, and the Flemish were known specifically for their collaboration, but there were also some Flemish resisters. This is what this citation of the well known historian Gotovitch means (Belgian historian specialized in WWII).

needs more than this for a significant source

3. Types Of Collaboration

“Do not decide anything that could influence the future of the State of Belgium, favor the Flemish as much as possible, but do not give the Walloons any favors.”¹² Adolf Hitler

when? where?

How is this achieved?

Extent

Collaboration concerns only a tiny minority (0.96%)¹³ of the overall Belgium population, but in order to be able to compare the Flemish and Walloons in terms of collaboration during WWII, it is important to understand the different types of collaboration. There was economic, political, armed, female and “denunciating” collaboration. These different types of collaboration had diverse objectives and mainly different ways in which they would collaborate. The different collaborations have also been judged in different ways, seeing the degree of treason they exhibited. Some collaboration dealt with money and business and other dealt with human lives. Making money on people’s back was considered less extreme than denouncing people whose lives were at stake. The distinction between the different types of collaboration needs to be made in order to understand why the Flemish and Walloons reacted as they did during the war.

¹²Adolf Hitler in Jose Gotovitch, and J. Gerard-Libois, L'An 40 La Belgique Occupée, 282. Translated by author of essay.

¹³ Dictionnaire de La Seconde Guerre Mondiale En Belgique, (Bruxelles: André Versailles Editeur, 2008), 100.

3.1 Economic Collaboration

First of all, there was economic collaboration. It was evaluated as being one of the most "acceptable" types of collaboration during the collaboration trials after the war. The economic collaborators aimed at earning money from trade with the invader, providing them products produced in Belgium. Since the food amounts rationed was so low, it created a black market with a lot of potential for business because it was 15 to 20% of the whole food industry and could attain 45% when the harvest was poor.¹⁴

(Economic collaboration was more present in Wallonia than in Flanders.) *by?*
Asserted - but, proof?

3.2 Political Collaboration

Political collaboration is the fact of supporting the Nazi political views and sharing their racism and determination towards Jews, Gypsies, etc. These collaborators were either extreme right supporters in politics or they were 'regular' citizens just desiring "a new order", a reform of the whole system, which was exactly what the Germans were proposing. Léon Degrelle is an illustration of a political extremist in Wallonia. The other political collaborators were part of the population supporting the Nazi's views, however less considered as collaborators because they were not as "active" as the political collaborators were. *one of*
needs developing
Rev!!
Understand

Political collaboration is a type of collaboration that was present in both Wallonia and in Flanders. The Walloon political collaborators were fascists and supported the German's views on Nazism. There was an extreme fascist party, the "Rex". They shared the Nazis' politics and beliefs and this extremism made their judgment at the end of the war more serious than for the political collaborators in Flanders. The Rexist party had been able to collect 19%¹⁵ of the votes in 1937, while the population was effectively aware of the extremist convictions of the "Rex" and that it was against democracy. *Why?*
Sign. fact - support before WWII - needs developing

¹⁴ Dictionnaire de La Seconde Guerre Mondiale En Belgique, 260.

¹⁵ Fred Stevens, and Axel Tixhon, L'Histoire de la Belgique, 322.

The fascist supporters were less present in the Northern part of Belgium throughout the war. On the Flemish side, the politics were nationalistic and idealistic, the Flemish as a whole wanted independence and felt closer to Germany culturally, but they were not Nazis in most cases. Political collaboration was not necessarily being fascist. These are the reasons of their political collaboration. In Flanders, the collaboration was mainly political; 70% of the cases that have been opened were political while in Wallonia it was just about 30%. Wallonia had on the other hand, more than 70% of its collaborations being because of denunciation of resisters and Jews¹⁶.

proof?

How are these figures arrived at?

evidence? or whose opinion?

arguing Wallonia had more support for Nazi ideas

3.2.1 Significance of Political Collaboration

The political party in Flanders collaborating with the occupant was « Het Vlaams Nationaal Verbond » (VNV). The objective to work with the Germans had been stated by the President of the party Staf De Clercq, who said the party was ready to support the Nazi regime. The “VNV attained more than 70,000 affiliates in 1943.”¹⁷ (see appendix 1 and 2 for their propaganda). Already before the beginning of the war, in 1938, when the VNV presented itself on the election lists in Antwerp, their posters showed a message in which they clearly explained their desire of getting rid of the Jewish population. On the Monday of Easter, during the “Crystal night” in 1941 in Antwerp, the VNV participated with the Germans in the burning down of two synagogues and the breaking down of 200 windows of Jewish stores.

Flanders

- Ref?

spec. exp.

Ref?

Aside from this extremist party, the “Flemish Nationalism” was the main reason of Flemish collaboration. The “Flemish hoped to become a nation in itself with Brussels as capital city, allied to the Third Reich by cooperation and friendship”¹⁸. However, this was only a minority of the Flemish population and statistic of the political positions of the Flemish population in general do not exist because of pressure on opinion during the war. The population was scared of incarceration. Not the whole

clarity

lacks clarity

¹⁶ Dictionnaire de La Seconde Guerre Mondiale En Belgique, 133.

¹⁷ Jose Gotovitch, and J. Gerard-Libois, L'An 40 La Belgique Occupée, 301. Translated by author of essay.

¹⁸ François Perin, Histoire d'une nation introuvable, (Bruxelles: Paul Legrain, 1988), 154. Translated by author of essay.

population in Flanders collaborated. Even with their idealistic political views. "It was possible to be a Flemish nationalist but not a collaborator."¹⁹

Wallonia
Needs expl
In the Southern part of Belgium, the "Rex" had a more fascist side than the VNV, and was also favorable to the occupant. Léon Degrelle, the head of the Rex "thought he was some kind of adoptive son of Hitler"²⁰. As example of his extremism is when Degrelle sent a letter to the Pope after the war in which he declared that the Holocaust was a "Jewish conspiracy". The extremists in Wallonia have been punished in a much stronger way than the Flemish punished their political collaborators. The Belgian population was craving for revenge after the war, especially in Wallonia. *Ref*
because?
Ref
because?

During the war, the Germans worked a lot with the VNV but rejected the French Rex party. In Flanders the occupant also worked with the D. Vlag or SS Vlaanderen. Since there were many different political parties wanting to work with the Germans, there started to be some kind of competition between the political parties to obtain the Germans sympathy. *Ref?*
why?
because?
open
Ref

3.3 The "Armed" Collaboration

Numbers?
Details?
The Nazis took advantage of the Flemish and asked them for instance to create "Het Vlaams Legioen". This organization was made up of voluntary Flemish soldiers joining the German troops. The Germans were recruiting soldiers to fight at the Eastern front and any help was useful to fight against the URSS. Soldiers of most of the European countries and Allies helped to fight on the German side at the Eastern front in Russia. *clarify*

Famous for being an excellent orator, Degrelle was at the head of "La Légion Wallonne". This was a Walloon organization, recruiting soldiers to fight on the Russian Eastern front (see appendix 3 for an example of their propaganda), similar to *✓*

¹⁹ "La Collaboration en Belgique Durant La Deuxième Guerre Mondiale," RTL TVI, Web, <http://www.rtl.be/rtltvi/video/214911.aspx>.

²⁰ François Perin, Histoire d'une nation introuvable, 155. Translated by author of essay.

"Het Vlaams legioen". Léon Degrelle proclaimed the "Germanity" of the Walloons in 1943. He believed that Walloons were "Germanic", however speaking French. (Ref?) Whereas he thought going to the Eastern front could get Hitler's attention, because he wanted to be "rallied to the IIIrd Reich"²¹. The Germans never supported Léon ^{why?} Degrelle and his party; they only accepted the soldiers he furnished them. Since Degrelle was the one gathering troops to go to the Eastern front, he also joined and fought himself ^{alongside} with the Germans. Why the lack of support from Berlin? (Ref?)

The soldiers joining "La Legion Wallonne" or "Het Vlaams Legioen" were not especially extremists but were often issued from lower social classes who fought to earn money or to avoid imprisonment.²² In total, 18 790 Belgian soldiers wore the German uniform at the Eastern front in mid-1943. Out of those soldiers, 2600 were part of "Het Vlaams Legioen" and 2040 of "La Légion Wallonne".²³ The rest were independent soldiers joining the German army. Some Flemish soldiers were even officers. (Ref?) (evidence?)

There were also Flemish soldiers taking part in "armed collaboration" other than fighting at the Eastern front. Some had to arrest resistants and Jews while others were guards in the camp of transit of Breendonk.

Breendonk was a transit camp in Belgium, where resistants were imprisoned and tortured. A testimony of a resistant ^{who?} that was tortured in Breendonk says: "The torturers were German in appearance, because of their uniforms, but inside they were purely Flemish"²⁴ ^{who?} ✓

Even proportionally to their population (4,869,680 in Flanders compared to 3,526,320 in Wallonia²⁵), this type of collaboration was more present in Flanders.

²¹ Ibid., 156. Translated by author of essay.

²² "La Collaboration en Belgique Durant La Deuxième Guerre Mondiale," RTL TVI, Web.

²³ Fred Stevens, and Axel Tixhon, L'Histoire de la Belgique, 322. Translated by author of essay.

²⁴ "La Collaboration en Belgique Durant La Deuxième Guerre Mondiale," RTL TVI, Web, <http://www.rtl.be/rtltvi/video/214911.aspx>.

²⁵ Dictionnaire de La Seconde Guerre Mondiale En Belgique, 136.

3.4 Denunciation as collaboration

Another type of collaboration was the denunciation of resistants or Jews. The invader wanted access to these two specific parts of the population to arrest them and would do anything to obtain the help of Belgian citizens in order to make their research easier.

To find these the Jews and resistance, the Nazis appointed some Belgian citizens as involuntary “denouncers”. They had no choice but to obey orders or to be imprisoned. “Some of the appointed denouncers worked for one of the German police (V-männer ‘men of confidence, of diverse type’) or for the Westerbestelle of the forced work (Zivildahnder)”²⁶

The others were the occasional voluntary denouncers, desiring vengeance or because of jealousy, and to feel protected. Denunciating was more present in Wallonia than in Flanders. “Around 32 845 dossiers have been opened concerning only denunciation crimes”²⁷, under which 70% in Wallonia and 30% in Flanders²⁸. *- Why the difference?*

The German occupant was “populist” and managed with this quality to induce people into denunciation. They were able to turn the Belgian citizen against the Jews with the use of propaganda. They would forbid the access for Jews to the public places like pools, libraries and stores. Slowly, the population would start wondering why, and what the Jews did to be excluded as such. The Nazis tried to make the population believe the Jews were taking away their wealth for example. Little by little a significant part of Belgian population started to believe this and started denunciating Jews, which initiated the massive deportation of Jews to concentration camps. This type of denunciation helped the Germans to find the Jews who were hiding. There was also the pressure and fear of the occupant that lead many people to betray their friends and sometimes even their family. The occupant would reward the denouncers for their treason towards the fellow-citizens of Belgium.

²⁶ Dictionnaire de La Seconde Guerre Mondiale En Belgique, 133. Translated by author of essay.

²⁷ Ibid., 133. Translated by author of essay.

²⁸ “Amnistie... Amnesie?,” 2011, Web, <http://www.rtb.be/tv/revoir/detail?catchupId=11-TIJZS146-002-PR-1&serieId=11-TIJZS146-000-PR>.

3.5 Female collaborators

Women were also part of the collaboration. They participated in strikes and manifestations against resistants and helped German soldiers. It has appeared that "70% of the denunciator cases were females, coming from a lower social and intellectual class and having an affective or familial connection to the person denounced"²⁹. - *Dev.*

Some also had love affairs or sexual relationships with German soldiers. This collaboration is not specific in statistics because many were not discovered. But the ones who have been discovered have suffered of the population's anger more than any other type of collaboration. They were completely "shaved, taken clothes off, sometimes raped, and pulled in the streets"³⁰ so everyone could see what they had done. In Antwerp, the population locked them up in the ape cages of the Zoo and were lapidated.

Many were humiliated mainly in Antwerp and Brussels but no statistics exist of the true amount of women who collaborated.

3.6 Fear of Imprisonment

Another reason why people collaborated was simply because of the pressure of the Germans. Effectively, there was constant fear of being imprisoned, which decreased the willingness of people to resist. "Many Belgians were convinced of the final German victory and believed Europe was entering a new era."³¹ Therefore, they did not consider collaboration 'wrong'. When it involved protecting family and friends, some people were capable of anything, including collaboration or even denouncing Jews. We are often accusing the Nazi's for their madness and actions during the Holocaust, however we tend to forget that many Belgians and Europeans made the deportation much easier by helping them find Jews.

²⁹ Ibid., 133. Translated by author of essay.

³⁰ Ibid., 187. Translated by author of essay.

³¹ Van, Der Auwera, Gerd. "Alles Over de Tweede Wereldoorlog." Last modified 03/29/2003. Accessed January 13, 2012. <http://www.go2war2.nl/artikel/584/Collaboratie-in-Vlaanderen.htm..>

4. After the war

needs to be more specific

not clear

The day after the war, collaboration suddenly stopped. However, in Flanders, the desire to be independent had existed for a long time before the war and continues to exist today. Flemish and Walloons have continued to be opposed to each other. Today, for instance, some Flemish political parties want the splitting of Belgium and the amnesty of the events of the Second World War.

Who? When? Context?

"The nightmare is over"³²

generalizing

Starting the day after the war, the European population was craving for revenge on the betrayers and on the Germans. This is why the first action in Belgium was to put the collaborators on trial. Great parades were organized in the streets, some collaborators were killed without a trial (by lapidating or were shot). The Belgian population desired to get rid of the collaborators as quickly as possible. The total number of files opened in trial was around 280.000. This is counting both the Flemish and Walloon documents. Most of the cases were treated in Flanders. Of the 280 000, 184 000 cases were opened in Flanders (out of a population of 4,869,680 so 0.038%), while only 95 000 (out of a population of 3,526,320 so 0.027%) on the Walloon side. These are only the collaborators that have been to trial. Most of the collaborators have not been identified. Out of the 280 000 cases treated, only 45 000 were condemned (prison or execution).³³ This percentage is bigger in Flanders than in Wallonia, but not ~~so~~ significantly. The opinion of today's Belgian citizens is right in the way that the Flemish collaborated more. However, they are wrong on the fact that Walloons almost did not collaborate; they almost collaborated at the same rate. ✓

ie "stoning to death"

dates?

stats given

³² François Perin, Histoire d'une nation introuvable, 160. Translated by author.

³³ "Amnistie... Amnesie?," 2011, Web, <http://www.rtf.be/tv/revoir/detail?catchupId=11-TIJZS146-002-PR-1&serieId=11-TIJZS146-000-PR>.

Conclusion

To conclude, the few Flemish collaborators had idealistic and nationalist reasons for their actions while the few Walloons were more extreme on the political point of view. They also denounced much more (70% of the denouncers) than the Flemish (30% of the denouncers). The Walloons were implicated in economical ^{proved effectively in many body} and materialistic collaboration.³⁴ The reason why Flanders is more known for its collaboration is probably because its population is larger initially and therefore the statistics of collaboration numbers in Flanders overcome the ones in Wallonia. The Flemish collaboration still overcomes the Walloon collaboration in percentage, but not as much as the Belgian population believes today. This belief has as origin that we still have a lot of evidence of political collaboration in Flanders (such as posters and newspaper article that were used as propaganda). The ~~economical~~ collaboration and denunciation in Wallonia was more discreet ^{→ evidence of how the ec. collaboration worked} because they were not trying to convince a whole population into nationalist convictions.

Recently, the NVA (a Flemish separatist party) asked ^{for} the amnesty ^{for those involved in} of the collaboration during WWII. The Belgian politician Stefaan Declercq (CD&V) said he wanted to forget about everything that happened during WWII: "Maybe we should be ready to forget, because it is part of the past".³⁵ The Walloons were shocked and it only ^{→ proof} increased the divergence of opinions between the French and Dutch, even nowadays.

It is true that the Walloon collaboration should be lighted up more; but the use of the word 'forgetting' in Stefaan Declercq's language is what the Walloons rejected. It is impossible to forget such events and would contradict the fact that "we need to learn out of our errors".

Collaboration is a very sensitive subject in Belgium.

*cancel consistent
→ sign. considered*

³⁴ Van, Der Auwera, Gerd. "Alles Over de Tweede Wereldoorlog." Last modified 03/29/2003. Accessed January 13, 2012. <http://www.go2war2.nl/artikel/584/Collaboratie-in-Vlaanderen.htm..>

³⁵ "Amnistie... Amnesie?," 2011, Web, Translated by author of essay.

Appendix

1.



1940

Het partijblad van het VNV, Volk en Staat, vaart na de bezetting door de Duitsers, resoluut de anti-semitische koers.

Omnibus Dubitandum, "De Zwerfkat." Last modified 01/01/2012. Accessed January 13, 2012. <http://www.dezwerfkat.be/volkenstaat.jpg>.

- The paper of the VNV, that says (translation): "The poisoning by the Jews of our public life and the possibility that this poisoning will be taken away". This statement clearly shows the Nazi convictions of the VNV.

2.



Jose Gotovitch, and J. Gerard-Libois, *L'An 40 La Belgique Occupée*, (Bruxelles: Crisp, 1971), 368.

- "Go away denouncers, Stafke be careful". Stafke is a reference to Staf De Clercq, the president of the VNV. This is a threat from resisters to collaborators.

3.



- published when?

Jean-Louis Jadouille, and Jean Georges, *Construire l'Histoire, Un monde en Mutation*, (Belgique: Didier Hatier, 2008), 109.

- This is an illustration of the propaganda for “La Légion Wallonne”. There is not written that ^{those} ~~the one~~'s joining the ‘Légion Wallonne’ will fight on the German’s side. Many minors have joined this ‘Légion Wallonne’ without even realizing they were about to support their own enemies. clarity!

probably?

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should be more accessible on a separate sheet
more specific sources, all but one cited. ✓