

the story of tony gryn



The story of Tony Gryn

I remember growing up in Israel, hearing occasionally my father telling stories about his experiences in France under the German Nazi occupation, during the 2nd World War.

Although always interesting I never really grasped their meaning until I had my own children. The German effort to exterminate the Jews and especially their children put a new dimension to his tale of rescue and resistance.

In later years he was often asked to put his accounts in writing, especially as he was a journalist and editorialist for more than 40 years. His answer was always "I will when I retire..." Eventually in April of 1989, he did retire to a better world... without ever accomplishing his promised project.

In the spring of 2004, I found a letter addressed to my mother from the organization of veterans of the Jewish French Resistance, in which she was asked to look for any pictures or documents, relating to that period. This letter was sent on behalf of the museum of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, who decided that as part of their newly renovated museum they wanted to add an exhibit on the activities of the Jewish French Resistance. I asked my mother if she had any documents that my father may have left and to my amazement she produced a large file full of documents, letters and pictures all dated from the early 1940's. I called the curator at Yad Vashem, and gave her a short description of the various documents I was examining. She told me that I had a gold mine and she immediately set up an appointment to come and see them.



A year later, Dorit and I went to Jerusalem and visited the new museum of Yad Vashem.

The museum, is extremely impressive and allows the visitor to absorb the tragedy of the Holocaust, step by step, subject by subject in a very comprehensive way. About three quarters of a way through, following exhibits describing various forms of resistance to the Germans, immediately after experiencing what it was like to be a Partisan in the forests of Poland and Russia, we made a sharp right turn and suddenly Dorit exclaimed "Here's your father." Low and behold, there was an exhibit and the first picture and biography was that of a young Tony Gryn. Both Dorit and I were a little surprised, because although we knew there would be a display of material related to the French Jewish Resistance, we never expected to see my father's picture and biography on display. While I was reading other biographies, I heard Dorit talking to a family of French tourists. She was telling them in English that the man in the picture was my father. They approached me and said in broken English, that they were from Roanne and never heard about the activity of French Jewish Resistance during the war. I switched to French and shared with them my personal knowledge about the events described in the exhibit. This was quite an emotional encounter that was truly an eye-opening experience.



נתנאל "טוני" גרין
Netanel "Tony" Gryn
1921-1989

טוני גרין, חבר תנועת הנוער הציוני וארגון הצבא היהודי, היה אחראי על זיוף התעודות והמסמכים באזור פריז. הוא ארגן אנשי קשר שעסקו במציאת מקורות הספקה לטפסים ולחותמות שהיו חיוניים למלאכת הזיוף. במעבדה שהוקמה בדירת מסתור בפריז שוכפלו החותמות והוכנו תעודות מסוגים שונים על-פי שמות ופרטי זיהוי שהוא קיבל במשרדי העיריות. התעודות חולקו ליהודים רבים ולאנשי מחתרת צרפתים. מסמכים מזויפים אלה אפשרו את פעילות המחתרות להצלת יהודים.

Tony Gryn, a member of the *Zionist Youth Movement* and of the *Jewish Army organization* (Armée Juive), was in charge of creating forged documents and papers in the Paris region. He organized a network of contacts who found sources for the forms and stamps that were essential for the forgery operation. In a laboratory that was set up in a safe house in Paris, the stamps were duplicated and various documents produced, bearing names and vital statistics he had extracted from different municipalities. The documents were distributed to many Jews and members of the French resistance. These forged papers facilitated the underground activity to rescue Jews.



In April 2006, I was contacted by an American researcher, Mrs. Nancy Lefenfeld, who received my phone number from my aunt Alice who lives in Paris. I called her to her home in Maryland, and what I learned surprised me greatly.

Nan, as she likes to be called, has been on a quest for the last eight years researching the period between July 1943 and December 1943, during which a group of young Jewish resisters, members of the MJS (Zionist Youth Movement), took upon themselves the difficult and dangerous task of transporting hundreds upon hundreds of Jewish children from various assembly areas in the French alps across the frontier into neutral Switzerland. Specifically she was interested in the exploit of a young girl, Mila Racine, who was caught by the Germans in October 1943.

As part of her research, she went to Geneva, and with the help of a local Jewish Scholar, she was able to access the archives of the Canton of Geneva for the period in question. To her great surprise she found a trove of untouched information, relating to convoys of Jewish children that crossed the frontier into Switzerland. She found that all convoys were arrested by the local Swiss Border Police, a file was opened for each one of the convoys as well as for each one of its members. It seems that those archives had never been thoroughly studied, and the information she gathered gave her an fresh insight into who those kids were, where they came from and how they ended up across the frontier in Switzerland. I'm sure Nan is working on a book, that will shad light on this dark period.

In a meeting I had with her in June of this year, she shared with me this information, as well as an interesting finding that she was able to deduce from reading the actual lists made by the Swiss authorities.

Part of the exhibit in the Yad Vashem museum in Jerusalem, which recognizes the contribution of the French Jewish resistance in France, in saving thousands of Jews under the German Nazi occupation.



As long as the Italians were in control of the frontier between France and Switzerland, they did not interfere with border crossings and allowed any Jew who wanted to, free access to the border. It was up to the Swiss authorities to decide who would be allowed in. All the convoys that crossed the frontier during the Italian occupation were organized by OSE, (Children's Aid Society, which gave aid and support to Jewish children), but when the Germans were ready to take over the border from the Italians, who were on the verge of surrendering to the Allies, all the convoys who crossed the border from France to Geneva were no longer organized by OSE but by a group called "Simon".

The name Simon referred to Simon Levitte, the leader of the MJS batalion in the town of Grenoble.

In July 1943, Simon Levitte was approached by Mrs. Andrée Salomon the regional head of OSE, who asked him to take over the passage of children into Switzerland.

While digging into documents, left over by the curator of Yad Vashem, I found some written testimonies that Tony gave after the war, and in one of them I found an interesting entry. It was an answer to a question posed to him by Annie Latour, a French writer and historian, who was writing a book about the activities of the French Jewish Resistance during World War II.

In his answer, he stated that in July 1943 he was approached by Simon Levitte, his group leader, who gave him a new mission; to go to Saint Gervais and Megève, in the French Alps and to survey the situation and then find a way to rescue hundreds of children that were hiding in those two towns, by smuggling them into Switzerland under the watchful eyes of the German Army and the Gestapo. After a few days of surveying the area Tony set up his headquarter in Annecy, which is about 54 km from Geneva. He assembled a team of about a dozen young men and women, all members of his MJS battalion, and started an around the clock evacuation of children, adults with children and some elderly into Switzerland.

Nan's findings, encouraged me to try and finish the mission that my father had started but never got to complete; to put in writing his story so that the next generation, us, his grandchildren and their children, will have an idea of what their grandfather did in his early years.

The story of Tony

Tony was born in Lublin, Poland in **1921**. His father was at that time a manager of a large export company that dealt in Linen, Jute, Hemp etc. The company belonged to his maternal grandfather Reuven Wacholder. They were one of the largest dealers of Linen and used to purchase the Linen crops in Central Poland and ship them by train to Hannover in Germany. His father's name was Isaac Bear and his mother's name was Rywka (she was deported in **July 27, 1942** in convoy #11 to Auschwitz, where she was murdered on **August 31, 1942**).


At the age of 5, Tony entered into a new school called "Tarbouth - תרבות", where teachings were in Modern Hebrew. He studied in that school until 1933, the year he got his graduation certificate. At age 12, he was already a member of the Young Zionist Movement תנועת הנוער הציונית.



Tony, Rywka, Alice & Icek

In November 1933, Tony left Lublin for Paris with his mother and his younger sister Esther, where his father had already been residing since 1931. (He moved there following the great crash of 1929 and the ripple effects on the commodity markets in Europe which caused an overnight collapse of the price of linen, which forced his grandfather into bankruptcy). During the school year of 1933-1934, he enrolled in a French public school in Paris, in order to perfect his French. But for the next school year, he enrolled into the Maimonides high school, the only Jewish high school in France, where he followed Classic studies of Greek, Latin, Math, Physics and chemistry as well as Jewish studies and Modern Hebrew.

CARTE D'IDENTITÉ SCOLAIRE



ÉTABLISSEMENT : *Ecole Maimonide*

Je soussigné (*) *Marc Cohn*
directeur de l'école
 certifie que *M. Gryn Nathaniel*

est élève de cet établissement.

Signature du Chef de l'Établissement

ANNÉE SCOLAIRE *1938-1939*

Nom *Gryn*
 Prénoms *Nathaniel*
 Né le *20 février 1921*
 A *Lublin (Pologne)*

Signature du titulaire: *Gryn*

(*) Nom, Qualité (Proviseur, Directeur)

Les élèves de plus de 10 ans ne sont admis gratuitement dans les Musées que sur présentation de leur carte d'identité scolaire (J.O. du 27-4-29).
 La carte d'identité scolaire doit être présentée au moment de l'examen par les candidats au baccalauréat.

High School ID - Maimonides

SER. II. N° 010817
 N° *1217/E/38*

Fabrics: *60*
 No passport Fra
 Ks. paup. *20*
 Portoria
 Passes Fr. *80*
 Pasi de *30.8.38*

RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA
 M. S. W.
 RÉPUBLIQUE POLONAISE
 M. I.
 PASZPORT-PASSEPORT

Obywatel polski } *GRYN*
 Citoyen polonais }
NESANEL

zamieszkały w } *FRANCFI - FRANCE*
 domicilié à }
 w towarzystwie żony }
 accompagné de sa femme }
 i }
 et de } *dzieci*
 enfants

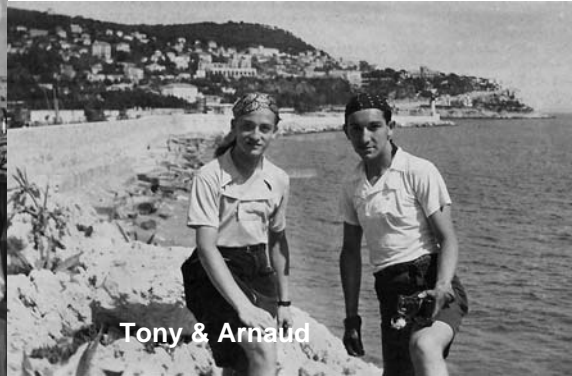
Passport ten zawiera 40 stron
 Le passeport contient 40 pages

Tony's Polish Passport

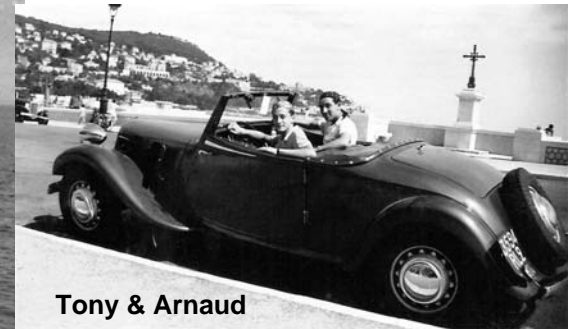
In **1938**, Tony passed his Baccalaureate (The final and very difficult series of exams required from every French student who wants to be admitted to higher education) and in 1939 was admitted to the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Paris. Tony entered the preparatory year, which he completed in June of 1940. On June 25th with the surrender of France to the German army, the University closed and like all his friends at the Faculty, he fled Paris to the south of France. But on **June 29, 1940**, following the Armistice, he returned to Paris. On that day, France was divided into two zones. The North, with its capital in Paris, was occupied by the German army and the South, with its capital in Vichy, was ruled by Marshall Petain and his puppet government, who were practically under the control of the Germans. Towards the end of July 1940 the Faculty reopened. And on July 27th Tony passed his final exams and received his diploma with honors.



At the Faculty of medicine



Tony & Arnaud



Tony & Arnaud

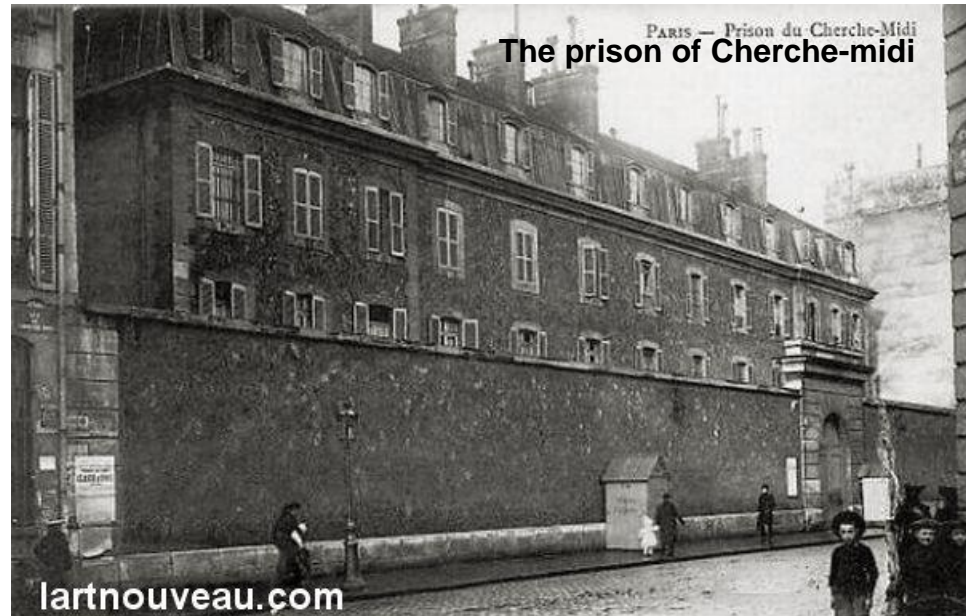
Upon graduation Tony decided to take a few days off and go to the countryside with his friend Arnaud Gluckstein. They were on their bicycles, when on **August 3rd** in the town of Etrechy, which is about 47 km south of Paris; they stopped at a café for some refreshments. Their luck was such that they encountered two young German pilots and a friendly conversation started, regarding the war and its outcome. Somehow they told them that once the Americans would get into the conflict the Germans would surely lose the war. Suddenly a man approached them, presented a badge, declared himself as a Gestapo officer and put them under arrest. The two young pilots immediately came to their rescue and questioned the Gestapo officer as to why he was arresting those kids. The agent said he that had been listening to the conversation and he was arresting them for the "Demoralization of the German Army". The two pilots unsuccessfully, tried to defend them. They than insisted that if such an offense had occurred it was against the German Air force "Luftwaffe" and that the two offenders should be arrested by the "Luftwaffe", not the Gestapo. The Gestapo agent acquiesced but insisted accompanying them to the nearest German military prison that was in the center of Paris at rue du Cherche-Midi

Speaking fluent German, I was monitoring the proceedings of various Court Marshals that took place before ours and noticed that every time the judge asked a condemned if he had anything to say, and the condemned stated his innocence, the judge doubled his sentence. When it was our turn to be asked by the judge if we had anything to say, I told him that we do accept the punishment as just, and that we respect German military court and its laws, and then proceeded and asked the judge to consider the four weeks of incarceration we endured prior to our court date as part of our twelve month sentence. The judge surprised by my comments immediately agreed and we both were sentenced to eleven months imprisonment. - Tony

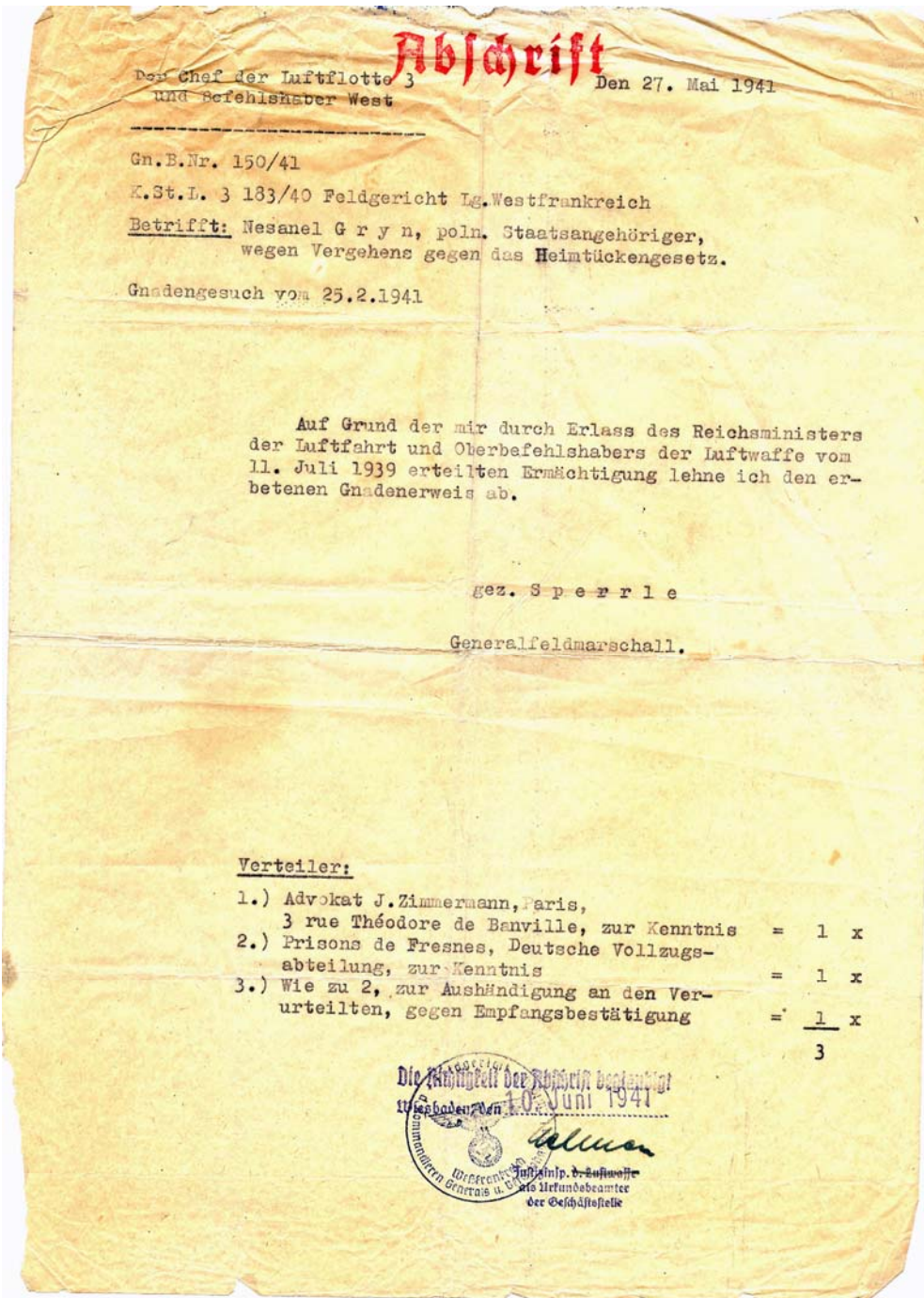
Forty days later, on **September 14th, 1940** Arnaud and Tony were brought in front of a Luftwaffe Court Marshal, where they were found guilty and condemned for eleven months in prison. They stayed about three months in the prison of Cherche-Midi and then were transferred to the prison of Fresnes, in the southern outskirt of Paris, for the remainder of their sentence.

During their stay in Fresnes, Tony was treated very kindly by a German guard. He even one day slipped under his door cell a news paper clip announcing the death of Zeev Zobotinski (The Jewish Revisionist Leader). Just before he was to be released Tony approached that guard and asked him why did he deserve the special treatment. The guard replied, that prior to the first world war he was employed by a Jewish business owner, and when he was drafted in 1914 that Jewish man continued paying his full salary to his wife during the whole war. He than vowed that one day he'll be able to repay this kindness to a Jew. And Tony was the first opportunity he had.

Tony and Arnaud were released on **August 17th, 1941**.



My Mother Rywka ל"ר was a typical Jewish mother. She noticed that her son Tony was running late from his trip to the countryside. She started phoning every hospital and police station in Paris trying to locate him without any success. Finally, a police officer recommended to her to contact the German authorities... Eventually she found out that the Germans were bringing all their prisoners to the prison of Cherche-Midi, in the center of Paris. Without any hesitation she took the Metro to the prison. Coming out of the subway station she saw the large gates of a German Military post. She approached it and knocked on the large door. It took a few seconds and a German soldier opened a small portal and asked her in broken French what she wanted. She began to tell him in German what she was looking for, when she suddenly noticed behind him in the courtyard, her son Tony and his friend Arnaud sweeping the floor of the courtyard. She shouted his name and he waved her hello with a smile. The German shouted something and closed the portal. Unscathed she turned around and went into a nearby coffee shop and asked the bartender if he knew how to get in touch with the prisoners inside. The bartender told her to find a lawyer and come back with him and try to get visitation rights. She returned home and immediately contacted Arnaud's parents. Being from a very wealthy family, they contacted a lawyer, who the following day went with both parents to visit their children in the holding place. — Alice.



In February 1941, Tony appealed to the Luftwaffe Court to shorten his sentence. And in Mai 27th he received by hand a letter rejecting his request.

The amazing thing about this original document, is that it is signed by Field-Marshal Sperrle, commander of the 3rd Luftwaffe Air Command of the western front.

A German Field-Marshal took the time to address the request by a 20 years old student, and instructed his underling to have this document delivered by hand to the prisoner and have him acknowledge receipt.

Talking about the Nazi organized bureaucracy....



On August 17, 1941, my mother went to pickup Tony from the prison in Fresnes. On the way home, riding the Metro, at the station of Père-Lachaise, (which has exits to both the 11th and 20th districts) my mother noticed a commotion. Somebody was saying that the French militia was checking papers on the 11th district exit and not on the 20th. My mother turned around and dragged Tony to the far exit that led to the 20th district. On the way out they heard that the militia was rounding up Jews in the 11th district. Her quick reaction saved him from arrest. - Alice

Roundups of foreign Jews had already started at the beginning of 1941, and they were incarcerated in concentration camps in "Beaune-la-Rotonde" and "Pithiviers".

Four days later, on **August 21st, 1941** new Roundups took place in Paris and a concentration camp was opened in Drancy. Every Jew that was found in any prison in the Northern Zone of France was picked up and sent to Drancy. The four weeks that Tony was able to deduct from their punishment saved their lives. Tony succeeded in hiding himself during the first few days, then by chance, he obtained a German Laissez-Passer, which enabled him to leave hiding. This was his first foray into False-Documents, a field he would later specialize in.

Tony started looking for work, as it was impossible for him to resume his studies of medicine. Being a recently naturalized French national (January 2nd, 1940) and as a Jew, he was not allowed back to the University because of the "Numerus Clausus". He started giving private lessons to Jewish children who could not attend school, and then obtained a position as Hebrew teacher at the Paris Jewish Community Center. These courses, where he taught Hebrew to a class of 20 to 30 children, every Thursday and Sunday, lasted until February 1942. Immediately after the resumption of Roundups, Tony made an effort with some friends from the EIF (Jewish Scouts of France), Andre Cahen and David Catarivas, to form an underground Zionist study group. They would get together whenever they could and this already demonstrated their spirit of resistance. It was André, who had arrived from the south, who informed them of the existence of the MJS (Zionist Youth Organization), and of the regrouping of members of the EIF.

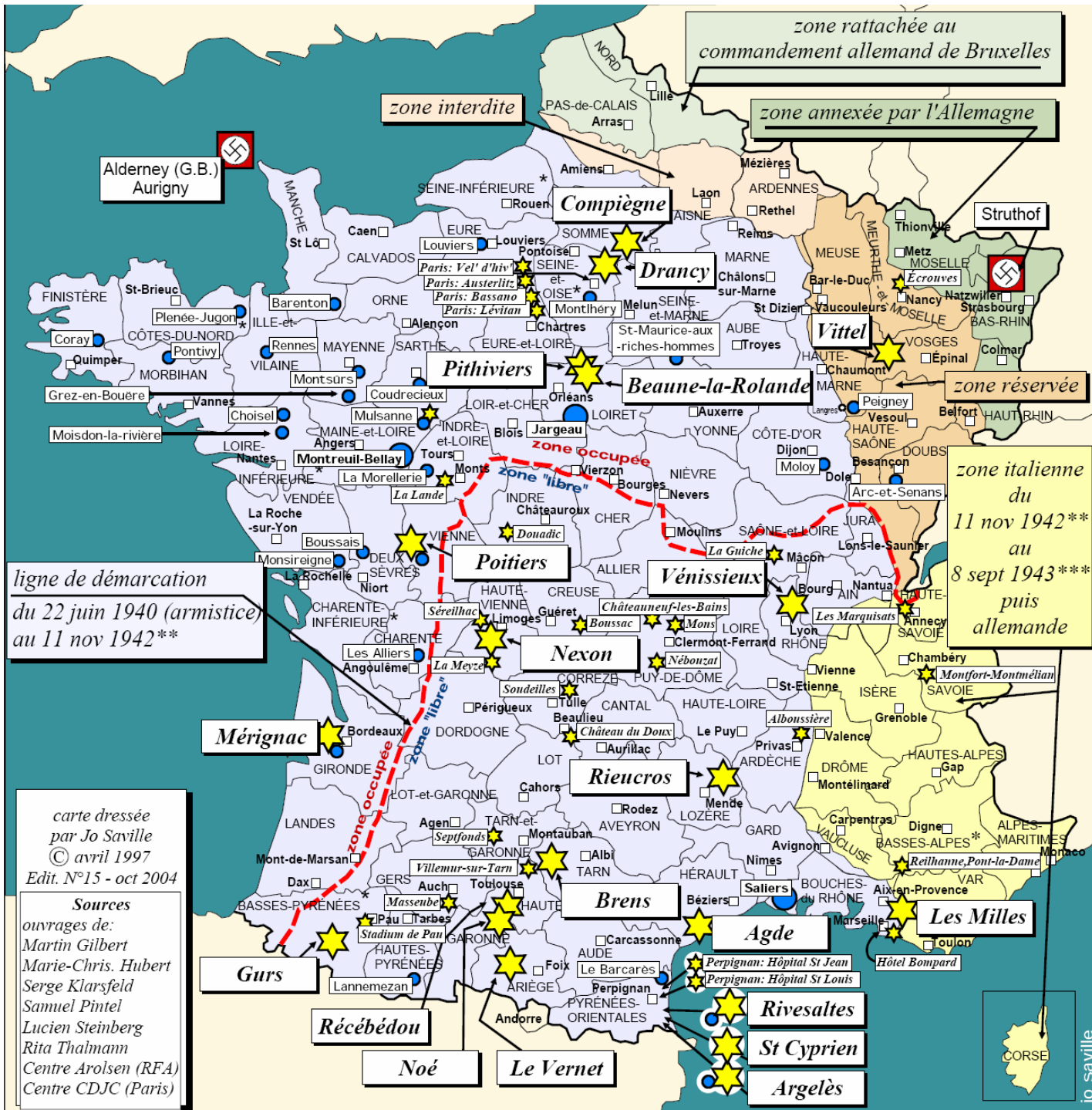
The demonstrations of **November 11, 1941**, in Paris, emerged from the University of Paris and were the first great action with national resonance of French Resistance. From that day on, for a great number of Frenchmen, collaboration with the German Nazi occupation appeared for what it was: a synonym of repression and complicity with the occupant.

In **February 1942**, a few weeks before the "Yellow Star" was instituted, Tony learned that he was sought after by the Gestapo. Warned on time, he left Paris for the Southern Zone, to the area of Grenoble, where his prison mate Arnaud Gluckstein had already found refuge. During the following months, benefiting from his French citizenship, which by extraordinary luck was not revoked by the Vichy government, and by using some accidental connections he made at the American Embassy in Vichy, he was able to render some useful services; He started circulating from one city to another, trying to extract somebody from an internment camp, get somebody else a set of "Aryan" papers, or a residence permit, etc...

But he quickly exhausted his finances (his father who had remained in Paris, due to his age, nearly fifty years old), was no longer able to support him. His search for a solution brought him to Marseilles, where he met his former high school teacher Mr. Benveniste, who advised him to leave for a farm in the region of "Ain", where a group of young Alsatian Jews were training.



Tony and Eli 1940



France under the German occupation.

The Yellow area is the Italian occupation Zone, that after September 1943 came under German control.

The Red line is the demarcation line between the Northern Zone under German occupation and the Southern Zone of the "French State".

ECOLE DE MÉDECINE ET DE PHARMACIE
DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE GRENOBLE

Grenoble, le _____ 194

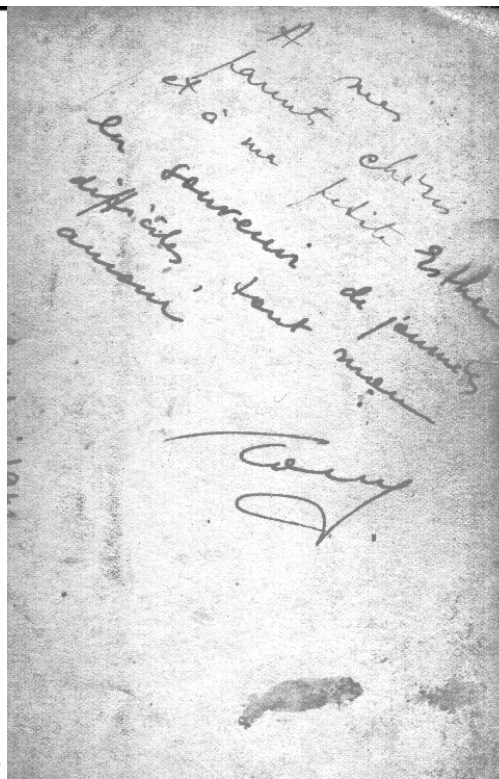
Le Secrétaire de l'Ecole Préparatoire
de Médecine et de Pharmacie scoussigné

C E R T I F I E

que M. GRYN

est autorisé à suivre les cours de la dite
Ecole (Médecine) et qu'il peut fréquenter
la Bibliothèque.

Grenoble le 3 Février 43
Le Secrétaire



Tony Gryn June 4, 1942

On **July 16th, 1942** as of 4 o'clock in the morning, 7,000 French police officers, rounded up 13,152 Jews, men, women, children and the elderly, and locked most of them up in a bicycle racing stadium called the "Vélodrome d'Hiver", while the rest were sent to the concentration camp of Drancy.

Held up for three days, the future deportees to the Nazi death camps, got a first glimpse of what awaited them: thirst, hunger, dirtiness, stench, ponds of excrements, howl, death, suicides. The process of dehumanization preliminary to the extermination was set up by the police forces of the "FRENCH STATE."

On **July 20th, 1942**, learning that his mother had just been arrested in Paris (on July 16th), Tony left for that farm in "Ain". A few weeks later, on August 10th, 1942, his father and young sister, miraculously escaped from the hands of Germans, and arrived in Southern Zone to the farm where he was staying. The "Farm" was dominated by "French" Jewish elements, and a very cold reception was given to his relatives, who were still considered "foreign" (indeed, only he had been naturalized). They did not allow them in. A hotel owner in the area allowed them to spend the night without declaring them as it was customary. The following day, very early in the morning, Tony left the "Farm" and went with his family to Lyon, where his father was successful in finding a small abode not far from the city of Villeurbanne, at 289, Rue du 4 Août. (This address would become a rather well known center among the young Zionists in Lyon). Later he learned that the afternoon of his departure, all the young people at the "Farm" were unfortunately arrested and later deported by the French Militia or the Gestapo.



Tony

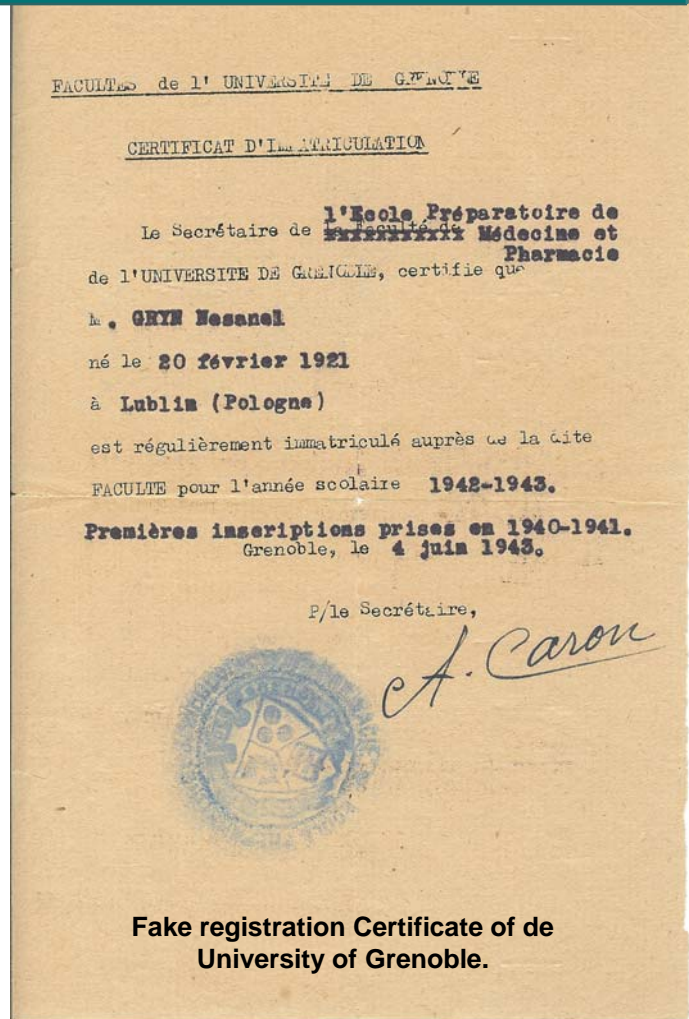
On **November 11, 1942**, following the invasion of North Africa by the Allies, the German Army entered the non occupied Southern Zone. In accordance to an agreement between the German government and the Italian government, the Italian army invaded eight departments in the southeast of France: The Alpes-Maritimes, Hautes-Alpes, Basses-Alpes, Isere, Savoie, Haute-Savoie and Var. These became the "Zone of Refuge", known as the "Paradise of the Jews". While in the other departments that had been occupied by the German Army, all the Nazi anti-Jewish regulations were scrupulously applied by the French Prefects, and Jews were now arrested and delivered to the Gestapo, in the Italian zone, on the other hand, the Italian authorities basically canceled all the anti-Jewish measures previously taken by the Vichy government.



In **October 1942**, Tony's father was arrested, for having a "false ID card" and was incarcerated at the concentration camp of Rivesaltes, near Perpignan, on the Spanish border.

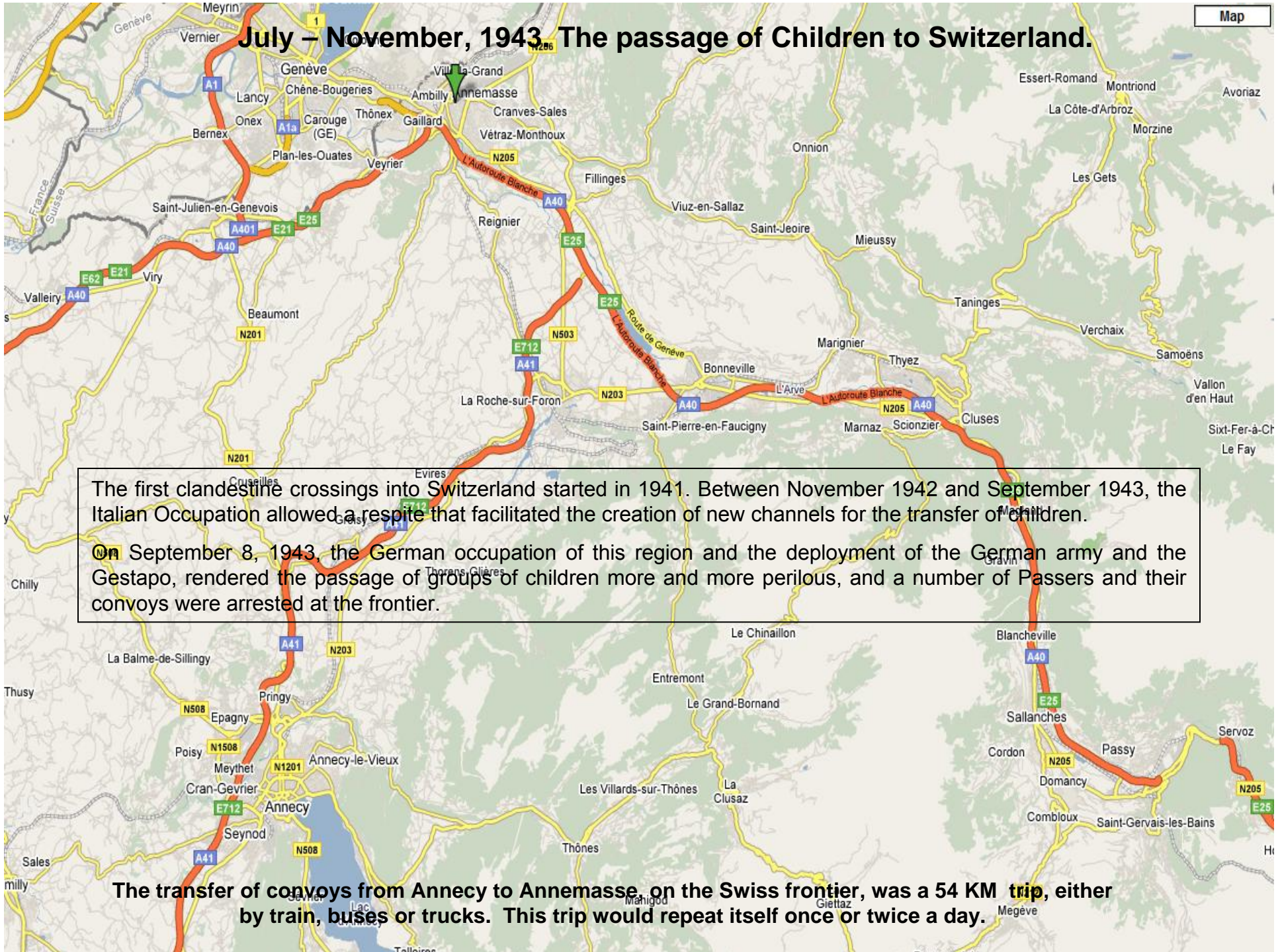
It took Tony two months to successfully help him escape from the camp, which would have otherwise meant deportation and death. Once free, his father settled in a suburb of Grenoble. Tony went back to Lyon, where his sister lived under an assumed identity borrowed from a non-Jewish friend (Alice Potard), whose mother gave her the birth certificate of "Alice". Tony worked for a while, with a relative who was a leather dealer, and succeeded in making both ends meet.

Meanwhile he contacted Sander Scheiner, his old counselor and Lucien Lublin, both leaders of the AJ (Jewish Army, the fighting arm of the Jewish clandestine resistance), and began to "work" with them. They sent him back to Grenoble, where he took an active part in the command and training of the local MJS battalion (Zionist Youth Movement). Simultaneously he started doing various translation jobs for the Documentation Center of the MJS, and thus began to learn the "work" of forged documents.



Fake registration Certificate of de University of Grenoble.

July – November, 1943. The passage of Children to Switzerland.



Towards the end of **July 1943**, Simon Levitte, the Leader of the MJS battalion in Grenoble, and head of its "Physical Education" Service (code name for the False-Documents and rescue operations) asked Tony if he would be willing to try and organize underground networks of crossings into Switzerland. Simon then sent him to Saint-Gervais and Megève, and entrusted him with the mission to evacuate hundreds of Jewish children gathered under Italian protection (the assembly of those children was organized and financed by George Kott of Roanne, who had mobilized the whole town of St Gervais to be a safe heaven for Jewish Refugees).

Saint-Gervais and Megève were two small towns in the French Alps, where Jewish Children would be brought from all over France, under Italian protection, and from where they would be evacuated to Switzerland or Italy. But the advance of the Allies in Italy and the eminent collapse of Mussolini, and the anticipated take over by the Germans of the Italian Zone with its escape routes to Switzerland were a cause for action. From there Tony left for Annecy where he succeeded in assembling a group of a dozen young men and women, all members of the MJS. He divided that group into several teams headed by among others Jacques Marburger, Mila Racine and her sister Sacha, Maurice Maidenberg, Roland Epstein and most important Rolande Birgy ("the girl with the blue beret"). Birgy, a young Christian woman, was a member of JOC (Christian Workers Youth), who from the start helped him organize everything. As she knew everyone in the area; catholic families, priests, etc., she assisted Tony in transforming the Mess hall of the Annecy high school, into a reception centre. As it was the period of the summer holidays, they were given free access to the high school. They often had thirty kids sleeping in, waiting to continue the trip to Annemasse and freedom in Geneva. Rolande also put him in touch with Abbé Jolivet, the priest of Colonges-sous-Salève, who helped him greatly during the first passage that he organized.



Tony lying on his back with members of the MJS company

The roundups intensified in Nice. The "Shipments" of children continued to grow. After Nice came the turn of Toulouse and Limoges, and our Services continued expending. Now not only children, but whole families succeeded regaining freedom in Switzerland through our Services... The occupation of the border by the Germans did increase the risk, but did not decrease our "traffic". Quite to the contrary, we felt sometime overwhelmed by the massive arrivals. - Tony

"Tony Gryn, Like Mila Racine, is a Border Passer of children who transfers regularly the kids into Switzerland. He always walks with a large wooden cane made of hazel tree, on which he chisels a mark on each successful return of a voyage. Towards the end of the summer, he was found to have a fully engraved cane.

After the war Tony joined the new state of Israel."

Wrote Gabriel Grandjacques, professor of history, in his memoirs on the life in Saint-Gervais: "SOME PERSONALITIES OUT OF THE ORDINARY".

"On **October 21st, 1943**, bad luck befell us".

Mila Racine, who was part of my original MJS team, arrived together with Roland Epstein at the train station of Annecy with a convoy of children from Nice. I came to greet them at the station. A twist of fate... Mila, following a rough night in the train, seemed very tired. I offered to take her convoy across, with another comrade, while she and Roland would rest and then take another group a few hours later. Their convoy had waited for two days to cross into Switzerland.

That evening at 8:00 PM, an unexpected curfew was announced at the border and the German doubled the patrols along the border. Our convoy, in spite of some difficulties, passed at 7:15 PM at "Route de Cornière" just east of Annemasse. The one led by Mila Racine and Roland Epstein that tried to cross a few hours later at "Route de Norcier" just east of Saint Julien-en-Genevois, was surprised by guard dogs and intercepted. It was a particularly difficult convoy, because there were not only children; it included also a couple of seventy-five year olds, a young mother with a baby and a couple with a young child. Shots were fired as Mila & Roland and their group tried to flee the pursuing guards. One woman and a baby were killed and another woman was injured. Mila and Roland refused to abandon those who were under their care, so they all were arrested. They were all taken to "Hotel de France" in nearby Saint Julian where the Gestapo had its headquarters, and from there were transferred the following morning to the Prison of Hotel Pax in Annemasse. - Tony



Tony and his friends used to accompany the convoys to the Suisse frontier near Annemasse. At the crossing point they would lift the barbed wire on the French side move everybody across, to the narrow no-men's land, than lift the barbed wire on the Swiss side and let everybody pass. Then they would turn back to the French side.



The prison at Hotel Pax 1943

Despite all their efforts, Tony and his team were unable to help Mila and Roland escape or stop their deportation.

The main impediment was Mila's refusal to abandon the children she felt responsible for.

"Mila, what a beautiful girl, she was! During the two hours of walking in the corridors (a favor which the mayor had obtained for the prisoners), she joked with the children; she cuddled them and said to me: 'You understand, Mr. Mayor, I replace their mom, I replace their big sister. It seems to be good for them, a little tenderness...'"

"Before leaving" continued Deffaugt "she had written on the door of her cell a small poem of which I remember the sense: 'Friend who will pass, who will be one day in this cell, whatever may happen, always preserves confidence and a smile; this is for France'"

"If this door had not been demolished in my absence, I would have had it cut out and framed, as it was her last good-bye to France".

The voice of the former mayor of Annemasse trembles of emotion. – "What a courage she had, this girl! When she learned that they were going to take her away, she said to me: 'Mr. Mayor, I would like to be beautiful when they take me. Can you bring me some makeup and lipstick? I will not cry; I promise you, when I'll get into the truck, I will not cry, but I want to be beautiful'."

Deffaugt starts to cry. And me, I cry with him.

Mila Racine and Roland Epstein were sent to deportation. Epstein would return. But Mila Racine was killed during an American bombardment, near the camp of Ravensbrück where she was interned.

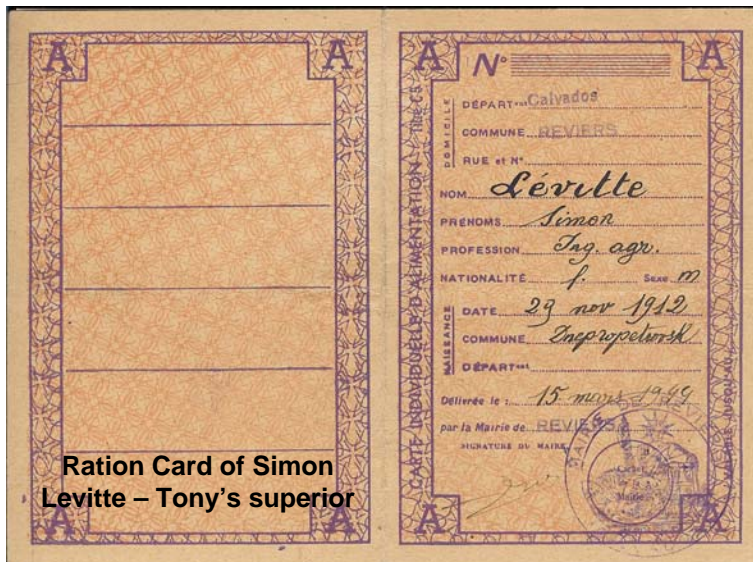
- The former mayor of Annemasse, Jean Deffaugt to Anny Latour.



Jean Deffaugt being honored at Yad Vashem

The Gestapo and the Militia were in Annecy, and the pressure on Tony grew. He than was warned by Madeleine Hérisson, a young lawyer of Annecy, who had good connections, with both the Resistance and official circles, (through her father, the editor of the local newspaper) that he was identified by the Germans, who were actively looking for him. Luckily, they only knew Tony's name and believed he was a woman. He had to leave. His team still managed to transfer several groups of children (about a hundred children) into Switzerland, where they were received by Mark Jarblum, with whom they were in constant contact.

Towards the end of **November 1943** Tony was summoned back to the MJS headquarters in Grenoble.



Mark Jarblum and members of a convoy, in Geneva

Marc Jarblum who had crossed the Suisse border in April 1943, settled in Genève. He then got in touch with Saly Mayer the representative of the American "Joint" committee in Switzerland, and obtained from her funds to finance the activities of the résistance. Jarblum was also instrumental in convincing the Suisse authorities to allow the entry into Switzerland of non accompanied Jewish children up to the age of 16, couples with infants of less than 2 years old, as well as elderly people.

I considered that to save Jews, adults and children, was our sacred obligation, as we could do it better than others.

I personally transferred into Switzerland around a hundred and fifty children, and a few tens of families. I think that through our operation that was later continued by Georges Loinger, we were able to save approximately sixteen hundred children, of which many later arrived to Israel ". Tony.

December 1943 – June 1944. Paris

Given that in the old occupied Northern Zone, the Germans had already persecuted the Jews since their arrival, they were no longer looking for them as actively as in the newly occupied territories of the Southern Zone where the Germans were making daily roundups. Therefore it seemed a good idea to seek places of refuge in the Northern Zone..- Tony

- It is absolutely necessary to go and explore the northern Zone, see its possibilities of hiding and concealment. Our resources in the southern zone have become exhausted and our "Papers" made in Grenoble, start to be known by the Gestapo and the Militia. It is absolutely necessary that we find new sources.

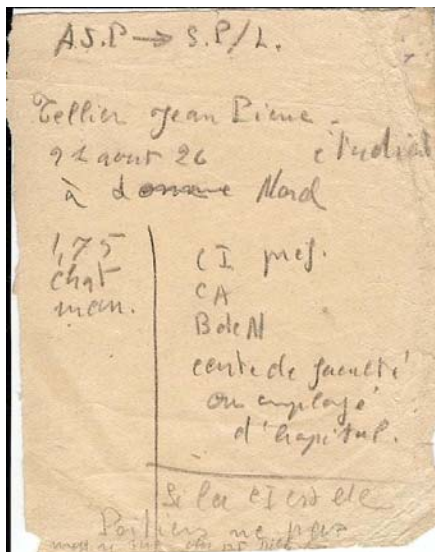
- Well, Chief. When do we leave?

- As of tomorrow if possible. We are expecting the arrival in Grenoble of Alois Brunner, and we will have to act fast...

- We will do our best. How much time do you give us to get acquainted with area?

- One month at the most, but do try to make it as quick as possible. I am counting on you. Good Luck! "

It is by these few sentences exchanged in front of Café "National" in Grenoble, with our leader, that my career as a "forger" began. - Tony



**Worksheet for the
creation of a false Identity**

SS-Hauptsturmführer Alois Brunner was born in Austria in 1912 and joined the Austrian Nazi Party in 1931 at the age of 19. His anti-Semitism was considered to be so extreme that he was swiftly tapped to be Adolf Eichmann's private secretary.

When World War II started, he sent 47,000 Austrian Jews to concentration camps. After organizing mass roundups in Berlin, he transferred to Greece, where he was responsible for deporting all 43,000 Jews in Salonika within just two months.

In June 1943, he was sent to France to take over the Drancy transit camp near Paris from its French administrators. During 14 months in France, Brunner sent an estimated 25,000 men, women and children to their deaths.



**Alois Brunner
Of the Gestapo**

Memoirs of a Forger, by Tony Gryn



Lucien Rubel

The first part of the mission that Tony describes is the research and supply of materials needed in order to forge identities. Lucien's assignment was to approach town clerks in remote localities and convince them to give him blank documents such as birth certificates, marriage certificates. These documents together with samples of seals would be used by Tony in Paris to create false identities for Jews in hiding.

We were in the last quarter of 1943. Grenoble, which up to that point miraculously escaped the “storm”, saw the beginning of a serious crisis. The Gestapo moved in and with the active help of the local French Militia proceeded without delays with the first roundups. The “evacuation” of Jews was becoming increasingly more difficult and The demands for forged identity documents were increasing.

Grenoble, which had up to now provided "forged-documents" to most of the Southern zone, was no longer able to satisfy the demand. Limoges was “crying for help”, Toulouse demanded “material” and Nice was trying to overcome the dreadful team of the Gestapo’s “Physiologists” (so-called specialists in the Arian Race, who could Identify Jews by their Physical appearance). The Northern zone, on the other hand, from where the Jews "had been already cleansed" for more than a year, could perhaps offer new refuge... Therefore with Lucien Rubel, another member of our Physical Education team (this is how we called the MJS' service of forged documents), I moved north to Paris which was to become the center of our activity and efforts.

I settled in Paris, in the Latin Quarter, at 85 Bd. St-Michel, where I obtained a student card as well as press credentials as correspondent of a Bordeaux pro-German newspaper "the Dispatch of Toulouse". It was a good cover.

Our move was not easy, it occurred during the time of roundups and control of IDs. The drafts for forced Labor in Germany were not going smoothly as the “Gauleiter” Sauckel (The German Governor of occupied France) and his French yes-man Laval would have liked. Two young guys like us, (Lucien was hardly twenty years old and was my junior by merely two years) could appear suspicious at any “control”. Therefore we had to age ourselves rather seriously, and two superb collars of beard and an abundant moustache gave us an air of respectability and maturity. We adopted the look of "Repatriated POW", since it was also so indicated in our hastily manufactured papers for this mission. German repatriation papers, made of course at our clandestine printing works as well as French demobilization papers and fake identity papers... they were all perfect. The first “control” we encountered at the train’s platform exit reassured us. In addition we maintained the air of self assurance, we had the audacity, the right Chutzpah, and the belief that we would do well...

Our first “war” council met in my small dorm room and assignments were given. On the one hand to explore the opportunities of the provinces, an area rather sparsely exploited to date and on the other hand to see what we can do in Paris; get in touch with other resistance groups, and contact similar operations to ours.

The only contacts we had in Paris were those of some EIF members, but their manufacturing capabilities were very limited. Following some unsuccessful efforts in Paris, we decided to check-out the provinces. Each one of us took a specific sector, and hence, day after day, we visited town-halls trying to create "relationships". It was very risky... one day Lucien was almost arrested. He was suspected by the authorities – affiliated to the resistance - of being... a Gestapo agent. On my end, I faced one failure after the other, from one town-hall to another, from one police station to another, I met only refusals and sometimes threats of arrest. I started to despair. I traveled all around, night and day in trains and buses, and still no results...

One evening, I got a telephone call from Lucien who had discovered some "Interesting Opportunities of Tourism..". At last he found something. I immediately rushed back to Paris, where Lucien described to me a source he accidentally found; a certain town-clerk was ready to provide us with a registrar of names, with their ID numbers and ration cards numbers. And with her recommendations we could go from one town-hall secretary to another, thus exploring a whole region. We decided to divide the work load, Lucien would continue the "exploration", and I, assisted by Judith, my young assistant, would assemble and install a "Lab" in Paris, ensuring that the manufacturing work of the "Forged Documents" could be done in-house.

After some search I found an apartment in a quiet area, where I setup my residence and "lab". Initially, the "lab" included common materials such as inkpots, fountain pens, various inking-pads, bleach, official Revenue Stamps and one or two Seals. However, the essential requirement was to find an engraver who could manufacture the Seals.

After some searching, we finally found one in Lyon. This would require another "Liaison". As a result of the many "controls" and searches that were increasingly frequent this would be a very dangerous job. Charlotte Sorkine, a young comrade well tested in Nice and in the passages to Switzerland, volunteered.

Thereafter our "work" had two stages: the preparatory stage: Lucien would bring the "models" of town-hall, Police Departments, Ration-Cards services, Seals, as well as, copies of births, marriages and deaths registrars, basically all that was needed to smartly create a "double identity" of a un suspecting average villager... Charlotte would carry the "models" to Lyon where the engraver G... Would carry out the order in a perfect way: it was impossible, even with a trained eye, to distinguish between a false seal and a real one.

The second stage of our work was the execution and distribution. Our "Social Services" in Paris and the Provinces would send the "orders" to our residence in Paris, using "liaison agents", mostly young girls, where the orders would be executed in the most perfect way possible. i.e. we would provide our "Client" a complete set of forged documents that had the advantage of being based on a real Identity, which numbers appeared in all the official registries. Once carried out, the "Orders" would be send back to the appropriate Social-Services' office, which then would dispense them to the end-user. From the reception of the "Order" to the delivery, it took us no more then three days, but in emergencies, it would take us less than twenty-four hours. Our setup enabled us to issue up to fifty complete ID sets per day.



Police Department's Seal



Mairie
de MIGNY
COMMUNE D
(MAYENNE)

EXTRAIT du registre des **NAISSANCES** de l'année 1

NAISSANCE

de

L'an mil

le

est né à arrondissement d

département d, un enfant du sexe

qui a reçu les prénoms de

du

fil de exerçant la profession

de et de

..... son épouse, domiciliés

à

En marge est écrit:

Certifié le présent extrait conforme aux indications portées
au registre, par nous Maire et officier de l'état civil de la com-
mune d arrondissement d
département d

Mairie d, le
mil neuf cent

Le Maire,



A blank of a birth certificate ready to be assigned.

These kind of documents were obtained from various localities in France and delivered to Paris to Tony's lab where the appropriate data was entered, than delivered to a "clinet" in need.

A.S.P → S.P/L. | Très urgent.
Non Jeudi soir ou
Amélioration.
Prise de Bin Doucin repris le complet
Elisabeth Trélimac; le 1^{er} a été élé-
truit par accident -
Elisabeth Marie Trélimac
née le 2 juin 1927 à Castres (Tarn)
fille de Jean Louis Trélimac
et de Marie ~~Trélimac~~
Madeline Delphine
454
Domicile: 103 Rue du
Pont Neuf à
Paris
CI n. Vienne
délivré sur le débet 44
sin 43
CA. B.D.H.
Centre scolaires: Ecole Victor
Duruy.

Above is a work sheet for a "client", in this case a young woman...The data includes her personal information, address, place of birth description etc. all to be used in the creation of a false ID.

Very soon we were obliged to further increase our service. And a merger with the "Social Service" of the EIF offered us valuable assistance. The EIF had a well organized distribution network, and now we could approach an increasingly large base of "clients".

It was the arrival in Paris of Maurice Loebenberg aka Cachoud from Nice, which gave our operation a new boost. We no longer spoke of hundreds of IDs or a few Seals, it was now thousands of IDs and hundreds of Seals.

Thus began a "Grandiose" project, where tens of thousands of "Ration Cards" were provided by us to all the "Social Services" of France. "Employment Certificates", "Demobilization-Papers, "Certificates of Repatriation" and "STO Deferment papers" (Forced Labor) were now packaged in "ten thousands". We had to use two printing houses, but most of the work was done at the printing works of Robert Weil and René Polsky, which in spite of having a government appointed administrator, had kept its old personnel, which helped us a lot in printing our masterpieces.

We also got into the manufacturing of German "forged" papers, such as "Laissez Passers" of the "Organization Todt" (OT was a Nazi construction and engineering group during the years of the Third Reich, which enslaved over 1.5 million men from countries occupied by Nazi Germany.), "Interpreter's ID", "Rüstung work papers" (German Ammunition Factories), and finally even Gestapo, SD (German Security Services) and Wehrmacht ID papers.

Ration Card belonging to Victor Michault – aka Tony

92166 A

N° 92166 A

Validité par catégorie

Validité en catégorie

Validité en catégorie

Nom: MICHHAULT

Prénoms: Victor

Né le: 16 Février 1918

Nationalité: Française Sexe: M

Département: Seine

Commune: Paris

Rue: Rue de Michel 85

Délivrée le: 20-12-44

par la Mairie de: La Chapelle

Signature du Maire: R. P... ..

Cachet de la Mairie

CARTE INDIVIDUELLE D'ALIMENTATION - Titre 1391

N° d'identification

Né le: 20 Février 1921

A: Lublin Dép: Pologne

N° Matricule A. S.

Dép: Jean

Canton: Capnoles

Commune: Dondent de Lagrie N° 13

Rue: N°

Dép: N°

Canton: N°

Commune: N°

Rue: N°

Dép: N°

Canton: N°

Commune: N°

Rue: N°

Signature du titulaire: Tony

EMPREINTES DIGITALES: POUCE, ANNULAIRE, MIDDLE, ANNEAU, DOIGT

5 JUIN 1943

DATES	AFFECTATIONS SUCCESSIVES	DESIGNATION, VISA, CACHET DU SERVICE
1	Etudiant médecin PC affecté en France	Direction Départementale de l'Industrie, du Commerce et des Pêcheries de la Seine-et-Oise
2	236.8.43	Direction Départementale de l'Industrie, du Commerce et des Pêcheries de la Seine-et-Oise
3	Etudiant en médecine	Direction Départementale de l'Industrie, du Commerce et des Pêcheries de la Seine-et-Oise
4	Maintenu aux H.C. de	Direction Départementale de l'Industrie, du Commerce et des Pêcheries de la Seine-et-Oise
	EMPLOI: f... ..	
	EMPLOI:	
	EMPLOI:	
	EMPLOI:	

Tony's forged ID card, bearing his real name.

SERVICE SOCIAL DES JEUNES

E. I. F. — M. J. S.

14, RUE CLAPEYRON, 14
PARIS (VIII^e)

TEL. : EUR 37-64
- 37-65

PARIS. LE

Je soussigné ALBERT AKERBERG, Responsable Régional à Paris du SERVICE SOCIAL DES JEUNES, organisme clandestin fonctionnant sous l'occupation Allemande, certifie sur l'honneur que Monsieur TONY GRYN était membre de cette organisation, et assurait la direction du service "Feux-Papiers" pendant la période comprise entre Janvier 1944 et la libération.

Fait à Paris le 9 Mars 1945

Albert Akerberg

ALBERT AKERBERG



pour certification de la
signature de M. *Akerberg*
apposée ci-dessus

Paris, le 14 MARS 1945
Commissaire de Police

W


Document issued in March 1945 certifying that Tony was directing the joint forged-paper operations in Paris between January 1944 and the Liberation.

The document bears the header of the "Service Social des Jeunes" the umbrella organization set up in Paris, that included both the MJS (Zionist Youth) and the EIF (The Jewish Scouts).

Forced Labor Exemption issued to Tony... by Tony

STAT FRANÇAIS Mod. 3

COMMISSARIAT GÉNÉRAL
AU SERVICE
DU TRAVAIL OBLIGATOIRE



CARTE DE TRAVAIL

SERVICE DU TRAVAIL OBLIGATOIRE
(LOI DU 16 FÉVRIER 1943)

DÉLIVRÉE PAR LA

PRÉFECTURE DE *Paris*

N° 38-18521-180

Nom du titulaire... *Gryn*

Prénoms..... *Mesand Tony*

Profession..... *Étudiant médecin*

Prisonnier rapatrié

FICHE DE DÉMOBILISATION

N° de la fiche 54.842 Exemple No 1

Centre de Démobilisation de VERSAILLES
(Seine-et-Oise)

Arme Infanterie Grade 2e classe

Nom RIVET

Prénoms Charles

Né le 22 juillet 1918, Lyon (Rhône)

Nationalité (1) : Français de naissance XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
(art. 3 de la loi de recrutement).

Situation de famille (1) : célibataire XXXXXXXXXXXX enfants

Profession (exercée avant les hostilités) employé

Adresse avant les hostilités Lyon (Rhône) 71 rue Louis Blanc

Adresse où se retire l'intéressé id.

Intéressé a-t-il du travail dans sa profession à l'adresse indiquée oui

Bureau de recrutement Lyon CPMI I42

N° matricule de recrutement 2366 ou à défaut localité dans laquelle a été passé le conseil de révision XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dernier corps d'affectation (3) 1066 R.I. Reims

A percevoir la prime de démobilisation de mille Frs.

Le présent titre de démobilisation ne donne droit au transport gratuit que pendant une durée de quinze jours à compter de sa délivrance.

(1) Rayer les mentions inutiles
(2) Département
(3) S'il s'agit d'un affecté spécial indiquer l'établissement employeur.

Emploi au corps secrétaire Spécialité _____

Fait prisonnier à Sedan le 5 juin 1940

Dernier camp de prisonnier où l'intéressé a séjourné Stalag X B

N° d'immatriculation au camp de prisonniers 43227

Centre mobilisateur XXXXXX ou XXXXXX rejoint au moment du dernier appel sous les drapeaux (1) Lyon CPMI I42

Date : 27 juillet 1938

rapatrié le 15 février 1943

VERSAILLES 18 février 1943

Le Commandant du Centre de démobilisation

art d'administration
5018
1946
MARIAGE

Rayer les mentions inutiles.

EMPREINTES DES 2 DOIGES	SIGNATURE de l'intéressé

We made 10,000 of these demobilization certificates in one shot. - Tony.

Begleitzettel für innerlich

Kranke

Transportfähig, ansteckend: gelber Streifen

Transportfähig, nicht ansteckend: grüner Streifen

Marschfähig, nicht ansteckend: kein farbiger Streifen

Name: DOURAND Marcel

Dienstgrad: Sold.

Truppenteil: M 632 IX c

Krankheit (lateinisch! abgekürzt!):
Lungen t. b. c.

Beginn der Krankheit:

Körperwärme am						
Morgens						
Abends						

Erhielt an starkwirkenden Arzneien:

Innerlich?	Gabe	Zeit

Eingespritzt?

Above, sample of Discharge documents that were created in order to protect young Jewish men, from being drafted for forced labor in Germany.



Above, a forged German Sick tag, and a forged German Seal.

Below, one of the most solid documents was a Certificate of Repatriation of wounded or sick POW. Such a document, with the appropriate stamps would be a "Get out of Jail" card for young Jews in hiding when arrested by French Militia or German Army...

Entlassungsschein (D.D.)
Attestation de rapatriement

für verwundete und kranke Kriegsgef., und Sanitätspersonen
pour prisonniers de guerre blessés ou malades, sanitaires
sowie Feldgeistliche
et aumôniers

Der *Franzose* *Soldat*
Le

Nationalität *Polnisch*
Nationalité *Polonaise*

Dienstbezeichnung *Polgar*
Grade militaire *Polgar*

Vor- und Zuname *Victor B. Michault*
Nom et prénom *Victor B. Michault*

Beschriftung der Erkennungsmarke
Inscription de la plaque d'identité

geb. am *6. Januar 1918* in *La Mousotte (Polen)*
Date de naissance *6. Januar 1918* Lieu de naissance *La Mousotte (Polen)*

~~ist wegen Verwundung+ Krankheit,~~ ~~entsprechend den Bestimmungen der~~ ~~Abkommervereinbarung zum abkommen~~ ~~von 1929~~
~~+ als nicht benötigter Sanitäts-~~ ~~angehöriger +Feldgeistlicher,~~ ~~gemäß Art. 12 des Genfer Ab-~~ ~~kommens von 1929~~
~~aus deutschem Gewahrsam entlassen worden.~~

~~+a été rapatrié pour raison~~ ~~de santé (blessure +maladie)~~ ~~d'après l'accord-type concer-~~ ~~nant le rapatriement des pris-~~ ~~sonniers de guerre (Annexe à~~ ~~la Convention de 1929)~~ ~~+comme sanitaire non occupé~~ ~~+aumônier, d'après art. 12 de~~ ~~la Convention de Genève de 1929~~

Lager bzw. Res. Laz. *Stalag IV B* Datum *23 mai 1944*
Camp ou lazaret *Stalag IV B* Date *23 mai 1944*

Stempel *Stalag IV B*
Cachet *Stalag IV B*

Hekt. Stücke abgenommen
Michault
Unterschrift und Dienstgrad
Signature et grade militaire

+ Nichtzutreffendes durchzustreichen
+ Rayez les indications non conformes

FICHE DE DÉMOBILISATION

En aucun cas la présente fiche ne peut servir de titre de paiement
pour la prime de démobilisation

N° de la fiche *95-432* Exemple N° *1*

Centre de démobilisation de *Lyon 7^e V. Victoire, Rhône*

Arme : *D.C.A.* Grade : *1^{er} classe*
Nom : *MICHAULT* Prénoms *Victor Antoine*
Né le *16 Juin 1918* à *Tunis (Tunisie)*

Nationalité (1) : Français de naissance - naturalisé - ne justifiant d'aucune nationalité (article 3 de la loi de recrutement)

Situation de famille (1) célibataire - marié - veuf - divorcé - enfants:

Profession (exercé avant les hostilités) *Étudiant*

Adresse (avant les hostilités) *106, Av. Foch, Lorient (Finistère)*

Adresse où se retire l'intéressé *La Mure (Isère)*

L'intéressé a-t-il du travail dans sa profession à l'adresse indiquée

Bureau de recrutement *Bret* n° matricule de recrutement *52-656*

ou à défaut localité dans laquelle a été passé le conseil de révison

Dernier corps d'affectation *407 DCA Metz* *Emploi au camp:*
Fait prisonnier à *Dunckerque* *de 26 Mars 40 rapatrié de 19-6-43*

Dernier camp de prisonniers où l'intéressé a séjourné *Stalag IV B*

N° d'immatriculation au camp de prisonniers *27.411*

Centre mobilisateur ou unité, ou-dépôt, rejoint *407 DCA*

au-moment du dernier appel sous les drapeaux (1) } Date *22 Avril 1939*

1 Rayer les mentions inutiles.
2 Département.

Empreinte des 2 pouces

Signature de l'intéressé *Michault*

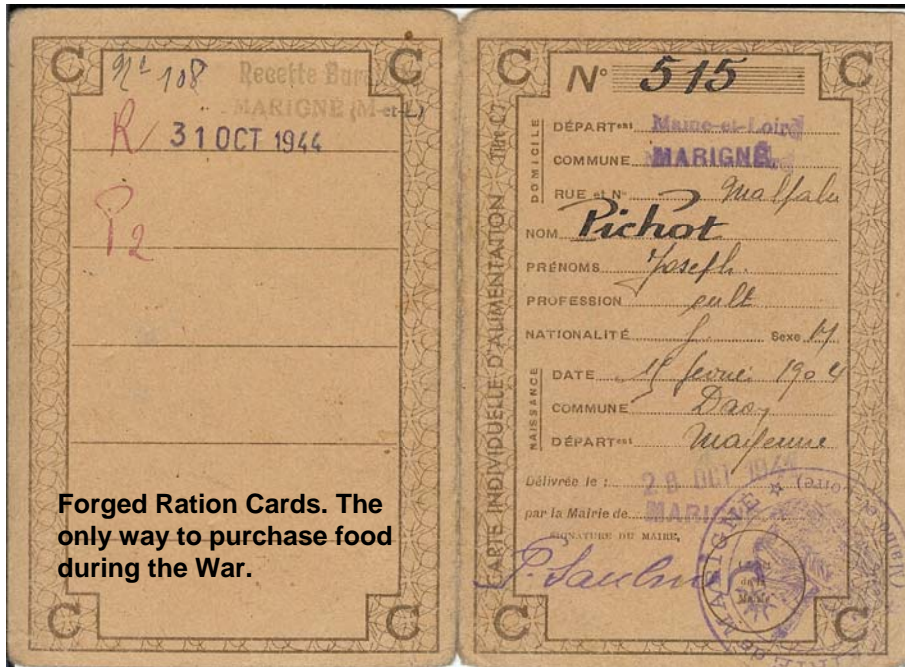
Le Commandant
du Centre de Démobilisation

SECTION de
DÉMobilisation
LYON 7^e V. VICTOIRE

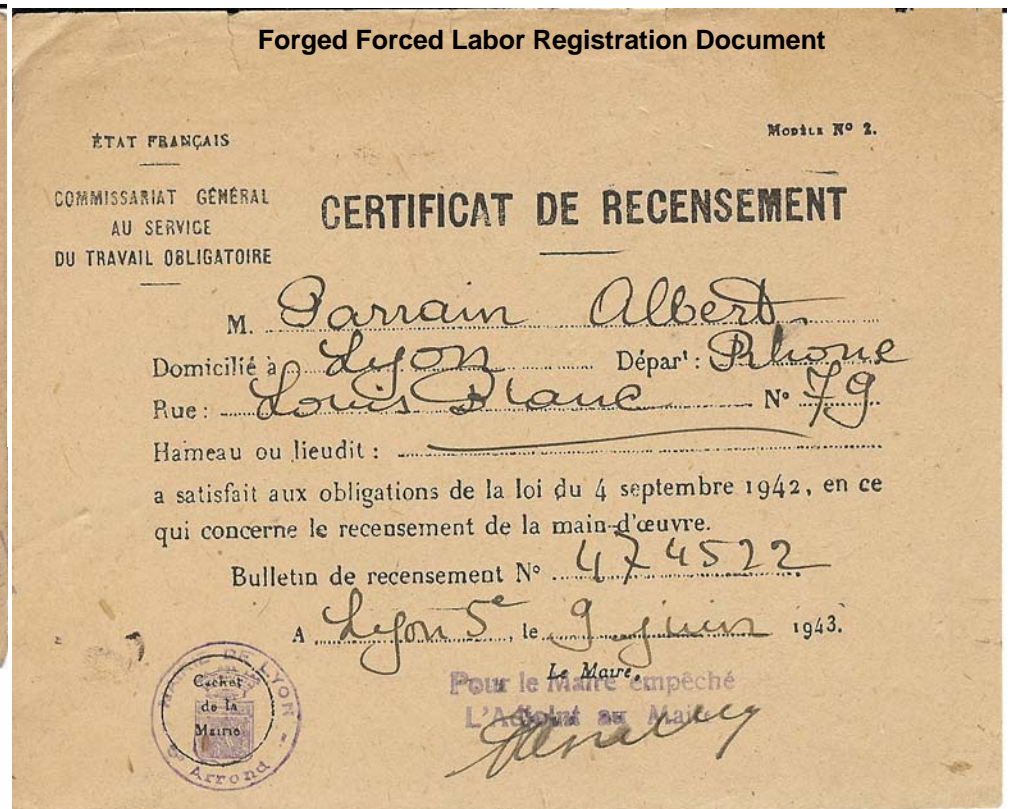
En démission de son titre de soldat et de son grade de 1^{er} classe, le présent fiche a été remplie par son commandant de centre de démobilisation, conformément à l'article 12 de la loi de recrutement de 1939.

Le présent fiche de démobilisation, obtenu doit être remis au bureau de recrutement de la localité de sa résidence.

Tony's own demobilization document – as Victor Michault

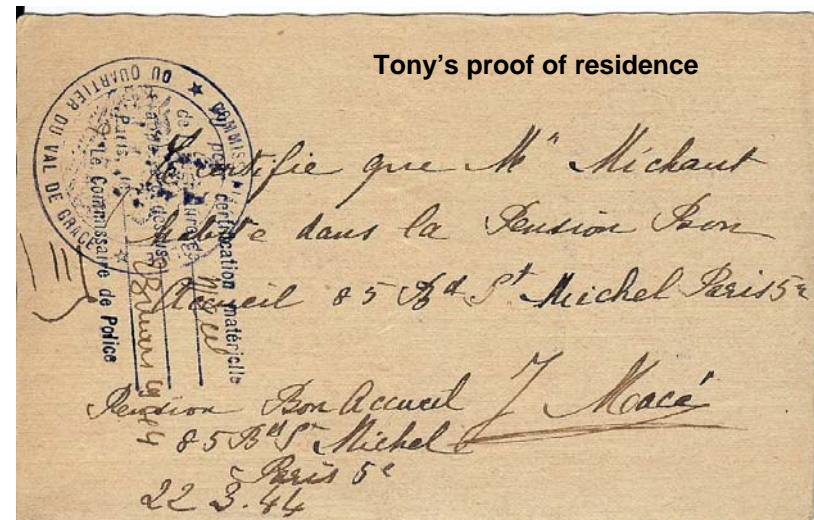


Forged Ration Cards. The only way to purchase food during the War.



Forged Forced Labor Registration Document

Tony's group meetings took place in his small dorm room at 85 Blvd Saint-Michel, above the Fraternity of Pharmacy Students. Members of the group often rented rooms in that pension. The owner, an old disabled English lady professor, was not aware at first of their activities. But when Tony visited her after the liberation, she made it clear she had always suspected their kind of activity. Fortunately, they never had troubles with her.



During a six month period, we manufactured about 9000 sets of documents, which included among others, ID cards and Ration Cards. As for military documents, we produced military discharge papers, Prisoner Of War discharge documents and certificates of good behavior. - Tony

They did, however, have troubles and excitements with the Police and the Germans.

I remember one evening while I was listening to Radio-London with my assistant Judith Geller, we heard a violent knock on the door. I opened the door to see a German "feld-gendarme" (Military Police) pointing his machine-gun at me. He pushed me, and entered with other soldiers. He went straight to the window, opened it, and shouted 'Is it here?' a vague answer came from outside, and the officer said: 'Fine!'. I said to myself: "We are done". Fortunately I had the good inspiration of changing the station, without turning off the radio. Then addressed them, in a rather bad German, to play my part as a student in the Faculty of Arts, and I asked him what was the matter. "You did not close your curtains!" he answered... and asked for my papers, than to my relief he gave me a fine for not having masked the light, he gave me the choice between a 20 marks fine and eight days of prison. I agreed to pay the fine and was told I had to go to the Continental Hotel, near Place de l'Opéra, the sit of German Wehrmacht "Kommandantur". - Tony

In order to prevent the Germans from coming to look for him and forcing him to move apartments, early the next day Tony put his best suit on, mounted his bicycle and went to the German "Kommandantur" in rue Castiglione near the Opera. He went up to the 4th floor, crossing corridors full of German officers, members of Gestapo, Germans and French, all with pretty alarming faces. He paid his fine, and started on his way downstairs, with shaky legs, always fearing a "control". He took his bicycle, which he had entrusted to the sentry at the gate, and it was then that he saw a scene which remained in his memory as one of the most painful moments of his life...

I saw a truck arriving loaded with young men who were undoubtedly members of the Resistance, and who seemed to have been tortured or at least badly beaten. I was leaving the "Kommandantur", when I realized that their eyes were on me... they must have believed that I was another filthy collaborator; I had no way of signaling them. That would have been stupid of my part; so I slowly moved away on my bicycle, really upset. - Tony



Hotel Continental, the sit of the Kommandanture

June - August 1944

Following the invasion of the Allies in Normandy on **June 6 1944**, Tony and his group devoted themselves to military activity. The Paris Combat-Groups were commanded by his assistant Lucien Rubel. This is to say; Lucien was Tony's assistant in the forged documents operations, while for all combat actions, Lucien was his commander.

Lucien entered in contact with the Charcot-Neuville Group, which was part of the FFI (the French Forces of the Interior) and they became affiliated to them militarily, as part of the General Resistance.

The Commanding officer of this group was Pierre Galais, aka Captain Neuville.

He was an incredible figure, a martial arts expert, who during one encounter, when attacked by twelve Gestapo men, under the arcade of the Louvre, was able to alone, flatten five of them, and flee unharmed.

GALAIS Pierre, Marcel, Robert

Born on June 25 1922 at Amiens (Somme), son of an architect. Pierre Galais, a student, joined the Résistance under the pseudonym of Captain Neuville. After the Liberation of Paris, he rejoined the group formed by Colonel Fabien in order to continue the fight against the German army. He was killed in action during the battle of Alsace at Gravelotte (Moselle), on the 26th of September 1944.

The name of Pierre Galais was given to rue des Bourgeois in Paris on the 27th of July 1945.

In January 1944, Ernest Appenzeller aka Leboucher, a member of the Nice branch of the AJ, arrived to Paris to join Tony and Lucien to form the Paris Combat- Group. Earlier in 1943, Ernest had been incarcerated in Drancy, but had been released as a Christian. He had passed an inspection by professor Montandon who had a "chair of ethnology" at a university and who collaborated with the Germans in identifying Jews. Montandon affirmed that Ernest was Aryan, and this allowed his release. The Infamous Alois Brunner, of the Gestapo, insisted that the Police Prefecture investigate Ernest, and eventually the prefecture replied that such a name did not exist. This could have been fatal but fortunately the same day a letter arrived from "our" priest with a certificate of baptism, as well as other documents of his "parents". With all the provided proof, Brunner released him and even made fun of the "inaptitude" of the French Police to properly identify a "Jew".

The Paris Combat-Group included, among others, the two Pohoryles brothers, Rachel Cheigam, her sister Nelly, Marc Levy, César Chamay, and André Amar. We learned how to handle arms from French weapons instructors. In our combat-group we also had some non Jews, among them was colonel Albert Garcia, a celebrated Spanish civil war hero, and a Frenchman Charles Archambault aka Perken.

As part of our combat-group we had a group of Dutch Jews who were on their way to Palestine. They arrived in Paris in 1943, from a Zionist agricultural training center in Holland. It was a group of 20 to 30 year old men and women led by Max Windmuller aka Cor,. Cor was the first to have the idea to forge Gestapo ID cards and membership cards in the Todt organization. He used to dress like a Gestapo man, and imitated the German "type" very well. He was able to infiltrate several young women of his group to the center of Gestapo in Paris, at the Majestic hotel, as secretaries. Through them we obtained blank documents, Seals, and Passes. Thanks to these documents we were able to produce "real" False-Documents. Some young people of his group also worked in the V1 and V2 factories, and thanks to them, we obtained plans of their installations, which made it later possible for the French Resistance to blow them up.

On July 18th , Cor was arrested and deported. He was shot by a SS on April 21, 1945 during the German's evacuation of Buchenwald..-Tony

Between **July 16 and July 19, 1944**, several raids took place during which twenty-five members of the Paris combat-group were arrested.

In one location in rue Erlanger, Henri Pohoryles, Maurice Loebenberg, Ernest Appenzeller and César Chamay were caught. All the leaders, with the exception of Lucien, three other comrades and Tony were arrested.

In a second location, in a small hotel room near the "Porte de la Villette", members of the Dutch group were arrested. Perken who was with them at the time of the arrest, was badly wounded but was able to flee. He eventually recovered to continue the fight.

In a third location, at 90 rue des Courcelles, the residence of Lucien and Patricia (his fiancée), Max Windmuller and Ernst Appenzeller were arrested together with Patricia. In the apartment there were many weapons hidden.

All those arrested were taken to Gestapo headquarters at 180 rue de la Pompe. Each one of them was questioned and tortured so that they would divulge their knowledge on the group's activities and denounce the others. A few days later they were all transferred to the prison of Fresnes. Most of them were sentenced to death. Hours before their execution, they were transferred to the concentration camp in Drancy, and from there were deported on the last train leaving for the camps

S.S.M.J.
CENTRE D'INTERROGATION de la Région de Paris-


NOTE DE SERVICE

Il est demandé, pour des raisons de sécurité militaire
que les nommés :
Lydia TSCHERVINSKA
Charles POREL
actuellement au camp d'internement de Drancy y soient
maintenus jusqu'à décision à intervenir.

Paris, le 2 Septembre 1944

Le Chef de Bataillon : HAYE
Chef de S.S.M.J.

Destinataires
Commandant du camp d'internement de Drancy
Commandant Chef de B.S.M. de Paris
Archives-



Arrest warrant for Charles Porel and his associate Lydia, who betrayed the Group to the Gestapo.

This major blow to their operation was done following a denunciation, by a double agent, who worked at same time for the German "Abwehr" and the British Intelligence Service. He called himself Charles Porel (his real name was Karl Rehbein, a German who spoke French and English quite well.), and Tony was introduced to him by a girl named Lydia Tschervinska, who came recommended by Pohoryles. Porel was to provide the group with information as well as badly needed weapons. They really believed that he was representing the British Intelligence Service, and this cost them dearly. (Karl Rehbein and Lydia Tscherviska were tried on November 20 1952 in Paris. Lydia was released and Karl was sentenced to life imprisonment. In 1969, Rehbein was still living in Germany).

The evening of the arrest, a meeting was scheduled in Tony's apartment, and that morning he was supposed to call Ernest and Patricia to finalize some details. However, at the precise moment when he was calling them, the Gestapo raided their apartment. They forced Ernest to pick up the phone. When Tony asked to speak with Patricia, Ernest answered that: "She is with Tony"... Tony immediately understood that Ernest was under duress and cut the communication. The Germans than severely beat Ernest in order to find out who was this Tony... Logically, Tony should have fled immediately after the telephone call...but so it happened that just the day before, he received the keys to a new apartment at 84 rue de Grenelle, opposite the Soviet embassy. So Tony calmly packed his belonging and quickly moved to this new address that nobody knew (except for his assistant Judith).

When Gestapo arrived to his old apartment he was long gone...

That same morning, Lucien arrived from the South with a suitcase full of arms. He was supposed to go to his apartment. It was 6 am when he arrived to the entrance of his building. He rang the doorbell and the concierge opened. On the first floor lived a French dentist, who had probably heard the Police. Recognizing Lucien he opened his window and signaled him not to go up. "You're going up to the third? Do not go there, the Police is there." Lucien then fled. He left the suitcase in a nearby café, and telephoned his apartment. Someone answered and he understood that he was compromised. He then phoned Tony, only minutes after Tony's own communication with Ernest, who told him that Ernest and Patricia were "sick", but that he was in "good health", and they agreed to meet at a pre-determined location. They met, and went looking for the suitcase Lucien had left earlier, and from there they went straight to Tony's new residence. They settled there and made sure that all the other comrades who were not arrested changed their residences at once.

They sought out to find information on their arrested friends, but it was very difficult. Through contacts in the General Resistance, Lucien was able to learn of their fate and were able to get them some money. One of the actions which they considered was to try to blow-up the railroads around Drancy thus preventing any train departures. As they could not do it themselves, they called on Lucien's friends of the MLN (National Liberation Movement) and together they prevailed. The last monthly departure (August) from Drancy to the Camps in the East did not take place.

Tony then asked for reinforcements to replenish their ranks and they eventually arrived from Nice.

They still had to overcome a major problem...they were waiting for 17 years old Betty Knout, who was on her way from Toulouse, loaded with badly needed weapons. She obviously had no idea of the arrests had to be intercepted before the Germans catch her.

They eventually found her on time, and all ended well...

The railroad bridge over the Loire had been blown, and it was necessary for the passengers to leave the train, walk to another bridge, cross the Loire and return to another train waiting on the north side of the river. A German officer, who was on the train noticed this young seventeen years old girl, very petit, beautiful, with a mischievous look, take two large suitcases. "May I help you, Miss?" he asked her. Then he exclaims: "how heavy! What do you carry in them?" as it was the period of a booming black market, he added: "is it butter? Cheese? Ham?" Betty took a malicious air: "Shush, these are weapons...they are machine-guns." The officer burst with laughter and added "may I?". he than took the two suitcases and carried them to the waiting train where he helped Betty to find a seat. - Tony



Document "control" by a Militia officer

I think that if we were able to save, if by the production of the " forged identity papers" or by the passages into Switzerland, some ten thousand families, we did something for the history. - Tony.

August 1944

On **August 10, 1944**, the advance of Allies in Normandy gave the signal for the uprising, and strikes burst in the Parisian administrations: Post, Police.

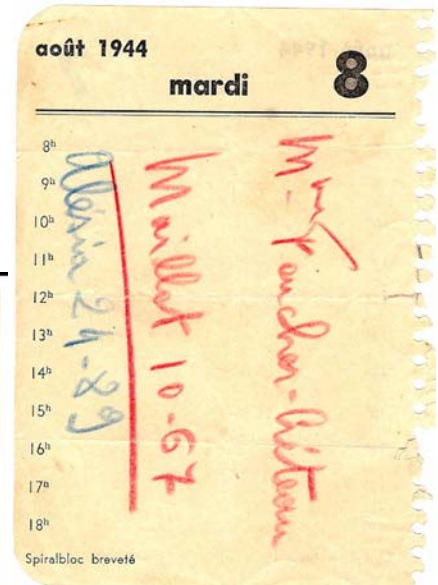
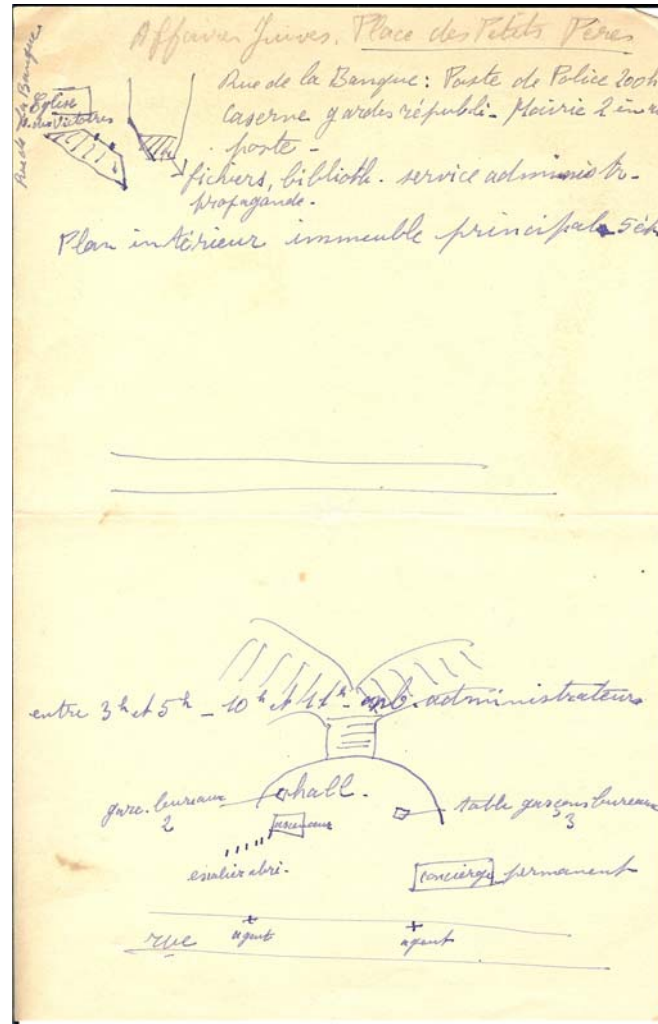
On August 18th, began a general strike. On the same day, Colonel Rol-Tanguy declared a general mobilization of all Parisians. The following day, the barricades started to appear in all the districts.

On **August 10, 1944**, Tony and his combat-group came out of the underground just before the start of the Paris uprising.

Once the strikes began, they walked with or without MLN arm-bands, according to whether the district had Germans or not.

They engaged in a multitude of acts of so-called "terrorism" against the German presence, such as attacks on German outposts and elimination of traitors. These actions were mostly decided and planned by César Chamey or André Amar.

Maps in hand, they would decide how and who they should attack. Be it a tax office or the Ministry of Jewish affairs, all were thoroughly studied and planned, including position of alarm bells, placement of guards, etc.



The original attack plans, made , to take over the ministry for Jewish affairs, at 1 Place des Petit Pères.

ÉTAT FRANÇAIS

 COMMISSARIAT GÉNÉRAL
 AUX QUESTIONS JUIVES
 1, Place des Petits Pères (2e)
 + CENTral 01-52

August 17th 1944, the liberation of the Drancy Concentration camp

Tony and his friends have to their credit the official liberation of the Drancy concentration camp.

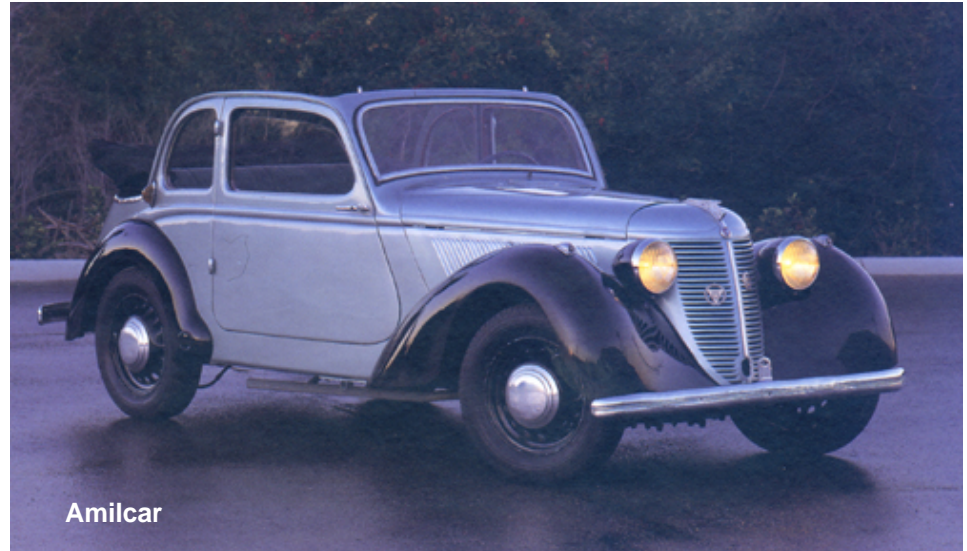
The liberation was on August 17th, two days before the proclamation of the rebellion at the Prefecture (Police Headquarter in Paris).

The Germans had just left Drancy and had left there only the French Military Police. Lucien requested and received a written order to liberate Drancy, from colonel Rol-Tanguy, the Commander in Chief of the FFI (French Forces of the Interior) in the Paris region. It was one of his first official orders signed as the FFI commander.

From their headquarters at rue de Grenelle to Drancy, they headed in an Amilcar vehicle which they had stolen. Joseph Lineville aka Ad of the Dutch group was the driver. In the car, in addition to Tony were also Lucien, Marc Levy and Albert Ackenberg.

They traversed Paris, armed with machine-guns and grenades. On their way they passed German army trucks and cars heading in all the directions, preparing their departure, and bystanders watched them as they pointed their machine-guns out of the car's windows.

Upon their arrival to Drancy, the Gendarmes stood in alert as they entered the camp. They immediately surrendered. Inside the camp they found a group of Resistants who was planning to seize control of the camp and save the 1532 Jews which had remained in the camp, and were supposed to be deported to the east. Among those found in the camp was Patricia, Lucien's fiancée, who was arrested a month earlier.



Drancy

Le dénommé ANTONY GRYN dit TONY MICHAULT né le 20/2 1921 à LUBLIN (Pologne) a fait partie de la Résistance depuis le 29 Juin 1940. Il a été arrêté le 3 Août 40 pour propagande anti-allemande. Sorti de prison (Cherche-Midi et Fresnes) le 17/8 41, il est entré dans un mouvement de Résistance Juive. A dirigé un service de passage clandestin en Suisse, et, depuis Nov. 43 un service de faux papiers à Paris

A fait partie de mon Groupe-Franc depuis le 15/5 1944. A participé sous mes ordres à l'insurrection de Paris: défense de la Préfecture, défense du P.C. de liaison du Colonel Rol. A ramené 3 prisonniers allemands sous le commandement du Capitaine Robert-Pierre. A participé vaillamment à différents coups de main et expéditions.

**FORCES FRANÇAISES
de l'INTÉRIEUR**
RÉGION ILE-DE-FRANCE

N° 40945

Nom : GRYN
Prénoms : Néanel - Tony
Domicile : 84 bis r Grenelle (7^e)
Date de naissance : 20 Fev 1921
Lieu : Lublin (Pologne)
Grade : ...

AFFECTATION
Date :
Ville :
Unité :
Section :
Groupe : ... Le Neuville
Compagnie de Résistance d'origine : ... F.F.I.

INFORMATIONS :
Le Colonel Commandant
RÉGION DE L'ILE DE FRANCE

**Tony's FFI
Identification Card.**

Cap^t Neuville
le 8 sept 1944
avec confirmation
le colonel est en tête
de l'île de France
Rol-Tanguy

F. F. I.
Le Colonel
Commandant
RÉGION DE L'ILE DE FRANCE

To the left:

...Antony Gryn aka Tony Michault, born on February 20, 1921, in Lublin Poland, took part in the Resistance starting June 29, 1940. He was arrested on August 3, 1940 for anti-German propaganda. Released from prison (Cherche-Midi and Fresnes) on August 17, 1941, he joined a Jewish resistance organization.

He commanded a service of underground passages to Switzerland, and starting in November 1943 commanded a forged papers operation in Paris.

He took part in my combat-group starting in May 15 1944. Under my command he participated in the insurrection of Paris: The defense of the Police Prefecture and the command post of Colonel Rol.

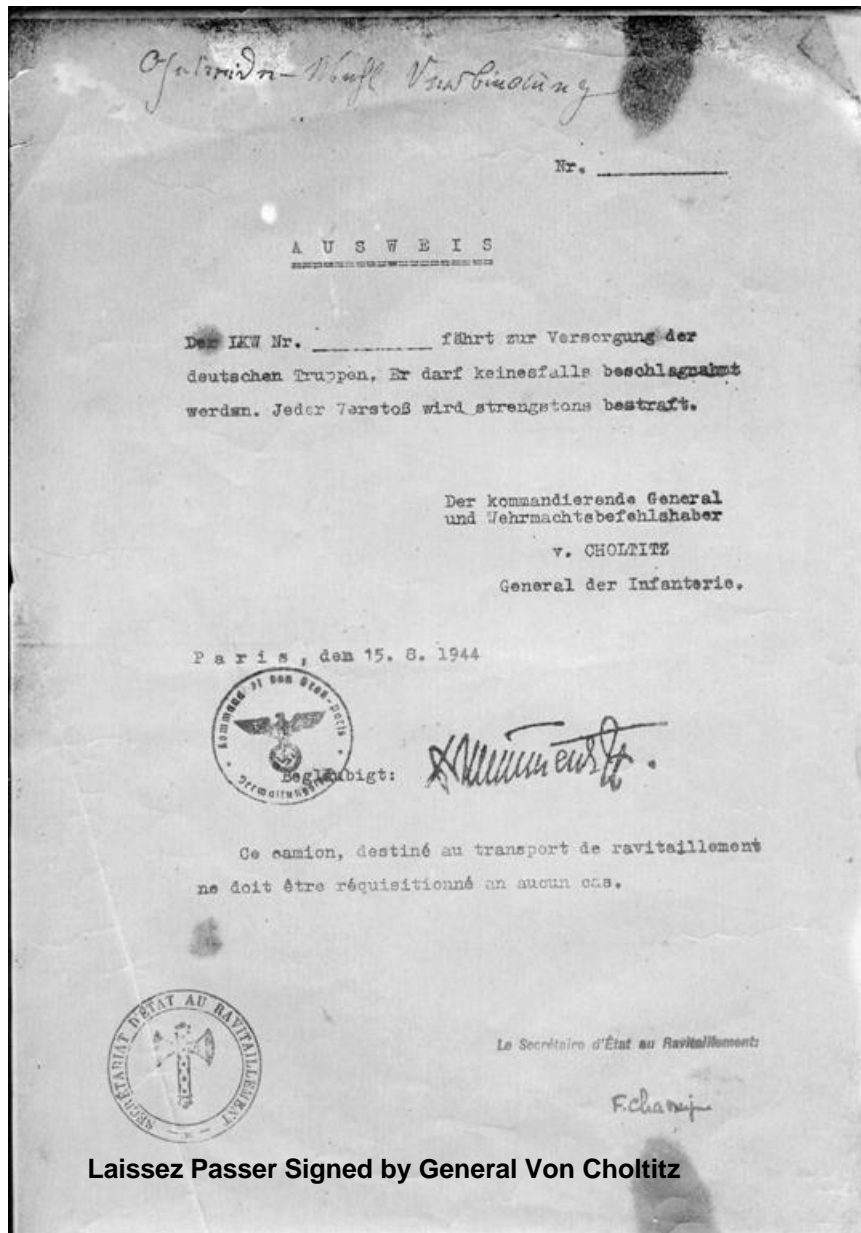
He also brought 3 German prisoners under the command of Captain Robert-Pierre. He took part courageously in various missions and endeavors.

Signed on Sept 8 1944 by Captain Neuville

Certified by Colonel Rol-Tanguy commander in chief of the FFI for the Greater Paris region..



Col. Henry Rol-Tanguy



Laissez Passer Signed by General Von Choltitz

Tony was ordered to occupy the Ministry of Supply whose head was the French General Peuceux, who was responsible in Vichy for the supply for the Paris region. They were given this mission because they were stationed on the left bank of the Seine and this Ministry on Ave. de la Bourdonnais, was not far from their headquarters.

Tony got there with one of his aides, Charles-Henri. For that occasion, they both became lieutenants. When they got there, they presented themselves in the name of the FFI. It was a rather extraordinary thing to see a General inclining himself in front of this two young guys, in surrender. He immediately offered his assistance. As they took over the Ministry, the General indicated to them the existence of trucks full of supplies, which were parked in the area of Melun. As the shortages in Paris were serious, he told them that he could bring those trucks if they could obtain a pass from approaching the allied armies. Moreover, he gave Tony a German pass, signed by General Von Choltitz, Commanding General of Paris, which could be useful if they ever encountered German Controls.

But with the liberation close there was no more need for those supplies.



Dietrich von Choltitz

On August 20th, we were put in charge of the FFI headquarters, as part of the Charcot-Neuville group, but everyone knew that we were the Jewish group... While we were there, we received the order to take part in the arrests of collaborators, and we did so. I took part in the arrest of a couple of collaborators, in Paris. There was a court-marshal and they were tried and condemned to death. One of them was a woman and I did my best to have her sentence commuted as she was pregnant. I felt we did not have the moral right to kill her, and convinced my comrades who finally agreed with me. I had to command the firing squad which executed the husband. I had to give him the final shot in the head. I had a few sleepless nights because of that...but this guy was a real bastard and a notorious collaborator. - Tony

CONSEIL MUNICIPAL
DE PARIS

Republique Française
Liberté Egalité Fraternité

Administrateurs Provisoires

T Girardin (Lieutenant milicien) ^{casier judiciaire} chargé.
9, Avenue Rachel. MAR 55-23

Lists of collaborators

*Larrieu 20, Rue St-Didier. PAS98-07

Belot 8 ter, Rue Jean Nicot
Bureau: ELY 92--00
Domicile: ? 46-13

Carpentier Clovis Domicile: 67 Rue de Torguevi ^{11e}
Bureau: 37, Rue du Louvre

Dorléans 65, Rue du Montparnasse. DAN76-76

Roemer Dr KARL 21, Rue de la ~~REMANISANCE~~
Bienfaisance

Snozzi (Suisse nommé par les Allemands)
128, Bld Hausmann

Thomas Louis 33, Place de la Madeleine: ANJ 4121

PERNOD (Commissaire Milicien) Anciennement Section IC
a démissionné pour rejoindre son poste
9, Rue Buffault

M^{me} MATHIEU Service de Liaison 139, av^e Seuffen
Rue du Champ de Mars.

NIDERMEYER 15, rue Beaujon

ANTIGNAC 2^{me} Cabinet

*HOUEY Inspection poste téléphonique 217

One day, we received from the MLN in Lyon an order to execute one named Charles Henri, suspected of being responsible for the arrest of a whole group of Resistance in Lyon. We were given his identity, with some details, but not his photograph. We were to arrest him in rue d'Auteuil, and execute him. But instead I decided to lock him up in an apartment while waiting for somebody to bring us his photograph. That night was terrible. He protested his innocence. The whole night I played cards with him as one does with a condemned. I also tried to read the future in the cards, a trick I had learned in prison. All the card combinations which I got favored this guy. He was a nice guy and during the night, he admitted to me of being Jewish, and that his real name was Lazar. I felt very bad for him and assured him that once we get the photograph all would end well. And eventually the next morning, one of our comrades arrived from Lyon, bringing the photograph to us. And it was not that of our prisoner!

The mistake came from the fact that several people had received the same forged

On **August 20th, 1944** the general staff of FFI moved its headquarter to the underground area beneath the Place Denfert-Rochereau (in the catacombs). And the Police Prefecture was captured. Colonel Rol-Tanguy organized, during August 20-24th, the liberation of 9/10th of the capital. On the 25th, with the support of the 2nd Armored Division of General Leclerc, Colonel Rol received the act of unconditional surrender of the German forces of General Von Choltitz.

In the movie "Is Paris burning?", there is a scene very similar to the real events I described. But there was no mention of us, as obviously the witnesses to the event had no idea who we were. Tony



The parvis de Notre-Dame
FFI Position.

When the uprising was proclaimed at the Police Prefecture on **August 19th**, they were assigned the defense of the small bridge on rue St Jacques, against the eminent attack of German tanks.

While on guard, a large German truck was stopped on the "parvis de Notre Dame" by Albert Garcia, and Tony. This happened during a cease-fire that was declared between the Germans and FFI. The passenger an SS tried to open fire with his grenade rifle, but Tony and Albert were able to subdue him. The truck driver surrendered and told them that the truck was full of uniforms. Fortunately their comrades who were posted in the Prefecture, did not hit the truck when they opened fire as Tony and Albert were making their move. Eventually when they drove the truck into the Prefecture courtyard, they realized that it was loaded with 20 anti tank mines and many bottles of nitroglycerin. There were enough explosives not only to blow the bridge and most of the Prefecture but possibly destroy the Cathedral of "Notre Dame".

They planned to use the 20 anti-tank mines in order to protect the streets surrounding the Prefecture, as they were still expecting a German counter attack. But it never happened.

We were present in the Prefecture courtyard when the new prefect arrived accompanied by the leaders of the National Resistance. - Tony



On the afternoon of August 25, 1944, together with two of my comrades, I took part in the solemn entry of the 2nd Armored Division of General Leclerc in Paris.

During the afternoon of the 24th, we were at the Paris Town hall. Captain Pierre Galais, our superior in the Charcot-Neuville unit, who lived 56 km south of Paris had not been home for a long time, and wanted, to receive the "Leclerc" division, in full uniform. He asked for volunteers as he had to cross the German lines. So Andre Ullmo and I joined him for this trip. We, left by car, a requisitioned Citroen-Traction, and drove to his home near Etempes, using every side road on the map. We got there without any mishaps. Pierre put his uniform, then realized that its gun was too small to fit his military holster, so he asked me to exchange our side arms. I put his small MAB 6.35 mm in my pocket. I wasn't really in uniform; I had riding breeches with ankle boots and a khaki shirt which gave me more or less, a military look.

The following morning on the way back to Paris, we passed somewhere in the Chevreuse valley, when we suddenly encountered two German soldiers in full gear and rifles. I ordered Ullmo, who was driving to turn around. I jumped from the car and with my small MAB 6.35 mm surprised the two Germans, and took them prisoners. We put them in the back sit of the car; I then opened the trunk of the car, which converted to additional sitting, climbed in, and holding the 2 rifles we just captured, continued on our way to Paris.

With Ullmo driving, Captain Pierre in the passenger seat, the two Germans in the back, and I in the trunk behind, we proceeded towards Paris. The inhabitants, who knew that the Free French army was to arrive soon, started to gather along the main roadway to Paris.

Seeing that there were Germans in our car, a crowd surrounded us. I asked one of the onlookers for a French flag. We than proceeded on our way to the applause of the waiting crowd. When we finally joined the main road, we fell right in the middle of the "Leclerc" armored column. We slid our car between two tanks and from that moment on we were stuck in the column, with huge crowds surrounding us all the way to Paris.

We entered Paris through the Porte d'Orleans, up until place Denfert-Rochereau where all our comrades were posted. They all saw us arriving with the tanks of "Leclerc", which was really an unforgettable scene. Our Citroen-Traction, with the two German prisoners, Captain Pierre in full uniform, Ullmo driving, and I behind with the French flag in a hand, and two German Rifles in the other. - Tony



The Leclerc Division, entering the Champs élysées .

We were given a mission to "Clean-up" the district of Denfert-Rochereau. As always, the orders came down the chain of command from Captain Neuville and Colonel Rol. We started searching for German soldiers all over the area, we would find them in the streets, hiding in cellars, in attics... quite disoriented. We soon could no longer take any more prisoners. Initially we occupied a small hotel in the neighborhood, but soon had to move them to larger quarters. We then decided to occupy the "Hotel Moderne" in place de la République. We installed our prisoners in several hotel rooms while we occupied others in the same floor.

Then, American soldiers arrived and took over the hotel, forcing us to move upstairs to the attic with our prisoners. Fortunately, a short time after, a prison camp was opened in a military barrack, and we gave our prisoners to the Military Police - quite glad to get rid of them.

Besides lodging our prisoners we had to feed them. We decided to take them to an Alsatian Tavern, called "Chez Jenny", at the entrance to Bd du Temple. We would march our prisoners, about a dozen or so, in rows, with some of our guys behind, and others in front. Once in the restaurant we would sit them down, and order for them the same meal as we were having. But still we had to punish them... so we deprived them of dessert... We chose that restaurant "Chez Jenny" because during the Occupation, Jews were not allowed in there. That was our small revenge.-Tony

Place de la République



One day, while on guard close to the FFI Headquarters, I saw a young guy, hardly older than me, arriving with a Colonel's "5 Bars" on his shirt. We were all a little whimsical with our uniforms, and often gave each other ranks. But this guy stood in front of me with his a Colonel's "5 Bars". I said to him: "What's your history? You made yourself a full Colonel?..." "But I am a Colonel", he answered...It was colonel Fabien (one of the leaders of the Resistance who's name sake was later given to a Metro station in Paris).- Tony

MINISTÈRE
DES
ANCIENS COMBATTANTS
ET
VICTIMES DE GUERRE CAB/HL
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
LE MINISTRE Paris, le 14 AOUT 1958

Monsieur,

J'ai le plaisir de vous informer que la médaille de la "France Libérée" vous a été accordée par arrêté :
du 26 Juin , paru au Journal Officiel ,
Bulletin Spécial du 18 Juillet 1958.

Avec mes félicitations. veuillez agréer, Monsieur,
l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Pour le Ministre et par ordre
Le Chargé de Mission,
Baillly

Monsieur Nésanel-Tony GRYN
4, Villa de la Terrasse
PARIS 17^{ème}.

Tony is awarded the medal of "Liberated France"

MINISTÈRE DE LA GUERRE
DIRECTION DES F. F. I.



Fabien

Le porteur du présent ordre de mission, Mr.Gryn Tony est autorisé à se rendre, par le train de Paris à Grenoble et retour. Valable du 27 décembre au 5 janvier 45

Paris, le 2- décembre 1944.
Le Commandant du Q.G.
de la Direction des F.F.I.



Travel Documents issued to Tony by the FFI

After the Liberation of Paris

After the Liberation of Paris, Tony's group numbered at about thirty men and women. When most of their comrades, who were arrested and deported in mid July returned (Maurice Cachoud the master forger was one of those who unfortunately did not return), they held a meeting at Tony's residence at rue de Grenelle. They had to decide what would be their next move; who among them would continue fighting the war and who would pursue the Zionist activity. Many of the comrades enlisted in the brigade of brigadier general Pierre Billotte, who in **September 1944**, formed the 10th Infantry Division with elements of the FFI and FTP, among which were Pierre Galais, Lucien Rubel and Marc Levy.

They continued the battle for the liberation of France, and on September 26th, in Gravelotte (near Metz), Pierre Galais was killed and several of their comrades were wounded. Among them was Lucien Rubel, who was wounded in the leg.

Tony chose the Zionist activity. Being at the same time responsible for the MJS company in Paris as well as affiliated with the AJ, he knew almost everyone. He was charged with the organization of the first Coordinating Committee of all the Zionists in Paris, and his residence became its headquarters. They decided to immediately publish a Jewish Zionist newspaper as the Jewish Communists had already launched one after the Liberation. In the absence of its Director Joseph Fischer, Tony offered to publish this newspaper and the Committee agreed. Hence, he published the first issue of "La Terre Retrouvée", on **September 18, 1944**, the eve of Rosh Hashanah. Merely 3 weeks after the liberation of Paris.

He published this issue with the help of his friend Eli Davidson, and the assistance of Rachel Cheigam, Paul Drori, and some others. Tony had hardly any journalistic experience, so the professional advise came from Eli Davidson who had dabble in underground journalism during the war. They printed "La Terre Retrouvée" at the same printing house where just 3 months earlier they had been manufacturing forged documents...

A few weeks later on October 14th they published the first issue of a Yiddish newspaper "Unser Wort", of which Tony became part of its editorial board.



Tony was charged with organizing the Paris branch of the "Poalei Zion-ציון-פועלי" party, the precursor of the Labor Party in Israel, and was appointed as its Secretary.

In **March 1945**, the Party decided to publish a French Magazine, "Notre Parole", of which Tony became the Editor, while still remaining assistant editor of the Yiddish "Unser Wort".



In **October 1946**, Tony became a delegate to the International Socialist Youth congress, representing Palestine. And later took part in follow-up meetings which took place in February 1947 and July 1947, in Copenhagen. During those occasions, he had often the opportunity to hold press conferences and speeches on the Palestinian problem in front of representatives of several foreign countries.

Tony was also member of the Steering Committee of the Zionist organization of France, and when in January 1947, the Zionist Federation of France was established, he was appointed to its Central Committee.

In the years prior to the creation of the State of Israel, Palestine referred to Jewish Homeland.

1947-1948

In **July 1947**, Tony attended a meeting of the Executive of the International Socialist Youth, in Stockholm, Sweden. From there he went on assignment from his newspaper to Poland and Czechoslovakia, where he covered the European Zionist Conference of Karlovy-Vary.

On October 1947, he was elected as General Secretary of his Party

Meanwhile, as an expert in the manufacture of forged documents, I contributed my talents to the clandestine immigration to Palestine, in the form of forged passports and forged English Visa certificates.

I also got involved in the procurement and organization of ships for the illegal immigration to Palestine. - Tony



Tony representing Israel in 1947 in Stockholm

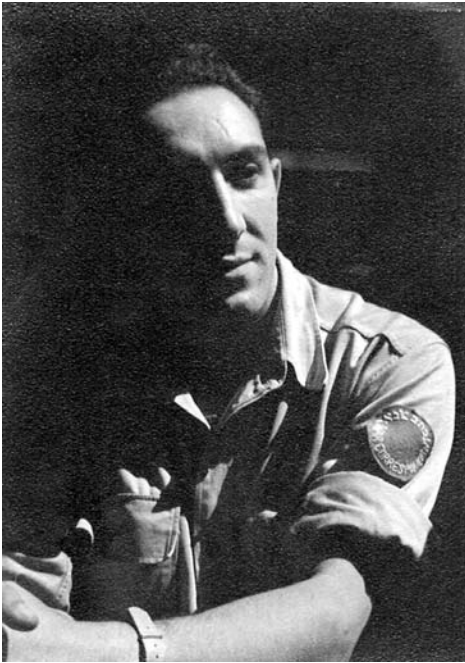
Tony Carrying the Banner of Israel in Stockholm, one year before the state of Israel was created



When the last clandestine ship, scheduled to arrive in Tel-Aviv in the eve of the independence' proclamation, was ready to depart, I absolutely had to be on board. As I was one of the organizers of this voyage, I had arranged for two leading French journalists, François Jean Armorin and Pierre Jouffroy to join the trip, and against the opinion of my bosses, I decided to join them, as military correspondent of "Unser Wort".

We arrived at the port of Tel-Aviv on the afternoon of **May 14, 1948**, just a few hours after the proclamation of the state of Israel. - Tony

Israel 1948 – the war of independence



Tony with a Military Correspondent badge



In Tel-Aviv, Tony met the famous American photojournalist Robert Cappa, of the Magnum agency. Together they covered the first three months of the Israeli war of Independence.



Tony covering an encounter between Israeli army officers and an Arab Sheik



Tony with Robert Cappa in Tel-Aviv

<p>Öst. Grenzpol. Stelle 28 FEB 1955 EINREISE=AUSREISE Feldkirch (B. 14)</p>	<p>Conditions of Issue</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The alteration or misuse of this Permit renders the bearer liable to prosecution. This Permit does NOT constitute an agreement to provide petrol, oil, lubricants, transport, accommodation or food. <p>Conditions d'usage</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Toute modification ou usage irrégulier de ce permis rend le titulaire passible de poursuites. Le titulaire devra pourvoir personnellement à ses besoins en carburant, lubrifiant, transport, logement et vivres. <p>Ausfertigungsbedingungen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Der Inhaber dieser Erlaubnis kann bei Abänderung oder Mißbrauch derselben strafrechtlich verfolgt werden. Diese Erlaubnis ist nicht zugleich eine Versicherung, Beförderungsmittel, Unterkunft, Lebensmittel, Benzin, Öl und Schmiermittel zu beschaffen. <p>6043 29 M 8-47 150 Preis</p>	<p>Nº 277178</p> <p>ALLIED FORCE PERMIT PERMIS MILITAIRE ALLIÉE</p> <p>The Bearer of this permit is authorised to enter Austria as stated.</p> <p>Le titulaire de ce permis est autorisé à pénétrer en Autriche comme indiqué.</p> <p>Der Besitzer dieser Erlaubnis ist berechtigt, Österreich wie unten angeführt zu betreten.</p> <p>This permit must be produced on request together with the holder's passport or other identity document.</p> <p>Ce permis doit être présenté à toute demande avec le passeport ou la pièce d'identité du titulaire.</p> <p>Diese Erlaubnis muß mit dem Reisepaß oder der Erkennungskarte auf Verlangen vorgezeigt werden.</p>
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Travel permit issued to Tony by the Allied occupying forces in Germany



Tony's girl friend, Charlotte, who was waiting for him to return from Israel

<p>Issued by Paris B.P.C. Paris</p> <p>Name GRYN Kessand</p> <p>Place of birth LUBLIN</p> <p>Date of birth 20. 2. 1921</p> <p>Nationality FRANÇAISE</p> <p>Number of Passport or Identity Document 493</p> <p>Object of Journey Reunion familiale en Autriche</p> <p>Zone of destination Autriche</p> <p>Zone of transit Trizone</p>	<p>Valid for — Valable pour — Gültig für 17 mois</p> <p>Single/Jour (Return journey(s)) 2</p> <p>De Partir / Voyage(s) Aller et Retour Elters/Eltern- und Rückreise(s)</p> <p>Single/Retour (Return journey(s)) 2</p> <p>De Partir / Voyage(s) Aller et Retour Elters/Eltern- und Rückreise(s)</p> <p>Valid until Valable jusqu'à Gültig bis 1955</p> <p>Issued by (Signature, rank and stamp) P.O. F. BÉIOT adjoin</p> <p>Handwritten: 6602, 13853c</p>	<p>ENDORSEMENTS - OBSERVATIONS - ANMERKUNGEN</p> <p>SANS PRESTATIONS</p> <p>Le titulaire du présent vso n'est pas dispensé du con. c. douanier Autrichien</p> <p>TROIS ZONES OCCIDENTALES THREE WESTERN ZONES</p> <p>700 FRS</p> <p>Stamp: PARIS, P.O. F. BÉIOT adjoint</p>
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epilogue

On March 17, 1987, Tony received the French “Legion of Honor” from the envoy of President François Mitterrand, for his activities in rescuing Jews during the German occupation. It was the first time that “the rescue of Jews” was recognized as a Combat-Action worthy of the “Legion of Honor”.



Nothing can explain who Tony Gryn really was better than the short comments he offered on March 17, 1987, when the ambassador of France Mr. Alain Pierret knighted him with the “Legion of Honor”, a distinction bestowed upon him for combat-actions. For those who did not have the privilege to assist in that ceremony, here are some excerpts. – Mola Racine

I am all the more sensitive to this symbol of honor, as I know that through it, it is not only a veteran of the Resistance which is distinguished herewith, but also all my comrades reunited here, and those which unfortunately are missing, which have more than half-century ago raised the flag of combat against the Nazi occupier, for the double honor of France and of Israel. This combat, which lasted long years, knew days of glory, as well as failures and defeats, and many are our comrades who fell in the Field of Honor, and to whom I must devote a dutiful thought on this solemn moment. The official Resistance, with its commemorative bodies, have refused to recognize as an act of Resistance the rescue of men, Women and above all Jewish children, to which the Jewish Resistance in France devoted itself resolutely. We who have fought with weapons in hand, like the FTP and the Combatants of the AS and the Maquis (French Underground Fighting organizations), had an additional priority: to ensure the survival of the Jewish People. If we, former Jewish Resistants, can proud ourselves of something, it is that we have saved thousands of children, and thousands of Jewish families from the Nazis' claws....This rescue operation, could have never succeeded - and I must emphasize this today when the French Republic honors me - had we not been helped, supported, and encouraged by the totality of the French Resistance and especially by the majority of the Good People of France. It is thanks to the good people of France, which you represent with such dignity Mr. Ambassador, that two thirds of the Jewish Community of France was saved...The Jewish People and the State of Israel will always remember the “Good” France during the Occupation, as well as the active support and assistance of France during the heroic years of combat for the Independence of Israel. This is where the deep and permanent French-Israeli friendship was forged, and of which we here are its witnesses "- Tony Gryn

Final comments...

This story is not an attempt to portray the total and complex tale of the Jewish resistance in France during the 2nd world war, but merely tell the story of one combatant, that of Tony Gryn ל"ר, my father.

I have used in my work various sources; mostly original texts written by my father as comments and testimonies.

I collected the original texts, scanned them and performed OCR in the original French. Than translated them into English, while keeping his narration as close to the origin as possible.

The source material included:

- Answers to questions posed by Anny Latour. 1968.
- Tony's CV as part of his application to the Jewish Agency school of Administration. 1947.
- Tony's comments to Yad-Vashem as part of Joseph Fisher testimony in Yad-Vashem Studies 1967.
- Tony's article published in "La Terre Retrouvée" March, April 1945.

Clarifications, and corrections were obtained using the following:

- Anny Latour's "La Resistance Juive en France", édition STOCK 1970.
- The Commemorative book «Organisation juive de combat». Resistance/ Sauvetage 1940-1945. Collection Mémoires.
- Tsilla Hershco's "Those who walk in the darkness will see the light". 2003 צ'ריקובר הוצאה לאור בע"מ
- Conversations with Nancy Lefenfeld. Roslyn 2006.
- and the ever knowledgeable Internet and especially Google.fr

A special thank to Dana for her patience trying to understand what I wrote, and for her comments and corrections.