

Interview with Erny Lamborelle:

Erny Lamborelle is a Luxembourgish author who has treated the topic of his family's history during the Second World War. His book is known under the title "Firwaat" (→ "Why"). This title has two reasons: First of all he wanted to ask the question why nobody is talking about the World War and how much their families had to suffer, and secondly he wanted to know why the war had to happen in the first place. In context of this book, he did some research about Luxembourg's history to better understand the background of his family's story.

10th May 1940:

He started with telling us about the beginning of the Second World War when the Prince and the ministers have fled the country, leaving it without a current government.

The Germans managed to take over the country in only a few hours since the Luxembourgish resistance was almost completely absent. Here he gave us one of his uncle's quotes: "We stood there with our hands in our pockets". This shows that the main party of the population wasn't really against nor for the Nazi government. Even though nowadays most people rave about the resistance our country had, only around 100 people did actually raise their voices against the German's values. These intellectuals ended up in some concentration camps without actually being killed off.

Luxembourgers weren't allowed to talk French and their names were germanised. For example Lamborelle was transformed to Lampertz and Jean to Johann. As the time passed they started to be more and more oppressed by the Nazis.

Around 70-80 000 people fled the country to France (Montpellier) from the South of the country (Minett). This voyage was over 900 kilometres long and it took them months to reach their destination. They were all political immigrants.

1942:

In 1942 the National socialists introduced military service by force for the guys and girls were forced to complete work services. Some Luxembourgers even ended up pretending to be handicapped or hid in other villages just to find a way to get rid of the services they were forced to do. The number of boys hidden in the inside of the country was around 3500. The boys who fled the military after being called in and fled while wearing the German uniform, were called "Déserteur" and the ones who never appeared in the military after their call, were called "Réfectuer".

The families that didn't fit into the Nazi ideology, were transported to the East of Germany, which is today known as Poland.

6th June 1944:

Luxembourg has been freed. The allies ended up in the Normandy (France).

16th December 1944:

Even though Luxembourg's liberty was already celebrated, the Germans ended up coming back to Luxembourg once more the 16th December 1944. Because of this, about 10000 "Eislecker" (people living in the North of the country) had to leave their homes and fled either to Belgium or to a surrounding village. Here it would be important to shortly mention that Belgium was the wrong direction, because they were forced to turn back to Luxembourg.