

2021-05-27

Communist Involvement in the French Resistance

Nicholas Werner

Western Oregon University, nwerner18@mail.wou.edu

Patricia Goldsworthy-Bishop

Western Oregon University, goldswop@wou.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/aes>

Recommended Citation

Werner, Nicholas and Goldsworthy-Bishop, Patricia, "Communist Involvement in the French Resistance" (2021). *Academic Excellence Showcase Proceedings*. 278.

<https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/aes/278>

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Scholarship at Digital Commons@WOU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Academic Excellence Showcase Proceedings by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@WOU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@wou.edu, kundas@mail.wou.edu, bakersc@mail.wou.edu.

Communist Involvement in the French Resistance

Nicholas Werner

Dr. Goldsworthy-Bishop and Dr. Doellinger
Department of History, Western Oregon University

Introduction

My paper is on the Communist involvement in the French Resistance.. It shows how the Communists were a valuable part of the resistance. Lucie Aubrac was a communist aligned resistance fighter. My paper seeks to show how the resistance benefited from the Communists and worked well together.



Lucie Aubrac with her new born daughter, Elizabeth and Elizabeth's Godfather Ho Chi Minh

The Source

This source comes from Lucie Aubrac who was a Resistance fighter during the Occupation of France. This source is her memoir, published in 1984 (translated in 1993). Her memoir covers her activities in the Resistance from early 1943 until 1944, primarily being about her involvement in rescuing her husband and other resistance members from prison. While all of this was taking place, she was pregnant with her second child Catherine, whose godfather was General Charles de Gaulle, leader of Free French forces. Ho Chi Minh, communist leader of resistance forces in Vietnam was the godfather to their third child.

Knock, knock - the almost six months of life taps on my stomach. what becomes of that hope in all of this? "Touch it, Raymond - our little girl is stirring. You'll see, we'll all get out of this."(pg. 183)

This source is significant because Lucie and her husband were Communist aligned resisters who fought for the freedom of France. They did so by freeing prisoners and distributing pamphlets about Germany and Vichy. They recruited people regardless of their political affiliation and helped found a resistance cell, welcoming anyone who would fight for France. Yet the Communists and contributions have been downplayed or ignored even though they fought against the occupation. Going against the myth that they are not active resisters.

Conclusions

- This source fits into my work by showing how a communist aligned individual actively resisted against Germany but still the broad role of the Communists were still downplayed
- My project expands upon the existing historiography by showing how communist and communist aligned resisters like Lucie and her husband did fight against German forces in occupied France. It also shows how the communist worked with different groups to resist and each group benefited by working together.
- This shows how myths about the communists are false and they were indeed valued members of the resistance.

Literature Cited

Paul Durand. *Lucie and Ho Chi with Elizabeth*, 9/16/1946, non-colour print, 90 x 46 cm,

<https://en.nhandan.com.vn/indepth/item/4963402-memories-of-godfather-ho-chi-minh.html>, accessed May 4, 2021.

Lucie Aubrac, Konrad Bieber, Betsy Wing, and Margaret Collins Weitz, *Outwitting the Gestapo*, (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1993).