

THE ERASMUS MAG'

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Mobility to Wormhout – French Resistance in WW2

2nd mobility:
direction Wormhout,
Northern France

20 mai 2019

32 pupils from Greece, Czech Republic, Poland and Germany who took part in a Erasmus+- project working on “ World War II, our cultural and historical legacy” arrived in Wormhout to meet again their French friends.

4 months after the first mobility in Germany they were now happy to see each other again and to spend some days in their host families.

Reception by the mayor of Wormhout at the school

On Monday evening the pupils arrived at the Collège du Houtland and were welcomed by their hosts. A big pizza party took place in the school canteen and the mayor of Wormhout held a reception speech.

Afterwards, the participants watched the film “Les Femmes de l'ombre” (Female Agents) to prepare their first workshop about the women in the Resistance that should take place the next morning.

Women in the French Resistance

written by Lydia and Kerstin and en.wikipedia.org

In May 1944 Louise Desfontaines (Sophie Marceau), a member of the French Resistance, flees to Spain after her husband is killed, where she is captured and later expatriated to London. She is recruited by the secret spy and sabotage service initiated by Winston Churchill. Louise is given an urgent mission: to extricate a British agent (Conrad Cecil) who has fallen into German hands while

preparing the invasion of Normandy.

Louise must first create a commando group of women especially chosen for the needs of the operation. When it comes to recruitment, anything goes: lies, blackmail, bribery (through the offer of remission of a death sentence) and calls to carry out patriotic duty. She first employs Suzy (Marie Gillain), a cabaret dancer who excels in the art of

seducing men. Gaëlle (Déborah François), a chemist and explosives expert and Jeanne (Julie Depardieu), a prostitute capable of killing in cold blood. After their arrival in Normandy, they are joined by Maria (Maya Sansa), an Italian Jew and radio operator.

The mission quickly becomes complicated. They are obliged to return to Paris, where the SOE gives them a new objective: to eliminate Colonel Heindrich, one of the key figures of Nazi counter-espionage....

Late in the evening, after two hours of cinema, the pupils went home to their French host families, exhausted from a long day of travel and full of first impressions. It should be a busy week!



Female Agents, a 2008 French historical drama film directed by Jean-Paul Salomé

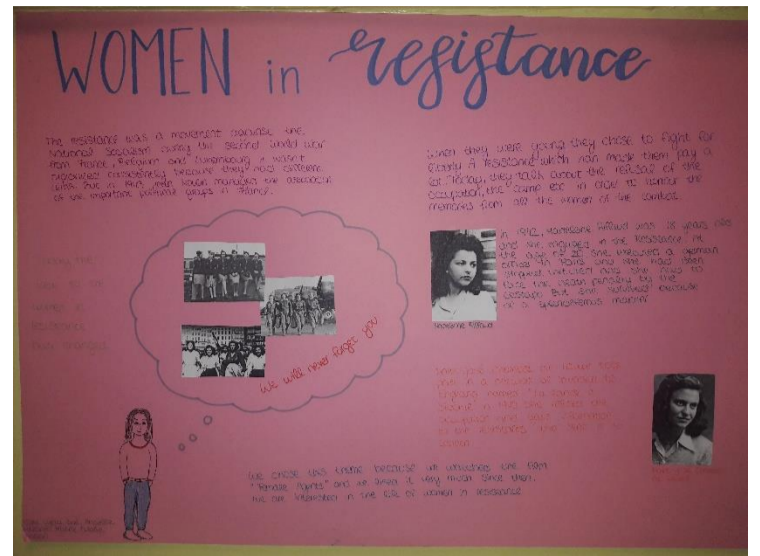


exposition at the Collège de Houtland, 21 mai 2019



some examples of the pupils works:

Women in French Resistance 1940-45



Visit of „La Coupole“, St-Omer

21 mai 2019

This huge bunker, built by the Todt Organisation in 1943-1944 had to be the base for launching the V2 rockets against London. Developed in the ultra-secret Peenemünde centre by Von Braun's team, these missiles, along with the American atomic bomb, were the most innovative devices developed during World War II. The V2s were mass-produced by deportees from the Dora concentration camp in the underground factory "Mittelwerk", located at the heart of Germany.

Heavily bombed by the Allies, *La Coupole* was abandoned during the summer of 1944, after the Normandy landings. The V2s, which struck London and Antwerp in September 1944, were launched by mobile units established in Holland.

Since 1997, this place, which has been turned into a History and Memory Centre, a world war II museum, has welcomed more than 2 million visitors.

The pupils worked on a questionnaire about the resistance of the locals during this period.

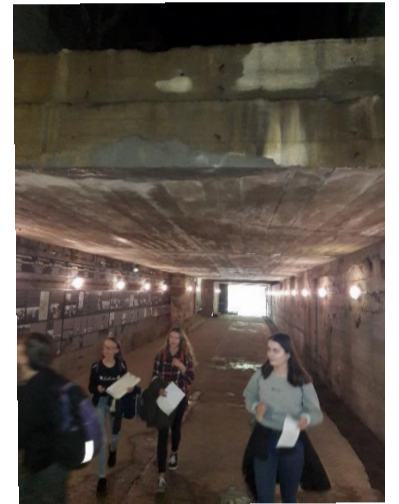




VISIT OF THE BLOCKHAUS IN EPERLECQUES

21 mai 2019

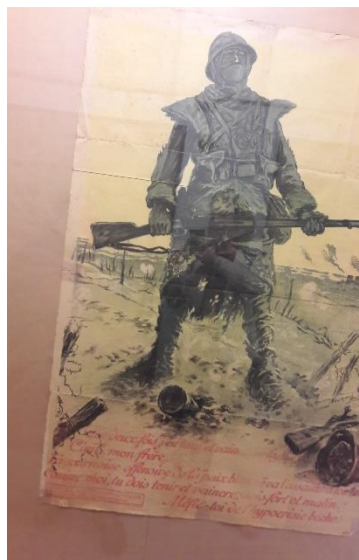
After the visit in St-Omer, the groupe discovered the remains of the nearby bunker in Eperlecques, the biggest bunker in the North of France, where the Germans planned to construct the first V2 and V1 weapons.



the German groupe in the bunker

The museum, also located in a huge bunker under the city center of Calais, houses an enormous collection of photos, magazines, letters and posters from the period of the German occupation of Calais and the resistance of the inhabitants.

In several rooms the pupils could also discover objects like telephones and telegraphes and furnishings of the former bunker system and they could imagine quite well how the German Wehrmacht commanded and controlled the city and the region from this bunker.



Battle of France, (May 10–June 25, 1940), the German invasion of France. In just over six weeks, German armed forces overran Belgium and the Netherlands, captured Paris, and forced the surrender of the French government. The siege of Calais (23-26 May 1940) was a battle for the port of Calais during this battle.

Calais destroyed by the Germans in 1940



Visit of the musée de mémoire in Calais

written by Felix and Justus

22 mai 2019



The Museum of Memory 39-45, located in the heart of the city of Calais in an authentic German Navy blockhouse, shows through numerous period

photographs, press cuttings and objects from daily life, the fate of the inhabitants during this German occupation.

Visit of the Musée de la Résistance of Bondues

23 mai 2019



In the fortress of Bondues, 68 french resistants were killed by the Germans the 17th march 1943. The names of the victims written on plaques in the courtyard of the fortress and the exact location of the executions were very impressive. Especially for the German pupils it was a quite depressing experience to be at all these sites of german crimes.

Fortunately, such European study meetings like this Erasmus+ project are possible today and there were no longer any reservations between the participants of the different countrys.