Project WARLUX - Soldiers and their communities in WWII: The impact and legacy of war experiences in Luxembourg

C²DH

LUXEMBOURG CENTRE FOR
CONTEMPORARY AND DIGITAL HISTORY

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Using data analysis on recruited Luxembourgers in WWII

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Introduction

Research Concept

- Biographies of conscripts born 1920-1927 who served in Reichsarbeitsdienst and Wehrmacht
- In this case study – around 2000 conscripts and additionally their families (in total 10.000)
- From different regions and social classes (industrial and rural regions, educated classes etc.)

Introduction

Research Concept

→ Linking individuals with samples/communities

→ Review existing narrative and categories

→ Drawing a more nuanced picture of the life realities of individuals in Luxembourg

→ Show the multitude of war experiences

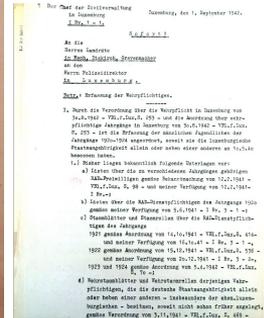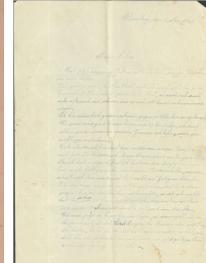→ Allow inner-Luxembourgish comparison

Introduction
Sources and Methodologies

- Sources: very heterogeneous collection
    - Civil records (Luxembourgish and German)
    - Other official documents from various administrations (recruitment office,...)
    - Ego-documents (diaries, letters,photos,...)

- Methodologies: Analyzation of the sources
    - Outsourcing our sources
    - Collecting as many personal data as possible from each source to complete the individual files

Digital Approach
Mixed methods research:
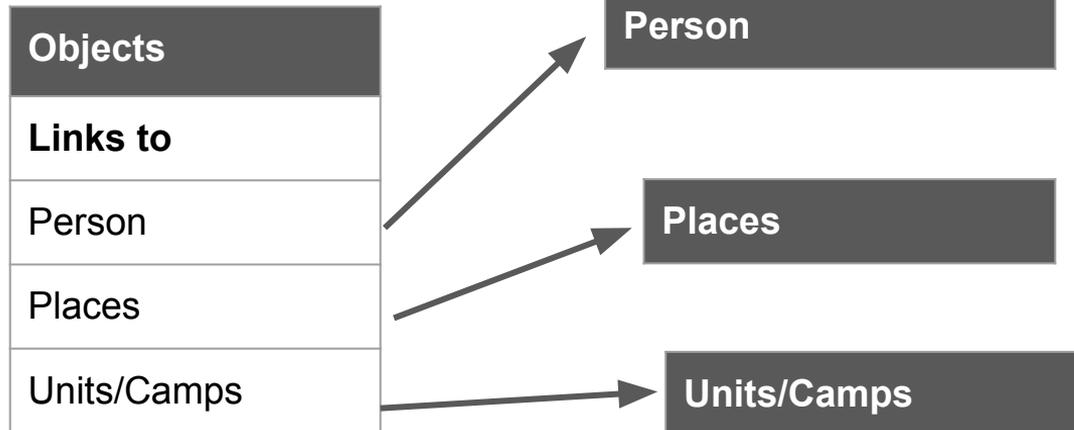- Quantitative Analysis: **Nodegoat**
- Qualitative Analysis: **Uwazi**

Nodegoat
Why Nodegoat?

- Base for data storage

- Accessible for and modifiable by all team members

- Data: war experiences in Luxembourg
    - List with all concerned people from our selected sample areas

- List: base for our quantitative data analysis
    - Grasping and visualization of links between individuals
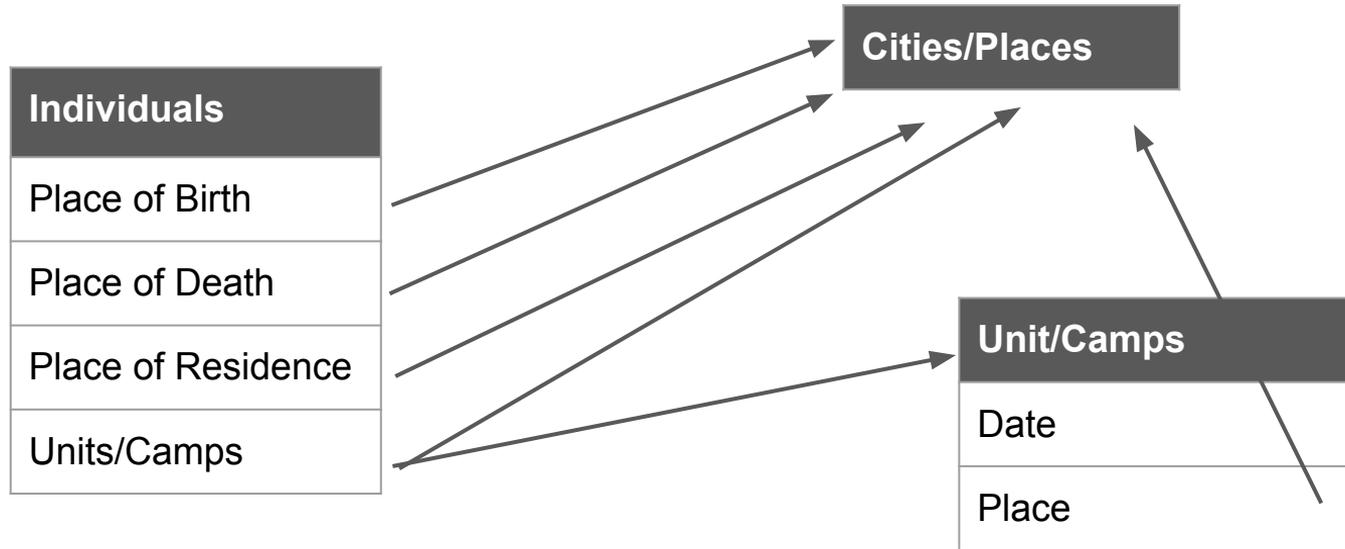   - Leading to further possible statistical analysis and comparative studies

DATA MODEL

Biographical Data - Individual
Name
Birth/Death
Residences/Places
Education/Profession
Service in Nazi German organisations

Objects
Links to
Person
Places
Units/Camps

Person

Places

Units/Camps

Individual (Study object)		
Value name	**Value type**	**Links to**
Name	String	
Birth/Death	date	
Residence	reference	Cities
Unit/Camps	Reference	Unit/Camps (Object with date, place etc.)
Community	Reference	Community
Status/Role (e.g.Volunteer)	Reference	Status/Role

Individuals (Study object)		
Value name	**Value type**	**Links to**
Education/Profession	Reference	Education/Profession
Family Status	Reference	Family Status
Family Members	Object	Object Family ("Household")
Sources/References	Text	
"Patriotic Attitude"	Reference	"Patriotic Attitude"
Trials (statement)	Reference	Statement yes/no
Trials	Text	

Biographical Data - War experiences

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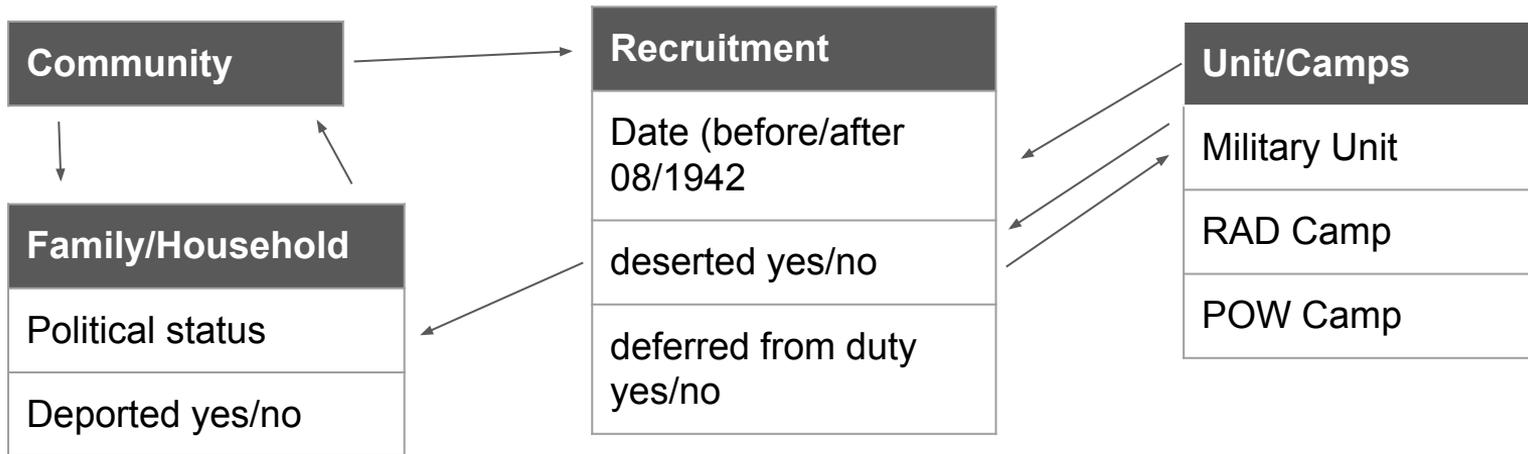Object type:
Person

MAPPING/SKETCHING WAR EXPERIENCES

Using "basic data" (birth/death dates, residences, units/camps, service places…)

- expressing with single statements:
    - returned yes/no
    - recruited before August 1942 yes/no*
    - volunteer yes/no
    - POW/captured yes/no
    - faced trial after return yes/no

* In August 1942 the obligatory military service was introduced, others went before and "volunteered"
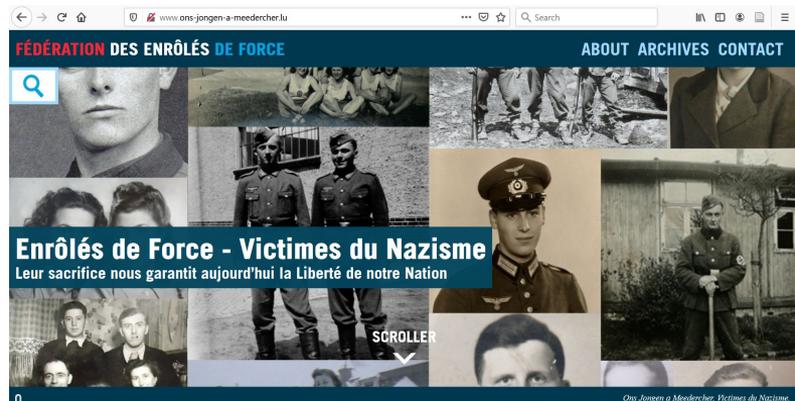
For quantitative analysis using "external" criterias

- places, names, units, communities and education/professions, social classes etc. which had an impact of the further war experiences

Community

Family/Household
Political status
Deported yes/no

Recruitment
Date (before/after 08/1942)
deserted yes/no
deferred from duty yes/no

Unit/Camps
Military Unit
RAD Camp
POW Camp

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Data entries: Basic Data of Conscripts

- Civil records: birth certificates, *Haushalts- und Personenstandskartei*

- Filled-out forms by either:
    - an administration: after-war census of forced recruits
    - the concerned people themselves: after-war or war-related forms for financial aid and/or additional rights in the following 4 decades of the war

- Already existing databases:
    - Public archives: Bundesarchiv (WASt)
    - Online databases: http://www.ons-jongen-a-meedercher.lu/

FÉDÉRATION DES ENRÔLÉS DE FORCE

ABOUT ARCHIVES CONTACT

Enrôlés de Force - Victimes du Nazisme
Leur sacrifice nous garantit aujourd'hui la Liberté de notre Nation

SCROLLER

Ons Jongen a Meedercher, Victimes du Nazisme.

Data entries: Relational data to connect the communities

- Connection to nuclear families: parents & siblings or wives & children
- Sources: Personenstandskartei, Haushaltkartei, Etat Civil, lists from the Umsiedlung,...

Personenstandskartei

Haushaltkartei

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Etat Civil

List from Umsiedlung

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- Connections in Nodegoat

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Mapping places and events, uncertainties

- Unknown or imprecise geographical data - Died at the Eastern Front?
- Russia, USSR?
- Unknown dates (define periods and time frames)

Nodegoat
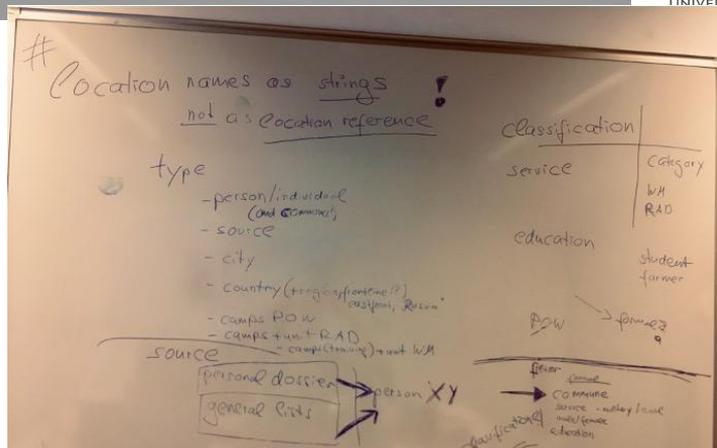
Sources ("Footnotes")

- Entries for numerous individuals
- Several different sources for each individual
- Keeping track of the origin of every piece of information
- Footnotes are indispensable

BUT

- Problem: indicating at least one source for each statement: technically possible but too much work
- Solution: for each individual: one subobject for a reference or a bibliography

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Ongoing work

- Detailed and in-depth conceptualisation of the data model is required
- merging subobjects etc.
- improving classification and linking objects

| Sub-Objects: Editor | Sub-Objects: Overview | [Birth] | [Residence] | [Education/Profession] | [Desertion/Flight/Hiding] | [BIO - References/Sources] | [Death / Missing Circumstances] | [REMARK WARLUX] |

[Death (outside war)]

| [Birth] ➕ ➕➕ | [Standard Info] ➕ ➕➕ | [Residence] ➕ ➕➕ | [Education/Profession] ➕ ➕➕ | [Marriage] ➕ ➕➕ | [Divorce] ➕ ➕➕ | [Children] ➕ ➕➕ |

[Parents / other familiy members] ➕ ➕➕   [Nazi-Organisations] ➕ ➕➕   [Trials / Denazification / Evaluation] ➕ ➕➕   [Wehrmacht recruitment] ➕ ➕➕   [Wehrmacht Service] ➕ ➕➕

[Reichsarbeitsdienst Service] ➕ ➕➕   [Desertion/Flight/Hiding] ➕ ➕➕   [Return] ➕ ➕➕   [Remarks Warlux] ➕ ➕➕   [BIO - References/Sources] ➕ ➕➕   [Support/Compensation] ➕ ➕➕

[Sickness / Illness / Injuries] ➕ ➕➕   [Death / Missing Circumstances] ➕ ➕➕   [Grave] ➕ ➕➕   [Reichsarbeitsdienst recruitment] ➕ ➕➕   [Wehrmacht training] ➕ ➕➕   [POW] ➕ ➕➕

[REMARK WARLUX] ➕ ➕➕   [allied armies] ➕ ➕➕   [Umgesiedelt] ➕ ➕➕   [Commemoration / obituary / Mort pour la patrie] ➕ ➕➕   [Death (outside war)] ➕ ➕➕

Save WARLUX RESEARCH SCOPE

Conclusion

Output: Database with biographical information + information on war experiences of around 3.000 recruits and their family members

Double usage of Nodegoat:

1. Main work instrument for data storage and research: relations, visualisation, statistics,...
2. For public dissemination of research results (public interface)

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https://www.c2dh.uni.lu/projects/warlux

Blog: "Digital War History" and WARLUX
https://digiwarhist.hypotheses.org