

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



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Using data analysis on recruited Luxembourgers in WWII

Nodegoat Day, June 4, 2021

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

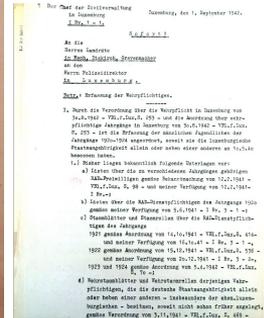
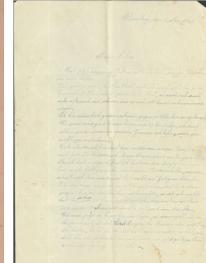
Introduction Sources and Methodologies

- 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**



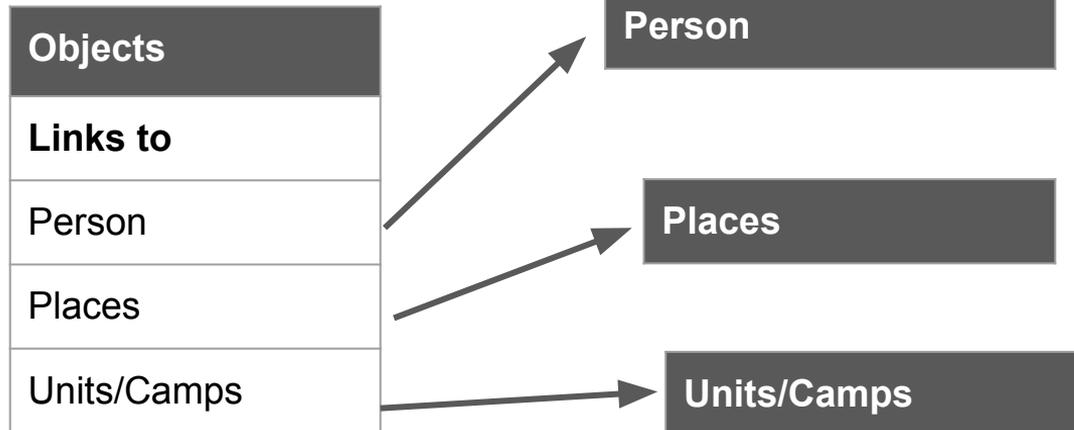
Nodegoat

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

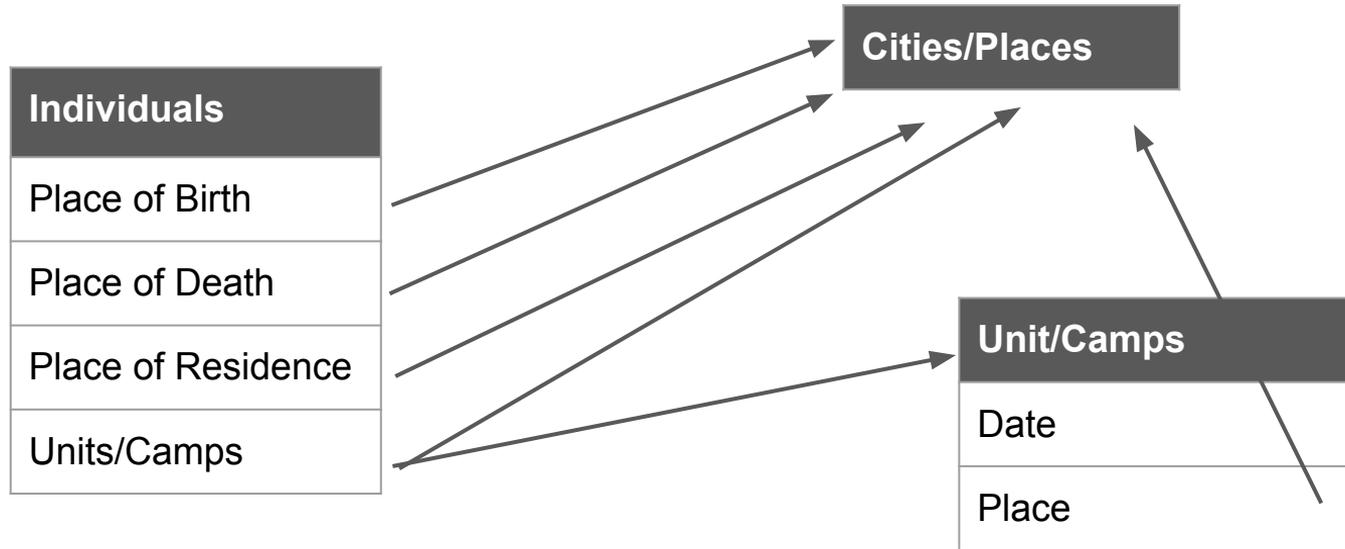
Biographical Data - Individual
Name
Birth/Death
Residences/Places
Education/Profession
Service in Nazi German organisations



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



Object type:
Person

Overview Sources

Adam Ferdinand [edit](#)
(ng0a7F9740Ud9PEGgNHxeUhw0h)

Name Adam
First Name Ferdinand
WARLUX ID 2
FEDDEF ID 17332
Gender male 
Verbleib KIA 
Volunte(er)d Wehrmacht no 
Nationality LUX 
Community Schifflange 
Active Sample yes 

Sub-Objects: Overview [\[Birth\]](#) [\[Residence\]](#) [\[Education/Profession\]](#) [\[Desertion/Flight/Hiding\]](#) [\[BIO - References/Sources\]](#) [\[Death / Missing Circumstances\]](#) [\[REMARK WARLUX\]](#)

[\[Death \(outside war\)\]](#)

  25 1 - 9 of 9   

	Date Start	Date End	Location	
[BIO - References/Sources]				
[BIO - References/Sources]				
[Residence]	-∞	26-09-1942	City [Located]	Schifflange (LU)
[Education/Profession]	-	-		
[Death / Missing Circumstances]	-	-		
[REMARK WARLUX]	-	-		
[Death (outside war)]	-	-		
[Birth]	20-07-1920	-	City [Located]	Schifflange (LU)
[Desertion/Flight/Hiding]	08-01-1944	-		

MAPPING/SKETCHING WAR EXPERIENCES

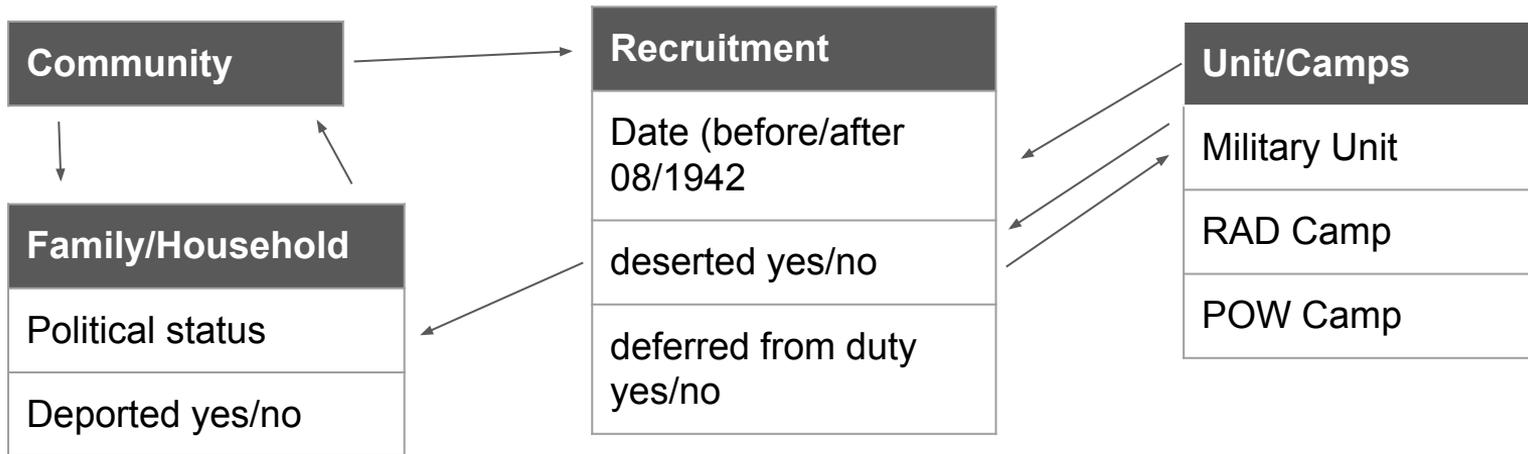
Using “basic data” (birth/death dates, residences, units/camps, service places...)

- 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

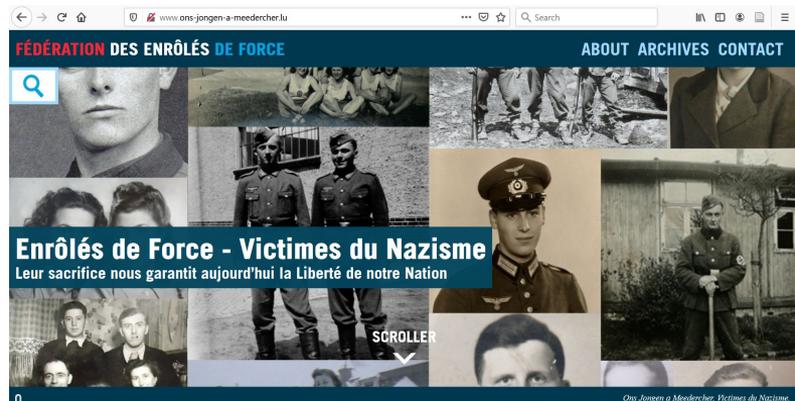
- places, names, units, communities and education/professions, social classes etc. which had an impact of the further war experiences



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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/>



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,...

Name:		Wohnung											
Vorname:		Zustand		Zust.		Geburts-		Geburts-		Geburts-		Geburts-	
Karl		ruh		Landwirt		12		6		18		Weiswampach kath	
Nachname:		Peter		12		6		18		Weiswampach kath		Weiswampach kath	
Geburtsort:		Luxembourgeois		Weiswampach		12		6		18		Weiswampach kath	
Geburtsdatum:		7. 2. 14		Weiswampach		12		6		18		Weiswampach kath	
Mutter:		Katharina		geborene Schroeder		12		6		18		Weiswampach kath	
Muttergeburtsdatum:		12		6		18		18		18		Weiswampach kath	
Muttergeburtsort:		Weiswampach		12		6		18		18		Weiswampach kath	
Kinder:		Name:		Tag		Monat		Jahr		Geburts-		Geburts-	
1.		Karl		12		6		18		Weiswampach kath		Weiswampach kath	
2.		Gerard		16		5		24		Weiswampach kath		Weiswampach kath	
3.		Klaus		7		6		24		Weiswampach kath		Weiswampach kath	

Personenstandskartei

Haus:		Weiswampach											
Zustand:		Zust.		Geburts-									
Weiswampach		12		6		18		18		18		Weiswampach kath	
Schroeder Kath		23		4		19		18		18		Weiswampach kath	
Karl Schroeder		12		6		18		18		18		Weiswampach kath	
Gerard		16		5		24		18		18		Weiswampach kath	
Klaus		7		6		24		18		18		Weiswampach kath	
got. Dingels Mari		20		4		20		18		18		Weiswampach kath	
Barry Joh		12		7		6		31		18		Weiswampach kath	

Haushaltkartei

- Connections in Nodegoat

The screenshot displays the Nodegoat web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with buttons for 'Data', 'Management', and 'Mod'. A user profile for 'Sarah Maya VERCRUYSE' is visible in the top right corner. A 'Select Project' dialog box is open in the center, featuring three radio button options: 'Warlux: All', 'Warlux: Families' (which is selected), and 'Warlux: Recruits'. A 'Save' button is located at the bottom of the dialog. The main interface area shows a search bar with the text '1 - 25 of 230' and a table header with columns: 'Name', 'WARLUX ID', 'FEDDEF ID', 'Gender', 'Verbleib', 'Volunteer(ed) Wehrmacht', 'Community', 'Volunteer(ed) RAD', 'Active Sample', 'Picture', and 'V'. The table header also includes a 'multi' checkbox.

WARLUX RESEARCH SCOPE

Name ver

Alternative Names ver

First Name ver

WARLUX ID ver

FEDEF ID ver

Gender ver

Verbleib ver

Volunteer(s) Wehrmacht ver

Nationality ver

Community ver

Volunteer(s) RAD ver

Active Sample ver

Picture URL: File: ver

Sub-Objects: Editor

- [Birth] ++
- [Standard info] ++
- [Residence] ++
- [Education/Profession] ++
- [Marriage] ++
- [Spouse] ++
- [Children] ++
- [Parents / other family members] ++
- [Nazi-Organisations] ++
- [Tasks / Designation / Evaluator] ++
- [Wehrmacht recruitment] ++
- [Wehrmacht Service] ++
- [Discharge/Redemption Service] ++
- [Disaster/Flight/Refugee] ++
- [Prison] ++
- [Remarks/Works] ++
- [BIO - References/Sources] ++
- [Support/Compensation] ++
- [Sickness / Injuries / Injuries] ++
- [Death / Missing / Commemoration] ++
- [Graves] ++
- [Memorial/Commemoration] ++
- [Wehrmacht training] ++
- [POW] ++
- [MEMORIAL WARLUX] ++
- [Other entries] ++
- [Unrecorded] ++
- [Communication / contacts / Meet soon & pairs] ++
- [Death (outside war)] ++

WARLUX RESEARCH SCOPE

Name ver

Alternative Names ver

First Name ver

Gender ver

Nationality ver

Community ver

Sub-Objects: Editor

- [Marriage] ++
- [Divorce] ++
- [Children] ++
- [Parents / other family members] ++
- [BIO - References/Sources] ++
- [Behaviour during the war] ++

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”)

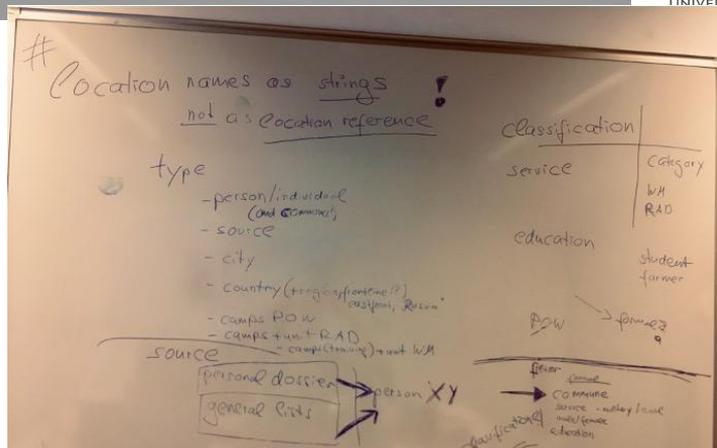
- Entries for numerous individuals
- Several different sources for each individual
- Keeping track of the origin of every piece of information
- Footnotes are indispensable

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

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 family 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)] + ++

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)

Stay connected with us!



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

Blog: “Digital War History” and WARLUX

<https://digiwarhist.hypotheses.org>