CROWDSOURCING - PROJECT WARLUX

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

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XPoNorth Digital: Shared Perspectives Conference (Virtual)
13 May 2023
Panel Crowdsourcing for Heritage

WARLUX
Soldiers and their communities in WWII:
The impact and war experiences in Luxembourg

Project WARLUX - Soldiers and their communities in WWII: The impact and legacy of war experiences in Luxembourg at Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History/University of Luxembourg

- During Nazi occupation in Luxembourg, women and men (born 1920-1927) were conscripted to serve in Reichsarbeitsdienst and Wehrmacht
- aim of the project is: collecting their biographies and individual life paths throughout the war

funded by FNR (March 2020-February 2024)

Campaign

Outreach:
- Launch mid-February 2021
- national press & poster campaign
- over 220 people participated

Process
- start: 1 March 2021/ end: Fall 2022
- visits, pickups, emails, and postal mail to collect relevant documents
- consent to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of the collected data
- documents were scanned at the University and then returned to their respective owners

Erzielt eis Är Geschicht!

Am Kontext vum Geschichtsprojet «WARLUX» iwwert den Zweete Weltkrich, sicht d'Universitéit Lëtzebuerg no Temoignagen, Geschichten, Dokumenter, Bréiwer, Postkaarten, Tagebicher, Fotoen,… iwwert d'**zwangsrekrutéiert Jongen a Meedercher an hier Familljen**.

Sidd Dir tëschent 1920 an 1927 gebuer? Waart Dir am **RAD**, am **Kriegshilfsdienst**, an der **Wehrmacht**, **Refractaire** oder gouft Dir **fräigestallt**? Oder kennt Dir eng Persoun (Familljemembere, Frënn,…) mat sou engem Schicksal?

Wa jo, da géif d'WARLUX-Team sech freeën vun Iech ze héieren a mat Iech ze schwätzen. Mellt Iech w.e.g. iwwer
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Méi Informatioune fannt Dir op http://www.c2dh.uni.lu/de/projects/warlux

Merci fir Är Participatioun, d'WARLUX-Team.

The participants

- Target audience: Children and grandchildren of soldiers in Luxembourg who still have relevant documents

The participatory aspect

- Building personal relationships with participants by gaining their trust, actively listening, and obtaining unique information
- Encouraging participants to break their silence and share their stories
- Providing a platform for participants to receive recognition for their personal stories

Benefits for the team (researchers)

- Obtaining unique information about the soldier and the family
- Access to documents that would have otherwise been thrown away
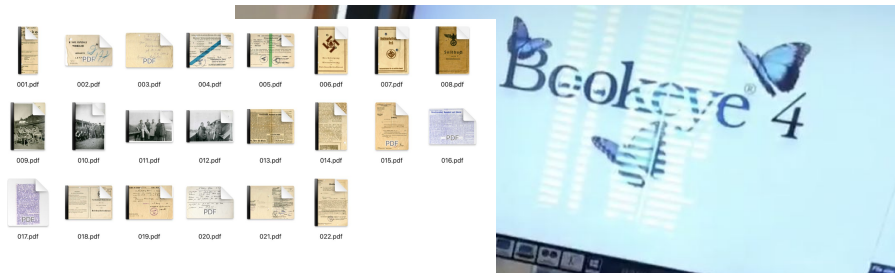
Benefits for participants

- Receive advice on how to search for and transcribe documents
- Learn how to properly store the documents
- Develop an interest in historical research
- Gain a therapeutic understanding of their parent's trauma and pain

Postprocessing

- Scanned 150 relevant collections consisting of about 7,000 files.
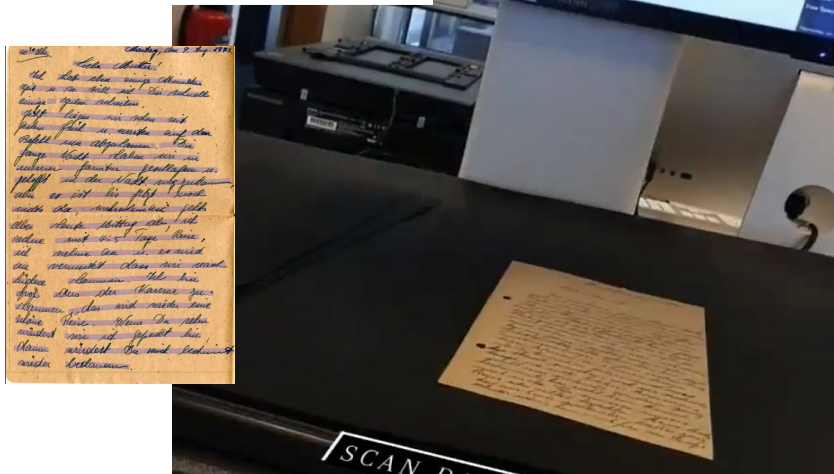- All (original) files returned to the contributors

Ongoing

- Implementation of data and metadata, including transcribing, tagging, and adding metadata, using Transkribus

Next step

- Planned integration with the WWII Portal for greater accessibility by researchers.
- Planned Citizen Science/Crowdsourcing project to transcribe and enrich the letters

Failures and Best Practice *If again then…*

➡ Clear Mission statement

➡ Target group and participants

➡ Workflow

➡ Data

➡ Postprocessing

➡ Team

➡ Documentation and Evaluation

Designing cultural heritage crowdsourcing projects

Ridge, M., Blickhan, S., Ferriter, M., Mast, A., Brumfield, B., Wilkins, B., … Prytz, Y. B. (2021). 5. Designing cultural heritage crowdsourcing projects. In The Collective Wisdom Handbook: Perspectives on Crowdsourcing in Cultural Heritage - community review version (1st ed.). https://doi.org/10.21428/a5d7554f.1b80974b

Other projects:
Every name counts Arolsen Archives -
https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/arolsen-archives/every-name-counts

Transcribathons
https://folgerpedia.folger.edu/Account_Books_Transcribathons

The Collective Wisdom Handbook

Perspectives on Crowdsourcing in Cultural Heritage

Mia Ridge ≈ Samantha Blickhan ≈ Meghan Ferriter
Ylva Berglund Prytz ≈ Ben Brumfield ≈ Sara Brumfield ≈ Denise Burgher ≈ Jim Casey ≈ Sonya Coleman
Darla Cybulska ≈ Michael Haley Goldman ≈ Kurt Luther ≈ Austin Mast ≈ Nick White ≈ Brendon Wilkins ≈ Pip Willcox

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

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

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