
Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

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

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Project abstract:

More than 10,000 Luxembourgish soldiers and recruits and an unknown number of Luxembourgish men and women wore German uniforms during WWII in armed forces and civil organizations, such as the Wehrmacht, Waffen-SS, armed police forces and the Reichsarbeitsdienst (RAD). Who were these people? What was the reason for their commitment to the occupation forces? How did their families cope with the situation? WARLUX aims to review the categories, that have tended to be used and integrated in the master narrative of the country as a “nation résistante et martyre” to describe this phase of history. Questions of particular relevance to the project are: Are the terms “forced recruit”, “volunteer”, “réfractaire” and “déserteur” appropriate to describe the experiences of these individuals or do they need to be elucidated and challenged? Isn’t it time to break up the public discourse about the “Zwangsrekrutierte” as a united collective group? What do reveal individual experiences, stories, reactions, choices, contradictions and survival strategies during and after WWII, studied within greater political, military and administrative frameworks? WARLUX will investigate individual profiles and the person behind the crowd of these men and women. The individuals will be analysed from an actor-centred perspective based on their biographies. The individual person will be studied from perspective of his or her social environments, his or her social background, his or her trajectories during the war and his or her life in the post-war period. The biographical and spatial concept contains a completely new approach to the topic. The central goal will be to reveal the strategies adopted by Luxembourgish soldiers and women in RAD and those in their social circles who stayed at home to cope with their war experiences and their return. By means of this actor-centred method, focusing on a locally and regionally defined samples of personal records of soldiers and women in RAD and their families, the established concepts of “resistance”, “collaboration” and “forced recruitment” will be called into question. Luxembourg society

needs to develop a self-awareness of the country's complex role in World War II, and this can only be accomplished by complexifying existing narratives and breaking away from conventional analytical concepts. Zooming into the biographies at the level of seven different Luxembourgish towns/villages from different regions of the country (rural, industrial, urban, north, south, east, west) and thus providing seven innovative case studies offer a micro-historical perspective on those affected. At the same time, research will combine the spatial sphere with the biographical approach, focusing on the towns/villages, on the social groups, then on the level of families and finally on the level of individual persons. WARLUX intends furthermore to engage the public in contributing letters, photographs and memories of the recruited to emphasize the biographical approach and to allow new insights on the war experiences of WWII in Luxembourg. WARLUX sets out to ensure sustainable access to the material consulted for future research purposes and for the general public by building a database and, through a website, systematically disclosing relevant new sources that were previously inaccessible.

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

Data Collection

The dataset includes biographical information such as name, surname, date of birth, gender, nationality, religion, and profession. Additionally, military service data pertaining to World War II, including unit, injuries, awards, and political affiliations, is also included. The period of data creation spans from the 1920s to the 1950s.

Since the majority of the documents contain information about individuals born between 1920 and 1927, data on their children (born between 1940 and 1944) was also present. However, as this information is not pertinent to our research objectives, it was not evaluated

We employ a range of diverse data collection methods, including archival research in various national and municipal archives, obtaining information from published biographies through literature and online portals. Additionally, we gather ego-documents from oral interviews with contemporary witnesses and organize public calls for contributions (ego-documents) during collection days, where we retrieve first-person documents on a voluntary basis.

The data collected for this project is in various formats, such as scans of archival material and digitized published material in JPEG and PDF formats for historical research and contemporary administrative and data processing.

The data is stored in the "nodegoat" database in CSV format, which includes biographical information such as name, birth and death dates, residence, military unit, injuries, family members, financial information during WWII, and personal and private information in private correspondence. The interviews conducted are in MP3 and MP4 formats and contain life stories and biographies, while the biographical information collected through consent forms is in CatDV format.

The data collected through crowdsourcing campaigns is in PDF format and includes private correspondence, with the name of the contributor, writer, and sender, and is organized on atlas and "nodegoat." The evaluations and data collections are stored in Excel and Word formats and include statistics, numbers, and information on the lives of study objects based on their biographies and references.

Documentation and Metadata

To ensure proper documentation, we will collect the names of interviewees and contributors along with the data they provide. We will also develop a research protocol that documents our archival research and findings, including references to the data holders and the data itself. Finally, we will conduct regular evaluations and summaries of the collected data sets to ensure their accuracy and completeness.

The metadata of our collected data includes references to the record holders, and we have organized the data and folder structure on our server storage based on their provenance and contributors. Each dataset is assigned a unique reference, and we also note any privacy or restriction policies imposed by the archives

Ethics and Legal Compliance

Our research project has been approved by the Ethical Review Panel at the University of Luxembourg. We comply with archival laws, GDPR regulations, and national data protection regulations. As part of our commitment to ethical research, we ensure that all participants provide informed consent by using consent forms for interviews and crowdsourcing. These forms outline the purpose of the research, the nature of the data collected, and any potential risks or benefits of participating. We also provide clear information about the storage and usage of the collected data.

The scanned material belongs to the record holders, which may include the state, commune, or family. Copyright ownership is

established through individual consent forms with the families and interviewees. We respect the rights of the creators and ensure that their intellectual property is protected in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

Storage and Backup

The collected data is stored in various formats and structures. Scans of archival and published material are stored as jpeg and pdf files in folders and single pages on "Atlas", based on the document holder's reference number. Biographical information is stored in CSV format in the Nodegoat database, which includes personal and private information such as military service, injuries, family members, and financial information during WWII. Audio and video interviews are stored in Mp3 and Mp4 formats and biographical consent forms are stored in CatDV at the MediaCentre. Collected material from crowdsourcing campaigns is stored as PDF files on "Atlas" and Nodegoat. Evaluations and data collections are stored in Excel and Word formats and based on names, biographies, and references. The information that is restricted for publication is added to the documentation and stored on University Onedrive and "Atlas"

The data will be stored on the university server "Atlas" and will be regularly backed up. Access to the data is limited to the research project team, the Principal Investigator, and the Data Research Infrastructure team at the C2DH.

Selection and Preservation

The **crowdsourced material** obtained by the research team will be stored on the "atlas" server on a long-term basis. Due to the personal information contained in the data (PDFs, JPEGs) provided by private individuals, some donors restricted the team from publishing names or documents, or asked to anonymize the data. The research team obtained data agreements and consent forms from donors, which include provisions for the use of the data beyond the current research project. Each consent form is stored in the respective folder on "atlas".

To ensure accessibility to university researchers and students, the team created an inventory with detailed information about the content and consent form. The inventory is not intended for public dissemination and the material will be moved to a single folder on "atlas" called "C2DH_WARLUX_Collection" and access rights will be given to the PI. When a researcher or student requests access to the collection, the PI will decide if the request is justified. If approved, the DRI team will download the specific folder (structured by contributors as in the inventory), and the interested party will receive the documents after signing a data agreement with the C2DH and a separate agreement to respect the original consent form. Access to the "atlas" server will be documented by the DRI team, and any concerns or questions will be referred to the DPO of the university.

The **interviews** conducted by the research team have been stored on CatDV by the Media Centre of the university, along with the corresponding consent forms. As the material has not yet been prepared, access to it remains restricted. The same procedure that has been adopted for the crowdsourced material will be applied here as well. If university researchers or students are interested in accessing the material, they can contact the PI. The PI will ensure, with the help of the DRI team, that access is granted.

The crowdsourced material, including the Digital Warlux Collection and conducted interviews, will be preserved for future use by researchers and students at the university. If funding is available, we aim to extend the accessibility of this material to a wider audience as part of a second research project, while ensuring compliance with ethical and legal regulations by taking into account the contributors' consent forms.

Additionally, it is essential to ensure the long-term preservation of the data stored in nodegoat.

Data Sharing

The data sharing plan involves making the research data accessible through an open access repository and developing an API compliant with archival and GDPR regulations.

The first step is to publish the data structure and model, including an anonymized dataset, in an open access repository such as Zenodo or ORBI.uni.lu. This will enable wider distribution and citation of the data and provide a permanent identifier and DOI.

In addition, an API will be developed to selectively publish data from "nodegoat" on a dedicated website. The API website will be launched in September 2023 and will be "frozen" after the end of the project in March 2024.

The published data will include only names, dates of birth, places of residence up until 1940, and dates of death (if the individual died during the war).

Responsibilities and Resources

The team members and the PI and the team of the DRI at C2DH.

Our first priority will be access to the digital infrastructure provided by C2DH. In addition, we will utilize the web-based data repository platform Dataverse to store and share our data while adhering to open access principles. A solid system for managing access rights to our data will also need to be established, including measures for ensuring appropriate levels of privacy and security. Lastly, it will be necessary to maintain and update nodegoat throughout the project.