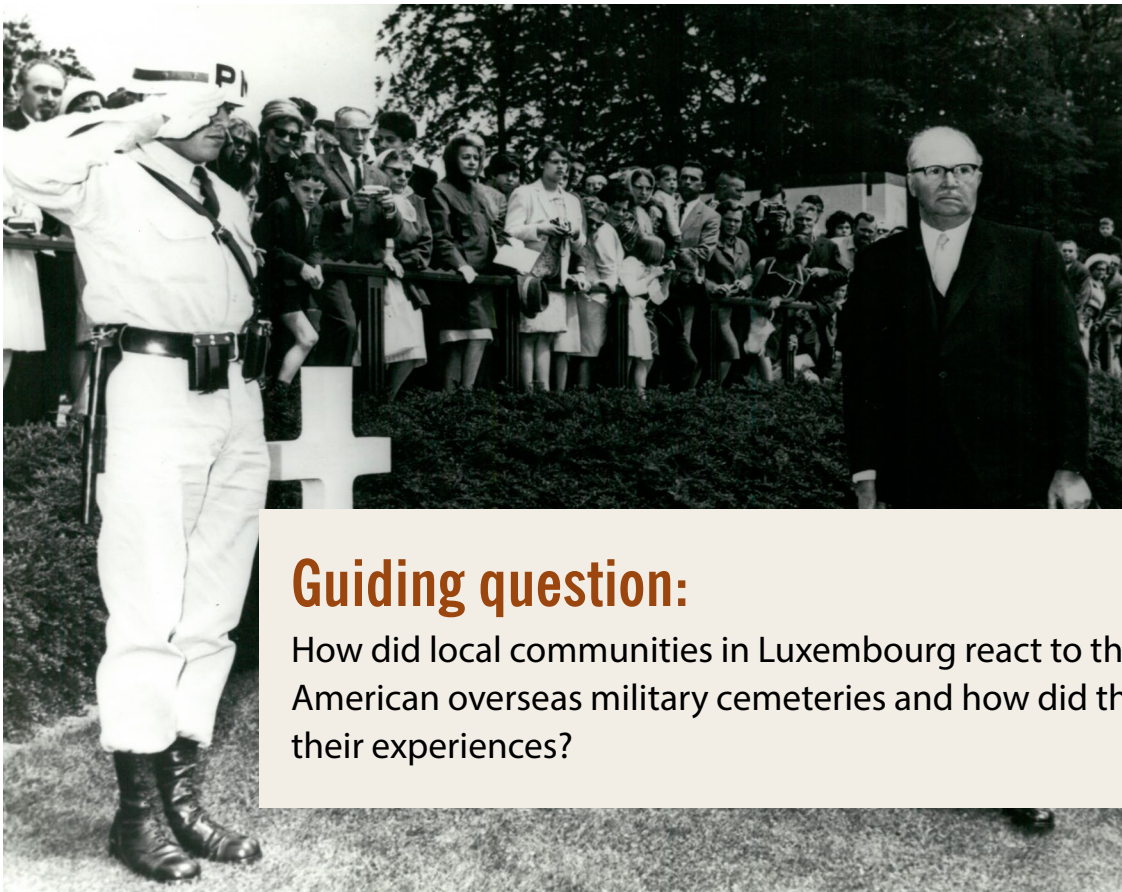




UNDERSTANDING  
SACRIFICE

## Activity: Cemeteries and Communities: Identifying Local Perspectives during the Construction of an Overseas Military Cemetery



### Guiding question:

How did local communities in Luxembourg react to the creation of American overseas military cemeteries and how did the war shape their experiences?

**DEVELOPED BY KAAT VANDERJEUGT**

**Grade Level(s):** 9-12

**Subject(s):** Social Studies

**Cemetery Connection:** Luxembourg American Cemetery

**Fallen Hero Connection:** Technical Sergeant Leo Deon Ballegeer



**NHD**  
NATIONAL  
HISTORY DAY

## Overview

By using primary and secondary sources students will think critically about the local community and their perspectives about the development of American overseas military cemeteries and discover how their experiences during World War II shaped their perspectives.

## Historical Context

On May 10, 1940, the German Army invaded Luxembourg. For the next four years, the German government occupied the country and forced the nation and its people under the rule of the German Reich. American troops liberated the nation on September 10, 1944. During the Battle of the Bulge, the U.S. Army established a temporary burial ground in Luxembourg. After the war, the Grand Ducal Government of Luxembourg granted the free use of the land as a permanent burial ground for American World War II fallen soldiers. Luxembourg American Cemetery became one of 14 permanent World War II American military cemeteries erected on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC).

## Objectives

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to

- Describe different aspects of daily life in Luxembourg during the German occupation (1940-1945); and
- Analyze various perspectives both supporting and opposing the construction of a permanent American military cemetery in Luxembourg.

*“When the history of the creation of an overseas military cemetery is told, reference is often made that the land was donated. There is rarely any deeper understanding about the local perspectives towards the construction of a military cemetery in a specific country. I want students to consider the point of view of the local population.”*  
—Kaat Vanderjeugt

Kaat Vanderjeugt works as a cemetery associate for the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). She is assigned to Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem, Belgium.

## Documents Used ★ indicates an ABMC source

### Primary Sources

Brochure, Luxembourg American Cemetery, 1950s (excerpt)  
Luxembourg American Cemetery Archives

"The Cemetery of Hamm [*Le Cimetiere de Hamm*]," *L'Union*, 1946  
Luxembourg American Cemetery Archives

"The first relocations have been executed [*Die ersten Umsiedlungen bereits durchgeführt*],"  
*Luxemburger Wort*, September 19-20, 1942  
National Library of Luxembourg

Letter from the Director of Public Health, May 8, 1950  
Luxembourg National Archives (AE-07963)

Letter from Pierre Pescatore (Member of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg),  
March 30, 1953  
Archives Nationales Luxembourg (AE-11497)

Map, Luxembourg American Cemetery, March 21, 1951  
Luxembourg National Archives (AE-07963)

Map, *Luxembourg American Cemetery* (property register), c. 1948  
Luxembourg American Cemetery Archives

M. Thill, *Milly's Story, A Young Girl's Memories of the Second World War, Luxembourg 1940-1945* (excerpts)

Photograph, "The American St. Nick" with his angels arriving at the Wiltz castle in Luxembourg,  
December 5, 1944  
National Archives and Records Administration (111-SC-197739)

Photograph, *American Liberation of Luxembourg, a poster of the Volkswohlfart (People's Welfare) is being burned by civilians* [*Amerikaanse bevrijding van Luxemburg, een affiche van de Volkswohlfahrt wordt verbrand door de bevolking*], 1944  
NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies (Beeldnummer 5482)

Photograph, *Invasion of German troops in Luxembourg* [*De intocht der Duitse troepen in Luxemburg*], May 10, 1940  
NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies (Beeldnummer 5485)

Poster, *Order about the use of the German Language in the country of Luxembourg* [*Verordnung über den Gebrauch der deutschen Sprache im Lande Luxemburg*], 1940  
German Federal Archives (Plak 003-052-004-T1 and Plak 003-052-004-T2)

Poster, *Order about the introduction of the German criminal law and criminal provisions in the German occupied territories of the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg [Verordnung über die Einführung deutschen Strafrechts und strafrechtlicher Bestimmungen in den deutschen Truppen besetzten Gebieten der Niederlande, Belgien und Luxemburgs]*, 1940

NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies (Beeldnummer 106882)

R. Warren Davis, *Report by the Superintendent of Luxembourg American Cemetery, 1950-1960* (excerpt)  
Luxembourg American Cemetery Archives

## Secondary Sources

★ Cemeteries and Memorials Map

American Battle Monuments Commission

[abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/cemeteries-memorials-map](http://abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/cemeteries-memorials-map)

★ Video, Technical Sergeant Leo Deon Ballegeer

National History Day

[youtube.com/watch?v=VveFVLJ4qr8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VveFVLJ4qr8)

★ Video, *Luxembourg American Cemetery*

American Battle Monuments Commission

[youtube.com/watch?v=A-qpW0altdc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-qpW0altdc)

## Materials

- Computer with internet capability for teacher
- Projector and speakers to show video clips
- Cemetery Sources Packet
- Occupation Sources Packet
- Student handouts:
  - Cemetery Sources Graphic Organizer
  - Occupation Sources Graphic Organizer
  - Group Discussion Organizer
  - City Meeting Assignment and Rubric

## Lesson Preparation

- Preview and pre-set video clips and Cemeteries and Memorials Map.
- Print one Cemetery Sources Packet and one Occupation Sources Packet for each group of three to four students.
- Print one copy of each of the following for each student:
  - Cemetery Sources Graphic Organizer
  - Occupation Sources Graphic Organizer
  - Group Discussion Organizer
  - City Meeting Assignment and Rubric

## Procedure

### Introduction (10 minutes)

- Show the [Luxembourg American Cemetery video](#) as an introduction for students. Ask students the following questions:
  - *Where is this cemetery located? Who is buried in this cemetery? How many men and women are buried there? When did these men and women die? In what battles or campaigns did these servicemembers die? Who do you think maintains these sites?*
  - **Teacher Tip:** Use the Cemeteries & Memorials Map to familiarize students with the location of the cemetery.

### Activity One: Construction of Luxembourg American Cemetery (45 minutes)

- Explain to the students that the Battle of the Bulge, also known as the Ardennes Offensive, started on December 16, 1944 in the Ardennes, an area on the border between Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg. It lasted until January 25, 1945, and was the last major German offensive during World War II. German losses are estimated at 125,000 with the Allied casualties just slightly lower.
- Introduce Technical Sergeant Leo D. Ballegeer by playing his eulogy video.
  - Reinforce that Ballegeer died on December 21, 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge in Luxembourg. He was first listed as Missing in Action. When his body was found, he was buried at the temporary cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg. Later this site became the permanent Luxembourg American Cemetery. The cemetery has been in operation since December 29, 1944.
- Divide class into groups of three to four students each.
- Distribute one copy of the Cemetery Sources Packet to each student group and provide each student with a Cemetery Sources Graphic Organizer.
- Direct students to divide up the documents from the Cemetery Sources Packet to analyze.

- Ask each student to analyze their documents and then fill in the corresponding row in the Cemetery Sources Organizer. Circulate and answer questions as needed.
- Direct students to share their sources with other members of their group to complete the graphic organizer.
- Distribute a copy of the Group Discussion Organizer to each student. Ask students to discuss and complete this chart.

### **Activity Three: Life in Luxembourg under Nazi-occupation 1940-1945 (45 minutes)**

- Take a step back in time with the students. Explain to the students that you have looked upon the creation of the U.S. military cemetery but in order to fully understand the emotions of the local population, the students need to be aware of the circumstances during the German occupation from 1940 to 1945 in Luxembourg.
- Distribute one copy of the Occupation Sources Packet to each group.
- Direct students to divide up the documents from the Occupation Sources Packet.
- Ask each student to analyze their document and then fill in the corresponding row in the Occupation Sources Graphic Organizer. Circulate and answer questions as needed.
- Direct students to share their sources with other members of their group to complete the graphic organizer.
- Return to the Group Discussion Organizer. Ask students to add new insights gleaned from the second set of primary sources.

## **Assessment**

- Distribute the City Meeting Assignment and Rubric.
- Assign a character to each student and instruct them to write a letter to the Mayor of Luxembourg City as that person.
- The City Meeting Assignment Rubric can be used to evaluate this task.

## Methods for Extension:

- Teachers could choose to hold a simulation City Council meeting set in 1948 to discuss the proposal of the cemetery and vote on the final decision.
- Students can use the Luxembourg American Cemetery Website to learn more about the cemetery and search for those buried there.
- Students with more interest in the Battle of the Bulge can study the battle in preparation of the lesson.
- Teachers can share information about the German casualties who fell during the Battle of the Bulge and are also buried nearby.
- The American Battle Monuments Commission maintains U.S. military cemeteries overseas. These cemeteries are permanent memorials to the fallen, but it is important that students know the stories of those who rest here. To learn more about the stories of Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice, visit [abmc.gov/education](https://abmc.gov/education) and [NHDSilentHeroes.org](https://NHDSilentHeroes.org).
- Teachers can enhance students' interest in sacrifice and loss during World War II by exploring these related lesson plans:
  - [Some Gave All](#)
  - [Until they All Come Home: Locating and Identifying Missing Service Members](#)

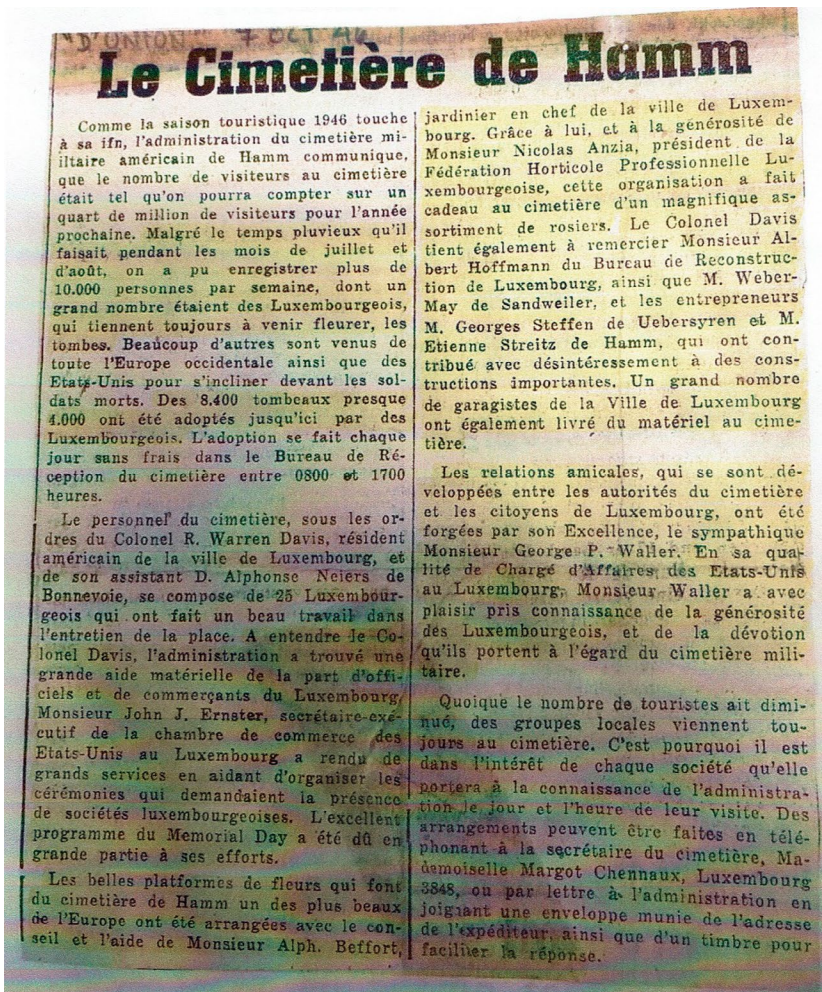
## Adaptations:

- Teachers can add more or less information to the photographs and other documents.
- Teachers can add guiding questions for the analysis of photographs and documents.

# Cemetery Sources Packet: Source One

"The Cemetery of Hamm [*Le Cimetiere de Hamm*]," *L'Union*, 1946

Luxembourg American Cemetery Archives



Excerpts from the article translated into English:

Despite the rainy weather during the months of July and August they were able to register over 10,000 persons per week, of which a great number were from Luxembourg; who always visit to put flowers on the headstones.

Of the 8,400 headstones almost 4,000 have been adopted by Luxembourgers.

According to Colonel Davis, the administration found a lot of financial support from the officials and businesses of Luxembourg. Mr. John J. Ernster, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in Luxembourg helped greatly by assisting in the organization of the ceremonies which requested the presence of Luxembourg organizations. The excellent Memorial Day program was in big part thanks to his efforts.

The beautiful flower beds in the cemetery of Hamm, which are some of the most beautiful in Europe, were

arranged with the advice and help of Mr. Alph. Beffort, senior gardener in charge of the city of Luxembourg. Thanks to him and to the generosity of Mr. Nicolas Anzia, president of the Fédération Horticole Professionnelle Luxembourgeoise, who donated a magnificent selection of rose bushes to the cemetery.

A big number of mechanics from Luxembourg-City also delivered material for the cemetery.

The friendly relations between the authorities of the cemetery and the people from Luxembourg, were forged by his Excellency, Mr. George P. Waller. In his capacity as Chargé d'Affaires of the United States to Luxembourg, Mr. Waller took note of the Luxembourgers and the devotion they have towards the military cemetery.



# Cemetery Sources Packet: Source Two

R. Warren Davis, *Report by the Superintendent of Luxembourg American Cemetery, 1950-1960* (excerpt)

Luxembourg American Cemetery Archives

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American labor troops and German prisoners worked together to lay the pathways among the (approximately) 24 rectangular plots existing at the time. For this single project, over nine hundred truckloads of coarse stone were hauled from the nearest source then in operation, a quarry near Esch-sur-Alzette.

On 12 April 1946, Mr. R. Warren Davis arrived on assignment from A.G.R.C. and became the first Superintendent of the cemetery. Officers and enlisted men were shifted progressively elsewhere, the P.O.W.'s were also moved, and a local labor crew came into being.

During 1946-47, the main activities consisted of establishing lawns, planting flower beds, removing unneeded structures, improving roads and paths, and restoring those areas of the woods which had been damaged by military personnel and equipment.

The administrative staff continued to put all records in order, to establish grave locator files, and process numerous applications for grave adoption. The grave adoption program may have served some useful purpose, but human abuses were notable. In this community, for example, few asked to adopt a protestant or Jewish grave, none adopted an unknown. Moreover, the only graves to be adopted at all were those where the "dog tag" on the marker also bore the deceased's home address. It is our opinion that the scheme should never have been encouraged.

The nearby German Military Cemetery, then comprising some 6-8,000 graves, was also placed under our responsibility, doubling the task of grounds maintenance and the annual repainting of grave markers.

Unlike France, where the prior existence of World War I American cemeteries had established a modus operandi, Luxembourg was experiencing for the first time our non-combat activity and we were frequently hindered by officials who, while cordial, were unable to interpret existing regulations in our favor. Thus, we had to literally smuggle supplies - even paint for the grave markers - for a considerable period before reasonable importation arrangements could be worked out.

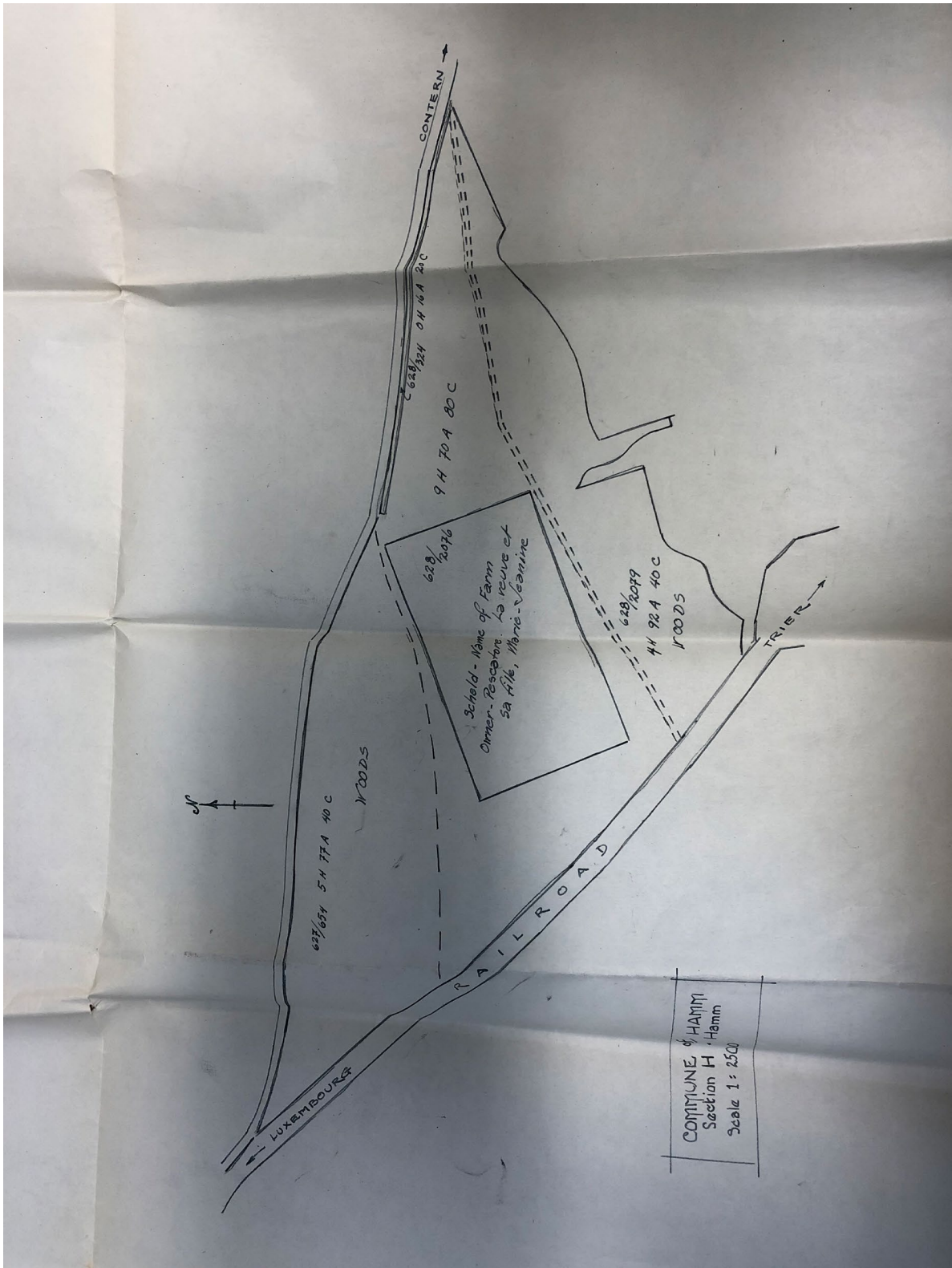
In 1947, the Superintendent was also charged with the temporary cemetery at Foy, near Bastogne, comprising 3,700 graves.

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# Cemetery Sources Packet: Source Three

Map, Luxembourg American Cemetery (property register), c. 1948

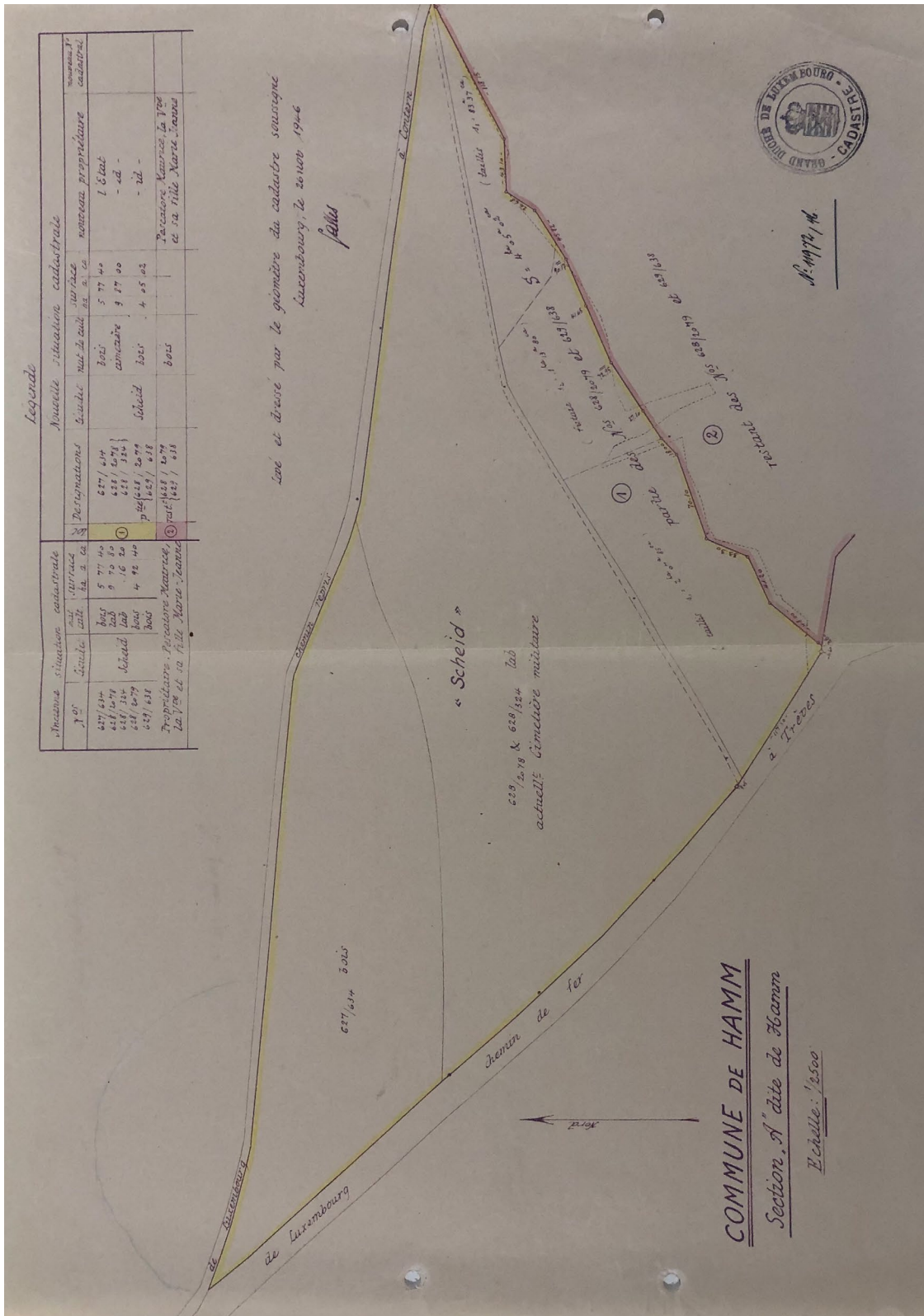
Luxembourg American Cemetery Archives



# Cemetery Sources Packet: Source Three

Map, Luxembourg American Cemetery, March 21, 1951

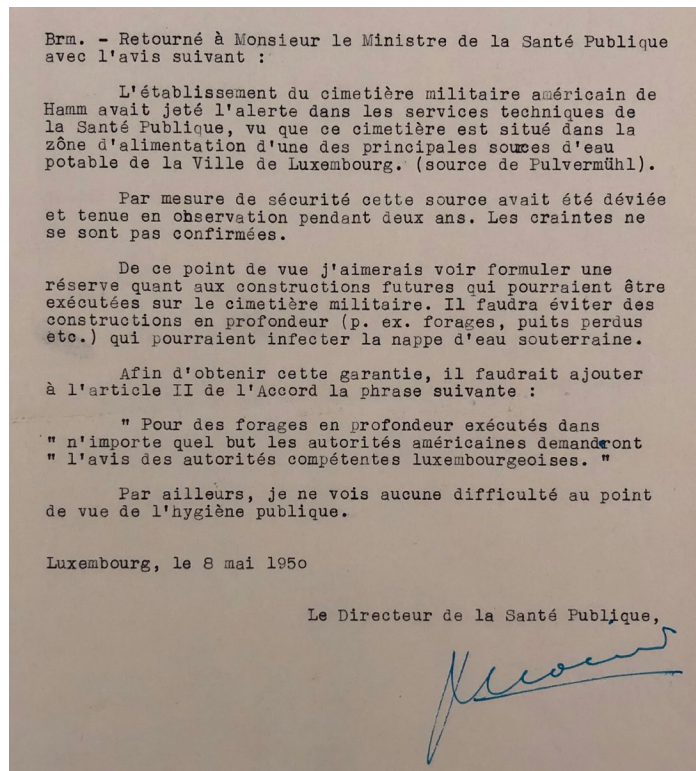
Archives Nationales Luxembourg (AE-07963)



# Cemetery Sources Packet: Source Four

Letter from the Director of Public Health, May 8, 1950

Archives Nationales Luxembourg (AE-07963)



## Excerpts from the letter translated in English:

Returned to the minister of Public Health with the following advice:

The construction of the American military cemetery of Hamm has caught the attention of the technical services of the Public Health department, since the cemetery is located in the zone of origin of one of the most primary potable water resources for the city of Luxembourg (Water source of Pulvermühl).

For security reasons this source has been deviated and has been under observation for two years. No complaints were confirmed.

With this in mind I would like to formulate a condition in case of future constructions which might be executed at the military cemetery. Deep constructions should be avoided (e.g. drilling, lost wells, etc.) which might infect the underground water surface.

To obtain this guarantee, the following phrase should be added to Article II of the Agreement:

"For deep drillings executed for whatever reason the American authorities will demand the opinion of the Luxembourg authorities in charge."

Otherwise I don't see any other difficulty in relationship to the public health.

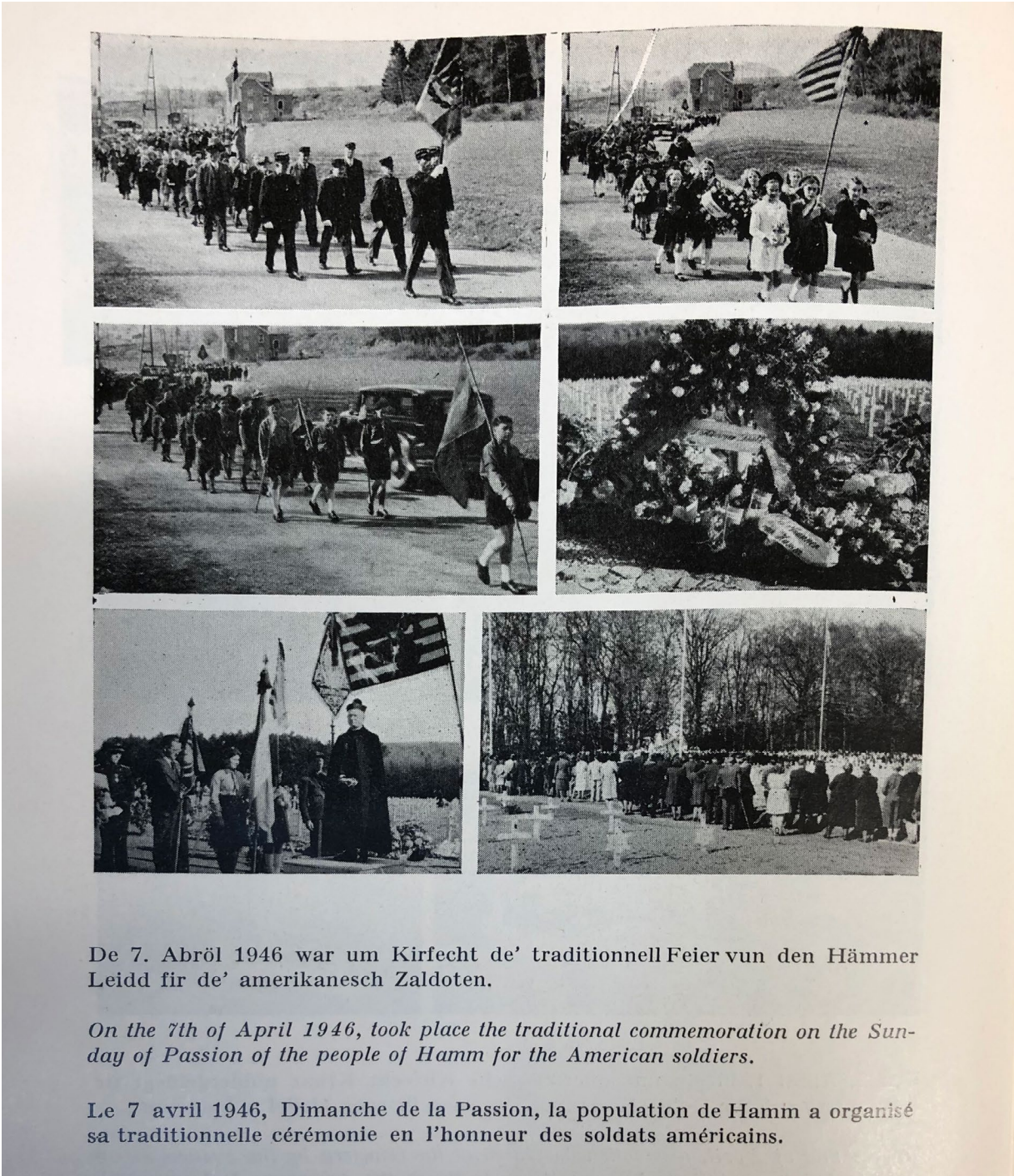
Luxembourg, May 8, 1950.

Signed the director of Public Health

# Cemetery Sources Packet: Source Five

Brochure, Luxembourg American Cemetery, 1950s (excerpt)

Luxembourg American Cemetery Archives

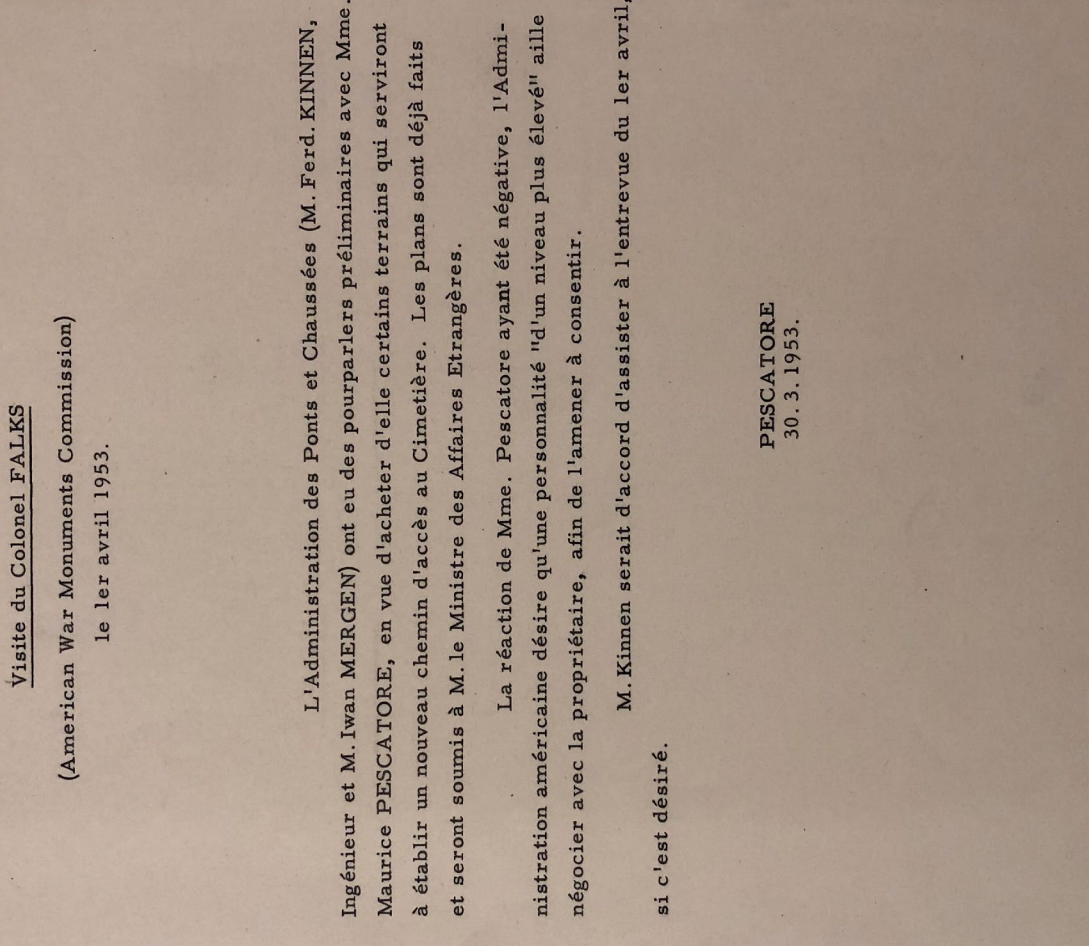


**Context:** Pictures of a local tradition which started in 1945. After the Sunday of Passion (Palm Sunday) in church, locals go to the American military cemetery to pay their respects to the American soldiers.

# Cemetery Sources Packet: Source Six

Letter from Pierre Pescatore (Member of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg), March 30, 1953

Archives Nationales Luxembourg (AE-11497)



## Translation:

Visit of Colonel Falks

(American War Monuments Commission)

April 1, 1953

The administration of Bridges and Roads (Mr. Ferd. Kinnen, Engineer and M. Iwan Mergen) have had preliminary discussions with Mrs. Maurice Pescatore, in the light of the purchase of certain lands which will serve to build a new access road to the cemetery. The plans are already made and will be submitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Since the reaction of Mrs. Pescatore was negative, the American administration would like that a person 'higher in charge' go to negotiate with the owner to reach an agreement.

Mr. Kinnen agrees to assist with the meeting the 1st of April if it is necessary.

Signed Pescatore, March 30, 1953

# Occupation Sources Packet: Source One

Photograph, *Invasion of German troops in Luxembourg* [*De intocht der Duitse troepen in Luxemburg*], May 10, 1940


NIOD Instituut voor Oorlogs-, Holocaust- en Genocidestudies, the Netherlands (Beeldnummer 5485)



# Occupation Sources Packet: Source Two

Poster, Order about the Introduction of German Criminal Law and Criminal Provisions in the German Occupied Territories of the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg [Verordnung über die Einführung deutschen Strafrechts und strafrechtlicher Bestimmungen in den deutschen Truppen besetzten Gebieten der Niederlande, Belgien und Luxemburgs], 1940

NIOD Instituut voor Oorlogs-, Holocaust- en Genocidestudies, the Netherlands (Beeldnummer 106882)



## Verordnung

über die Einführung deutschen Strafrechts und strafrechtlicher Bestimmungen in den von deutschen Truppen besetzten Gebieten der Niederlande, Belgiens und Luxemburgs.

### Verordening

over de invoering van het Duitse strafrecht en van de strafrechtelijke bepalingen in de door de Duitse troepen bezette gebieden van België, Holland en Luxemburg.

## Verordnung

über die Einführung deutschen Strafrechts und strafrechtlicher Bestimmungen in den von deutschen Truppen besetzten Gebieten der Niederlande, Belgiens und Luxemburgs.

Bij machtiging van den Opperbevelhebber van het Duitse Leger bepalen wij als volgt:

§ 1  
Inzoverre een handeling, die volgens het Duitse recht strafbaar is, aan het oordeel van de krijgsgaden of bijzondere rechtbanken onderworpen wordt, geldt het Duitse strafrecht.

§ 2  
Het reizen uit de door de Duitse troepen bezette gebieden van Nederland, België of Luxemburg kan slechts toegelaten worden door de plaatselijk-verantwoordelijke Orts- of Feldkommandanten.

§ 3  
Dieper ingrijpende landrechtelijke beperkingen blijven geldig.

§ 4  
Elk verkeer van onbevoegden met krijgs- of burgerlijke gevangenen, die zich in de macht en onder hoede van de Duitse weermacht of beambten bevinden wordt bestraft.

§ 5  
Samscholingen op straten of openbare pleinen, het beleggen, houden van, of deelnemen aan openbare vergaderingen of optochten, het verspreiden en drukken van vlagschriften zal bestraft worden. Uitzonderingen hierop kunnen door den plaatselijk-verantwoordelijke bevelhebber toegelaten worden.

§ 6  
Elke uiting van vijandelijkheid tegenover de bezettende macht zal bestraft worden.

§ 7  
Wie het werk neerlegt, met de bedoeling hierdoor de belangen der Duitse bezetting te schaden, wie anderen dwingt het werk te staken of hen bij het werken tracht te hinderen, zal bestraft worden.

§ 8  
Wie in dagbladen of tijdschriften berichten openbaar maakt, die voor het Duitse Rijk schadelijk kunnen zijn, of wier openbaarmaking door het Militair-Bestuur verboden is, wordt bestraft.

§ 9  
Wie niet-Duitse radio-uitzendingen beluistert, hetzij in het openbaar hetzij gemeenschappelijk, of wie de mogelijkheid hier toe schept, wordt bestraft.

§ 10  
Uitzonderingen hierop maken de niet-Duitse zenders, die door het Duitse Militair-Bestuur door openbare bekendmaking toegelaten zijn.

§ 11  
Wie Duitschvrijdige radio-berichten, of welkdanige Duitschvrijdige berichten ook, verspreidt, wordt bestraft.

§ 12  
Deze verordening treedt met hare afkondiging in kracht.

**De Opperbevelhebber der Legergroep**

Auf Grund der mir vom Oberbefehlshaber des Heeres erteilten Ermächtigung verordne ich, was folgt:

§ 1  
Soweit eine Handlung, die nach deutschem Recht strafbar ist, zur Aburteilung durch Wehrmachtsgerichte oder Sondergerichte gebracht wird, wird das deutsche Strafrecht angewandt.

§ 2  
Reisen aus dem von den deutschen Truppen besetzten niederländischen, belgischen und luxemburgischen Gebiete heraus bedürfen der Erlaubnis des zuständigen deutschen Orts- oder Feldkommandanten. Weitergehende landesrechtliche Einschränkungen bleiben unberührt. Jede Zuwiderhandlung wird bestraft.

§ 3  
Jeder unbefugte Verkehr mit Kriegs- oder Zivilgefangenen, die sich im Gewahrsam der deutschen Wehrmacht oder der deutschen Behörden oder Beamten befinden, wird bestraft.

§ 4  
Das Zusammenrotten auf der Strasse, das Herstellen und das Verbreiten von Flugschriften, das Veranstellen von öffentlichen Versammlungen und Aufzügen sowie die Beteiligung daran und deutsch-feindliche Kundgebungen aller Art, werden bestraft. Ausnahmen unterliegen der Genehmigung des zuständigen Befehlshabers.

§ 5  
Wer die Arbeit einstellt in der Absicht, damit die Interessen der deutschen Besetzung zu schädigen, wer Arbeitnehmer aussperrt oder wer andere zur Arbeitseinstellung oder Aussperrung auffordert, wird bestraft.

§ 6  
Wer in Zeitungen oder Zeitschriften Nachrichten veröffentlicht, die dem Deutschen Reich schädlich sein können, oder deren Veröffentlichung durch die deutsche Militärverwaltung verboten ist, wird bestraft.

§ 7  
Wer nichtdeutsche Rundfunksendungen öffentlich oder in Gemeinschaftsplanung abhört oder wer die Möglichkeit hierzu schafft, wird bestraft.

§ 8  
Ausgenommen hiervon sind nichtdeutsche Sender, die die deutsche Militärverwaltung durch öffentliche Bekanntmachung zulässt.

§ 9  
Wer deutschfeindliche Funknachrichten oder sonstige deutschfeindliche Nachrichten weiter verbreitet, wird bestraft.

§ 10  
Diese Verordnung tritt mit ihrer Verkündung in Kraft.

**Der Oberbefehlshaber der Heeresgruppe**

Staatdrukkerij van Amsterdam



# Occupation Sources Packet: Source Two Translation

*Poster, Order about the Introduction of German Criminal Law and Criminal Provisions in the German Occupied Territories of the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg [Verordnung über die Einführung deutschen Strafrechts und strafrechtlicher Bestimmungen in den deutschen Truppen besetzten Gebieten der Niederlande, Belgien und Luxemburgs], 1940*

**NIOD Instituut voor Oorlogs-, Holocaust- en Genocidestudies, the Netherlands (Beeldnummer 106882)**

Excerpts from the poster translated into English:

## Order

About the introduction of the German criminal law and the criminal law provisions in the German occupied territories of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

By the authorization of the Supreme commander of the German Army we dictate the following:

§2

Travelling out of the German occupied territories of the Netherlands, Belgium or Luxembourg can only be allowed by the local Field or Region Commanders in charge.

§3

Every transport of unauthorised persons with war or civil prisoners, who fall under the supervision and care of the German Wehrmacht or civil servants, will be punished.

§ 4

Gatherings on streets or public squares, the planning, holding or participating in public meetings or manifestations, the distribution and printing of leaflets will be punished. Exceptions to this article may be allowed by the local commander in charge. Every act of hostility towards the occupying power will be punished.

§5

Whomever will stop working, with the intention of damaging the interest of the German occupation, or who will force other persons to strike or will try to prevent from working, will be punished.

§6

Whomever will publicize messages in newspapers or magazines, which could be harmful for the German Empire, or of which the publicizing is forbidden by the Military Government, will be punished.

§ 7

Whomever will listen to non-German radio-broadcastings, whether in public or communal, or who creates the opportunity to do this, will be punished.

Exceptions are the non-German channels which are allowed by the German Military Government in a public notification.

§ 8

Whomever will distribute anti-German radio-messages or any form of anti-German messages will be punished.

The commander in charge of the Army group

# Occupation Sources Packet: Source Three

Poster, *Order about the use of the German Language in the country of Luxembourg* [*Verordnung über den Gebrauch der deutschen Sprache im Lande Luxemburg*], 1940

German Federal Archives (Plak 003-052-004-T1 and Plak 003-052-004-T2)

# Verordnung

## über den Gebrauch der deutschen Sprache im Lande Luxemburg

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**Die Sprache des Landes Luxemburg und seiner Bewohner ist seit jeher deutsch. Auf Grund der mir als Chef der Zivilverwaltung für das Land Luxemburg erteilten Ermächtigung verordne ich daher für das gesamte Land Luxemburg:**

<p>§ 1. Die Amtssprache ist ausschließlich die deutsche Sprache. Auch die Gerichtssprache ist ausschließlich deutsch.</p> <p>§ 2. Der Unterricht in allen Schulen erfolgt allein in deutscher Sprache.</p> <p>In den Volksschulen entfällt die französische Sprache als Unterrichtsfach; in den höheren Schulen wird die französische Sprache als Unterrichtsfach auch weiterhin gelehrt.</p> <p>§ 3. Tageszeitungen, Wochenschriften und alle sonstigen periodisch erscheinenden Schriften dürfen einschließlich der privaten Anzeigen lediglich in deutscher Sprache erscheinen.</p> <p>Auch für alle übrigen Druckerzeugnisse ist allein die deutsche Sprache zulässig.</p> <p>Die Werbung für Druckerzeugnisse in französischer Sprache durch öffentliche Auslage und sonstiges öffentliches Anbieten ist untersagt.</p> <p>§ 4. Die Wirtschaft des Landes mit allen Berufszweigen hat sich innerhalb des Landes Luxemburg ausschließlich der deutschen Sprache zu bedienen, insbesondere im Schriftverkehr und in der Werbung aller Art.</p>	<p>§ 5. Firmenschilder und Hausaufschriften sind allein in deutscher Sprache zulässig.</p> <p>§ 6. Für Verkehrs- und Straßenschilder und Wegweiser sind ausschließlich Aufschriften in deutscher Sprache und mit deutscher Ortsbezeichnung zulässig.</p> <p>§ 7. Deutsche Sprache im Sinne dieser Verordnung ist das Hochdeutsche.</p> <p>§ 8. Verstöße gegen diese Verordnung werden mit Gefängnis oder Geldstrafe bestraft.</p> <p>An Stelle der gerichtlichen Bestrafung kann polizeiliche Bestrafung mit Haft oder Geldstrafe treten.</p> <p>§ 9. Die Verordnung tritt mit dem Tage der Verkündung in Kraft.</p> <p>Auch die Neufassung der Firmenschilder und Hausaufschriften sowie der Verkehrs- und Straßenschilder und der Wegweiser hat unverzüglich zu erfolgen; sie muß spätestens bis 30. September 1940 durchgeführt sein.</p> <p>§ 10. Mit der Durchführung dieser Verordnung beauftrage ich die Landesverwaltung in Luxemburg.</p>
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L u e m b u r g, den 6. August 1940.

**Der Chef der Zivilverwaltung für das Land Luxemburg**

gez. **Gustav Simon**, Gauleiter

1/0295

# Occupation Sources Packet: Source Three Translation

*Poster, Order about the use of the German Language in the country of Luxembourg [Verordnung über den Gebrauch der deutschen Sprache im Lande Luxemburg], 1940*

German Federal Archives (Plak 003-052-004-T1 and Plak 003-052-004-T2)

Excerpts from the poster translated into English:

## Order

About the use of the German language in the country of Luxembourg

The language of the country of Luxembourg and its inhabitants is as of now German.

§1

The official language is exclusively German.

§2

In all the schools education will be done in the German language.

In Public Schools French will be eliminated as a subject. In higher education French will be educated further.

§5

For road- and street signs and direction signs the inscriptions and location names are only allowed in German.

§8

Offenses against this order will be met with prison sentences or fines.

§9

The order comes into effect the day it is announced.

Namesigns of firms, houses as well as the street and road signs ... should be changed latest by September 30, 1940.

Luxembourg August 6, 1940

Head of the Civil Administration for the country of Luxembourg

Gauleiter Gustav Simon

## Occupation Sources Packet: Source Four

### *M. Thill, Milly's Story, A Young Girl's Memories of the Second World War, Luxembourg 1940-1945 (excerpts)*

"Living under German occupation during the war was indeed hard, but Luxembourgers couldn't complain about being short of money. We had plenty of German Deutschmarks, but there was very little to spend it on, and anything worth buying was soon snapped up."

"On top of that was rationing. Ration tickets were issued each month and the German authorities kept us on a very strict quota. The weekly ration per person was 500 grams of black army bread, 100 grams of white bread, 200 grams of meat, 125 grams of butter, sugar, flour, pasta and coffee substitute. For bread weighing 1 kilogram, for instance, we had to hand over two tickets of 500 grams."

"As the war went on, food and goods became more and more scarce. The reserves slowly ran out, with soap, coffee and flour, tobacco, nails and leather, yarn and wool, shoes and clothing gradually disappearing from the shop shelves. I well remember how the shortages affected my own family. It wasn't much fun for my mother having to wash clothes with some sort of soap substitute."

"Then suddenly, as the seven o'clock train thundered by, the kitchen door opened and in came the man they were waiting for, Mr. Birebam. His job was to weigh the slaughtered animals, note their weight and pass on the information to the food office, where the weights were registered. This office would then issue meat tickets according to the weights of the meat submitted, with fewer tickets being given for animals weighing a lot and more tickets for animals weighing less. It didn't pay to register too much meat. If you did, you could end up with no meat tickets for months on end, sometimes even up to a year. We all ended up playing a sort of game, trying to trick the weighing master."

"My father placed the first quarter on the scale. Mr. Birebam peered over his glasses, counted the kilos and noted the weight. And so it went on until all four quarters had been weighed. The front quarters weighed about 18 kilos and the hind 20 kilos. The man from Roods shook his head. He couldn't understand why the pig wasn't heavier with those lovely big hinds. He looked at my father suspiciously and asked him to weigh the head."

"Father was taken aback and tried to take Mr. Birebam's mind off the pig's head, explaining that the head was only meant for aspic anyway and wasn't worth the trouble. But the weighing master became suspicious and insisted on the head being weighed. Father added the weights in a hurry: one, two, three kilos, but nothing happened, not even a flicker of the needle. Then, almost in a panic, he added another kilo, which made it four, far too much anyway for a pig's head, but still the scale didn't register. The head weighed nothing!"

"'What the devil is the meaning of this?' screamed Mr. Birebam. Father, clearly rattled, started again, even more hurriedly than before, but with no more luck."

"The weighing master slowly removed his glasses and looked straight at my father: 'You're cheating, aren't you?'"

# Occupation Sources Packet: Source Five

“The first relocations have been executed [Die ersten Umsiedlungen bereits durchgeführt],”  
*Luxemburger Wort*, September 19-20, 1942

Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg

**Klare Stellungen und Verantwortungen**  
 Die ersten Umsiedlungen bereits durchgeführt

Nach den Ereignissen der vergangenen Wochen ist festzustellen, daß die Luxemburger Bevölkerung durchweg die Wandlung in den beiden letzten Jahren begriffen hat und ihr in größter Mehrheit dient. Sie hat es durch disziplinierte Haltung und Mitarbeit bewiesen. Die wenigen Fälle, in denen verführte Volksgenossen anonymen feindbezahlten Dunkelmännern folgten, vermögen der einheitlichen Haltung der entscheidenden Mehrheit keinen Abbruch zu tun.

Die Bereinigung der politischen Atmosphäre ist erfolgt. In der vorvergangenen Woche war eine Entscheidung gestellt, haben fast alle eindeutig Stellung bezogen. Die verbrecherischen und gemeingefährlichen Drahtzieher und Dunkelmänner mit ihren Komplizen sind gefaßt und ausgemerzt. Die innere Bereitschaft der deutschen Bevölkerung in Luxemburg ist zur schönsten Bewährung und Kraftentfaltung gekommen. Die Aktivisten haben sich glänzend geschlagen.

Und wo die Bereitschaft nicht vorhanden war, hat es sich gezeigt, daß sie nicht durch Worte und Lippenbekenntnisse ersetzt werden kann. Wo das eindeutige Bekenntnis zum Reich als Schwundkraft fehlte, bildete ein Teil in den Netzen der alten wohlgepflegten, separatistisch-partikularistischen Gedankenwelt und des abgestandenen intellektuellen Kleiniegels verstrickt. Er suchte in den entscheidenden Tagen durch Ausreden und Entschuldigungen, durch Diablikk und Wortklauberei zu ersetzen, was ihm an Ehrlichkeit und Einsatz gebrach.

Es sah mancher neuen Weisen schlesien, der bis dahin vornehmlich auf beiden Schultern getragen. Er, daß sie sich plötzlich glicklich, nicht in den neuen Geschehnissen, sondern neben ihnen gelebt zu haben. Er hat damit bewiesen, daß er seinen früheren Standort nicht verlassen hat und auch nicht gewillt ist, ihn zu verlassen. Er lebt in kläglich überholten Vorstellungen und darf sich nicht wandern, wenn die Neuordnung in Luxemburg seiner Anwesenheit an der Grenze keinen Wert mehr beimißt. Die Grenze verlangt ein eindeutiges Gesicht des Deutschtums, besonders zu Zeiten des Krieges und politischer Spannungen. In dem früheren Deutschland sind in dieser Hinsicht Fehler vorgekommen. Es war zu schwach, um auch den Grenzen ein völlig klares, völkisches Gepräge zu geben.

Heute sind alle Stämme des deutschen Mutterlandes im Nationalsozialismus zusammengeschmiedet und zu dem größten Kampf aller Zeiten vereint. Die Grenzgebiete müssen die gleiche endgültige Geschlossenheit aufweisen. Der Rücken der Front muß frei und sicher sein. Deshalb darf an der Grenze nur wohnen, wer sich als deutscher Mensch bewußt und treu zum Reich bekennt. Alle gesinnungslos nicht zuverlässigen Elemente müssen damit rechnen, daß sie im Zuge der Festigung und Sicherung der Grenze ins Innere des großdeutschen Lebensraumes umgesiedelt werden. Die ersten Umsiedlungs-Transporte haben in den letzten Tagen Luxemburg bereits verlassen.

Als Menschen deutschen Blutes werden die Umsiedler unserem Volke erhalten bleiben und nicht fremden, westlichem Volkstum ausgeliefert. Innerhalb des deutschen Lebensraumes ist ihnen in neuer Umgebung die Möglichkeit geboten, sich zu verlässlichen und wertvollen Mitgliedern der deutschen Volksgemeinschaft zu entwickeln. 2 Jahre lang war ihnen hierzu genügend Gelegenheit dazu gegeben. Doch sie wollten sich nicht von ihren alten Schicksalen lösen. Sie brachten nicht die Bereitwilligkeit auf, ein zuverlässiges Glied in der Kette des völkischen Schicksalles im Westen zu werden. Sie haben ihren völkischen Wert zur persönlichen Genugtuung herabgesetzt und damit bezeugt, daß sie keinen positiven Beitrag zu der Aufbauarbeit in Luxemburg zu leisten vermögen.

An anderen Stellen des deutschen Lebensraumes werden sie erlassen lernen, wie sehr zu Unrecht sie sich an längst überwundene Auffassungen geklammert haben. Dort werden sie die tiefe Dynamik des großen Geschicks unserer Zeit vielleicht ursprünglicher verspüren und ein sichereres Gefühl für die Zeichen bekommen, unter denen ein neues Europa und eine neue Welt geboren ist. Wenn ihnen die drei Kriegsjahre hier vielleicht nur äußere Ereignisse geblieben sind, so werden sie nun stärker von ihnen gepackt und sich ihrer persönlichen Verantwortung tiefer bewußt werden. Denn der Kampf eines Volkes um Sein oder Nichtsein kann keine Drohnen pflegen, die sich der Neuordnung nicht einpassen wollen, wenn die völkische Notwendigkeit es erfordert.

Die deutschbewußten Aktivisten Luxemburgs haben bewiesen, daß sie wahrhaft Schrittmacher und Führer sein können. Sie haben freudig dienend und führend in den entscheidenden Stunden zur Verfügung gestanden und den Anspruch, den Luxemburg als alter deutscher Volks- und Reichsteil durch seine Rückkehr in das neue Deutschland erworben hat, gewahrt.

Die Umsiedlung bedeutet, unter diesen Umständen betrachtet, nur eine Sicherungs- und Erziehungsmaßnahme, die aus der tiefen Verantwortung des Gauleiters dem Volksganzen gegenüber zu verstehen ist. Wie alle seine Handlungen ist auch sie letzten Endes allein von der steten Sorge um das Wohl der deutschen Menschen in Luxemburg diktiert und kein Akt der Vergeltung oder Rache. Sie ist auch keine entsprechende Strafe, sondern erfolgt nur, um deutsche Volksgenossen vor Gefahren zu bewahren, in die sie noch einmal durch Mischschaften verantwortungsloser, feindbezahlter Elemente gebracht werden könnten.

Daß sie von manchen als schwer empfunden wird, ist unvermeidbar, doch die Verantwortung hierfür gilt auf die zurück, die als Drahtzieher im Hintergrund ihren eigenen Mitbürgern Schaden an Leib und Gut zuzufügen gewillt waren und dadurch sich selbst und allen Betroffenen einen schlechten Dienst erwiesen haben.

Eduard Gerlach.

*Historical Note: Consider that the German occupier supervised this newspaper.*

**Excerpts from the article translated into English:**

**Title:** The first relocations have been executed

After the events of the past few weeks it has been noted that the population of Luxembourg has understood the transformation of the last two years and supports this with great majority... The few cases in which seduced national compatriots followed anonymous enemy-paid obscurants can not take away the unified attitude of the decisive majority.

Today, the different nations of the German motherland are gathered under National Socialism and united to the greatest struggle of all time. The border areas must have the same unambiguous unity. The back of the border must be free and

secure. Therefore, those living there should truly feel German and loyal to the Empire. All thought-provoking unreliable elements must reckon that they will be relocated to the interior of the Greater German habitat as part of the consolidation and securing of the border. The first relocation transports have already left Luxembourg in recent days.

As people of German blood, the resettlers will remain our people and will not become strangers delivered to Western folklore. Within the German habitat they have the opportunity in new surroundings to develop into loyal and valuable members of the German national community. For 2 years they had plenty of opportunity to do so. But they did not want to break away from their old chains. They did not bring with them the willingness to become a reliable link in the chain of the nationalist defenses in the West. They have reduced their national value to personal satisfaction, thus attesting that they can not make a positive contribution to the development in Luxembourg.

The resettlement, viewed in these circumstances, means only a safety and educational measure, which is to be understood from the Gauleiter's deep responsibility to the entire nation. Like all its actions, it is ultimately dictated solely by the constant concern for the welfare of the German people in Luxembourg and not an act of retribution or revenge. Nor is it a dishonest punishment, but it only takes place in order to save German nationals from being driven into them by the machinations of irresponsible, enemy-paid elements.

It is unavoidable for some that this will be felt heavy, but the responsibility for this falls back to those who, as wiretaps in the background, were willing to inflict harm on their own fellow citizens, thereby hurting themselves and all concerned badly.

## Occupation Sources Packet: Source Six

Photograph, *"The American St. Nick" with his angels arriving at the Wiltz castle in Luxembourg, December 5, 1944*

National Archives and Records Administration (111-SC-197739)



**Historical Note:** Saint Nicolas Day is a festivity for children in the Low Countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg). The figure is comparable to Santa Claus. On the night before December 6, he leaves gifts for children who will find them the moment they wake up. Normally he is accompanied by his white horse and his helpers.

## Occupation Sources Packet: Source Seven

Photograph, *American Liberation of Luxembourg*, a poster of the *Volkswohlfart* (People's Welfare) is being burned by civilians [Amerikaanse bevrijding van Luxemburg; een affiche van de Volkswohlfahrt wordt verbrand door de bevolking], 1944

NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies (Beeldnummer 5482)



# Cemetery Sources Graphic Organizer

Source Type	Date/Author	What information does the source reveal to you?	What does this document tell you about the relationship between Americans and Luxembourgers?
Source One			
Source Two			
Source Three			
Source Four			
Source Five			
Source Six			



# Occupation Sources Organizer

Source Type	Date/Author	What information does the source reveal to you?	What does this document tell you about the feelings of the Luxembourgers towards the Germans and/or Americans?
Source One			
Source Two			
Source Three			
Source Four			
Source Five			
Source Six			
Source Seven			

# Group Discussion Organizer

Feelings in favor of the creation of a cemetery	Feelings opposed to the creation of a cemetery

## City Meeting Assignment

On February 12, 1948, the City Council of Luxembourg City will meet to address the construction of the permanent Luxembourg American Cemetery in the community of Hamm. Since December 29, 1944, American and German soldiers have been buried on that site. The City Council meeting is open to the public and locals can share their ideas in advance by sending a letter to their City Government.

Go back in time and place yourself in the mindset of one of the following citizens, living in Luxembourg in 1948. How would he/she have felt about the construction of Luxembourg American Cemetery? Share your thoughts with the City Council by using what you have learned about the cemetery and the years of German occupation in Luxembourg during World War II. Use at least three reasons from the sources used in the lesson to support your point of view.

- Victor** - born in 1912, from Vianden and member of the *Lëtzebuenger Vollekslegioun* resistance group during World War II. The Germans arrested him in 1942 and sent him to the concentration camps of Hinzert and Lublin until liberation in March 1944.
- Henriette** - born in 1916, from Wiltz. Her six-year-old daughter Jeanine died during the Allied bombardements during the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945.
- Marcel** - born in 1898, from Munsbach. His 18-year-old son Joseph had to enlist in the German Army in 1943 and died on the Eastern Front. His body was never found.
- Madeleine** - born in 1921, from Beaufort. In May 1941 she had to register for the Reich Labor Service *Reichsarbeitsdienst* and worked as a governess for a German family during World War II.
- Jacques** - born in 1892, from Luxembourg-City. He was born in Germany and worked in the office of Civil Administrator *Gauleiter* Gustav Simon during World War II. He left Luxembourg in early September 1944 and returned after the war ended.
- Josephine** - born in 1928, from Dudelange. She was a member of the League of German Girls *Bund Deutscher Mädel*, and studied to become a teacher during World War II.

# City Meeting Assignment Rubric

	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Basic</b>	<b>Emerging</b>
<b>Reasoning with the references to the sources</b>	Letter takes a stand and the argument is supported with more than three reasons.	Letter takes a stand and the argument is supported with two reasons.	Letter takes a stand and the argument is supported with one reason.	Letter is a summary of sources and does not contain an argument.
<b>Accuracy</b>	Letter shows a deep understanding of Luxembourg in World War II and the complexity of the debate over the construction of an overseas military cemetery.  Contains no historical errors.	Letter shows an understanding of Luxembourg in World War II and the debate over the construction of an overseas military cemetery.  Contains only minor historical errors.	Letter shows a basic understanding of Luxembourg in World War II and the debate over the construction of an overseas military cemetery.  Contains historical errors.	Letter shows a minimal or no understanding of Luxembourg in World War II and/or the debate over the construction of an overseas military cemetery.  Contains major historical errors that impede understanding.
<b>Professional Product</b>	Letter is coherent and convincing with no spelling or grammatical mistakes.	Letter is coherent and convincing with few spelling or grammatical mistakes.	Letter is generally coherent and convincing with some spelling or grammatical mistakes.	Letter lacks coherence and a clear reasoning. There are several spelling or grammatical mistakes.