

Memorial circuit

– Jérôme Lalande High School 

Classrooms

16 High School Street – Bourg-en-Bresse (01000), France





Figure 1: Example of a “papillon” distributed at Jérôme Lalande High School during the war (1941)

Classrooms, where students spend most of their days, are naturally places where **ideas spread**. Faced with the propaganda of the Vichy regime relayed by the headmaster, **Mr Maurer**, some students attempted to spread other ideas.

Leaflets and "**papillons**"¹ were discreetly circulated during lessons from the spring of 1941 onwards. **Portraits of General Charles de Gaulle** and **Lorraine crosses** were also exchanged.

¹ **Papillon**: Small leaflets containing just a few words, designed to be produced by hand in large quantities and distributed everywhere, either discreetly (tucked into a newspaper) or openly (stuck on a wall).

A decisive encounter provided the impetus in the autumn of 1941: **Marcel Thenon**, then **Paul Morin**, students from modest backgrounds, met **Paul Pioda**, a glazier who sold second-hand school textbooks in his **back shop** on Government Street (current Victor and Hélène Basch Street), a stone's throw from the Jérôme Lalande High School.



Figure 2: Paul Pioda and his sister, Louise, in front of the mirror and glass shop on Government Street.



Figure 3: One of the resistance newspapers Combat (n°3, September 22, 1943) and Libération (n°3, September 1943)

After several visits, the three of them realise that they share the same desire to continue the **fight**. The shopkeeper then provides them with **underground newspapers and photographs of General de Gaulle**. Once at high school, the students pass them on to trusted classmates.



This activity led to one student, **Paul Millet**, being expelled from school for ‘distributing “**sedition**” texts’. Faced with widespread public outcry, he was eventually reinstated.

Roger Page, meanwhile, expressed his hostility towards Vichy policy through his writing, penning various **poems**.

During one night in the spring of 1943, students replaced all the portraits of Marshal Pétain in every classroom with those of General de Gaulle.



Figure 4 : Photographic portrait of Roger Page (1922-1944)

– “Chant du Maquis” –
(to the tune of “Vous n’aurez pas l’Alsace et la Lorraine”)

*Ils sont finis les longs jours de souffrance
Les jours d'effroi, de deuil et d'oppression
Voici qu'enfin se lève sur la France
L'aube radieuse de la Libération.*

*Si les nazis, si les marchands d'esclaves
Tiennent encor' les champs et la cité
Dans le maquis, du moins là sans entraves
On peut encore aimer la liberté !*

*Sous les drapeaux à la Croix de Lorraine
Nous formerons les libres bataillons
Pour que demain, la France souveraine
Reprenne place au milieu des nations.*

Poem by **Roger Page**, 1943

– “Song of the Maquis” –
(to the tune of “You shall not have Alsace and Lorraine”)

*The long days of suffering are over,
The days of fear, mourning and oppression.
At last, the radiant dawn of liberation
Is rising over France.*

*If the Nazis, if the slave traders,
Still hold the fields and the city,
In the maquis, at least there, unhindered,
We can still love freedom!*

*Under the flag of the Cross of Lorraine,
We will form the free battalions,
So that tomorrow, sovereign France
May take its place once more among the nations.*

Poem by **Roger Page**, 1943

Sources

- ◆ Morin P., *Photo de classe*. Lalande2. Accessed on 05/07/2025.
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- ◆ Rosette.M et Figuet.P (2004). *Soixantième anniversaire du 5 juin 1944 5 juin 2004*. Lalande2. Accessed on 05/07/2025.
- ◆ Mémorial départemental de Nantua. *La Résistance civile*. Mémoire de la déportation dans l'Ain. Accessed on 05/07/2025.
- ◆ Riche R. *Des jours sombres à l'espoir - L'Ain 1939-1945 - L'histoire au regard des Archives-2020*. Accessed on 05/07/2025.

Credits

- ◆ **Departmental Archives of the Ain**
 - *Tracts Lalande P3 - Papillon (180W120)* (Figure 1)
- ◆ **"La Résistance au lycée Lalande" Association – Lalande2**
 - *Une du journal Combat (n°3, 22 septembre 1943)* (Figure 3)
 - *Une du journal Libération (n°3, septembre 1943)* (Figure 3)
 - *Portrait photographique de Roger Page* (Figure 4)
- ◆ **DVD-ROM The Resistance in the Ain and Haut-Jura regions**
 - *Paul Pioda et sa soeur, Louise, devant son commerce* (Figure 2)
- ◆ **Wikimedia Commons**
 - *Entrée du lycée Lalande de Bourg-en-Bresse* (Fond)

Infographic created based on the work of the Seconde D class (class of 2023-2024) at Jérôme Lalande High School to commemorate the mass arrest carried out by the Militia at the school on 5 June 1944.

This is not a work of historical scholarship, but rather an attempt to popularise history.