

Memorial circuit

– Jérôme Lalande High School 

Courtyard of honor

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



The **courtyard of honor** of Jérôme Lalande High School has always been used for commemorations and ceremonies. From the start of the 1940 school year, students were



Figure 1: Flag raising ceremony at Jeanne d'Arc School (1941)

subjected to **propaganda** from the **Vichy regime**. Every week, and then every day, they had to attend the flag-raising ceremony in the school's main courtyard and sing the anthem in honour of **Marshal Pétain**, '*Maréchal nous voilà*' (*Marshal, here we are*). The headmaster, **Mr Maurer**, a notorious Pétainist, often gave speeches glorifying the **National Revolution**¹ established by Pétain and illustrated by the new motto '**Work, Family, Fatherland**'.

¹ **National Revolution:** Ideology of the Vichy regime established by Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain (1856-1951) upon his accession to power on July 10, 1940.

A **portrait of the marshal** hangs in every classroom. The headmaster regularly visits classrooms to remind students of the regime's new slogans. In addition, he officially assigns one teacher to provide **ideological education** to students for one hour per week. **Anti-Semitic** and **anti-communist films** are also shown, such as *Jud Süss (The Jew Süss)* and *Français, vous avez la mémoire courte...* (*French people, you have short memories*), for example.

In 1941, the regime imposed a '**charter**' on **high school students**. **Censors** scrutinised school textbooks, while Jewish students and teachers – or those considered to be 'troublemakers' – were **expelled**.

It was also in the main courtyard that, in the early afternoon of June 5, 1944, an **event of rare violence** took place at the Jérôme Lalande High School, while the students were working on their final baccalaureate exam. The atmosphere is particularly **tense**. **Gunshots** rang out from time to time in the street.

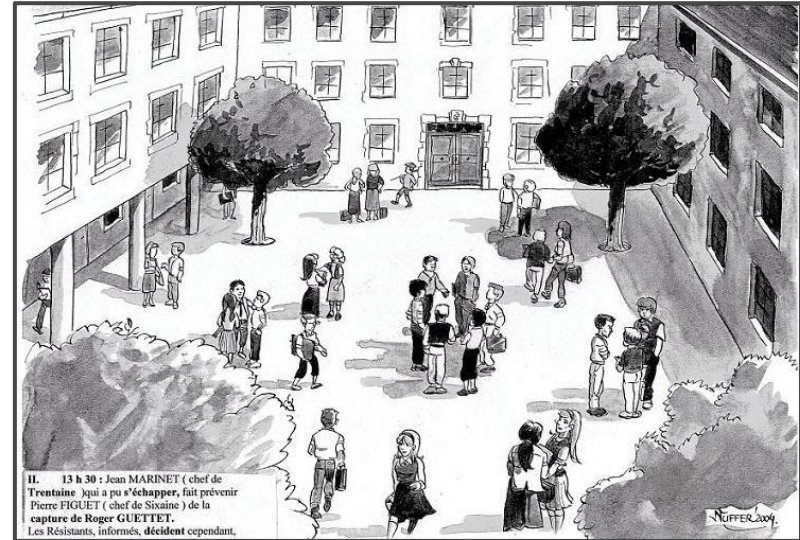


Figure 2: Drawing by Pierre Figuet depicting the mass arrest at Jérôme Lalande High School on June 5, 1944

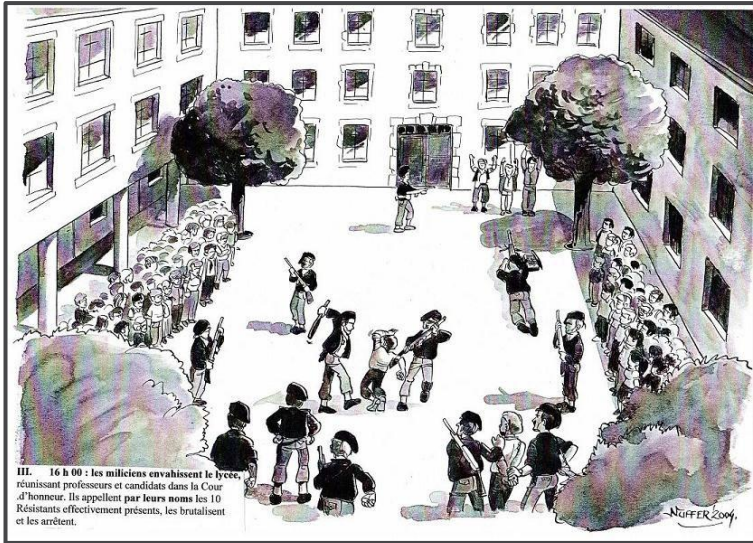


Figure 3: Drawing by Pierre Figuet depicting the mass arrest at Jérôme Lalande High School on June 5, 1944

Suddenly, banging violently on the front door, **militiamen** enter shouting insults. Under the leadership of their leader **Dagostini**, they force all the students out of the classrooms, into the rain.

The students are terrified. **Dagostini's** list of arrests includes the names of **42 students** and **13 teachers**. According to **Jean Marinnet**, it was provided to him by an undercover militia student named Delannay.

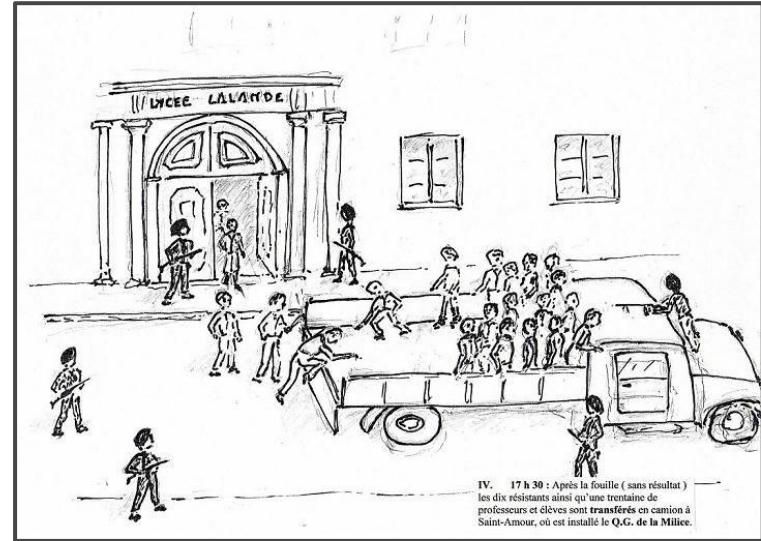


Figure 4: Drawing by Pierre Figuet depicting the mass arrest at Jérôme Lalande High School on June 5, 1944



Figure 5: Drawing by Pierre Figuet depicting the mass arrest at Jérôme Lalande High School on June 5, 1944

The students on this list are beaten, then forced to board trucks at the school entrance before being taken to **Saint-Amour, the Militia's²** headquarters. Ultimately, only **10 students** and the supervisor, **Mr Schmidt**, are interrogated under torture about their activities in the Resistance.

² **Militia:** Paramilitary organisation created by the Vichy government in 1943, originating from the Service d'Ordre Légionnaire (SOL) and led by Joseph Darnand (1897-1945).

Mr Schmidt was released, but the ten high school students were then taken back to the **Hôtel de l'Europe** in Bourg-en-Bresse, where they were **locked** up in the cellars for a fortnight before being **deported**. Only one managed to escape during the journey to the **reprisal camps**.



Figure 6: Photograph of the Hôtel de l'Europe in Bourg-en-Bresse (1940)

- The students arrested on June 5, 1944 and deported -



Aimé Chambard



Urbain Coletta



Pierre Figueat



Roger Leboeuf

Maurice Lançon

René Picod



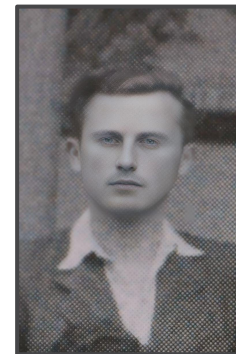
Marcel Pellet



François Rabuel



Gilbert Rude



Fernand Nicod

Sources

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Credits

- ◆ **Municipal Archives of Bourg-en-Bresse**
 - *Levée des couleurs à l'école Jeanne d'Arc (1941) (33Fi2146) (Figure 1)*
 - *Carte postale de l'Hôtel de l'Europe de Bourg-en-Bresse (33Fi1518) (Figure 6)*
- ◆ **"La Résistance au lycée Lalande" Association – Lalande2**
 - *II. 13h30 (dessin de Pierre Figuet) (Figure 2)*
 - *III. 16h00 (dessin de Pierre Figuet) (Figure 3)*
 - *IV. 17h30 (dessin de Pierre Figuet) (Figure 4)*
 - *V. 22h00 (dessin de Pierre Figuet) (Figure 5)*
 - *Portrait d'Aimé Chambard (Photographie de classe (1941-1942))*
 - *Portrait de Urbain Coletta (Photographie de classe (1941-1942))*
 - *Portrait de Pierre Figuet (Photographie de classe (1939-1940))*
 - *Portrait de Roger Leboeuf (Photographie de classe (1941-1942))*
 - *Portrait de Marcel Pellet (Photographie de classe (1941-1942))*
 - *Portrait de François Rabuel (Photographie de classe (1941-1942))*
 - *Portrait de Gilbert Rude (Photographie de classe (1941-1942))*
 - *Portrait de Fernand Nicod (Photographie de classe (1943-1944))*

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.