CHRONOLOGY

July 1914–November 1918  The First World War, also known as the Great War and, for many of these interviewees, la guerre de ’14 (the 1914 war).

January 30, 1933  Hitler is named Chancellor of Germany.
February 6, 1934  Demonstrations turn to riots in Paris, largely sparked by right-wing French leagues.
May 1936–April 1938  Period in power of the Popular Front government, a left-wing coalition that included the French Communist Party, the French Section of the Workers’ International, and the Radical Party.
August 23, 1939  Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact signed between Germany and the Soviet Union.
September 3, 1939  France declares war on Germany. Full mobilization in France.
September 1939–May 1940  Period known as the “Phoney War” (la drôle de guerre). Hitler focuses his attention on his eastern front.
May 10, 1940  Nazi invasion of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.
May–June 1940  Civilian exodus in France. Refugees from Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg flood into France. They join refugees from northern France and then Paris fleeing the oncoming German Wehrmacht and the violence of battle. Refugees are strafed and bombed on the roads.

June 4, 1940  Fall of Dunkirk, following the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force and some French troops.

June 10, 1940  Italy declares war on France.

June 16, 1940  Prime Minister Paul Reynaud resigns. Marshal Philippe Pétain provides interim leadership.

June 17, 1940  Pétain broadcasts on the radio that the French army must cease combat.

June 18, 1940  Rebel officer Charles de Gaulle broadcasts from London that the flame of French resistance will not be extinguished, calling for military personnel to join him.

June 22, 1940  The Armistice is signed, dividing France into Free and Occupied zones, with the French government seat at Vichy, not far from the demarcation line between zones.

July 10, 1940  The Third Republic votes to end itself and pass control to Pétain as head of the French State. Pierre Laval is vice president of the Council of Ministers, acting as de facto prime minister. Lawmaking and policy developments start to create the authoritarian, conservative, exclusionary National Revolution.

October 3, 1940  First Jewish Statute is promulgated. Anti-Semitic laws created autonomously by the French government debar Jews from certain professions, among other restrictions.

December 13, 1940  Pierre Laval leaves government.

May 14, 1941  Roundup of 3,747 Jewish men in Paris with foreign nationality.
June 2, 1941  Second Jewish Statute is promulgated. Vichy further restricts Jewish rights and lives.

June 22, 1941  Operation Barbarossa begins. Hitler invades the Soviet Union, thus ending the terms of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact which had officially restricted communist resistance.

August 1941  Communist escalation of resistance activity and attacks on German personnel in France.

August 20-24, 1941  French police conduct raids beginning in the eleventh arrondissement of Paris in retaliation for resistance activity. More than four thousand Jewish men are arrested and interned in Drancy, marking the opening of this internment camp just north of Paris. It will act as a transit camp, holding Jews prior to their deportation. A total of 67,400 Jews will be deported from Drancy.

October 25, 1941  Former prefect Jean Moulin reaches Charles de Gaulle and the Free French in London with news of growing internal resistance movements and networks operating clandestinely in France.

December 7, 1941  Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor: United States enters the war.

January 1, 1942  Jean Moulin parachutes back into France to make contact with leaders of resistance movements and networks.

January 20, 1942  The Wannsee Conference takes place outside Berlin, at which Reinhard Heydrich presents plan for the systematic mass murder of Europe’s Jewish population.

March 3–4, 1942  The British Royal Air Force (RAF) bombs the Renault plant at Boulogne-Billancourt in the western suburbs of Paris, targeting an industrial target in the French capital for the first time.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 18, 1942</td>
<td>Pierre Laval returns to government as prime minister.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7, 1942</td>
<td>Jews over the age of six in the Occupied Zone must wear the yellow star.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22, 1942</td>
<td>In a radio broadcast, Laval desires the victory of Germany, without which, he says, communism will triumph in Europe. French collaboration with Nazi Germany steps up a gear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16–17, 1942</td>
<td>Roundup of Jews in Paris (known as the Vel d’Hiv) by the French police: 13,152 people including more than 4,000 children are rounded up and incarcerated in the winter cycling stadium in Paris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 26, 1942</td>
<td>6,584 Jews in the Free Zone are rounded up. Some are taken to Rivesaltes internment camp near Perpignan, which acts as a transit camp holding Jews prior to their deportation. This is the only roundup that took place in a region not occupied by the Germans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 11, 1942</td>
<td>In response to the Allied landings, the Germans invade and occupy the former Free Zone, which is henceforth called the Southern Zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 30, 1943</td>
<td>Creation of the Milice, an all-French right-wing paramilitary force, to hunt down resistance fighters and Jews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16, 1943</td>
<td>The Service du Travail Obligatoire (Forced Labor Service—STO) is organized: all young men (and later older ones and women) are requisitioned for forced labor in Germany. Many dodge the draft, hiding out in the countryside and sometimes joining the maquis (rural resistance guerrilla fighters), whose numbers now grow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1943</td>
<td>Heavy Allied bombing of the German submarine pens built at ports along the French</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Atlantic coast (Bordeaux, La Pallice, Saint-Nazaire, Lorient, Brest). Lorient is area bombed (“carpet bombed”), but the submarine pens remain intact. Civilian populations are evacuated.

March 20, 1943

Jean Moulin returns to France on Charles de Gaulle’s orders to attempt to unite the different resistance movements and networks behind de Gaulle.

April 4, 1943

The U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF) bombs the Renault plant at Boulogne-Billancourt. Many schools are closed and the evacuation of children is ordered. The first convoy of children from Boulogne-Billancourt goes to the Creuse department, arriving late April. Many more children from the Paris region are subsequently evacuated to rural France across 1943–1944.

May 27, 1943

Jean Moulin orchestrates the first meeting of the Conseil national de la Résistance (National Resistance Council—CNR) clandestinely in Paris.

June 21, 1943

Jean Moulin is arrested near Lyon, tortured severely, and dies while being deported.

January–April 1944

The Allied High Command puts the “Transportation Plan” into action: the heavy bombing of rail and infrastructure targets across the north of France in preparation for landings.

April 6, 1944

Arrest and subsequent deportation of forty-four Jewish refugee children from the children’s home at Izieu, not far from Lyon, and their adult carers.

June 6, 1944

D-Day: Allied landings in Normandy begin.

June 10, 1944

Massacre of 643 French civilians by the Germans at Oradour-sur-Glane.

August 19–25, 1944

Battle for the liberation of Paris, which is declared on August 25, 1944. Dismantling of
the Vichy government thereafter. Charles de Gaulle heads the new Provisional Government of the French Republic. France rejoins the war under de Gaulle on the side of the Allies.

August-September 1944  Siege of Brest. General Ramcke surrenders on September 19, 1944. Other towns and cities follow different patterns of liberation and have different liberation dates.

May 8, 1945  Victory in Europe (V-E) Day.
August 14–15, 1945  Japan surrenders following the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The end of the Second World War.

October 4, 1958  The French Fifth Republic is established under a new constitution drafted by Charles de Gaulle, who becomes its president in December 1958.
December 19, 1964  Jean Moulin’s ashes are transferred to and interred in the Panthéon in Paris.
May 2–June 23, 1968  Period of civil unrest in France known as May ‘68, including demonstrations, strikes, and the occupation of factories and universities.
April 28, 1969  Charles de Gaulle resigns as president of the Fifth Republic.
November 9, 1970  Charles de Gaulle dies.
July 16, 1995  President Jacques Chirac apologizes for the French government’s complicity in the Holocaust.