

PAUL TOUVIER TRIAL TRANSCRIPTS, 1994

RG-43.046M

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archive
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
Email: reference@ushmm.org

Title: Paul Touvier Trial transcripts, 1994.

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Extent: 2 microfilm reels.

Provenance: From the French National Archives; Centre des Archives Contemporaines de Fontainebleau. The United State Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the filmed collection from the Centre des Archives Contemporaines de Fontainebleau via the USHMM International Programs Division in June 2003.

Biographical/Historical note: Paul Touvier (1915 - 1996) is the only Frenchman to be convicted of war crimes against humanity. He was born on April 3, 1915 in Saint-Vincent-sur-Jabron, Alpes de Haute-Provence, in southwestern France. Sympathetic to the ideas of Marshall Pétain, Touvier joined the "Milice", a pro-Nazi militia which collaborated with the Germans against the French underground. Touvier was eventually appointed head of the intelligence department in the Chambéry Milice under the direction of Klaus Barbie and in January 1944, became second regional head of the Vichy Government. After Allied forces liberated France, Touvier went into hiding. On September 10, 1946, he was sentenced to death in absentia by the French courts for treason and collusion with the enemy. He was arrested in 1947, while trying to hold up a bakery shop but was able to escape. By 1966, implementation of his death sentence was statute-barred by the twenty-year time limitation. Following this, attorneys for Touvier filed an application for a pardon asking for the lifting of the lifetime ban on leaving the country and the confiscation of goods linked to his death penalty. In 1971, French President Georges Pompidou granted him the pardon. Pompidou's pardon caused a public outcry that escalated when it was revealed that most of the property Touvier claimed as his own had in fact been property seized from deported Jews. On July 3, 1973, a complaint was filed in Lyons Court against Touvier by Georges Glaeser charging him with crimes against humanity. Glaeser accused Touvier of ordering the assassination of seven Jewish hostages at Rillieux-la-Pape, near Lyons, on June 29, 1944, in retaliation for the murder the previous evening of Philippe Henriot, the Vichy Government's Secretary of State for Information and Propaganda. After being indicted, Touvier disappeared again but through his lawyers, years of legal

maneuvering ensued until finally a warrant was issued for his arrest on November 27, 1981. However, it wasn't until 1989 that Touvier was found hiding in a monastery in Nice. After his arrest, further information came to light showing that he had been aided for years by the Catholic Church hierarchy in Lyon and later by some of the right-wing Catholic clerics. Besides the charge of the murder of the seven Jewish citizens, Touvier was suspected of having played a significant part in the execution of a prominent human rights leader and his wife, as well as being involved in several deportations of other Jewish citizens. During the two years following Touvier's arrest, twenty additional charges were laid by individuals and associations against him. Paul Touvier was granted provisional release in July 1991 and his trial for complicity in crimes against humanity only began on March 17, 1994. On April 20th, a nine-person jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to life imprisonment. The Court rejected his 1995 appeal. Paul Touvier died of prostate cancer in a prison hospital in Fresnes, France, on July 17, 1996.

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on use: Restrictions on use apply. All persons or institutions wishing to use for commercial purposes copies of the documents reproduced on microfilm should obtain the prior written agreement of the French National Archives and pay any copyright fees.

Organization and arrangement: Arrangement is chronological.

Language: French

Preferred citation: Standard citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Division, Archives Branch.

Scope and Content: This collection contains the 1994 French trial transcripts for the proceedings against Paul Touvier, convicted of crimes against humanity.

CONTAINER LIST

Reel 1:

Court sessions of the Ministry of Justice in the case against Paul Touvier; transcripts from 17 March 1994 to 31 March 1994, count 1.

Reel 2:

Court sessions of the Ministry of Justice in the case against Paul Touvier; transcripts from 1 April 1994 to 11 April 1994, count 1.

Court sessions of the Ministry of Justice in the case against Paul Touvier; comprehensive transcripts from 12 April 1994 to 20 April 1994, count 2.