

## SELECTED DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF RAOUL COHEN-ADDAD, 1940-2003

### RG-43.126M

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**Title:** Selected Documents and Photos from the Private Collection of Raoul Cohen-Addad, 1914-2003.

**Record Group Number:** RG-43.126M

**Accession Number:** 2010.63

**Extent:** 2 microfilm reels (16mm); 1 microfilm reel (35mm); 5,452 digital images (JPEG)

**Provenance:** These documents belonged to Raoul Cohen-Addad and were donated to the Institut d'histoire du temps présent (IHTP) in late 2007 by one of his daughters, Dr. Nicole Cohen-Addad. Dr. Cohen-Addad insisted that the USHMM, the CDJC and Yad Vashem be allowed to have copies.

**Restrictions on access:** No restrictions on access.

**Restrictions on use:** Fair use only.

**Organization and arrangement:** Arrangement is thematic.

**Language:** In French, English, and Arabic.

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

**Scope and Content:** Contains the records belonging to Raoul Cohen-Addad (1916-2003), who was a Jew born in Algeria. He was conscripted into the French army in 1939, and worked with the resistance to help liberate Algeria in 1942. As a Jew he was sent to a forced labor camp under the Vichy regime. The collection includes personal and family papers, photos, the judicial procedures Cohen-Addad instigated to try to receive reparation for the lack of advancement in his career, documents concerning the association of former resistance fighters from North Africa from 1947-1949, the activities of the

“Association of French Liberation of November 8, 1942” from 1943 to 2003, documentation and press clippings from 1940 to 1944, and also other materials 1940-1994.

**Biographical note:** Ishaque Isaac (Raoul) Cohen-Addad, the son of Jewish merchants, was born in Attafs, Algeria in 1916. (Algeria was divided into several territorial entities or “departments”, just like mainland France). His career as a French government employee in the tax office was interrupted when he was conscripted into the French army in 1939. The anti-Jewish laws of Vichy stripped him of his job and French citizenship. He joined forces with the Jewish resistance (the Group Geo Gras) and helped the Allies invade and liberate Algeria in *Operation Torch* during the night of November 8-9, 1942. Called up once again to join the French army, because of a decree dated March, 1941, as a Jew he was not allowed to join the Free French Forces and was sent to a company of “Pionniers Israélites” who were relegated to special camps set apart from the other soldiers. Although Algeria was liberated in November, 1942, the anti-Jewish laws of Vichy were still in effect under General Giraud. Raoul Cohen-Addad was sent to a forced labor camp near the Tunisian border in the south, El Méridj, from December 1942 to June, 1943. The harsh conditions took a toll on his health and he was not permitted to join other French troops on the mainland front. He eventually suffered what was called “prison psychosis”. He remained in Algiers until he was demobilized in 1945. Raoul Cohen-Addad was able to go back to his job in the French administration at the end of the war, but did not feel that authorities had taken into account the injustice that he had suffered at the hands of Vichy. He spent most of his life fighting for recognition and compensation for the time lost in the advancement of his career. This created friction and he eventually received severe reprimands from his superiors. In January 1945, he became the secretary of an association called “French Liberation of November 1942”, which tried to make the French government on the mainland recognize the legitimacy of resistance movements in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, just like the FFC or the FFI or the RIF. This never occurred and Cohen-Addad continued his fight for himself and his fellow combatants into the 1950’s. When he arrived in France, he revived the association in 1955 and kept actively campaigning to obtain the statute of Combattant Volontaire de la Résistance. This was important from a financial point of view and not just a question of honor. French authorities were reluctant to recognize these early resistance fighters from North Africa and they were treated like second-class citizens. Although he remained part of the association, which kept those involved in the liberation of Algeria in contact and commemorated key events every year, he was no longer part of the leadership and was no longer active in the association. He spent much of his life fighting to right the injustice that he had suffered, as a government employee who had lost his job, as a man who lost his health and sanity when he was persecuted as a Jew and the indignity he felt when his efforts to liberate Algeria during WW II were not recognized. It is interesting to note that, although he kept extensive documentation on Algeria and North Africa all his life, the fight for Algerian independence in the 1950’s and early 1960’s is oddly missing. He died in Paris in 2003.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Reel 1:

File 1: Family papers, 1914-1991. Frames 1-92.

File 2: Private family correspondence addressed to the wife and parents of Cohen-Addad, 1947-1962. **Not included in this collection.**

File 3: Scholarly and university papers, 1932-1947. Frames 93-113.

File 4: Professional papers concerning Cohen-Addad's career, 1937-1962. Frames 114-266.

File 5: Military papers, 1936-1968. Frames 267-408.

File 6: Various membership and identity cards belonging to Cohen-Addad and his wife and children; principally membership cards to various Jewish organizations, 1937-1965. Frames 409-589.

File 7A: Documents concerning Georges Pitsch, Cohen-Addad's companion of 8 November 1942 and the manager of the Jomone agency, 1942-1977. Frames 590-689.

File 8: Documentation concerning the reintegration [of Jews] back into the civil service after the Second World War and reparations for [anti-Semitic] actions against civil servants, 1944-1954. Frames 690-829.

File 9A: Legal proceedings, 1950-1955. Frames 830-888.

File 9B: Reports, investigations, and disciplinary action taken against Cohen-Addad (1955) and judicial proceedings related to same, 1955-1961. Frames 889-995.

File 9C: Legal proceedings, 1956-1964. Frames 996-1175.

File 9D: Legal proceedings, 1966-1976. Frames 1176-1365.

File 10: The Federation of Reserve Republican Officers, North African section; activities, 1946-1949. Frames 1366-1496.

### **Association of the French Liberation of 8 November 1942**

File 11: Yearbooks of the Association of the French Liberation with blank membership cards, 1943-1970. Frames 1497-1649.

File 12A: The creation and activities of the Association, their participation in politics, and reports of the events of November 1942. Frames 1650-2004.

File 12B: The city of Algiers: the 1945 elections mandating a municipal consul, 1945-1947. Frames 2005-2085.

File 13: Requests for official recognition and confirmation of the Association, 1945-1949. Frames 2086-2151.

File 14: Requests for recognition of the statute of Resistance War Veterans of the 8 November campaign, and for extending the September 1951 law instituting benefits for civil servants who served in the resistance to Algerian resistance [fighters,] 1952-1962.

File 15: Requests for decorations including the Military Medal and the Legion of Honor for [participation in] the 8 November campaign, 1948-1957. Frames 2639-2840.

File 16: The Association's organizing of an 8 November campaign commemoration and the project for the building of a commemorative memorial, 1955. Frames 2841-3193.

File 17: The Association's organizing of an 8 November campaign commemoration and the project for the building of a commemorative memorial, and reactions to the events in Algeria, 1956. Frames 3194-3362.

File 18: Work on the commemorative memorial, 1957.

File 19: Operations and involvement in the war in Algeria: internal crisis, 1958-1959. Frames 3518-3755.

File 20: Operations and involvement in the war in Algeria: internal crisis, 1960. Frames 3756-3922.

**Documents and official files assembled by Raoul Cohen-Addad**

**Reel 2:**

File 24A: Contemporary documents of the Second World War and the years immediately following, 1940-1952. Frames 1-1207.

**Reel 3:**

File 11 (*sic*): Yearbooks of the Association of the French Liberation with blank membership cards, 1943-1970.

28A: Bulletins of the Association of the French Liberation, 1942-1945.

28B: Press clippings assembled by Cohen-Addad, 1949-1958. 206 frames, inclusive of the above 2 files.