

MUDRY, Auguste
France Documentation Project
French
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Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Auguste Mudry talks about national aviation in France and his professional training in civil aviation and military aviation in the National Aviation School and the Military Pilot School of Istres. He focuses on his later experience in military intelligence and changing his professional career by accepting employment as an officer at the Vichy government bureau of Jewish affairs, "Commissariat Général aux Questions Juives," (CGQJ), to which the French service of administration of Jewish enterprises, "Service de Contrôles des Administrateurs Provisoires," (SCAP), was joined in June 1941. He discusses his further career there and describes the daily routine and procedures of bureaucratic expropriation and "Aryanization" of Jewish real estate businesses.

[01:] 01:03:00 – [01:] 14:43:00

He comments on his family background; his grand parents' political orientation; his education in Paris and his parents' profession; he discusses life in Paris and in the countryside; discusses his parents' store and his Catholic education at the school **Saint Elisabeth**; he mentions the daily routine with the monks there and the importance of Catholicism in his family; describes changing schools and then dropping out; gives a description of his parents' store and describes his first professional experience in this store.

[01:] 14:44:00 – [01:] 19:10:00

He describes becoming interested in aviation in 1938; mentions the former French air mail company "Aéropostale"; discusses preparation for military service; describes the airfields, the practical and theoretical knowledge they had to obtain, and the experiences as an aviation mechanic; focuses on the political party "Front Populaire," the law of 1936 to establish national aviation and on the democratization of aviation; comments on the subjects and the timetable at the National Aviation School and the structure of the exams on civil aviation; the formation of aero-clubs to teach young people, the budget of national aviation, the designation of teachers and other staff, and the acquisition of aircraft; discusses France's rearmament and its accelerated training of military pilots after the Munich Agreement of 1938; remembers his not being called up for military service before 1938 due to an administrative error; comments on being sent to military aviation school in Istres.

[01:] 19:11:00 – [01:] 33:12:00

He discusses obtaining a diploma in civil aviation through the National Aviation School, the selection and recruitment of pilots for military aviation training in Istres; the requirements, and acceptance of only a certain number of people for this training; describes his daily routine between the pilot training and the work at his parents' dairy.

Box 1, Tape 2

[02:] 04:50:00 – [02:] 12:40:00

He describes the selection process for the military pilot school of Istres; discusses the level of education, the difference between military aviation school and civil aviation school, the challenges and difficulties with the flying classes, the power of aircraft and the ground training; mentions the fatal car accident of Michel Gallimard and Albert Camus.

[02:] 12:41:00 – [02:] 25:42:00

He describes being accepted into military observation; mentions the cities Toulon and Saint-Avertin; describes the end of training at the military pilot school; discusses the declaration of war and the tasks, status and importance of observation planes then; comments on the status of German fighter planes; discusses the killings of Germans in Sarre; mentions the fall of Warsaw; talks again about the tasks of the observation units; discusses their assignment in Châlles-les-Eaux; comments on the military employment in today's Grenoble; mentions the town of Argenton-sur-Creuse and Biscarrosse; discusses "the Eastern Front" and the retreat towards North Africa; comments on the requirements for military activity in North Africa; mentions the cancellation of the assignment due to the armistice.

[02:] 25:43:00 – [02:] 38:57:00

He discusses life after the armistice; gives his opinion of the Nazis; comments on the armistice agreement and the limits imposed on the French army; mentions Châteauroux and the free zone; comments on the considerations on going to Spain; discusses his return to Paris and his work in the dairy again; remembers an incident with Pierre Gérard in the first years of German occupation; discusses Gérard's involvement with the "Action Française"; comments on his own apolitical attitude; discusses avoiding the French mandatory labor service, "Service de Travail Obligatoire," (STO), in Germany by getting employment as an "editor" at the office for Jewish questions, "Commissariat Général aux Questions Juives," (CGQJ); gives the definition of "editor"; comments on the French service of administration of Jewish enterprises, "Service de Contrôles des Administrateurs Provisoires," (SCAP), and its being part of the CGQJ from June 1941 on; focuses on the tasks of the SCAP and its establishment through the law of July 22,

1941; comments on his position as an employee of the Minister's office; describes the location, the organizational chart and the different divisions of the SCAP; focuses on his responsibility to handle real estate businesses.

Box 1, Tape 3

[03:] 01:10:00 – [03:] 14:30:00

He describes his work in the administration of real estate businesses and working with 12 other "editors" in a room; mentions the name Blot; discusses the work environment, the employees' attitudes, the organization and responsibilities at the CGQJ; mentions the Rothschild family; comments on the "indispensable subsidies" for Jewish account holders; discusses the Jews and the temporary administrators of their real estates; explains the system of "administration" and sale of *[Jewish]* real estate; discusses the involvement of the CGQJ in the requests for "indispensable subsidies" for Jewish account holders; comments on the German ordinances according to the law of July 22, 1941; explains blocking of bank accounts by "down payments"; discusses the responsibilities of section A; mentions Annette Wieworka and her status with the Germans; comments on the Jews' access to the administration building and its offices, discusses the monthly reports to the CGQJ; mentions how the roundup of Vel'd'Hiv affected him; discusses the temporary administrators being subject of background checks; comments on seeing Jews as victims.

[03:] 14:31:00 – [03:] 31:52:00

He mentions Joseph Billig; discusses the organization of the different departments and sections of the SCAP; explains the reasons for being nominated head of section 5 of the CGQJ; comments on Pignerol, his status for the CGQJ and for the Jews in general, and his professional background; discusses the atmosphere at the CGQJ deteriorating through mutual accusations; mentions documents on the Rothschild family again; discusses the relationship between the Germans and the temporary administrators; remembers discovering certain documents related to "Aryanization" and discussing them with Pignerol; comments on being officially nominated to head of section 5 for real estate, discusses his area of supervision and his team of employees.

[03:] 31:53:00 – [03:] 32:39:00

He comments on the non-existence of an Aryanization consulting committee, "Comité Consultatif de l'Aryanisation"; remembers the existence of a real estate consulting committee, "Comité Consultatif des Immeubles"; gives names of the members of this committee; mentions the French polemicist Alfred Fabre Luce and his involvement with the Germans; discusses the arrest of Pignerol; remembers himself being contacted by Boué and nominated head of three entire sections.

Box 1, Tape 4

[04:] 01:05:00 – [04:] 17:42:00

He discusses the intervention of the Germans in the work of section 5; describes his own new duties and responsibilities; mentions the Jewish Association of France, “Association des Juifs de France”; focuses on the bureaucratic formalities at the SCAP; describes the system and the handling of real estate; discusses antisemitism in France in general; comments on the rare relationship between purchasers and owners of Jewish real estate; discusses French laws under German occupation; explains the different categories and denominations of real estate; comments on the requirements for temporary administrators; talks about the “difference” between expropriation and the application of laws; gives the definition of “Aryan” according to Vichy; focuses on the departure of Darquier from the CGQJ and on his successors Paty de Clam and Artignac; remembers stories about Darquier told by some former colleagues; discusses Darquier’s political orientation and his personal involvement with the “Action Française”; comments on his own apolitical status.

[04:] 17:43:00 – [04:] 34:00:00

He comments on Paty de Clam, his area of responsibility and his professional background; remembers a conversation with Paty de Clam; mentions his own promotion; discusses his later intention to stop the sales of Jewish estate, establishing new conditions and regulations for the SCAP, and creating a new decree on Jewish estate and properties for entire France; analyzes his former attitude on Jews and his later creation of a decree on Jewish property; comments on selling Jewish property “under clear conditions”; discusses the importance of following instructions and the law at that time.

Box 1, Tape 5

[05:] 01:20:00 – [05:] 15:35:00

He mentions Petit; discusses the atmosphere in the CGQJ during the last months of German occupation; comments on the building the CGQJ was located in and on the owner’s ethnical background; mentions the location of the archives; remembers a story of attempts to burn the archives down; describes the status of Jewish property after the liberation; describes his contact with the Conte de Charvagnac; gives some personal memories on Jews and his contact with them; discusses the resistance and the later occupation of the CGQJ by them; talks about the CGQJ stopping sales due to the arrival of U.S. troops.

[05:] 15:36:00 – [05:] 35:22:12

He discusses his intervention before the Committee of the Liberation, “Comité de Libération,” the purification committee and the Superior Court of Justice; remembers Dubosque prosecuted for being involved in “Aryanization”; focuses on two incidents in which he was threatened to sell a certain estate to specific people; comments on his own arrest by a German officer caused by an anonymous denunciation; mentions Dr. Blanke and his involvement in the “Aryanization”; comments on being asked about certain documents himself.

Box 2, Tape 6

In this interview, Auguste Mudry talks about his employment as an officer at the Vichy government bureau of Jewish affairs, “Commissariat Général aux Questions Juives,” (CGQJ), to which the French service of administration of Jewish enterprises, “Service de Contrôles des Administrateurs Provisoires,” (SCAP), was joined in June 1941. He discusses his further career there and describes the daily routine and procedures of bureaucratic expropriation and “Aryanization” of Jewish real estate businesses.

[06:] 01:00:42 – [06:] 16:42:00

He mentions Commissioner Permillieux and his responsibilities in Paris; discusses the Jewish Affairs Police, “Police aux Questions Juives,” (PQJ), its name change, status for the Germans and areas of responsibilities; comments on exceptions with the Aryan probation; gives the definition of “Aryan”; discusses his personal contact to civil servants of the PQJ; discusses antisemitic attitudes of Vallat and Darquier; talks about his contact with Vallat; explains the “difference” between French and Jewish property.

[06:] 16:43:00 – [06:] 27:20:00

He describes how the consulting committee was founded, the organization, structure and topics of the meetings there and the members’ relations with the different ministries; discusses sending documents to the committee and the procedures involved in handling the documents; talks about the estimates on sale prices and the structure and complexity of selling real estate; comments on his personal intervention in selling a real estate business; discusses the ethnic background of the new owners of the properties.

[06:] 27:21:00 – [06:] 34:58:00

He mentions the difficulties of selling a Jewish building if the owner was a woman married to a non-Jew; explains the influence of racial politics in selling Jewish property; describes Jews buying and selling property; focuses on the number of buyers; discusses

the location of buildings he was responsible for; talks about supervision by the Germans, contact with them and reporting to them.

Box 2, Tape 7

[07:] 01:05:06 – [07:] 12:44:00

He comments on his professional contact with the Germans and the German intervention in the work of the CGQJ; mentions the “Association des Juifs de France” again; comments on Blanke and yet never meeting him; discusses his contact with the Germans; focuses on Jewish enterprises and the task of selling them and doing the paper work; talks about threats and hostility in the CGQJ; discusses his memories on actions and operations in the sections 5 B and 5 C; mentions the Worms Bank and his knowledge about Jewish fortune.

[07:] 12:45:00 – [07:] 21:19:00

He discusses Jews owning the biggest enterprises; comments on the origins of Jewish business owners; focuses on the law making a distinction between local Jewish business owners and “foreign” Jewish business owners; discusses Jewish involvement in other international businesses; enumerates the criteria for selling real estate; comments on blocked Jewish bank accounts.

[07:] 21:20:00 – [07:] 35:04:14

He discusses some of his personal background, his marriage and his own apolitical orientation; mentions Maurice Duvelas; discusses the structure of the socialist and the communist parties then; focuses on his father’s and grandfather’s political orientations and their being accused of collaboration; repeats information on his marriage and his children; discusses living in former Jewish apartments during the German occupation.

Box 2, Tape 8

[08:] 00:43:00 – [08:] 18:21:00

He comments on his parents and himself being arrested during the liberation; discusses the status and procedures of real estate after the liberation; talks about the fate of the temporary administrators; comments on Jewish responses to expropriation and restitution; focuses on the ignorance of the people on the fate of the Jews during the war; discusses the roundup of Vel’ d’Hiv; emphasizes his non-membership in any party whatsoever; refers to the Holocaust covered in the media after the war; offers his opinion on the involvement of the CGQJ in the “Aryanization”; talks about his career after the

war; discusses the discovery of documents related to expropriation after the liberation; comments on the distinction and definition of “economic Aryanization.”

[08:] 18:22:00 – [08:] 32:36:00

He discusses antisemitism during the war and the obligation to follow instructions; comments on his personal involvement in the “Aryanization” and the law’s predictions about stealing real estate; relates some personal memories of wartime; explains the CGQJ policies on Jews of the according to Vichy law; comments on the laws on how to sell and purchase Jewish property; discusses the status of Vichy; focuses on his personal contact to policemen at this time, on the public opinion of Jews, arrests of Jews and of collaborators; discusses the ignorance on the fate of the Jews after the roundup of Vel’d’Hiv and the difficulty to face the police; comments on the involvement of the French police in the Holocaust.