

CROWDSOURCED ARCHIVES AS PRIVATE ARCHIVES AND PERSONAL COLLECTIONS

Conference: Digital Archives, Big Data and Memory (Aalborg University)

Nina .Janz





Project WARLUX - Soldiers and their communities in WWII: The impact and legacy of war experiences in Luxembourg

CROWDSOURCED ARCHIVES - PRIVATE ARCHIVES AND PERSONAL COLLECTIONS

Nina Janz, C2DH

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24-26 August 2022**

1. Introduction Project WARLUX

Project WARLUX - Soldiers and their communities in WWII: The impact and legacy of war experiences in Luxembourg

- During Nazi occupation in Luxembourg, women and men (born 1920-1927) were conscripted to serve in Reichsarbeitsdienst and Wehrmacht
- aim: collecting their biographies and individual life paths throughout the war and the post-war period
- Focus not only on the individuals, but also on their families and communities
- Choosing a biographical approach and an actor-centred perspective on the individuals in their communities and their active decision-making and experiences during WWII



funded by FNR
(March
2020-February
2023)

2. Crowdsourcing as a “live” collection

- Call for Contributions in February 2021
- over 200 inquiries and offers
- 100 family visits and transfer of documents
- documenting the “story” of the document and the family



Erzielt eis Är Geschicht!

Am Kontext vum Geschichtsprojekt «WARLUX» iwwert den Zweete Weltkrich, sicht d'Université Lëtzebuerg no Temoignagen, Geschichten, Dokumenter, Bréiwer, Postkaarten, Tagebicher, Fotoen,... iwwert d'**zwangsrekrutiert Jongen a Meedercher an hier Familjen.**

Sidd Dir tëschent 1920 an 1927 gebuer?
Waart Dir am **RAD**, am **Kriegshilfsdienst**, an der **Wehrmacht**, **Refractaire** oder gouft Dir **fräigestallt**? Oder kennt Dir eng Persoun (Familjemembere, Frënn,...) mat sou engem Schicksal?

Wa jo, da géif d'WARLUX-Team sech freeën vun Iech ze héieren a mat Iech ze schwätzen.
Mellt Iech w.e.g. iwwer
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Méi Informatiounen fannt Dir op
<http://www.c2dh.uni.lu/de/projects/warlux>

Merci fir Är Participatioun,
d'WARLUX-Team.



Flyer WARLUX, February 2021

3. Creating Digital Collection on private material

3.1 The collection procedure

- call for contributions via press campaign
- target group - war witnesses and direct kin
- aim: ego-documents
- digitalisation and return of originals

Copyright and Data protection

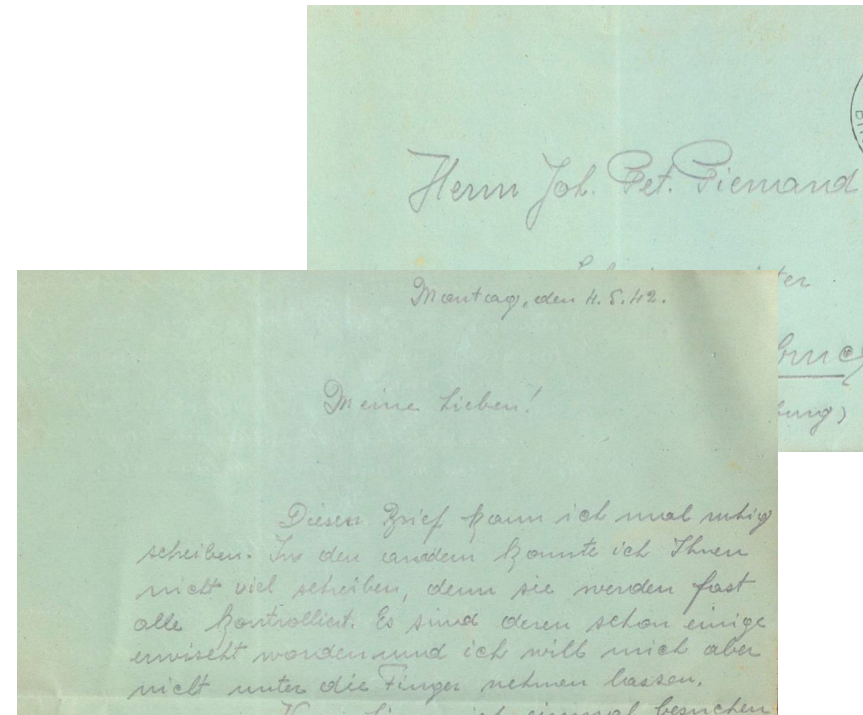
- consent form and agreement for further use
- respect of anonymisation of names

Selection of the documents

- documents were selected and marked in the “inventory”
- “curated” documents already by the family

3.2 Sustainability and accessibility

- digital collection only
- project ends 2023 - university can not provide future accessibility for “external” users
- the digital collection remains as “research” data at the university
- further considerations are pending



Warlux Collection Pierrard,
University of Luxembourg

4. Interactive Aspect

- Visits and meeting with donors
- “recording” the transfer of documents:
 - interviews and protocol (not as in oral history, but recording the “story” of the collection and the family
- documentation of provenance, metadata etc.
- but also: “vibes” of the family



4. Interactive Aspect

“stories” on documents

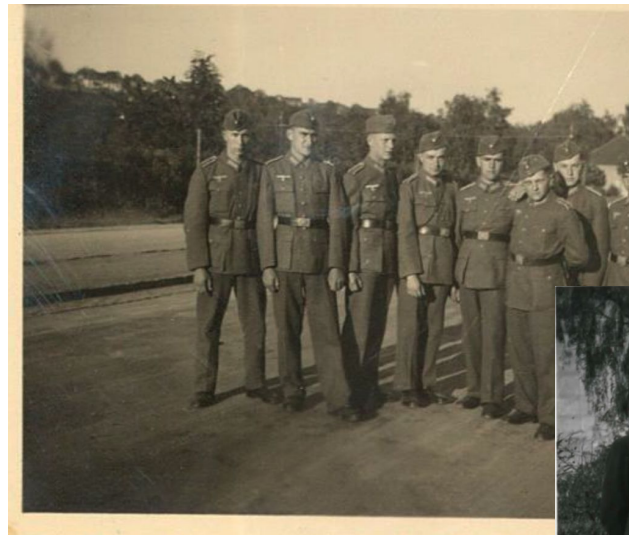
how documents were stored

- put away randomly
- or stored carefully, in plastic folders, transcribed and catalogued?



4. Interactive Aspect

- context and background information on the families
- nicknames, photos
-
- preservation of family memories



Warlux Collection Pierrard,
Mercier-Weber, Jourdain

5. Conclusion

1. Interaction with the families and additional information on the collection and personal war stories.
2. way documents are preserved tells us about the historiography in the family
3. crowdsourcing campaign raised awareness for private collections



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