

2011

La Masonería en el mundo – Francia 1939 - 1945

Archivo CIEM – Madrid

Documentación - países

Adrian Mac Liman
Centro Ibérico de Estudios Masónicos (CIEM)
03/04/2011



Freemasonry in France 1939 – 1945

Jean-JacquesZambrowski
GLDF - Paris, France

In 1939, there was indeed a Nazi government in Germany, but not in France ! The Grand Lodge of France, alike the other Masonic bodies in the country, was carrying its normal work as usual, plus a clear involvement against the Nazi ideology. In September 1939, the Declaration of War occurred but the GLDF did not close whatsoever.

After one year, though, France surrendered. The French government and the French Republic were suspended and replaced by "The French State", the leader of which was Marshal Petain, who moved the seat of the government from Paris to Vichy.

The headquarters of the Grand Orient were occupied by the German soldiers little after they invaded Paris, on June 14, 1940.

The antimasonic policy culminates in France with the Vichy regime, which dissolved the secret societies (and thus Freemasonry) by the law of 13 August 1940. Yet the parliamentary Freemasons were not less likely than others to vote full powers to Marshal Petain: among the 388 MPs who voted for the award of full powers July 10, 1940 were Masons, and among 80 MPs who voted against, twenty were in the occupied zone, after entering its properties and occupied its premises, the Germans hardly took care of Freemasonry and contented themselves with the anti-Masonic Vichy regime. On 11 August 1941, a second anti-Masonic, more radical, was published. It decreed the gazetting of the names of Masons identified by the Department of Secret Societies and applying to masons the Statute of the Jews (but forbidding them to seek employment in the private sector). There has been a proposal of reviving a State Masonry in Vichy at the request of Pierre Laval .

Bernard Fay, director of the National Library, was appointed Chief of the secret societies based rue Cadet, responsible for classifying records entered in the boxes, to orchestrate the anti-Masonic and especially draw sheets to record all the former Masons,

monitor and remove the professions as public service. He was assisted by Henry Coston and Philippe Poirson. This year, Secretary of the Union antimasonic of France, was arrested by the Gestapo in 1943 for unknown reasons and died in exile in Germany. According to the militant anti-Semitic and anti-Masonic Henry Coston, only masons who campaigned against the occupation would have been hunted by German police, others were left in peace and those who collaborated even obtained important positions in party leadership and newspapers .

At the Liberation, the anti-Masonic organizations were disbanded and several of their members prosecuted. Vice Admiral Charles Platon was executed by Resistance and Jean

Mamy, the author of the movie "occult forces " was shot in March 1949 as an auxiliary to the Gestapo. Freemasonry was mourning about the death of 550 "brothers" of the Grand Orient de France and 117 of the Grand Lodge, most shot dead in deportation or not for that of Freemasonry, but for acts of resistance . According to other statistics by the "Department of secret societies" of that time, 989 fremasons wre deported; 540 were executed or died in deportation.

So, there were probably far more French FreeMasons regularly meeting in 1939 than in 1919, while most of them except the very old ones, were mobilize to go to war.

