



## **French Resistance Historical Simulation Background Guide**

**Date: June 1943 – Creation of the Conseil National de la Résistance (CNR)**

**Committee Type: Clandestine Meeting of Resistance Fighters and Activists**

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### **Committee Overview**

By mid-1943, France is a nation in chains. The Nazi occupation dominates the north, while the Vichy regime collaborates in the south. Yet beneath this shadow, a vast and fractured underground movement has begun to unify—the **French Resistance**.

This committee simulates the clandestine leadership of the French Resistance, convened shortly after the creation of the **Conseil National de la Résistance (CNR)** in June 1943. Representatives from various resistance networks—Gaullists, Communists, socialists, and apolitical patriots—gather to coordinate sabotage, intelligence, propaganda, and preparation for Allied invasion.

Factional tensions, limited resources, and German counter-intelligence threaten their unity. Delegates must collaborate to resist occupation, punish collaborators, and prepare for liberation.

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### **Major Issues to Address**

#### **1. Coordination and Centralization of Resistance Movements**

- How can diverse and often rival networks (Gaullists, Communists, Catholics, etc.) coordinate their actions?

- Should the CNR remain politically neutral or support Free France under Charles de Gaulle?

## **2. Sabotage Strategy and Guerrilla Tactics**

- What should the priorities be: railroads, communication, fuel depots, or German troop movements?
- How should urban vs. rural resistance cells operate?

## **3. Dealing with the Vichy Regime and Collaborators**

- Should collaborators face justice now or after liberation?
- What role (if any) should be played by sympathetic individuals within Vichy?

## **4. Intelligence and Coordination with the Allies**

- How should the Resistance communicate with the British SOE, the Americans, and Free France?
- How can intelligence be verified and securely transmitted?

## **5. Post-Liberation Governance**

- What vision does the Resistance have for France after Nazi expulsion?
- Should France restore the Republic, support De Gaulle, or form a new constitution?

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## **Character Roster: French Resistance Leaders**

### **1. Jean Moulin**

*Unifying figure and representative of Charles de Gaulle's Free France.*

- Sent from London to coordinate the Resistance.
- Key organizer of the CNR.
- Charismatic, brave, and committed to a unified anti-fascist front.

### **2. Lucie Aubrac**

*Teacher and fierce Résistante, co-founder of Libération-Sud.*

- Carried out daring rescues and sabotage.
- Advocates for moral clarity and action over ideology.

- Strong proponent of involving women in direct action.

3. **Raymond Aubrac**

*Engineer and underground commander of Libération-Sud.*

- Skilled at planning attacks and hiding fugitives.
- Works closely with Lucie in coordinating Lyon-based operations.

4. **Marie-Madeleine Fourcade**

*Leader of the Alliance intelligence network.*

- One of the few female leaders of a major network.
- Coordinated intelligence to British SOE with remarkable precision.
- Operated under code name “Hedgehog.”

5. **Pierre Brossolette**

*Journalist and intellectual, ally of Jean Moulin.*

- Advocates for strong civilian leadership and Gaullist unity.
- Played key role in connecting networks across northern France.

6. **Henri Frenay**

*Founder of Combat, one of the largest resistance movements.*

- Initially distrusted De Gaulle but came to support Free France.
- Advocates for coordination with Allies, careful sabotage strategy.

7. **Daniel Cordier**

*Young secretary to Jean Moulin and courier between Resistance groups.*

- Former monarchist turned staunch anti-Nazi operative.
- Involved in documentation, codes, and courier missions.

8. **Andrée de Jongh**

*Belgian organizer of the Comet Line escape network.*

- Helped downed Allied airmen escape through France to Spain.
- Operates quietly across borders with extreme courage.

9. **Missak Manouchian**

*Leader of the FTP-MOI (Communist immigrant fighters).*

- Armenian genocide survivor, poet, and fierce antifascist.
- Organized sabotage cells composed of immigrants and exiles.

#### 10. **Berty Albrecht**

*Feminist and co-founder of Combat with Frenay.*

- Defiant in face of capture, advocate for women's leadership.
- Committed suicide rather than betray comrades under torture.

#### 11. **René Char**

*Poet and commander in the Maquis of Provence under the alias "Captain Alexandre."*

- Led sabotage and guerrilla missions in rural France.
- Emphasizes moral resistance as well as strategic efficiency.

#### 12. **Jacques Chaban-Delmas**

*Military liaison for the Resistance and later a key postwar politician.*

- Served as secret envoy between Maquis and London.
- Skilled in logistics and long-term political planning.

#### 13. **Georges Bidault**

*Successor to Jean Moulin as CNR president.*

- Editor of underground newspaper *Combat*.
- Balances Christian democratic ideals with broad resistance goals.

#### 14. **André Malraux**

*Author and fighter with the Maquis in southern France.*

- Deeply philosophical, yet action-oriented.
- Advocates for liberation of thought as much as land.

#### 15. **Jean-Pierre Lévy**

*Founder of Franc-Tireur movement in Lyon.*

- Supported integration of smaller resistance cells.
- Key player in unifying propaganda efforts across occupied zones.

## **16. Philippe Viannay**

Co-founder of *Défense de la France* underground newspaper.

- Focused on resistance through clandestine publishing and mass communication.
  - Recruited youth and students into the Resistance.
  - Later helped found *Centre de Formation des Journalistes* post-war.
  - Worked alongside Hélène Viannay in the movement.
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## **17. Yvonne Rudellat (codename: “Jacqueline”)**

French SOE agent and resistance courier.

- One of the first female SOE agents in France.
- Organized sabotage missions and coordinated parachute drops.
- Captured in 1944 and died in Bergen-Belsen, remembered as a quiet hero.

## **18. Jean de Lattre de Tassigny**

French general who joined the Resistance after escaping Vichy imprisonment.

- Coordinated Maquis operations with Free French forces.
- Later commanded French First Army in Liberation of France.
- Symbol of armed military resistance joining internal networks.

## **19. Maurice Kriegel-Valrimont**

Communist Résistant and strategist in the National Military Committee.

- Participated in planning the Paris Uprising of August 1944.
- Advocated for inclusive resistance across political lines.
- Emphasized coordination with FTP and national forces.

## **20. Simone Segouin (codename: “Nicole”)**

Teenage Maquis fighter in the Eure-et-Loir region.

- Carried out armed operations and sabotage missions.
- Symbol of youthful courage and women’s role in armed resistance.
- Photographed liberating Chartres, became iconic in postwar memory.

### **21. Robert Antelme**

Writer and member of *Franco-Tireurs et Partisans*.

- Captured and deported to Dachau; survived and wrote *The Human Race*.
- Represented moral testimony of the Resistance from inside the camps.
- Advocated for memory and human dignity as tools of resistance.

### **22. Jean-Marie Arthus (codename: “Le Page”)**

Leader in the *Armée Secrète* in the Auvergne region.

- Organized armed Maquis operations and supply lines.
- Specialized in local guerrilla warfare and sabotage.
- Supported integration of scattered rural fighters into coordinated command.

### **23. Élise Rivet (Mother Mary Elizabeth)**

Catholic nun and Résistante in Lyon.

- Sheltered Jews and resistance fighters at her convent.
- Joined Combat network and smuggled messages.
- Deported and killed at Ravensbrück, seen as a martyr of the Resistance.

### **24. Stéphane Hessel**

Young diplomat and member of *Bureau Central de Renseignements et d’Action (BCRA)*.

- Parachuted into occupied France to aid coordination with Free France.
- Captured and tortured but escaped deportation.
- Postwar, helped draft Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## **Committee Objectives**

Delegates must:

- Coordinate sabotage efforts and establish clear channels of command.
- Debate moral, ideological, and strategic divisions within the Resistance.
- Build consensus around the future of France: democracy, leadership, and justice.
- Respond to real-time Nazi crackdowns, Gestapo raids, and opportunities from Allied progress.

This is a **crisis committee**, and events will unfold rapidly. You'll face arrests, betrayals, Allied coordination demands, and the looming Normandy invasion. Unity is vital—but so is action.

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### **Guiding Questions for Delegates**

1. Can the Resistance operate as a single front, or must factions retain autonomy?
2. How can cells protect themselves from infiltration while coordinating attacks?
3. What does “justice” look like in a clandestine war—should collaborators be tried or eliminated?
4. How should the Resistance support the Allies without becoming their puppet?
5. What kind of France should rise from the ruins?