

# LE JOURNAL DU RELAIS DE LA MÉMOIRE JUNIORS

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**LE MÉMORIAL DES MARTYRS DE  
LA DÉPORTATION,  
UN MÉMORIAL UNIVERSEL**

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**ANNE-MARIE POUTIERS,  
PRÉSIDENTE DU RELAIS DE LA  
MÉMOIRE JUNIORS**

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# Le Mémorial des Martyrs de la Déportation, Un Mémorial français universel.

A l'occasion du 43ème rassemblement du **Relais de la Mémoire Juniors** au printemps 2023, l'association a tenu à se recueillir au mémorial parisien des **Martyrs de la Déportation**, monument commémorant l'ensemble des **déportés français** de la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

Le 31 mars 2023, le Relais de la Mémoire Juniors, réunissant les délégations européennes françaises, belge, autrichiennes, allemande et tchèques, a rendu visite à deux des différents mémoriaux en lien avec la Seconde Guerre mondiale de la capitale parisienne. L'association, ayant pour objectifs de préserver/transmettre la mémoire et lutter contre l'oubli et la désinformation face aux conflits mondiaux, a débuté son devoir de commémoration par la visite du Mémorial des Martyrs de la Déportation. Le mémorial, situé sur l'Île de la Cité à Paris, rend hommage à l'ensemble des déportés de France durant la période 1941/1944, ne prenant en compte ni leur culte religieux, ni leur orientation sexuelle ou politique. Il fut inauguré seulement 20 ans après la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, le 12 avril 1962 par le président De Gaulle. A cette époque il avait évoqué la volonté de commémorer « le long calvaire d'usure, la volonté d'extermination et d'avilissement ».



Pour cela, il a fait appel à l'architecte Georges-Henri Pingusson, qui conçoit et développe le monument d'une façon originale et moderne pour la période. En effet, le Mémorial des Martyrs de la Déportation est construit différemment des autres mémoriaux, celui-ci se trouve en souterrain et l'ensemble des dimensions repose sur la base du triangle, synonyme des emblèmes portés par les détenus dans les camps de déportations allemands. Aussi, lorsque le visiteur se trouve dans l'enceinte du mémorial, une cour à l'allure triangulaire, celui-ci ressent une étrange sensation d'emprisonnement due à l'épaisseur et la hauteur des murs, volonté de départ de l'architecte.

L'association du Relais de la Mémoire Junior, dans le cadre de l'accueil des délégations pour le printemps 2023 à Paris, a voulu, en plus de visiter le mémorial et le musée sur les déportations françaises, se recueillir à l'avant du monument en déposant des fleurs, faisant une minute de silence et chantant le célèbre Chant des Marais en mémoire des déportés des camps de concentrations nazis : *Ô terre de détresse ; Où nous devons sans cesse ; Piocher, piocher.*

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# COLLECTIVE RESPONSABILITY

AT THE RELAY, DURING THE VISITS TO THE VARIOUS MEMORIALS, WE HEARD MANY TERRIBLE FACTS COMMITTED FOR THE MOST PART BY GERMANS, A QUESTION CAME TO US, "IS A PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS GOVERNMENT, FOR THE POLICY OF ITS COUNTRY? WE ALL KNOW THAT MANY GERMANS WERE AGAINST THE NAZI PARTY, BUT THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS REGIME. BUT EVERYONE MUST ASK THEMSELVES THE QUESTION "WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE AS A GERMAN IF YOU KNEW THAT IF YOU PROTESTED AGAINST THE REGIME, IT COULD LEAD YOU TO THE CAMPS". AT THE SAME TIME, CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT AS A RUSSIAN, THERE ARE MANY CONSTRAINTS THAT THIS NATIONALITY CURRENTLY BRINGS (FOR EXAMPLE RUSSIANS CANNOT OBTAIN TOURIST VISAS IN MANY COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS THE EAST.



THE GOVERNMENTS OF THESE COUNTRIES JUSTIFY THIS RESTRICTION BY SAYING THAT THE RUSSIANS MUST STAY IN THEIR COUNTRY AND CHANGE THE PUTIN REGIME INSTEAD OF FLEEING. ALSO, IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT NOT ALL RUSSIANS ARE AGAINST PUTIN, JUST LIKE THE GERMANS WHO WERE NOT ALL AGAINST HITLER BUT WE CAN TALK ABOUT PROPAGANDA AND LACK OF INFORMATION WHICH PLAYS A BIG ROLE IN MANIPULATING THE PUBLIC MIND .MOST RUSSIANS WHO SUPPORT PUTIN WATCH TELEVISION AS THE GERMANS WERE LISTENING TO THE RADIO AND THERE IS ONLY ONE POINT OF VIEW AND WHERE THE INFORMATION CAN BE DISTORTED. MOST OF THE GERMANS WERE IGNORANT OF MOST OF THE SITUATION LIKE WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS LIKE NOW THE RUSSIANS WHO ARE NOT AWARE OF ALL THE WAR CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE RUSSIAN ARMY. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE RUSSIANS TRY TO PROTEST, WE GO STRAIGHT TO JAIL EVEN IF IT'S JUST ON SOCIAL MEDIA. BECAUSE OF THIS, MILLIONS OF RUSSIANS LEFT THE COUNTRY AND WE CAN SAY THAT IT WAS THE ELITE OF SOCIETY WHO HAD THE BEST CHANCE OF CHANGING THE CURRENT SITUATION. EVEN AMONG THOSE WHO STAYED IN RUSSIA, THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE AGAINST THE WAR. I CAN GIVE THE EXAMPLE OF MY FATHER, WHO STILL LIVES IN RUSSIA AND WHO DOESN'T ACCEPT WHAT'S GOING ON THERE, BUT HE DOESN'T SEE ANY WAY TO CHANGE THE SITUATION. NOW WE CAN RETURN TO OUR ORIGINAL QUESTION: "IF A PERSON IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR GOVERNMENT AND FOR THE POLITICS OF THEIR COUNTRY?" WE CAN AFFIRM THAT EACH PERSON MUST BE JUDGED INDIVIDUALLY ACCORDING TO HIS ACTS AND HIS WAY OF THINKING BUT NOT ACCORDING TO HIS NATIONALITY AND THE TIME IN WHICH HE WAS BORN.





# EMMA BERMOND

## Vétéran-junior

### Motivations

Emma started the Relais de la Mémoire Juniors in 2017 and became a veteran, because she graduated in 2018 but continued to be a part of the organisation, even during her higher studies. Her interest for history, travel, and all the opportunities that the program could give her, motivated her to join the association. As she participated more and more in these activities, she grew to love them enough to get her to stay for so many years (2017-Today). Nowadays, she still believes that the whole idea of the Relais de la Mémoire Juniors is a wonderful occasion to:

- Meet people that are equally excited about keeping memory alive
- Create and put together projects that are totally different from what pupils normally do in schools
- Get different opinions from students from other countries about history.

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### Name

Emma Bermond

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### Status

On going studies in medieval history of jewish populations, switching every year between france and germany , started in 2018



### Personal experiences

Our junior veteran then told us that she firmly considered the Relais de la Mémoire Juniors to be a very complete, enriching, and energy triggering program. Indeed, as she went to two confluences organised by the association in Paris and in Vienna, she had the chance of experiencing what it was to live in other countries, interact with people of different nationalities and former witnesses of various wars, and debate on various interesting subjects and themes. Moreover, she informed us that she deemed the debates and discussions with the witnesses to be the most interesting and developmental projects. Additionally, we were curious about what she thought of how the crisis of the Covid-19 was handled by the organisation to keep meeting, even if in videoconference, so we asked her and she said that she was particularly glad that they kept contact and that she thought that it had some sort of silver lining because it allowed us to discover new ways of presenting our projects.

### Significant addition in life

In the end, being a part of the Relais de la Mémoire Juniors has granted, and still does to this day, grant her many advantages that are useful to her in active life and studies. Matter-of-factly, she chose to switch countries every year during her studies because she had understood the importance of European relations and had learned to love Germany thanks to the program. Furthermore, she witnessed that she seemed to have a head start on the type of projects that she has to do during her studies because she had experience with such thanks to the Relais de la Mémoire Juniors. And finally, her long time in the program prepared her for real life relationships and the reality of the need to discover new ways of considering things.



# INITIATIVES NÉES APRÈS UNE GUERRE OU UN CONFLIT

*Dans un contexte d'après Seconde Guerre mondiale, c'est-à-dire de crises et de conflits mondiaux, des initiatives ont été prises pour rendre hommage aux victimes, pour aider les pays en difficultés et pour condamner les responsables.*



PENDANT LA SECONDE GUERRE MONDIALE A EU LIEU LE GÉNOCIDE JUIF EN EUROPE PAR LES NAZIS, OÙ PRÈS DE 6 MILLIONS DE JUIFS SONT MORTS PUISQU'AUUCUNE LOI N'INTERDISAIT LES GÉNOCIDES. CETTE POPULATION, CONSIDÉRÉE COMME INFÉRIEURE A LA RACE « ARYENNE », A ÉTÉ VISÉE CAR ELLE ÉTAIT ACCUSÉE PAR LES ALLEMANDS D'AVOIR SIGNÉ LA DÉFAITE DE L'ALLEMAGNE A LA FIN DE LA PREMIÈRE GUERRE MONDIALE. MAIS ÉTAIT ÉGALEMENT SELON EUX LA CAUSE DES PROBLÈMES ÉCONOMIQUES, SOCIAUX, POLITIQUES ET CULTURELS. AINSI, LES NAZIS ONT CRÉÉ DES CAMPS DE CONCENTRATION ET DES CAMPS DE MISE A MORT DANS CERTAINS PAYS D'EUROPE. CE SONT LES ALLIÉS (URSS, FRANCE, US/, UK...) QUI ONT DÉCOUVERT ET LIBÉRÉ LES CAMPS.



A LA FIN DE LA SECONDE GUERRE MONDIALE ET DU GÉNOCIDE JUIF A EU LIEU QUELQUES MOIS PLUS TARD, DU 20 NOVEMBRE 1945 AU 1ER OCTOBRE 1946 LE PROCÈS DE NUREMBERG ORGANISÉ PAR LES ALLIÉS ET QUI CONDAMNAIT LES HAUTS RESPONSABLES DU RÉGIME NAZI POUR CRIMES CONTRE L'HUMANITÉ, CRIMES CONTRE LA PAIX ET CRIMES DE GUERRE. AINSI 24 ACCUSÉS SONT RECENSÉS, MAIS PARMIS EUX SEULS 12 SONT CONDAMNÉS À MORT, SEPT SONT CONDAMNÉS À DES PEINES DE PRISON ET TROIS SONT ACQUITTÉS. EN 1953 A ÉTÉ CRÉÉ LE TITRE « JUSTE PARMIS LES NATIONS ». LES JUSTES SONT LES PERSONNES QUI ONT AIDÉ LES JUIFS À SE CACHER DURANT LE GÉNOCIDE SANS COMPENSATION MONÉTAIRE. AINSI, LEURS NOMS FIGURENT, POUR LES REMERCIER, SUR LES PLAQUES COMMÉMORATIVES.

DURANT LA SECONDE GUERRE MONDIALE, LA FRANCE EST OCCUPÉE PAR L'ALLEMAGNE SUR TOUTE LA PARTIE NORD. SUITE À CELA, LES ALLEMANDS CONTRÔLAIENT LA VIE ET LES LIBERTÉS DE TOUS. PAR EXEMPLE, NOMBRE DE PERSONNES FURENT CONDAMNÉS AU TRAVAIL FORCÉ, LES MAGASINS AVAIENT DES HORAIRES PRÉCIS D'OUVERTURE, LA CIRCULATION ÉTAIT CONTRÔLÉE ET RÉDUITE, DES COUVRE-FEUX ÉTAIENT IMPOSÉS, LES SALAIRES ET LES PRIX ÉTAIENT FIXÉS PAR LES ALLEMANDS.

CETTE ANNÉE 2023 REPRÉSENTE LES 60 ANS DU TRAITÉ DE L'ÉLYSÉE SIGNÉ LE 22 JANVIER 1963 - SOIT 18 ANS APRÈS LA FIN DE LA SECONDE GUERRE MONDIALE ET L'OCCUPATION - PAR LE GÉNÉRAL DE GAULLE ET LE CHANCELIER ADENAUER QUI ÉTAIENT TOUS LES DEUX OPPOSÉS AU RÉGIME NAZI.



# ANNE-MARIE POUTIERS

PRESIDENT OF THE RELAIS DE LA  
MÉMOIRE JUNIORS

Interviewers:  
Eva Simon  
Laura Tesarova

## **How and why did you get in touch with Relais de la Mémoire Juniors?**

I was at the very beginning of the association, because I was the president of the association of the former students of the lycée Molière. So, when Abel and Yvette wanted to find schools to join the project, they asked me, as Yvette was in the former students' association. We found other schools in Europe, and decided to build the association.

## **Since when are you in this organisation?**

I joined the organisation at its very beginning in 2001. The first school that took part was in Saint-Germain-en-Laye. When the head-mistress from there retired, she contacted the head-master from Notre-Dame de la Providence in Vincennes and asked him if teachers of his school were interested in the project. She offered the same thing to other countries, such as Poland, Germany and England.

## **Which city did you enjoy the most, whilst traveling with Relais de la Mémoire Juniors?**

Prague. I knew that city before and visited it many times with students from Lycée Molière, thanks to an exchange program with lycée Stepanska.

## **Did you make good friends or meet somebody especially interesting thanks to the Relais de la Mémoire Juniors?**

Many old people, because I have to ask them to be the witnesses. For example, I met Edith Cresson thanks to the Relais, but I also encountered Bernard Esambert, who's a great man. I also got to meet many deported people, who went to Krakow.

## **What do you think about other countries joining Relais de la Mémoire Juniors? Do you know who could join next?**

We tried with schools from Italy but they were under too much pressure. The pressure was caused by the "Ligue du Nord" (political party). Two teachers and two students from one Italian school visited one of our meetings but unfortunately at the end they decided to decline our offer. We would like England to take part again, but it's complicated due to Brexit.

## **Is there one witness' story that especially touched you in the last years?**

Many of them. I loved one man who wasn't a witness but organised an activity for the Juniors during the Covid about History and Memory, that was amazing. He said that the memories are what creates the History, and so that the two are linked.



*"One of the main goals of Relais de la Mémoire is to show the students as many different points of view as possible, so that they are able to create their own. Everybody has their own truth, and it's our duty to choose one of them."*