

Identifying West Africans in the French Resistance

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BA French and Politics

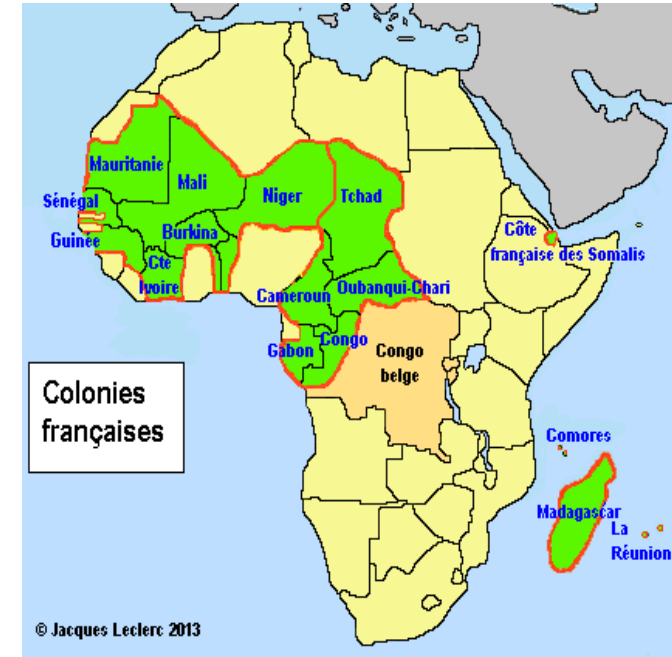
Significance of the research

West African Resistance fighters

- ▶ Colonial subjects of the French Empire played a vital role in French Internal Resistance (1940-1945).



Confederation of French West Africa (AOF) and French Equatorial Africa (AEF)



Map of the West African French colonies

Whites only victory ?

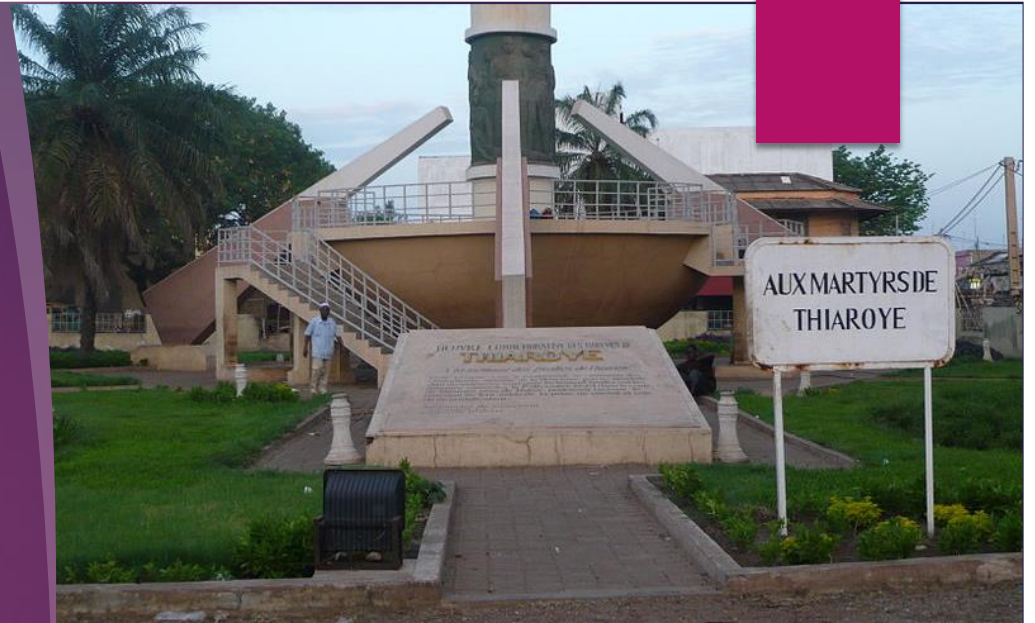
« Blanchissement » = Whitening



Image of french troops liberating Paris
General de Gaulle wanted a "whites only" victory

Thiaroye Massacre 1944

- ▶ Monument in which pays tribute to the West African Résistant(e)s shot at Camp Thiaroye, Dakar, Senegal on 1st December 1944.



Place des martyrs de Thiaroye, Bagadadji - Bamako, Mali



Source: DMPA/A. Champeaux

Building the database

Example file of a Resistance fighter from the official French state online database



Example entry from my database of West African Resistance fighters



Précédent n°17/72 Suivant

Jane Jeanne VIALLE

Né(e) le/en 27-08-1906 à Ouessou (Congo)

Carrière

Famille résistance forces françaises combattantes (FFC), déportés et internés de la résistance (DIR)
Nom du réseau des forces françaises combattantes KASANGA (SRMLM)
Statut interné résistant

Cote(s) Service historique de la Défense, Vincennes GR 16 P 592220
Service historique de la Défense, Caen SHD/ AC 21 P 688239

Retour aux résultats

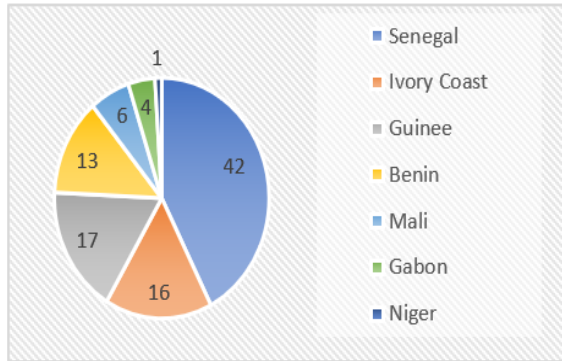
Modifier la recherche

Nouvelle recherche

1	Surname	First name	DOB	Place of Birth	Country	Gender	SHD Vincennes	SHD Caen	file numbe	FFI/RIF	Further details	Date of death	Place of death	Maquis (M)/Movement (MV)/Réseaux (R)	Nom de Guerre	Profession
2	Vialle	Jane/Jeanne	27/08/1906	Ouessou	Congo	F	GR16P592220	AC21P688239		FFC/DIR	agent for Combat Lived in Paris 16th arrondissement interné résistant Arrested in Marseille on 13/1/43 and freed 10/12/43	09/02/1935	Villeneuve-d'Ornon, canton of Villeneuve-d'Ornon, arrondissement of Bordeaux, Gironde	Réseau des FFC - Gallia Kasanga	Michèle Vivcero	Journalist, Politician, women's rights activist

Map showing Résistant(e)s from West African countries

Percentage breakdown of Résistant(e)s from West African countries



Visual representation of the data

Conducting research in the archives



“Service Historique de la Défense” (SHD) military archives on the outskirts of Paris

“Archives Nationales d’Outre- Mer” ANOM in Aix en Provence.



JANE VIALLE

ALIAS: Michle Vivcero

CONFLICT : 1939-1945

DOB: 27/8/1906

DEATH: 7/02/ 1956

Pre war

Jane Vialle was a war veteran, journalist, politician and female rights activist. She was born on the 27th August 1906 in Ouessou, Republic of Congo to a Congolese mother, Tchilambou and a French Father Michelle Vialle. Her father was the director of the French concessionary company Compagnie des Sultanats du Haut- Oubangui which was located in Banghassou. As a result, Vialle spent some time there until the age of seven when her father was relocated to Paris at the start of World War One. Vialle, completed her education in France at the Lycée Jules Ferry, passing her baccalauréat around 1925. Two years later, she married Marcel Beauvais but went on to divorce him just before the onset of the Second World War in May 1940.

Post war

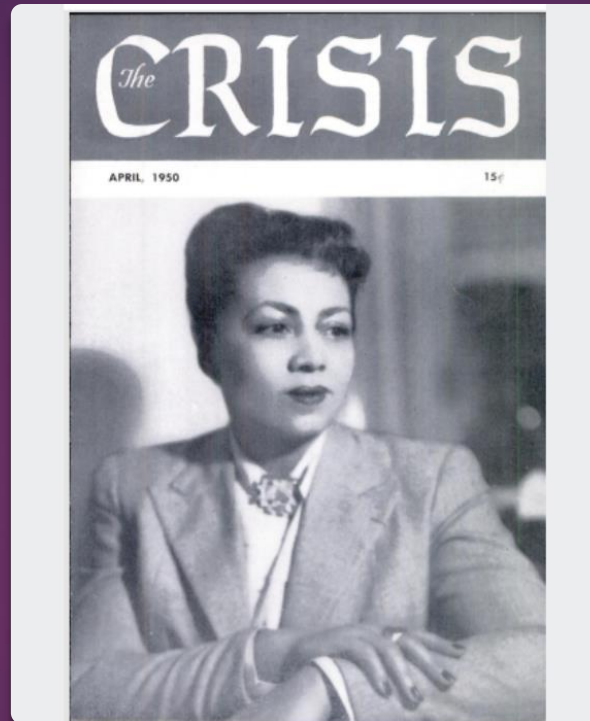
After the liberation, she resumed her career in the Presse (AFP) and as a news correspondent (AFP Occidentale française). She also re-joined the group which was edited by Albert Camus at the Constituent Assembly which had represented the interest in the debates surrounding the constitution "based upon equality of rights and duties for all". Vialle began her political career with a 90-minute speech by Leopold- Sedar Senghor giving speeches to the people. This led to her being successfully elected as one of the two representatives of the sixteenth arrondissement (Republic). She joined the socialist group and was one of seventeen women in the 320-member assembly.

Furthermore, in May 1946 as a female member of the Association of Women of the French Union, she supported the education of young women and encouraged them to serve their countries as nurses, teachers and doctors. This support was integral to the elevation of women in these short-lived political party: The Association of Women of the French Union.

Creating Profiles of West African Resistance Fighters



Source: Gov.uk 2017

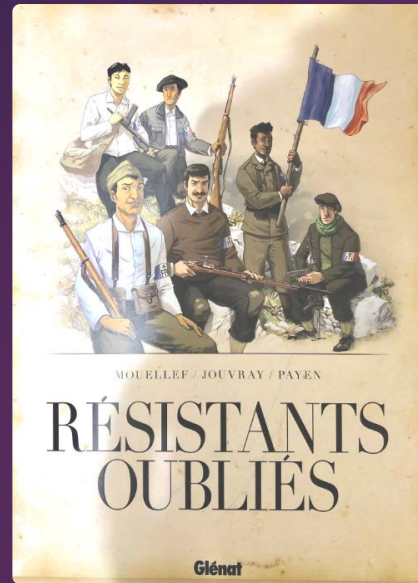


The Crisis Publishing Company. 1950. Senator Jane Vialle



Source: Senat.fr.

Jane Vialle



From popular commemoration to state commemoration

**Thank you
for listening!**



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<https://frenchempireww2.wordpress.com/>

