**Profile of the Resistance**

**French Occupation**
In 1940 France and Germany signed an armistice breaking France into different zones. The Germans occupied the northern zone while the French Vichy Government controlled the southern zone.

**Foundations of the Resistance**
At first, the Resistance was small, poorly organized, and not very effective. However, as the Germans and Vichy government became stricter, the Resistance grew. Through nightly radio addresses, General Charles de Gaulle made impassioned pleas to the people of France to rise against the Germans and continue the fight. With the help of groups like the American Office of Special Services (OSS) and the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) the Resistance became much better organized and more effective in disrupting German activities in France.

**Who fought with the Resistance?**
The Resistance had members from every walk of life join to help the cause. French soldiers who were able to escape, communists, socialists, police, factory workers, women, and even children joined the effort to resist the German occupation.

**Role of the Resistance**
The Resistance had many different roles. Some of the most common included: creating underground newspapers to spread ideas, collecting information about German movements, disrupting lines of communication, helping Allied aviators who landed in enemy territory, sabotaging and ambushing, and generally harassing the Germans.