Occupation Sources Packet: Source One

Photograph, Invasion of German troops in Luxembourg [De intocht der Duitse troepen in Luxemburg], May 10, 1940

NIOD Instituut voor Oorlogs-, Holocaust- en Genocidestudies, the Netherlands (Beeldnummer 5485)
Occupation Sources Packet: Source Two

Poster, Order about the Introduction of German Criminal Law and Criminal Provisions in the German Occupied Territories of the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg [Verordnung über die Einführung deutscher Strafrechts und strafrechtlicher Bestimmungen in den deutschen Truppen besetzten Gebieten der Niederlande, Belgien und Luxemburgs], 1940

NIOD Instituut voor Oorlogs-, Holocaust- en Genocidestudies, the Netherlands (Beeldnummer 106882)
Occupation Sources Packet: Source Two Translation

Poster, Order about the Introduction of German Criminal Law and Criminal Provisions in the German Occupied Territories of the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg (Verordnung über die Einführung deutschen Strafrechts und strafrechtlicher Bestimmungen in den deutschen Truppen besetzten Gebieten der Niederlande, Belgien und Luxemburgs), 1940

NIOD Instituut voor Oorlogs-, Holocaust- en Genocidestudies, the Netherlands (Beeldnummer 106882)

Excerpts from the poster translated into English:

Order

About the introduction of the German criminal law and the criminal law provisions in the German occupied territories of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

By the authorization of the Supreme commander of the German Army we dictate the following:

§ 2

Travelling out of the German occupied territories of the Netherlands, Belgium or Luxembourg can only be allowed by the local Field or Region Commanders in charge.

§ 3

Every transport of unauthorised persons with war or civil prisoners, who fall under the supervision and care of the German Wehrmacht or civil servants, will be punished.

§ 4

Gatherings on streets or public squares, the planning, holding or participating in public meetings or manifestations, the distribution and printing of leaflets will be punished. Exceptions to this article may be allowed by the local commander in charge. Every act of hostility towards the occupying power will be punished.

§ 5

Whomever will stop working, with the intention of damaging the interest of the German occupation, or who will force other persons to strike or will try to prevent from working, will be punished.

§ 6

Whomever will publicize messages in newspapers or magazines, which could be harmful for the German Empire, or of which the publicizing is forbidden by the Military Government, will be punished.

§ 7

Whomever will listen to non-German radio-broadcastings, whether in public or communal, or who creates the opportunity to do this, will be punished.

Exceptions are the non-German channels which are allowed by the German Military Government in a public notification.

§ 8

Whomever will distribute anti-German radio-messages or any form of anti-German messages will be punished.

The commander in charge of the Army group
Verordnung über den Gebrauch der deutschen Sprache im Lande Luxemburg

Die Sprache des Landes Luxemburg und seiner Bewohner ist seit jeher deutsch. Auf Grund der mir als Chef der Zivilverwaltung für das Land Luxemburg erteilten Ermächtigung verordne ich daher für das gesamte Land Luxemburg:

§ 1. DieAmtssprache ist ausschließlich die deutsche Sprache. Auch die Gerichtssprache ist ausschließlich deutsch.

§ 2. Der Unterricht in allen Schulen erfolgt allein in deutscher Sprache.
   In den Volksschulen entspricht die Französische Sprache als Unterrichtssprache; in den höheren Schulen wird die Französische Sprache als Unterrichtssprache auch weiterhin gelehrt.

§ 3. Tageszeitungen, Wochenzeitungen und alle sonstigen periodisch erscheinenden Schriften dürfen ausschließlich der privaten Anzeigen lediglich in der deutschen Sprache erscheinen.
   Auch für alle übrigen Druckschriften ist allein die deutsche Sprache zulässig.
   Die Verwendung für Druckschriften in französischer Sprache durch öffentliche Anzeigen und sonstiges öffentliches Anzeigen ist untersagt.


Luxemburg, den 6. August 1940.

Der Chef der Zivilverwaltung für das Land Luxemburg
ges. Gustav Simon, Gauleiter

German Federal Archives (Plak 003-052-004-T1 and Plak 003-052-004-T2)
Occupation Sources Packet: Source Three Translation

Poster, *Order about the use of the German Language in the country of Luxembourg* [Verordnung über den Gebrauch der deutschen Sprache im Lande Luxemburg], 1940

German Federal Archives (Plak 003-052-004-T1 and Plak 003-052-004-T2)

Excerpts from the poster translated into English:

**Order**

About the use of the German language in the country of Luxembourg

The language of the country of Luxembourg and its inhabitants is as of now German.

§ 1

The official language is exclusively German.

§ 2

In all the schools education will be done in the German language.

In Public Schools French will be eliminated as a subject. In higher education French will be educated further.

§ 5

For road- and street signs and direction signs the inscriptions and location names are only allowed in German.

§ 8

Offenses against this order will be met with prison sentences or fines.

§ 9

The order comes into effect the day it is announced.

Namesigns of firms, houses as well as the street and road signs … should be changed latest by September 30, 1940.

Luxembourg August 6, 1940

Head of the Civil Administration for the country of Luxembourg

Gauleiter Gustav Simon
“Living under German occupation during the war was indeed hard, but Luxembourgers couldn’t complain about being short of money. We had plenty of German Deutschmarks, but there was very little to spend it on, and anything worth buying was soon snapped up.”

“On top of that was rationing. Ration tickets were issued each month and the German authorities kept us on a very strict quota. The weekly ration per person was 500 grams of black army bread, 100 grams of white bread, 200 grams of meat, 125 grams of butter, sugar, flour, pasta and coffee substitute. For bread weighing 1 kilogram, for instance, we had to hand over two tickets of 500 grams.”

“As the war went on, food and goods became more and more scarce. The reserves slowly ran out, with soap, coffee and flour, tobacco, nails and leather, yarn and wool, shoes and clothing gradually disappearing from the shop shelves. I well remember how the shortages affected my own family. It wasn’t much fun for my mother having to wash clothes with some sort of soap substitute.”

“Then suddenly, as the seven o’clock train thundered by, the kitchen door opened and in came the man they were waiting for, Mr. Birebam. His job was to weigh the slaughtered animals, note their weight and pass on the information to the food office, where the weights were registered. This office would then issue meat tickets according to the weights of the meat submitted, with fewer tickets being given for animals weighing a lot and more tickets for animals weighing less. It didn’t pay to register too much meat. If you did, you could end up with no meat tickets for months on end, sometimes even up to a year. We all ended up playing a sort of game, trying to trick the weighing master.”

“My father placed the first quarter on the scale. Mr. Bireman peered over his glasses, counted the kilos and noted the weight. And so it went on until all four quarters had been weighed. The front quarters weighed about 18 kilos and the hind 20 kilos. The man from Roods shook his head. He couldn’t understand why the pig wasn’t heavier with those lovely big hinds. He looked at my father suspiciously and asked him to weigh the head.”

“Father was taken aback and tried to take Mr. Birebam’s mind off the pig’s head, explaining that the head was only meant for aspic anyway and wasn’t worth the trouble. But the weighing master became suspicious and insisted on the head being weighed. Father added the weights in a hurry: one, two, three kilos, but nothing happened, not even a flicker of the needle. Then, almost in a panic, he added another kilo, which made it four, far too much anyway for a pig’s head, but still the scale didn’t register. The head weighed nothing!”

“What the devil is the meaning of this?” screamed Mr. Birebam. Father, clearly rattled, started again, even more hurriedly than before, but with no more luck.”

“The weighing master slowly removed his glasses and looked straight at my father: ‘You’re cheating, aren’t you?’”
Klare Stellungen und Verantwortungen

Die ersten Umsiedlungen bereits durchgeführt.

Occupation Sources Packet: Source Five

“The first relocations have been executed [Die ersten Umsiedlungen bereits durchgeführt.]”

Luxemburger Wort, September 19–20, 1942

Historical Note: Consider that the German occupier supervised this newspaper.

Excerpts from the article translated into English:

Title: The first relocations have been executed

After the events of the past few weeks it has been noted that the population of Luxembourg has understood the transformation of the last two years and supports this with great majority... The few cases in which seduced national compatriots followed anonymous enemy-paid obscurants can not take away the unified attitude of the decisive majority.

Today, the different nations of the German motherland are gathered under National Socialist and united to the greatest struggle of all time. The border areas must have the same unambiguous unity. The back of the border must be free and secure. Therefore, those living there should truly feel German and loyal to the Empire. All thought-provoking unreliable elements must reckon that they will be relocated to the interior of the Greater German habitat as part of the consolidation and securing of the border. The first relocation transports have already left Luxembourg in recent days.

As people of German blood, the resettlers will remain our people and will not become strangers delivered to Western folklore. Within the German habitat they have the opportunity in new surroundings to develop into loyal and valuable members of the German national community. For 2 years they had plenty of opportunity to do so. But they did not want to break away from their old chains. They did not bring with them the willingness to become a reliable link in the chain of the nationalist defenses in the West. They have reduced their national value to personal satisfaction, thus attesting that they can not make a positive contribution to the development in Luxembourg.

The resettlement, viewed in these circumstances, means only a safety and educational measure, which is to be understood from the Gauleiter’s deep responsibility to the entire nation. Like all its actions, it is ultimately dictated solely by the constant concern for the welfare of the German people in Luxembourg and not an act of retribution or revenge. Nor is it a dishonest punishment, but it only takes place in order to save German nationals from being driven into them by the machinations of irresponsible, enemy-paid elements.

It is unavoidable for some that this will be felt heavy, but the responsibility for this falls back to those who, as wiretaps in the background, were willing to inflict harm on their own fellow citizens, thereby hurting themselves and all concerned badly.
Occupation Sources Packet: Source Six

Photograph, “The American St. Nick” with his angels arriving at the Wiltz castle in Luxembourg, December 5, 1944
National Archives and Records Administration (111-SC-197739)

Historical Note: Saint Nicolas Day is a festivity for children in the Low Countries (Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg). The figure is comparable to Santa Claus. On the night before December 6, he leaves gifts for children who will find them the moment they wake up. Normally he is accompanied by his white horse and his helpers.
Occupation Sources Packet: Source Seven

Photograph, American Liberation of Luxembourg, a poster of the Volkswohlfart (People’s Welfare) is being burned by civilians [Amerikaanse bevrijding van Luxemburg, een affiche van de Volkswohlfahrt wordt verbrand door de bevolking], 1944

NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies (Beeldnummer 5482)