



VINTAGE

BAD FAITH

CARMEN CALLIL

Contents

Cover
About the Book
About the Author
List of Illustrations
Dedication
Title Page
Epigraph
Prologue
Abbreviations
Louis Darquier's Associations and Newspapers
Historical Note
Family Trees: Darquiers and Joneses

PART I COBBLERS & CONVICTS

1. The Priest's Children
2. The Convicts' Kin
3. Soldier's Heart

PART II COCK & BULL

4. Scandal and Caprice
5. Baby
6. Shreds and Patches

PART III HITLER'S PARROT

7. The Street
8. Fame
9. Pot of Gold
10. On the Rampage
11. War

PART IV
VICHY FRANCE

12. Work, Family, Fatherland
13. Tormenting Men
14. Rats
15. The Rat Pit
16. Death
17. Having Fun
18. Loot
19. D-Day

PART V
SOME PEOPLE

20. The Family
21. The Cricket Team
22. Dinosaurs

Postscript
Picture Section
Notes
Acknowledgements

APPENDICES

- I. 'In Auschwitz, They Only Gassed Lice'. Interview with Louis Darquier by Philippe Ganier-Raymond, *l'Express*, 28 October-4 November 1978
- II. 'The Snows of Sigmaringen' by Louis Aragon
- III. Louis Darquier's Baronial Inventions

Bibliography and Sources

Index

Copyright

About the Book

Bad Faith tells the story of one of history's most despicable villains and conmen – Louis Darquier, Nazi collaborator and 'Commissioner for Jewish Affairs', who dissembled his way to power in the Vichy government and was responsible for sending thousands of children to the gas chambers. After the war he left France, never to be brought to justice. Early on in his career Louis married the alcoholic Myrtle Jones from Tasmania, equally practised in the arts of fantasy and deception, and together they had a child, Anne whom they abandoned in England. Her tragic story is woven through the narrative.

In Carmen Callil's masterful, elegaic and sometimes darkly comic account, Darquier's rise during the years leading up to the Second World War mirrors the rise of French anti-Semitism. Epic, haunting, the product of extraordinary research, this is a study in powerlessness, hatred and the role of remembrance.

About the Author

Carmen Callil is Australian and was born in Melbourne in 1938. She came to the UK in 1960. A book publisher, in 1972 she founded Virago and ten years later became Managing Director of Chatto & Windus. She is the author (with Colm Tóibín) of *The Modern Library: The 200 Best Novels in English since 1950*. She lives in London.

List of Illustrations

MAPS

- . Cahors and region
- . Tasmania
- . Occupied and Non-Occupied France
- . French internment camps

INTEGRATED ILLUSTRATIONS

- . *Le Pèlerin*, 3 January 1898
- . Letter from Myrtle to René, 25 March 1933
- . Maurras' speech to the medical fraternity of Action Française, March 1933.
- . Letter from Louis to René, mid-1930s
- . *Action française*, 22 January 1936
- . Poster, Comité National de Vigilance de la Jeunesse, March 1936
- . *l'Antijuif* no. 3, 26 June 1937
- . *La France enchaînée*, 15 June 1939
- . *La France enchaînée*, 1-15 April 1939
- [0](#). Principal authorities dealing with Jews, 1940-44
- [1](#). Jewish *carte d'identité*
- [2](#). Who was and who was not Jewish in the Vichy State
- [3](#). *Certificat de Non-Appartenance à la Race Juive*
- [4](#). 'Australia in Danger', *l'Illustration*, 14 February 1942
- [5](#). Vichy's Commission for Jewish Affairs
- [6](#). Letter from Louis Darquier to Röthke, 11 June 1943
- [7](#). Anne Darquier's record at Chipping Norton School

ILLUSTRATIONS IN PLATES

- . The Darquier family in Cahors, c. 1906–7 (courtesy of Paulette Aupoix).
- . Postcard of the sons of the Mayor of Cahors, 1907 (© *Le Lot 1900–1902 Memoir d’hier* – De Boué).
- . Edouard Drumont, 1901 (© Collection Roger-Viollet).
- . Charles Maurras and Léon Daudet (© Collection Roger-Viollet).
- . The Marquis de Morès, 1896 (© Collection Roger-Viollet).
- . Anatole de Monzie, c. 1920.
- . Henry de Jouvenal, with his wife Colette and their daughter, c. 1920 (© Collection Roger-Viollet).
- . Louis Louis-Dreyfus, 1938 (© Archives du CDJC – Mémorial de la Shoah).
- . The Jones family, c. 1911 (© Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Launceston).
- 0. Australia as *Terre Napoléon*, 1811.
- 1. Cahors, Boulevard Gambetta, early twentieth century.
- 2. Launceston, Brisbane Street, early twentieth century (from *Launceston* © M. Simco and P. Jermy, 1997)
- 3. Jean, Pierre and Louis Darquier, c. 1915 (courtesy of Yvonne Lacaze).
- 4. An unidentified soldier from the same battalion as William Robert Jones (© Australian War Memorial).
- 5. Statement of a witness at the Court of Inquiry into the death of William Robert Jones (© National Archives of Australia).
- 6. Charles Workman, with his son Roy, c. 1905 (© V&A Images/Victoria and Albert Museum).
- 7. Charles Workman as Ben Hashbaz in Gilbert and Sullivan’s *The Grand Duke*, 1896 (© V&A Images/Victoria and Albert Museum).

- [8.](#) Louis and Myrtle, court case 32 at Marylebone Magistrates Court, 1930 (© The City of London, London Metropolitan Archives).
- [9.](#) Anne, c. 1933 (courtesy of Alistair Rapley).
- [0.](#) Anne with May Brice, c. 1936 (courtesy of Alistair Rapley).
- [1.](#) Louis and Myrtle, London, 1931 (from *l'Express*, 14–20 February 1972).
- [2.](#) The riots of 6 February 1934 (© Collection Roger-Viollet).
- [3.](#) The removal of the wounded from Place de la Concorde (from *l'Illustration*, 10 February 1934).
- [4.](#) The funeral of Lucien Garniel (© Collection Roger-Viollet).
- [5.](#) Colonel François de la Roque, 1935 (© Gaston Paris/Roger-Viollet).
- [6.](#) The nationalist leagues on the streets of Paris, 1934 (© Snark Archives/[Photos12.com](https://photos12.com)/Oasis).
- [7.](#) François Coty (© Harlingue/Roger-Viollet).
- [8.](#) Eugène Schueller (© [Photos12.com](https://photos12.com)).
- [9.](#) Pierre Taittinger, 1942 (© Archives du CDJC – Mémorial de la Shoah).
- [0.](#) Pierre Taittinger's league, Jeunesses Patriotes, 1928 (© Harlingue/Roger-Viollet).
- [1.](#) Charles Trochu, 1941–43 (© Centre d'Etudes et de Documentation Guerre et Sociétés contemporaines).
- [2.](#) Louis' campaign leaflet for his 1935 election to the Paris City Council (© Archives Municipale de Paris.)
- [3.](#) One of the covers of *The Protocols of the Elders of Sion*, c. 1934 (from *Warrant for Genocide* by Norman Cohn).
- [4.](#) Louis Darquier in court, July 1939 (from *La France enchaînée*, 15–31 July 1939).
- [5.](#) José Felix de Lequerica.
- [6.](#) Louis Aragon, c. 1936 (© LAPI/Roger-Viollet).
- [7.](#) Léon Blum, c. 1936 (© Collection Roger-Viollet).
- [8.](#) Édouard Daladier, February 1934 (from front cover of *l'Illustration*, 3 February 1934).

- [9.](#) Bernard Lecache, c. 1930 (© Martinie/Roger-Viollet).
- [0.](#) Jean Boissel (© [Photos12.com](#)/ Ullstein Bild), Louis-Ferdinand Céline (© [Photos12.com](#)/ Keystone Pressendienst), Henry Charbonneau (from *Dictionnaire commenté de la Collaboration française* by Philippe Randa), Henry Coston (© Archives du CDJC – Mémorial de la Shoah), Pierre-Antoine Cousteau (from *Dictionnaire commenté de la Collaboration française*), Pierre Gaxotte (© Albin-Guillot/ Roger-Viollet), Henri Massis (© Martinie/ Roger-Viollet), Thierry Maulnier (© Martinie/ Roger-Viollet), Bernard Fäy (© LAPI/ Roger-Viollet).
- [1.](#) Joseph Darnand (© Harlingue/ Roger-Viollet), Philip Henriot (© Archives du CDJC – Mémorial de la Shoah), Paul Sézille (from *l'Antisémitisme du Plume 1940-44* ed. Pierre-André Taguieff), Georges Montandon (© Archives du CDJC – Mémorial de la Shoah).
- [2.](#) SS Hauptsturmführer Dannecker (© Archives du CDJC – Mémorial de la Shoah).
- [3.](#) Otto Abetz (© [Photos12.com](#)/ Oasis).
- [4.](#) Franco and Pétain, Montpellier, 1941 (© LAPI/ Roger-Viollet).
- [5.](#) General Maxime Weygand, Paul Baudouin, Paul Reynaud and Marshal Pétain, May/June 1940 (© Sigma, London).
- [6.](#) Cardinal Emmanuel Célestin Suhard, Cardinal Pierre-Marie Gerlier, with Marshal Pétain and Pierre Laval, 1942 (© LAPI/ Roger-Viollet).
- [7.](#) The *2ème Régiment d'Infanterie Coloniale* marches past Marshal Pétain, Admiral Darlan, Pierre Laval and Louis Darquier, 1942 (© Médiathèque Municipale Valéry Larbaud/ Ville de Vichy).
- [8.](#) The men of the second Vichy government, 1940 (© Getty Images/Hulton Archive).
- [9.](#) General Charles de Gaulle 1940 (© AFP/Getty Images).
- [0.](#) Jacques Doriot, 1944 (© Snark Archives/ [Photos12.com](#)/ Oasis).
- [1.](#) Léon Degrelle with Pope John Paul II, 11 December 1991.

- [2.](#) The *Métro* advertises Louis' l'Institut d'Etude des Questions Juives, c. 1942-43 (© Klarsfeld Collection).
- [3.](#) Louis with Reinhard Heydrich and Helmut Knochen, 1942 (© Klarsfeld Collection).
- [4.](#) Louis Darquier on his appointment as Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, 1942 (© Collection Roger-Viollet).
- [5.](#) Xavier Vallat, 1941 (© Archives du CDJC - Mémorial de la Shoah).
- [6.](#) Joseph Antignac (© Klarsfeld Collection).
- [7.](#) Monseigneur Mayol de Lupé, 1944 (© LAPI/ Roger-Viollet).
- [8.](#) René Bousquet with Karl-Albrecht Oberg, SS chief Helmut Knochen and Herbert-Martin Hagen (© Klarsfeld Collection).
- [9.](#) François Mitterrand, dining with René Bousquet in 1974 (© M. Bidermanas/ ANA).
- [0.](#) The Schloss Collection (© A. Vernay).
- [1.](#) Nazi and French services oversee Jewish arrests (© Klarsfeld Collection).
- [2.](#) Jewish men, women and children in Drancy concentration camp, 1942 (© Klarsfeld Collection).
- [3.](#) Jewish women and children at Drancy on the same day (© Klarsfeld Collection).
- [4.](#) Louis and Myrtle dining (© Archives du CDJC - Mémorial de la Shoah).
- [5.](#) Louis launches his Institute of Anthro-po-Sociology in Paris, December 1942 (© LAPI/ Roger-Viollet).
- [6.](#) The Falkland Arms pub, Great Tew, Oxfordshire (courtesy of Alistair Rapley).
- [7.](#) The wedding of May Brice to Gilbert Rapley, 1948 (courtesy of Alistair Rapley).
- [8.](#) Elsie Lightfoot in 1961 (courtesy of Alistair Rapley).
- [9.](#) Anne aged twelve (courtesy of Alistair Rapley).
- [0.](#) Louis in Madrid, (from *l'Express*, 28 October-4 November 1978).
- [1.](#) Louis Darquier, 1978 (© Juana Biarnés).

[2](#). 59 Weymouth Street, London W1, where Anne died.

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For PBH

CARMEN CALLIL

Bad Faith

A Story of Family and Fatherland

VINTAGE BOOKS
London

‘To keep good and bad faith distinct costs a lot; it requires a decent sincerity and truthfulness with oneself, it demands a continuous intellectual and moral effort. How can such an effort be expected from men like Darquier?’

PRIMO LEVI, *The Drowned and the Saved*

Prologue

THERE ARE MANY things to make one wretched on this earth. In my case my childhood was my purgatory, or rather, I saw myself as the Little Mermaid in Hans Andersen's fairy story, condemned to eternal suffering in return for becoming mortal. 'Every step you take will cause you pain all but unbearable - it will seem to you as if you were walking on the sharp edges of swords - and your blood will flow,' says the witch. And so the Little Mermaid, 'her heart filled with thoughts of death and annihilation, smiled and danced with the others, till past midnight'.

In 1960, when I was twenty-one, my adventures took me from the place where I was born, Melbourne, Australia, by way of ships and boats and planes to Europe, and then, a year or so later, to the day at the Villa d'Este on Lake Como, in Italy, when I swallowed a large bottle of inadequate sleeping pills. The good man who was with me at the time took me back to London and found me a doctor. The person carefully chosen for me, because she was half-Australian - not that you would know it, for all her thirty-three years had been spent entirely in England - was called Dr Anne Darquier, and she lived in London W1. For three days a week, for seven years, from 8 o'clock in the morning I would spend an hour with her, and I started to live in the world, like other people.

Anne Darquier was a doctor and a psychiatrist. She was born in 1930 in Old Windsor, just outside London. I knew her during the last decade of her life, and she told me stories about her Australian mother whom she never really

knew, and her father, living in Europe – sometimes I thought in France, sometimes in Spain. Once she said matter-of-factly while speaking of them: ‘There are some things and some people you can never forgive.’

One Monday, 7 September 1970, I rang the doorbell of Flat 38, 59 Weymouth Street. She had arranged the time, but there was no answer. Later that day, someone rang to tell me that Anne Darquier was dead. Ten days later I went to her funeral at Golders Green Crematorium, and there I found that she had another name: she was to be buried as Anne Darquier de Pellepoix. This was odd, but it would have remained only an oddity had I not, by chance, watched a documentary on television a year or so later: Marcel Ophuls’ *Le Chagrin et la pitié – The Sorrow and the Pity: The Story of a French Town in the Occupation*. As I read the English subtitles I saw Anne’s full surname again, attached to one of the officials of the Vichy government, trotting up to Reinhard Heydrich, the head of the Reich Central Security Office, to shake his hand respectfully.

Who was this man? Eventually, Anne’s birth certificate told me. The Vichy official, Louis Darquier de Pellepoix, was her father. Everything I had learned about Anne in the years I knew her – little, but enough – seemed to be shrouded in silence, buried beneath injustices to her which I sensed but could not comprehend. I had thought she was a child of the war, motherless and fatherless, like millions of others of her generation. In the decades that followed Anne’s death, delving into archives and documents and bothering people in France, Spain, Germany, Australia, England, I became an expert on the lies and secrecy and the silence to which Anne felt condemned.

Louis Darquier and Myrtle Jones, Anne’s mother, were both arch-confabulators, and those who knew them, or met them, often wished that they had not, and for good reason were wary of my interest. So it would not be true to say that everything I have discovered is the only truth, or that I

have not speculated; but when I have, my speculation stems from extensive research and considered analysis. I started with Anne's story, which as the years went by became that of her parents, and of Europe at war.

I searched for Louis Darquier in histories of France of the Second World War. And I found him – always given his entirely fictitious name of Darquier de Pellepoix. He had been Commissaire Général aux Questions Juives, Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, in Vichy France, and was known as the French Eichmann.¹ When I began this quest Darquier was still alive, living in Madrid, happily ensconced in Franco's Spain, though I did not know this.



Anne's story began on 19 April 1928 when Louis Darquier, the second child of a provincial doctor and his wife in Cahors, in south-west France, married Myrtle Marian Ambrosine Jones, second child of an Australian grazier and his wife from the township of Carrick, eleven miles outside Launceston, in the north of Tasmania.

Louis Darquier was often described as a handsome fellow. By 1928 he had acquired the English uniform immortalised by P.G. Wodehouse: a monocle and cane, the former worn ostensibly for his far-sightedness, and never left at home even when his clothes were in tatters. He was five foot ten, but seemed taller. He had a huge head, and in photographs he always looks solid and juts his jaw forward or stands erect, flourishing himself at the camera. His eyes were brownish green, and his other distinguishing marks were those of a boy and man used to punch-ups: a scar above his left eyebrow and a slightly flattened nose.

Louis resembled his father, and passed on to Anne the Darquier shape of face, his pale skin and straight hair. As is so often the case with married couples, Myrtle slightly resembled her husband, so that when you looked at Anne,

the eyes and mouth of her mother, shared by Myrtle's three sisters and five brothers, stared out of her Darquier face. Myrtle Jones was not a beautiful woman. When Louis first met her the best he could say of her was that 'she is not ugly'. But what he added revealed that he had met his soulmate. Myrtle Jones, as formidable a fantasist as Louis himself, was, he told his brother René, 'that kind of agreeable woman who has a keen sense of reality'.

On their marriage certificate, Louis Darquier gave his age as thirty years, as indeed he was. Myrtle gave hers as twenty-six, whereas she was in fact thirty-five, and described herself as a spinster, which indeed she was not. In Sydney in 1923 she had married for the first time under the name of Sandra Lindsay. It is a national Australian characteristic to abbreviate names. Had Louis Darquier himself lived in Australia for any length of time – as he so often, and so falsely, claimed to have done – he would certainly have been known as Lew. Myrtle carried this habit for life. In Australia she was Aunty Myrt, in public she was Sandra, but in private, throughout the multifarious reincarnations of her life in Europe, she called herself 'San' except when someone was after her – creditors, passport officials, functionaries of that kind. On those occasions she had to use her given name, Myrtle Jones, Myrtle Marian Ambrosine Jones. In this book she is Myrtle.

During the years I knew Anne, from 1963 until 1970, she often mentioned that she had been abandoned by her parents when she was a baby and had been brought up by a nanny in an English village, in considerable poverty. In 1963 Anne was in her thirties, eight years older than I. She had a gentle, round face, her skin was very white, very English, and her voice was very English too. But nothing else about her was. Her body in particular seemed to belong nowhere; she had a sense of imminent departure about her, even when she gave you her closest attention, which she always did. She stooped, and her straight brown

hair stooped with her – she was always pushing it back with one hand. Her shoulders were rounded, bowed almost, and her very French legs went all over the place. She could not sit on a chair without tucking them up underneath her as though she was packing them away. Her face was not happy, but it was not sad either: it was wary and alert and concentrated. She laughed, and she could be angry. She told me secrets she should have kept to herself, but had she not, I could never have begun the search for the truth about her. She sent me on my way with many clues.

I discovered that her story was not her own, but a keyhole into the dark years of civil war in France and of the victory of one faction during the Vichy years. Anne's story spread over continents, from France, the land of her father, to Australia, the land of her mother, to Germany and Spain, and to Britain – which gave her, as it gave so many at that time, what luck in life she had.



As Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, Anne's father was the longest-serving official of the Vichy state appointed to deal with the elimination and despoliation of the Jews of France. Before the war, Louis Darquier had been a leading French anti-Semite, funded by the Nazi Party. From 1935 to 1944 he held public appointments and ran private organisations through which he campaigned for the expulsion or massacre of the Jews of France. Both the French police and the Nazis considered him as a top man in his field. He was a professional who used Jews as a way of making a living. More than that, he was a con man, one who was in his turn used by the Vichy state and the German occupiers as their puppet.

For Vichy, as Commissioner for Jewish Affairs from May 1942 to February 1944, Louis Darquier controlled a staff of over a thousand and a police force which terrorised both

Jew and Gentile. In July 1942 he was placed in charge of the notorious Vel' d'Hiv' round-up in Paris, which despatched nearly thirteen thousand Jews to death camps – almost a third of them were children. Though an idle man, he worked tirelessly to provide more Jews for deportation. He introduced the yellow star and took life-and-death decisions over the fate of the Jews of France. Most of those who died in Auschwitz were sent there during Louis Darquier's tenure. Almost all of the 11,400 children were sent there in his time. Most of them did not survive. Above all, he used the persecution of Jews to make money for himself and his cronies – through corruption, despoliation, looting and bribery. What energy remained to a man who loved high living was expended on propaganda efforts to achieve more of the same.

After the end of the German occupation of France in 1944, in the *épuration*, the purge, which followed, a man was lynched by a mob in Limoges or Brive – reports differ – in the belief that he was 'Darquier de Pellepoix'. But they got the wrong man.

In a letter in 1975, a Madame Laurens, a native of Cahors who had known the Darquier family when Louis and his brothers were children, wrote: 'What is interesting to us is the name he added himself – "De Pellepoix" – God knows why, out of pride I suppose. As a young man he was, they say, troubled and unstable, a spendthrift, always at odds with his parents.'

But where did he come from? What made him what he was?

Abbreviations

- AF: Action Française, the movement. Newspaper: *Action française*
- AJA: Association des Journalistes Antijuifs, Association of Anti-Jewish Journalists
- CATC: Coopérative d'Approvisionnement, de Transport et de Crédit, Cooperative for Supply, Transport and Credit
- CDP: Centre de Documentation et de Propagande, Centre for Information and Propaganda
- CGQJ: Commissariat Général aux Questions Juives, the Commissariat for Jewish Affairs
- ERR: Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, untranslatable, always called ERR. Alfred Rosenberg's plundering office. One of Rosenberg's official titles was Custodian of the Entire Intellectual, Spiritual, Training and Education of the Party and of all Coordinated Associations
- Gestapo: Geheime Staatspolizei, secret state police or political police
- LICA: Ligue Internationale Contre l'Antisémitisme, the International League Against Anti-Semitism, now called LICRA (Race has been added). Newspaper: *Le Droit de vivre, The Right to Live*
- LVF: Légion des Volontaires Français, an idea of Jacques Doriot's but founded August 1941 by Marcel Déat with Deloncle as president. These were French units, wearing German uniforms, who fought for the Germans on the Russian front. Integrated into the SS Waffen Charlemagne in August 1944

MBF: Militärbefehlshaber in Frankreich, the military command of France, provided by the German army, the Wehrmacht

MSR: Mouvement Social Révolutionnaire, a Pétainist group founded by Eugène Deloncle, which provided most of the troops for the LVF

OAS: Organisation de l'Armée Secrète

PPF: Parti Populaire Français, fascist party of Jacques Doriot

PQJ: Police aux Questions Juives, Police for Jewish Affairs, of the CGQJ

RHSA: Reichssicherheitshauptamt, the Reich Central Security Office

SCAP: Service de Contrôle des Administrateurs Provisoires, Department of Provisional Administrators or Trustees (for Jewish enterprises)

SD: Sicherheitsdienst, intelligence service of the SS

SEC: Service d'Enquête et de Contrôle, Investigation and Inspection Service, and 'police' service of the CGQJ

SOL: Service d'Ordre Légionnaire, created by Joseph Darnand in 1941, a paramilitary elite devoted to the service of Pétain, later to become the Milice

SS: Sicherheitspolizei, SiPo, Security Police, which had various subsections, one of which was the Gestapo

STO: Service du Travail Obligatoire, Compulsory Labour Service

UGIF: Union Générale des Israélites de France, General Union of French Jews

Louis Darquier's Associations and Newspapers

Association des Blessés et Victimes du 6 Février:

Association of the Wounded and the Victims of 6 February

Club National: National Club

Club Sportif des Ternes: Les Ternes Sports Club

Rassemblement Antijuif de France: Anti-Jewish Union of France

l'Antijuif: the Anti-Jew, sequel to the *Bulletin* of his Club National

La France enchaînée: *France in Chains*

Union Française: French Union

Cahiers Jaunes: the Yellow Notebooks

Les Vieilles Souches: Ancient Roots

UFDR: Union Française pour la Défense de la Race, French Union for the Defence of the Race

Chaire d'Ethnologie: Chair in Ethnology, at the Sorbonne

Chaire d'Histoire du Judaïsme: Chair in Jewish History, at the Sorbonne

Commission Scientifique pour l'Étude des Questions de Biologie Raciale: Scientific Commission for the Study of Racial Biology

IAS: Institut d'Anthropo-Sociologie, Institute of Anthropo-Sociology

IEQJ: Institut d'Étude des Questions Juives, Institute for the Study of Jewish Questions

IEQJER: Institut d'Étude des Questions Juives et Ethno-Raciales, Institute for the Study of Jewish and Ethno-Racial Questions

Historical Note

FRENCH REPUBLICS

Before the Occupation:

First Republic: 1792 to 1804, when Napoleon declared himself Emperor

Second Republic: 1848 to 1852

Third Republic: 4 September 1870 to 10 July 1940

After the Occupation:

Provisional Republican Government: 1944 to 1947

Fourth Republic: 1947 to 1959

Fifth Republic: 1959 to present

The Third Republic, brought to an end by parliamentary vote on 10 July 1940, was a two-chamber parliament with a president and a prime minister, called the Président du Conseil des Ministres.

The Chambre des Députés, today the Assemblée Nationale, equivalent to the British House of Commons, is the lower house of the French Parliament. Under the Third Republic it consisted of six hundred members elected by universal male suffrage every four years. Its official seat is the Palais Bourbon. The three hundred Sénateurs, the upper house of the French Parliament, were elected by mayors and councillors in *départements* throughout France. The Sénat sits in the Palais du Luxembourg.

Marshal Henri-Philippe Pétain, installed as head of l'État Français with full governing powers, was authorised to

produce a new constitution. This was never done; instead, for the first time since the Revolution of 1789, France had no representative national body in the Vichy state. Pétain ruled through his personal entourage and his Council of Ministers until April 1942, when much of his authority, though not his position, passed to Pierre Laval.

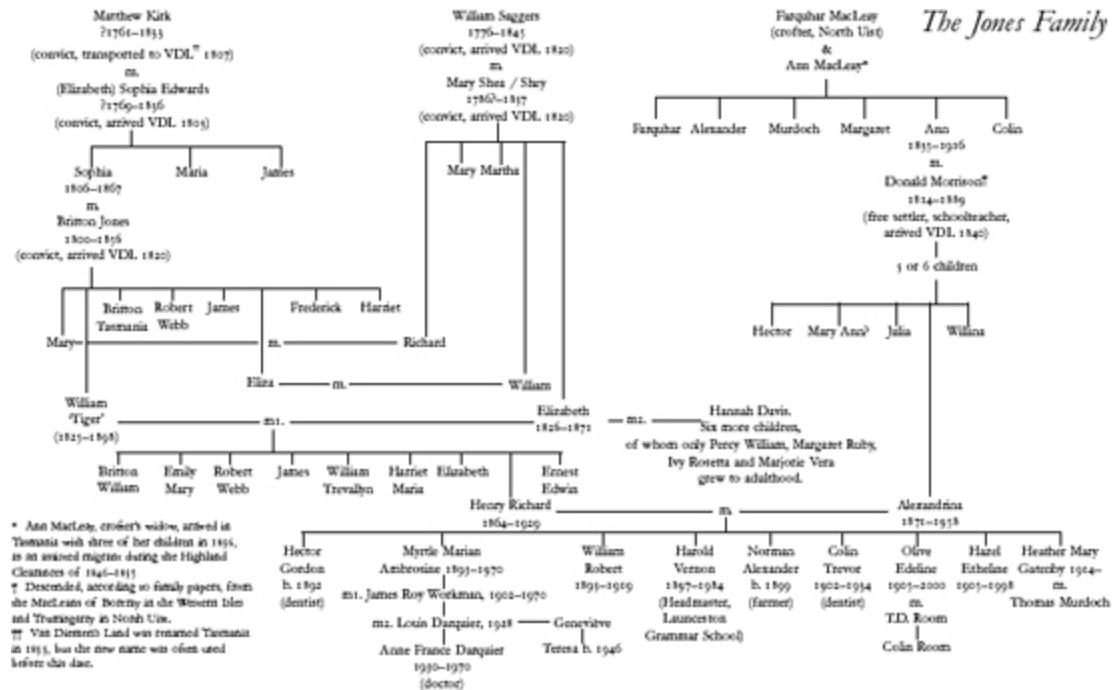
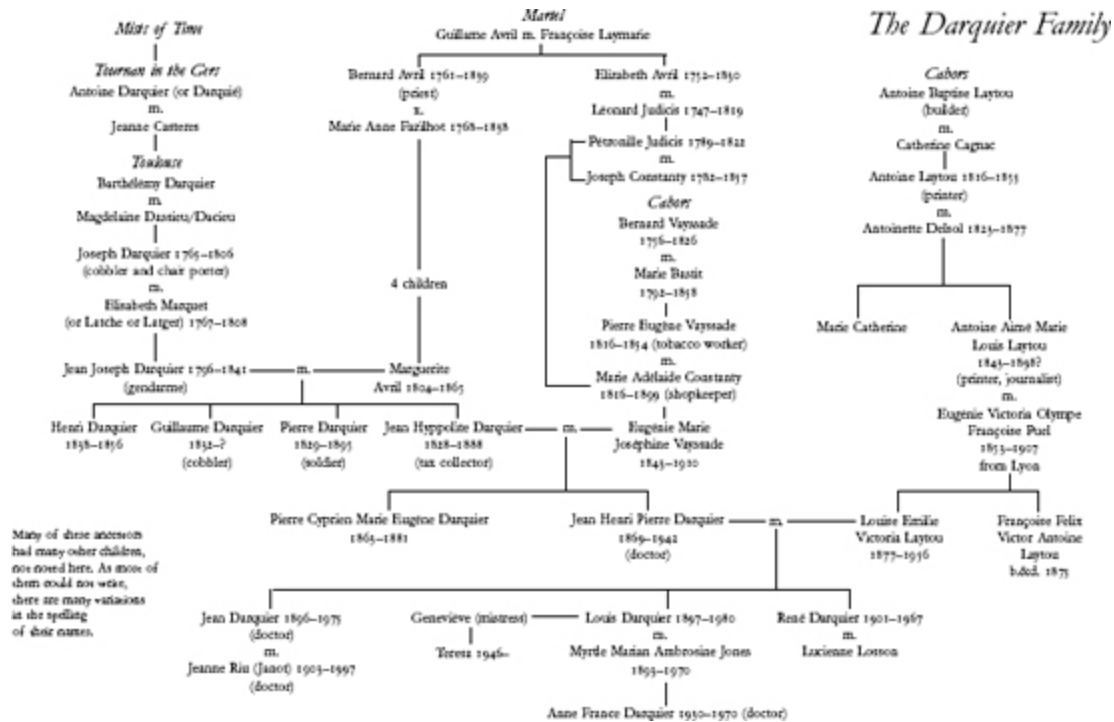
French regions and departments have changed over the years. As of 2005, France is divided into twenty-six *régions* – twenty-two metropolitan and four overseas – and the *régions* are divided into a hundred *départements*. The state's representative in a *région* or *département* is called the *préfet*, his office the *préfecture*.

GERMAN OFFICES IN FRANCE

Heinrich Himmler was in charge of all police and security services for the Third Reich, including death camps. In 1943 he also became Minister of the Interior. The Geheime Staatspolizei (Gestapo) was the secret state police, founded in 1933 by Goering, then controlled by Heinrich Himmler and his deputy Reinhard Heydrich. The Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA), the Reich Central Security Office, controlled by the Nazi Party, was created in 1939 through a merger of the Sicherheitsdienst, the SD, the Gestapo and the Kriminalpolizei. Himmler placed Reinhard Heydrich in charge of the RSHA. After Heydrich's death in May 1942 Ernst Kaltenbrunner replaced him. The RSHA comprised the Sicherheitsdienst (SD), the intelligence service of the SS; the Sicherheitspolizei (SS, SiPo), the security police, which had various subsections, one of which was the Geheime Staatspolizei (Gestapo), the secret state police or political police.^{[fn1](#)} Within the RSHA was Eichmann's Office Section IV B4, which ran the Judenreferat, the Jewish Section of the SD. Later, the

Abwehr, the intelligence service of the army, also came under the RHSA.

[fn1](#) In France - and elsewhere - most people used the word 'Gestapo' for all these branches of the RHSA, except for the Judenreferat. I have used 'SS' to include the Gestapo, but have often used the general word 'Gestapo'.



* Ann MacLennan, crofter's widow, arrived in Tianshan with three of her children in 1896, in an uncrewed machine during the Highland Clearances of 1846-1855.

I



COBBLERS
&
CONVICTS

The Priest's Children

CAHORS, IN SOUTH-WEST France, the Darquiers' native town, is built on a loop in the River Lot, and boasts monuments and buildings, bridges and churches of great beauty, strong red wine, plump geese and famous sons, one of whom was the great hero of the Third Republic, Léon Gambetta, after whom the main boulevard and the ancient school of Cahors are named. It is an amiable, sturdy, provincial place, with the windy beauty of so many southern French towns, dominated by its perfect medieval Pont Valentré and its Romanesque fortress of a cathedral, the massive Cathédrale de St-Étienne. Cahors was the capital of the ancient region of Quercy, whose many rivers cut through great valleys and hills, patched with limestone plateaux, grottos and cascades. In medieval times Cahors was a flourishing city of great bankers who funded the popes and kings, but up to the Wars of Religion in the sixteenth century Quercy was also an explosive region of great violence, one explanation perhaps for the cautious politics of its citizens - *Cadurciens* - in the centuries that followed.

Quercy reflected an important fissure in the French body politic, in the rivalry that existed between Cahors - fiercely Catholic during the Wars of Religion, when its leaders massacred the Protestants of the town - and its southern neighbour, the more prosperous town of Montauban, a Protestant stronghold. But under Napoleon