



Erasmus+

LE CANARD ECUUEILLOIS

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From Grand Hotel to a Home for Teenagers

By *Immane Ouaisa and Lucie Sinic, 4^{ème}*.

Franck, a student in our class, doesn't live with his parents during the week ; indeed, he stays at "Moissons Nouvelles" in Pellevoisin, near Ecuëillé, a special home for teenagers who have difficulties or troubles with their families. There, he lives with other students and educators.



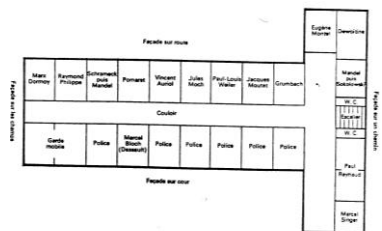
Indeed, 16 French personalities which were considered as "dangerous" by the government of Pétain, were imprisoned there from September 22nd to December 31st 1940.

Among them, there was a former President, **Paul Reynaud**, **Vincent Auriol**, a future Prime Minister of the 4th Republic, four former ministers : **Marx Dormoy** (a minister of the government of Léon Blum), **Georges Mandel** (Minister of the Colonies), **Jules Moch** (Minister of Transport) and **Charles Pomaret** (former Minister of the Interior or Home Secretary). There were also members of Parliament like **Abraham Schrameck**, **Salomon Grumbach**; **Eugène Montel** (friend of Léon Blum), **Jacques Moutet** (son of the former minister Georges

Moutet) ; businessmen like : **Raymond Philippe**, **Paul Louis Weiler**, **Emile Devoitine**, **Marcel Singer**, **Marcel Bloch-Dassault** ; and a former colleague of Laval, **Wladimir Sokolowski**.



But the building which houses "Moissons Nouvelles" has a long story. First, it was a hotel, "Le Grand Hotel Notre-Dame", at the beginning of the 20th century. Then In 1940, during the Second World War, it was transformed into a prison of state.



Les chambres des illustres prisonniers de l'Hôtel Notre-Dame où que Charles Pomaret l'a reconstruit. (Extrait de son « Le dernier silence »).

However, as this prison was not very far from the line of demarcation which divided France into a free zone (in the south) and an occupied zone (the north was occupied by German officers), then it was decided to move the prisoners down south in Aubenas then in Vals en Ardèche, at the beginning of January 1941.