

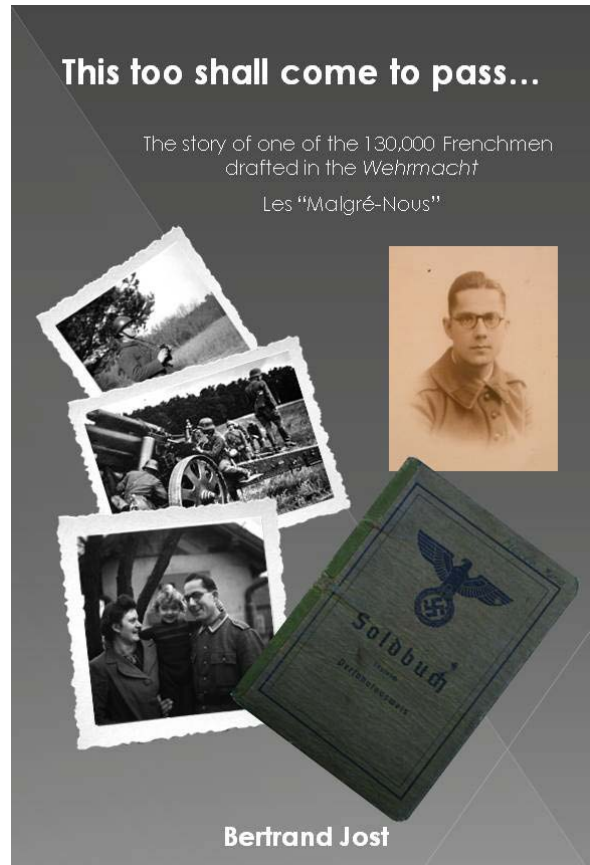
This too shall come to pass...

The story of one of the 130,000 Frenchmen drafted in the Wehrmacht

August 25, 1942. A day of infamy for Alsace-Lorraine. The Nazis have just decided to draft the first Frenchmen of Alsace and Lorraine in the Wehrmacht, the German Army. Later, many would even be drafted in the infamous "Waffen SS". For Marius Meyer, my grandfather, the draft date is April 16, 1943, not even three years after he had been discharged from the French Army in the wake of the tragic defeat of 1940. But he has no choice for the draft dodgers see their families deported somewhere to the East. So he leaves his wife and daughter to go to war, once again. His destination is Kustrin, in Eastern Germany, a few steps closer to the much feared Russian Front...

From Germany, Marius wrote the following poem about this painful moment of departure:

"Now goodbye you, my dear homeland
Dear land of Alsace, goodbye!
We must go to a remote land!
Dear land of Alsace, goodbye!
And we leave with some ... feeling.
Gone to the Wehrmacht into the uniform –
Dear homeland, oh dear!
[]
Thus they went through the town and land
And were soon recognized everywhere
A far-out hand wave, last moment of bliss
And all this was already part of the past.
And always resonates of home this melody
Like the complaints of the little flower from
'Forget me not!'"



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This book is the story of my Grandfather, one of the 130,000 Frenchmen drafted in the German Army during World War II. 32,000 of them would be killed in action and 10,500 are still missing

in action to this day. It is one of the first books in English dealing with the tragedy of French nationals forced to wear the German uniform in World War II.

Special features:

The story is told through many postcards and documents of the time that show the state of mind of the various actors during these events. For instance on September 20, 1939, as France had been at war with Germany for 17 days, Marius arrives in Paris en route to his draft assignment and wrote the following card to his wife:

“September 20, 1939,
My little wife,
Here I am in Paris after a train ride of 15 hours! Menzer from Sélestat is with me. We took a room to rest. We were exhausted from tiredness and wanted to sleep. Tomorrow we are off to Orléans. Paris is no longer Paris. The activity is greatly reduced, but life is normal and quiet. In the train I saw my French teacher from Phalsbourg. She was delighted [to see me]. I hope that you are back in shape from your illness. I hope so from the bottom of my heart. Is there anything new at home?
Greet everyone for me, especially Mommy, Daddy and Léonie.
A thousand kisses. Your Marius.”

About the Author

Bertrand Jost grew up in Alsace, France. In 1991, he moved to the United States where he works as a credit analyst in a large international bank. Simultaneously, Bertrand Jost wrote various articles and books (mostly in French) focusing on Alsatian history.

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