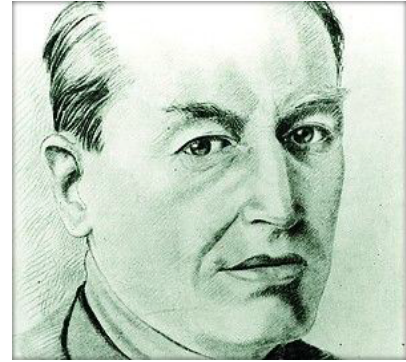


Daniel Bouchet (1894 - 1987)

Born in 1894, was a medical doctor in the region of Deux-Sèvres (the region where our former partner school is located).

In June 1940, in the middle of the *Blitzkrieg*, he became mayor of the town Saint-Loup-sur Thouet (until 1943, when he was imprisoned by the Nazis) and did everything he could to protect the citizens from the cruelty of the Nazi occupants.

In January 1941, doctor Bouchet slapped a German petty officer in the face (the reason is not known). Bouchet was immediately imprisoned and sentenced to death but then pardoned and released.



While continuing his work both as a doctor and as a mayor, he joined the secret-service network “Confrérie Notre-Dame” and later on the movement “Organisation Civile et Militaire” – both organizations were active in resistance against the Nazis. Bouchet, risking his life each and every day, undertook lots of clandestine trips to organize resistance against the occupants, helped with secret service missions, recruited new members for the resistance organization and helped in missions of saving and hiding material that the British allies dropped on parachutes.

On August 9, 1943 Bouchet was caught by the Nazis, imprisoned (in the jail of Poitiers) and again sentenced to death on December 18, 1943. But, maybe because of a good physical constitution, his sentence was changed to life-long forced labour. This meant that on January 24, 1944 he was deported to the concentration camp Buchenwald in Germany.

The concentration camp Buchenwald was one of only few concentration camps located in the middle of Germany and it was close to a number of big sites for the production of airplanes and military weapons. The Nazis sent prisoners from all over Europe to do forced labour under horrible living conditions because they “needed” workers to keep their military weapon production running.

During his detention at Buchenwald, Daniel Bouchet continued to help his fellow prisoners as much as he could.

Other than thousands of other forced labourers, Bouchet survived and returned to his home town when the war was over. He resumed his work as a doctor and stayed politically active until 1973. As a co-founder of the “Conservatoire de la Résistance et de la Déportation” (an organization dedicated to commemorate the Nazi atrocities committed in France and the resistance work of many French people), he dedicated a lot of his time to teaching younger generations the values of the resistance until his death in 1986.