



# Resonance

*Memories that continue to resonate today*

NEWSLETTER OF THE RENCONTRE RÉCONCILIATION ASSOCIATION



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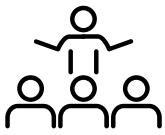
**To maintain communication  
Reconciliation Conference**

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## **Editorial - A momentum that propels us forward**

Dear readers, We extend a warm welcome to the new subscribers who are joining us after the conferences in Angers on November 13, 2025, and in Tours on November 15, 2025. These two events transcended mere presentations; they fostered authentic listening, intergenerational dialogue, and mutual discovery between the French and Germans.

The exchanges, inquiries, and discussions following the conferences reaffirmed the necessity of these narratives and the significant role that familial memory plays in enhancing our comprehension of European history. This issue outlines the significant developments of recent weeks, the projects currently in progress, and those planned for 2026 and 2027. Thank you for your presence; it adds substantial meaning to our efforts.



# Angers and Tours: two conferences, two triumphs



## Intense interactions

The two conferences drew a varied audience, including educators, descendants of families affected by the Second World War, members of memorial associations, inquisitive individuals, and students.

The German speakers, whose familial narratives are central to our approach, resonated with the audience through their sincerity, courage, and the profound emotions conveyed.

The feedback we have received highlights a significant need to listen to these voices and comprehend transgenerational legacies in Germany, the Netherlands, France, and other parts of Europe.



## Impacts and novel connections

These two conferences produced an immediate impact:

new newsletter subscribers,

collaboration requests

valuable connections (AFAPE, local associations, Angers Twinning, educators, memorial institutions),

invitations for additional presentations,

a partnership with the Maison du Souvenir in Maillé, where a visit and collaborative projects are currently under consideration.

These encounters strengthen our belief: our role is to serve as a bridge between European memories.

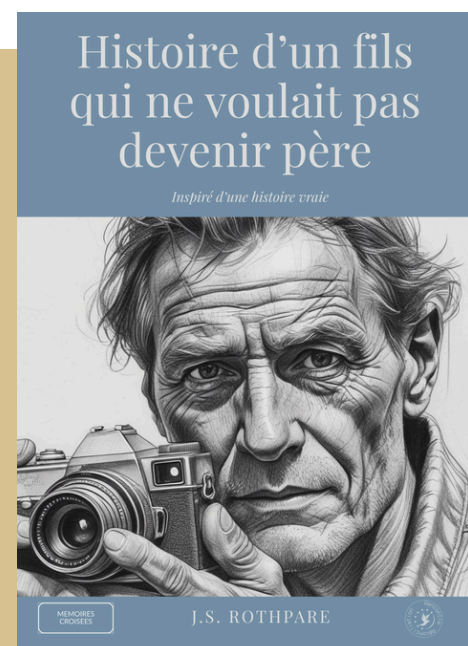
## Publication: The Gerhard eBook is now accessible!

We are delighted to announce the release of our inaugural eBook, featuring a comprehensive interview with a German witness: the narrative of Gerhard, which laid the foundation for the university thesis on the Kriegsenkel.

- This profoundly human narrative delves into his childhood in Berlin, familial secrets, the insidious pedagogy bequeathed by Nazism, intergenerational conflicts, and the pursuit of inner reconciliation.

The French version is now available, and the German edition is currently being finalized.

- This eBook marks the beginning of a collection exclusively focused on European personal narratives.





# Ongoing projects and projections for 2026

## Europe Days 2026: a bold initiative



We are presently developing a proposal for a European event scheduled for May 2026.

We aim to organize a public conference in Angers that will bring together family legacies that are seldom united.

- descendants of the victims,
- descendants of German military personnel
- heirs involved in a personal research endeavor,
- representatives of German families who opposed Nazism
- and an academic specialist

This project seeks to position Angers and our association at the forefront of European memory transmission.



## Project advancement on the Shared Memory initiative.

The project is advancing along three avenues:

Translation and proofreading of various publications in German, derived from interviews.

Simultaneous release in French and German.

Developing new publications derived from narratives provided by members of partner associations.

In-depth meetings with our German partners are scheduled to take place in Angers this autumn to facilitate the organization of this collaborative effort.

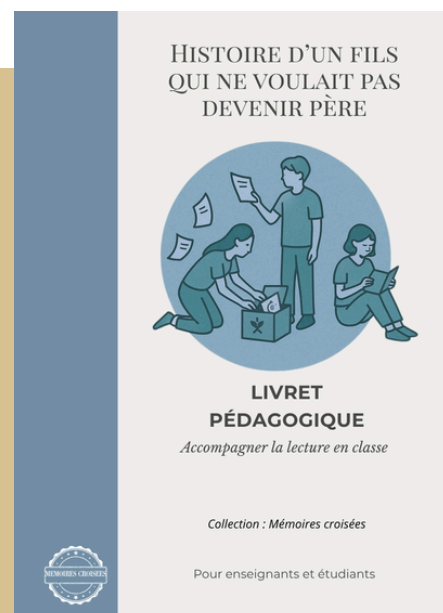
## Educational emphasis: a pivotal advancement

The development of educational booklets for colleges, high schools, university students, and nursing homes is progressing.

We requested the DSDEN to conduct an initial assessment within a school environment: a crucial step to evaluate the pertinence of our materials and to provide them to educators interested in addressing these subjects in the classroom.

We are initiating an appeal to:

teachers, librarians, cultural mediators, seeking to explore educational publications or booklets.



# Neither rewriting history nor turning the page.



"The past requires examination."

Following our conferences, two categories of reactions consistently emerge.

Some scholars, both German and French, are pondering: "Aren't you attempting to alter history?" they inquire.

Their reserve is not emotional; it arises from a rigorous scientific perspective, grounded in established facts rather than familial narratives.

Other reactions, particularly in Germany, arise from a well-documented social reflex:

"Let us turn the page." This phrase often serves as a means to circumvent the reopening of still-sensitive familial wounds.

These two perspectives originate from distinctly different realms, yet they culminate in the same misconception.

Our responsibility is not to rewrite history or to evoke guilt, but to provide a space for what families continue to bear in silence, often for multiple generations.

## To maintain communication

Site: [www.rencontre-reconciliation.org](http://www.rencontre-reconciliation.org)

- Contact us at: [rencontre\\_reconciliation@orange.fr](mailto:rencontre_reconciliation@orange.fr)
- Subscribe to our website and newsletter to remain updated on our latest news: [www.rencontre-reconciliation.org/contact](http://www.rencontre-reconciliation.org/contact)
- Join the association: [www.rencontre-reconciliation.org/the-association](http://www.rencontre-reconciliation.org/the-association)

Thank you for your confidence.

Thank you for endorsing this transmission initiative that unites and connects us.

I look forward to our upcoming meetings and the next edition of Résonance.

— The Reconciliation Committee

## BREAKING NEWS - NEW SECTION ON OUR WEBSITE

Share your family narratives with us.

Narratives that were long suppressed continue to resonate across generations.

Whether they pertain to memories of the Second World War, familial silences, intricate journeys, or painful legacies, your narratives possess significant human and historical worth.

We have launched a new section on our website specifically designed for individuals who wish to share their family history in a supportive, respectful, and secure manner.

Why is it important to share your story with us?

- To foster a collective European memory
- To communicate without judgment or unwarranted exposure.
- To engage in initiatives related to testimonials, eBooks, conferences, or artistic endeavors.
- To be heard with attentiveness and compassion.

Explore the newly added section:

*Share your family narratives with us. Each step is complimentary, confidential, and carries no obligation.*