

Andrée's Stand: Rebellion and Resistance Against the
Nazis During World War II

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Individual Website

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When choosing my topic for History Day, I knew I wanted to find a unique and original story about a woman who took a stand. I talked to a neighbor, Mary Favro, who loves to learn about the stories of amazing women. I asked her if she could share with me some of her favorite women and the impact they made. When Mary explained what Andrée had done to help Allied Airmen, I was immediately intrigued.

In conducting my research, I first contacted Bruce Bolinger, the owner of the site WWII Netherlands Escape Lines. He emailed me several great articles by people who knew Andrée, as well as obituaries written for her. I then read a book called Little Cyclone that was about the Comete Line and the role Andrée played as its founder. I explored the sources the author, Airey Neave, listed at the end of the book. I then searched the internet and was able to find an interview with a man named Bob Frost, who knew Andrée personally. Bob was a RAF evader who escaped Belgium using the Comete Line after his bomber was shot down. It was hard to find primary sources because for the safety of the Comete Line members, many of the records could not include names or locations. Many of the records were also written in French.

I chose to create a website because I like how creative you can be when sharing a story through technology. You can not only use pictures and words, but you can also make it interactive and entertaining to explore. I wanted people to understand the importance of Andrée's stand, and I thought a website would be the best way to engage people's attention. I also have experience in coding and computers, and I thought it would be fun to put my skills to use.

I loved this year's theme, Taking a Stand. A stand is an act of bravery. It requires doing something in order to make a difference. I think people can take a stand quietly. They don't have to be publicized or well-known for what they have done. My topic, Andrée de Jongh, fits perfectly with the theme because Andrée bravely risked her life for others over and over again. She knew the Nazis could and likely would capture her, yet she continued rescuing airmen, even though she did not know who she was helping, and they didn't know her. Through her escape line, the Comete Line, she saved over 800 Allied Airmen. Andrée bravely stood up to the Nazis no matter the cost. Stan Hope, a Royal Air Force member who knew Andrée personally, stated, "I remember Dedee's absolute hatred and contempt of the Germans holding us. She made a mockery of them, laughed at them. She was utterly fearless."