

Lumière du Jour presents



sélection officielle



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"Exceptional historically, for the remarkable quality of its realization but also for the profound humanity that runs through it"

Jean-Philippe Périn

a film by Stéphan Balay
original music by Pascal Braule

Following Albert

only those we forget really die



I never knew Albert Balay, my paternal grandfather. Serge, my father, never knew him either. I never got the full story of Albert's disappearance but I heard bits and pieces of it, fragments of stories and anecdotes that ended up sedimenting in me.

Gendarme, Resistance fighter, tortured, deported, death in deportation... certainties and unknowns intertwined.

I always saw his photograph alongside Elisabeth, my grandmother, hanging on the wall in her home. Now that I'm starting to make this film, I'm discovering that there are a lot of letters, photos and personal or official documents that my grandmother had preciously preserved.



SEGLER ESCAPE ROUTE EXPOSED, GENDARMES DEPORTED.

After the debacle of June 1940 and the withdrawal to the French unoccupied zone, the Provençhères-sur-Faves gendarmerie brigade was reinstalled, headed by Chief Marshal Firmin TOURTEAU and gendarmes Louis TOUSSAINT, Albert BALAY, Aloïse ECKERT, Joseph EYER and Auguste ALIBERT.

In October 1944, as the Allied armies approached, almost the entire SENGLER network was dismantled by the Gestapo following a denunciation.

Of the 5 gendarmes deported, Albert BALAY survived the longest. His sufferings lasted 195 days.

Transmitting a story is not just about showing photographs with incomplete captions. The transmission requires something more substantial and more accomplished: a family journey in Albert's footsteps.

With this film, I want to assemble the fragments of the story and reconstruct the puzzle to get as close as possible to the man who was my grandfather, this man who enlightened our lives.

Stéphan Balay

SECRETARIAT D'ÉTAT
AUX FORCES ARMÉES.
GUERRE.

Voir au dos
Nota important.

DIRECTION
DU PERSONNEL MILITAIRE
DE CHAMBRE DE TRÈVE.
Bureau F. F. C. I.
N° 13445

**CERTIFICAT D'APPARTENANCE
À LA RÉSISTANCE
INTÉRIEURE FRANÇAISE.
(Exemplaire original.)**

RÉFÉRENCE :
Décret n° 47.1956 du 9 septembre 1947.
J. O. du 9 octobre 1947.
L. M. n° 437 CAB/CIV/CC. — I. M. n° 449 CAB/CIV/CC.

Nom : BALAY Prénoms : Albert
né le 24 Avril 1911 à Mayranne (Gard)
appartient à l'Organisation de Résistance :
ISOLE
Homologué au titre de la R. I. F.

Les services accomplis dans la Résistance comptent :
du 24 Juillet 1944 au 25 Avril 1945
arrêté le 11 Octobre 1944
~~arrêté le~~ 25 Avril 1945
Le grade fictif attribué à l'intéressé :
Paris, le

Pour le Secrétaire d'Etat aux Forces armées
et par délégation.
Pour le Général, Directeur
P. O. Le Lt-Colonel DE DIANE
Chef du 5^e Bureau

Tau



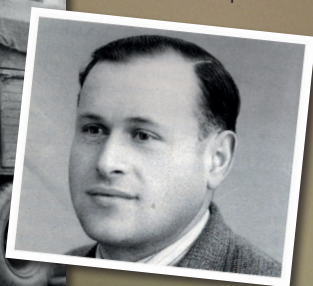
Albert Balay in 1942



"This story incarnated and explored by the 3 generations who go back step by step towards the secret of their memory takes us by the hand and sweeps us away"
Christian Le Peutrec



Fernand Sengler and his truck, which served as a hideout for escapees.



"Extremely touching, simple and sincere. The discreet presence of Albert's great-granddaughter adds to the sensitivity of the film"

Laurent Meyer



"I scanned photos of concentration camps, trying to find my father's face".

Serge, Albert's youngest son.



"They put me naked in front of the booted and helmeted officer and ask me: is your father a terrorist?"

Fernand, Albert's eldest son.



"He was a good man... that's why he died".

Antoinette Bettinelli, Albert's sister-in-law.



"The gendarmes served the French state, and for them, France was not Pétain".

Christian Dirwimmer, Société d'Histoire du Val de Villé.



"Gendarmes are often accused of collaboration, but there were also Resistance fighters. People who decided to put their lives on the line for others. They knew they could fall".

Jean-Luc Stauffer, Le Souvenir Français.

Specifications:

Production: Stéphane Balay et Lumière du Jour, 2024

Direction: Stéphane Balay

Duration: 101 minutes

VOD version française : <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/danslalumieredalbert>

VOD version anglaise : <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/followingalbert>

trailer



For a public screening, please contact us:

contact@lumieredujour-prod.fr

www.DansLaLumiereDALbert.fr