

Testimony of Jacqueline Pery Alincourt

Extract from Morin-Rotureau, Evelyne. 1939-1945: *Combats de femmes: Françaises et allemandes, les oubliées de la guerre*. Paris: Autrement, 2001.

English translation by Alison Browning.

"I was 22 years old in the spring of 1942 in Occupied Paris. Men, women and children were disappearing every day. How could people put their heads in the sand? I understood that I would rather die than do this. This shock helped me find a resolution within myself to help that could not be destroyed.

"I was totally involved- first as a member of BOA [Air Operations Office], then as a member of the general delegation- to fight with them against an enemy who was evil incarnate, to save the honor of man. One had to make sure there were lodgings and to organize materials needed for everyday life- identity papers, ration cards, jobs for the agents coming from London. You had to find 'drop points' (to collect clandestine mail and messages from all of France.) We had to find apartments. Fear was permanent. It was dangerous. On September 24, 1943, the Gestapo was waiting for me at my house."