

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE



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SNCF DONATES ITS 1939-1945 DIGITAL ARCHIVES TO PARIS, JERUSALEM AND WASHINGTON.

A LONG LASTING, CONSISTENT APPROACH TO TRANSPARENCY

World War II from 1939 to 1945 represents a key period in the history and identity of SNCF. For more than two decades, the company has engaged in recognizing this period through a series of historical, transparent, commemorative and educational actions.

To support and enhance historical research, SNCF has carried out an ambitious and proactive archival policy.

In 1992, SNCF launched the process of compiling all its historical archives, culminating in the creation of the **Historical Archives Center in Le Mans**. Inaugurated in November 1995, it was opened to the public at the beginning of 1996. This made it possible for historians and the general public to obtain free access to **the entire SNCF collection of documentary resources**, which is necessary to study the history of the railway industry in France, dating from its inception at the beginning of the 19th century.

For the 1939-1945 period, a detailed guide to archival resources by, and about, SNCF was published. It was distributed to researchers and historical research institutes worldwide.

A NEW PHASE IN 2011- 2012

In 2011 SNCF embarked upon a new phase of transparency by digitizing its entire archival collection of documents concerning the 1939-1945 period.

All of these historical documents have been data captured and digitized. The collection has not been edited, so as to ensure complete access to the entire collection of documents pertaining to that period.

To facilitate the work of researchers, complete copies of these digital archives have recently been donated to :

- **the Shoah Memorial in Paris, in December 2011 ;**
- **the Yad Vashem center in Jerusalem, in December 2011 ;**
- **the Holocaust Museum in Washington, in January 2012.**

Through this policy of openness and accessibility, SNCF continues to reinforce transparency and shed light on the corporation's past.