

Dr Jean Brausch – Brief Biography of my Grandfather

My grandfather was born 03.05.1882 in Belvaux, son of Jean Pierre Brausch and Marie Feller.

He studied Medicine in Zurich in the first decade of the 20th century. On the 20th of October 1910, “Le Jury d’examen pour la Médecine” of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg proclaimed Jean Brausch “Docteur en Médecine.”

He was married on 16.12.1919 to Albertine Madeleine Marie Marx daughter of Nicolas Marx and Madeleine Brasseur.

His only child, Odile Léonie Brausch (commonly called “Odette”), was born on 08.10.1921 in Belvaux.

He practiced as a doctor in Belvaux until 1936 when he moved to Luxembourgville after building a house at what is now 68 av. du Dix Septembre. (His cabinet was on the ground floor while he and his family lived on the upper floors).

War years

His daughter Odette (my mother) records in her diary that after the German invasion of Luxembourg during the second World War, certain simple actions could ensure that you did not suffer “*daily martyrdom*”:

She records :“*it was so easy to say Heil Hitler.....a blood-coloured flag could buy you wealth and safety*”.

But Dr Brausch and his little family did not take this easy path. They avoided all appearance of welcoming the Germans. And although in all civil and administrative documents his name “Jean” was germanised to “Johan”, he personally resisted this process and his “cachet de médecin” still read “Dr Jean Brausch.

There is very little material concerning his life during the war. The surviving documents tell us that on the 13th of May 1943 he received a “Verfügung” that he and his family were to be resettled out of Luxembourg (My mother mentions in her diary that their destination was Silesia, today on the Polish-German border). The Bulletin d’Adhésion of the Ligue vun de Letzeburger politesche Prisone’er an Deporte’ert mentions “motif d’Arrestation: Résistance”.

On that day of 13th May 1943 the family were taken to the station. Dr Jean Brausch was ill at the time. He was taken to the Villa Elisabeth for a medical control and then to the Villa Pauly (Gestapo) for interrogation. He and his family returned home, after he was judged unfit for transportation due to ill health.

These events aggravated his illness and he died 10 days later on 23rd May 1943.

On 23rd January 1947, he was posthumously awarded « la Croix de l'ordre de la Resistance 1940-1944 ».

Luxembourg, 10th January 2014

