If Marshal Pétain’s France tried to assist large families, pensioners, children, and other “bons français,” it also took care to exclude those it considered “anti-French.” Coiffeurs israélites fell into this latter category, and the Etat Français went after them with all energy it could muster. Problems of shortage and falling real incomes, difficult as they were for the majority of hairdressers, paled beside the persecution faced by their Jewish colleagues, who made up a fair proportion of the profession, especially in Paris.¹

As the Pétain regime settled in power, it began to produce laws, decrees, and other weapons of public policy that aimed to drive Jews out of the French economy. Vichy persecution, which often anticipated German demands, was rooted in the regime’s ideological and economic priorities and thus became part of “the regime’s search for autonomy”—the invidious process by which the French tried to anticipate German wishes in order to preserve the illusion of independence.²

The so-called aryанизation of the French economy rested on the law of September 10, 1940 that allowed authorities to name administrateurs provisoires for “entreprises privées de leur dirigeants.”³ A German ordonnance of September 27, 1940 mandated a census of Jews and Jewish property and was followed shortly by the French law of October 3, which excluded Jews from the “political, economic, and social life” of France. The Pétain government finished off the institutional preparation for aryанизation when in December it created the Service de contrôle des administrateurs provisoires (SCAP) within the Ministry of Production and, on March 29, 1941, the Commissariat général aux questions juives (CGQJ), to which the SCAP was attached.
in June. Since the law prohibited Jews from exercising any profession that involved direct contact with clients, Jews could neither own salons de coiffure nor work therein.\textsuperscript{4}

The situation soon became untenable for Jewish hairdressers. Evidence from the dossiers of dispossessed coiffeurs-juifs suggests that more than a few of them fled to the Unoccupied Zone or otherwise disappeared. Gabriel A., for example, owned a small shop in Saint-Denis, just to the north of Paris. He had been mobilized in February 1940 and wounded at Amiens at the end of May. After his demobilization and return to Paris, he never reopened his salon. The new provisional administrator for his biens, R. Guillois, was informed that he had fled to the south. Nathan A., owner of Chez Albert on the boulevard Saint-Martin, likewise escaped to Marseille.\textsuperscript{5}

Other coiffeurs israélites prepared to go into hiding. The best known is Albert Grunberg, whose salon was at 8, rue des Écoles, down the block from his apartment in the fifth arrondissement.\textsuperscript{6} Grunberg was a Romanian immigrant who had arrived in Paris in 1912, age fourteen, served in the war, married an Auvergnate in 1919 and opened his own salon in 1934. When the persecutions began under Vichy, Grunberg began to take precautions, sleeping in a small room under the eaves of the building where his salon was located. In this way, he managed to evade the rafles of the summer of 1942. Two months later, however, Grunberg was eating breakfast with his wife Marguerite, when the police came knocking at his door. Thinking quickly, Grunberg managed to outwit the two French flics. He fled the apartment and took up his already-prepared refuge in his 8 m\textsuperscript{2} room on the sixth floor of number 8. His brother Sami, on the run after having been released from Drancy, soon came to join him. On the sixtieth day of his confinement, he began to write his journal.

Grunberg avoided discovery and deportation by hiding in his chambre de bonne for almost two years. In many ways he was lucky. His two sons were already hidden safely in Chambéry. His wife, a "true française," was able to maintain their salon and to visit her husband clandestinely on Wednesday and Saturday nights. The concierge at number 8, Madame Oudard, brought him food and newspapers. Most importantly, she kept his secret. So did Grunberg's new neighbors, who soon learned of his presence but did not give him away. One of them even allowed Grunberg to tap into his