

Dreyfus Affair began September of 1894.

Army counter-espionage services reconstructed a letter, found torn to bits in a wastebasket in the German embassy in Paris. It was addressed to the German military attaché, Schwartzkoppen.

Suspicion of its authorship fell on Captain Alfred Dreyfus who was attached to the French army headquarters.

Captain Dreyfus was interrogated on 15. October and arrested. On 22. December, a military court found Captain Dreyfus guilty of espionage and he was sentenced to deportation and life imprisonment.

He was publically stripped of his rank in the Grand Cour of the Ecole Militaire on 5. January and he arrived at Devil's Island to begin his sentence on 13. April, 1895.

The infamous letter in question, known in the case as the 'bordereau,' is a spy's suggestion list. Apparently the most interesting items on it are about artillery matters - matters with which Captain Dreyfus had no contact in 1894. Two of the five experts who examined it, did not believe Captain Dreyfus wrote it. The three other experts disagreed.

At the beginning of March in 1896, French counter-espionage 'found' a telegram - known in the case as the 'petit-bleu' - which was sent from the German embassy and addressed to Commander Estherazy. The head of counter-espionage, Lieutenant-Colonel Picquart, investigated and became convinced Estherazy was the author of the 'bordereau,' attributed to Captain Dreyfus.

The chiefs of the army didn't want to hear about this. On 1. November, Commander Henry composed, or had composed, a **fake document, which directly implicated Captain Dreyfus.** Lieutenant-Colonel Picquart had to quit the counter-espionage service and was sent to Tunisia on 16. November.

On a visit to Paris in June of 1897, Lieutenant-Colonel Picquart told a lawyer friend about his doubts, and this lawyer went to **Scheuer-Kestner, the vice-president of the Senate. Félix Faure,** the president, did not want to hear anything about this on 16. November.

In an article in the 25. November 1897 edition of Le Figaro which concluded with, "La vérité est en marche, et rien ne l'arrêtera," Emile Zola began his campaign in favor of Captain Dreyfus.

In mid-January of 1898, Commander Estherazy was unanimously acquitted by a military tribunal.

Jan 1898

Two days later, Zola's 'J'Accuse...!' was published in L'Aurore.

As expected, as intended, Emile Zola was convicted of slander against the army chiefs on account of the 'letter's' publication, on 23. February 1898. He got the maximum penalty of one year in jail and a fine of 3,000 francs. The sentence was confirmed by the assizes at Versailles on 18. July and Zola fled to Britain.

However, 'J'Accuse...!' had the eventual effect - on 3. June 1899 - of an appeals court annulment of the conviction of Captain

Dreyfus.

Commander Henry, now Colonel, confessed his forgery to the Minister of War, Cavaignac, and was sent prison at Mont-Valérien on 30. August. The General de Boisdeffre, chief of the army, resigned on the same day.

A day later, Colonel Henry committed suicide.

1899.

Captain Dreyfus was tried again at Rennes before the Council of War between 7. August and 9. September of 1899 and was found guilty again, but with 'extenuating circumstances.'

On 19. September 1899, Captain Dreyfus was pardoned by the President of the Republic, Emile Loubet.

The civil appeals court overturned the Rennes decision in July of 1906 - completely exonerating Captain Dreyfus.

Picquart was taken back into the army, with the rank of Brigade-General. A few weeks later, Clemenceau, who had become President of the Council, was named Minister of War in his new government.

Emile Zola died on 29. September 1902, at his domicile in the rue de Bruxelles in Paris.

He wrote a 'social and natural' history of a family under the Second Empire, in 23 volumes. He wrote a dozen other novels, travel pieces, plays, art and literary criticism, and various letters

- during a very long career. Emile Zola was born in Paris in 1840.

From an old line of Alsatian Jews, Alfred Dreyfus was born in Mulhouse in 1859. He was 11 when he witnessed the Prussian entry into Mulhouse, and it was then that he decided to become an officer in the French army. In 1880, he chose the artillery and in 1889 he reached the rank of Captain. Alfred Dreyfus married in 1890 and had a son and a daughter. In 1892 he was promoted to a post at army headquarters. After he was finally acquitted by the appeals court, he returned to the army, and was named *Chévalier de la Légion d'Honneur* on 21. July, 1906. He retired from the army a year later, but returned for service in World War I.

Alfred Dreyfus died on 12. July 1935 and his funeral procession passed through the place de la Concorde, where troops assembled for the Fête Nationale stood at attention. He was buried at the cemetery of Montparnasse.