**Process Paper**

            I first learned about the brave endeavors of those involved with the Comet Line through a historical fiction book *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. Hannah had modeled the main character and events of the book after Andrée de Jongh and the Comet Line. When I discovered that the events she had depicted were based in fact I was astounded that I had never heard of this amazing escape route.

            When I began my research I originally planned to feature Andrée de Jongh, the founder of the Comet Line; however, the more I looked the harder it was to discard the amazing chronicles of other people involved and I decided to broaden my topic.

            Surprisingly, there weren’t many resources available; just a few secondary sources. After some digging I found a remembrance site written in French. I used what little French I knew to start contact and was put in touch with a member of The Comet Line Remembrance, Kris Zavoli, whose father was an American airman who was shot down and escaped through the Comet Line and wrote his story in a diary. With her help and other members of the Remembrance I was soon sorting through tons of first hand accounts, photographs, and more. Now I was hunting for secondary resources, a problem that is unusual in research.

            As I began putting the website together I consulted with my French professor to help validate my many translated quotes. I also spent a lot of time focusing on the aesthetic of the website. My topic was marked with death, torment, and oppression, but also resistance and hope. I needed to perfectly capture these dueling concepts. I decided upon a black and white theme to reflect the seriousness of the time but also the contrasting sides of the Comet Line members and their persecutors: the light in the darkness. I added red in order to brighten the color scheme but it also carries deeper meaning: red is associated with blood and rebellion; red is featured in the Nazi, French, Belgian, Spanish, and American flags which are all topics crucial to my website. My goal was to have the NHD theme be reinforced by everything in my project and reflect the risks and impact of taking a stand.

            As soon as I saw the topic for this years project I knew what I was going to detail: The Comet Line perfectly fit the theme on a hidden level. Those involved with the route were directly opposing Hitler’s oppression but they couldn’t take a stand by voicing their opinion and gathering attention—that would only lead to imprisonment or death. Instead, they drew into the shadows in order to keep themselves, and fallen Allied airmen, alive. In order to save lives they had to shroud themselves, in order to make a difference they had to stay invisible. It seems the Comet Line did the impossible: taking moral and life-changing action without being seen.