



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout
Newsletter
Year 2, volume 2
May 2016

**An other
Memorial
Monument**

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An other memorial monument

ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE

Village as monument of lunacy

At half an hour drive from Limoges is Oradour-sur-Glane situated. The village is a breath taking monument of the atrocities that were committed during World War II. The village was first destroyed by an SS unit and afterwards they killed the inhabitants.

Massacre

Oradour-sur-Glane was a regular village in the French countryside that is loved by many of us.

This would never have reached the history books if the 2nd SS Armored Division 'Das Reich' had not surrounded the village and disconnected all routes into the village at Saturday afternoon June 10th 1944. The Division came from the south, where they had already caused a massacre in Tulle.

All inhabitants were gathered and men and women were separated afterwards. Not much later all men were shot dead. The women and children were locked up in a church, which they blew up and after that act they destroyed the complete village. In a couple of hours a complete village was destroyed with cold-blooded efficiency. 642 people died that day, only 6 managed to escape.

**642 dead
6 survivors**

The doctor's car left in the middle of the square, the sowing machines in the store and cars in the garage. This will make you miserable. Most of the front's of houses still standing, however the rest of the houses destroyed completely.



Also the tram rails and overhead lines are still intact. These are near bij the church, where the women and children were found dead. The cemetery is also very impressive.



The village is fairly big and you do get the feeling that the inhabitants disappeared in the twinkle of an eye, which is of course the case.

CULPRITS

Although it has been more than half a century ago, the history of Oradour has not passed completely. One of the big unanswered questions is why the SS caused this massacre. This is still not clear. The SS division fought in the east for a long time. It was quite common for the Germans to massacre a complete village in Russia. You could say that this way of making war was sort of a habit. However still that does not explain why the SS, chose Oradour. The village was not known as a bastion of resistance.

De Gaulle

Short after the war ended Charles de Gaulle visited Oradour. He decided that the remains of this old village should become a monument. He also decided that the new Oradour should be rebuilt nearby. The survivors lived in primitive circumstances for several years until the new Oradour was initiated in 1953.

You can find more information about this village at dorpeninfrankrijk.nl.

Through deadly silence (Wil Melker)

suddenly
wind whipped the water
into waves

a flight
of stately geese dove
in gagging panic

cosy buzz
was spread out
by deadly silence

there the sun
lost her power
and lives were killed

that moment where
lunacy was becoming normal
was abruptly choked in blood



May 4th, We remember the Dutch war victims who died in World War II, in war situations and operations of peace.

May 5th, Liberation Day, we celebrate to be freed from war and oppression.

Let's cherish our freedom and pass on these achievements to our youth and following generations. Idealism can be a dream, however do not let it get that far that it changes into lunacy.