

The commemorative stone of Chief Warrant Officer Rémond

On the 3rd May, in retaliation to a bloody exchange with the resistance group of Captain François, the Germans round up all valid men present in Puget between the ages of 18 and 60. **Eight of them are “chosen as an example” to be shot.** Warned of this, **Chief Warrant officer Léon Rémond**, a policeman from Alsace, new to his posting in Puget Théniers, rushes out as the the commanding officer of the firing squad is about to give the order to shoot. **He addresses the officer in German** “Stop, you can't do that! It will bring shame on the Wehrmacht!” In the face of this determined attitude and after a violent exchange, **the hostages are spared.** Rémond, however, is arrested, sent to Nice and freed a month later. The hostages who were sent to Germany return when the prison camps are liberated, all save one.

On the 19th October 1944 the Liberation committee of Puget names this street “Boulevard de l'Audjant -chef Rémond” and in 1996 it is doted with this **commemorative stone made of sandstone by the sculptor Pierre Gavazzi of Annôt.**

The evening of the 2nd may 1944

On the 2nd May 1944, a German patrol commanded by two officers, makes an assault on a resistance hide-out on the road to the Saint Raphaël

pass near Puget Théniers. Captain François, leader of the resistance, kills the officers and evacuates his group who disappear into the night. As they flee, the radio operator Joseph Cabot is killed by a hand grenade that he had pulled the pin from.

A little extra.....

A fortified town in the past....

In this picture we have superimposed on a recent aerial photograph the lines of the **ancient mediaeval ramparts of the town** which a 17th century plan attests to. Puget is divided into two parts: **the village on the right bank of the Roudoule** directly dominated by the castle and **the neighbourhood on the left bank** containing the Parish church. Puget was a **crossroads and a border town** and could be proud of its fortified walls, so precious for the protection they afforded the inhabitants but also for the trade that they generated. This market town was the beneficiary of franchises emanating directly from the sovereign of Savoy. This is still visible today in the **mural crown that surmounts the towns's coat-of-arms** which was based on that of the House of Savoy, with a red background but also a blue background during the French annexation.