



# REMEMBER MUSEUM 39-45 THIMISTER-CLERMONT

# 39-45



Latest news...

## ★ September 2016 : Official Dedication of the kiosk ★



Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz celebrated the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of our liberation and officially dedicated the new extension of the museum. Vito Mastrangelo, an American WWII Veteran, came especially from California for this event. He was twenty years old in 1944 and was with the 607<sup>th</sup> Graves Registration Company of the U.S. Army. His company had the solemn task of gathering, registering and burying dead comrades in France, Belgium and Germany. Vito knows the price they paid. He saw death in the eyes of these young soldiers. Not dozens, not hundreds, but thousands of dead comrades. Vito lost his only brother in 1944 in India. Some American and Belgian Military as well as friends and four bagpipers attended the event.



The two creators of the Remember Museum worked for several months on the kiosk. Referencing an old picture, they rebuilt the newspaper's kiosk that was used during WWII at the Place Verte of Verviers. Marcel came up with the idea as a way to better display their many WWII newspapers and magazines. On display are newspapers from Europe but also from many other countries like the United States of America. Everything is handmade with wood and glass. Marcel also worked on the electricity, heating and painting.

On the original picture, you can see a German soldier reading newspapers but Marcel displayed the German soldier reading a special newspaper : the fake « Soir » that was edited by the Resistance. They printed stories and articles against Hitler and the German Army. It was published on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1943. That was a very dangerous

act as the Press was controlled by the Germans. The publishers were arrested and twenty-five people were shot in reprisals !

Inside the kiosk is a woman and her baby. She also has postcards, cigarettes and real WWII money.

## ★ December 2016 : Trip to the USA ★

Marcel and Mathilde were invited to Washington DC to celebrate and commemorate the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. The Battle of the Bulge Association, their friends and families paid for all the expenses. That's a gift that you cannot refuse ! It was an extraordinary trip with ceremonies, receptions and banquets.



They had a guided tour of the Pentagon where 26,000 people work! They received from the Battle of the Bulge Association an award that designated them as « Persons of 2016 ». It's not the first time that the couple was decorated by Americans but it was the first time that they were recognized by Belgians. Marcel and Mathilde were invited to the Residence of the Belgian Ambassador to America in Washington DC and the Ambassador gave them an Appreciation Certificate for their work.

Another moving moment : they laid a wreath with a Belgian General at Arlington National Cemetery where 290.000 people are buried !

## ★ January 2017 : Visit of the American Ambassador ★

On Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Denise Bauer, American Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, visited Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz at the Remember Museum. Her husband came as well and it was her last visit before leaving her official duties on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2017.



She signed the gold book, thanking the « M&Ms » as the Americans nicknamed them.

