

They parade for the Sussex



In remembrance of those who died for the Liberation (Photo DNA)

More than 60 soldiers of the French army joint Intelligence training centre (CFIAR) of Strasbourg, under colonel Prigent and lieutenant-colonel Petrel's command, came to Hochfelden on June 7 for a parade and a visit of the Zorn country museum, and more especially for the Sussex Plan collection.

Georges Soulier and Daniel Pomerantz, two former Sussex agents as well as Michel Tillet's family, by their presence, brought back to the visitors highly emotional moments.

Sussex Plan, WWII resistance network organized in Great Britain with Allies support, was composed of 120 girls and boys of 20 years of age, who had joined De Gaulle's Free France in London. After an intensive training, they were parachuted as civilian on strategic sectors in order to collect and to transmit intelligence information on the German troops. These missions were to provide to the allied command reliable information to facilitate the Normandy landings on June 6, 1944 under the best conditions. Some of them sacrificed their life during their mission.

This event was honoured with the presence of Bernard Ingwiller vice-president of the Department Council, Georges Pfister mayor of Hochfelden and his first deputy Jean-Paul Schneider, Mireille Hincker French Memory delegate. François Entz Arche committee president and the members of the Arche committee, Dominique Soulier, curator of the Sussex Plan museum, welcomed these distinguished guests.

In procession, all went to the war memorial where colonel Prigent greeted the courage of Sussex agents and their exemplary patriotism. A spray of flowers was placed on the war memorial. The ceremony, with the accompanying trumpet of Patrick Kautzmann, ended in a Marseillaise sung by those present. On return to the museum, François Entz, in his short speech, said he was proud to receive such a prestigious unit in Hochfelden, by evoking the demonstration of the youngsters of the borough on July 13, 1941, but also the smugglers and the members of the Bareiss network of the Country of Zorn.

Then, guided visits retained young soldiers' interest. These future members of the French Intelligence services discovered all the panoply which equipped the young Sussex agents: radio sets, uniforms, weapons, pens throwing teargas, cyanide pill, false identity cards, counterfeit bills but also the touching photographs of Sussex agents who were tortured and assassinated. More information can be find on: www.plan-sussex-1944.net.