

# Memorial circuit

– Town of Bourg-en-Bresse 🏙️

# War Memorial

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Pierre Goujon Square – Bourg-en-Bresse (01000), France





*Figure 1: Postcard of the Hôtel de l'Europe (1940)*

While the **Vichy regime** banned all commemorations, **leaflets** encouraged high school students to participate in the **July 14, 1942** celebrations, which were held in front of the war memorial. A police report mentioned a gathering of **30 high school students**. **Roger Page**, a student of the Jérôme Lalande High School, was arrested. He was beaten in the basement of the **Hôtel de l'Europe**, then released.

<sup>1</sup>**14<sup>th</sup> of July** : French national holiday established by the law of 6 July 1880 celebrating the storming of the Bastille in 1789 and the first “Fête de la Fédération” (Federation Day) in 1790.

On **November 11**, 1942, high school students eager to pay tribute to the heroes of 1914-1918 once again visited the **war memorial**. The **police**, busy securing a bicycle race taking place that day in Bourg-en-Bresse, were not immediately notified of the gathering, which allowed the ceremony to **proceed smoothly**. The large crowd eventually alerted the police, who **dispersed** the unauthorised demonstrators.

According to **Paul Morin**, two students from Jérôme Lalande High School, **Roger Page** and **Petit**, were arrested and taken to the police station for questioning. They were only **released** later that day.



*Figure 2: Postcard of the War Memorial in Bourg-en-Bresse (1937)*

## Sources

- ◆ Page, D. *Carte d'identité scolaire de Roger Page*. Lalande2. Accessed on 14/07/2025.
- ◆ Guillard, Gilbert. *Du sang sur les gentianes*. Editions des écrivains, 2001. 218 p. ISBN 978-2-84434-831-9. Accessed on 14/07/2025.
- ◆ Morin, Paul. *J'ai eu vingt ans à Dachau*. Aquiprint, 2012. 195 p. Accessed on 14/07/2025.

## Credits

- ◆ **Municipal Archives of Bourg-en-Bresse**
  - *Carte postale de l'Hôtel de l'Europe (1940) (33Fi1518) (Figure 1)*
  - *Carte postale du Monument aux morts de Bourg-en-Bresse (1937) (33Fi0806) (Figure 2)*

Infographic created based on the work of the Seconde D class (class of 2023-2024) at Jérôme Lalande High School to commemorate the mass arrest carried out by the Militia at the school on 5 June 1944.

This is not a work of historical scholarship, but rather an attempt to popularise history.