

# Memorial circuit

– Town of Bourg-en-Bresse 

## *Le Français* restaurant

---

7 Alsace-Lorraine Avenue – Bourg-en-Bresse (01000), France





*Figure 1: Photographic portrait of Paul Morin (1924-2020)*

The ***Le Français*** restaurant is a favourite haunt of resistance fighters. There, they cautiously exchange **information**, small **packages**, and clandestine **documents**.

This was the case in October 1942, when **Marcel Thenon** and **Paul Morin** arranged to meet a Gaullist from the Edgar Quinet High School and **Henri Bailly**, known as 'Guerchon', one of the leaders of the '**Liberation**' movement. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange **instruction sheets** for future **parachute drops**, but above all to exchange a package containing a small-calibre **pistol** and a box of bullets. From this meeting onwards, the resistance in Lalande took on a **new dimension**, thanks in particular to the introduction of **weapons** into the struggle, such as the famous **STEN** submachine gun.



*Figure 2: Avenue Alsace-Lorraine and Le Français restaurant (right) (1938)*



*Figure 3 : Avenue Alsace-Lorraine and Le Français restaurant (left) (1940)*

## Sources

- ◆ Association Résistance Lycée Lalande. *Témoignage Paul Morin*. Lalande2. Accessed on 12/07/2025.
- ◆ AERI (Association pour des études sur la Résistance intérieure). Musée de la Résistance en ligne. *Marcel Cochet*. Accessed on 12/07/2025.
- ◆ Web ESOFT studio. (2011-2024) *Paul MORIN DIT CHR. DE GOURB*. Mémoire de la déportation dans l'Ain. Accessed on 12/07/2025.
- ◆ Association Résistance Lycée Lalande. *Paul Morin - Publication*. Lalande2. Accessed on 12/07/2025.
- ◆ Mercier, Pierre / Duparcmeur, Josselin. L'Ain : Résistance et Déportation. 4, *Bourg-en-Bresse : Lalande se rebelle*. Les amis du musée de la résistance Nantua, 03/2023. ISBN 978-2-957382-53-8. Accessed on 12/07/2025.

## Credits

- ◆ **Municipal Archives of Bourg-en-Bresse**
  - *Avenue Alsace-Lorraine et restaurant Le Français (1938)* (AM 33Fi0169) (Figure 2)
  - *Avenue Alsace-Lorraine et restaurant Le Français (1940)* (AM 33Fi0175) (Figure 3)
- ◆ **“La Résistance au lycée Lalande” Association – Lalande2**
  - *Portrait de Paul Morin (Photographie de classe (1941-1942))* (Figure 1)
- ◆ **Wikimedia Commons**
  - *Café Français Bourg Bresse 10* (Icône)

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.