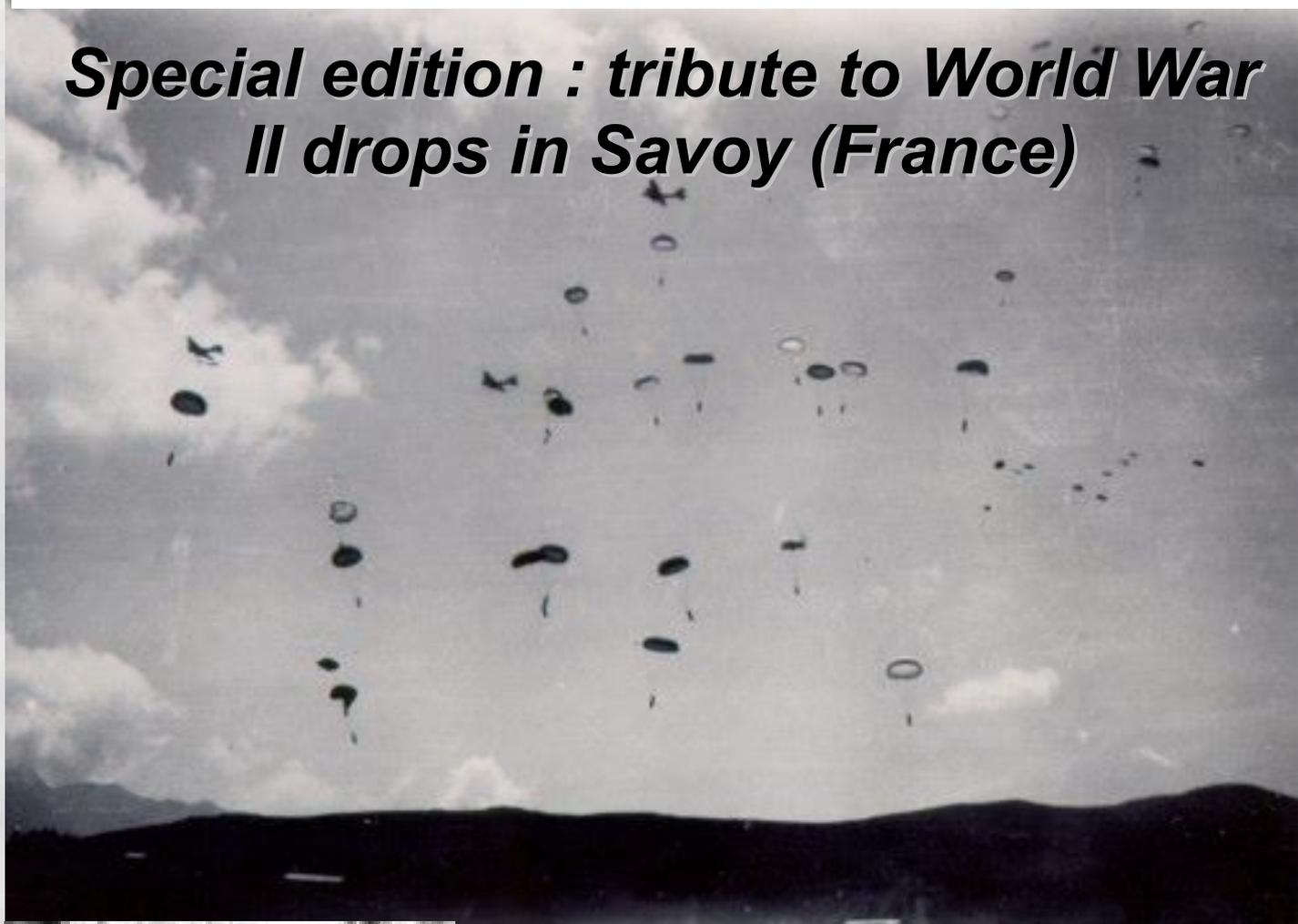


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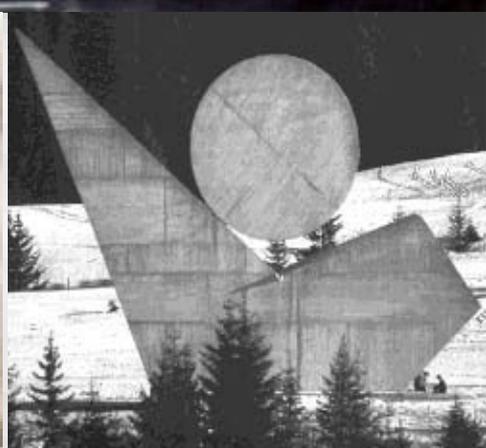
Special edition : tribute to World War II drops in Savoy (France)



Resistance p.1



Drops p.2



Memories p.4



Maquis in Savoy : Resistance :

The call of General de Gaulle on June 18th 1940 was the starting point of the resistance, which had a difficult start.

At that time, a large majority of French was still confident in Marshal Petain. High school students and students from Chambéry (movement « young Gaullist »), single individuals were the first nuclei of resistance. The first resistant distributed leaflets and newspapers calling for resistance and advise first networks. Germans exerted harsh reprisals for the guerrillas and the people.

The Resistance was gaining ground in cities where the often artisanal leaflets called for résistance. At the same time, free France that issues on the BBC was increasingly heard and used to transmit messages to the various resistance groups.

Resistance tormented the lack of weapons and equipment. To equip resistant fighters plundered certain deposits youth camps and especially waiting airdrops allies, weapons and equipment, the largest of which occurred in Les Saisies on August 1st , 1944.

S.Alioua



**The call on June
18th 1940**

Source: parismatch.com

Bulle Battalion :

With Armistice, Jean Bulle joined the Resistance, born organizer, he led several operations, sabotages, and runs as a military leader of the maquis

« Beaufortain ». It organized on August 1st 1944, the parachuting of Les Saisies's pass turning point in the action of the resistance in Savoy allowing to arm a battalion of 1 200 guerrillas.

R. Laillé

A lot of Drops...

Saisies : The Ebonite Operation

The BBC aired on July 31st : "In the garden, the gardener waters the lettuce." The next day, the Resistance fighters were then introduced on the airdrop site in order to report the location to aircraft and prepare the transport of weapons, with mules and trucks, but also around and in the valley to block access to Les Saisies the Germans.

The parachuting of Les Saisies pass is one of the largest in France. This afternoon on August 1st 1944, 78 American B17 dropped 864 containers full of weapons, ammunition, nursing equipment, clothing, food ... In a deafening roar !

L.Hosti



*Drops in 1944.
Source:
ledauphine.com*

Interview :

Maurice Riondel was a member of Bulle Battalion during parachuting in Les Saisies. He was 17 years old.

He said : « I keep in my memory the image of a giant chaos because we had to take care not to get it on our heads, everything was set to pass parachutes and recovered it. In fact, we didn't want that the Germans take it. We received machine guns, of course some bazookas and a plethoror of english guns. »

L.Enquix

A lot of Drops (continuation..)

Glières :

While the region mobilized to receive in the Plateau the largest drop of Haute-Savoie has ever received. More than three thousand men converged on the Glières. A thousand ensured the closure of all access the massive amount of surrounding valleys. About two thousand ascended take delivery of more than one hundred and fifty tons of weapons.



**Drops in Les Glières, 1944.
Source : glieres-resistance.org**

These two examples of drops were the two most important in Savoy during the world war II. Of course there were another parachuting in Savoy like in La Plagne.

On August 8th , the Tarentaise valley was released thanks to the action of armed resistance by parachute in Les Saisies. Can not afford to lose this strategic route to Italy, the Germans began fighting hard to regain lost ground. On August 21st , Aix-les-Bains is released ,Chambéry too, Albertville and Montmélian.

The liberation of the two valleys Maurienne and Tarentaise would be tough and difficult. Ambushes were multiplying and Germans used all possible methods to enter burning hamlets. Since September 1944, Savoy was completely free.

Today's memories

Monument in Les Glières :

It is more than a memorial, it's a symbol of hope. Today, a marked course accessible to all types of walkers, along zones drops, guides you on the Plateau of Les Glières now belonging to the collective memory. The explanatory panels punctuating this route chronicle the daily lives of guerrillas and events 1944.

R.Laillé



The national monument of Les Glières in 1973.

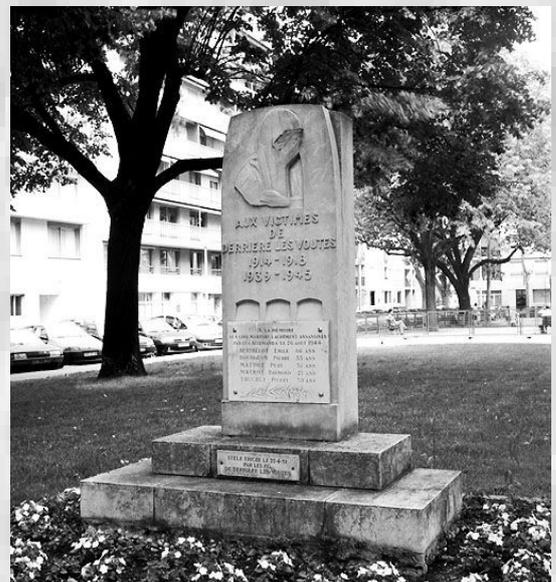
Source : alain.cerri.free.fr

Commemoration in Les Saisies in 2014 :

It was a military commemoration of Col des Saisies parachuting on August 1st 1944 there was also the presence of an ecumenical ceremony, arms lifted, and stories of events and official commemorations and parachuting.

In each village and city of Savoy where there were maquis, a lot of memorials were created so as to honor resistants. Every year on May 8th, there are commemorations in order not to forget them and to keep in memories what there were fighting.

L.Enguix



Memorial in a small village in Savoy.

Source : delacampe.net

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