

THE STAUFEN

THE LORRAINE CROSS



Explanation

In the beginning, the Staufen was one of the favourite walks for the population of Thann with a bar and a magnificent view point over the Alsace plain, Mulhouse and the mountains of the Swiss Jura region.

During the Second World War, the Lorraine Cross was chosen as the emblem signifying the rally for national freedom as instigated by Charles de Gaulle.

Construction

At the end of the war, a collective wish to erect a memorial dedicated to the Alsace Resistance and upheld by the Veteran's Union of Alsace Resistance came into being.

The choice of site opposite the Rhine border and visible from the Alsace plain, gave a certain advantage to the town of Thann, and thanks to the tenacity of its Senator-Mayor, Modeste Zussy, the site at Thann was chosen.

The first stone was laid on 1st August, 1948, by General de Gaulle himself, on a visit for the ceremonies concerning the Tricentenary of the union of Alsace to France (1648 – 1948). On this occasion, he wrote in the Visitor's Book, "*to the glorious and dear town of Thann, an example for Alsace and for France*".

The monument, financed by public subscription, was made out of concrete, 12 meters high, and was erected in only 12 weeks by the company J. Lutringer of Thann despite the difficulties of access and lack of water on the site.

The inauguration of the Staufen Cross took place on 10th July, 1949 in the presence of General Pierre Koenig, previously Superior Chief of Staff of the FFI (Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur) and Gaston de Monerville, President of the Senate.

The Cross of the Alsatian Resistance has been blown up twice, in March and September 1981. It was temporarily replaced by a wooden cross then the new cross was inaugurated on 18th June, 1986. It is now lit with flood-lights and shines over the town of Thann in memory of the flame of Resistance cited in the General de Gaulle's call to Resistance on the 18th June, 1940.



How to get there

Access to the Cross is only on foot or mountain bike. Cars can be left at the parking space "Place des Combattants en Afrique du Nord" (alongside the railway line), rue Humberger.

Follow the path marked with a **red triangle** which starts from the "chemin des vignes" and which climbs up to the monument at 492 meters (170 m gradient).

You may return either by the same path or continue on the south side of the Staufen pass (4 km walk) marked with **blue circle** and **red rectangle** for the descent.

For any information, contact



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