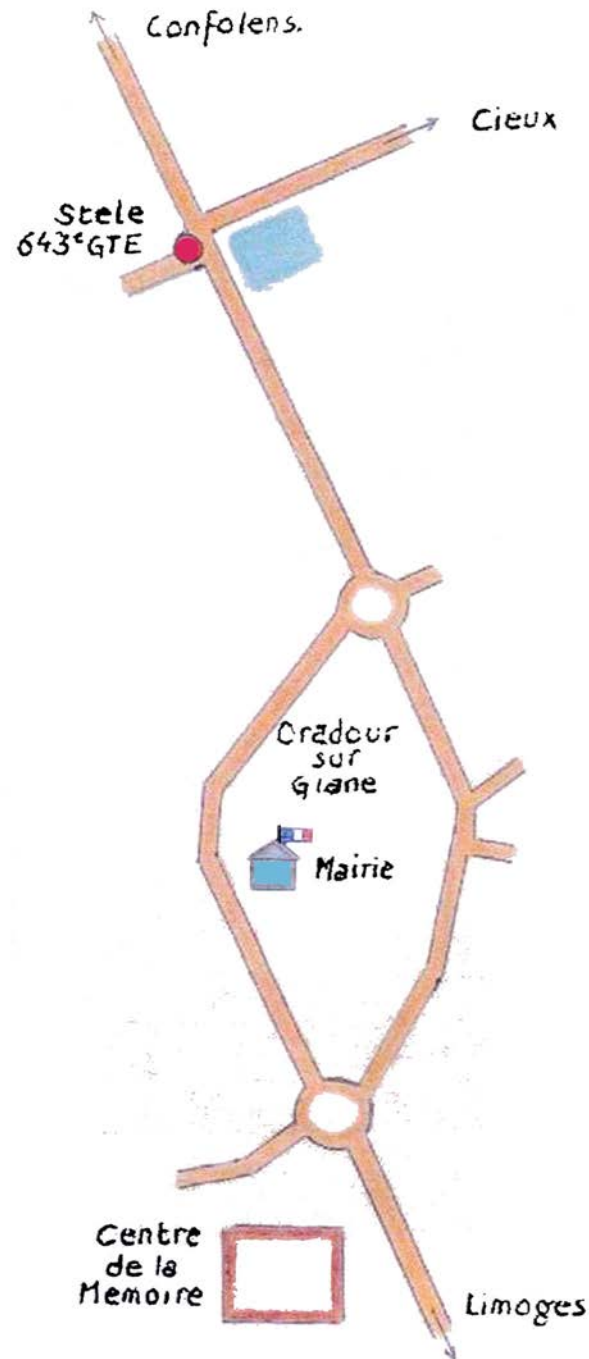


## Unveiling the stele



We thank the Mayor, the first deputy Mayor



I.P.N.S.

Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique

## Oradour-sur-Glane

**The 643<sup>rd</sup> Foreign Workers Group**  
(Groupe de Travailleurs Étrangers, GTE)



Picture: The 643<sup>rd</sup> GTE takes attendance, Oradour-sur-Glane town square.

«The internment without barbed wire»



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Following the defeat of the Spanish Army, a lot of Spaniards fled to France where they suffered and were humiliated in French concentration camps. Many of these people were then affected to Foreign Workers Groups, the «Groupements de Travailleurs Étrangers» (GTE) established in Vichy France.

The law voted on September 27<sup>th</sup> 1940 by the French State created the Foreign Workers Groups under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Production, aiming at dealing with «overwhelming numbers of foreigners in the national economy». Foreigners were listed, those fit for work and aged between 18 and 55 were force-enrolled into the Foreign Workers Groups. At the beginning of 1941, the headquarters of the 643<sup>rd</sup> GTE was set up in the locality of «La Fauvette» near Oradour-sur-Glane.

This Group consisted of Spanish workers.

«On May 5<sup>th</sup> 1941, the 643<sup>rd</sup> GTE (220 men) was divided up into 5 sections:

- A Command section stationed in Oradour-sur-Glane, with 21 men working as carters, shoemakers, tailors and secretaries.

- A section of 60 foresters cleared and collected wood in the forest of Thouron. They were housed in barracks and supervised by employees from the Cubertafond firm.

- Another section of 40 foresters worked for the Bernis firm in Saint Martin Terressus.

- A section for temporary assignments, with 24 men that were maintaining the car fleet of Saint Junien.

- 62 men worked in the surrounding farms.

- 15 ill or unfit men were also stationed in Oradour-sur-Glane. (1)

On October 25<sup>th</sup> 1942, headquarters were transferred to «Moulin David», in the Aix-sur-Vienne township, after the Commander was dismissed for smuggling goods.



(1) Archives départementales de la Haute-Vienne, 985 W 454, Cir, 3879/vr, Limoges le 5 Mai 1941