

It fills me with great gratitude that I was able to get personally involved in this special and extraordinary project.

At a meeting about two years ago, the municipality of Putscheid, together with the village of Stolzemburg and the Our Nature Park, asked me if I could give some thought to the design of this memorable square.

This special place is not only significant in terms of military history, but is also a central starting point for exploring the dramatic events in the north of Luxembourg during the Second World War, which are currently covered by more than 70 REMEMBER-US information boards at 24 relevant locations. In addition, there is further background information and image material to which QR codes on the boards refer. I have been involved in this historically valuable project under the auspices of the Our Nature Park for around 15 years, together with Mr. Marcel Scheidweiler, among others, who has volunteered his time to collect the historical facts and documents.

If you now look at this monument, you will notice that the 10 large rusty plates form a pentagram - a five-pointed star, which is also found in the paving. This star adorned American tanks, airplanes and jeeps at the time. For the people of Luxembourg, this star was the symbol of the longed-for liberation, of the heroic liberators!

At second glance, you may recognize that the pentagram consists of five "ones", which form the corners of the star. They remind you that the **FIRST** crossing of Allied soldiers from the **FIFTH** US armored division took place here. The center of the pentagram forms a **pentagon** and commemorates the U.S. Department of Defense, whose construction began on **11/9**, 1941.

And finally, GIs and Wehrmacht soldiers essentially stood opposite each other here. Their silhouettes are cut out of the panels; they seem to move as they pass by.

In each star corner you'll find a backlit panel with further information. Below them are the drawings and diary entries of a young German soldier who witnessed and recorded the madness of the war here: Horst Helmus. The light in the corners makes the star appear to glow at night, surrounded by the ghostly shadows of the past.

In its creation and realization, this monument is also a symbol of today's peaceful and friendly coexistence and cooperation in the heart of Europe. The

initiative and financing came from the municipality of Putscheid in cooperation with the local community of Stolzemburg and the Our Nature Park, which covered the design costs. The realization took place in close and very constructive cooperation with the Administration des ponts et chaussées - namely Mr. Marc Meyer. The design idea, the construction plans and the realization were in my hands. Marcel Scheidweiler compiled the historical facts and documents, while Newlaser from St. Vith, Belgium, contributed the sophisticated metalwork. The anchoring, installation and paving work were carried out to my complete satisfaction by Entreprise Viandy from nearby Vianden.

This is probably one of the last projects of my professional career. And it is certainly a highlight that fills me with pride but also with humility. For me, it is a bow to forgiveness, to the human warmth and the deep trust that has been shown to me personally here in my Luxembourg neighborhood for more than 30 years.

Thank you so much!

Volker Teuschler

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