

Omer HABARU
(1893 – 1977)

Augustin HABARU
(1898 – 1944)

C4-L8-T5+6

Journalist and editor-in-chief of the newspaper "Les Nouvelles", Omer Habaru defended the French language in the south of the province of Luxembourg. A regular officer and graduate of the Ecole Militaire, he was wounded during the siege of Antwerp in October 1914. He then tried to rejoin the Belgian army via the Netherlands, but was arrested and held prisoner for four years. He published an autobiographical account of his experiences as a Belgian soldier and prisoner of war, despised for not having "done the Yser" (fought at the Battle of the Yser). In the 1930s, he led a campaign against German-language newspaper editors.

During the Second World War, he was arrested by the Germans and sent to the Vucht, Ravensbrück and Buchenwald concentration camps. After returning safely from deportation (1943-1945), he resumed his position at "Les Nouvelles". He published his memoirs in "Les Triangles Rouges" (Red Triangles, 1946). He was awarded the Prix de la Résistance (1956). He also penned several plays, including "La Marquise du Pont d'Oye" (The Marchioness of Pont d'Oye). He died on 12 May 1977.

His brother Augustin, born in Arlon on 19 July 1898, was also a journalist and Belgian correspondent for the Lyon newspaper "Progrès". A Resistance fighter and agent for the Coty network, under the pseudonym Monsieur Paul, he travelled to various places that were under aerial attack. He was killed by a hail of machine-gun fire on 21 June 1944, along with two other members of the Coty network and seven prisoners. His body, originally buried at Arbin in Savoie, was later transferred to the French National Cemetery, La Doua, in Villeurbanne near Lyon.



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