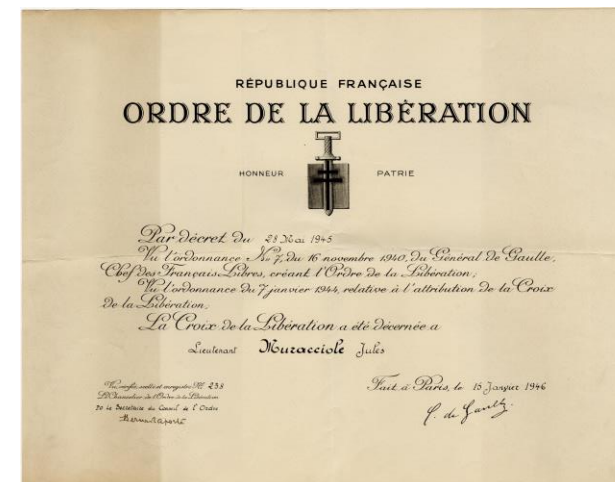
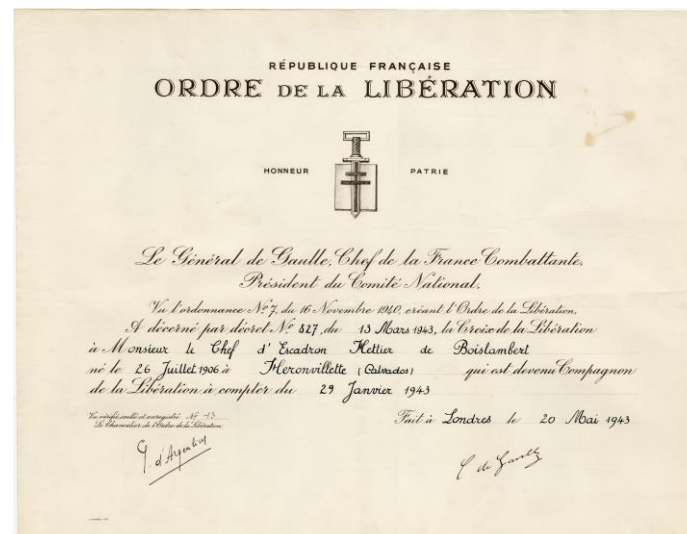
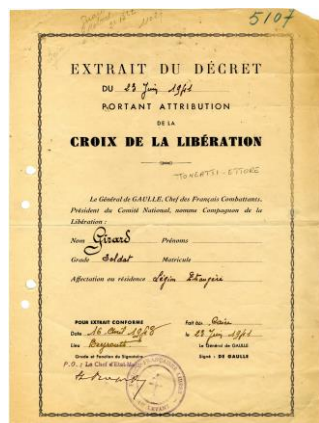


Crosses and certificates of the Order of Liberation

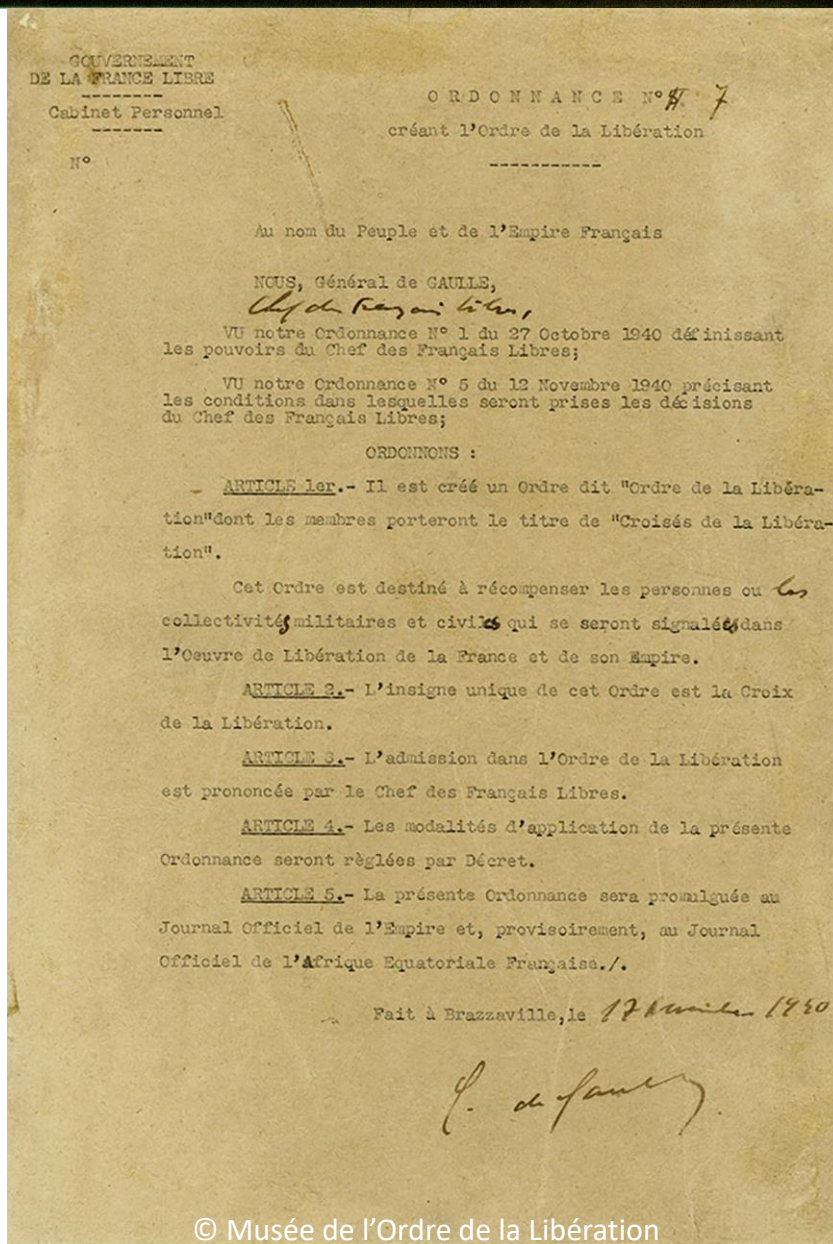


Ordinance No. 7 on November 16th 1940 by general de Gaulle to:

“reward civilian and military communities or individuals who distinguished themselves in efforts to liberate France and the French Empire”.

One title: **Companion of Liberation**,

A single insignia: the **Cross of Liberation**.

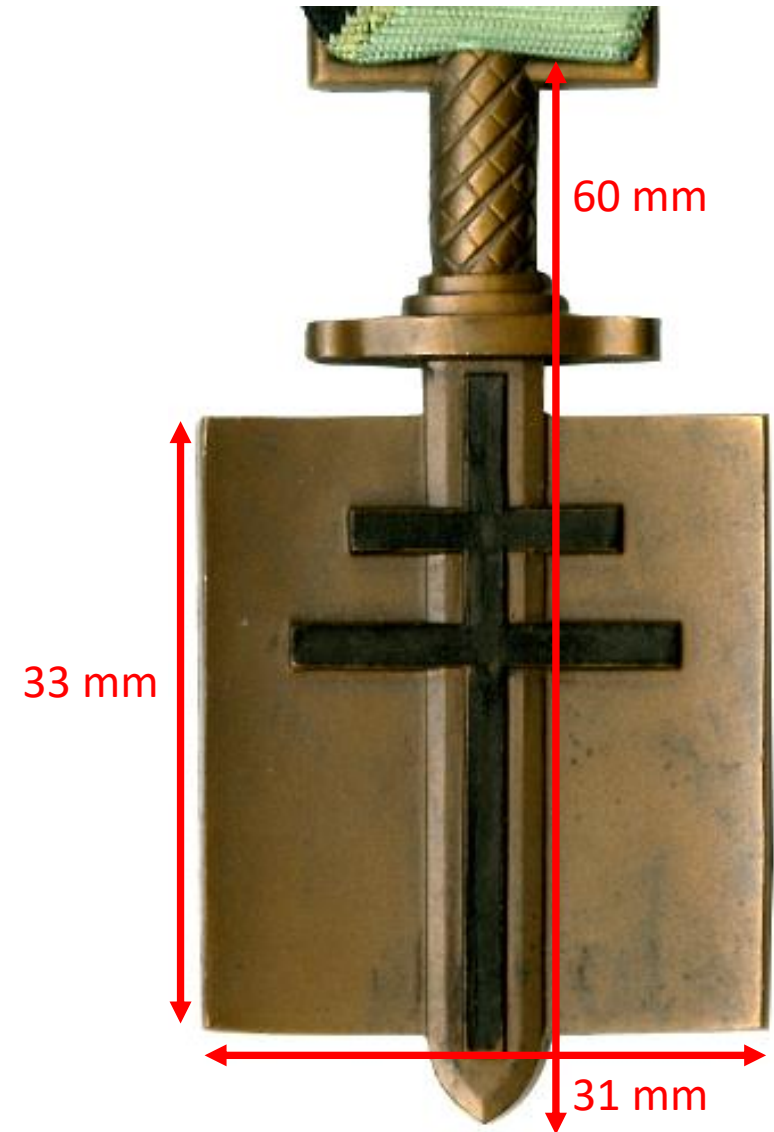


The Decree dated January 29th 1941.

A single rank → one type of Cross of Liberation

The sword is the symbol of battle

The Lorraine cross, the symbol of Free France.



© Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération

The Order's motto:

“PATRIAM SERVANDO, VICTORIAM TULIT”

(“By serving the Fatherland, he/she achieved Victory”).



© Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération

1,061 Crosses of Liberation awarded to:

1,032 men (73 foreigners)
6 women,
18 military units,
5 French communes.

Today, Hubert Germain, 101, is the only
living Companion.



© POOL/AFP / Michel Euler

The cross of Liberation was only awarded during 5 years:
from January 29th 1941 to January 26th 1946.

As the aim of Liberation was achieved, the Order was discontinued.

It was only officially reopened for:

- Winston Churchill in 1958,
- King George VI of England in 1960.



© Ordre de la Libération



© Ordre de la Libération

Who designed the Cross?

General de
GAULLE chose
Toni MELLA's
project of
cross of
Liberation.

FRANCE LIBRE

Direction des Affaires
Administratives & Financières

*Mes ml
à régler m. la c. du général
P. Roux*

Le 31 mars 1941.

Le Directeur-Adjoint
des Affaires Administratives
et Financières
à
Monsieur PLEVEN

CROIX DE LA LIBERATION. - Le Général après avoir choisi le
projet de la Croix de la Libération présenté par Monsieur TONI MELLA
a décidé de remettre à celui-ci £50. au moment de l'exécution du
modèle dont la fabrication a été préparée par Monsieur T. Mella en
liaison avec Monsieur BELLANGER.

Monsieur TONI MELLA, qui a quitté la France et sa famille (marié,
deux enfants) s'est engagé dans les Forces Françaises Libres. Il
est actuellement aux cours d'Elèves-Aspirants dans les chars. Il
serait désireux de recevoir tout ou partie des £50. convenues.

Je propose de liquider les £50. en une fois puisque la fabrication
est en cours et ne dépend plus de l'intervention de Monsieur MELLA.

L'adresse de Monsieur TONI MELLA est:-

Elève-Aspirant,
2ème Compagnie Autonome de chars,
Secteur Postal 933.

g. c. c. c. c.

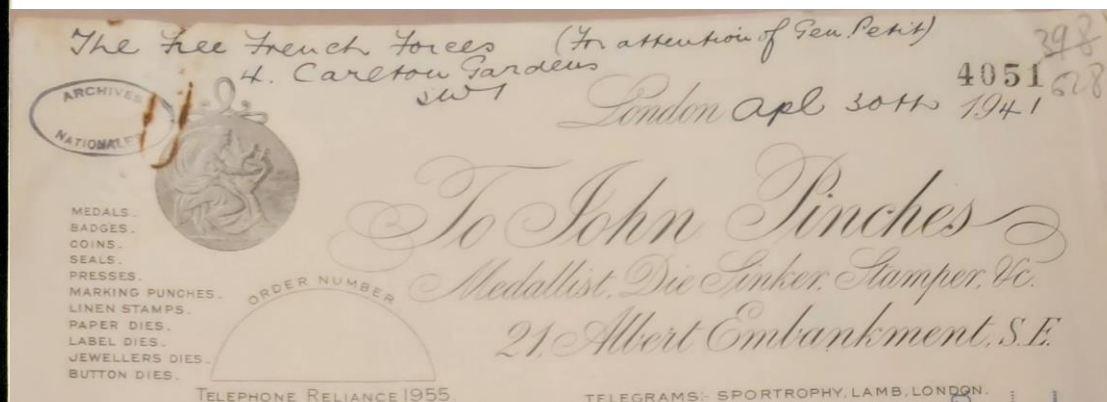
(AN AG3(1)307-540) ©CCV. Valentin-Smith. *P. J.*

He was
awarded of
£50 in April
1941 for his
success in the
selection!

Which company manufactured crosses in London
and
how many crosses?

400 crosses of Liberation were manufactured by John PINCHES in 1941:

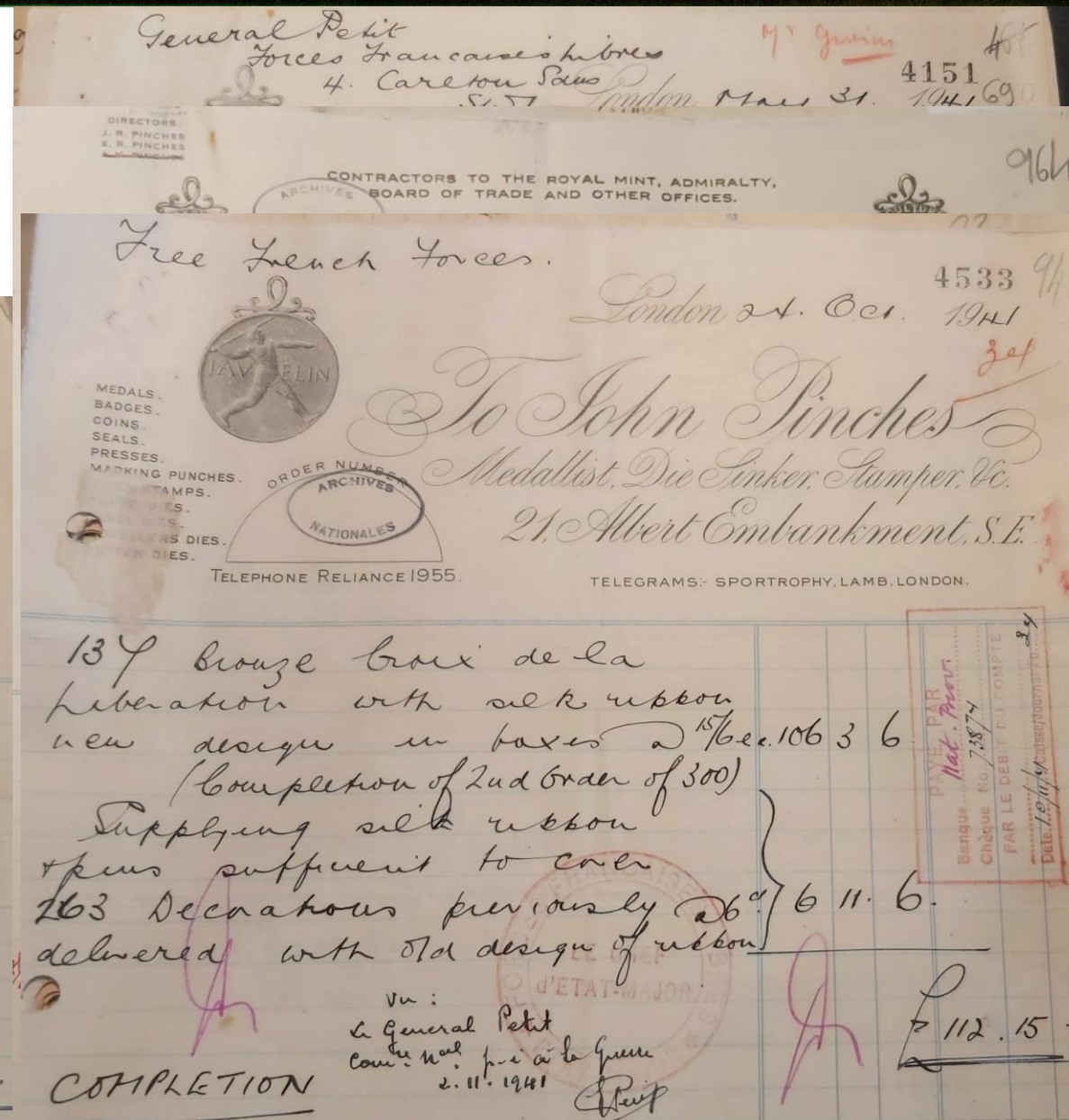
- 263 with the 1st model of ribbon
- 137 with the 2nd model of ribbon.



To supplying large scale models in plaster of Free French Forces Cross of Liberation, making bronze casts steel reductions & dies therefrom, turned and hardened, As quoted 100 Bronze oxydised Badges from above dies with black lacquered Cross, specially made ribbon of green Black diagonal stripes $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, & Brooch Bars, complete in boxes $2\frac{1}{2}$ 6. } 50 . . . 77. 10 . . . 122. 10 . . .

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF JOHN PINCHES (MEDALLISTS) LTD
G. Pinches 7/22/10/2
with cheque 19/5/41

EXPORT (AN AG3(1)307-628, 690 and 965 ; AN AG3(1)308-87) ©CC



What look like these different models of ribbon?



© Ordre de la Libération

Two models of ribbon.



© Ordre de la Libération

Pinches cross, 1st model of ribbon

Existing from April 1941 and officially changed in August 1941.
Still awarded in 1942, for example in Beirut in August 1942



© Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération



Cross of Liberation of Felix Eboue (MOL inv. No 2020.11.1)

Pinches cross, 2nd model of ribbon

Awarded from August 1941 to 1945/1946.



Cross of Liberation of general Brosset (MOL inv. No 583)

Monnaie de Paris cross, 2nd model of ribbon

Paul Mélis was awarded on August 12th, 1945 in Dunkerque.



© Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération

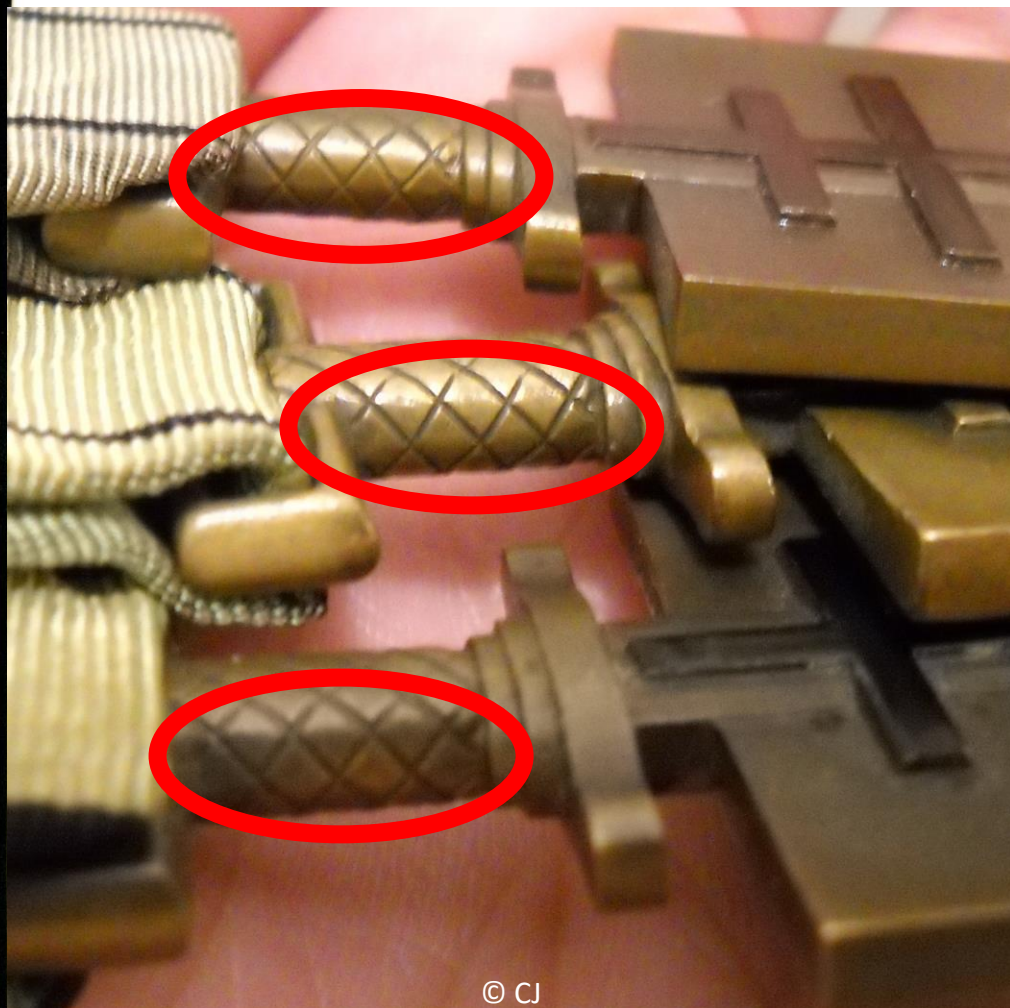


Cross of Liberation of Paul Melis (MOL inv. No 3416.1)

What are the differences between
a Pinches and
a Monnaie de Paris (MdP) cross?

The 4 sides of the hilt of the sword are all striated

Monnaie de Paris



© CJ

Pinches




© CC

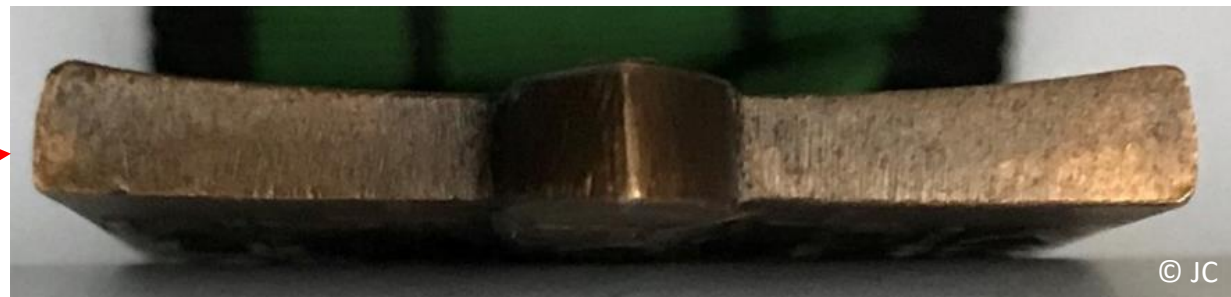
The 4 sides of the hilt of the sword are all striated



No punch vs bronze punch

Pinches' cross has no punch. 

Monnaie de Paris' has one:



Things under validation process...

Specific micro-defaults of Pinches' cross

It seems that there are a lot... but one is almost always visible on Pinches' cross... TBC



Pinches



Monnaie de Paris



Pinches
or
Monnaie de Paris
with deleted punch?

Pinches or Monnaie de Paris with deleted punch?



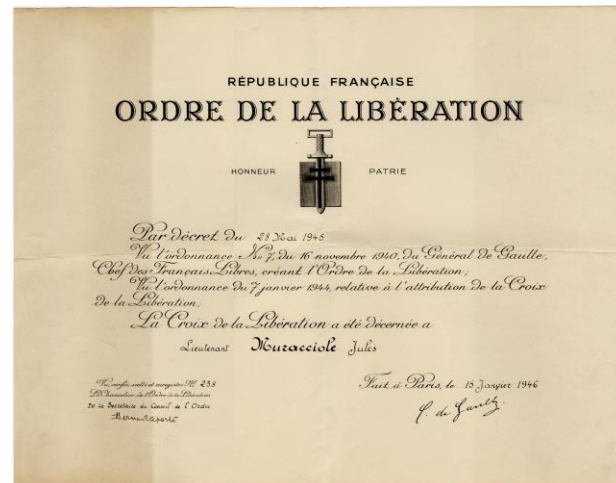
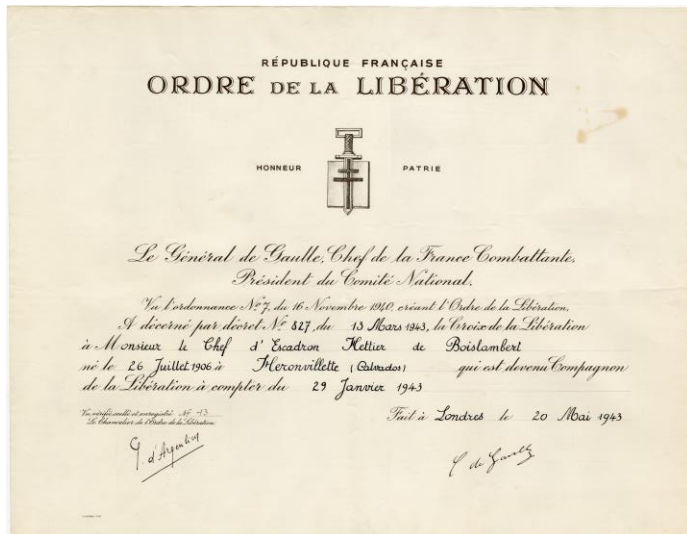
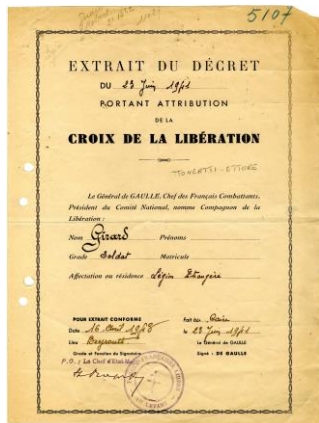
© JC

© JC

Monnaie de Paris with deleted punch...



the certificate



Extract of Decree 1942-1943

For Companions deployed or posted in Middle East at this time.

© Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération

First model of certificate 1943 - 1944

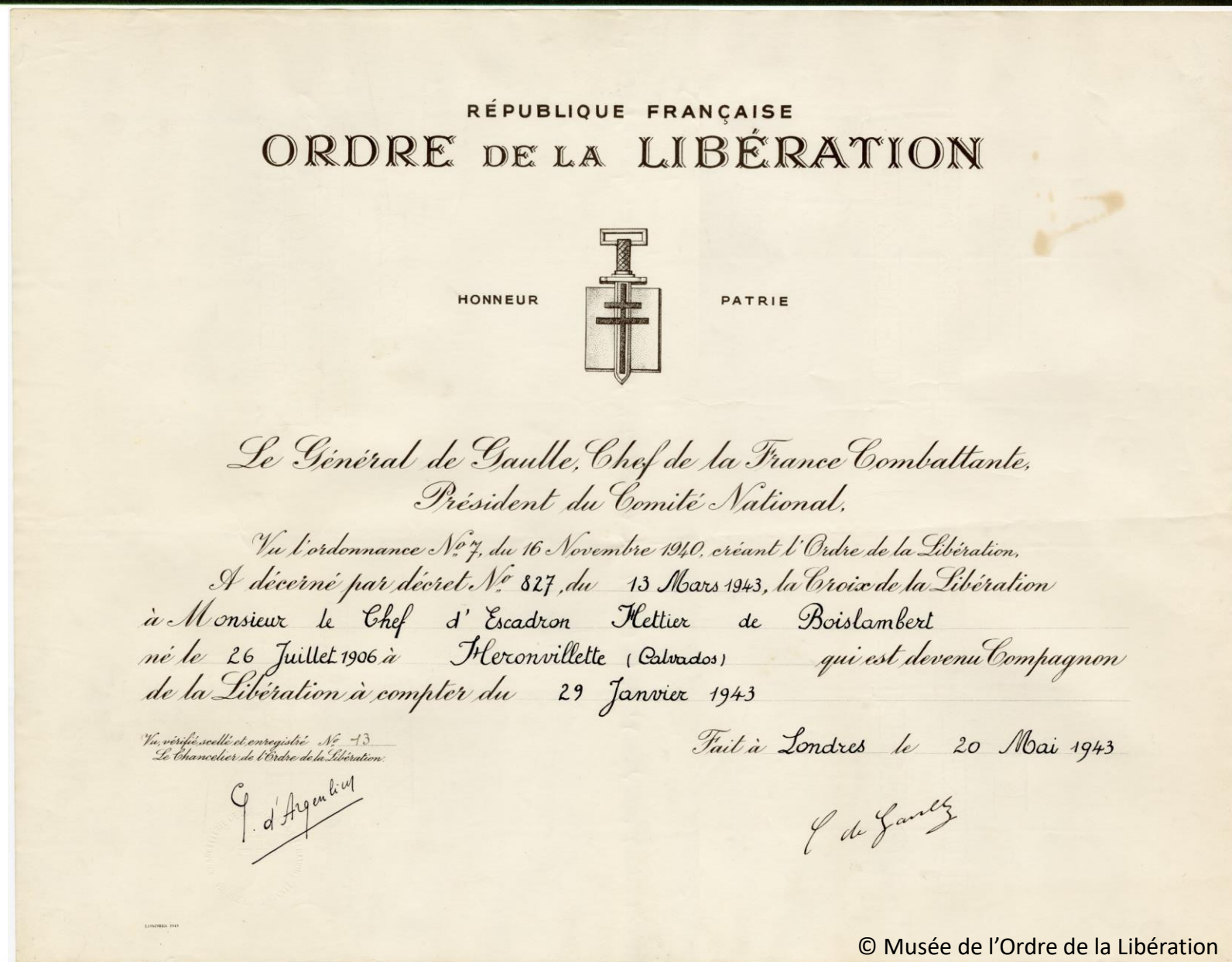
First “real” model of certificate, printed in London in 1943, granted until early 1945.

Landscape format, 50.7 cm x 39 cm.

The printed cross is white, general de Gaulle awards the cross.

Watermark “ORIGINAL TURKEY MILL KENT”

Printed “LONDRES 1943”



© Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération

ÇAISE

BÉRAÏON

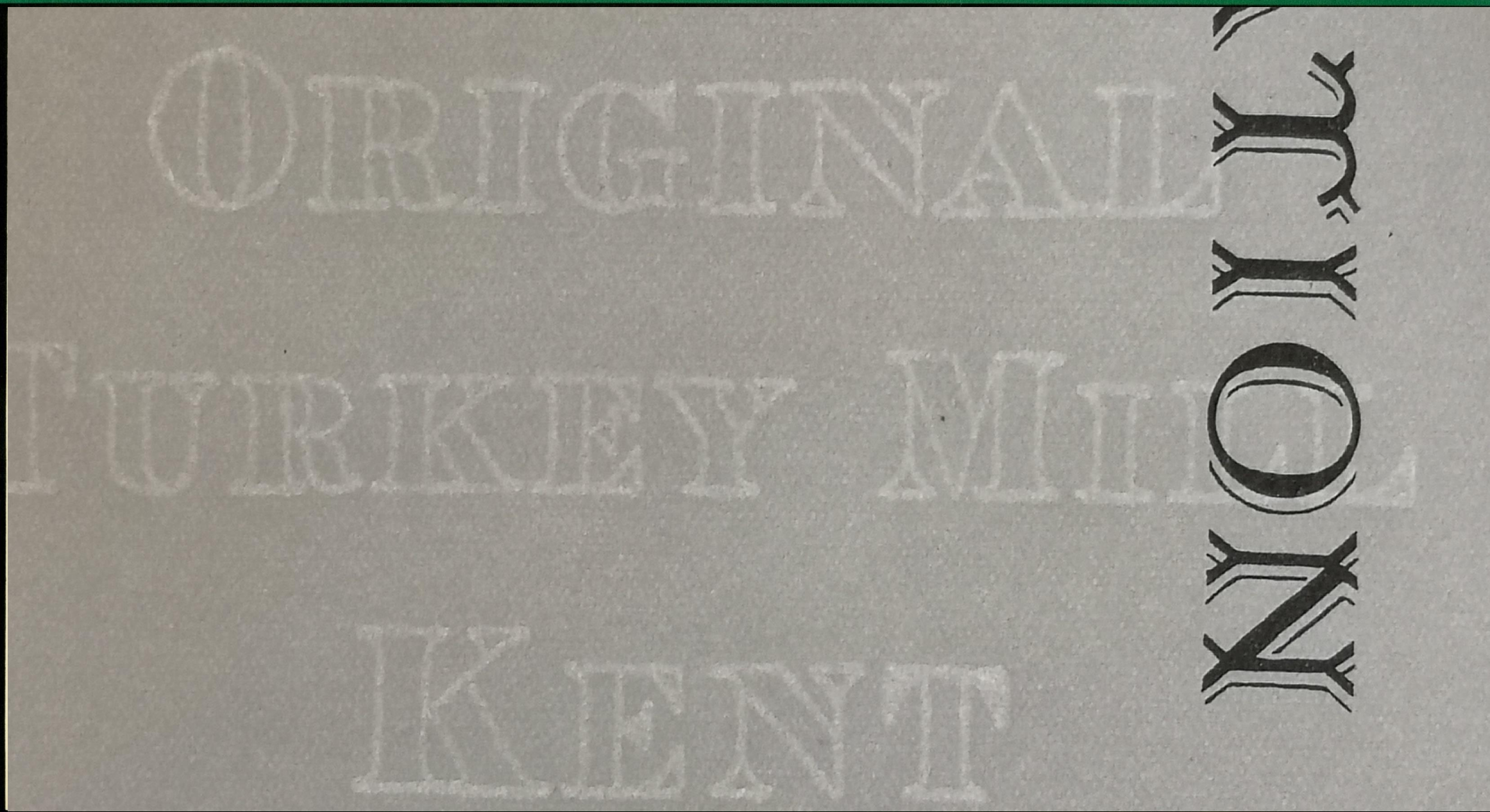
PATRIE

France Combattante,
National.

évent à l'Ordre de la Libération,
1944, la Croix de la Libération
et Thierry d'Argenlieu
qui est devenu Compagnon

à Londres le 18 août 1944.

P de Gaudy



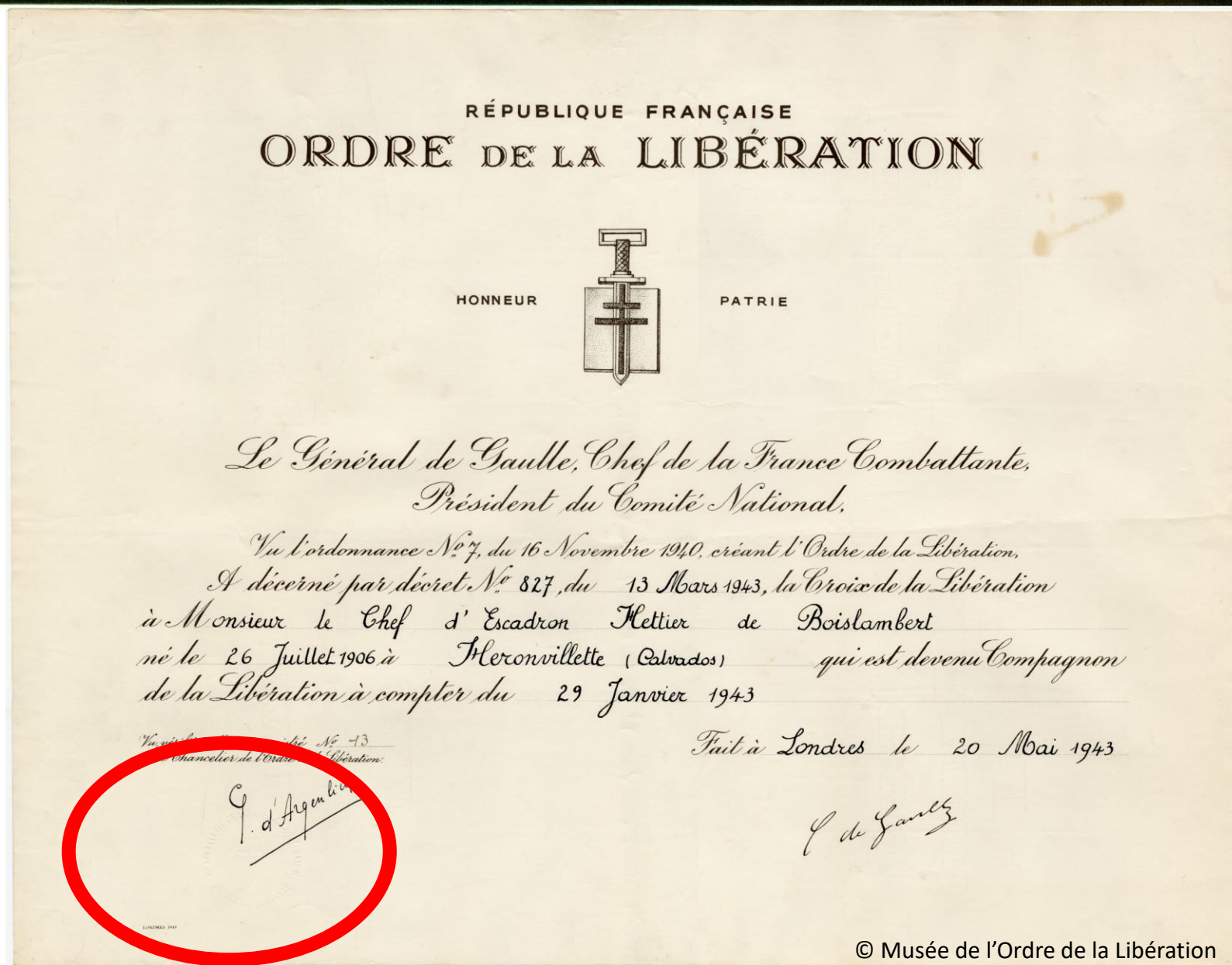
First “real” model of certificate, printed in London in 1943, granted until early 1945.

Landscape format, 50.7 cm x 39 cm.

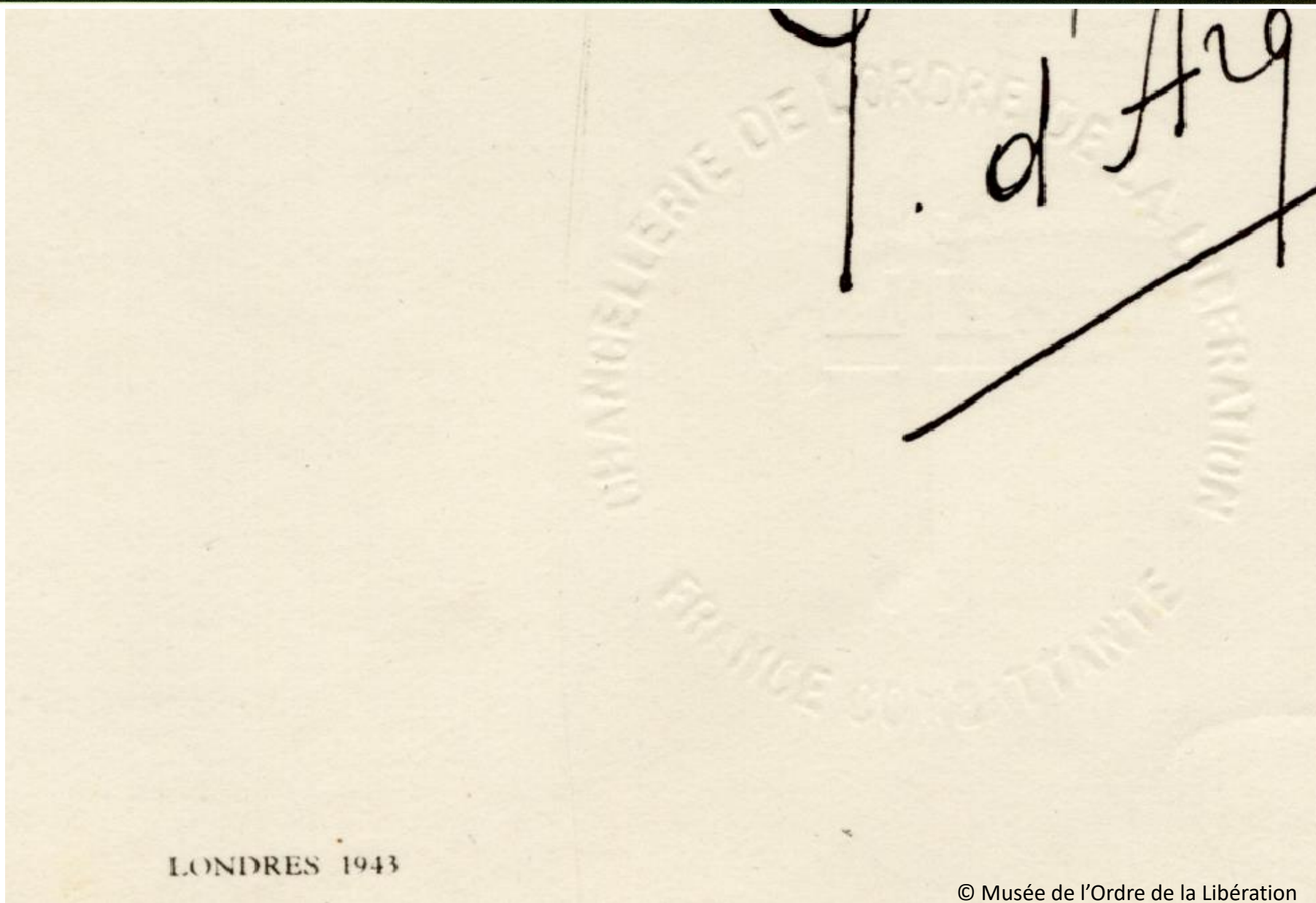
The printed cross is white, general de Gaulle awards the cross.

Watermark “ORIGINAL TURKEY MILL KENT”

Printed “LONDRES 1943”



© Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération



© Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération

Second model of certificate 1945 - 1947

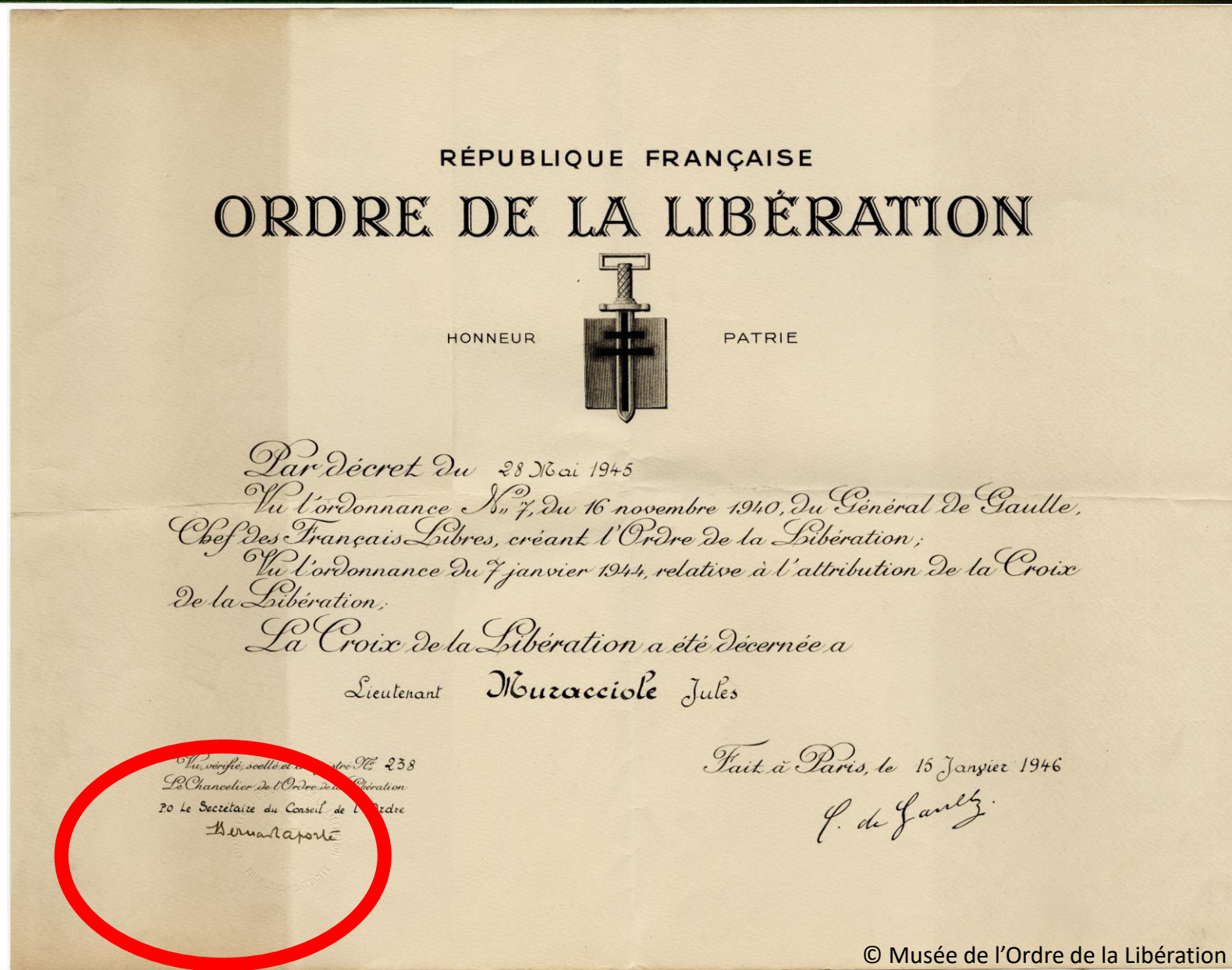
Second model of certificate, printed in France in 1945, granted until end of September 1947.

Landscape format, 46 cm x 36 cm.

The printed cross is dark, the cross is awarded to.

No watermark

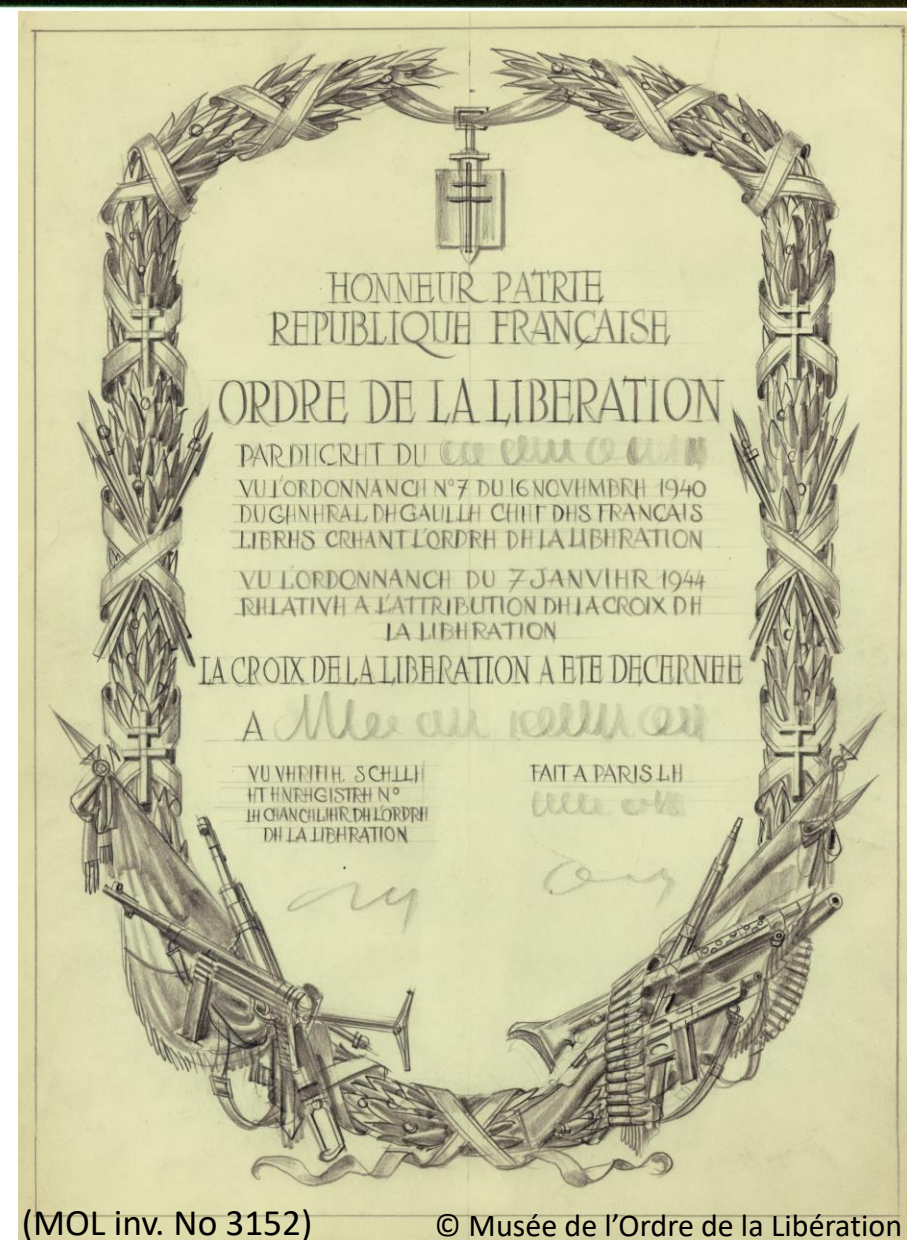
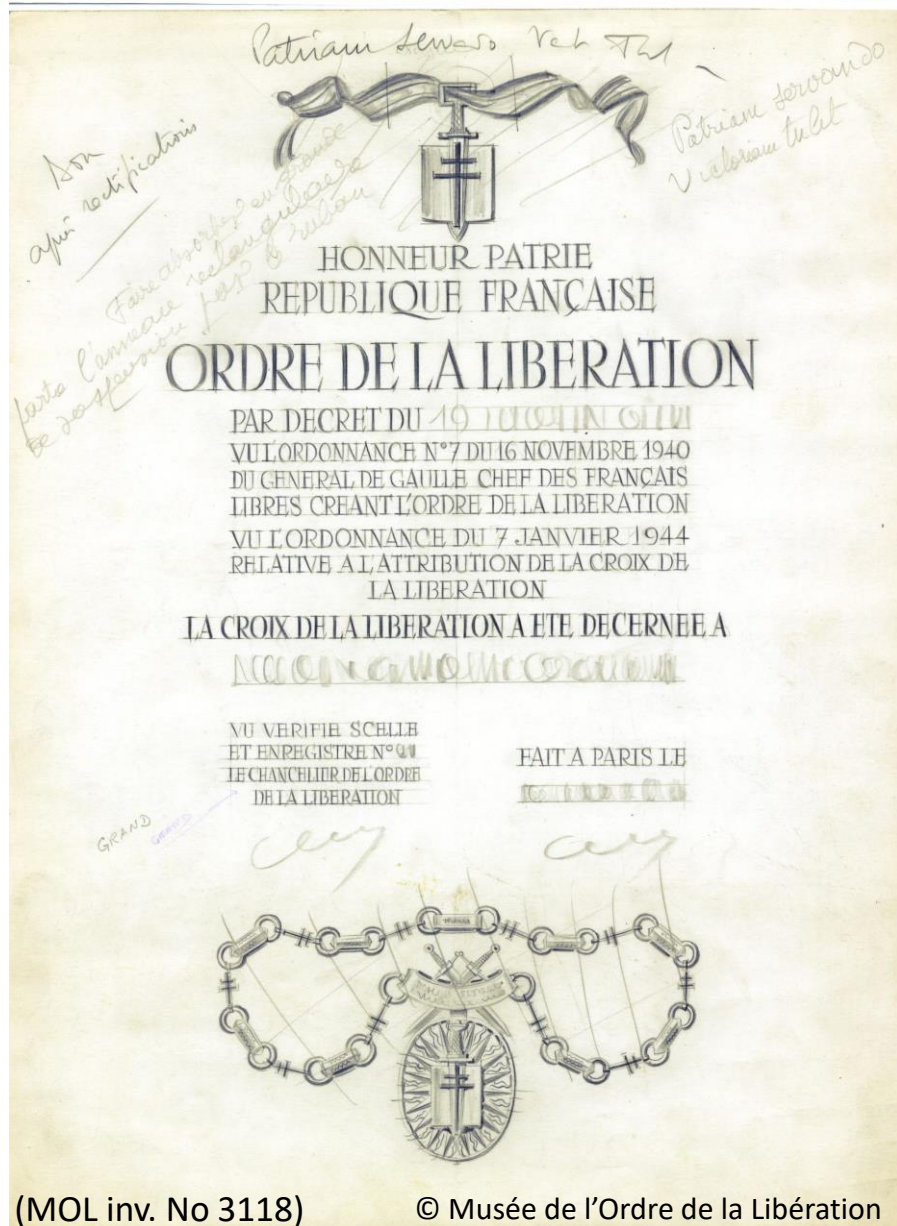
Dry stamp



© Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération

Vu, vérifié, scellé et enregistré N° 238
Le Chancelier de l'Ordre de la Libération
P.O Le Secrétaire du Conseil de l'Ordre
Bernard Laporte

Definitive model of certificate 1965 - 1966



Definitive model of
certificate, printed in France
in 1964, granted from 1965
to 1966 to all Companions

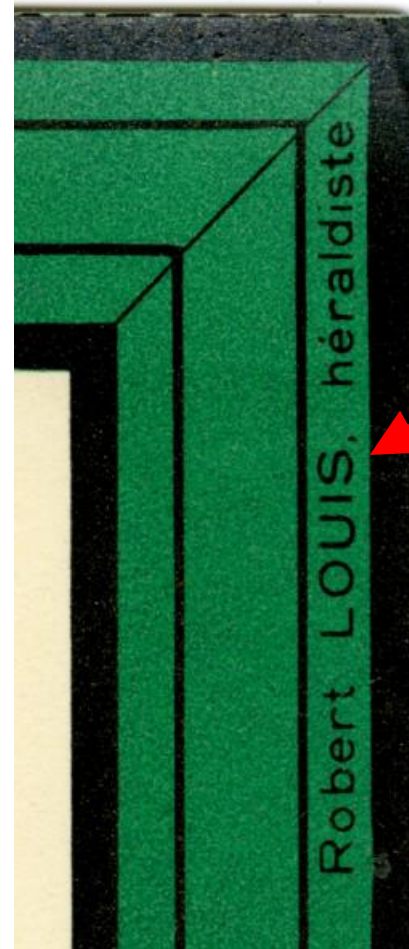
38 cm x 28 cm

Designed by Robert LOUIS,
heraldist

Colored

The Grand Master's collar of
the Order of Liberation

Dry stamp



© Musée de l'Ordre de la Libération

Definitive m
certificate, p
in 1964, gra
to 1966 to a

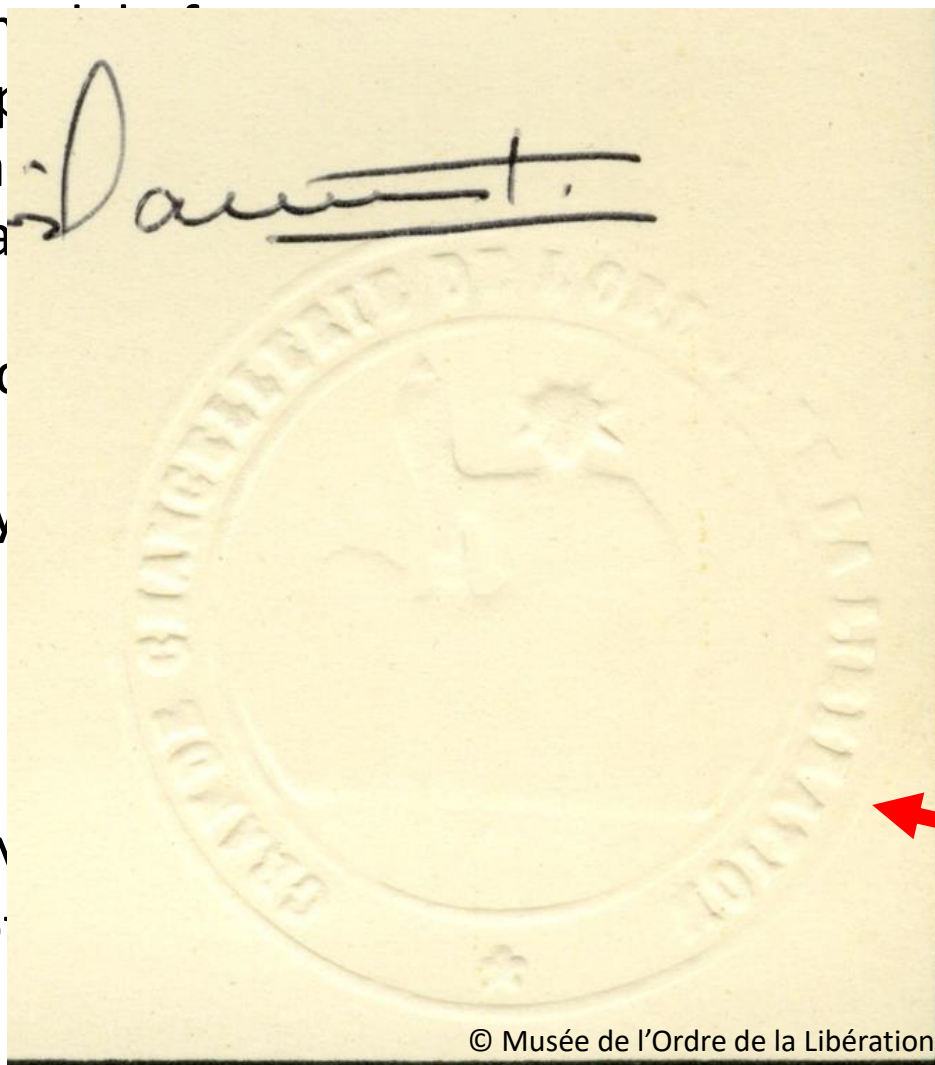
38 cm x 28 c

Designed by
heradilst

Colored

The Grand M
the Order o

Dry stamp



Ongoing researches...

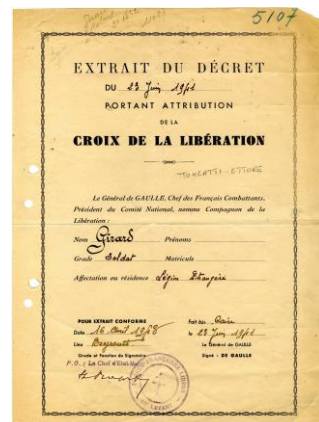
Definitive certificate signed by general de Gaulle himself...



Special certificate signed
by general de Gaulle
himself...



© privée



Thank you for your attention

