

French-Armenian Resistance hero Missak Manouchian to enter France's Panthéon

Missak

Manouchian,



**an Armenian
genocide survivor who went on to
become a French Resistance hero,
will enter France's Panthéon**

mausoleum of revered historical figures, on February 21.



During World War II, Manouchian led a group of Resistance fighters which carried out a string of attacks against occupying Nazi forces in 1943. He was executed by the Nazis on February 21, 1944.

Manouchian carries a part of our greatness", Macron



said in the statement issued by the Élysée Palace, adding the French-Armenian poet and communist embodied France's "universal values" of liberty, equality and fraternity.

Macron said Manouchian will be inducted into the [Panthéon](#) - which already honours eight other [French Resistance](#) heroes, including [Jean Moulin](#) - on February 21, 2024.

According to the wishes of his family, his wife Mélinée will join him in the mausoleum, although she will not receive the "pantheonisation" of her husband



- the rare tribute reserved only for those who have played an important role in French history, such as Victor Hugo, Voltaire and Marie Curie.

Manouchian arrived in France in 1925 as a stateless refugee after fleeing the Armenian genocide with his brother, and joined the country's communist Resistance movement in 1943 during World War II. He led a group of fighters that carried out a string of successful attacks against the occupying Nazi forces .In 1944, the group, which included some Jews, was put out of action when 23 of its members were rounded up and sentenced to death by a German military court.

Manouchian was shot by a Nazi firing squad on February 21, 1944.

The collaborationist Vichy regime later tried to discredit the group and defuse the anger over the executions in an infamous red poster depicting the dead fighters



as terrorists.

By entering the Panthéon, Manouchian will become both the first foreign and communist Resistance fighter to be awarded the honour.

In his tribute, Macron also pointed to the “bravery” and “quiet heroism” of Manouchian and other foreign Resistance fighters.

Manouchian and the other resisters were executed by the Nazis at the Mont Valerien site .

sources : Vazken Surmenian, France 24

photo : D.R.