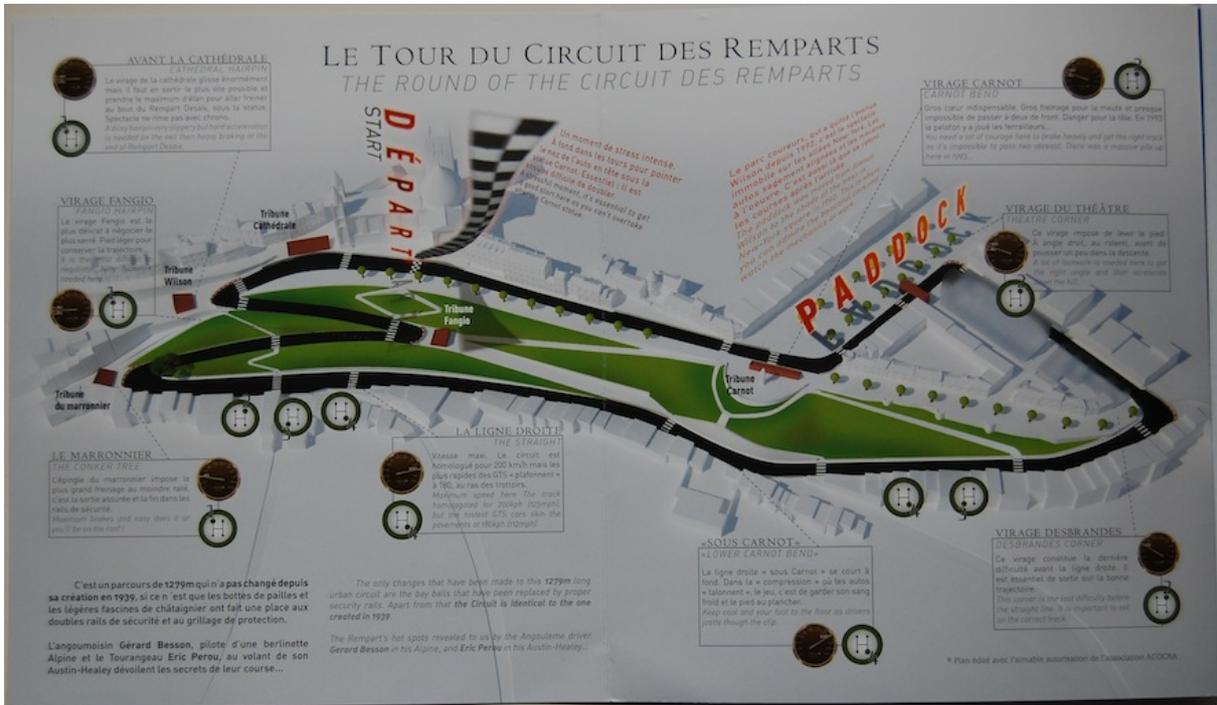


Circuit des Remparts, Angouleme 17 September 2017

Set in the walled hill top town some 500 miles south of Calais this race was first run in 1939 and still follows the same course. It is quite short at 1279m (0.8 mile) and tracks a section of the old city wall. The start line is close to the Cathedral and the paddock further along the city wall in a tree lined area near the imposing Town Hall.



By Friday night all the cars had assembled in our allotted space. At 20 entries, ours was to equal the largest grid of the meeting, which meant cars were double banked under the shelters provided. 13 drivers had travelled down from the UK to be joined by 6 DB's and what was listed as the Boyer Racer 500. (This car has undergone a lot of development with little now remaining and now sports a very large capacity v-twin Triumph engine.)



Over Saturday night a fair bit of rain fell which meant the circuit was wet and slippery with a few puddles when our practice began at around 08:40 on an overcast Sunday

morning. Over the next 25 minutes the number of cars circulating gradually diminished as many drivers elected to return to the paddock feeling they had no more to gain. For four of our number, including Darrell and JB, the unforgiving nature of the track and conditions brought them up short against the walls or barriers. Several others developed misfires and other niggles which demanded attention. Poor Peter Lockwood had suffered a sticking rear brake and a recalcitrant clutch that prevented him even getting into the assembly area, and as there is no pit lane, he could not practice or get to know the car in what was to be his first 500 experience.

By the afternoon the track had dried and all except Darrell, JB and Vincent Aupetit in one of the DB's lined up in the assembly area. It had been agreed the race would have a rolling start but as the lead cars exited the final hairpin, they were greeted by marshals waiting to form a grid, the back of which was nearly into the final hairpin, un-sighting the last row!

A couple of minutes later the flag got the race underway, but as the lead cars approached the second of the hairpins, the red flag suddenly came out and the whole start procedure began again. This was unfortunate for George, whose clutch cable broke as he took off, forcing him into clutchless changes until the gearbox cried 'enough' and broke, but not before he had enjoyed a terrific scrap with Xavier over second place. It also proved the undoing of the clutches in Nigel and Simons' cars, both of which were to give up before the end.

As the time ticked down from the 27 minutes allotted, so the number of cars running decreased, with only eight seeing the flag. Xavier was in second place on the road, and the only un-lapped car. The Boyer Racer had romped away from everyone else, and a worthy third place in the official results was given to Olivier Rinaldi in a DB. Up until what was to prove the last lap, Roy and Martin, who had been running together, were unfortunately to touch and come to a halt on the exit from the first hairpin. This allowed Andy through to take second place of the genuine 500 runners. A relieved Nick also saw the flag, albeit a couple of laps behind on the road. The only other cars still circulating were the DBs of Michel Labarde and Claude Dupre along with Sean Mooney's Vixen.

All-in-all a lot of enjoyment had been had both on and off track and although some of the organisation left a lot to be desired, it is fair to say it was a truly memorable experience in a wonderful picturesque setting unlike any other.

500 OA mobile finishers

Xavier Kingsland	Staride Mk 3 Norton	23 laps
Andy Raynor	Cooper Mk 5 JAP	21 laps
Nick Powell	Cooper Mk 8 Norton	19 laps
Sean Mooney	Vixen	20 laps

500 OA starters not running at finish

Roy Hunt	Martin Norton	20 laps
Martin Sheppard	Brynfan Tydden Norton	20 laps
Nigel Challis	Cooper Mk 8 Norton	16 laps
Simon Dedman	Waye Special JAP	14 laps
George Shackleton	Cooper Mk 11 Norton	11 laps
Richard Bishop-Miller	Revis JAP	3 laps
Peter Lockwood	Cooper Mk 4 JAP	0

Other entrants

Patrick Jamin	Boyer Racer 500	23 laps
Michel Labarde	DB Monomill	20 laps
Claude Dupre	DB Monomill	20 laps
Pierre-Alexis Colignon	DB Racer	8 laps
Patrick Morin	DB Racer	2 laps

A longer account will appear in the 2017 Yearbook