

Z O N E R O U G E

100 years after the guns fell silent, the people of North Eastern France are still feeling the effects of war. Seasoned Minesweeper Guy Momper and his team of De-miners extract unexploded munitions from the First and Second World War, their mission is estimated to take 300 years to complete.

producer: darren snowden
director: dominique van olm

short documentary
16:00 / colour / HD / 2019

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ZONE ROUGE

A white van is driving on a road that cuts through a vast, flat landscape. In the distance, several wind turbines are visible against a heavy, grey, overcast sky. The foreground is a dark, textured field, possibly a field of low-lying plants or a recently plowed field. The overall mood is somber and industrial.

ZONE ROUGE

WITH GUY MÖMPER AND THE METZ DEMINAGE

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY MIKE RILSTONE FIELD PRODUCER PIERRE-ELLIOT BUET SOUND RECORDIST DARREN SNOWDEN

EDITOR PAULINE DECROIX SOUND DESIGN EVAN JERRED ORIGINAL SCORE DILLON BALDESERRO PRODUCED BY DARREN SNOWDEN

DIRECTED BY DOMINIQUE VAN OLM A FILM BY BY DARREN SNOWDEN

synopsis

[click for trailer](#)

[click for film](#)
pw: rouge

It is estimated that nearly one billion artillery shells fell on France between 1914 and 1918. An estimated 250 million shells never exploded and still remain on the land, in the rivers and within the hundreds of miles of buried and unexplored mines and trenches. This area is known as Zone Rouge.

Guy Momper and his team of minesweepers remove the active ordnance left over from WW1 and WW2 in North Eastern France. It is believed that their mission - to rid France of the remains from past conflicts - will take 300 years to complete. Guy risks his life daily by entering highly concentrated areas with buried explosives which are polluting the local water system and poisoning the farm land.



filmmaker's statement

In the fall of 2016 my curiosity grew as I had heard about an area in France where people are still removing active bomb shells left in the ground from World War One. Through extensive research and with the help of some French speaking friend's myself, Cinematographer Mike Rilstone and Director Dominique van Olm, were on the right path to securing access with the de-miners of France. After two years, we finally got our shot.

For Guy and his team of 9 men we see that they are extremely passionate about what they do and for these ex-special forces soldiers they have holstered there sidearm and decided to become caretakers of the land. The efforts made by Guy and his team have given hope and a sense of relief to the locals and it is these personal relationships that the de-miners form which sets them apart from other government agencies. The relationship between the de-miner and the bombshells is something unique as the shells primary function is to kill and the de-miners seem to be at peace with that. Their sole purpose is to find and locate these relics of war categorize them, dispose and then blow them up. Guy lost two of his colleagues to an explosion accident and he still struggles with this. However, as the leader of the Metz Déminage he is proud of the work he has done and prides himself on creating such a strong bond amongst his men and the local people.

After witnessing the life of a de-miner, it gives us a new perspective on what people in France have to deal with on a daily basis. World War One was said to be the war to end all wars, but history has proven to repeat itself. I hope this film shows how important it is to remember what the aftermath of war brings so we can learn from the mistakes of our past.

- Darren Snowden // Dominique van Olm



director's bio

Dominique van Olm is a Canadian filmmaker and photographer. Her work documents the often complicated relationships people have with one another and themselves, exploring the human condition against the backdrop of the natural world. She is interested in how documentary and fictional narrative can be combined in approach, style and format, focusing on empathetic storytelling to convey the significance of one's everyday milieus. Her recent short doc, *For Dad, With Love*, was acquired by the CBC for broadcast. Her other short doc, *Little Brother*, has screened at festivals through the US and UK, recently receiving a Vimeo Staff Pick. Dominique likes telling stories, riding her motorcycle and seeing the world through her viewfinder.



FILMOGRAPHY

Little Brother // Director, Editor

Documentary short - 11:39 - 2018

'17 Eastern Oregon Film Festival

'18 Montclair Film Festival

'18 Breakthroughs Film Festival

'18 Aesthetica Film Festival

Vimeo Staff Picks

Press

[Short Of The Week](#)

[No Budget](#)

[Director's Notes](#)

For Dad, With Love // Director, Editor, Cinematographer

'18 Calgary International Film Festival

Press

[CBC](#)

Flower Girl // Director, Writter

Short Film - 12:00 - 2014

'14 Edmonton International Film Festival

'14 Curta Cinema International Film Fest

'15 Maryland Kids Film Festival

'15 Providence International Children's Film Festival

'15 Women's International Film Festival

Press

[Mini Muff](#)

credits

A film by Darren Snowden

Directed by Dominique van Olm

Featuring:

Guy Momper - Chief Minesweeper,
Centre de Déminage Metz

Pierrot Postal - Argonne Farmer
Christian Lavigne - Argonne Farmer

Jonnette Yamm - Townsman (Othe,
France)

Department du Déminage en Metz
Benoît Chapotot
Raoul Weber
Franc Delaunay
Adrièn Masson
Stephane Liottard
Pierre Moreno
Vincent Riff

Department du Déminage en Marly le
Roi
Eric Lombard - Commandant division-
naire, Adjoint au chef du bureau du
déminage

Department du Déminage de Paris
Edouard Hannauer - Minesweeper

Producer - Darren Snowden

Written by: Darren Snowden, Dominique
van Olm, Mike Rilstone

Director - Dominique van Olm

Cinematographer - Mike Rilstone

Field Producer (Paris) - Pierre-Eliot Buet

Editor - Pauline Decroix

Production Manager (Paris) - Niki Cook &
The Paris Bureau

Production Sound Mixer - Darren Snowden

Post Production Sound Mixer - Evan Jerred

Foley Production Servies - JRS Productions
Inc.

Foley Artist - John Sievert

Foley Recording Engineer - Randy Wilson

Music Composed By- Dillon Baldassero

Violin - Graham McLaughlin

Cello - Adam Hart-Owens

Animator - Emily St. Pierre

Colour - Alter Ego

Colourist - Conor Fisher

Colour Assistant - James Graham

Colour Producer - Jane Garrah

Translations by:

Pierre-Eliot Buet

Pauline Decroix

Dave Poulin & Mina

Accounting Services - Rosewood Financial

Legal Servies - Eric Birnberg / Lewis Birn-
berg Hanet, LLP

Insurance - Arthur J. Gallagher Canada
Limited

Judi Heron

Stephen Bortolon

Andrew Schram

Margaret Liu

Visual Researcher - Erin Chisholm

Special Thanks

Geoff & Carol Snowden

Niki Cook & The Paris Bureau

Ann Shin

Hannah Donegan

Lana Pesch

Bryn Hughes

Marc Poirier

Rick Boston

Julia Morgan

Dave Poulin & Mina

Ian Sit

Bryn Wiebe

John Brown

Carina Van Olm

Jocelyn Reynolds

Nick Wilson

Bernadette Wilson

Simon Paine

Elisa Gilmour

Luke McLean

David Best

Norm Christie

Ryan Grant McNeil

Sam Roberts

Julia Westelaken

Richard Dunning

Sherren Lee

Jim Kiriakakis

Jeff Thrasher

Kristian Delchev

Andrew Murray

John Henry-Phillips

Dazmo Camera

Ontario Camera