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# WHO IS JOSEPHINE BAKER ?

A woman of many struggles, **symbol of  
resistance and freedom**



# FIRST AN ICON OF CABARETS...

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Josephine Baker, born on 3 June 1906 in Missouri, came from a large and poor family. She left home at an early age and **arrived in France in 1925.**

The **African-American dancer took Paris by storm.** She became the star of the Folies Bergères and introduced jazz and the Charleston to France.

*“Didn't I become the darling of the Parisians? They gave me everything, especially their hearts. I gave them mine.”*



# ... SHE BECAME A SYMBOL OF THE FRENCH RESISTANCE

Naturalised as a French citizen in 1937, Josephine Baker **joined the French troops** when the Second World War broke out. In September 1939, she was recruited as a **counter-espionage agent**.

After the defeat in June 1940, she **joined the Resistance and the *France libre* in the secret services**, in Morocco.



# TIRELESS ANTI-RACISM ACTIVIST

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An iconic figure in the **fight against racism**, Joséphine Baker joined the **International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism** (LICRA) in 1938 and became its international ambassador for propaganda.

In 1963, she **joined Martin Luther King** on the great march for civil rights in Washington, during which he delivered his famous speech *“I have a dream”*.



# **SIXTH WOMAN TO ENTER THE PANTHEON**



Joséphine Baker died on 12 April 1975 in Paris, after having been **awarded numerous medals**, including the Legion of Honour.

On 30 November 2021, she became the **first Black woman** to receive France's highest national honour upon her **induction into the Panthéon in Paris**.

*“I am not intimidated by anyone. **Everyone is made with two arms, two legs, a stomach and a head.** Think about it.”*

**Joséphine  
Baker**

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