

Mons Memorial Museum, Belgium

F32 series helps plunge visitors into vivid wartime experiences

The technology really had to help us plunge the visitors into the wartime experiences of both soldiers and civilians. And that's exactly what it does.



Martial Prévert,
scenographer at the museum



Barco solutions:

- 11 x F32 projector
- PFWU-51B projector with ClickShare Inside
- CVHD-31B projector

Key Benefits:

- High image quality
- Reliability
- Good past references
- Excellent support

Ever heard the story of the 'Angel(s) of Mons'? The angel(s) was said to have appeared to protect British soldiers fighting in the First World War, in the battlefields around the city of Mons (Belgium). If you're interested in the story, you should head for the Memorial Museum in Mons.

Inaugurated in April 2015, the museum is a showpiece architectural project which perfectly blends past and future, both in its architecture and in its set-up. The exhibits on display are presented with the aid of the latest technology - including 11 Barco F32 projectors. Moreover, the museum features two stylish, compact Barco business projectors, including a ClickShare unit!

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When the Belgian city of Mons was crowned European Capital of Culture 2015, it took on an exceptional challenge: fill a year's agenda with exciting cultural events and open five new museums and a concert hall, all in the same year. Mons Memorial Museum (MMM), one of these new museums, looks back upon the region's war history – from the Middle Ages via the Ancien Régime through to the two World Wars. The objects from Mons' rich military history collection on show there offer a sensitive view of the daily lives of soldiers and civilians.

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Nicolas Vanden Avenne,
Managing Director at Ocular

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New technology for immersive effects

"The New MMM needed to continue the work of the former museum, yet with a radically different form of presentation. We wanted to create a place where new technologies like 3D projectors, serious games and interactive tables would give both form and depth to the historical content. The technology really had to help us plunge the visitors into the wartime experiences of both soldiers and civilians," says scenographer Martial Prévert.

Impressive references

Only two companies were able to meet the tender specifications, where projection was key. Museum system integrator Ocular brought an impressive range of references to the table, like the set-up at the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres. The combination of these references, the detailed offering that Ocular had worked out together with Barco, the great technology and the good price made Ocular win the tender.

F32 at the heart of the set-up

In fact, Barco's single-chip DLP® F32 projectors are one of the secrets to the successful set-up in Mons. "The F32 series ensure stable, high-contrast images and the brightness is customizable, thanks to the color wheels: each F32 can be configured with a range of color wheel options, each with specific characteristics. This is just what we needed for the museum," explains Nicolas Vanden Avenne, Ocular's Managing Director.

The Angels of Mons

One of the set-ups that Ocular – and the museum – is particularly proud of, is that of the Angel(s) of Mons: visitors can view a special holograph 3D film that gives an artist's interpretation of the story. Vanden Avenne: "The client preferred not to use 3D goggles. So we came up with a sophisticated alternative including a Peppers's ghost effect, a type of illusion technique: we made a system with different layers of projected images, which appear to the visitor as a 3D hologram." The end result really is a must-see!

Business projectors

By the way, the Mons museum features more than Barco F32 projectors. In the multifunctional/educational space, Barco's elegant white PFWU-51B projector, including the ClickShare Inside' option, helps the museum get its messages across. Apart from that, Ocular delivered a compact CVHD-31B projector to support the museum's mobile presentation. "The entire museum is powered by Barco," Vanden Avenne concludes. "Which is perfectly in line with its mission, to blend the past and future, both in its architecture and in its set-up."

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