



Newsletter Issue 6, December 2009

Operation Dakota

The first landing in occupied France of a US resupply mission for the French resistance occurred on 7 July 1944 in IZERNORE in the Aisne region. A USAAF Douglas C-47 (Dakota) landed on a clandestine airstrip on the south side of town at 3am. The plane spent the day on the ground, camouflaged and guarded by the Maquis, before taking off to return to England that night. The airstrip was subsequently used for 7 other Dakota missions in August 1944. This monument commemorates the first mission.



Update on American War Memorials Overseas

We send a heartfelt thank you to all our generous donors of 2009, who have allowed us to get the organization up and running. We have key January meetings scheduled with local authorities in France and Belgium to plan our monument renovation program for 2010. In addition, we continue to populate our database with monuments worldwide. We depend on your continued generosity to help keep the memory alive!

Isolated Burial: Private Joseph D. Pioli



Often times, next of kin that were recent immigrants to America and still had strong ties to their homeland chose to repatriate their loved ones not to the US, but to their home country. Joseph D. Pioli from Cooke County, Illinois, was killed on 22 February 1945 while serving as a Private in the 275th Infantry Regiment, 70th Infantry Division. Today he is honored in a tiny village church in the area around Florence, Italy.



Captain Charles D. Harris

CPT Charles Dashiell Harris was born in Niagara, NY, on 25 Jan 1897, the son of a distinguished family including his father MG Peter C. Harris, Adjutant General of the Army, and a grandfather who was a Captain and Doctor in the Confederate Army from 1861-65. He was in the West Point class of 1918 (and actually graduated in Aug 17 because of the war). As youngest CPT in the AEF, this company commander in the 6th Engineers was in continuous combat from 21 March until his death on 20 October. He was mortally wounded while cleaning out a German machine gun nest in the Clair Chenes Woods, captured by the Germans, and died in captivity. He received a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions. Today, he is memorialized on the town war memorial, on a monument in the field close to where the battle occurred, and on a plaque that hangs in Cullum Hall at West Point.

