



Newsletter Issue 7, April 2010

A Town Remembers



On 16 June 1944, the B-17 "Ensign Mary" was hit by flak while on a bombing run from Kimbolton in the UK to the Laon-Couvron airfield in France. Pilot LT Charles Mac Hugh fought to control his flaming aircraft while his crew bailed out. LT Mac Hugh stayed with the plane to steer it away from the town of Pontpoint and attempt a landing on the plateau above town. He was killed in the crash, along with the machinist. The rest of the crew survived, and there were no injuries on the ground. Today, LT Mac Hugh is still a town hero. He is honored on the town's war memorial, with a sculpture at the crash site, on a street named after him, on a small marker in town, and his picture hangs in the cafeteria of the grade school. His memory lives on and the memorials tell his story.

Print Sales to Support our Memorial Efforts



America's Veterans, a Minnesota nonprofit, is releasing a commemorative print marking the 65th Anniversary of V-E day. The print "Full Victory" is from an original oil painting of the famous WWII picture of Ike speaking to paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division on the eve of the Normandy invasion. Proceeds from the sale will support American War Memorials Overseas. Please contact us for details.



Update on American War Memorials Overseas

This has been a busy quarter with extensive site visits to coordinate monument maintenance projects. The Souvenir Francais has taken on several projects in eastern France. We have been able to do evaluation surveys of specific monuments in France on behalf of several American sponsoring organizations. We have headstones on order with the US Veterans Administration to replace damaged headstones on isolated burials. And, our database continues to expand as we have time to add information.

US Soldiers and their Chinese allies honored

Many thanks to regional volunteer John Easterbrook for providing us information about a fascinating memorial site in China which honors 19 Americans who lost their lives while advising their Chinese comrades in arms in WWII. Tengchong, China was the site of a major battle between China and Japan to reopen the Burma road, an important ground resupply route between India and China.



After the battle, 3346 Chinese soldiers were buried in the Tengchong cemetery, along with 19 American advisors killed in the area. The American bodies were all repatriated after the war, but a memorial stone remains in the cemetery for each of the 19 Americans, next to a memorial telling their story.