



Newsletter Issue 16, July 2012

A Hero in War and in Peace

US Marine Brigadier General Robert H. Dunlap was awarded the Navy Cross for his exceptionally meritorious service as a regimental commander during the Meuse Argonne campaign in late 1918. Years later, in 1931, he returned to France to study strategy at the French War College. He was on a short vacation with his wife near Tours when he instantly responded to the cries for help of a dairy maid who was caught in a landslide. Dunlap sheltered her as she was buried under tons of rock and dirt. He sacrificed his life to save hers. BG Dunlap is buried at the Arlington National Cemetery, but there is a memorial in his honor in the town of Cinq-Mars-la-Pile, France, near where the incident occurred, for which he was awarded a second Navy Cross.



Photo # NH 49776 Col. Robert H. Dunlap, USMC



Featured Isolated Burial: Ernest Stricker



Ernest Stricker was a native of Switzerland who enlisted in the Army and fought with the 32nd Company, 20th Engineers at Belleau Wood. He received an



honorable discharge as a PFC on 1 April 1919, just after becoming a naturalized citizen on 31 March. Likely as a result of what is now known as PTSD, he committed suicide in the Aisne Marne American Cemetery on the evening of 1 April 1928. He left a suicide note addressed to his comrades at American Legion Post 1 Paris, saying that with some of his truest friends resting forever here, he could not go on. His last wish was to be buried under French soil among his comrades at arms. Since he was not killed in the war, he could not be buried in the American cemetery. Instead, the people of the town of Belleau buried him in their nearby town cemetery, with military honors provided by the American Legion. His tomb had fallen into disrepair in recent years, so American War Memorials Overseas recently contracted with a local funeral company to completely refurbish the gravesite.

About American War Memorials Overseas

The period around Memorial Day is always a busy time for us. AMWO officers participated in the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Meuse Argonne, Lorraine, and Saint Mihiel American cemeteries, as well as at numerous small monument sites (see photo below). An article in the May issue of LEGION Magazine about overseas burials brought us lots of visibility and queries. (Read it at uswarmemorials.org, about us, press clippings.) Our summer intern, Cadet Macklin Wagner of the University of Notre Dame, was a big help with the summer workload. And the good weather has allowed us to complete several projects.



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