



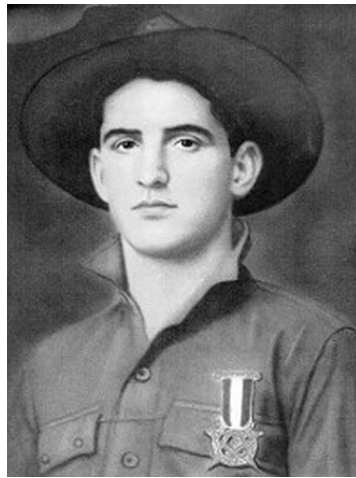
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Greek Oak Tree Honors WWI Hero



Recently added to our database is a memorial established in 2010: a Greek oak tree planted by family members of WWI Medal of Honor recipient PFC George Dilboy near the site of his death outside of the town of Bouresches, France. Dilboy was born to a Greek family near Izmir in Turkey. He emigrated to Massachusetts in 1910, but returned to fight for the Greek Army in the Balkan wars in 1912 and 1913. After working in Sommerville for a few years, he enlisted in the US Army and fought in the Mexican Border war in 1916 and 1917. A

few months after his honorable discharge he rejoined the US Army and deployed to France. He joined the 103rd Infantry Regiment, 26th Division, and was mortally wounded and awarded the Medal of Honor while charging a German machine gun nest at age 22. Per his family's request, he was laid to rest in his hometown in western Turkey. His funeral procession was witnessed by 17,000 mourners. But in the Greco-Turkish War of 1919-1922, Dilboy's grave was desecrated. President Harding was outraged and sent the USS Litchfield to Turkey in 1922 to recover the remains. On November 12, 1923 he was buried with full military honors in the Arlington National Cemetery.



AMWO Thanks Airmen

A group of US airmen from the 703rd Munitions Support Squadron stationed at Volkel Airbase in the Netherlands went to Normandy to attend the 70th anniversary ceremonies in June. While there, they assisted us by setting up three roving teams to visit over 70 memorial sites, recording data, taking photos, and performing maintenance. Thank you, Airmen!



AWMO recognizes our late summer intern Cadet Peter Noell from the University of Notre Dame's Army ROTC program. Peter is a rising junior and is studying Applied Mathematics and Economics. Peter spent a month with us aiding in the continued expansion of our database, performing site visits, and attending ceremonies.

Simple Plaque Understates Incredible Story

On D-Day, 6 June, 1944, PFC R.B. Lewellen jumped into Normandy with the 508th PIR. PFC Lewellen landed near Gourbesville with his rifle but far away from his intended drop zone. In fighting off Germans immediately after taking cover behind a large tree, a bullet struck PFC Lewellen's left hand and shattered the buttstock of his rifle. After more scrappy fighting and being shot in the leg, PFC Lewellen continued looking for American troopers. However, he was badly injured, was captured by the Germans, and received treatment to amputate his hand. To ease the pain, the German doctor gave him a quart of wine. An American officer who had been shot in the stomach was taken in by the German doctor and given similar treatment. Later, he was removed from Normandy to a German POW camp. For over 60 years, PFC Lewellen still never knew where he had landed or who this officer was--until military historian Brian Siddel contacted him. Siddel and Lewellen discovered that this other Soldier was Major Gordon K. Smith who told the same story that PFC Lewellen had. Also, an M-1 Rifle cartridge was found near a the large tree that PFC Lewellen took cover behind. In 2009, LTC Smith attended a ceremony making him and PFC Lewellen honorary citizens of Gourbesville. PFC Lewellen had passed away only a few days before, but his son Randy was in attendance. The amazing story of LTC Smith and PFC Lewellen is commemorated by a plaque remembering their honorary citizen status. Though simple, the plaque ensures their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

