



Newsletter Issue 36, July 2017

4th ID remembers D-Day in Montebourg, France

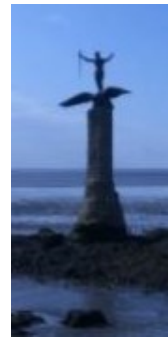


On Saturday, June 3rd 2017, in recognition of the 73rd anniversary of the D-Day landings, the City of Montebourg, France commemorated its 1944 liberation by the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division. The city mounted a plaque with the 4th ID's division patch on the remains of the 15th century fortress of St. Marcouf-Les-Gougins. Major General Ryan F. Gonsalves, Commanding General, 4th ID and Fort Carson, was in attendance as a speaker along with soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment of 4th ID's 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team. Also in attendance was the Manche District congressman, Phillippe Gosselin, and the city's Mayor, Jean-Pierre Mauquest. More than 100 soldiers marched through the town of Montebourg to the city park to serve as guests of honor for the ceremony as Gonsalves and community leaders laid wreaths at the newly inaugurated memorial. The city of Montebourg was liberated by the 8th Regiment on June 19th, 1944 which opened the door to the capture of the major port of Cherbourg, enabling critical logistical support to the European Campaign. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the Montebourg town center. The following morning, nineteen 1st Battalion, 8th Regiment soldiers received their Expert Infantryman Badges from their Battalion Commander on the same sands where previous members of their unit landed 73 years ago. You can see this memorial in our database now.

WWI Centennial

About AWMO

June 26th marked the 100th anniversary of the first U.S. infantry troops to land France. The 14,000 soldiers arrived at the port of Saint Nazaire welcomed by an energetic crowd as they made their first salute. The monument commemorating the landing site in Saint-Nazaire can be seen in our database.



Our summer intern is Army ROTC Cadet Jack Hughes, who is a rising junior and mechanical engineering major at the University of Notre Dame. His first weekend in France was Memorial Day, so he was able to accompany American War Memorials Overseas (AWMO) Founder and Executive Director MAJ (US Army, retired) Lillian Pfluke as she acted as the Master of Ceremonies at the Lorraine and Saint Mihiel American cemeteries. He then made site visits to both the Normandy invasion beaches and sites of the Battle of the Bulge. He is doing much database entry for us in his remaining weeks and will then spend the rest of his summer at the US Army's jungle school.

On July 14th, 145 US troops were invited to lead the way down the Champs d'Elysees in France's annual Bastille Day military parade in commemoration of our landing in France 100 years ago. US Air Force Thunderbirds participated in the flyover, along with 90 other aircraft.



The parade actually starts right by one of our monuments which is located directly under the Arc de Triomphe and commemorates the liberation of Paris on 25 August 1944. We have 23 monuments recorded in our database located in Paris commemorating our Revolutionary War, WWI, and WWII. Visiting them all traces the rich history of US/French relations in those wars.