



Newsletter Issue 2, January 2009

SGT York Site Memorial Dedicated

On Saturday, 4 October 2008, a remarkable ceremony was held in the small town of Châtel Chèhère, France. Two years earlier, after many years of research, LTC Doug Mastriano and Kory O'Keefe had discovered exact site where SGT York earned the Medal of Honor on 8 October 1918. Now, 90 years after York's heroic stand, a monument and a discovery trail were dedicated to commemorate the event. Present at the ceremony were members of the York family, soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division, a Bundeswehr representative, various French and American dignitaries, and many of the American Boy Scouts who had helped to build the trail. The USAREUR Brass Quintet provided the music. After a ceremony in front of the town hall, the 600 participants hiked



Into the forest along a part of the trail to unveil two monuments at the actual site (pictured above). One tells the story of SGT York's actions there that led to his Congressional Medal of Honor. The other is a memorial to the 17 American soldiers involved in the firefight on 8 October 1918. For more info, go to sgtyorkdiscovery.com.

Update on American War Memorials Overseas

American War Memorials Overseas received its approval from the IRS as a 501 (C) (3) public charity in November 2008. Our website went online in December. We are currently working with our software team on a database to track all of the American Memorials Overseas. The database is online and is being refined as we fill it with sites. Look for us online at uswarmemorials.org. The next priority is fundraising so that we can start our programs.

First US OSS Serviceman in the Resistance



Captain Paul Owen-Denis Johnson

Captain Paul Owen-Denis Johnson was born in Stockbridge, Maine, and studied at Yale and at Sciences-Po in Paris. While a reporter for time magazine in Morocco at the beginning of the war, he wrote a thorough situation report about the area and the weaknesses in its defenses, which led to his recruitment by the OSS in April 1942. After training he was parachuted into the area of Pont-de-Veux in France on an inter-allied mission. He spent the rest of the war behind enemy lines, fighting with the French Resistance in the Ain and Haut Jura departments of France. He masterminded the landing of the first C-47 in occupied France. After the war he settled in Chatillon-sur-Chaladrome, where he is buried. His exploits are remembered with a monument in Echallon, France.



The Resistance Memorial in Echallon, France