



Newsletter Issue 4, July 2009

Memorial Day Celebrations

Memorial Day celebrations were held throughout the world at various sites honoring American sacrifice. While you all saw President Obama speaking in Normandy for the ceremonies there, rest assured that in towns and villages worldwide our friends and allies were marking the occasion with hundreds of smaller local ceremonies at overseas monuments on the battlefields where we fought. At the right is a picture of a bi-plane flyover of the Lafayette Escadrille memorial during the ceremony there in Marnes la Coquette, France. Also noteworthy was the laying of the cornerstone of the Utah Beach museum expansion project on Utah Beach by Lieutenant Governor (Texas) David Dewhurst.



Update on American War Memorials Overseas

American War Memorials Overseas has 74 memorials in the database, over 200,000 hits on the website, and its first major sponsor. We will be hiring our Executive Director in the next few weeks. With paid staff we will be able to quickly expand our database, which is our next objective. Look for us online at uswarmemorials.org.

CPT Cooper Memorial has a new Home

Captain Lawrence E. J. Cooper, O-462484, was born 21 May 1918, the son of a doctor and housewife in Cooter, Missouri. He was in the Vanderbilt Medical School class of 1942 where he met his wife, Elma Valentine of Colfax, Louisiana, who was a registered nurse. He spent the war as a medical officer in the 262nd Ordnance Battalion, who first ran Ordnance Depot 100, just behind the beach at Normandy in July 1944, and later moved across France and Belgium into Germany. At the end of the war the Battalion was running the Hohenbrunn Army Depot just outside of Munich. Tragically, Captain Cooper was killed in a drowning accident on the afternoon of 6 June 1945, as he was



waiting for transport back to the US. He was eventually buried in his home state, but his comrades in arms erected a monument in his honor on the depot, where it remained for years, even after the US Army left and the German Army took over. When the land was recently privatized, the town of Hohenbrunn donated a plot in the town cemetery for Captain Cooper's stone to rest in perpetuity.

Pershing/Lafayette Renovation Underway

On 6 October 1937, a wonderful monument was inaugurated in the presence of the President of France and General Pershing. It sits just at the Versailles city limits, on both sides of the main road, and honors both Pershing and Lafayette. The monument was never completed, and without maintenance its condition degraded severely over the years. The city of Versailles has recently undertaken a major renovation project to restore all of the concrete and stonework to its original condition. The project will be complete by the end of the year, and will make the Ville d'Avray entrance to Versailles an impressive and unique memorial site.

