



Newsletter Issue 19, April 2013

Italian-American Soldiers Honored in Ameglia, Italy

Three memorials in Ameglia, Italy commemorate the service, execution, and burial of the fifteen Italian-American soldiers of the 2677th Headquarters Company, Detachment C, (Unit A, First Contingent), a special Allied OSS unit stationed at Corsica during WWII, who were taken prisoner during the failed Operation Ginny. The soldiers were captured on March 24, 1944 when attempting to destroy a German supply tunnel, and they were executed in uniform two days later on March 26, 1944. To execute uniformed prisoners of war was a direct violation of the Geneva Convention, and in the days following liberation, the investigation into the disappearance of the fifteen members of the OSS team was given priority. This case set a precedent for the Nuremberg war crime trials of German generals, officials, and



Nazi leaders beginning in November 1945. The precedent thus contributed to the codification of Principle IV of the Nuremberg Principles, which rejects "Superior Orders," and a similar principle found in sections of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Today the soldiers are honored in Ameglia, remembered as men who died for their love of two nations.



About US War Memorials

- AMWO participated in the WWI Centennial planning conference at the National WWI Museum in Kansas City in March along with representatives from Belgium, Germany, and numerous US historical organizations. We are excited to help keep alive the memory of America's contribution to the Great War during the upcoming 100th Anniversary period.
- Our summer interns are in! This year we welcome Kelsey Hayes from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama and Army ROTC Cadet Jack Pearl from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. They will be with us through mid-July helping with site visits, database entry, correspondence, and various other tasks.
- We have been regularly updating our Facebook page (thanks, interns!). Check it out and LIKE us!

US WWI Aviators in Murville, France

On September 26, 1918 During the Argonne offensive of World War I, Lieutenants Harry C. Preston and Philip N. Rhineland were shot down by the German Richthofen Squadron. While they were providing cover fire for the rest of their squadron's retreat, Rhineland and Preston's DH4 bombing plane was cut off by 5 Boche planes. The two men are depicted today on the Murville town war memorial in a unique—albeit morbid—fashion; on the back of the memorial, a carving shows the men crushed beneath the wreckage of their aircraft.



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