



**Newsletter Issue 20, July 2013**

**Latest Database Milestones: 800<sup>th</sup> Monument, 4000<sup>th</sup> Person**

At Andersen Air Force Base on the island of Guam, an aircraft and memorial honor servicemen who fought and died during the Vietnam War. The restored B-52D (aircraft number 55-0100) flew many Arc Light sorties culminating with the climatic Linebacker II strikes, and it is symbolically pointed toward the Vietnam Theatre. Operation Arc Light was the 1965 deployment of B-52D Stratofortresses as conventional bombers from bases in the US to Guam to support ground combat operations in Vietnam. Directly behind the aircraft is the Combat Skyspot Memorial which consists of an AN/MSQ-77 (AN/TSQ-81) parabolic antenna poised at 45 degrees elevation. Like the aircraft, the radar is facing the Vietnam Theatre in tribute to the men who flew and operated aircraft out of Guam during the Vietnam War. The memorial features two plaques; one tells the history of the B-52 in combat, while the other is dedicated to 18 servicemen of the 1st Combat Evaluation Group who died during B-52 missions over Southeast Asia, including Medal of Honor recipient, SGT Richard L. Etchberger.



Technical Sergeant Ward Mechen Sackal was the mechanic of the B-24 Liberator 42-7605 *Bull Bat* when it took off from Station 118 Wendling, Norfolk, UK, on December 31, 1943. The plane was flying above the town of Montlieu la Garde, France when German fighters intercepted it. After suffering multiple direct hits from enemy aircraft, *Bull Bat* exploded in midair. All the crewmembers died except tail gunner SSgt Anthony F. Malavasic, who was taken prisoner upon reaching the ground. Sackal was the son of George and Alice Mechen Sackal of Connecticut. He was engaged to a woman named Christine who he met in France, and who continued to decorate his grave with a red rose each month, as well as peanuts in memory of the dates they spent at movie theaters. He is buried at Rhone American Cemetery in Dranguignan, France, and a memorial to the crew of the *Bull Bat* stands at the crash site in Montlieu la Garde, France.



**About AWMO**

- AWMO attended the WWI Centennial Planning Conference sponsored by the French government at the Ecole Militaire in Paris in late May with over 100 representatives from historical organizations in France, Belgium, and England.
- AMWO board members acted as the Master of Ceremonies for Memorial Day events at the Meuse Argonne and Lorraine American cemeteries in France, as well as participating in numerous other commemorative events.

**Reflections of an Army ROTC Cadet**

By: Jack Pearl

I am a sophomore Army Cadet at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN, and for the past five weeks, I have been interning with American War Memorials Overseas. I first learned about AWMO, Inc. from my Professor of Military Science, LTC John Polhamus, and naturally I jumped on the opportunity! While it has been nice seeing the well-known Parisian attractions like the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe, in many ways I have gotten more out of visiting the private monuments scattered throughout France. Many of them are in small villages or on the side of unmarked roads. Though some of them may be nothing more than a small stone or a plaque, these memorials hold so much significance as they honor the memories of U.S. soldiers who died far from home for the greater good. In just two years, I will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and after having seen these memorials personally—many commemorating men my age or younger who gave their lives for the cause of freedom—I can say that I am truly humbled that I will be replacing them in the line of duty and continuing their ongoing fight for freedom and peace in the world.



Follow us on Facebook!

**Please consider a donation to help us continue our important work**