



## Newsletter Issue 28, July 2015

### The Great Escape



On the moonless night of March 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, 1944, 76 British Royal Airmen escaped through a tunnel codenamed “Harry” from the German Prisoner of War Camp, Stalag Luft III. The escape itself and the tremendous organization that went into planning such a mass exodus were made famous by the award winning 1963 film, “The Great Escape.” Nearly a year after Squadron Leader Robert Bushell conceived the escape plan, Harry was ready and the escape took place. Of the 76 men that made it through the tunnel into the sparse tree line on the other side, 73 were recaptured, and 50 of them were unlawfully executed under the personal order of Adolf Hitler. The Muzeum Obozów Jenieckich is located in what is now Zagan, Poland, at the site of

Stalag Luft III and Stalag VIIC, which held Allied enlisted men. The museum was built in 1971 to commemorate the men held in the POW camps, and it contains a permanent exhibit dedicated to the RAF and USAAF prisoners of Stalag Luft III, a model of the “Harry” escape tunnel, and reconstructions of both a sentry tower and hut no. 104 from which Harry had it’s entrance.

### Memorial Day in Europe



On the Sunday before Memorial Day every year, there are ceremonies throughout Europe at every one of our overseas military cemeteries as well as at other memorials and sites. The American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA) coordinates and organizes the ceremonies, with the support and assistance of the American Battle Monuments Commission. The ceremonies are extremely well attended, and are supported by US troops and aircraft, as well as host nation troops and often

bands. If you are ever in Europe on Memorial Day weekend, they are a worthwhile thing to do. See [aomda.org](http://aomda.org) and [aomda.com](http://aomda.com) or [abmc.gov](http://abmc.gov) for schedules. The AOMDA insures that every grave is decorated with an American and host nation flag, as seen above left. Right is AMWO’s founder and Executive Director, Lillian Pfluke, speaking at the Lorraine American Cemetery ceremony.

