



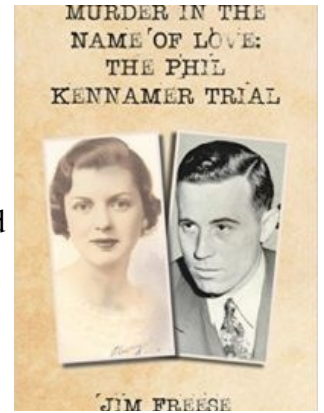
**Newsletter Issue 33, October 2016**

**Villian or Hero?**



Oklahoma's trial of the century was in Tulsa in 1935. The legendary crime was the murder of John Gorrell, Jr., 23, the son of a local physician, by Phil Kennamer, the pampered yet wild son of a prominent federal judge who had also been an Army Colonel and mayor. The crime was a crazy affair driven by unrequited love and including a kidnapping plot, a getaway plane, and a dead witness. Due to his father's connections, Kennamer's defense was led by a former state attorney general and some of the country's most respected psychiatrists testified that he was insane when he shot Gorrell twice in the head. Despite the high-powered defense team, the jury convicted Kennamer of manslaughter and the judge sentenced him to 25 years in prison. The appeal was denied and

the governor refused to commute the sentence, so Kennamer was jailed. Years later, in April 1943, an unusual parole hearing was held in the chambers of the House of Representatives, and Governor Robert S. Kerr paroled Kennamer so he could join the Army as a paratrooper. Kennamer enlisted a few days later. He was killed in the invasion of Southern France on 15 August 1944. (For more on the story see "Murder in the Name of Love" by Jim Freese.) Today there is a monument in Trans-en-Provence in southern France honoring his sacrifice.



**Our 1000th Site!**

The 1000th site in our database is a new one, inaugurated just a few weeks ago, and honors Private Yohei Sagami of the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Born in Fife, Washington in 1922, Sagami was one of ten children interred with his family in the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho (now the Minidoka National Historic Site) during WWII. At the behest of his father, he enlisted along with six of his seven brothers. Approximately 1000 of the Minidoka internees served in the US Army, mostly in the 442 RCT, which was composed almost entirely by American soldiers of Japanese ancestry and was the

most highly decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of American warfare. Sagami was killed in action on 15 October 1944 by the town of Laval-sur-Vologne in the French Vosges mountains. The grateful town recently erected this new monument to honor his sacrifice.



**Remembered Light**

American War Memorials Overseas is helping to promote a fascinating art expo in Germany in coming months. US Army Chaplain Frederick A. McDonald collected shards of glass from two dozen bombed out churches in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany as he made his way across Europe with Omar Bradley's 12th Army Group in 1945, mailing them home to his mother in Seattle. In the early years of this century, the glass shards were fashioned into art pieces which commemorate each of the sites. McDonald's own words are included in the pieces. Pictures of these pieces are on display now in the Hurtgenwald 1944 museum in Vossenack, Germany and will be moving to Remagen, Germany in March.



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