



**Newsletter Issue 12, July 2011**

**26th Division Church in Belleau Gets Major Work**

The church of the town of Belleau was destroyed as the 26th (Yankee) Division took the town on 18 July 1918. After the war, the veterans of the Division raised money and rebuilt the church for the town. Recently they have substantial funds available to do some



major maintenance work on the exterior of the church. The church is located immediately across the street from the Aisne Marne American Cemetery in Belleau, France, and contains an honor roll of the 2700 men of the division who were lost in fighting. There are also beautiful stained glass windows depicting Washington and Lafayette. Thank you to the 26th Division Veterans Association for their generous care of this landmark.

**Update on American War Memorials Overseas**

Courtney Hickman, a recent graduate of Auburn University, is our summer intern this year. Courtney studied French at Auburn, and earned her Alabama Teacher Certification to teach French. While her Dad serves in Afghanistan, Courtney is helping us to keep alive the memory of thousands of Americans who have served overseas. We sent her on a site visit to the Bulge, and she is helping us with database entry and site research on those memorials.

**Rainbow Division Statue**

James Butler's fabulous 3 meter high statue that memorializes the 167th (Alabama) Infantry Regiment is on temporary display this summer at the Royal Academy of Arts in London until 15 August. It will be dedicated at the Croix Rouge Farm (close to Fresnes-en-Tardenois, France) on 12 November 2011.



**Utah Beach Museum Reopens**

The Utah Beach museum reopened and dedicated its new wing on 6 June 11. A stunning airplane hanger houses a B-26 bomber painted as the Dinah-Might, flown on D-Day over Utah Beach by then Major David Dewhurst. The aircraft is on long term loan from the French Air and Space Museum. Dewhurst's sons David (the Lt Governor of Texas) and Gene were the driving force and major donors behind the museum's expansion. The museum's interior displays have been completely renovated and updated. American War Memorials Overseas assisted in procuring a Medal of Honor from the Army Heraldry office for display in the museum.



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