



Newsletter Issue 13, October 2011

Temporary Cemeteries

During both World Wars, American combatants were buried where they fell on foreign soil in temporary cemeteries. Later, the Army's Graves Registration Service consolidated these cemeteries into our permanent overseas military cemeteries. But the local people who consider themselves as the original guardians of our fallen service members still remember. Many of the temporary cemetery sites are now memorialized by monuments. Pictured on the right is the monument at Hochfelden in the Alsace region of France. It was the site of a temporary cemetery during WWII, and contained the remains of 1093 Americans. Except for a single burial (see right), the cemetery closed in 1948, and in 1953 the local citizens unveiled this monument to continually honor the Americans that were buried there. The site remains sacred ground.



**Featured
Isolated Burial:
CPT Rahill**

John Grant Rahill of Caldwell, New Jersey, left his studies at the University of Chicago to enlist in the Army in



1942. He was commissioned as an Infantry lieutenant on July 10, 1943 and shipped out to Europe a few days after his 20th birthday. He participated in some of the most important campaigns of the war with the 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Division, including the invasion at Anzio, the liberation of Rome, and the invasion of Southern France. He was leading an 8 man patrol near Engwiller, France, when he was killed by mortar fire. He is buried in the Hochfelden temporary cemetery featured above. His next of kin elected to leave him there after the war, and today the plaque below marks his gravesite. The Hochfelden cemetery lives on, containing a single burial.

"Hopeless Victory" Restored to Former Glory

The 72 foot statue "Hopeless Victory" was dedicated in 1932 and marks the limit of the German advance in 1914. It was a gift of the now defunct American Friends of France. The statue is on the grounds of the new WWI museum in Meaux, so was recently renovated as a part of the museum project (at a cost of over \$160,000) and returned to its former glory.



ICI REPOSE SELON SA VOLONTE
LE LIEUTENANT
JOHN GRANT RAHILL
NE LE 11 JANVIER 1924 A CALDWELL
ETATS UNIS D'AMERIQUE
TOMBE LE 2 DECEMBRE 1944
PRES D'ENGWILLER
L'ALSACE RECONNAISSANCE