



## Newsletter Issue 9, October 2010

### America's Best Tanker?



Lafayette G. Pool, as an M4 "Sherman" Tank Commander in Company I, 3d Battalion, 32d Armored Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armor Division (Spearhead), led his crew across France and Belgium and led his Task Force in 21 separate attacks. In 80 days he and his crew were credited with destroying 258 German vehicles, capturing 250 German soldiers, and killing an estimated over 1000 German soldiers. In his final battle SSG Pool was blown from the turret of his tank and his right leg was shattered and had to be removed. He retired from the Army on September 19, 1960 as a Chief Warrant Officer 2d Class, having spent many years as a tank instructor. His military decorations included the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, French Croix de Guerre with Bronze Star, and Belgium Fourragere. Today, he and his crew are memorialized on the Chièvres Army Airfield in Chievres, Belgium, where his tank IN THE MOOD is replicated.



### LT Russel Memorial Rededicated

1LT William Muir Russel, a Cornell graduate from Michigan, was shot down in aerial combat on 11 August 1918 over Courville, France. The townspeople buried him in their cemetery. His grateful father, Henry Russel, died of pneumonia in February 1920, enroute to recover the body of his son. Before passing, he changed his will to leave a substantial sum to the town, who used it to build a fountain and washhouse in the center of town as a memorial. The building was in constant use for over 50 years, but had fallen into disrepair in modern times. American War Memorials Overseas assisted the Association of Courville Patrimoine in the renovation of the site. The town was covered in American flags on 10 September 2010 for the rededication. Four of LT Russel's grand nieces made the trip from Michigan for the inspiring ceremony, which included readings from LT Russel's letters home and a biplane aerial acrobat show. LT Russel's memory lives on in this town.

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