



Newsletter Issue 1, October 2008

Navy Memorial Dedicated at Utah Beach

The first ever monument in Normandy to honor the US Navy was dedicated on 27 September 2008 on Utah Beach, Ste Marie du Mont, France. Commissioned by the Naval Order of the United States, and five years in the making, the monument is a stunning bronze sculpture of three intertwined sailors in three different action poses. They represent the three phases of the operation: the planning, the launch, and the follow-up. Every ship involved in the D-day invasion is listed on its massive stone base. Sculptor Stephen Spears was on hand to see the enormous statue unveiled. The ceremony, presided over by Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England, was attended by veterans of WWII, sailors from US European Command, US Na-



from the USS The Sullivans, as well as the CNO of the French Navy and hundreds of well-wishers. It concluded with a flyover by French jets in the traditional missing man formation. The memorial sits on land donated by the town of St Marie du Mont, who have agreed to undertake its long term maintenance.

Update on American War Memorials Overseas

American War Memorials Overseas was incorporated in July 2008. We submitted our application to the IRS for 501 (C) (3) status at the end of July, so expect to hear from the IRS in the near future. We are currently developing our website, and should have it online in a few weeks. We are simultaneously developing a database to track all of the American Memorials Overseas, which will be the heart of the website. Look for us online at uswarmemorials.org.

First US Army tank school site

The home of the US Armored Corps is in the fields south of Langres in France. It was here in the town of Bourg that then LTC George S. Patton founded the first Tank School for the US Army in early 1918. Because no American-made tanks had reached France, Patton had to rely on twenty-five borrowed French Renault tanks to train his men. Patton led the 2 battalions of the 1st Tank Brigade in combat at St Mihiel on September 12, 1918. His experiences here and in the Meuse Argonne campaign later that year helped shape his ideas on the utilization of tanks and the need for a separate tank corps. Today, this monument marks the spot.



Family make plans to move Hamilton Coolidge

For 90 years, LT Hamilton Coolidge has lain where he fell, just next to the remains of his Spad aircraft on the banks of the Aire River outside of Chevieres, France. But the river is rapidly approaching and threatening to wash away the secluded site. The Hamilton family, on their recent visit here, made arrangements with the town to move the body into the town's cemetery. LT Coolidge was a flying ace in WWI, with 8 confirmed kills. He was shot out of the sky by a field artillery round on 27 October 1918, just weeks before the end of the war.