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Member of :

- the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, US Army and of others American Veterans Associations,
- **Rock of the Marne Association**,
- Le Souvenir Français (French Remembrance Society)

## Duty of Memory in East of France



**A few words about my historical activities in Haute-Saône and Vosges Mountains...**

**This part of East of France was delivered in September and October 1944 by the soldiers of the U.S. 7th Army (3<sup>rd</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div.) There were terrible battles, and the people didn't forget...**

**Since a long time, the authorities and citizens of a lot of towns and villages of France wanted to do something for the memory of the soldiers of the US Army, US Air Force who fought for our freedom, and who sometimes died...**

Eric Vandroux and the plaque for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Div. at Vesoul

**Since 15 years I work with several American Veterans Associations, Veterans and families of American soldiers, with some Cities and some French Patriotic Associations for the Duty of Memory for the American Soldiers in my area... I proposed and took part in the dedication of several plaques (Vesoul, Vervezelles, Saulx de Vesoul, Luxeuil, Raddon,...) and in others historical events... Several times I organized myself the visit of my area for a lot of American Veterans (2004, 2006, 2009, 2011)... I am working with them for their next trip in 2014... In 2011 I proposed and organized the "Operation Poppies and French Cornflowers".**

**And since 2005 the French Remembrance Society of the District of Lure and the Mayor of Saulx de Vesoul gave to me the mission to organize each year the visit of the Epinal American Cemetery by French children of their area... The Memorial Days by Children of France...**

**Since the beginning of this great adventure the representatives of the Township Community of the District of Brouvelieures and of the French Remembrance Society of this area joined us for these events... Jean-Marie Siret, ex-service man of French Army, specialist of the 45<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Division and of the battles in Vosges Mountains during WWII, is the coordinator for the District of Brouvelieures, near Bruyeres...**

**The Memorial Days by Children of France are very important for me ! Several times I visited the Epinal and Saint Avold American Cemeteries with a lot of American Veterans... Each time I saw a lot of things in their eyes... Sometimes tears... I understood that they didn't forget their friends, their comrades in Arms... And I know also several widows, sons, daughters of soldiers buried in Epinal Cemetery... They didn't forget their husbands, fathers... I understood why it was important to remember these young soldiers who lie so far of their country...**

**The French people, especially the children have to know... To remember...**

### **The Exposition « The Liberation, the Liberators » :**

**Before going to the Epinal American Cemetery, with the representatives of the "French Remembrance Society" of Lure's area, we visit the children in their classrooms, and we explain to them the origins of World War Two, the occupation, the Liberation... We explain the Liberation of our area...**

**Then, thanks to my exposition, each time I explain what is US Army, what are the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Inf. Division... And who are the Liberators, these soldiers of the 7<sup>th</sup> US Army... A great part of these inquiries, pictures come from Veterans, families of soldiers buried in Epinal American Cemetery... But also from the Center Military History, from a lot of American books, several websites and so on... Thanks to Jean-Marie Siret there are a lot of inquiries about the 45<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. and about a lot of soldiers of this Division...**



**School of Roye, May 2008**



**School of Lure, May 2006**

**Claude Deltieure, son of S/Sgt Rene Deltieure, 7th Inf. Rgt during WWII**



**Mrs Jocelyne Satterlee**

More than 400 boards and frames make up this exposition...

I displayed this exposition in the schools of Lure, Flagey, Villers les Luxeuil, Mailleroncourt-Charette, Velorcey, Roye, Saulx de Vesoul, Echenoz La Meline, Vesoul... This exposition has been displayed also during several events at Port Sur Saône, Villers le Sec, Mailleroncourt-Charette, Luxeuil, Holtzwihr, Echenoz la Meline, Lure, Saulx de Vesoul, Val d'Ajol., Vesoul..

Nearly each time I invited some witnesses of the Liberation, like soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> French Army, French resistants... Even persons who were children during this period... And they explained to the children what they lived, what they saw during the War...

Claude Deltieure, son of a WWII soldier of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Div., took part several times in these special lessons... Each time, at the beginning of these events, he asked to the children : "What do you know about WWII ?"

Mrs Jocelyne Satterlee Brescia was the spouse of a Colonel of the US Army.

She works with several American and French Associations in Normandy for the Duty of Memory for the American Soldiers.

In 2009 Mrs Satterlee joined the team of the Memorial Days by Children of France for the decoration of graves of US Soldiers who came from Normandy, especially of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division.





Luxeuil, Town Hall, September 2008





**The Children of Luxeuil wanted to salute the American soldiers who saved France in 1944 and 1945...**



**School of Echenoz la Meline, September 2009**





Saulx de Vesoul, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011



Saulx de Vesoul, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011





**This exposition is increasing with more and more posters...**



Saulx de Vesoul is a special town for the French American Duty of Memory.

Christian Bresson and Jean-Claude Lachat, Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Saulx de Vesoul wish that the children of Saulx take part in a lot of events...

Since the beginning of this adventure, this exposition was displayed several times in their town and the children went several times at Epinal American Cemetery thanks to the "French Remembrance Society" Le souvenir Français, who offer the bus and roses for the visits for the children...

And these children took part in the operation "Messages for the American veterans" (2009) and of the "Poppies and Bleuets de France" (2011)...



## Val d'Ajol, July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012



This exposition was displayed at Val d'AJOL during the ceremonies for the dedication of a stele in memory of Lt Booth, pilot of Thunderbolt P47 who crashed in their area on October 27, 1944.



A lot of information about the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, the 371<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group, the 405<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, but also about the soldiers of the 7<sup>th</sup> US Army...





About the Liberation of Haute-Saône...



The few, the proud, the Marines !



## Vesoul, September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012



Robert Lynch, veteran of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, was one of the liberators of Vesoul on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1944. He never forget what he lived that day, and wanted to come back in this City... With his family, he visited Vesoul for the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation... He was the special guest for the commemoration.







Vesoul, September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>







The exposition is displayed several times per year, in the schools, during a lot of Patriotic events...  
“Le Souvenir Français” (French Remembrance Society) and several times l’ONACVG (National Office for the Ex-service men and War Victims of Haute-Saône) were partners during these events...

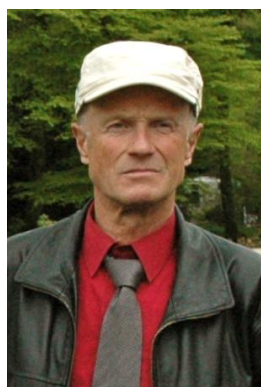
The information comes from the American Veterans, the families of Veterans or KIA, the records of the US Army, the US National Archives and Records Administration, American books, and a lot of serious American websites, and from Jean-Marie Siret for the information about the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division...

**This exposition is dedicated to all these men and women who fought and sometimes died for our Freedom...**

## Important !

These works of French American Duty of Memory are possible thanks to several persons :

### - For the Memorial Days by Children of France :



Serge Lecinq



Christian Bresson



† Jean-Claude Lachat



Etienne Pourcher

- Mr Serge Lecinq, President of “Le Souvenir Français” of the Districts of Lure and of Saulx de Vesoul,
- Christian Bresson, Mayor of Saulx de Vesoul,
- Jean-Claude Lachat, former First Deputy Mayor of Saulx de Vesoul,
- Etienne Pourcher, Member of the Vosges Council, President of the Township Community of the District of Brouvelieures, Mayor of Fremifontaine,

They wished that the children of their area know what the American soldiers did for the Liberation of their area, for the Liberation of France. They charged Jean-Marie Siret (for the children of the District of Brouvelieures) and Eric Vandroux for the others districts and for the organization of the visits of the Epinal American Cemetery... Jean Marie Siret and Eric Vandroux work with the American Veterans and families of soldiers buried at Epinal American Cemetery.



- For the others events : expositions, visits of American veterans :

Besides the persons above, there are :



Alain Chrétien



Cyril Bonamy-Fromentin, Marie Claude Kimmel, Sylvie Bellec

- Mr Alain Chrétien, Member of the Parliament, Mayor of Vesoul,
- For the ONACVG (National Office for the Ex-service men and war victims) of Haute-Saône :
  - Mr Cyril Bonamy-Fromentin, Director,
  - Mrs Sylvie Bellec, in charge of cases and collect,
  - Mrs Marie Claude Kimmel, secretary.



Brigitte Préau



Clarisse Chevalier

- Mrs Brigitte Préau, was Director of the National Office for the Ex-service men and war victims of Vosges and Haute-Saône in 2011. She approved my project "Poppies and Cornflowers of France 2011" for the visit of the Veterans of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division in France. Thanks to her, the National Office for the Ex-service men and war victims of Haute-Saône offered a lot of artificial French Cornflowers (Bleuets de France) for the American Veterans. Now she is Director of the National Office for the Ex-service men and war victims of the Var Department,
- Mrs Clarisse Chevalier was in charge of the Duty of Memory events with the Cities, the schools, the Patriotic Associations. Thanks to her, the National Office for the Ex-service men and war victims of Haute-Saône offered gifts to the American Veterans of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IDUS during their trip in 2009, and organized the display of my exposition at the school of Echenoz la Meline in 2009. Now she is in charge of Duty of Memory events in Normandy.





John Shirley

- John Shirley, Veteran of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Div..

John is one of the representatives of the Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

He is the organizer for the travels in France for the Veterans of this Society.

Each time I work with him for the organization in Haute-Saône and Vosges Mountains.

I know him since 1994, and I work with him since this date.

I work also with representatives of the Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, a lot of Veterans, families of soldiers of this division, as I work with representatives of several other American Veterans Associations, their Veterans, families of soldiers of these units...

All these Veterans Associations, Veterans and American families took part in the Memorial Days by Children of France in writing message for the French children which took part in these events...



Claude Deltieure

- Mr Claude Deltieure, son of Staff Sergeant René Deltieure, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

Claude comes very often in France to visit his French family, but also to take part in a lot of events about the French-American duty of Memory with Eric Vandroux... In a lot of schools in Haute-Saône, he explained World War Two to the children, the war of his father...

But Claude and his mother Josette support the Memorial Days by Children of France by sending money for flowers and to participate at the expense of these events...



Claude Mantion



Jean-Claude Besse



Jean-François Lefai

- Claude Mantion, President of the :
  - “Voluntary fighters of Haute-Saône Association”,
  - “Club Partisan 70 »,
- Jean-Claude Besse, President of the “The National Union of the Parachutists” of Hte- Saône,
- Jean-François Lefai, representative of the “ANAI”, Association for the French fighters in Indochina.



In our area, there are of course others Mayors, representatives of Cities, representatives of French Patriotic Associations, French historians who are interested by the French American duty of Memory, took part sometimes in several of these events... It is not possible to list all their names, but they are numerous...

## For these events for the logistics



Gérard Vernot

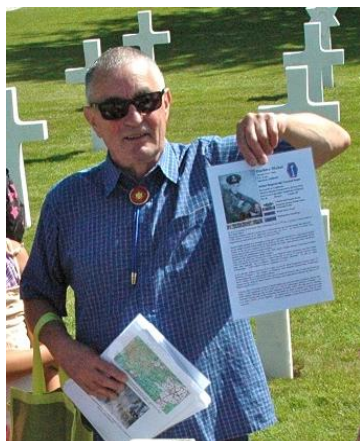


Murielle Vandroux, Francis Chalmey

- Gérard Vernot : retired, is a member of « Le Souvenir Français of Vesoul,
- Murielle Vandroux, is my sister,
- Francis Chalmey, is the boyfriend of Murielle Vandroux...

These 3 persons help me for the logistics for these events : the transport and the set up of the exhibition which does not stop increasing, the sanding of the inscriptions of graves and set up of flags just before the Memorial Days by Children of France.

Without them I could make nothing...



- Major (Retired) Jean-Marie Siret, is the other organizer of the Memorial Days by Children of France. He is in charge for the schools of the Vosges Mountains and for the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He is the great specialist of this Division, between the Moselle River and the Meurthe River. He is also a great specialist of the US Army in 1944. Thanks to him, there are a lot of monuments and tablets in memory of soldiers of the 45<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Divisions in the districts of Brouvelieures, Bruyères... And thanks to him, there are a lot of information about the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the exposition "The Libération, the Liberators"...

Without all these persons, nothing could be possible... Each time we worked together... Our goal was to honor the American Soldiers who delivered our Country...



In 2012, I adopted these following graves at Epinal American Cemetery...

In fact, since 1993 I visited each year this Cemetery, and since 2005 I organized each year the Memorial Days by Children of France...

For that I worked with American Veterans, families of some of these soldiers buried there...

I worked on the life of some of these American Liberators... I know them more and more...

Sometimes I understand that Epinal American Cemetery is my second home...

I have a lot of friends there...

### Graves of Epinal American Cemetery adopted by Eric Vandroux

 <b>7<sup>th</sup> US Army</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division</b> 							
Tombes			Divisions	Régiments	Noms	Matricules	Dates de décès
A	19	61	3 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Div	7 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt	Tamburine Albert J.	33683168	09-Sept-44
A	29	37	3 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Div	15 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt	Kefurt Gus J.	35235413	25-Dec-44
B	14	55	3 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Div	15 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt	Kandle Victor L.	O1324419	31-Dec-44
B	23	33	3 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Div	15 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt	Giovinazzo Dominic	36841235	26-Dec-44
B	31	34	3 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Div	15 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt	Silverstein Earl	33794347	28-Sept-44
B	34	29	3 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Div	15 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt	Banek Stanley C.	36605531	12-Sept-44
 <b>7<sup>th</sup> US Army</b> <b>36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division</b> 							
A	17	34	36 <sup>th</sup> Inf Div	143 <sup>rd</sup> Inf Regt	Baird Arthur T.	33673078	12-Sept-44
 <b>7<sup>th</sup> US Army</b> <b>45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division</b> 							
A	15	39	45 <sup>th</sup> Inf Div	180 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt	DiSabato Michael	33800873	12-Sept-44
B	31	30	45 <sup>th</sup> Inf Div	180 <sup>th</sup> Inf Regt	Felton Kenneth L.	20709542	06-Jan-45
 <b>USAAF</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> USAAF</b> 							
B	38	4	324 <sup>th</sup> F G	315 <sup>th</sup> Fighter Sq	Smith Carroll N.	O-824756	08-déc-44

As you can understand, the American Liberators are not forgotten here... There are a lot of events in their Memory...

And as tell the motto of "Le Souvenir Français :

**" A nous le Souvenir, à Eux l' Immortalité"**  
**To us the Remembrance, to them the Immortality**

**God Bless America and France !**

**Eric Vandroux**