



U. S. A.



7th US Army



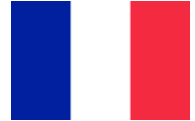
3rd Inf. Div.



36th Inf. Div.



45th Inf. Div.



FRANCE

French-American Commemorations **Part I**

From Besançon to Vosges Mountains

On the trail of the Soldiers of the 7th US Army

Saint Juan, September 15th, 2011



Lt John Shirley and Mrs Jeanne Petrequin

This tour began at Saint Juan, 16 miles northeast of Besançon, France, and 210 miles southeast of Paris.

In fact, the Saint Juan U.S. Military Cemetery was established by the Seventh U.S. Army, on September 9th, 1944. There were the graves of 987 American dead. These soldiers fell during the last part of the Southern France Campaign and during the first part of the Rhineland Campaign. Nearly 40 per cent of them rest now at Epinal American Cemetery.

That day, Louis Yazlovetsky, Mayor of Saint Juan, explained to John Shirley, veteran of the 3rd Infantry Division, and to Claude Deltieure, son of Staff Sergeant René Deltieure, 3rd Infantry Division, why it is important for his City to save the area of this Temporary Cemetery, for the Duty of Memory...

Then Mrs Jeanne Petrequin explained to them her work to find information about this Cemetery with the help of American Veterans and families, with the help of American Administration... She is the guide and historian of the site of this Temporary Cemetery.



John Shirley and Claude Deltieure explained to the children of Saint Juan World War Two and the Liberation of a part of East of France by the 3rd Infantry Division...



These school boys and girls explained what Mrs Michèle Alzingre, their teacher, told to them about this period...



Then they sang an American song ! And they showed their drawings for the American



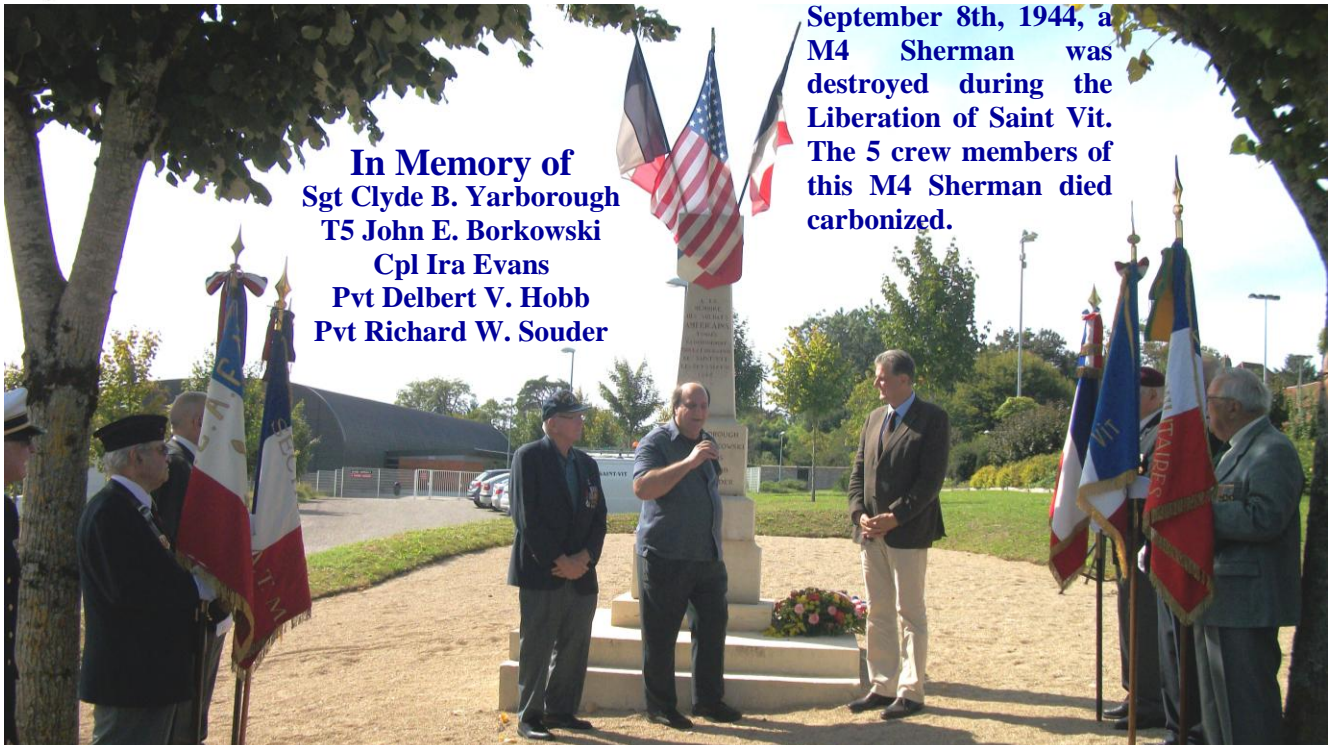
Soldiers who delivered their Country in 1944... Then it was the visit of the site of the Saint Juan U.S. Military Cemetery... All these 987 American dead are not forgotten !



Saint Vit, September 15th, 2011

36th Infantry Division

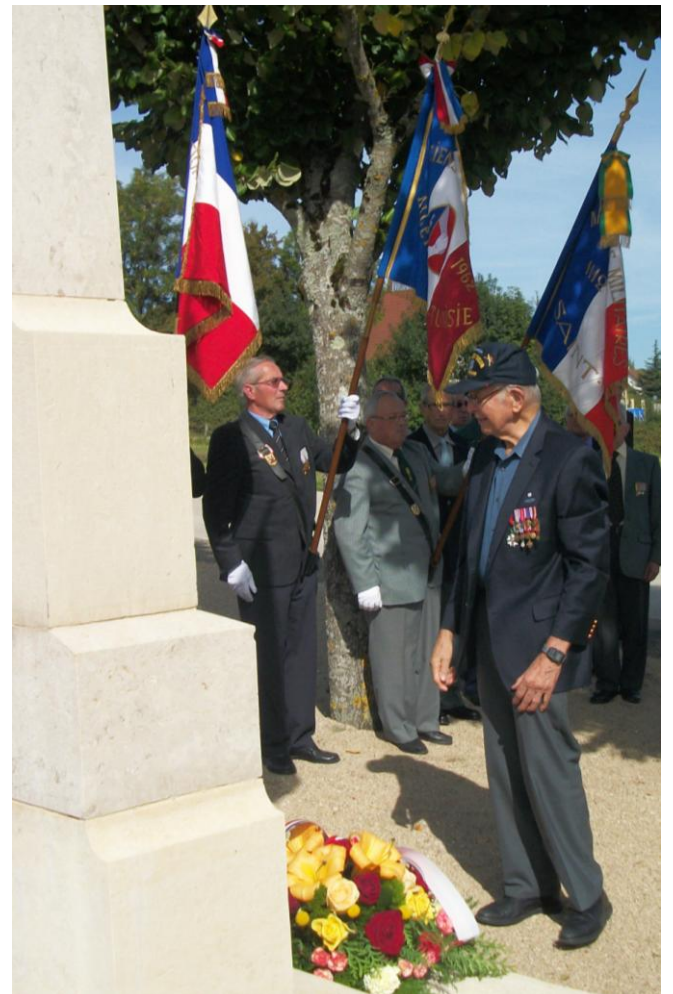
753rd Tank Battalion



In Memory of
Sgt Clyde B. Yarborough
T5 John E. Borkowski
Cpl Ira Evans
Pvt Delbert V. Hobb
Pvt Richard W. Souder

September 8th, 1944, a M4 Sherman was destroyed during the Liberation of Saint Vit. The 5 crew members of this M4 Sherman died carbonized.

John Shirley and Claude Deltieure with Pascal Routhier, Mayor of Saint Vit, and the representatives of French Patriotic Association, Flag bearers...



Americans and French paying tribute together in the sacrifice of 5 American braves...

Sauvagny, September 15th, 2011

36th Infantry Division



Sauvagny

L'Est Républicain
September 21st, 2011

Hommage aux soldats US

C'est avec émotion que le village de Sauvagny a reçu la visite de John Shirley, lieutenant, et de Claude Deltieure, fils de René Deltieure, sergent (décédé), vétéran de la 3e Division US. De passage dans notre région, ces deux Américains sont venus s'incliner devant le monument édifié à Sauvagny à la mémoire de leurs compatriotes tombés en libérant la France. Après un accueil chaleureux, un verre de l'amitié était organisé à la mairie.

Chacun a eu une pensée émue pour Henri Ducret, décédé, il y a 7 mois, qui avait occasionnellement l'honneur de les recevoir ou d'échanger avec eux des courriers.

Le travail de ses recherches avait abouti à l'édifica-



■ Des Américains à Sauvagny.

tion des monuments du Souvenir de nos libérateurs à Sauvagny et à Fontain.



John Shirley and Claude Deltieure

The T-Patchers Pfc Edwin Morgan and Pvt John Kreiner were killed during the Liberation of Sauvagny... It was September 09th 1944... But nobody forgot them... Pascal Ducret, Mayor of Sauvagny, one of his brothers and some others citizens of this City received John Shirley and Claude Deltieure... After a ceremony at the monument in Memory of the 2 T-Patchers, there was a very nice reception at the Town Hall... Then there was a moved thought for Henri Ducret (the father of Pascal), who passed away 7 months ago. He was the first to work with veterans of the 36th Infantry Division and of the USAAF for the dedications of a Monument and plaque at Sauvagny and Fontain... The Duty of Memory was his life... We'll not forget him too...



Pascal Ducret



John Shirley drilling with a M1 Garand

Besançon

L'Est Républicain, Sept. 16th, 2011



«Thank you old boy»

John Shirley, 87 ans, est l'un de ces vétérans de la 3e division US qui ont libéré Besançon. Hier, il était au monument de Chaudanne où une vingtaine de ses camarades de combat de la 7e division ont été fauchés par le tir d'une mitrailleuse allemande.



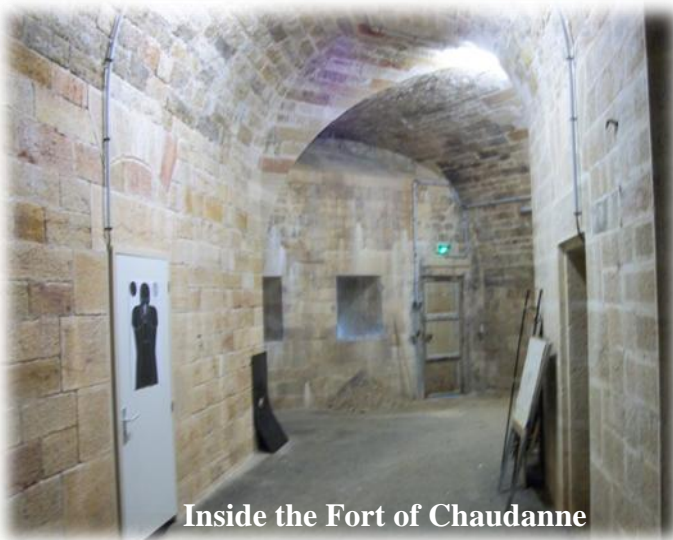
BESANCON
September 15th, 2011



John Shirley, André Belz and Mrs Panier, Deputy Mayor of Besançon



Ceremony at the Fort of Chaudanne (Besançon)



Inside the Fort of Chaudanne

Pictures courtesy of Murielle Vandroux

On September 8th, 1944, Besançon was liberated by the 3rd Infantry Division. 80 American Soldiers, 29 civilians and 28 Resistance fighters were killed during the fights...

John Shirley, Claude Deltieure and Robert Taverni, son of Pvt Frank J. Taverni (3rd Infantry Division) took part in this ceremony in Memory of the Marnemen who delivered Besançon !

After the Vin d'Honneur, the visit of the Fort of Chaudanne... In 1944, there, a German machine gun killed about twenty brave American soldiers... How to forget ?

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