

# **The Founders, the Project & the Crypt LA FAYETTE ESCADRILLE MEMORIAL**

**Jean-Claude LEMAIRE**

**Roger DESHAYES**

**Eugene JOHNSON**

## Dedication:

**"Every flight is a novel. Every record is an" epic poem. They are the fearless and blameless "knights" of this war. They recall the legendary days of the "Knighthood, not only by the boldness of their" exploits but by the nobility of the feelings which animate them. "**

Here is how the airmen of the Escadrille La Fayette spoke, M. Lloyd George, in a speech to the House of Commons, October 29, 1917.

extract N° 548 / page -3- appended to the minutes of the session of June 21, 1918 of the Senate,  
delivered by the Senator of Dordogne

## Fernand Faure



## **Preface by Jean-Claude LEMAIRE**

Beyond the stones, we find the men who built them.

After forty-three years of volunteering devoted to the administration of the Foundation and the renovation of the Monument, I was missing something:

To tell about the design, creation and maintenance of this monument dedicated to the memory of these young American volunteers who came to fight, from the first hours, alongside France against the German invader before the United States entered the war in 1917. Talented historians have already told their story. On this subject, see the publications indicated at the end of the last volume. This year again, excellent works were published on this subject for the centenary of the Great War, both in France and in the United States. In this story, we will tell you about the creation of the Monument de l'Escadrille La Fayette and its past and present environment. We will not fail to tell you the story of the founders of this building and of those who worked in the past for its conservation. We will also tell you the story of its design, its construction, the difficulties encountered, both financial and architectural, and its maintenance over time. All this, going hand in hand with the history of the Foundation since 1931. Of course, this will not prevent us from referring from time to time to the illustrious history of the squadron and its pilots.

This Monument presents three distinct images but superimposed on each other:

- a) The Epic of the heroes of the Lafayette Escadrille
- b) The History of this magnificent Commemorative Monument
- c) The resulting symbol of Franco-American friendship

To use the keys to this Monument, as the title of this work indicates, we will go in search of the men who once developed its design and then its construction. We will evoke those who worked for its conservation up to the present day and in the very spirit that prevailed from its origin. We will discover its architect and the various contractors grappling with the problems dating from the construction. We will live together its inauguration in 1928. We will then review the almost century-old history of this Memorial as well as that of the men who participated in its survival. Without this Monument, the memory of these American heroes who died for France would never have had the same intensity or the same influence.

Part of this book will be devoted to the various restorations undertaken since the day of the inauguration. Some undetected negligence at the origin of the construction led to many problems. We will also try to identify the different responsibilities in this affair and this at several stages of completion of the Memorial.



I would like to invite you to share the message left by this work of stone and make you represents for me a duty of “sacred” memory because, what are the stones without their own history!

For younger generations, this Monument also recalls the beautiful story of Franco-American friendship, which began during the War of Independence with the odyssey of the young Marquis de La Fayette who came to support General Washington and the insurgents in 1777. Almost a hundred years afterwards, the American banker Junius S. Morgan brought a sum of two hundred and fifty million francs to liberate France from its Prussian invaders in 1870. But unfortunately, the Germanic invasions started again in 1914 and then in 1939. During these three major events for our history, the United States intervened with us. We must also mention the support given after these conflicts by the Marshall Plan, a plan to help Europe and France established in 1947.

Now it's up to you to appreciate this Monument, to come and visit it, above all, to make it known what is the best way to contribute to its survival in the future. You get to know better those who in the past contributed to the survival of this Monument in the future.

Sens, December 01, 2014

Jean-Claude LEMAIRE

Secretary from 1970 to 1975 / Secretary General from 1976 to 2013

**Contact:** [clefs.lem@gmail.com](mailto:clefs.lem@gmail.com)





# **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

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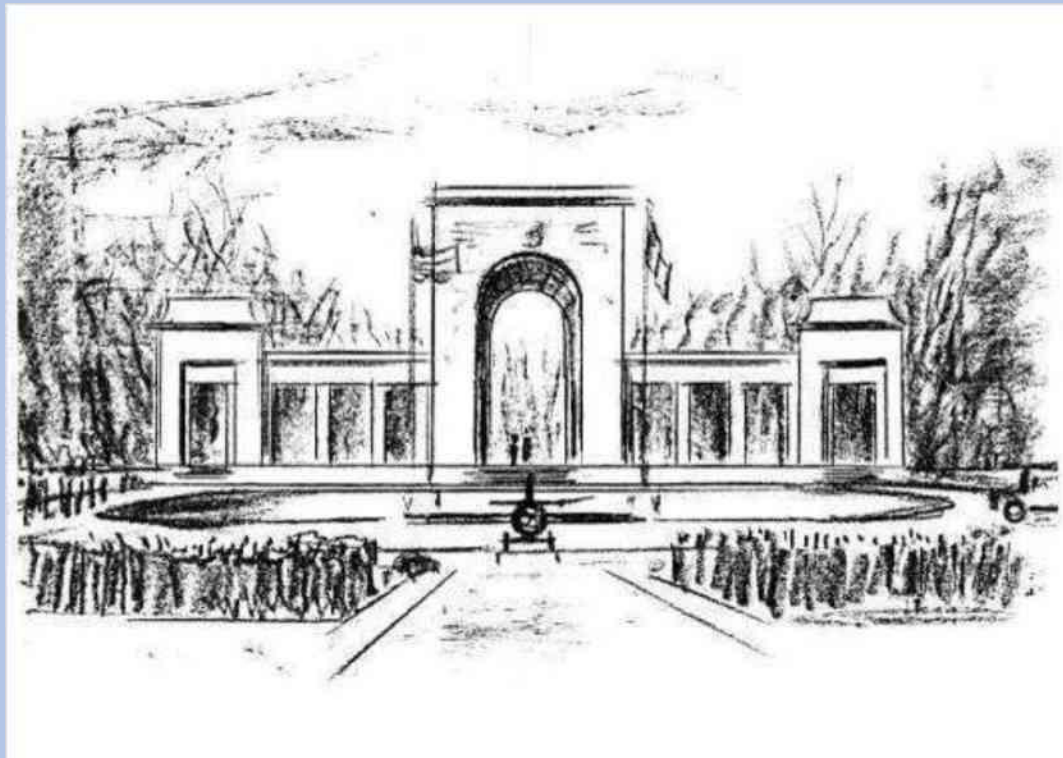
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# **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

## **Founders and Personalities**

### **Chapter 01: The Historical Founders**

*-Notes and Illustrations*

**Aliquid Accurate Aedifico (AAA)** -build a building carefully-

An old edition of Larousse gave the following definition for the word founder:

No one who creates an establishment destined to be perpetuated after it. We are really, here, in this scenario.

The chapters relating to the "Principal Founders" of the monument and the Foundation are listed in alphabetical order. An exception has been made for the historic founder, Mr. Nelson Cromwell, who must appear first; "give honor where honor is due".

The history of several of these people, for their military careers, can be found in various books, mainly in those of Colonel Thenault, James Norman Hall and Charles Bernard Nordhoff, not to mention Dennis Gordon. We can also consult archived letters and various documents held by the Foundation and, in particular, those written by Colonel Paul Rockwell, Mr. Crenshaw and Dr. Gros. All these people brought their stone at the very start of the construction of the monument, which distinguishes them from those named among the "Other Founders" in the next chapter.

Their names, although not engraved in the stone of the monument, remain unforgettable for all those interested in its history.

# “Mémorial de l'Escadrille Lafayette”

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

M. GASTON DOUMERGUE,  
*President of the French Republic*

M. RAYMOND POINCARÉ

M. ALEXANDRE MILLERAND

M. ANDRÉ MAGINOT

M. PAUL PAINLEVÉ

*President of Honor :*  
FERDINAND FOCH,  
*Marshal of France*

*President :*  
MYRON T. HERRICK,  
*Ambassador of the United States.*

## COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS :

WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL *1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.*

DR. EDMUND L. GROS *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President of the Board.*

J. C. BULLWINKLE *Treasurer.*

PAUL A. ROCKWELL *Secretary.*

LEWIS D. CRENSHAW *Administrator.*



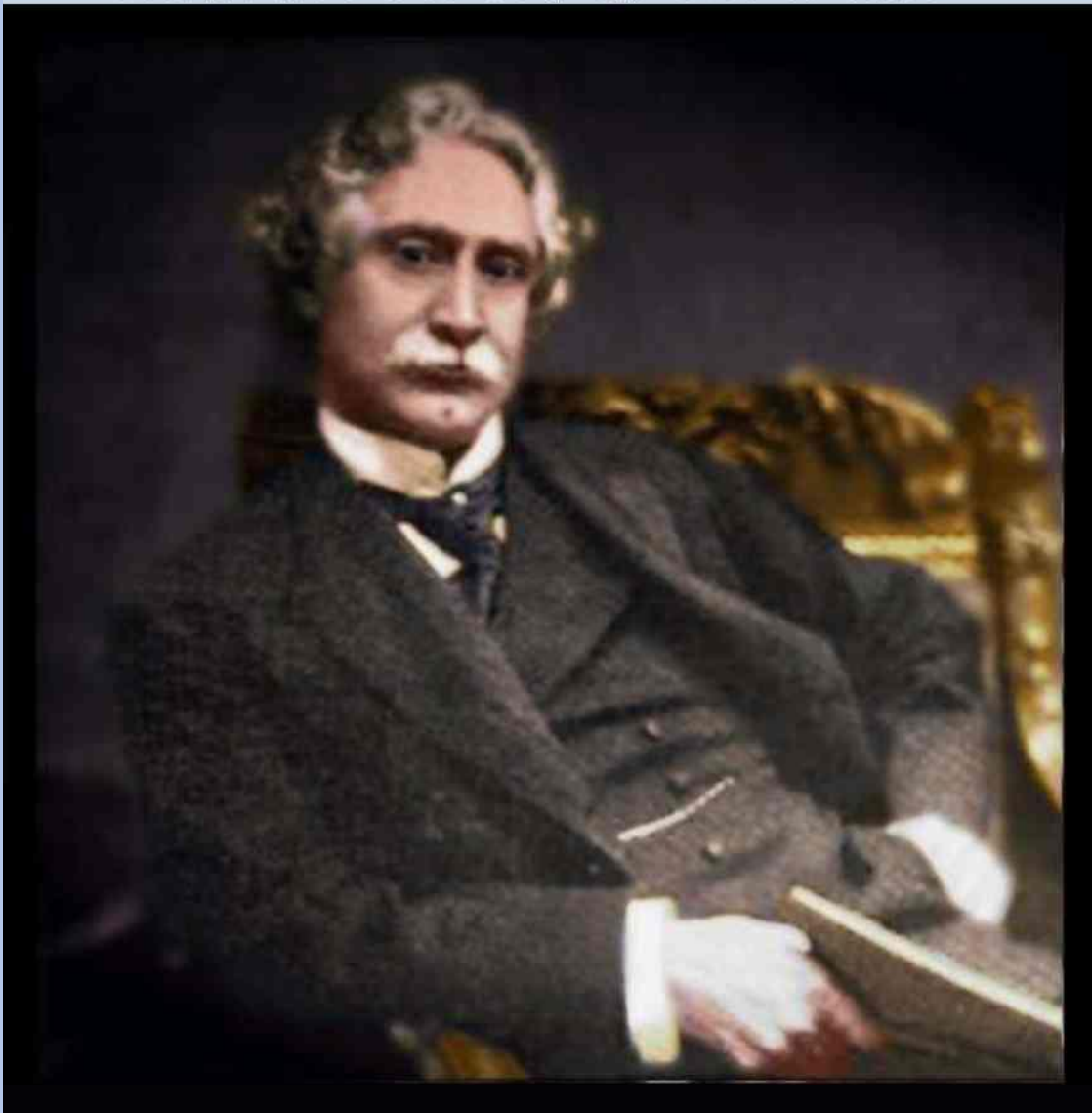


## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt** **Founders and Personalities**

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- Origin & Studies*
- The Career*
- Activities in France*
- The Foundation*
- Radiance and Decorations*

Portrait paru dans le Leslie's Monthly Magazine Volume en Octobre 1904



### ***-Origin & Studies***

Mr. Cromwell was born in Brooklyn on June 17, 1854; her father was Colonel John Nelson Cromwell who was killed during the siege of Vicksburg in 1863. Her mother, Sarah M. BROKAW was thus widowed in the American Civil War.

The family raised little Nelson in Christian obedience. William Nelson began working as an accountant with Algernon S. Sullivan and this firm paid him for legal studies at Columbia Law School where he was admitted to the bar in 1876. In 1879, the Sullivan firm on took as a partner to open his New York office. From that time on he became a personality in the business world.

### ***-The career***

We find him in 1902 in the twists and turns of the Panama Canal affair. First, he bought the French canal company by the US government. Then, He acts as lobbyist for the Republican Party. His action prompted the US government to buy back the rights to the “Compagnie Française du Canal”. He drew a new route for the said canal, this time passing over the territory of Panama and not that of Venezuela, as initially planned. In fact, he argued about the danger presented by the Venezuelan route following the seismic zone of the Momotambo volcano, an area deemed dangerous for its volcanic eruptions. He successfully influenced President Theodore Roosevelt and the United States Senate in this direction. He was helped in this task by Philippe-Jean Bunau-Varilla, a French polytechnician engineer. Mr. Cromwell also helped to separate Panama from the Colombia on which it depended. This is a long political, controversial and of course controversial history; its development would be irrelevant in this work.

Mr. Cromwell's business subsequently flourished in the United States. He was one of the founders of the "United States Steel Corporation". It became an undisputed reference in international law. He was a precursor of the law allowing a bankrupt firm to continue its activities nonetheless by establishing the "Cromwell Plan".

### ***-Activities in France***

Between the wars, while continuing his activities in the United States, he settled in France. On October 25, 1919, he was named Chevalier of the Legion of Honor then, subsequently, Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor.

The Lace House in Bailleul, in the Pas de Calais, displays at its entrance a bust of Mr. Cromwell sculpted by Victor, Joseph SEGOFFIN, in order to thank him for having contributed to the relaunch of its lace industry thanks to its patronage. This is part of the help given to the Return of the Hairy People to the Home; he was also interested, at the end of the great war, in the life of French artisans. Mr. Cromwell contributed substantially to the financing of works in favor of the museum of the Grand Chancellery of the Legion of Honor (formerly Hôtel de Salm); thanks to these funds, the Museum opened

# LE RETOUR au FOYER

Société reconnue d'utilité publique par décret du 18 Juin 1919 (n° 227)

**12, RUE DU 4-SEPTEMBRE — PARIS (2<sup>e</sup> Arrondissement)**

## CONCOURS

# William Nelson Cromwell

### AUX OUVRIÈRES DENTELLIÈRES

Le concours organisé par "LE RETOUR AU FOYER" aura lieu le  
**LUNDI 9 JUIN 1924, à 14 heures, à la Mairie de Bailleul.**

Les prix sont répartis de la manière suivante :

<b>25</b>	prix de	<b>1.000</b>	francs, soit	<b>25.000</b>	francs
<b>25</b>	-	<b>500</b>	-	<b>12.500</b>	-
<b>100</b>	-	<b>250</b>	-	<b>25.000</b>	-
<b>175</b>	-	<b>100</b>	-	<b>17.500</b>	-
<b>325</b>	prix		Total :	<b>80.000</b>	francs

Peuvent seules prendre part au concours :

1° Les ouvrières de Bailleul et des communes voisines, faisant partie de la Société de Secours mutuels;

2° Les ouvrières qui, ne faisant pas partie de la Société de Secours mutuels en raison de leur âge et de leur état de santé, ont été agréées, en vue du concours, par le Conseil d'administration de cette Société.

Les concurrentes devront avoir remis, soit à la Mairie de Bailleul, soit directement au "Retour au Foyer", un échantillon de vingt-cinq centimètres du travail qu'elles désirent soumettre au Jury.

Les fiches individuelles, contenant les nom et adresse de chacune des concurrentes et l'échantillon de leur travail, seront déposés, deux jours avant le concours, à la Mairie de Bailleul; un registre y sera également mis à la disposition du public pour recueillir les réclamations, afin d'éviter toute fraude; le Jury se réserve d'ailleurs le droit de faire exécuter sous ses yeux, par toute concurrente, un spécimen de la dentelle présentée au concours.

Le Jury sera composé de M. le Maire de Bailleul, Président; de trois Membres désignés par "le Retour au Foyer" et de trois Membres élus par les ouvrières dentellières.

Le Président du "Retour au Foyer",  
**Paul DISLÈRE**

7211 IMPRIMERIES ALBERT PILARD, 128, rue de Valenciennes Saint-Denis

## ON A FÊTÉ HIER LE GÉNÉREUX PHILANTHROPE W. NELSON CROMWELL

13 déc. 1923. /-



**M. APPELL, LE G<sup>l</sup> PAU, M<sup>re</sup> ROLAND-GOSSELIN, M. STRAUSS, M. CROMWELL ET LE G<sup>l</sup> DUBAIL**

Le riche Américain M. William Nelson Cromwell, qui a maintes fois prodigué aux œuvres de bienfaisance françaises ses dons magnifiques, a été fêté hier par les présidents et présidentes de ces œuvres. Vingt-quatre discours ont été prononcés par les plus hautes personnalités parisiennes, notamment par M. Strauss, ministre de l'Hygiène; le général Dubail, le cardinal Dubois, le général Gouraud, etc. M. W. N. Cromwell a consacré des sommes considérables aux aveugles, aux pouponnières, etc.



In 1925 a wing fitted out on rue de Bellechasse (Paris 7th). The fortune of Mr. Cromwell was then estimated at \$ 15,000,000- at the time, this represents at least nowadays a sum about ten times that much.

You can also admire another bust of him at the Franco-American Museum in Blérancourt. Among other things, he contributed to the aid of the Unhappy Childhood. He took care of the rehabilitation of the blind by distributing libraries in Braille. Robust in health, he carried out various activities for a long time; He encouraged the Center for “Foreign Policy Studies”, to which he offered a replica of Rodin's thinker to symbolize the primordial role of the mind in politics and business. We will see later in this work the essential role of Mr. Cromwell for the financing of the Monument and the Foundation. First, he made a donation in the amount of F.125,000- to finance the transfer of bodies from cemeteries, mostly military, to the Monument under construction.

All these contemporaries were struck by its vitality. He founded at the Grand Palais in Paris and assured of his support the Franco-American “Workshop of the wounded” operating since 1915 the French soldiers then American wounded in need of prostheses. He took special care of the blind wounded.

### ***-The foundation***

Initially 1st Vice-President of the association whose goal is to build the Monument, he ensured after the inauguration of the Monument and the donation of the land by the State the sustainability of the work by creating a Foundation. Mr. Cromwell transferred the capital of the Foundation when it was created in 1931. He thus became its President-Founder by right and for life. In 1931 he donated a sum of F275,000- to build the entrance portico of 5 Bd Poincaré and the warden's pavilion, then located at the entrance to the boulevard. His international law firm Sullivan & Cromwell was domiciled at 39, rue Cambon in Paris in the 1st arrondissement. From this headquarters he supported all the construction work of the monument, from the monitoring of disorders including the various legal actions about them, to the legal constitution of the association then of the foundation relating to the Memorial. You will see the development of all of these topics as you read more.

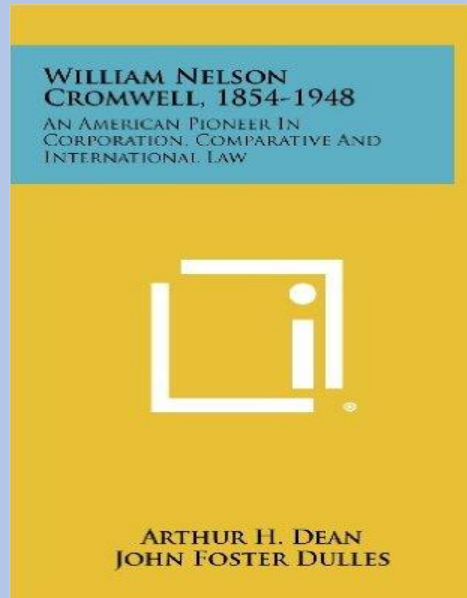
After the war, when the capital was reduced to nothing, Mr. Cromwell reconstituted it in dollars by testamentary decision. This took place after his death in his 85th year on July 19, 1948. By this testament, he benefited from his generosity in addition to the Foundation, about fifty various charities for an amount close to \$ 15,000,000 \* (1). The current Foundation was able to survive by making this capital grow, amounting to \$ 250,000 \* (2) at the start of the donation in 1948 and this until 2013. The Foundation drew on this unique capital, placed in the meantime in securities, to maintain the fund. Park and the Monument, with the support of various donations supplementing it over time.

Arthur DEAN, a lawyer and writer, devoted to our founder a bibliography published in 1957. It seems that current researchers do not have access to all the documents left by this prestigious man and universal benefactor.

(1) or nearly \$ 150,000,000 in 2015

(2) or nearly \$ 2,500,000 in 2015

## Arthur's Dean Biography



### **-Radiation and Decorations**

Nevertheless the "William Nelson Cromwell Foundation" originally founded by Mr Cromwell and based in New York, still bears his name. This organization continues to help students by distributing several prizes relating to the history of American law each year under the name of "Cromwell Book Prize".

Today Sullivan & Cromwell in its international offices, both in New York and Paris, continues its activities as an international business lawyer, originally founded by William Nelson Cromwell.

Also, these many generous works perpetuate the intellectual influence of its author in both countries.

### **French (10) and International (11) decorations in 7 countries:**

#### **FRANCE:**

- Knight of the Legion of Honor on November 11, 1919
- Officer August 10, 1921
- Commander September 1, 1923
- Grand Officer on November 29, 1930
- Grande Croix on November 23, 1935
- Gold medal of the "French Recognition" on July 15, 1919
- Diploma of Honor with Vermeil Medal from the "French Relief Society for Military Wounded" December 12, 1921
- Officer of Agricultural Merit on December 1, 1922
- Gold medal for "Social Security" on August 24, 1923

#### **BELGIUM:**

- Medal of "King Albert" on February 12, 1920
- Cross of "Knight of the Order of Leopold" on November 6, 1921
- Grand Officer on May 13, 1932

ITALY:

-Command of the Order of "Saints-Maurice-et-Lazare"

PANAMA:

-Medal "Commemorative of Solidarity" of August 10, 1925 POLAND:

-Commander of the order of "Polonia Restituta" May 2, 1930 PORTUGAL:

-Grand Officer of "Ordem da *Benemerência*" on June 25, 1935 ROMANIA:

-Order of "Regina Maria" on July 5, 1919

-Grand Cross of the "Order of the Romanian Crown" on November 28, 1921 -Grand Cross of "the Order of the Star of Romania" on July 6, 1927 USA

YUGOSLAVIA:

-Grand Officer of the Order "of San Sava" May 1931

Note: The many American decorations brought to our attention cannot be confirmed



November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1928





# **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

## **Founders and Personalities**

### **Chapter 3: BROCARD -General Antonin- (1885-1950)**

*-Introduction*

*-Biography of General Antonin Brocard (By Philippe Brocard)*

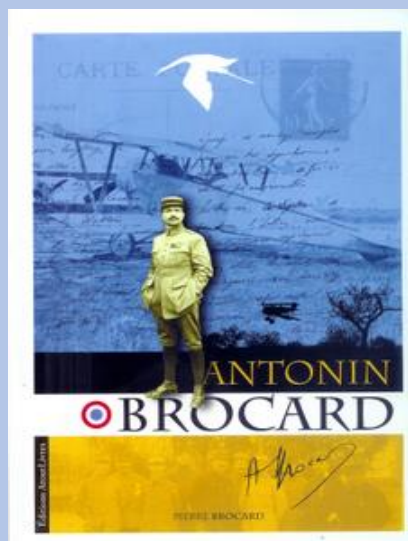
*-Military career*

*-Political career*

*-The Return to Military Life (1939-1940)*

*-Its Decorations*

#### **His son's Biography**



#### ***-Introduction***

Commander Brocard played an essential role in the future members of the Lafayette squadron. It was him who received William Thaw, Julius Bach and Bert Hall, the first American volunteers, on the occasion of a leave for Christmas 1914. He sent them to train in Buc in the valley of the Bièvre ; it was the very beginning of the glorious epic. It was also he who, in 1916, incorporated the N124, called the American squadron with the Storks.

As former commander of the squadron and deputy for Paris, he gave a speech during the presentation of the model of the Memorial, Place Vendôme in Paris, in February 1926. (See chapter on the presentation of the model).

He is buried in the crypt of the Memorial; he rests there with his combatants and in the company of Colonel Thenault.

His town of birth located in Biol (38690) paid homage to him by giving the name of General Brocard to his main street.

In 1958, in front of the entrance to “Parc Monceau”, on the Avenue Hoche side, the inauguration of the Place du Général BROCARD took place in the presence of his son. On a wall, his bronze medallion sculpted by Guy-Charles REVOL.

**Bronze plaque of General Brocard Paris VIII**





**Plaque affixed in the crypt of the Memorial at Marnes-la-Coquette**



We warmly thank Mr. Philippe BROCARD author of this excellent article, we also thank the Association SLHADA (Lyonnaise Society of Aviation History and Aeronautical Documentation) for publishing this interesting biography and having spontaneously given us its agreement to make it to you. benefit.

Note: We recommend that you take a look at their impressive photographic documentation of vintage aircraft and aviation related items.

<http://www.slhada.fr>

### ***-Biography of General Antonin Brocard (By Philippe Brocard)***

Born on November 14, 1885 in Biol le Haut (Isère), Antonin Félix BROCARD is the son of the village teacher, Antoine BROCARD and of Miss Constance MARMONNIER, teacher.

Antonin attended Bourgoin College and Grenoble Lycée before entering Saint-Cyr School.

### ***-Military career***

During this period, he was successively an instructor at the Aviation Center in Maubeuge (14/11/1912) and in Reims (17/02/1913)

When war broke out on August 2, 1914, he was assigned to the D 6 reconnaissance squadron flying on the two-seater Deperdussin.

At his request, he was transferred to a fighter squadron, the MS 3, on 03/18/1915. He took command on March 21 and was promoted to the rank of captain on March 22.

On July 3, 1915, he obtained his first aerial victory over Nieuport X by shooting down an Albatros with a Mauser revolver and a carabine above Verberie-Compiègne. This act earned him a citation to the order of the Army on 08/24/1915.

On August 28, 1915, alone aboard his Morane Saulnier, he shot down a German Albatross who had come to drop his bombs on Paris. It was his second aerial victory.

On March 19, 1916, he was wounded in the jaw by a machine gun bullet during air combat. On June 10, 1916, he took command of the Somme Fighter Squadron Group, which he was responsible for setting up in Cachy (Somme).

**Antonin Brocard in front of his Spad XIII (We notice the stork painted on the fuselage)**



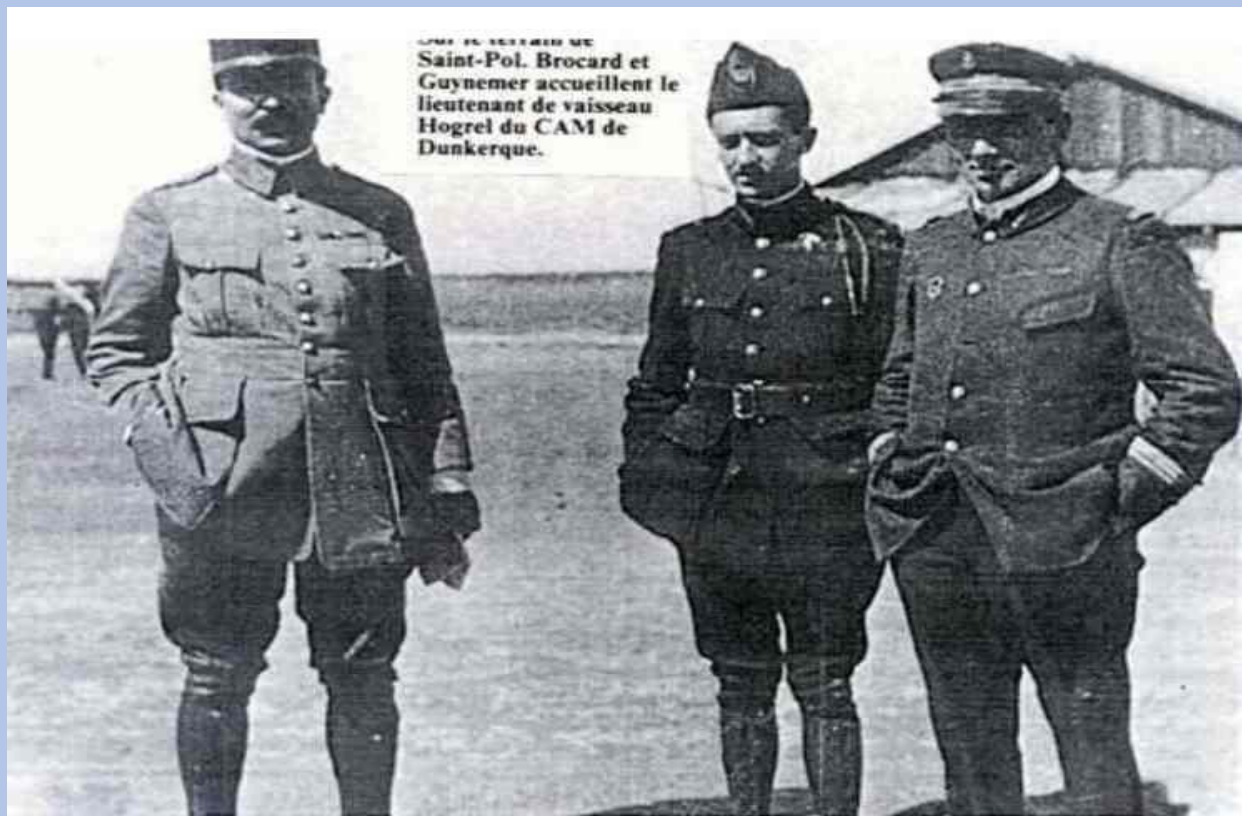
On October 16, 1916 he was promoted to temporary battalion commander.

On October 25, 1916, this squadron group became Hunting Group n ° 12, called “Groupe des Cigognes”, and each of the squadrons, N 3, N 103, N 26 and N 73, had a stork as its emblem:

He will have the privilege of commanding men like:

GUYNEMER, FONCK, HEURTAUX DORME, GARROS, VEDRINES, DEULLIN, DE LA TOUR, and many others, who have become hunting aces.

The psychological mastery of this great leader, his perspicacity in discerning the merits of each and in highlighting it, gave him a unique influence over his pilots. After having chosen, trained and guided them until the supreme battles, he liked to speak of them as of his own children. His customary tone was that of real camaraderie as befits emulators. But he knew how to be energetic and crack down when needed.



On September 13, 1917, he was chief of staff to the Under-Secretary of State for Aeronautics.

On September 12, 1919, he was appointed commander of Combat Squadron No. 2.

On January 1920, he was commander of the 2nd Aviation Regiment.

He married on September 12, 1923.

On December 20, 1925, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was promoted colonel on 06/25/1930 and brigadier general under the “reserve” title on 01/21/1937, before being placed in the 2nd section of the cadre of the General Staff of the Army of the 'Air.

### ***-Political career***

In 1924, he was elected deputy for the 3rd district of the Seine (Ivry)

In 1928, he was re-elected deputy in Ivry against Maurice THOREZ.

In 1932, he was defeated in the legislative elections by Maurice THOREZ

But he found a deputy seat in Grenoble (Isère) during a by-election. In 1936, defeated in the legislative elections, he left political life for good.

### **Stele of Montélimar-Ancona / 1913 1st tour de France by plane**



### ***-The Return to Military Life (1939-1940)***

Recalled by mobilization decree on 08/28/1939, he took command of the main flight school in Étampes on 09/02/1939.

He was appointed deputy to the Commanding General of the 2nd Air Region on 05/01/1940.

On May 25, 1940, he was appointed Commander of the Polish Air Force training organizations, with residence in Lyon, replacing General HUG called to other functions.

On July 1, 1940, he was commander of the Aulnat Air Base.

On July 30, 1940, he was sent back to his homes and placed in the position of 2nd section (reserve).



Antonin BROCARD died in Paris on the night of May 28 to 29, 1950. His ashes were transferred to Marnes-la-Coquette in the crypt of the Memorial La Fayette.

### ***-Its Decorations***

Holder of several citations to the order of the Army:

- 1st to 5th Army (08/29/1915)
- Four to the 6th (08/29/1915, 03/19/1916, 03/22/1916, 09/13/1916)
- One at the GAN (05/12/1916)
- Knight of the Legion of Honor on 12/03/1914
- Officer of the Legion of Honor on 02/18/1917
- Commander of the Legion of Honor on 07/10/1927
- Holder of the Croix de Guerre 1914 -1918
- Holder of 9 foreign decorations.





## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Founders and Personalities**

#### **Chapter 4- CRENSHAW -Mr. Lewis Darney- (1884-1947)**

- Origins & start in the United States*
- His career in France*
- His dedication to the Squadron then to the Monument*
- Precipitated Departure and End of the Stay in France*
- Notes Concerning his descendants*



#### ***-Origins & start in USA***

We find the origin of his family in Virginia since the year 1608. One of his ancestors was the owner of the White House of the Confederates in Richmond and served in this army. Lewis's parents were William Graves Crenshaw and May Virginia Petty. Born in April 1884 in Elizabeth City, New Jersey. William spent some time in Liverpool, England where he built ships for the Confederate Navy. He married Jenny Robert on January 17, 1921 in Neuilly-sur-Seine; she was born on September 18, 1881 in Aix-en-Provence.

He started his first school in Baltimore. He graduated from High School in Alexandria, Virginia. He was a student at the University of Virginia, where he received several degrees such as the BA (Bachelot of Arts), the MA (Master of Arts) and especially the LLB (Bachelot of Las). At the same time, he became first secretary of the “University of Virginia / Alumni Association”, officially the association of former graduates of this university. The Alumni are the object nowadays many novels, giving rise to various fantasies.

He published in 1915 a co-published with two other authors the book "Jefferson's University-Glimpses of the Past and Present". Currently we can consult its archives at the University of Virginia but a summary inventory, available on the net, shows us that little seems to relate the Monument.

Processed by: Special Collections Department Staff	
Repository	University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept. Alderman Library University of Virginia Charlottesville, Virginia 22903 USA
Collection Number	2681
Title	Lewis Dabney Crenshaw Papers 1917-1936
Extent	ca. 8,000 items
Collector	Mrs. Lewis Crenshaw
Location	
Language	English

### ***-His career in France***

His state of health not allowing him to enlist in the armed forces, he left for France in 1917 in order to open the first office of his university there: the "Paris Club for Collégiens", a kind of institute ensuring the stewardship of American students in France.

Mr. Crenshaw distributed to American pilots, from his Parisian law office at 8 rue de Richelieu, funds, cigarettes, whiskey, chocolates, leave hobbies and even condoms - which American families did not necessarily think. to be provided at this time to the combatants.

He was also a member of the secret society known as "Severn Society" and of the "Hot Foot Society". These societies had for official purpose the mutual aid between the students of the University of Virginia. In this he was influenced by the pilot James R. McConnell killed on March 19, 1917 and whose example inspired him throughout his life. You can notice in the crypt of the Monument the esoteric and gilded design below the tomb of this pilot. This is the symbol of the "Severn Society", membership of this secret society not revealed until after the death of its members.

### ***-His dedication to the Escadrille then to the Monument***

During the war, he personally received pilots in his Paris office by providing them with moral and material assistance.

Furthermore, said association "7 Society» paid in 1928 a sum of Frs 7,777- (very emblematic amount), in favor of the subscription of the Monument, that is to say approximately an amount of € 105,000- nowadays. Other chapters of the same association, located in other cities, also made their contribution. Lewis personally contributed a sum of CHF 1,050, the equivalent of € 45,000.

On the day of the inauguration still in 1928, at the beginning of his speech, Mr. Crenshaw made an involuntary slip by quoting "all these zeros" voluntary deaths instead of course of "all these heroes". His wife of French origin was sorry but the public, surprised at the moment, readily forgave him this pronunciation error, understandable on the part of a foreign person.



**Emblem of the 7 Society / grave of James R. McConnell  
(Niche N<sup>o</sup> 2 in the crypt)**

Between the years 1922 and 1930, trusted delegate of Mr. Cromwell, he was, on his behalf, the supervisor of the construction works of the Memorial. He had problems with the firm of architect Alexandre Marcel, as well as with various construction companies, over problems inherent in a construction of this nature. He showed on this occasion a great attachment to the memory of the pilots and an unusual dedication. As secretary, J.C. Lemaire was responsible for much of the study and renovation work on the Monument and the Crypt. He now fully realizes the difficulties overcome at the era by Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Crenshaw's daughter even remembered the weekends spent at the Monument construction site with his wife to monitor the progress of the work in the era. Mr. Crenshaw's daughter even remembered the weekends spent at the Monument construction site with his wife to monitor the progress of the work.

### ***-Precipitate Departure and End of the Stay in France***

He was forced to return hastily to the United States, just before the entry of German troops in June 1940. He had little time to move most of his belongings to his apartment, he left a large part of his archives concerning the construction of the Memorial in his apartment. His accommodation in Paris was after him occupied by the German soldiery; who left after his passage only a piano. This explains why nowadays the same archives collected from three different collections are incomplete.

### ***-Notes Concerning his descendants***

J.C. Lemaire had the pleasure in July 2013 to meet at the Monument his daughter Lilette, then 92 years old and who was a dance teacher in Chicago for a very long time. She was traveling with her daughter Janet Wolf. They returned in 2014, this time accompanied by Gregory, the grandson of Lewis Crenshaw, University professor in Tokyo. They communicated on this occasion useful documentation on their ancestor. We were informed that Lilette Crenshaw died on August 04, 2017 in Evanston, Illinois, she remembers having attended the inauguration of the Monument in July.

**Portrait (1908) held by the University of Virginia**



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Founders and Personalities**

#### **Chapter 05- FOCH - Marshal of France Ferdinand - (1851-1929)**

*-Introduction*

*-Reproduction 1st Letter of 07-11-1919 Glorifying the Heroes of the Squadron*

*-Reproduction of the Letter of December 1925 to the Memorial Committee*

*-Reproduction of the Letter published on the brochure of the Inauguration*

*-Extract from the Official Journal of March 30 1929*

#### ***-Introduction***

It is not for us to introduce Marshal Foch to you; history books will give you more information.

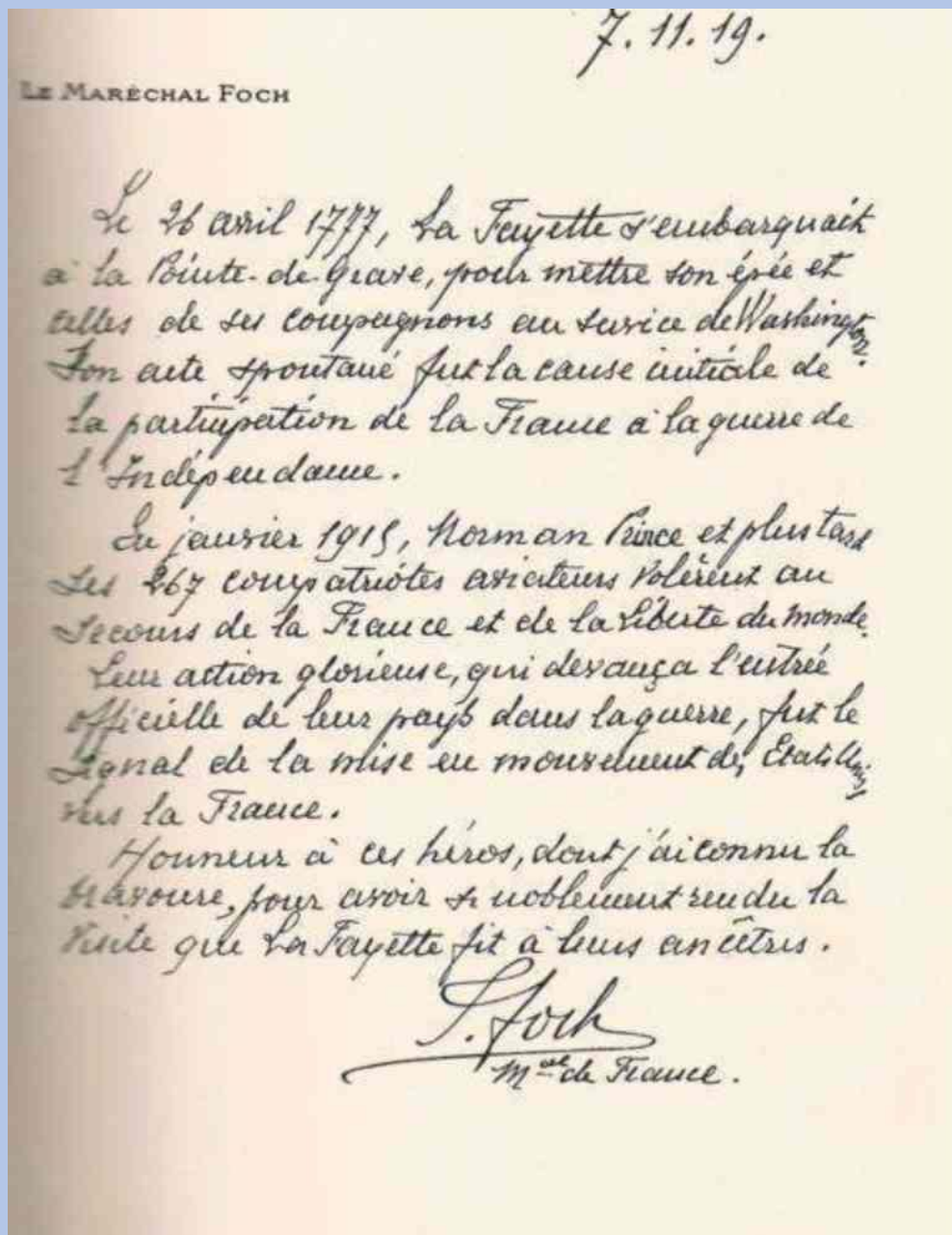
The Marshal, very close for a long time with the Ambassador of the United States in France, Myron T. Herrick, chaired several meetings in favor of the attribution of the ground of Marnes-la-Coquette to build the Monument. In 1925, the Marshal wrote in favor of the construction of the Monument

The Marshal was Honorary President of the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Association; he spoke in 1926 during the presentation of the model of the Memorial. The coincidence wanted that the law of attribution of a pension to his widow and his children appears in the article above and on the same page as the law affecting the ground of Marnes-la-Coquette (Official Journal of 30 March 1929 / page 3714).

The Marshal had several citations awarded to the Escadrille to salute the heroism of its pilots. The Marshal also gave his name to the Franco-American Foundation for Research and Medical Care of Mont-Valérien. He attended the inauguration of the Monument in person on July 4, 1928.

*(On pages below are reproduced below the three letters he wrote about the Escadrille and the Monument)*





**-Reproduction of the Letter of December 1925 to the Memorial Committee**

Paris le *décembre* 1925

*Monsieur,*

Au nom du Comité du Mémorial de l'Escadrille LAFAYETTE dont j'ai l'honneur d'être le Président, je tiens à vous remercier de l'aide que vous lui avez apportée.

Le Monument qui doit-être érigé dans un parc offert par la France reconnaissante constitue ainsi un témoignage rendu solidairement par la France et les Etats-Unis à la mémoire de ces Héros Américains qui incarnent vraiment l'idéal commun de nos deux Pays.

Les Américains .....

Les Américains retrouveront en France au Mémorial de l'Escadrille LAFAYETTE l'inspiration des sentiments qui sont si chers au coeur de tous.

Veuillez agréer, *Monsieur,* l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

*L. Spick*

À *Mons. Edward D. Atkins*  
*New York*

*-Reproduction of the Letter published on the Inauguration brochure & Extract from the Official Journal of March 30, 1929*

JOURNAL OFFICIEL DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

## PARTIE OFFICIELLE

### LOI portant attribution d'une pension exceptionnelle et voyage à la veuve du maréchal Foch.

Le Sénat et la Chambre des députés ont adopté,

Le Président de la République promulgue la loi dont la teneur suit :

Art. 1<sup>er</sup>. — Il est attribué à la veuve du maréchal Foch, en sus de la pension normale prévue par l'article 48 de la loi du 14 avril 1924, modifiée par l'article 64 de la loi du 27 décembre 1927, une pension exceptionnelle de 100.000 fr., réversible sur la tête de ses petits-enfants jusqu'à leur majorité.

Art. 2. — Il est ouvert au ministre des finances, sur l'exercice 1929, en addition aux crédits alloués par la loi de finances du 30 décembre 1928 et par des lois spéciales, un crédit de 77.500 fr., applicable à un chapitre nouveau portant le numéro 52 bis du budget de son département et intitulé : « Pension exceptionnelle et voyage à la veuve du maréchal Foch ».

Il sera pourvu à ce crédit au moyen des ressources du budget général de l'exercice 1929.

La présente loi, délibérée et adoptée par le Sénat et par la Chambre des députés, sera exécutée comme loi de l'Etat.

Fait à Paris, le 29 mars 1929.

GASTON DOUMERGUE.

Par le Président de la République :

Le président du conseil,

RAYMOND POINCARÉ.

Le ministre des finances,

HENRY CHÉRON.

### LOI portant affectation à l'association « le Mémorial de l'escadrille La Fayette » d'un terrain situé dans le parc de Saint-Cloud.

Le Sénat et la Chambre des députés ont adopté,

Le Président de la République promulgue la loi dont la teneur suit :

Art. 1<sup>er</sup>. — Est autorisée la cession perpétuelle et gratuite à l'association « le Mémorial de l'escadrille La Fayette », d'un terrain de 4 hectares 50 ares situé dans le parc de Villeneuve-l'Étang, au lieudit : « la Prairie de la Grille du Combat ».

Ladite cession est faite en vue de permettre à l'association « le Mémorial de l'escadrille La Fayette » d'atteindre un double but : 1<sup>o</sup> édifier, sur le terrain cédé, un monument contenant une crypte dans laquelle seront déposés les restes des 64 aviateurs de l'escadrille La Fayette tués à l'ennemi au cours de la guerre de 1914-1918 ; 2<sup>o</sup> commémorer, par ce monument, le sacrifice de ces 64 héros, tout en symbolisant les idées de justice et de liberté qui les ont inspirés.

Art. 2. — La destination du terrain

LE MARÉCHAL FOCH

Le 16 Mai 1928.

Le 26 Avril 1777, La Fayette s'embarquait à la Pointe-de-Grave, pour mettre son épée et celle de ses compagnons au service de Washington. Son acte spontané fut la cause initiale de la participation de la France à la Guerre de l'Indépendance Américaine.

Dès le début de la Grande Guerre, des Volontaires des Etats-Unis volèrent au secours de la France et de la liberté du Monde et, le 20 Avril 1916, ces pionniers se groupèrent sous le Drapeau Tricolore pour former une escadrille Américaine qui, en souvenir, fut appelée : l'Escadrille La Fayette.

Spontané comme celui de La Fayette, leur geste fut le signal de la mise en mouvement des Etats-Unis vers la France.

Honneur à ces héros de l'Escadrille Américaine dont j'ai connu la vaillance, pour avoir si noblement rendu la visite que La Fayette fit à leurs ancêtres.



#### TRANSLATION OF MARSHAL FOCH'S TESTIMONIAL

On the 26th of April, 1777, Lafayette embarked at the Pointe-de-Grave to place his sword and the services of his companions at the disposal of Washington. His spontaneous act was the initial cause of the participation of France in the War of American Independence.

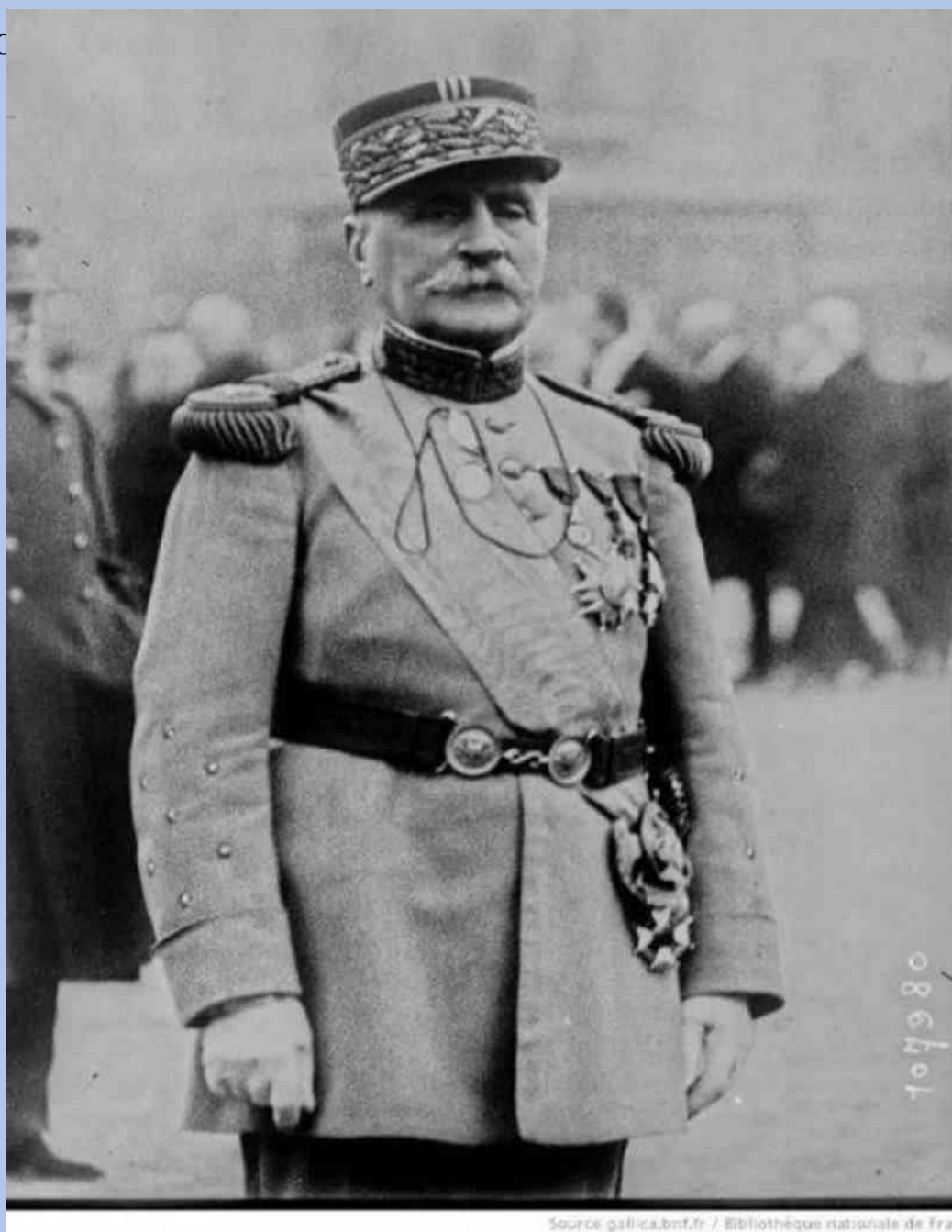
From the very commencement of the Great War, volunteers from the United States flew to the aid of France and of the liberty of the world. On the 20th of April, 1916, these pioneers grouped themselves under the French Tricolor to form an American Escadrille, which in thankful memory was called the "Escadrille Lafayette".

Their action, spontaneous like that of Lafayette, was the signal for the forward movement of the whole United States towards France.

All honor to these heroes of the American Escadrille, whose bravery I well knew, for having so nobly reciprocated the visit which Lafayette paid to their ancestors.

F. FOCH





Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France

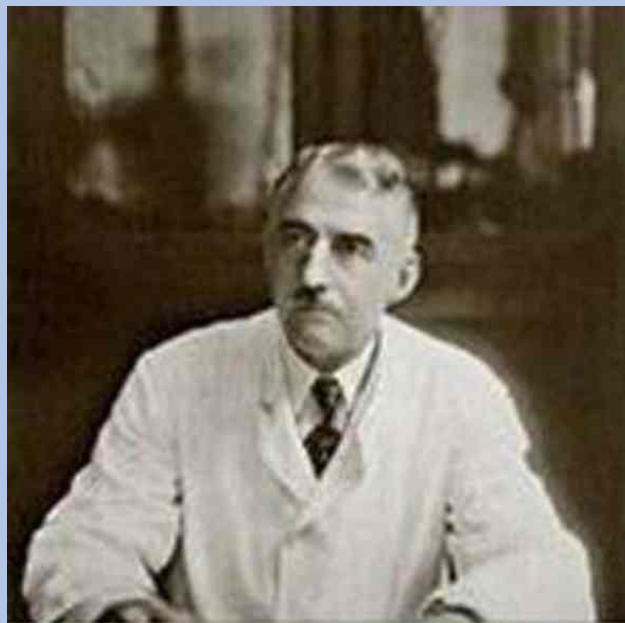
## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Founders and Personalities**

#### **Chapitre 06-Gros-Dr. Edmund- (1869-1942)**

- Origin and first courses*
- His Missions During WWI*
- His role between the Wars*
- A Departure that was a Farewell*

#### **Dr. Gros at the American Hospital**



#### ***-Origin and first courses***

Born in San Francisco on September 11, 1869. Dr. Gros's parents were part of the large French colony in that. He graduated from the “Cooper Medical College” in San Francisco (MD in 1891) and from the “École de Médecine de Paris” in 1897. In 1901 he married Honora L. PATTON, daughter of a Pennsylvania banker, member of Congress.

From 1908, with other American doctors, he worked in Neuilly sur Seine to found the “American Hospital” in 1910. This hospital, with a capacity then increased to 600 beds, will provide care to both civilians and soldiers during the First World War.



## ***-His Missions During World War I***

In 1914, he organized the “American Ambulance Hospital” which later became the “American Field Service” which he established at the Lycée Pasteur in Neuilly. Subsequently, he transferred him to 21 rue Raynouard in Paris, the same street where, in the past, Benjamin Franklin resided from 1777 to 1785. On the morning of September 8, he himself occupied a taxi, following the famous taxis of the Marne. , transporting the hairy to the famous battle of the same name. To treat the wounded, he was accompanied by Dr. Dubouchet, Doctor Bacon then administrator of the American hospital. They were followed in their mission by many doctors from the city of Meaux.

On May 12, 1915, following the sinking of the civilian liner coming from New York, the "Lusitania", sunk by a German torpedo, Dr. Gros, among a hundred Americans helping France, signed a cable of protest intended for President Wilson to place him in a position of responsibility vis-à-vis this unworthy act of piracy.

In 1916, he set in motion a noria of ambulances from the “American Hospital” in Neuilly sur Seine to the front in Verdun. Ambulances displayed the Red Cross flag and sometimes even the American flag, both signs of neutrality at that time; nevertheless, they sometimes came under hostile fire from Kaiser Guillaume's troops.

He received at his consulting room at the Invalides; the latter looked more like a recruiting office than a doctor's office. It included all the aspiring American aviators from the Foreign Legion, ambulance personnel from the American Field Service or aviation schools. About a third of the volunteer American aviators first completed an initial ambulance training course. Thirteen of them fought in the Escadrille La Fayette. This recruiting office at Les Invalides was used above all for American volunteers who wanted to engage freely in the Foreign Legion.

Dr. Gros eliminated some candidates according to his own criteria; he sent others to the training centers in Pau or Avord, always following them at a distance. To create the American squadron of his dreams, he allied himself with Norman Prince, the son of an extremely wealthy American banker who invited the gratin of French politicians to fox hunting in his properties near Toulouse. This explains his influence with Baron Jarousse de Sillac, then Secretary of State for War. Norman had already graduated as a pilot in the United States, secretly from his father. Together they intervened with Etienne Millerand, then Minister of War, in favor of the formation of a unit of American volunteers in the French army.

American hospital / WW1 ambulance (Source United States Embassy)



Bilingual and very familiar with French politics, to accelerate everything, Dr Gros organized the famous lunch of July 8, 1915 in the Parisian house of Gaston Mendier, then Senator of Seine et Marne. During this meeting the General Hirschauer, commander of the aeronautical troops and the direction of the material accepted the idea of forming "the American Squadron". After this meeting he wrote on October 28, 1915 to Mr. René Besnard, Under-Secretary of State for Military Aeronautical Affairs, who asked him to present him with an action plan as quickly as possible. Already at the head of a Franco-American committee, he replied to Mr. Besnard by giving the names of the people ready to recruit volunteers, in particular himself, as well as Mr. Bacon, Mr. Vanderbilt, Mr. Allen, Colonel Mott, this by asking the greatest discretion to his interlocutor. It was not until January 1916 to see the first Americans incorporated into the French army.

Little by little, the idea of a squadron of American volunteers took shape and came true in April 1916 thanks to the pugnacity of Dr Gros. Despite numerous obstacles, among other things, a diplomatic complaint from the German government for the use of the term "American Squadron" when the United States was not at war with Germany. This complaint was accepted so as not to offend the susceptibilities of many Americans of German origin. Dr Gros then suggested that the French authorities change the name of "Escadrille Américaine" to that of Escadrille Lafayette.

Dr. Gros was able to attract the financial windfall of Mr. William K. Vanderbilt (grandson of the famous Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt) who agreed to take an interest in this project.

### Official Portrait



"For all these reasons, he was nicknamed the father of the Escadrille La Fayette "

In 1917, when the United States entered the war, Dr. Gros received the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army and served as the Air Force Liaison Officer and served as Liaison Officer. with French aviation.

### ***-His role between the Wars***

After the war, in 1919, he carried the title of "Vice-President and Director" of the "Lafayette Flying Corps". This name was used to designate the American pilots who volunteered in the French army and then those who were automatically transferred to the American army. He became after the war the twelfth governor of the American Hospital of Neuilly.

Later, he asked James Norman HALL & Charles Bernard NORDHOFF to write, in collaboration with Edgar G. Hamilton, the history of the "Lafayette Flying Corps".

Like many people of strong character, the Doctor had his detractors. They denounce the affair of the only black pilot of the "La Fayette Flying Corps", Eugene BULLARD. Each month, Dr. Gros distributed American donations in cash, a sum of F.50- to each pilot. They picked up their envelope during their visit to the capital at the Parisian home of Dr. Gros. The last to receive his donation was Eugene Bullard, whom he kept waiting for hours. Subsequently the doctor obtained the downgrading in the French army of this unique pilot of color and this for very questionable reasons. Finally, the doctor pursued this pilot fiercely until the very day of the inauguration of the Monument.



**His former Parisian home on avenue Foch - house on the left**

On this most important day, Bullard, although present, was not even on the official guest list. You will find referenced at the end mention of the book on this boxer, jazzman and again fighter in the 2nd World War. Every great man has his dark side, Dr. Gros was not exempt.

In 1923, the first meeting planning the creation of the Monument was held at the 'Cercle Interallié' in Paris. Dr. Gros attended this meeting in the company of Marshal Foch, Ambassador Herrick, Architect Alexandre Marcel and many personalities; he was also seen working for the inauguration of the model prefiguring the Memorial on February 26, 1926.

Dr. Gros received in addition to the Legion of Honor, the War Cross, the Certificate of Merit from the USA and many foreign decorations.

Also, in 1928 and as part of his duties at the "American Hospital" he showed the press a steel lung used in this hospital thanks to an American donor.

He supervised the list of the names of the pilots to be inscribed on the Memorial, in conjunction with Mr. Lewis Crenshaw and Paul Rockwell. Problems apparently simple to solve but which were complex, which you will discover in different chapters. He was also involved in the construction of the Memorial and fundraising. He prepared the inauguration hard.



On the day of the Monument's inauguration, July 4, 1928 in Marnes-la-Coquette, he presented the Monument to France during his speech. Also, in 1928 and as part of his duties at the "American Hospital" he showed the press a steel lung used in this hospital thanks to an American donor.

He was appointed First Vice-President of the Foundation from 1931 until 1940. He then sat as Chairman of the meeting in the absence of Mr. Cromwell. He tackled many problems including those of the waterproofing work following the inauguration.

He thought for a moment with Paul ROCKWELL and Harold WILLIS and Colonel Joseph Charles STEHLIN, also a former member of the "Lafayette Flying Corps" to reconstitute in 1939 a new squadron of American volunteers in France; the idea was quickly abandoned by the Air Force for lack of resources and time.

In 1940 still active at the American Hospital as chief physician, he organized in Fontainebleau an advanced surgical unit to treat the most wounded French and English soldiers, according to his dearest wish. Unfortunately, the Germans arriving in Paris dispersed the personnel of the American Hospital of Neuilly to transform it into a German military hospital.

### ***-A Departure that was a Farewell***

He received in other decorations that of Officer of the Legion of Honor, the "American Certificate of Merit", the Italian order "Ordine dei Santi Maurizio e Lazzaro and the rank of Commander of the order of" Saint Sava "awarded. by the King of Yugoslavia.

Dr Gros, a victim of hemiplegia, quickly returned to the United States where he lived with his in-laws in Pennsylvania.

He died on October 16, 1942 in West Chester, Pennsylvania at the age of 73. His ashes lie in Patton Square at "Oak Hill Cemetery / Curwensville / Clearfield County" in Pennsylvania. It is said that his widow flowered his grave every day.





## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Founders and Personalities**

#### **Chapter 7- HAMILTON -Lieutenant Edgar Guerard- (1891-1984)**

- Origins and voluntary enlistment*
- His Commitment in the French Army*
- His Commitment to the Memorial*
- A difficult return to the United States and its lonely end*



**Excerpt from Hall & Nordhoff  
“The Lafayette Flying Corps”**

#### ***-Origins and voluntary enlistment***

Son of Lewis Birely Hamilton and Hariett Guerard (McComb), born in Newcastle, Pennsylvania on November 19, 1891. He studied at the “Carnegie Institute of Technology” in Pittsburg”. In 1915 he came to France as an ambulance driver with the American Ambulance Field Service. The name of his mother's French origin may explain his infatuation with France.

Volunteered on February 27, 1917 in the Foreign Legion, he passed his pilot's license on the French single-engine biplane Caudron on June 12, 1917 at the Avord base. Then he served as an instructor at Châteauroux. For the General Staff, Hamilton had for him three advantages: that of knowing the engines well, of speaking French and of knowing how to pilot an airplane. All this made him ipso facto an on-site monitor, with the aim of training other American recruits from July 10, 1917, until the armistice.

### ***-His Commitment in the French Army***

In the meantime, he did an internship in Tours. He also became the great specialist in piloting the British fighter plane the "Sopwith". He was transferred to the US Army at one point but we have no formal records of it to this day. The photo published in Denis Gordon's excellent book "The Lafayette Flying Corps" shows him wearing an American pilot's outfit.

Could we find a better instructor in this position and at this time? Certainly not; but that did not satisfy Hamilton; the latter asked the General Staff to go up to the front, which was always refused to him. You don't let a gifted instructor go so easily. From 1924 to 1925 he returned to study in the United States at Carnegie Mellon University.

During the interwar period, he enlisted again in the Foreign Legion. After being raised to the rank of captain, he was seriously injured in a leg in September 1932. This injury occurred while saving one of his men during the pacification fights in the Moroccan Atlas. The only American at the time to obtain the rank of officer in the Foreign Legion, he spoke in addition to English, French, Arabic and Spanish. He also served in this elite corps in Indochina between the two wars. He was also the only American to fight for several years in the desert for the French army.

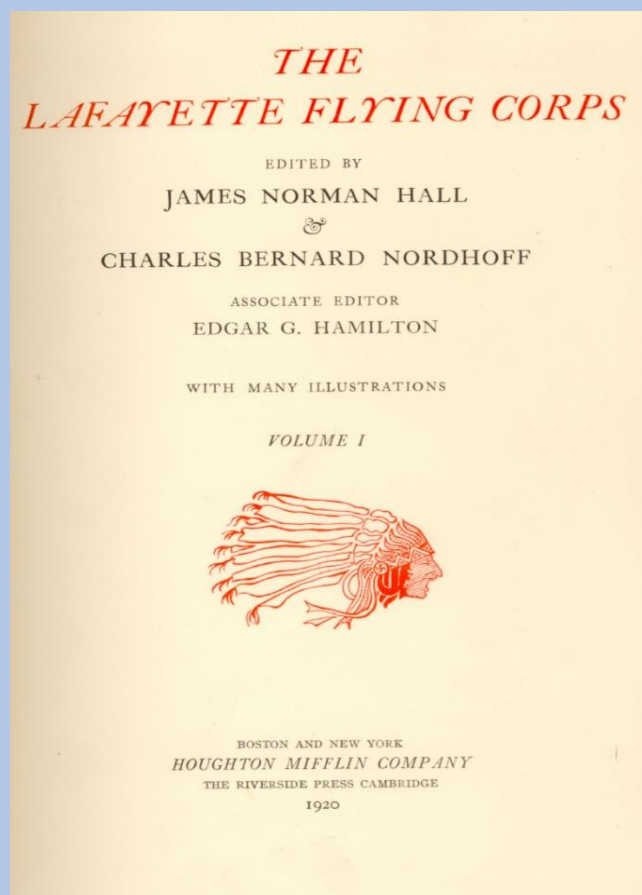
During the Second World War, we find him commander in the Legion in Oranie (Algeria) at Fort de la Pointe in Arzew which dominates on one side the plain and on the other the harbor and was an important strategic location. During the American landing, he walked in legionary uniform to the American Ranger camp where he reported. He provided them with all possible military information on the surroundings he knew inside out, he also served as their interpreter. He refused to join "Free France", out of loyalty to the French army then under Vichy orders. Fortunately, the latter immediately fell into the Allied camp. This case of conscience was posed to all French soldiers stationed in North Africa in 1942, at the time of the landing. This is well explained in Colonel Gisclon's book devoted to the Escadrille La Fayette. The latter himself lived this Franco-French tragedy (see the chapter devoted to outstanding personalities). He left the Legion in 1946 suffering from the after-effects of typhus.

### ***-His commitment to the Memorial***

Immediately after the armistice, on the initiative of Dr. Gros, he was asked to write as associate editor with James Norman HALL & Charles Bernard NORDHOFF the history of the "Lafayette Flying Corps". This first real document on the history of the Escadrille was brilliantly written in two large volumes. Subsequently, Captain Edgar G. HAMILTON will be appointed head of the "US Investing Committee" to find the bodies of the missing American airmen. He looked for example that of Andrew Courtney CAMPBELL, missing but without proof. He found his reported body among a tangle of barbed wire. On the remains of the pilot were found a Christmas card and photos of members of his family and also that of a small dog, a photo taken near his birthplace.

In 1922, he encountered some difficulties with the "United States War Department", then located in Battle Creek, Michigan. He planned to collect the bodies of the pilots outside of US military cemeteries. He had to rely solely on the French authorities, the latter understanding better the project consisting in bringing together in one place those who fought together. He formed a committee with Charles PRINCE of Boston, the father of Norman Prince, one of the first killed, and Mr. HW Schreiber of Morgan Harjes - then domiciled at 14 Place Vendôme in Paris -. He is credited with the origin of the idea for the construction of the Monument. At that time, no specific location had been considered for the planned cemetery, if not a vague project consisting in building a common cemetery for all the pilots in the region of Verdun. He promised himself to personally watch over each body transfer. In 1922 he was one of the first donors in francs to the Memorial construction project. At that time, he was still serving as Lieutenant in the 4th Regiment of the Foreign Legion.

Back in the United States in 1958, he accidentally ran over a girl while driving his car in Connecticut. This fatal accident earned him a prison sentence. He served part of it and was granted a suspended sentence for the remainder of his sentence. He then returned to France, then to Rabat in Morocco. He died there on January 16, 1984 in a Legion home at the age of 92. We are indebted to him for his work in the First World War, for his research into the history of pilots, and for his magnificent service in the Foreign Legion which we admire.



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Founders and Personalities**

#### **Chapter 8: HERRICK -His excellency- Myron Timothy (1854 -1929)**

*-Origin & Early Activities*

*-Declarations to Volunteers on Neutrality and their Possibilities*

*-His Diplomatic Mission -His Post-War Duty*

*-The End of a Great Man Belonging to Two Countries*

#### ***-Origin & Early Activities***

Born in Huntington, Ohio on October 9, 1854, the son of a poor farmer. He was alternately a teacher without a degree and then a freelance journalist in Saint-Louis, Missouri. All this to allow him to pay for his two-year law studies at "Ohio Wesleyan University". Interested in art He almost became a painter. He married Miss Carolyn PARMELY on June 30, 1880. In 1885 He joined the Republican Party in a local election in Cleveland. He was subsequently defeated by a Democratic candidate on a controversial bill, unfavorable financial conditions and the division within his own party. He became a banker and then President of the American Bankers Association in 1901. He was subsequently elected as the 42nd governor of Ohio in 1904. After declining an offer of ambassador to Italy, in 1912 he accepted the post of United States Ambassador to France. He was appointed by President TAFT, his predecessor Ambassador Mr. Robert BACON being friends with Mr. Herrick and wanting to meet him in Paris, delayed his departure and canceled his return booking on the "Titanic". At the start of the 1914 war, he arranged for the "American Hospital" to receive wounded from the front lines. He also organized the first ambulance services transporting the wounded and asked the American colony of Paris to participate in all these efforts. He indicated the existence of a precedent, American medical aid in Paris during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. Herrick and wanting to meet him in Paris, delayed his departure and canceled his return reservation on the "Titanic". At the start of the 1914 war he arranged for the "American Hospital" to receive wounded from the front lines.

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### ***-Declarations to Volunteers on Neutrality and their Possibilities***

On August 2, 1914, the day after the general mobilization, he received a band of young Americans in his office at 5, rue François 1er in Paris. Ignoring any danger, wanting at all costs to engage alongside the allies, they first timidly and then resolutely entered the ambassador's office. The latter warned them by reminding them of the American law on the neutrality of their country in the present conflict and pointed out to them that any engagement in the service of a foreign power would make them ipso facto lose their nationality of birth. Knowing of course their desire to remain American and sparing its effect, he told them aside. "But there is a possible way to get around this." Then in an almost religious silence he outa. "If I were you, I know what I would do, I would join the Foreign Legion". At this step, they went out into the street, waving the American flag high; they went at the same pace to the Hotel des Invalides to the cheers of the dumbfounded Parisian public. They enlisted in the Legion in the same place as the Parisians did to support the American independence troops fighting in America against the English.

This benevolent neutrality towards France reminds us that during the American War of Independence, Louis XVI's entourage, officially neutral at the start of the "Insurgents" conflict, favored the United States in the shadows. General John PERSHING, on disembarking in Picardy, said the famous "La Fayette, here we are". He later declared that the first American volunteer in the conflict was Ambassador Herrick.

### ***-His Diplomatic Mission***

He presented his credentials on November 29, 1912. He chose to stay in Paris in September 1914 while the government took refuge in Bordeaux. Apart from American interests and its nationals, he ensured the defense of Turkish and Japanese interests as well as the protection of the German Embassy, which had been left empty. Ironically, he was almost killed by a German bomb after coming out of an inspection of the German Embassy. He founded at 5, rue François 1er in Paris the headquarters of the "American Clearing House" which greatly helped the French population and the devastated areas to survive.

Despite his action admired by all, he was nevertheless advised at the end of 1914 by President Thomas Woodrow WILSON of the appointment of a less prestigious but more classic successor Mr. Sharp. He finished his mission in Paris on November 28, 1914. He never fully recovered from the death of his husband on September 15, 1918.



Back in the United States he was approached for a while for the Republican candidacy for the presidency but he withdrew in favor of Mr. Warren G. HARDING. Harding, once elected, had him appointed again in 1921 ambassador to Paris, with the almost exceptional status of Ambassador. Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for life. He was appointed on April 16, 1921 and arrived just in time to be greeted warmly during the national July 14 parade.

### ***-His post-war duty***

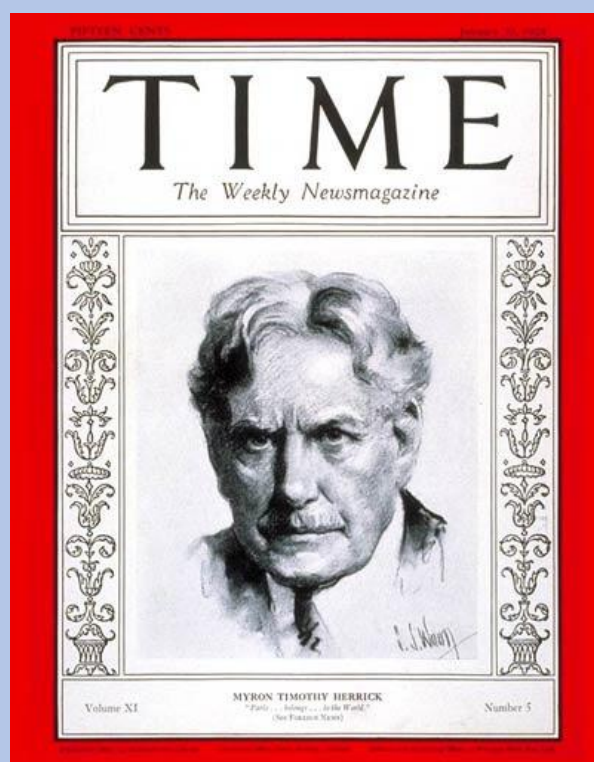
In 1925 he inaugurated at La Basée -in the Nord department- the “Bacon” fountain named after his predecessor, Mr. Robert BACON, United States Ambassador to France. The latter served in the ranks of the American army by fulfilling the mission of liaison officer near La Bassée. He died of a disease contracted in the forehead. In his memory, Mr. and Mrs. Prince ordered and inaugurated this fountain in the presence of Mr. Herrick and in the company of Alexandre MARCEL his architect. Later, this state architect was chosen for the construction of the Memorial of the Escadrille La Fayette.

Mr. Herrick supported the construction project of the Monument with all his weight, he was from 1922 honorary member with Marshal FOCH, of the Committee "The Memorial of the Lafayette Escadrille" and participated in the presentation of the model of the Monument in 1926.

In 1927 he welcomed Charles LINDBERGH at Le Bourget, after his historic and solitary transatlantic flight on May 31 which lasted 33 hours and 30 minutes. By delicacy the Ambassador took Lindbergh in the days which followed the exploit, to visit the mother of Nungesser, in mourning for the disappearance of her son since the 8th of the same month.

He brilliantly inaugurated the Memorial of the Escadrille La Fayette on July 4, 1928, the day of “Independence Day” in the company of William Nelson Cromwell and the highest French personalities.

On January 30, 1928, the weekly "Time" devoted its weekly coverage to this famous diplomat.



Since 1938, an avenue bears his name in the 8th arrondissement of Paris and you can see his bust Place des États-Unis in the 16th arrondissement. The grateful city of Reims has also given it a great place.

### ***-The End of a Great Man Belonging to Two Countries***

The last photograph of the Ambassador, dated March 26, 1929, was taken during the funeral of Marshal Foch. Mr. Herrick was very affected by this death; the two men were very close.

Mr. Herrick ended his mission with his death in his office on March 31, 1929. The return of his coffin to the United States gave rise to moving ceremonies performed by the French, British and American navies in a grandiose naval parade which began to take place. Brest and ended in New York. He was buried in Cleveland at the "Lake View Cemetery".

Its historian Colonel T. Bentley MOTT was one of the directors of the La Fayette Escadrille Memorial Association at the time of its inauguration. You can find the full biography of this extraordinary ambassador, written by Colonel T. Bentley MOTT in the form of an identifiable digital book on the internet at: <http://net.lib.byu.edu/estu/wwi/memoir/Herrick/MTHTC.htm>

His name seems well forgotten nowadays; may this modest chapter restore his memory somewhat. His statue at Place des "États-Unis" in Paris was sculpted by Leon-Ernest Drivier and inaugurated on 12 February 1937. This bust was handed over by a delegation made up of 22 American mayors to the city of Paris on Wednesday May 27, 1931 in the presence of Marshal Lyautey.

**Bust placed Place des « États-Unis », Paris 16**



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Founders and Personalities**

#### **Chapter 9: OVINGTON -Mrs. Georgia- (1868 -1950)**

- Origins and Conjugal Setbacks*
- His Exemplary Devotion to Pilots*
- The Allied Cause Took the Life of his Son*
- His Zeal for the Monument*

#### ***-Marital origins and setbacks***

Born to a father of Irish descent, this founder - there were not many at that time - was born in Louisville, Kentucky on June 24, 1868, daughter of William Maize and Emma Rose. In October 1887, when she was just 19, she married Edward J. Ovington, a 54-year-old widower who already had two children. He ran an important souvenir house with many branches in Europe, the parent company was located on Fifth Avenue in New York. From this marriage was born her only child named **Carter Landram Ovington** born in 1897 in Baden Baden in Germany. The couple lived in Germany from 1896 to 1907.

Thereafter, she married as a second marriage a German musician Reinhold Von Warlich in 1910 in Paris, this marriage with a musician of the Tsar of Russia made all Paris talk. The union ended in a divorce in 1917. She definitively resumed the name of Ovington after this divorce.

#### ***-His Exemplary Dedication for Pilots***

From the start of the war, like many Americans then living in France, she worked to provide assistance to the American soldiers who, in increasing numbers, were enlisting in the French army. We owe a very special mention to the one who became the secretary of the American squadron then of the La Fayette squadron. She was both the war godmother of all these pilots and their muse. She put herself at the service of the two countries, she gave all her time and all her energy for the benefit of the sacred cause. She visited the pilots in the hospitals, during their convalescence and she guided them during their leave. Mrs. Ovington was both secretary of the "Lafayette Flying Corps" and a kind of caring godmother of all American pilots.

His son Carter Landram Ovington, seeing the war drag on after his studies both in France and America, enlisted as an American volunteer in the French army on April 20, 1917, as did a number of young Yankee from his age.

### ***-The Allied cause Took the Life of his Son***

He followed the usual route of flight schools. A little over a year later, on May 29, 1918, above Lagery in the Marne, his plane struck - while flying in enemy territory - another allied plane in the clouds. Neither the planes nor the bodies of the pilots were found despite searches undertaken after the war. In his memory, Mrs. Ovington built the bench below where she liked to worship on pilgrimage. According to local accounts, the laws of war were not respected; the two pilots were certainly executed still alive and buried in haste, their planes destroyed by fire, the Germans managing to leave no trace of this barbaric crime.

The place of the mothers of combatants has often been underestimated in the weight of war stories. In his case, it was particularly heavy to carry.

During the hostilities, Mrs. Ovington was part of the pilots' assistance committee chaired by William K. Vanderbilt. After the war, we find her in Paris working with the informal Committee which since the early twenties had sought to locate and then assemble the bodies of the pilots in the company of Dr. Gros and Lieutenant Hamilton.

### ***-His Zeal for the Monument***

Mrs Ovington was secretary, under the chairmanship of Mr. Vanderbilt, of a very first committee called "Franco-American Flying Corps" charged with rewarding with bonuses the aviators having received an official distinction of the French and American governments such as the Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre, "War Cross" etc.

We will find her assisting and participating in the organization of the inauguration ceremony of the model of the Memorial on February 28, 1922.

We discover her from documents dating from 1926 as a member of the American Committee of the Memorial of the Escadrille La Fayette.

In 1927 she was the first to make a donation in francs for the construction of the Monument.

Before the Second World War, she donated numerous works to the Franco-American Museum in Blérancourt, where she organized the exhibition rooms dedicated to the Escadrille La Fayette.

She spent WWII stuck in France. She later returned to her family in Kentucky and died there on November 4, 1950 at the age of 82.



### **Ltd Carter Landram Ovington**



### **Bench in memory of Lieutenant Carter L. Ovington (We lost control of the plane there)**





**Rue de Lagery, leading to the Memory Bench**



**Inauguration of the Memorial bench on February 28, 1922**



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Founders and Personalities**

#### **Chapter 10: ROCKWELL -Mr. Paul Ayres- (1889-1985)**

- Origin and Commitment in France*
- The Distinct but Not Separated Destiny of the Two Brothers*
- The Death of Kiffin*
- In the service of France during the Rif War*
- Historian of the Escadrille and Builder of the Monument*

#### ***-Origin and Commitment in France***

Born in Marion County, South Carolina on February 3, 1889; his grandfather was a veteran of the American Civil War committed to the Confederate side. He was educated at "Lee University" in Virginia.

Out of gratitude for France and its fight in the war of independence, the two Rockwell brothers crossed the ocean by the first boat although they knew only a few rudiments of French. Kiffin and Paul, his eldest, enlisted and were poured into the Foreign Legion on October 2, 1914. After a rapid training course, immediately sent to the front in the Aisne, Paul was quickly wounded. His brother was transferred to another regiment and was in turn wounded north of Arras.

#### ***-The Distinct but Not Separated Destiny of the Two Brothers***

Paul nevertheless remained in France near his brother and undertook to follow him when the latter was transferred to the aeronautical service in 1915 and was educated at the Avord school. Transferred to the American Squadron on April 16, 1916, Kiffin quickly obtained his first victory. On hearing this news Paul Rockwell rushed to the base of Luxeuil with a bottle of vintage Bourbon. A pilot, Chapman, suggested saving the precious cash for special occasions. The bottle has been kept at the Franco-American museum in Blérancourt.

#### ***-The Death of Kiffin***

Unfortunately, Kiffin was killed in aerial combat over Alsace on September 23, 1916. He was the first American pilot to obtain an aerial victory and the second of the squadron to fall in the field of honor. Accompanied by Captain Thenault, Paul arrived by train during the night to pay homage to his brother, at the very place where he had fallen.

We were then in Alsace partially occupied by the Germans. Paul did not want Kiffin's grave to be touched afterwards; he asked that he rest at Luxeuil-les-Bains.

Paul was in a way the first historian of the squadron. He had a cousin who was also a volunteer hired American pilot: Robert L. Rockwell, who survived the conflict

### ***-In the service of France during the Rif War***

In the meantime, Paul was both press attaché to the French General Staff and correspondent for the "Chicago Daily News". Released before Christmas 1918, he suffered for six months from the Spanish flu. Subsequently, he was part of the famous Cherifian squadron which fought alongside the French in the Rif War with a handful of former pilots of the "Lafayette Flying Corps". He published this epic under the title "American Fighters" in the Foreign Legion 1914-1918" (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1930) [SIL Catalog No. D548.35 R6X NASM].

Afterwards, he continued his career as a journalist in France. He returned to service as a captain at the start of World War II. Then, he passed through Spain and Portugal to return to the United States and enlist in the "US Air Force". He was assigned to the American landing in North Africa.

### ***-Historian of the Escadrille and builder of the Monument***

It was he who interested Mr. Cromwell in the idea of building a Monument. He was also the main referent for all inscriptions on the Monument (Name of pilots, battles etc.)

He corresponded between the wars with Lewis Crenshaw concerning the inscriptions to be carried on the Monument; like Dr. Gros, he was hardly in favor of Eugene Bullard, whose conduct he blamed in several cases. Eugene, whom we admire on the other hand for his courage, did not achieve unanimity among his contemporaries at that time, far from it.

In fact, Rockwell made in his role of historian an important distinction between the first pilots who risked beyond their life, the disapproval of their fellow citizens and those who arrived late when the road was all mapped out and the entry into the war of the United States was acquired.

In 1932 he unmasked a so-called surviving pilot of the Lafayette who had suffered amnesia upon reaching the German lines, bearing the name of Andrew Courtney CAMPBELL.

As early as 1938, several former pilots including Harold WILLIS (1890-1962) and Colonel Rockwell, thought of recreating a voluntary American squadron. Seeing the great distress of the French armies in 1940, they tried the coup with the French authorities. Due to the rapidity of the debacle, the affair ended despite the support of Dr. Gros. Besides the elders of the squadron, a dozen other American pilots tried in vain to join the French army.

Colonel Rockwell thereafter, except in his very later years, followed Foundation affairs with great interest. He died on August, 1985 at the age of 97.

**Notes:** Jean-Claude Lemaire had the honor of meeting the Colonel at the "Traveler's Club" in Paris on June 29, 1976 during a meeting of the Board of Directors of the 'Fondation du Mémorial de l' Escadrille La Fayette. He was a life member occupying various positions depending on the year, such as those of Secretary, Vice-President etc. ...

**Plaque affixed to Kiffin Rockwell's grave in Luxeuil-les-Bains**



**Colonel Paul Rockwell  
(last visit to France-1976)**





## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Founders and Personalities**

#### **Chapter 11: THENAULT -Colonel Georges- (1887-1948)**

*-From Saint-Cyr to Military Aviation*

*-The Creation of the Escadrille*

*-Its Post-War*

#### ***-From Saint-Cyr to Military Aviation***

Born October 08, 1887 in Celle-Lévescault (Vienne). Son of Paul Thenault, teacher and of Bathilde BONNAUD. After a classic school career, he entered St. Cyr. He is part of the 91st promotion, that of the school's centenary. He stands out for his early interest in aviation. He obtained his pilot's license on December 26, 1913 under number 414, which made him a pioneer of French military aviation.

As early as 1914, he saw the means of creating a squadron of American pilots by relying on the volunteers engaged in the Foreign Legion.

#### ***-The Creation of the Escadrille***

In 1915, Sergeant William Thaw befriended Captain Thenault while both served as a pilot in the C42 based in Lunéville and Nancy.

He understood the plight of young Americans stuck in the trenches and he became the catalyst for their aspiration to fight in this new weapon full of nobility.

On March 26, 1916, Lieutenant Thenault destroyed an enemy aircraft and was awarded the Legion of Honor for this feat. He introduced the first American pilots to Captain Happe, the latter was as fiery as his young pilots. The devices were rare and the Colonel had them come in a trailer at the same time as he installed the pilots in Luxeuil.

The same year, on December 10, 1916, he took command of his new squadron, the Escadrille La Fayette. He totaled seven victories, of which only four were approved.

#### ***-Its Post-War***

In 1922, he was appointed Air Attaché at the French Embassy in Washington, where he remained for six years. On this occasion, he made many tours, especially after the publication of his book in English, "The Story of the Lafayette Escadrille". This illustrated work appeared in 1921 with a preface by the politician André Tardieu; it met with great success on the other side of the Atlantic.

In 1934, he was assigned for a time to Tours as lieutenant-colonel commanding the 31st squadron. He took part in a conference on January 4, 1934 at the Petit Palais in Paris on the history of the Escadrille where he was a brilliant orator.

In 1939 he published, -a little late- the original French edition of his book "l'Escadrille Lafayette" with a preface by General Gouraud. In this preface, Le Général declared: "I do not find enough words to praise the brave men whose names line the walls of the Monument of Villeneuve l'Étang as over there, on the pillars of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris are graved, the names of Napoleon's generals".

This book covers the period from April 1916 to January 1918 and ends with a short account of the inauguration of the Monument. Too modest to have written his own biography, we must be satisfied with the accounts of other military writers or biographers to better understand it. He was at the same time, in this epic, a leading actor and a valuable historian.

He declares that in his opinion "the Comte de Rochambeau did more for the independence of the United States than the famous Marquis. La Fayette's aura will however remain much more important in history because he came to him as a volunteer". A clear allusion to our aviator heroes whose symbolic role prepared the entry into the war of the United States at our side.

We know that his wife and two children left for the United States as early as 1940 to flee the Nazi invasion and that he joined them later after the invasion of the Free Zone. Her daughter lived in the United States and she will come to France several times to participate in "Memorial Day". We can see in a film produced by France 3 in 1999, entitled "The Wings of the First Hour", his son Georges testify to his father's life in the United States. Her daughter declares in this film her happiness to have known her father well.

The Colonel attended the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Post-War Foundation, on September 27, 1948. At this meeting, Colonel Thenault agreed to become President, following the death announced in session of Mr. Nelson Cromwell. Unfortunately, this was his first and last board of directors; in fact, he died of a heart attack in Paris on the following December 19. The commune of Luxeuil-les-Bains in Haute-Saône (70300) gave its name to the street leading to the stadium.

The Colonel collected various objects that had belonged to the pilots, in his home in Saint-Cloud -near the Monument-. Having become President, he had them transported to the Memorial with the objective of building a small museum dedicated to the squadron, a project that was dear to his heart. After his death, the Board of the Foundation decided to make a deposit at the "Franco-American Museum" located at the castle of Blérancourt in the Ain. / [musee.blerancourt@culture.gouv.fr](mailto:musee.blerancourt@culture.gouv.fr)

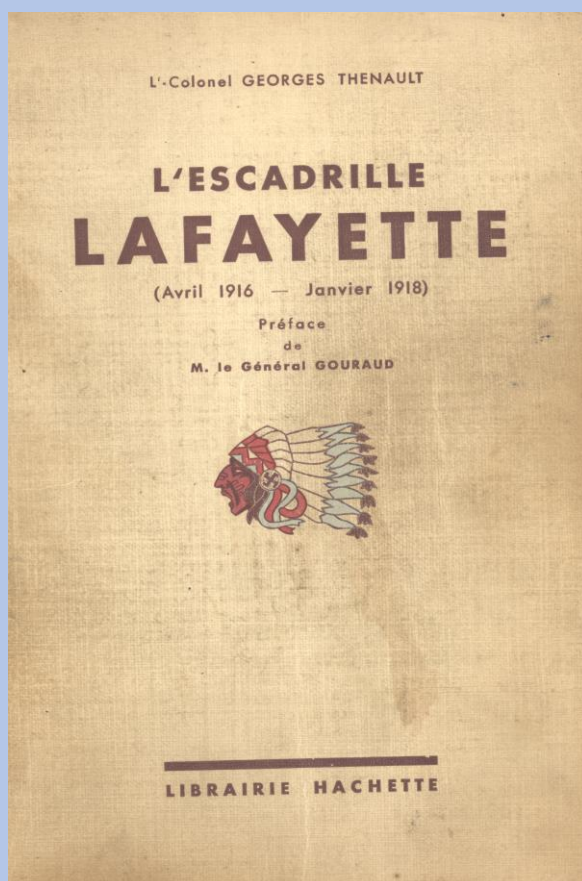
His body was buried in the crypt of the Memorial where he rests among his fellow American combatants and near General Brocard.







Le Capitaine Thenault devant son Spad  
Le chien Fram.



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Founders and Personalities**

#### **-Chapter 12-Ten Other Founders**

- Bullwinkle Julius Caesar*
- Crehore Austen B.*
- Gray Charles Gossage*
- Hoskier Herman Charles*
- Kerwood Charles Wayne*
- Lobby James Norman*
- Prince Frederick Henry*
- Schoop Max*
- Sillac (Baron Jarousse of)*
- Vanderbilt William Kissam*
- Van dyke Paul*

For this chapter, people have been listed alphabetically for the sake of quick and convenient reference. We include Mr. Russel M. Porter in this chapter although he is not one of the original Founders, having been born in 1924, but having regard to his exceptional role in the conservation of the monument, the renewal of the statutes and ceremonies, he deserves to appear as emeritus in the list of outstanding personalities.

#### ***-BULLWINKLE Julius Caesar (1879-1949)***

He participated in the creation of the Monument at its very beginning. An accountant by training, he worked as a banker at the Bankers Trust in Paris while being President of the Franco-American Chamber of Commerce. From 1923, he was part of a delegation looking for land around Verdun in the company of the architect Alexandre Marcel. His name is mentioned in the book of the French edition of Colonel Thenault as a pioneer for the construction of the Monument from the year 1923. In 1928, we find him showing the Monument to personalities.

He exercised the prerogatives of Treasurer of the Foundation where he sat there two to three years since its creation in 1931. We find him in the minutes of the Board of Directors to certify the results of the fundraising in favor of the construction of the Monument and keeper of the donor list.



### ***-CREHORE Austen B. (1893-1962)***

Born January 29, 1893 in Hackensack, New Jersey to a mother of French origin, Anna Ballard. He enlisted on July 16, 1917 with the 1st regiment of the Foreign Legion. He went through the classic flying schools of Avord, Tours and Pau and was patented on September 28, 1917 on Caudron. Before enlisting for France, he had previously been refused by the American aviation service, then nascent, for health reasons. He was one of the pilots of the famous N94 until March 1918; with this squadron, he won two victories and received the Croix de Guerre with two palms.

He was President of the "Escadrille Lafayette Flying Corps Association" headquartered at 123 William Street in New York. He corresponded often with Mr. Crenshaw regarding the list of pilots to appear on the Monument. He also worked in association with other founders, mainly Dr. Gros and Mr. Crenshaw, on an official list of surviving pilots. Some pilots who had never fought as volunteers claimed this honor and others claimed important decorations which had never been awarded to them. We have known similar cases in our country with false resistance fighters or last-minute resistance fighters.

Mr. Crehore had to decide on the validity of the exploits of the pilots in debate such as Bullard, Hewitt, Bert Hall, Curtis, Wilson etc. bodies intended to be buried in the crypt than that of survivors recognized as having participated in the fighting, or stolen from the squadrons. All, he hammered, without preference or favoritism. Mr. Crehore made a donation of Frs. 650 for the Monument in 1927.

### ***-GREY Charles Gossage (1894-1987)***

Born in Chicago on June 20, 1894. His father was named Charles Scott, but he was adopted by his stepfather Walter C. Gray. He was educated at Columbia University. He enlisted in the "Gentlemen Volunteers", those heroic ambulance drivers who saved so many Allied fighters during the First World War. On June 17, 1917, he enlisted in the Foreign Legion. He toured the flying schools, Avord, Juvisy and Pau. He was licensed as a pilot on September 26, 1917 on a Caudron aircraft and was posted to the front in the Spad 93 squadron, which he left with the rank of sergeant in March 1917. Returned to the American army, following entry into United States war, with the rank of first lieutenant. He served on the American bases of Orly and Le Bourget as a pilot of test for the Nieuport bought by the American army from the French. He was assigned to the "213th Pursuit Squadron" on August 1, 1918. He recorded four or five air victories under American wings and was appointed captain on November 6, 1918. He took part in the battles of Saint-Mihiel, the Meuse and the 'Argonne'. He participated in the bombardment of a German munitions factory with light bombs and destroyed a German balloon. He remained in uniform until the armistice. He was awarded the "US Distinguished Service Cross" for feats of arms. Indeed, near Montmédy, loaded with He recorded four or five aerial victories under American wings and was appointed captain on November 6, 1918. He took part in the battles of Saint-Mihiel, Meuse and Argonne. He participated in the bombardment of a German munitions factory with light bombs and destroyed a German balloon. He remained in uniform until the armistice. He was awarded the "US Distinguished Service Cross" for feats of arms. Indeed, near Montmédy, loaded with He recorded four or five aerial victories under American wings and was appointed captain on November 6, 1918. He took part in the battles of Saint-Mihiel, Meuse and Argonne.

He participated in the bombardment of a German munitions factory with light bombs and destroyed a German balloon. He remained in uniform until the armistice. He was awarded the "US Distinguished Service Cross" for feats of arms. Indeed, near Montmédy, loaded with three other fighters from the protection of the Allied bombers, he alone attracted the German fighter composed of twelve aircraft in order to allow the convoy to continue its journey.

**Lt Charles G. Grey, Flight Commander in front of his Spad XIII**



After his demobilization in 1919, he lived in Paris with his French wife and worked for the American diplomatic service while taking part in commercial and banking activities. From a second union with Cornelia O'Connor Wallace, were born two boys Charles and Cornelius.

On the eve of World War II, unhappy with the US policy of neutrality, the GRAY spouses again sought to serve. Cornelia was a nurse on the front during the German offensive of June 1940. Charles went to the OSS -Office of Strategic Services- in Lisbon. After the liberation he received several French and foreign decorations.

It was only after the war, on February 2, 1949, that we find traces of the appointment of Mr. Gray as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, on the recommendation of Mr. William Nelson Cromwell. This decision contributed to electing him along with a few other members in the category of successors to the Founder, giving him the right to sit for ten years (instead of the usual three years). This specific case was provided for in the statutes and all the beneficiaries had been designated in advance by the Founder. At the same meeting, Mr. Gray was elected Chairman by his peers. His first decision was to inquire about the Founder's testamentary dollar donation for the benefit of the Foundation (see chapter 20). From 1953, he took steps to ensure that these funds were invested in dollars and not in francs. It does not imagine that the Foundation could cope on its own, even after this donation of \$ 250,000-. He was the first to request the intervention of the ABMC -American Battle Monuments Commission- to take charge of the Monument and the funds for a grant in perpetuity. This did not happen until sixty years later. He gave way to Mr. Cousins in the Council meeting of May 19, 1953. On the other hand, he retained his membership and even became Treasurer in 1962. He temporarily became President again around 1970 but delegated all his powers given a change of residence from Paris to Switzerland. He was elected in 1986 an honorary life member.

**Mme Wilk-Brocard -daughter of General- Brocard-  
& Charles GREY-Memorial Day (1979)**



JC Lemaire remembers having met Charles Gray while attending his first Board of Directors of the Foundation on September 29, 1970 at the "Travelers Club", avenue des Champs-Élysées. Mr. Gray made generous donations to the Foundation and the work of the Monument on several occasions. JC Lemaire also remembers welcoming his son for a visit to the Monument in 2006.

Charles Gray died on March 6, 1987 in Palm Beach, Florida. Having been hit by a truck, he died of his injuries; but he was buried in Paris in his city of predilection.

There is an old saying in English that illustrates this: “When a good American dies, his soul goes to Paris”.

***-HALL James Norman (1887-1951)***

American fighter pilot and volunteer, he flew for the La Fayette squadron during the period 1916-1917. Writer, novelist and historian, he was always concerned with his time and the people who surrounded him. His literary work spans the period from 1906 to 1954.

In 1918, he wrote a first book on the exploits of American pilots engaged in the French army, "High Adventure" easily found in the form of an e-book on the internet.

In 1920, he wrote, in collaboration with two other pilots also committed volunteers, Charles Nordhoff and Edgar G. Hamilton, a two-volume book on the history of the 'Lafayette Flying Corps'. At that time, he settled in Tahiti where he lived all his life.

The book "Mutiny on the Bounty" is a universally known novel, written from 1929 and published in 1932 by James Norman Hall and Charles Nordhoff, having for frame the famous mutiny from the ship on Bounty in 1789.

He died of a heart attack on the island of Tahiti on July 6, 1951. The documents concerning this author, mainly those for the period of his career in military aviation, are deposited at Grinnell College in Iowa.

### ***-HOSKIER Herman Charles (1884-1938)***

Son of Herman Hoskier (1832-1904); in his youth he was a biblical student; he worked on the manuscripts of the first centuries of Christianity, notably the Codex Vaticanus. He published many works on this subject. The most famous of them was published in 1929 under the name of "Concerning the Text of the Apocalypse". Renowned banker, he was a significant donor.

### ***-KERWOOD Charles Wayne***

Enlisted on February 18, 1917 in the Foreign Legion. He made the Avord school and was patented on Caudron then returned to the American army in March 1918. His plane was shot down and he found himself a prisoner of the Germans. He was injured trying to escape from a prison camp but was unfortunately taken back. Finally released, he returned to Paris with a German bullet still lodged in his leg. His military career was long; he continued in 1925-26 during the Rif war (Morocco) to fight for the French with some other American volunteers in the "Cherifian squadron". A book by William Crawford has been devoted to his exploits.

He was part of the reception committee for the inauguration of the model in 1926. In New York he was on the Board of the "Escadrille Lafayette Flying Corps Association". He also participated in correcting the list of volunteer pilots who actually fought, several cases remaining doubtful after the war.



### ***-PORTER Russell M. (July 31, 1924 - February 24, 2013)***

His decisive role in the Foundation deserves the title of a 'Refounder President' and we owe him this sub-chapter dedicated to the founders. Born in Neuilly-sur-Seine on July 31, 1924, of American nationality by his father Russell Hobbins PORTER and of a Scottish mother Anne MacKinlay. Mr. Porter began his studies in France and then continued in a "Public School".

### ***-Fighting activities and professional career***

At the age of 16 in 1940 and thanks to his mother of British nationality, he joined the cadets of the "Royal Air Force" to obtain his pilot's certificates of airplane and seaplane. Already, we can see in him this voluntary side like the pilots of La Fayette to fight, as a young man, for a good cause in an army foreign to his. Then, incorporated into the Royal Air Force on March 30, 1942, he was assigned to coastal surveillance, convoy protection and anti-submarine warfare. He remained there until August 16, 1944 when he was transferred to the "US Air Force" in Great Britain and assigned for a time in the Pacific. He later participated, as Captain, in the airlift supplying Berlin during the blockade of 1948. He became a military judge as well as adviser to the USAF on many cases, customs tax etc. General Norstad drew General de Gaulle's attention to his action. He received the Military Medal with fins.

Once demobilized, he took his law exams and worked in his father's office. He became President of the "American Legion", an association created by his father for American veterans of the First World War living in France. As Commodore of the American Legion, Mr. Russell Porter presented General De Gaulle with the medal of this association in 1948.

When he returned for the first time to the United States after the war, he was, upon his arrival, thrown into prison as a deserter. Indeed, his engagement in the British forces and his transfer to the US Air Force for his reinstatement in 1944 had not been noted on all American registers. After two painful nights in prison, the truth about his military career was finally established and he was obviously released with the usual honors.

Business lawyer for Countess Mona Bismarck and executor of his property, he created in Paris in 1987 a Foundation using the name of the countess. He was the founder of this Foundation intended to promote the arts, literature and Franco-American relations. He used the funds and premises of this other Foundation many times in favor of the Monument.

### ***-Activities within the framework of the Foundation***

Although having lived after the great historical period of the founders of the Memorial, its action, its influence, and its activity in favor of the Monument earned it the qualifier of a "Refounder President".

He was elected and re-elected President of the La Fayette Escadrille Memorial from 1976 to 2006. He succeeded Warren Delano Robbins and found the situation in great disarray. After several unsuccessful attempts to restore the Monument at the start of his assumption of responsibility, he was at the origin of the major restoration which began in 2003 and the study of which began under his aegis in 1996. He took over, upon his election, the ceremonies at the Monument which previously collapsed and amounted to a simple handing-over of wreaths, to give them a new luster and never seen before. He also revised the title deeds of the land, the statutes of the

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He received the baptism of Sioux of honor on the basis of the Escadrille La Fayette then based in Luxeuil.

During the last two years of his presidency, he had to delegate most of his responsibilities, this following an illness which caused him to lose the use of his faculties. We owe him a great deal and he will always hold a special place in the history of the Foundation for those who knew him in his heyday.

Died on February 24, 2013, the American colony of Paris paid him a last tribute noticed on March 14, 2013 in the American Cathedral of Paris.

### ***-Diplomas***

- Tulane University in New Orleans (Louisiana)
- Faculty of Law of Paris
- Higher school certificate (HSC) Oxford (England)
- University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (New Mexico)
- Lawyer of international law able to plead before the supreme court of the United States and registered with the bar of Paris since 1950.

***1983/02 Mr. Porter reçoit le grade d'Officier de la Légion d'Honneur***



***-Holder of the following decorations:***

- "War Medal", "Defense Medal", "Victory Medal", "WWII Good Conduct", "European Theater", "American Theater", "National Defense Medal"
- Military Cross
- The "Krzyz Zaslugi" Polish Medal
- Cross of Knight of the Legion of Honor on April 11, 1986
- Officer of the Legion of Honor (He received the insignia on September 29, 1994 in the salons of the Mona Bismarck Foundation)

**(1999- Russell M. Porter chairing a Memorial Day)**



## ***PRINCE (Frederick Henry) (1859-1953)***

Born in Winchester, Massachusetts; his father had been Mayor of Boston from 1880 to 1884. He left Harvard to become a life member of the New York Stock Exchange. Sportsman, he practiced polo. Banker and financier. Married to Abigail Kingsley Norman in 1884, he was the father of two sons including Norman PRINCE, the pilot who was one of the founders of the Escadrille La Fayette. Norman was seriously injured while returning from a mission on October 12, 1916 and died three days later.

Member of the Republican Party, Frederick H. PRINCE helped President ROOSEVELT in 1932 to fight the Great Depression. Feeling good in France, there he bought the Villa Sainte-Hélène in Pau where he died.

The difference that he opposed to a few pilots began just after the First World War. First, he asked Colonel Thenault to modify his work and increase the part reserved for his son. Frederick H. Prince was subsequently accused of attempting to hijack the Monument for the sole glory of his son. Important differences arose, especially between him and William Thaw. This succession of conflicts means that the remains of Norman Prince rest in the cathedral of Washington DC and not in the crypt of the Memorial.

## ***SCHOOP Max Ulrich (1870-1956)***

Coming from a Zurich family established in 1879, he began working in Moscow in 1890 from where he translated works by Tolstoy.

After this period, it belonged to Coudert Frères, another international law firm established in Paris in 1879 at 52, avenue des Champs Élysées. There he drew up several international treaties between States.

Max Schoop was for a long time William Nelson Cromwell's attorney for his business. An active member of the Foundation's board of directors, he has held various positions in the Council since its creation in 1931. He intervened on several occasions during the construction of the Monument on behalf of Mr. Cromwell. He was responsible for the funds of the first donation,

I Million francs. In 1933, he took over from Mr. Crenshaw in an attempt to correct the major disorders that arose after construction.

In 1940, he closed the Parisian offices of Coudert frères and went into exile in Geneva with his partner.

II organized in Switzerland an American spy network named "Office of Strategic Services" under the authority of a former associate of Coudert, Allen DULLES who was the first director of the CIA in 1953. For the French resistance, the nickname of Max was "Perrichon".

He, along with other members of the Foundation, took responsibility for the burial of Colonel Thenault in the crypt. He amended article 13 of the Foundation's statutes, filed with the Paris Prefecture, in order to authorize the investment in foreign US securities of the amount of the founder's testamentary donation in 1948.

Until the year of his death, we find traces of his continuous action in favor of the Foundation.



### ***SILLAC (Baron Jarousse of)***

Secretary of War, in relation with Dr Edmund Gros, He set up in the private mansion of Senator Gaston Menier, a meeting between the former American Ambassador Robert Bacon -who later fought actively in the American army-, the Minister of the Interior Léon Bourgeois and the head of French aeronautics General Hishauer.

During this interview Bacon and French officials came to the conclusion that there is no international law preventing Americans from enlisting in a foreign army, as long as their recruitment does not take place in the USA. On February 20, 1915, he wrote a letter to his friend Colonel Bouttiaux, Minister of War. In this letter, he gave him the name of the six American pilots then ready for the cause: Norman Prince in the lead, followed by Frazier Curtis, Elliot Cowdin, William Thaw, Bert Hall and James Bach. This is how Captain Thenault was able to welcome his first American pilots.

### **VANDERBILT William Kissam (1849-1920)**

Second son of the famous William Henry Vanderbilt (1821-1885) and grandsons of the famous Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794-1877). The latter, at his death, owned almost a hundredth of the American gross domestic product through its activity in the American railways and its maritime empire. This family has played an important role in the history of the United States.

James Norman HALL & Charles Bernard NORDOFF begin their famous work "The Lafayette Flying Corps" by dedicating it to William Vanderbilt as a loyal and generous friend of this army corps.

As early as 1915, WK Vanderbilt and his wife began to bring all their affections to wounded combatants. First, they supported the work of American ambulances picking up soldiers at the front and bringing them back to hospitals. They were politically opposed to the neutrality of the United States in this conflict. Their generosity for the pilots was legendary from the beginning of the Escadrille La Fayette until the armistice. He would most certainly have partnered with the Monument construction company, but unfortunately WK Vanderbilt died suddenly in 1920.

VANDYKE Paul (1859-1933)

American historian born in Brooklyn. He was first a pastor in 1884 and graduated from Princeton Theological College. He continued his studies in Berlin as a Presbyterian pastor. In 1889 he was appointed professor of history at Princeton Theological College. We find him in 1892 pastor in Massachusetts. His literary life began the same year with the publication of Henry Jackson (1892) then the Age of Renaissance (1897) dealing with the return of the papacy from Avignon to Rome. Thereafter, we will note, among other things, "Portraits of the Renaissance" in 1905; then he published a work on Catherine de Medici (1922). Paul Van Dyke founded the American University Union in Europe

In Paris, he was Vice-President of the "Association de l'Escadrille La Fayette".



**Flag designed after the war with the 65 stars  
(One per pilot killed in France during the conflict)**

## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Founders and Personalities**

#### **Chapter 13: Key Figures & Presidents**

- *Fifteen Distinguished Personalities*
- *List of Presidents of the Foundation*

After the historic period of the Founders and other Founders, perhaps you will be interested in reading a few notes concerning these fifteen outstanding personalities who worked for the Monument but after the period you have just read in the first twelve chapters. It is not, far from it, to establish a complete list of all the former personalities who worked for the Memorial, but to name those who worked there closely and most assiduously. Some were interested in the Monument longer than others, but all left their mark at some point.



**Medal awarded to many outstanding personalities**

## **- Fifteen Notable Personalities**

### **ALLEZ- Jacques (1894-1982)**

He was mobilized in the 3rd regiment of cuirassiers in 1914, then in the Air force in 1915 as "Marshal of the Logis". Patented pilot on Blériot 80CV in 1916. Lieutenant Nungesser was then serving in this same unit. The squadron was on the field of Cachy, in front of the Somme, forming part of the Hunting Group of the Sixth Army which brought together all the aces of the great war under the command of Captain Brocard. He was a member of the Foundation Board from 1969 until his death.

### **BELLEUX- General Maurice (1909-2002)**

At the start of World War II, he commanded a fighter squadron, then found himself in Lebanon and Madagascar. Recalled to France, he commanded a fighter group before his assignment in November 42 at the Toulouse Air Museum. Commander Belleux skillfully uses this hideout to create the "Hunter" intelligence network responsible for monitoring German air activities. Then he moved to London in 1944; He participated in the parachuting of foodstuffs in the camps of prisoners and deportees in Germany. He was then in Indochina responsible for military security. Subsequently, he directed the French counter-espionage from "the swimming pool" in Paris in 1956, the famous SDECE. He organized a French-style CIA in this service. He was appointed President of the National Consultative Commission of the Resistance.

In the large courtyard of Les Invalides, on April 21, 1989, the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor was awarded by President François Mitterrand. He had also been decorated with the Military Medal with fins, the Aeronautical Medal, the "King Medal", the "Officer Legion of Merit". His military funeral took place in the large courtyard of the Invalides.

Appointed member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation in 1981, he intervened with the Prime Minister of the time, Pierre Maurois and also with Hubert Védrine Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic. He was appointed vice-president in 1987. For a long time, energetic and devoted, he undertook many initiatives in favor of the Foundation.

### **BOUCHER-LABORDERIE- François (1923-2017)**

At the age of five, he attended the inauguration of the Monument perched on his father's shoulders. He was Mayor of Marnes-la-Coquette from 1985 to 2000. During his mandate, he repeatedly alerted the then President of the General Council, Mr. Charles Pasqua, to the Monument's problems. Mr. Pasqua took measures always favorable to the maintenance of the premises and for the renovation works, without forgetting a help for the ceremonies. Mr. Boucher was a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors since 1984, then, subsequently, Vice-President until his resignation in 2013.

Knight of the Legion of Honor, Officer of the National Order of Merit, Knight of the Academic Palms.



### ***DELACHENAL- General Pierre (1919-2011)***

Left Saint-Cyr in 1939, he belonged as a pilot to the "Cigognes" of the Escadrille La Fayette, he carried out 165 combat missions. Assigned to 2/4 La Fayette he participated in the landing of Provence in 1944. In 1953 he was first commander of the patrol of France. He was President of the "Viellies Tiges Association".

The General has been a member of the Council since 1991 and elected Vice-President in 1999.

### ***DOLAN- Colonel Charles H. (1895-1981)***

Originally from an Irish family in Boston (Massachusetts), he left this city to enlist on August 11, 1916 and passed through the schools of Buc, Avord and Pau. He joined the La Fayette Squadron on May 12, 1917. He fought in the famous N124 and passed with the rank of First Lieutenant to the "US 103rd Pursuit Squadron". From that moment, he no longer participated in the combat but became an instructor. He was historical advisor for Clayton and KS Knight's book "The Lafayette Escadrille" published in 1961.

He notably became President of "Easter Air Lines" and other American airlines. He attended meetings of former pilots in the United States. Subsequently, he was received at the Memorial on the occasion of the ceremony of Nov. 11, 1981 with a group of survivors of the 1st war; unfortunately, he caught a cold during this visit and contracted pneumonia which was fatal to him at the end of the year. He died in Honolulu on December 31 of the same year.

### ***DOOLEY- Colonel Robert C.***

Air Attaché at the Embassy of the United States from 2007 to 2010. He continued the link created between the US Air Force, the Embassy, the Foundation and the French Air Force. Graduated from the Sciences of the "Air Force Academy" in 1985, he made a brilliant career in this weapon. He took part in the air campaigns in Kosovo and Kuwait. He holds a dozen or so decorations, including several foreign ones. It required the attention of industrial and military circles on the interest of our Monument. He drew up numerous reports favorable to our cause with Congress, the Pentagon and the ABMC. He often showed the Monument to prestigious guests passing through Paris. Among these personalities, we will note the visit of Laura BUSH, the "First Lady", who visited the Monument in June 2008.

### ***EMMET- Edward (1931-)***

Former banker in New York and lover of Art and literature, living in Paris. His father was a volunteer paramedic with the American Field Service. Engaged as a volunteer in September 1952, he studied at Fort Lee in Virginia. He married Louisa Linda BERLIN on April 11, 1959, the daughter of the famous American pianist of Russian origin. The latter composed among other things the score of "God Bless America", the second patriotic hymn of the United States. During his lifetime he gave the rights to this hymn to the Library of Congress in Washington.

He was a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors and Treasurer from 1990, for ten years. One of his nephews, Stuart Emmet, is buried in the crypt of the Monument.

### ***GUAY- General George R. (1922-2000)***

Native American Indian by origin, for 34 years he was part of the US Air Force and served as head of military intelligence and special forces. He was notably the representative of Henry Kissinger, US Secretary of State to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. He was then Air Attaché in Berne and Paris in the 1970s. For ten years he worked for the Foundation, of which he became Vice-President. He was forced to return to the United States following facing a family tragedy.

### ***GILLET- (Jean-Pierre) (1940-2012)***

After graduating from the Air School in 1962, he made numerous low-altitude reconnaissance flights over the enemy zone, then located in Eastern Europe and under Soviet control. In his military career he was decorated with the Legion of Honor, the National Order of Merit and the Aeronautical Medal. He joined the Foundation's board of directors in 1996 as Vice-President, then appointed Co-President in 1999. He undertook the restoration project of the Monument at the start of the renovation project named "LEM-GRANT" in 2000, he abandoned the project in June 2005, after a major flooding of the crypt and resigned pretty much for health reasons.

### ***GISCLON- Jean (1913-2009)***

He passed his pilot's license in 1932. Engaged on September 2, 1939. In 1940, Jean Gisclon was sergeant-chief in the Escadrille des Cigognes. It should be remembered that French Hunting was then placed under the authority of the Vichy government. When the 'Torch' operation begins, that is to say the Allied landing on November 8, 1942 in North Africa, the Allied air force attacks the French ships in the port of Casablanca, Six French pilots of the "La Fayette" "were killed fighting the allies. Their names appear on a commemorative plaque affixed to the Monument. On November 15, 1942, the pilots saw the arrival in North Africa of the American Colonel Harold Willis, a former member of the 'Escadrille La Fayette' during the First World War. He encouraged the French loyalist Vichy pilots to join the cause of the allies and promised them to equip them with recent equipment, if they agreed to fly under the American flag. Thus was reconstituted the 'Lafayette Squadron' composed of French pilots, this time integrated into the American army. It was a bit of the world upside down, but for a good cause. He was taken prisoner by the Germans who did not want to hear that a French officer was incorporated into the American army and he was entitled to the very severe regime reserved for resistance fighters. Then freed by the Americans, he joined Luxeuil in 1945. this time integrated into the American army. It was a bit of the world upside down, but for a good cause. He was taken prisoner by the Germans who did not want to hear that a French officer was incorporated into the American army and he was entitled to the very severe regime reserved for resistance fighters. Then freed by the Americans, he joined Luxeuil in 1945.

The colonel, true biographer of the Escadrille La Fayette, wrote "Hunter to the group" La Fayette "from 1916 to 1945. Appointed administrator of the Foundation since 1989, he sat there regularly.

Commander of the Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre 1939-1945, Medal of Aeronautics, Air Medal.

### ***GRECKI- Colonel F. Edward- (1917-2001)***

This veteran colonel of the 2nd World War retired in Paris and was responsible for the Confederation of Inter-Allied Reserve Officers (CIOR) from 1962 to 1964. In 1973 he received the "Legion of Merit". As an accountant and tax expert, he volunteered to help the Foundation for many years. He took part in all the demonstrations with the "American Legion Paris Post 1". Died at 71 in December 2001, he was buried in Bourne at the "Massachusetts National Cemetery".

### ***GUILLLOT- Colonel Michael***

Studied at the University of Louisiana, diploma: -MNS-, began his military course at the "National War College", diploma -MBA- in Alabama, then became an operational pilot with "US AIR FORCE". Air Attaché at the Embassy of the United States from 2006 to 2008. In relation with General Moseley (see below) he recreated inside the Embassy and Franco-American organizations a revival of interest in the Monument. He actively participated in the meetings concerning the renovation of the Memorial.

### ***HALLADE- Jean (1922-2013)***

Writer and resistant whose kindness was proverbial. He wrote 17 books on the two world wars including "Aviateurs dans la Tourmente". Vice-President of the André Maginot Federation, at this moment he supported us.

### ***MEYER- Léon Jacques (1922-2018)***

Passing through Spain in 1943, he joined the Kieffer Commandos who trained in Scotland, participated in various raids in enemy territory and then in the liberation of the territory. He was for a long time the President of the Veterans of Saint-Cloud.

He was able to attract the attention of Mrs. Odile FOURCADE, then Vice-President of the Hauts-de-Seine General Council, the latter brought us positive results. Friend of President Porter, his dedication remained with the Monument before and during his time on the Regional Council of 92.

### ***MOSELEY- General T. Michael (1949-)***

Born in Grand Prairie, Texas, he graduated in 1971 from Texas A&M University in Arts and Political Science. Entered the 'Air Force' he commanded the F-15 division of the "Air Force Fighter Weapons School" in Nellis, Nevada then the 33 "Operations Group" in Eglin, Florida. We find him in 2001 at the Pentagon with the title of "Chief of Staff" of the US Air Force, with the the rank of Supreme Commander. The end of his brilliant military career coincided with his retirement in July 2008.

The General had boundless admiration for these pilots of the Escadrille La Fayette and declared that the cradle of the "US Air Force" was located in this monument - for which he worked in close liaison with the "Attachés de l' Air" from the Embassy of the United States - successively Colonel Mike GUILLOT and Colonel Robert DOOLEY.

As Deputy Secretary General for the works, I had the pleasure of showing the Monument to General Moseley in 2006, he returned there for "Memorial Day" 2008. He was always interested in the restoration work of the Memorial; he tried several times to find a lasting solution for the Monument. He currently continues to work for the same purpose with ABMC as a member of its Board of Directors in Washington.



**Mr. Reeves receives Laura Bush the "First Lady"**



## ***-List of Presidents of the Foundation***

From the beginning to the present day, eight Presidents have followed one another:

(1931-1948) -**Mr. William Nelson CROMWELL**

(1937) -The General **John J. PERSHING** was appointed Honorary President

(1948) -**Colonel Georges THENAULT:**

(1949-1956) -**Mr. Charles GRAY**

(1957-1969) -**Mr. Julian ALLEN**

Son of Frederick HS Allen, the latter was one of the precursors of the Escadrille with Dr. Gros and Jarousse de Sillac, these three characters intervened with the French authorities to create the squadron.

(1970-1976) -**Mr. Warren Delano ROBBINS:** Nephew of President Roosevelt by his mother and former Colonel of the American army, landed in France at the Liberation. He was also Vice-President of the “Morgan Guaranty Trust” 14, Place Vendôme in Paris.

(1976-2009) -**Mr. Russell M. PORTER**

(2010-2013) -**Mr. Van Kirck REEVES**

(2013-) - **Mr. Alex BLUMROSEN**

### **BLUMROSEN (Me. Alex):**

Born in Montclair, New Jersey, United States, August 7, 1960. Member of the New York Bar (1st dept.) since 1987 and of the Paris Bar since 1991. Member of the Bars of the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York ", from the US Court of International Trade. After having been a member since 2008 and then Treasurer in 2010, he was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors in July 2013.

### **REEVES (Me. Van Kirck):**

Van is an international lawyer, based in Paris and New York. He specializes in the laws governing the field of art and the protection of family assets, including the role of estate advisor. He is also interested in investments made by private companies. It ensures the protection of assets in the field of taxation. He is a lecturer at the Jean Moulin law school in Lyon on Art law. He is also an assistant professor at the ‘École Supérieur de Commerce de Paris’, the oldest business school where he teaches programs on trusts and laws relating to Art.

Appointed President of the La Fayette Escadrille Memorial Foundation in 2006, he began negotiations with the United States Embassy, the ABMC and the French authorities. Following the double financial defection of the Hauts-de-Seine General Council and the Mona Bismarck Foundation, he chaired the Foundation under difficult financial conditions. He handed over to the current President in July 2013. Nevertheless, he remains a member of the board as Treasurer.

## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Getting Started with the Project**

#### **Chapter 14- HDS- Parc de Saint-Cloud & Marnes-la-Coquette**

*-Department of Hauts-de-Seine*

*-Parc de Saint-Cloud*

*-Marnes-la-Coquette*

*-Visit of the Memorial*

Let us give ourselves time to glimpse the history of the Hauts-de-Seine Department, the National Domain of Saint Cloud and the city of Marnes-la-Coquette. In this last place stands the Memorial of the Escadrille La Fayette. Often, by following the history of a place, we find in a smaller way that of the whole country. The present case is no exception to the rule. You will have to take a stroll through this charming town, of course after having visited the Memorial.

#### ***-Department of Hauts-de-Seine***



The Hauts-de-Seine department is located in the inner suburbs of Paris and is part of the beautiful region of Ile de France. It is surrounded by two departments bordering the city of Paris: Hauts-de-Seine (92) & Seine-Saint-Denis (93).

The so-called 92 department - named after its postal code - is the smallest of the three departments bordering Paris. On the other hand, its population is the largest of the three. It was created in 1968 by bringing together a portion of the department of Seine and the old Seine and Oise. Currently, the General Council is located in Nanterre. The Foundation has benefited for a long time from significant help from this General Council, mainly under the time of Mr. Charles PASQUA, former minister and now deceased senator,

Then from the benevolence of Mr. Nicolas SARKOZY, just before his election to the Presidency in 2007. Since 2013, the Foundation has sent its legal and mandatory reports to the Prefecture of Nanterre on which it depends administratively. The General Council of 92 regularly recommends a visit to the Monument in its brochures, walking and discovery sites, which attracts new visitors.

### ***-Park of Saint-Cloud***

How good it is, in all seasons, stroll in this park. Unfortunately, coming from Paris, the view on the hill of Saint-Cloud has been distorted by modern and ugly architectural achievements.



**Gardens and terrace of the Château**





Our geographical location is located in an off-center plot of the Domaine National de Saint-Cloud. This national property extends over three municipalities:

- Saint Cloud** (for the most part)
- Marnes-la-Coquette** (for the one mainly concerning us)
- Sèvres**

This space of greenery and beautiful paths covers 460 hectares; the whole is classified; you can admire a French garden built by Le Nôtre, an English garden. A visit to the Conservation Museum is also essential.

The history of the castle dates back to Marie de Médicis in 1577. At the end of the sixteenth century, it was Monsieur, brother of Louis XIV, who settled there and enlarged the castle. Then, in the following century, magnificent festivals were given in honor of Louis XV. In 1784, the castle was acquired by Louis XVI for Marie-Antoinette. In this castle took place 'the coup d'état of 18 Brumaire'. Napoleon made it his summer residence.

Napoleon III and Eugenie settled there. This castle burned down during the Prussian occupation in 1870, following a firing of the French army from Mont-Valérien. The furniture was looted partly by the Prussians and the other part by marauders. Today, only about twenty-five percent of the original buildings remain. Our Memorial is included in the Parc de Saint-Cloud at the place called the "Etangs de Villeneuve". The Conservator of the Saint-Cloud estate is responsible for the flora and fauna of the park and its surroundings.

**Terraces not far from the castle**





## ***-Marnes-la-Coquette***



The railway line extending from Paris Saint Lazare to Saint Nom la Bretèche takes us pleasantly to the Monument. The station serving the town is called Garches-Marnes-la-Coquette, it connects us to the Memorial - allow 15 minutes on foot from this station.

The city owes its reputation to its natural environment, its calm and its quality of life. Here is a brief history of the city:

- 1200 Marnes-les-Saint Cloud was founded by the bishop of Paris named Eudes de Sully
- 1695 Property of Louis-François-Marie Le Tellier de Barbezieux, Marquis de Barbezieux, son of Louvois, Minister of War to Louis XIV, built the 'Château de l'Étang' in Villeneuve there
- 1701 On the death of the marquis, the goods are sold to Michel de Chaminart, controller general Finance then Secretary of State for War but disgraced by Louis XV in 1709
- 1702 The lands of Villeneuve l'Étang are attached to Marnes
- (1736-1794) Henri LINGUET -Philosophe- He was guillotined at the end of the revolution
- 1737 The lands of Villeneuve became the property of the farmer general Jean-Baptiste Hermant
- 1792 Simon Linguet is elected Mayor of Marnes-la-Coquette, he was guillotined on June 27, 1794.
- The history of this village is a short cut of the History of France -1821 Madame Royale, Duchess of Angoulême and daughter of Louis XVI buys the Domaine de la Marche for restoration; in her exile, the Duchess took the title of Countess of Marnes -1822-1895 Louis PASTEUR died there on September 28, 1895 (her death chamber still exists as it is). We do not present the famous scientist who indulged in Marnes to his experiments on dogs to prevent infectious diseases
- 1826-1894 Marietta ALBONI -Cantress at La Scala in Milan- toured the United States during the years 1852-1853
- 1841-1931 Gustave LEBON - Anthropologist - Authors of numerous scientific works
- 1848-1933 Henri DUPARC - Composer - Former Mayor in 1884 -1830 Property of the viscount of Casés
- 1852 Prince Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte, then President of the Republic, buys the domain of Villeneuve l'Étang; he housed there the equestrian squadron of the hundred guards
- 1859 Construction of the Church of Sainte Eugénie financed by the Emperor in honor of the Empress who appreciated the place. By decree, he authorized the town to take the name of Marnes-la-Coquette
- 1878 The domain of Villeneuve becomes a public good assigned to the Ministry of Public Instruction and Fine Arts
- 1880 The Prussians occupy the area and install an artillery battery
- 1884 Concession granted by the State of the old domain and the large building of Villeneuve l'Étang to the "Institut Pasteur" in Paris. Louis Pasteur comes to rest there in the summer and we set up a kennel for research

-1914-1918 The commune of Marnes-La-Coquette had 16 deaths during the Great War -1928 Inauguration of the Memorial of the Escadrille La Fayette

-1929 Perpetual and free transfer of the land to the association of the Memorial de l'Escadrille Lafayette of a 4 hectare and 50-acre land located in the Parc de Villeneuve l'Étang at a place called "La Prairie de la Grille du Combat"

-1931 The line from Saint-Cloud to Saint-Nom-la-Bretèche is in turn energized, it runs alongside the Monument

-1937 Construction of the A13 motorway bordering the Monument parallel to the railway line, this construction was destabilizing for the environment and since that date has brought noise and pollution to our Monument

Refer to the Town Hall website: <http://www.marnes-la-coquette.fr/> to find more details about past and present celebrities who frequented the place; we note according to this site:

**Bust of Pastor on the Place du Village**



### **‘La Louque’ former home of Maurice Chevalier**



**-1888-1952 Maurice CHEVALIER** -The famous singer- He bought Richard Wallace's Park in Marnes; the latter financed the famous drinking fountains of the city of Paris. Maurice completely restored this magnificent property extending over more than 7000m<sup>2</sup> and having an area of nearly 600m<sup>2</sup>. He named her "La Louque", a nickname given to his grandmother. He received many personalities such as the singer Edith Piaf, the writer Marcel Pagnol, the politician Pierre Mendès-France, the American actor Richard Burton etc.

**-1890-1969 Dwight D. EISENHOWER**-34th President of the United States. We do not present this illustrious personality, but we will say that he lived there happily at the Villa St. Pierre in the private park of Marnes-la-Coquette. Mamie Eisenhower liked very much to walk in the gardens of her villa which she discovered in 1951. They remained there until 1952. On this date, the General asked to be relieved of his functions, of Commander of the allied forces in Europe, this to present his candidacy for the American presidential election. This illustrious character could not have missed visiting the Memorial located not far from his home but, unfortunately, we never found any trace of this visit. The couple were both made Honorary Citizens of Marnes-la-Coquette before their departure. On this occasion they invited the people of Marne to a farewell reception

**-1909-1988 Thiery MAULNIER** -academician- Journalist writer for "Le Figaro"; he wrote, quoting Marnes-la-Coquette: "Let us be left as it is this delicate heritage of a very distant past and very close, that it is safe from bad intentions and good, nuclear wars, architects, town planners, and Ponts et Chaussées. "



**1913-1998 Jean MARAIS** -artist in every sense of the word- He lived there with Jean Cocteau and resided there from 1954 to 1971. The Immortal actor of Beauty and the Beast made the bust of Thierry Maulnier cited above.

During the Second World War the town was occupied by the Germans; it undergoes a severe occupation; the Germans fixed a DCA there. The Wehrmacht settled there in a conquered country and there were requisition requirements of all kinds. The authorities in place did their best to limit the damage when possible. The occupants (they were called “the Boches” as in 1914) left the city by setting fire to the building where they stored equipment. Yves CARRIOU resistant, like his brother, set fire to the compulsory labor file in Versailles. Arrested, he was sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp where he died. Since then, its name has been given to the street extending behind the Monument. Two German officers visited the Monument at the start of the occupation but subsequently the Germans did not touch the Monument. The Monument aux Morts of the Commune includes 7 Marnois Morts for France during the 1939-1945 war.

Nowadays, they own or have owned a home: the controversial estate of Johny Halliday (died in the town on December 06, 2017), Jacques Séguéla, Hugues Auffray & Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Tani (Emir of Qatar).

By tradition, the Mayor of Marnes-la-Coquette is a member of the board of directors of our Foundation.

**Photo of the Church Saine Eugénie and the Town Hall**



## **-Visit of the Memorial**

For your visit to the Memorial, you can choose to take the train at Gare Saint-Lazare (direction Saint-Nom-la-Bretèche / Fôret de Marly) and get off at the RER station of **Garches- Marnes-la-Coquette**. On leaving the station, turn left and allow 15 minutes to walk up Bd. Raymond Poincaré.

By car, you cross the St. Cloud bridge and continue straight towards Garches through St. Cloud. You will find your way around the pedestrian route mentioned above as soon as you see the Garches station on your left.

Faster from the ring road, take the A13 motorway and exit at the first exit N ° 5 and immediately turn right at the Vaucresson exit and follow the signs indicating the Memorial; if you don't see it, turn right at the traffic lights at the bottom of the descent and continue straight until you reach the entrance to the Memorial on your right.

Then you pass the entrance through the wide and high wrought iron gate at 5, Bd. Raymond Poincaré - President of the Republic throughout the great war. You continue straight on foot or even by car to the bridge over l'Étang which inspired great artists such as Corot. Currently the fishermen devote themselves to their favorite sport.

If necessary, park your car before the bridge in the parking lot reserved for visitors. You cross the bridge on foot and immediately on your right will appear our domain, it will reserve all its charms for you as long as the sun is a little bit of the game.

The crypt is open to the public on Memorial Day ceremonies - the last weekend in May - or the day of the armistice of November 11. Some special authorizations,

Are granted by special exemption, outside these dates. These exemptions primarily concern the families of pilots and certain groups by making a prior request.

Subject to bad weather, the Park and the garden around the Monument are open:

March, April, September, October: from 7:30a.m. to 9p.m.

May to August inclusive: from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

November to February inclusive: from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

These hours extend to the entire Domaine National de Saint-Cloud. This allows you to already get acquainted with the place outside the days of ceremonies.

For Geolocation enthusiasts, here are the GPS coordinates of the Memorial of the Escadrille La Fayette recorded in the center of the domain.

Latitude: 48.83663358769522

Longitude: 2.1725893020629883

### Access Map









## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt** **Getting Started with the Project**

### **Chapter 15- MARCEL Alexandre (1860-1928)**

*-Notes*

*-The Architect's Journey -His Tragic End*



*-Notes*

In 1922, Mr. Lewis Crenshaw, Secretary of the “Escadrille Lafayette Memorial Association” (ELMA), communicated to the members of the association the information mentioned below and relating to this architect. This man of the noble Art then lived at 12, Quai Malaquais in Paris. These notes describe Alexandre Marcel as a man perfectly fulfilling his function of Government Graduate Architect. It had been selected by this association - prefiguring the future Foundation - for the construction of the Monument to the Escadrille La Fayette. The basis of the information commented on in this chapter comes from the interested party himself. He communicated them to his future clients in the form of two typed pages. By following this list and the comments added for this work, we can retrace his journey since his birth.

In the provinces, his trace can be found in Brittany, in Vendée, without counting the work noted in Auch, Montauban and Saint-Claude. In the meantime, he participated in numerous works outside France and in competitions such as that of the Cairo courthouse. Obviously, in hindsight, this display of references seems a little too eloquent; the person concerned only participated partially in several of them or even with the simple title of adviser for several projects.

## ***-The course of the architect***

Born in Paris on September 11, 1860, he was very early introduced to architecture by his father -1877

Entered the École des Beaux-arts

-1883 Construction of the main stand at the Ostend racecourse at the request of Leopold II, King of the Belgians

-1886 Restoration of the Hôtel de Bourgthelroulde in Rouen, a Renaissance-style hotel in the center of Rouen, listed as a Historic Monument and whose allure does not go unnoticed -1889 Restoration of the Château de Tonquedec (Côte d'Armor)

-1893 Participation in the Chicago World's Fair as Director of Fine Arts (USA)

-1894 Construction of the Senate Palace and Bucharest Central Station (Romania)

-1897 Design of the village hall on rue de Babylone, the current La Pagode cinema, listed as a historic monument since 1990 and built for the director of Bon Marché. This building was part of the Chinese Embassy in Paris for a while. Also awarded the Medal of Honor at the Salon des Artistes Français.

-1899 Magnificent restoration of the facade and then of the interiors of the former Château de Colbert in Maulévrier (Maine-et-Loire). He created the oriental and exotic park. In that same year, he married Madeleine BERGERE, daughter of the lords. Construction of a private mansion in Cholet -1900 His genius was expressed during the Paris Universal Exhibition with the magnificent Cambodia pavilion established on the site of the current Trocadéro in Paris. We notice an underground room about 10 meters high, made for dance demonstrations -1900 The Royal Pavilion of Spain in collaboration with a Spanish colleague; this building reproduced the towers of the Alcazar of Toledo. The "Tour du Monde", panorama of the Champ de Mars, located at the corner of the Quai d'Orsay and the Avenue de La Bourdonnais. The building occupied an area of 2,500 m<sup>2</sup>. He was showing the audience three different tricks. The first in Moorish style, the second in Hindu type represented sculptures of Brahmanic deities. Finally, the third, the most imposing, evoked Japanese constructions and its height reached 45 meters.

-1901 developments of the royal domain of Laeken in Brussels (Belgium). "Le Tour du Monde", the Japanese tower measuring more than 40 meters and having belonged to the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes. It was bought by Leopold II and rebuilt by Alexandre Marcel.

The wooden entrance pavilion also came from the Universal Exhibition in Paris. This marvel was originally made by a Japanese carpenter and assembled without nails according to tradition. Nowadays, the Japanese tower presents artistic collections.

-1903 Works in the cathedral of Sainte Marie d'Auch cathedral (Gers)

-1904 Participation in the Universal Exhibition of Saint-Louis (USA) as Director of Fine Arts

-1907: "Hindu" villa of Baron Empain in the French quarter of Heliopolis (Egypt), already built using reinforced concrete and reflecting a delirious exoticism

-1910 Construction of the Basilica of Heliopolis where Baron Empain was buried and renovation of the Hippodrome in Ostend

-1911 Construction of the palace of the Maharajah of Kapurthala, a French-style palace in the Punjab state at the foot of the Himalayan Mountains (India). Mr. Marcel certainly met him first in Paris, during the sumptuous visits of the Maharajah in 1893 and 1897. This palace participated in the influence of French influence

-1913 He visits Japan for the construction project of the French Embassy in Tokyo, near Shiba Park, in the style of the Trianon of Versailles -Project stopped by the war-

After the war, he participated as Chief Architect of Historical Monuments, in the creation of many war memorials. This supervision explains the absence of his name on several monuments. In 1920 he participated

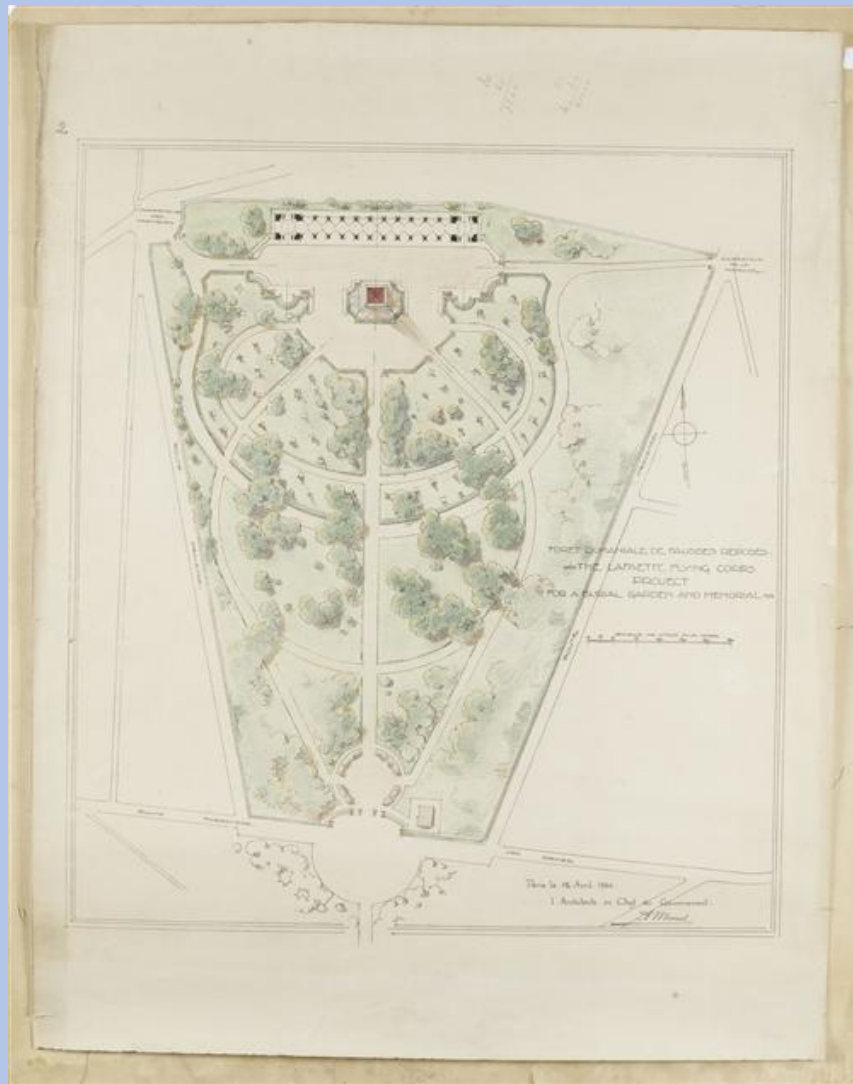


in the "Monument of the Foreign Legion H. Farnsworth" in Souain in the Marne also known as "American Monument". His name is officially listed there

- 1920 Monument to the fallen of the cathedral of St Malo, possibly destroyed during the bombings of the second world war, if this monument appears in his biography dating from 1925, it no longer appears in the inventory of the cathedral
- 1920 Cantigny War Memorial in the Somme, due to the generosity of the National Geographic Society of Washington and commemorating the first engagement of American troops on French soil
- 1923 War memorial from the École des Beaux-arts in Paris and decoration as a knight of the Legion of Honor
- 1924 Publication of the Work Paris Orientalism and Contemporary Architecture, decorative and architectural compositions, executed and projected (Publisher A. Morancé)
- 1924 to 1925 Various monuments, fountains and commemorative plaques in the Somme & Pas de Calais, works financed by the Secours Franco-Américain (American Aid in France)
- 1925 At the request of the PRINCE family, construction of a concrete fountain armed, erected in memory of Robert Bacon, United States Ambassador to France (1909-1912). As early as 1914, Robert Bacon served as head of the American military mission at British headquarters.
- 1925 Construction of the La Fayette Escadrille Memorial
- 1926 Entry to the Institute of Fine Arts; we can no longer count his medals and grand prizes



**Maulévrier - Jardin Japonais**  
<https://www.parc-oriental.com>



**Draft plan of the La Fayette Escadrille / Musée Franco-Américain de Blérancourt**

<https://museefrancoamericain.fr>

As the list above shows, the commemorative monuments built by Alexandre Marcel after the war; they have often been financed by American patrons or American associations based in France. This relationship naturally led Mr. William Nelson CROMWELL and the committee of the "Escadrille Lafayette Memorial Association" to appoint this architect for the execution of the project management responsible for the construction project of the Memorial of the Escadrille La Fayette.

We find on his part a personal donation, although modest for the construction of the Monument. We will see later the problems encountered at the very beginning of the construction and during its construction. Difficulties of all kinds whose responsibility lies both in a lack of funds, companies botching the work relating to the crypt and an architect having from the start of the site, made errors of assessment, in particular on the problems of waterproofing of the Memorial.



## ***-His Tragic End***

It is possible that his sad end of life, he committed suicide on June 30, 1928, was associated with many professional troubles of which the Monument did not have the exclusivity. We remain in this area in that of reasonable but unprovable assumptions.

He was buried in the Montparnasse cemetery on Wednesday July 4, 1928, the day the Monument was inaugurated. This is an unfortunate coincidence that cannot be made up.

In 1933 the Foundation undertook a series of legal proceedings against both companies at fault for water infiltration and other construction defects; the architect's heirs were also prosecuted for the same reasons. However, with regard to Mme Veuve Marcel, in 1936 a special agreement was made in which the Foundation recognized that her husband had dealt with the Association under special conditions. Taking these conditions into account, the Foundation moderated the amount requested for compensation.



**(Presumed on left) Edward Hill from Sullivan & on the right Alexandre Marcel**



Condolences and thanks

13 Juillet 1928

Madame Alexandre Marcel  
Château de Maulévrier  
Maine & Loire

Chère Madame Marcel :

Je vous remercie de votre lettre du  
10 Juillet, que je viens de recevoir.

Les fleurets que nous avons envoyées  
ne sont qu'un modeste témoignage de l'affection et de l'admiration que nous avons pour votre mari. Nous avons vivement regretté de ne pouvoir assister à ses funérailles, mais à cause d'une foule de choses à faire au dernier moment, j'ai dû me tenir près du Monument à partir de 6 heures du matin.

Son absence à cette cérémonie m'a attristé profondément, car je sais peut-être plus que personne, excepté vous-même, que tout son cœur et toute son âme étaient mis dans notre Monument. Au cours de ces dernières années, les difficultés étaient parfois telles que j'ai eu l'envie de démissionner, mais la pensée de sa patience m'ayant empêché d'abandonner ce travail.

Je ferai de mon mieux pour que son œuvre soit convenablement terminée, et je crois que nous n'aurons pas trop de difficultés pour en arriver là.

Ma femme se joint à moi pour vous assurer de notre vive sympathie et vous prier de croire à nos sentiments les meilleurs.

ldc:rt

Lewis D. Crenshaw  
Administrateur Délégué

## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Getting Started with the Project**

#### **Chapter 16- The Launch**

- The choice of land*
- The Blue Ribbon and Membership Figures*
- The First Estimates*
- A Outline of a Crazy Project*
- The choice of land*

The first demonstration bringing together leaders of the Squadron took place even before the end of the conflict on the 1,561st day of war. Mr. Vanderbilt financed equipment and bonuses for the Squadron pilots throughout the conflict. To this he even added the hiring of a cook to perfect their cuisine at the restaurant "La Pomme d'Or" in Luxeuil. He would most certainly have associated himself with the construction company of the Monument, but unfortunately, he died suddenly in 1920.

Later, Paul ROCKWELL tried, during many voyages, to create a link between the former pilots of the "Lafayette Flying Corps." The latter met in 1922 in New York on the occasion of a dinner called "Aviator Armistice Dinner. Where, without a doubt, they paid homage to their old companion Hugh Campbell, who died during a test flight over the Atlantic near New Jersey.

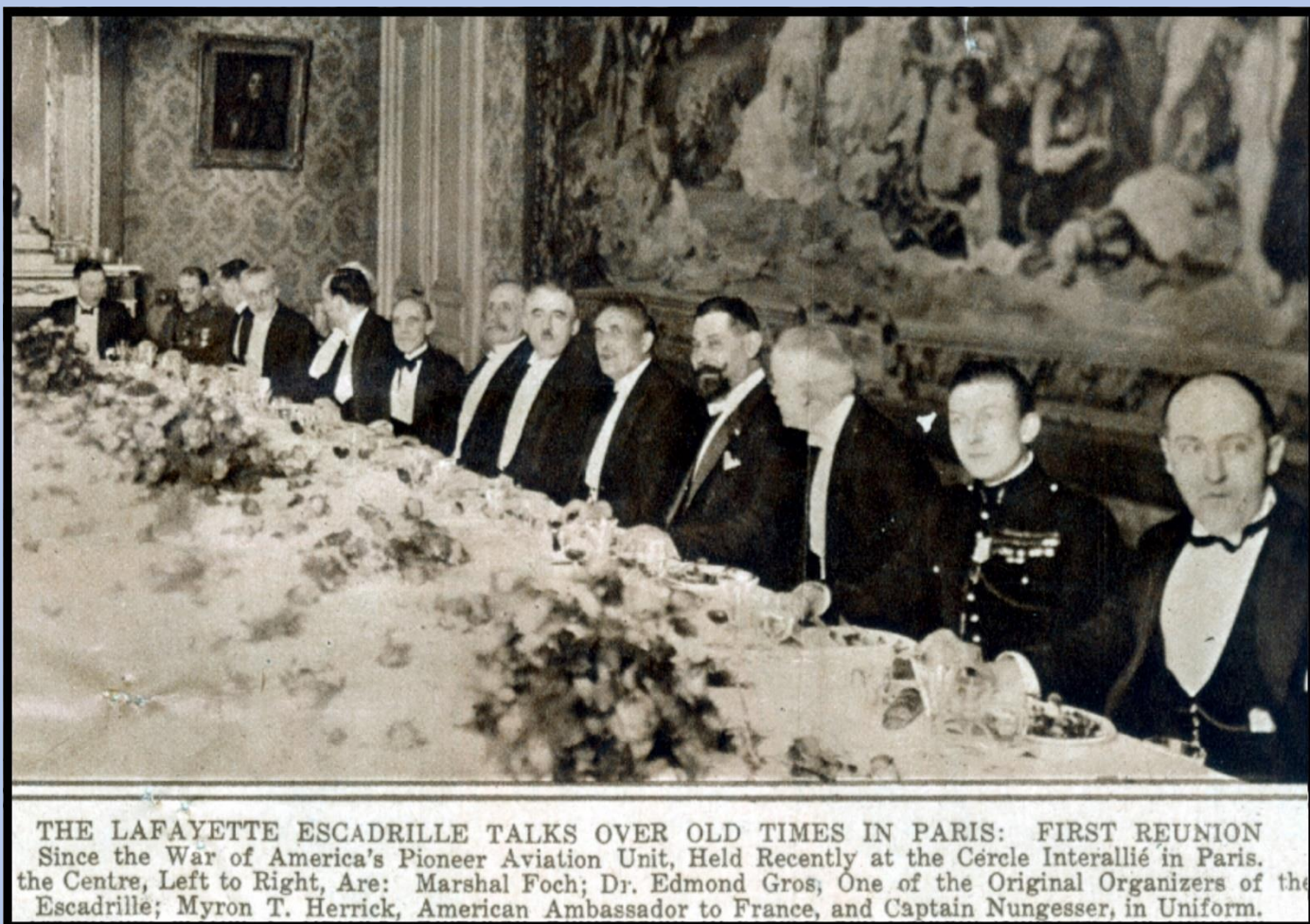
On January 3, 1922, the first correspondence of Alexandre Marcel speaks of the construction of a cemetery in Verdun or in a place located along the road connecting Paris to Longwy; this site was to be called "Monument Garden". At the beginning of 1922, the architect and the members of "The Escadrille Lafayette Memorial Association" traveled several times to Verdun where a garden converted into a Memorial cemetery was considered throughout this year. The project provided for the construction of 69 tombs distributed in a landscaped area, the center of which would be made up of an obelisk-shaped monument. Different projects were seen elsewhere such as a Monument in Luxeuil near the tomb of Kiffin Rockwell or that of Norman Price. The Verdun land was to be bought by Mr. Nelson Cromwell; he informed the

In this same year 1922, a public subscription in francs was born from June 1 for the construction of a Monument dedicated to the memory of the American aviators. Fourteen donations were received during this first year.

These collections brought in between 1922 and 1929 the sum of \$ 54,375. You would have to at least multiply that number by a hundred to estimate its value today.

-On January 1, 1923, the executive committee of the "Escadrille LaFayette Memorial Association" asked Alexandre Marcel to attend a meeting to be held the following week in the offices of Dr. Paul Van Dyke, director of the "American University. Union" at 1, rue de Fleurus (6th arrondissement) to discuss the location of the planned cemetery. The architect is also invited to the big meeting of January 11, 1923 at the "Union Interalliée" in Paris which certainly decided the French government, urged by Marshal Foch to donate the land of Marnes-la-Coquette to build this work of remarkable architecture.





-On March 05th, 1923, the Association du Mémorial de l'Escadrille La Fayette raised American and French private funds to finance the construction of a monument paying tribute to all American volunteer pilots.

-In June 1923, a statement was made to the Senate for the donation of the land (see chapter N°18 on the donation of the land).

-In December 1925, the memory of this glorious period was still alive, like the letter from Marshal Foch, wishing that the duty of remembrance towards these pilots would remain forever through the construction of a Memorial. As of this year, we learn that the government. French will allocate the land of Villeneuve l'Étang for a first lease of 18 years for the construction of the Monument.

## ***-The Blue Ribbon and Membership Figures***

-In 1927, the Ministry of War communicated to Mr. Lewis Crenshaw, by letter of June 27, a list of the pilots who had been awarded, in 1918, the commemorative ribbon (of a blue strewn with stars, with head of Sioux in silver).

This list although marred by many errors had at least the merit of existing:

American directing officers: 6 names

French officers commanding the Lafayette Escadrille: 5 names

- The volunteer pilots of the “Lafayette Flying Corps”:
- Pilots maintained in French squadrons (30)
- Pilots transferred to the American air force (68)
- Pilots transferred to American naval aviation (21)
- Pilots killed at the front or died of wounds (48)
- Pilots killed in Schools, Died of illness or accidents (10)
- The pilots’ prisoners in Germany, missing, escaped (13)

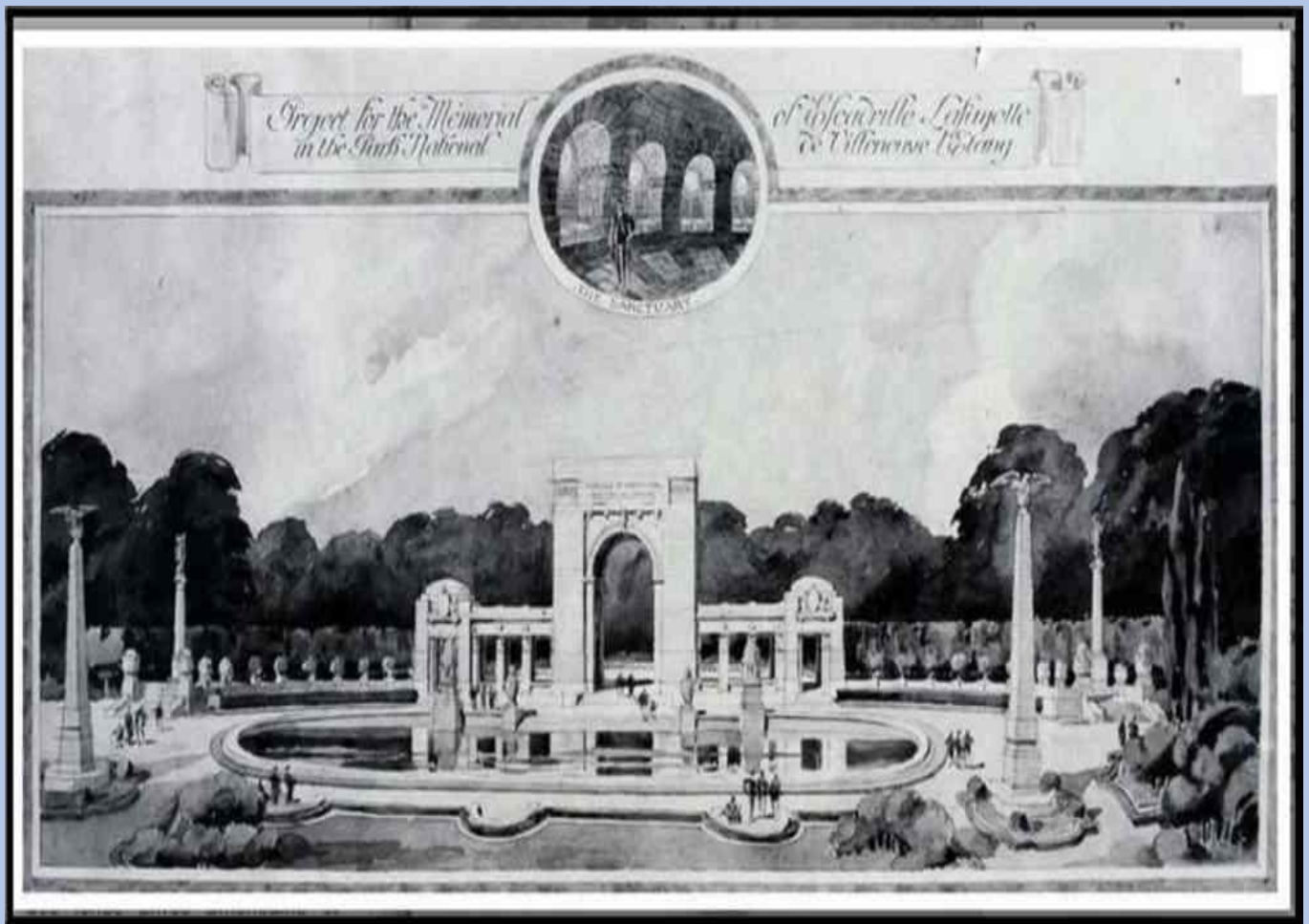
Former pilot Edgar G. Hamilton was appointed head of the US Investing Committee for the search for the bodies (\* 02). Mr. Crenshaw completed the task Hamilton had begun by making contact with American military cemeteries in Europe). In Europe 26 cemeteries were thus concerned with a view to transfer to the future Monument. In the United States at least four bodies had already been returned to families. To this end, several lists of pilots and members of their families circulated both in France and in the United States, in order to facilitate, on the one hand, contacts between former pilots and, on the other hand, to request authorizations. to the families of the deceased pilots to transfer the coffins. There are half a dozen more and more complete and precise lists as time goes by,

## ***-The First Estimates***

In 1925, Alexandre Marcel completed his architectural studies and almost finished the model. He was told that the budget will amount to CHF 1,600,000-. On July 14 of the same year, he wrote to Frederick Prince to inform him that he would withdraw from the project unless he obtained a larger expenditure figure. He declares that to come within the framework of this budget would force him to do exhibition-like construction; this work would therefore only have a lifespan of a few years.

### ***-A Outline of a Crazy Project***

It is true that previously Alexandre Marcel had sketched, at the start of the project, the model of a monument surrounded by obelisks and showing signs of great excess. He originally imagined a Monument in the "Ancient Egypt" style, which certainly reminded him of one of his previous trips to the banks of the Nile. Likewise, the project of a giant cross of 10 meters, at the back of the crypt and in the axis of the Monument, did not see the light of day and was abandoned in 1927.



Franco-American Museum of Blérancourt  
National Library of France



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Getting Started with the Project**

#### **Chapter 17- The Model Unveiled**

- The Arrival of Guests
- The Plaque unveiled
- The Speeches
- The Press -The Photo Album

N. MYRON T. HERRICK DELIVERING HIS SPEECH - IN THE BACK, MARÉCHAL FOCH (X)

Yesterday afternoon, in the presence of Marshal Foch and Mr. Myron T. Herrick, Ambassador of the United States, we inaugurated the model of the monument which will be erected in memory of the American volunteers of the Fayette squadron. This monument, the work of architect Marcel, will be built on a site given by the French government, near the Saint-Cloud Park. /

**Photo published in the newspaper "Excelsior" -as noted at the original paper-**



**National Library-France-Gallica**



## *-Arrival of Guests*

We are in Paris in front of the entrance to 3 Place Vendôme, the latter built by Mansart in 1699, located near the Tuileries, precisely at the place called Hôtel de Coëtlogon. On Friday February 26, 1926, on a cold day, an appointment was made at 3.15 p.m. The invitations sent to 235 people were signed by Doctor Gros. The whole place hums with the noise of the arrival of guests and their vehicles. On the occasion of this evening, the premises of the Bankers Trust have been decorated with the tricolor. In the vast hall, the model is located between the tricolor flag and the star-spangled banner, all accompanied by the flag of the Escadrille La Fayette. These patriotic decorations hide the counters usually reserved for bank customers. The model of the future monument measures approximately 2 meters and a photo of its future monument location has been affixed behind it. The officials are seated on either side of the model. The flags of the two countries currently hide the model from public view.

The thirteen surviving aviators are clustered by the silvery, sparkling stars of their flag. They are under the gaze of their families, the public and the press:

James J BACH / John A. DREXEL / Charles G. GRAY / Jean HUFFER / William LOOMIS / Charles W. KERWOOD / Grandville A. POLLOCK / Clifford de ROODE / Leland L. ROUNDS / Austin G. PARKER / Lt Edgar G. HAMILTON / Pierre BOAL / Clarence M. GLOVER

They meet again after many years. An observer would notice a "je ne sais quoi" from the survivor complex. Indeed, deep down inside, it is easy to imagine that they are wondering why they are still in this world when their fellow combatants are dead. This feeling will particularly reside in the fighters of the First World War but will often extend to all the survivors of all wars. The audience itself feels this strange, palpable feeling, especially on this occasion. This presentation is similar, for the pilots, to a sort of vigil of arms between the dead and the survivors.

Fourteen members of the pilot families accompany them, including two from the PRINCE family and Mrs. Georgia OVINGTON.

The guest list is sparkling; we note that the President of the Republic, Gaston DOUMERGUE, is represented by Commander Fruguier. The President of the Council, Aristide BRIAND, is on the guest list as well as Marshal FOCH. We also note General Eugène Debeney -winner of the Second Battle of the Somme-, General Ragueneau invited as former head of the French Military Mission to the American Army, Colonel Féquant who was the first commander of the 'Escadrille La Fayette. Anecdote: In February 1917, this commander giving the Legion of Honor to Raoul Lufbery, became famous; in fact, the Whiskey lion cub -mascotte of the Escadrille- ate his brand-new cap. However, the Commander did not depart from his legendary good humor.

Other Guests: Captain Fonck -75 confirmed victories- standard bearer of the French air force during the victory parade on 14 July 1919. Belgian lieutenant Willy Coppens, holder of 37 victories. Lieutenant Sadi Lecointe who was the pilot instructor on the Avord base. General Gouraud also attends the ceremony; he is dressed in his famous khaki coat which was his prerogative as former leader of the Dardanelles expeditionary force in 1915. The General was wounded and amputated the same year. Later in 1923 he will represent France at the funeral of US President William G. Harding. We will add Mr. André Maginot, Minister of War.

### ***-We unveil the plaque***

Richard LOOMIS, then four years old and son of William LOOMIS, former pilot-instructor, unveils the model by pulling the flags with a timid gesture; the public is amused by it. Immediately the music of the 5th Infantry Regiment interprets the national anthems, generating great emotion, even a tear perceived in the corner of the eye not only of the pilots but also of those who knew closely these aviators, many of whom had fallen in the field. 'HONOR'.

#### **Hall of the Bankers Trust-Place Vendôme-Paris**



National Library of France-Gallica

### ***-The speeches***

Dr. Edmund GROS, Colonel in the US Army and Chairman of the La Fayette Squadron Memorial Association Board, speaks first, as Master of Ceremonies. He first thanked the personalities present. He recalls that about 200 American aviators were volunteers and that 64 were killed during this conflict. He adds that about twenty were wounded and sixteen taken prisoner. Raising his tone, he clarified: "We did not want our dead to remain scattered on the battlefields where they fell, but that they are all gathered in one place". He ended by wishing to see their memory remain present for future generations and constitute an example of high morality and pure patriotism. It gives some indications on the so-called "Memorial of the Lafayette Escadrille" committee responsible for the erection of the Monument and on the fundraising started three years ago, already successful in francs - close to F.255,000 - but a more modest moment. in dollars -only \$ 3,000 at the moment-. He concludes by declaring that the construction of this Monument is a sacred duty.

Doctor GROS now calls on Marshal Foch as the man responsible for peace and the joy of victory. The Marshal, in civilian clothes this evening, responds with his metallic and vibrant tone of voice that has become famous thanks to the wireless. He evokes the fervent admiration that all of France will always keep for the pilots of the squadron. He says that this glorious La Fayette squadron, which took off under the patronage of the famous Marquis, was only the vanguard of America. This noble nation stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific flocked from the other side of the seas; his soldiers came to fight with us at the cost of immense efforts and they raised the flame of enthusiasm. We will never forget that the great American army contributed to the victory. Likewise, we do we will never forget that the vanguard of this army was the Escadrille La Fayette. The Marshal concluded by declaring that these pilots did even better than to fight; they set the example for everyone and a flame spurts out, lighting up all of America through their just crusade. (This declaration foreshadows the future first stained-glass window in the crypt, visible at the start of the visit.)

At this very moment, the room, always moved since the beginning of the ceremony, let off steam while applauding wildly. The audience, seated to listen to the speakers, rise to cheer both the Marshal of France and the illustrious United States Ambassador, Myron T. Herrick; both embrace each other in front of the unveiled model. Dr Gros had to ask for silence several times before the Ambassador and new speaker could begin his speech.

The Ambassador talks about the significance of this aid in return for that of General La Fayette in the 18th century during the war of independence. It traces the history of these young Americans who came to see him at the very beginning of the war and their desire to fight as best they could for France, without however losing their American nationality, hence their compulsory passage by the Foreign Legion. They are aware of the danger to their lives posed by these planes, a brand-new weapon awaiting development for combat. He adds that this Monument will remain an eternal example for the youth, reminding them of the great cause in the name of which all have fought. It will also allow us to remember that the victory was due to the genius of the great soldier, Marshal FOCH, here present. It was not only the victory of France or that of America, or even of England, but it was the victory of humanity. The Marshal ended by thinking of all those missing pilots and heroes, declaring, if they could see us right now, they would be proud and happy that they had not sacrificed their lives for nothing.

In turn, Colonel Antonin BROCARD, Member of Parliament for Paris and former head of the Escadrille La Fayette, retraces his history and particularly his interest in the already long one subject of Franco-American relations. He recalls that he was responsible for the Escadrille des Cigognes, Combat Group n ° 12, including the Escadrille La Fayette, the two having distinguished themselves during the Battle of the Somme.

On the occasion of this event, the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture confirms the donation of land of four and a half hectares, located on the ponds of Villeneuve; this area should soon receive sanitation improvements. This Park and its future monument will be included in the Saint-Cloud National Park. The place is located in the town of Marnes-la-Coquette, in the Department of Seine and Oise.

Dr. Gros expressed the regret of the Chairman of the Committee, the generous donor William Nelson Cromwell retained in the United States by his business, not being able to attend this demonstration. He reads a cable from Mr. Cromwell saying his certainty that every American who has been related to a deceased pilot or currently knows a surviving pilot will rejoice in this moment. This Memorial will be a bond of fraternal union between America and France.

To conclude, Lieutenant Grandville A. POLLOCK, a former pilot, thanked on behalf of the pilots present all those willing to take an interest in this commemorative monument project. He announced the idea of a private subscription on both sides of the Atlantic for the construction of the monument. Brochures are made available to the public for this purpose.

### ***-The Photo Album***

A beautiful photo album representing the Marnes field and its model is circulating among the participants. Mr. Raymond Poincaré, President of the Republic during the great war, already had one; the album will later be deposited at the National Library; the photos illustrating it have now fallen into the public domain.

### ***-The Press***

The journalists present noticed that a certain number of guests were watching with attention the teletypes spitting loudly and continuously their information on the unfortunate fall of the franc on foreign markets. But so much the better, because tonight, as in recent days, the franc has benefited from a slight rebound. These subject fuels the conversations around the buffet for traditional petits fours and champagne.

The following days, a dozen French newspapers devoted an article to the event. They were followed by three or four articles in the American press. American tourists passing through Paris would be able to contemplate the model. But, a month later, at the request of Mr. Crenshaw, the architect removed the model from the Bankers Trust, Place Vendôme. It has disappeared from circulation since that date and, unfortunately, it has been impossible for us, to date, to locate it, probably it was destroyed during the 2nd World War.



### Model of the Future Monument



### Brochure Association



National Library of France -Gallica-



*The Arc de Triomphe and Wings (Architect's Model)*

**Brochure Association & National Library France-Gallica**

## The Founders, the Project & The Crypt

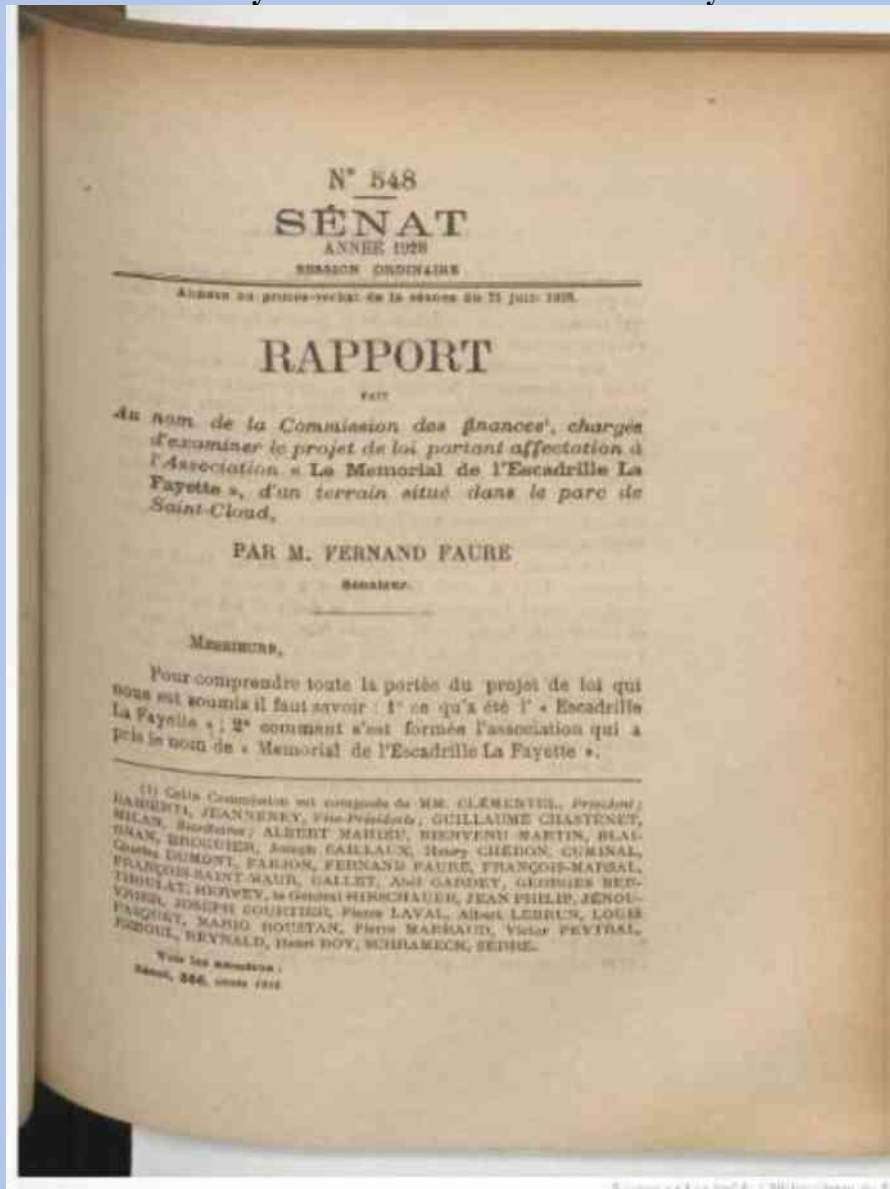
### Getting Started with the Project

#### Chapter 18- Land Ownership Deed

-Draft Law of June 21, 1928 of the Senate

-Law of March 27, 1929 of the Senate and the House

Source: Senate Library which became 'National Library of France'-BNF



### ***-Draft Law of June 21, 1928 of the Senate***

It all began with the request of Ferdinand FAURE, senator from the Dordogne, in the session at the Luxembourg Palace in Paris on June 21, 1928. To date, it was only a bill supported by the commission finances. It was then in charge of examining the draft law allocating to the Association "Le Mémorial de l'Escadrille La Fayette" of land located in the park of Saint-Cloud. You can find the members of this commission in the reproduction above; it was kindly communicated to me by the Senate with the entirety of the seven pages of the Bill. It is true that time was running out, Mr. Nelson Cromwell would have delayed the inauguration scheduled for July 4 in the absence of this law, he had been calling for it for some time.

In the first part of his speech, the Senator recalls the heroic history of the Escadrille and its beautiful citation to the order of the army in 1917. In the second part, he communicates the goals of the Association founded in 1923 by giving the list of its members (copied from the Senate bulletin) and its corporate purpose.

#### **Committee in Paris**

Dr P. Van Dyke / Vice-President LD Crenshaw /  
Secretary JC Bullwinkle / Treasurer Lawrence  
Slade / roc. Secretary William Nelson  
Cromwell, Hon. Counsel

#### **Executive Committee**

Dr. EL Gros / Chairman Prof. J.  
Mark Baldwin Maj. Benjamin  
Connor Col. Francis E. Drake Lt.  
Edgar Hamilton Perry C. Gilbert  
Capt. Walter Lovell Charles  
Prince Paul Rockwell

#### **Bankers**

Bankers Trust Company, 3 and 5, Place Vendôme, Paris

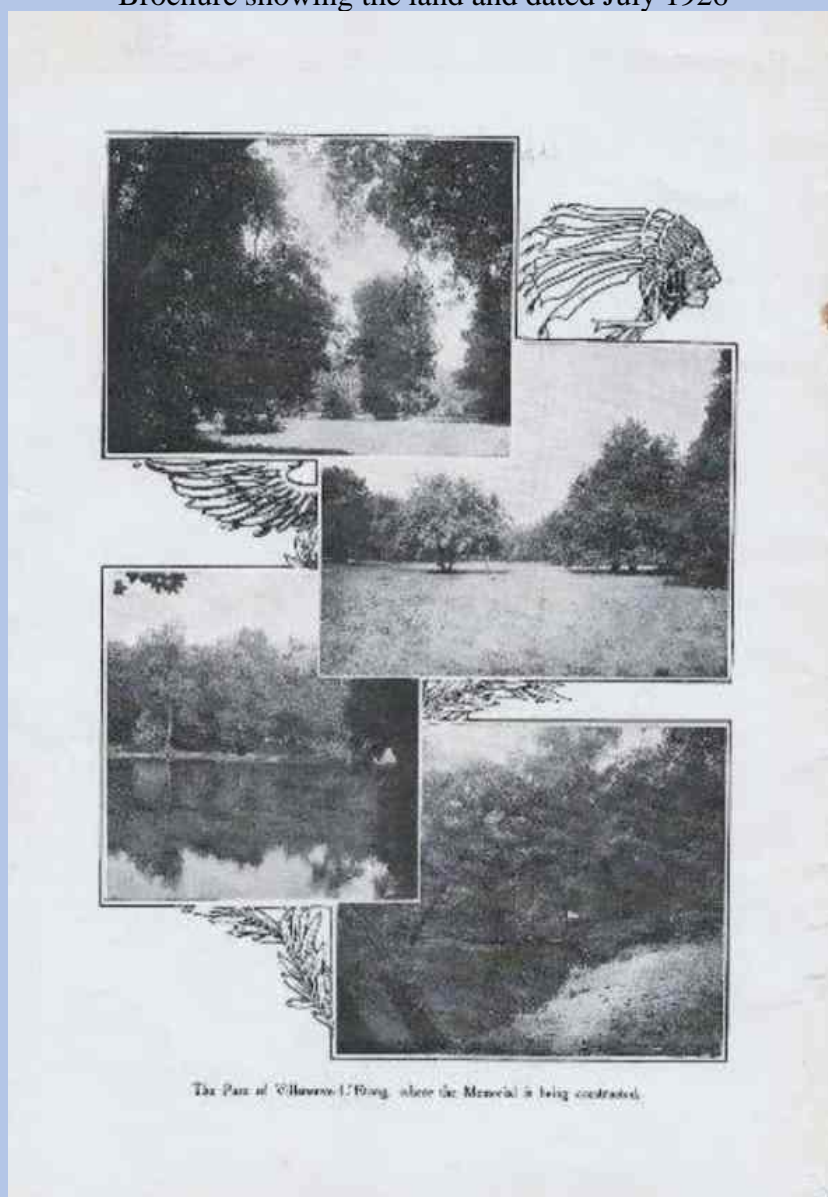


### ***-Law of March 27, 1929 of the Senate and the House***

The law of March 27, 1929, published in the Official Journal of March 30, authorized the perpetual transfer to the association of the land of Villeneuve l'Étang. The place chosen already had a predestined name, "The Meadow of the Battle Grid".

The Association will provide in 1930 a demarcation plan for the future land. The limits will be defined by limits that the foundation will put up. The caretaker's house will be placed at the main entrance; in the fifties, it will be destroyed for the widening of boulevard Brezin, which has since become boulevard Poincaré. It will then be rebuilt at the end of the lawn, starting from the Monument, and near the plane tree listed by the Department.

Brochure showing the land and dated July 1926



The law provides that the agents of Water and Forests, Fine Arts, the Water Department of Versailles and the Park of Saint-Cloud will be able to circulate at any time on the whole of the conceded land. This decree was signed by the Minister of Agriculture, who owned the land, the Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Arts and finally initialed by the Minister of Budget. "Escadrille La Fayette" beneficiary of this donation, advised its members by recalling, in conclusion, "that also in antiquity, Egypt and Babylon built monuments to immortalize their respective victories. "

Thus far the French State, without an untied purse, contributed in perpetuity to the memory of the collaboration of America and France during the great war.

**Extract from the Official Journal of March 30, 1929**

<p><b>LOI portant affectation à l'association « le Mémorial de l'escadrille La Fayette » d'un terrain situé dans le parc de Saint-Cloud.</b></p> <p>Le Sénat et la Chambre des députés ont adopté,</p> <p>Le Président de la République promulgue la loi dont la teneur suit:</p> <p>Art. 1<sup>er</sup>. — Est autorisée la cession perpétuelle et gratuite à l'association « le Mémorial de l'escadrille La Fayette », d'un terrain de 4 hectares 50 ares situé dans le parc de Villeneuve-l'Étang, au lieudit: « la Prairie de la Grille du Combat ».</p> <p>Ladite cession est faite en vue de permettre à l'association « le Mémorial de l'escadrille La Fayette » d'atteindre un double but: 1<sup>o</sup> édifier, sur le terrain cédé, un monument contenant une crypte dans laquelle seront déposés les restes des 64 aviateurs de l'escadrille La Fayette tués à l'ennemi au cours de la guerre de 1914-1918; 2<sup>o</sup> commémorer, par ce monument, le sacrifice de ces 64 héros, tout en symbolisant les idées de justice et de liberté qui les ont inspirés.</p> <p>Art. 2. — La destination du terrain</p>	<p>AISE 30 Mars 1929 B</p> <p>cédé, prévue au précédent article, ne pourra jamais être modifiée.</p> <p>L'entrée du parc de Villeneuve-l'Étang devra rester toujours ouverte au public.</p> <p>Art. 3. — Les travaux et aménagements jugés nécessaires pour assurer la pleine réalisation du but poursuivi par l'association « le Mémorial de l'escadrille La Fayette » et qui devront être effectués par elle, seront déterminés par un arrêté portant les signatures du ministre des finances, du ministre de l'instruction publique et des beaux-arts et du ministre de l'agriculture.</p> <p>Tous actes, plans, procès-verbaux, certificats, significations, contrats, quittances, affiches, etc., rendus nécessaires pour l'exécution de cet arrêté seront dispensés de tous droits de timbre et d'enregistrement.</p> <p>La présente loi, délibérée et adoptée par le Sénat et par la Chambre des députés, sera exécutée comme loi de l'État.</p> <p>Fait à Paris, le 27 mars 1929.</p> <p>GASTON DOUMERGUE.</p> <p>Par le Président de la République: .</p> <p>Le ministre de l'instruction publique et des beaux-arts, PIERRE MARRAUD.</p> <p>Le ministre des finances, HENRY CHÉRON.</p> <p>Le ministre de l'agriculture, JEAN HENNESSY.</p>
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## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Getting Started with the Project**

#### **Chapter 19- Calls for Funds**

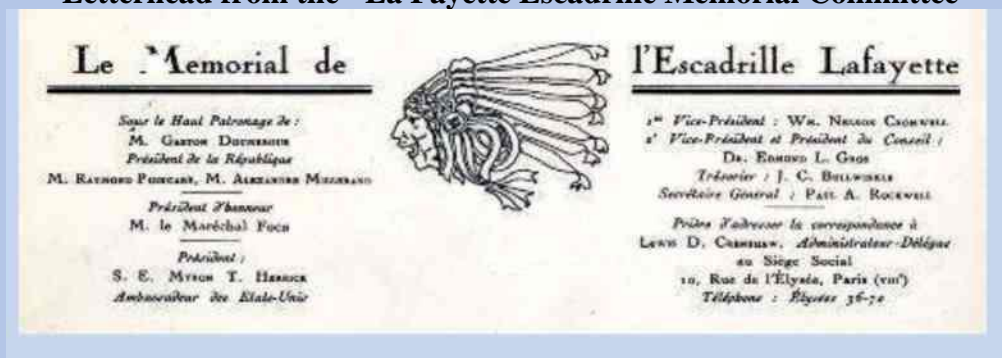
- Calls for Generosity in the Two Countries
- Table of Donations
- Calls for Generosity in the Two Countries

From 1922, in the form of appeals for generosity in the two countries, France and the United States, the "Committee for the Memorial of the Lafayette Escadrille" launched a campaign of funds dedicated to this construction. This campaign will end in 1929. The accounting result was recorded each year and divided into two lists, one for francs and the other for American dollars.

In the composition of this committee, we notice the name of the President of the Republic at the time, Gaston DOUMERGUE, and that of two former Presidents. Marshal FOCH arrives immediately after as Honorary President, as does Ambassador Myron T. HERRICK. The Board of Directors is made up of Mr. Nelson CROMWELL (1st Vice-president), Dr Edmund L. GROS (2nd Vice-president), Julius Caesar BULLWINKLE (Treasurer), Paul A. ROCKWELL (Secretary) and Lewis D. CRENSHAW (Director).

From 1922, this committee launched in various forms (leaflets, advertisements in the press) a first campaign. This exercise will continue even after the inauguration of July 4, 1928. It will then be a question of financing various problems of poor workmanship encountered during construction; we will see this a little later. We notice among the small gifts, that of the brother of an elder partner of Mr. Cromwell, for the Panama Canal Mr. Maurice Bunau-Varilla. The Parisian banker of the funds was the "Bankers Trust", then located place Vendôme.

#### **Letterhead from the "La Fayette Escadrille Memorial Committee**



The collection of donations in US dollars began in 1924, it was done through "The Escadrille Memorial Association" with a committee in Paris and another in the United States. In addition to the names of the French Committee, there were many surviving pilots.

The objective of the American committee was ambitious: to raise \$ 150,000-. The families and friends of the pilots contributed about \$ 25,000-. An appeal for funds blotter, advertising type with Indian head, was even distributed and the bank domiciliation in NY was JP Morgan. The fundraising form was the subject of important mailings and concluded its request by recalling that "each donation would bring at least one brick to the monument".

Accounting for this transaction was handled by Mr. Crenshaw. The results were published on the one hand by currency (French francs & US dollars) and on the other hand by year ranging from 1922 to 1929.

### ***-Table of Donations***

#### ***Summary Table of Donations in Francs and Dollars***

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Francs</u></b>	<b><u>Nb</u></b>	<b><u>\$</u></b>	<b><u>Nbr</u></b>
1922	29 338	14		
1923	51,393	7		
1924	37 111	19	100	
1925	3,012	4		
1926	131,270	10	2,767	17
1927	127,710	38	36 613	53
1928	150 725	29	9 815	66
1929	29,568	3	5,080	48
	<b>560,127</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>54,375</b>	<b>185</b>

(Calculation: <http://france-inflation.com>) & <http://usinflationcalculator.com>).

#### **Data for information only:**

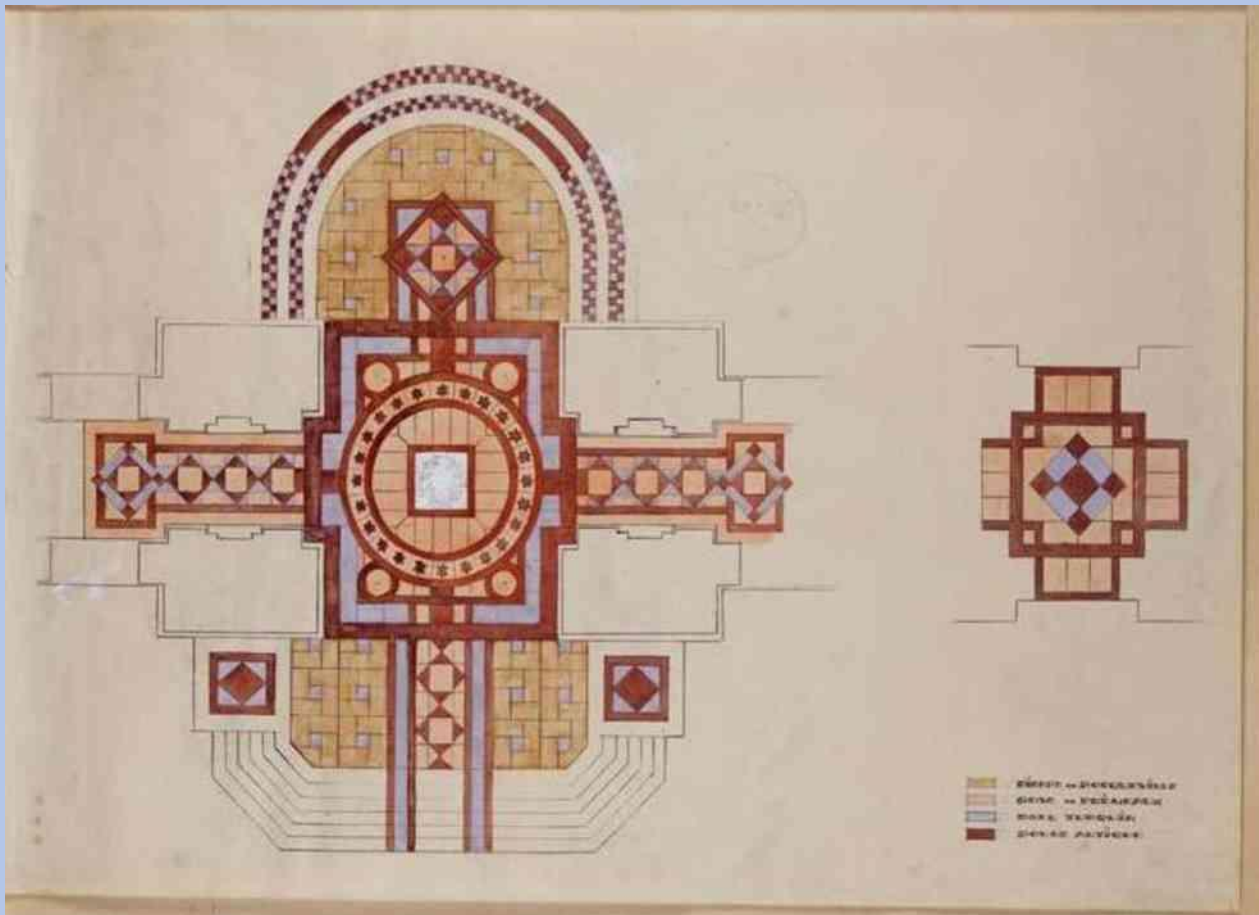
The disparity in value cited today in euros compared to that of the old franc (in 1929), then the new franc (since 1960) and finally the euro (since 2002) add little to the debate.

The dollar for its part has not changed parity or name but inflation between 1929 and 2014 reached 1.285% .



# 1929-Extract List of donations in Francs (Last page)

***		
Report .....	Fr.	77.043,03 252.124,96
<u>Jan. 1st, 1927 to Dec. 31st, 1927 (Contd)</u>		
H.C. Hoskier (Swiss Fr. 6.50) .....		30,55
Yana Touring Service .....		625.-
Le Matin .....		10.-
Gaston Menier .....		<u>50.000.-</u>
Total Donations, year 1927 .....		127.709,54
<u>Jan. 1st, 1928 to December 31st, 1928</u>		
P.A. Chamberlain .....		12.720.-
Miss Amelia W. Davis .....		500.-
Earl T. Spencer .....		6.000.-
Charles W. Chapman .....		5.000.-
Joseph Chapman .....		5.000.-
Mrs. John J. Chapman .....		25.413.-
Mrs. R.P. Truitt .....		5.000.-
The Seven Society, U.S.A. ....		7.777.80
P.C. Fuller .....		2.513.-
Assn. Amicale des Croix de Guerre .....		100.-
Mrs. Patrick A. Valentine .....		5.325.-
Mrs. Gayford Alice .....		2.527.-
Mrs. E.M. Guerin .....		500.-
Blythe W. Branch .....		2.500.-
The Seven Society, Bruxelles .....		547,55
"Le Matin", payment of pledge .....		50.000.-
David M. Gay .....		224,58
Mrs. Mary B. Dowd, & 2 .....		247.-
J.J. Bach .....		500.-
Paul Van Dyke .....		500.-
Rear Admiral A.P. Hiblack .....		100.-
Col. Jacques Halsen .....		1.000.-
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Booth .....		10.000.-
Dr. Chas. E. May .....		250.-
P.A. Rockwell, Willis Donation .....		1.000.-
Henry Cachard .....		1.000.-
Richard H. Gettlett .....		380.-
Francis B. Chadwick .....		2.500.-
Mr. & Mrs. L.G. Brandt .....		<u>500.-</u>
Total Donations, Year 1928 .....		<u>150.724,90</u>
TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED IN CASH		
FROM JUNE 1st, 1922 TO MAY 31st, 1929		
FRANC ACCOUNT .....	Fr.	530.559,40
<u>DONATIONS, REBATES</u>		
Earl T. Spencer .....		20.000.-
Mrs. M.P. Middleton .....		10.000.-
L.D. Crenshaw .....		<u>3.000.-</u>
Sold for Francs .....		<u>23.567,15</u>
TOTAL DONATIONS, per Exhibit A ....	Fr.	<u>550.126,55</u>



Plan of the Lafayette Escadrille  
 Photo (C) RMN-Large Pabis (Château de Blérancourt) / Gérard Blot  
<http://museefrancoamericain.fr/>

## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Getting Started with the Project**

#### **Chapter 20- “CROMWELL” Donations**

*-1st Donation in Paris in 1931 of 1 million Francs*

*-2nd Testamentary Donation in NY of 250,000 Dollars in 1948*

#### ***-1st Donation to Paris in 1931 of 1 million Francs***

After the donation of the land by the French state, Mr. Cromwell said to himself that time should not be allowed to extinguish the great flame which animated his project. Besides the construction of the Monument, he created the Foundation and endowed it with a capital of F.1.000.000- \* whose income would be intended to maintain it.

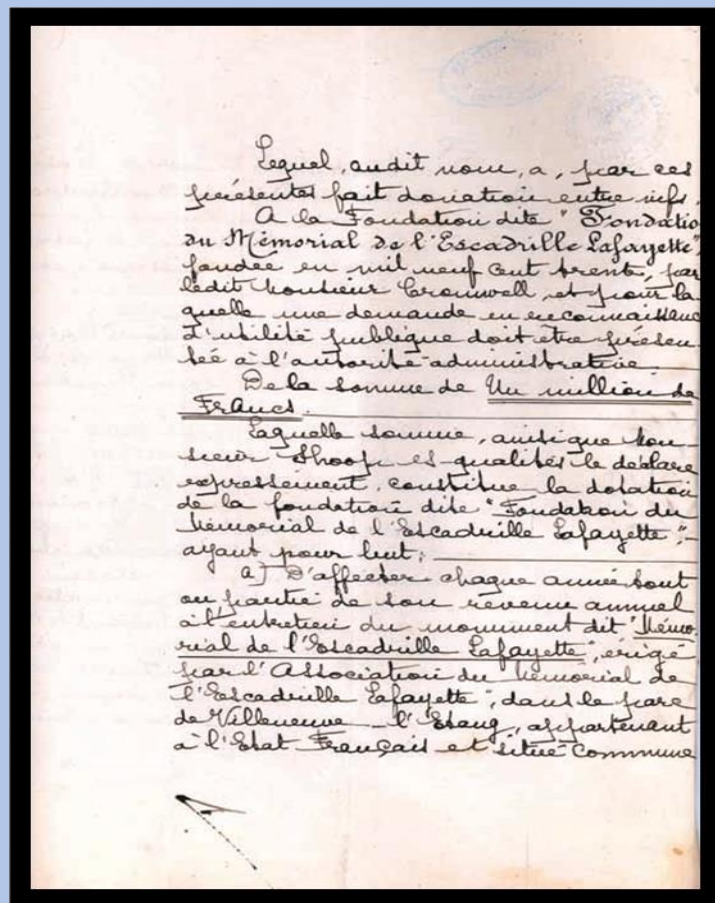
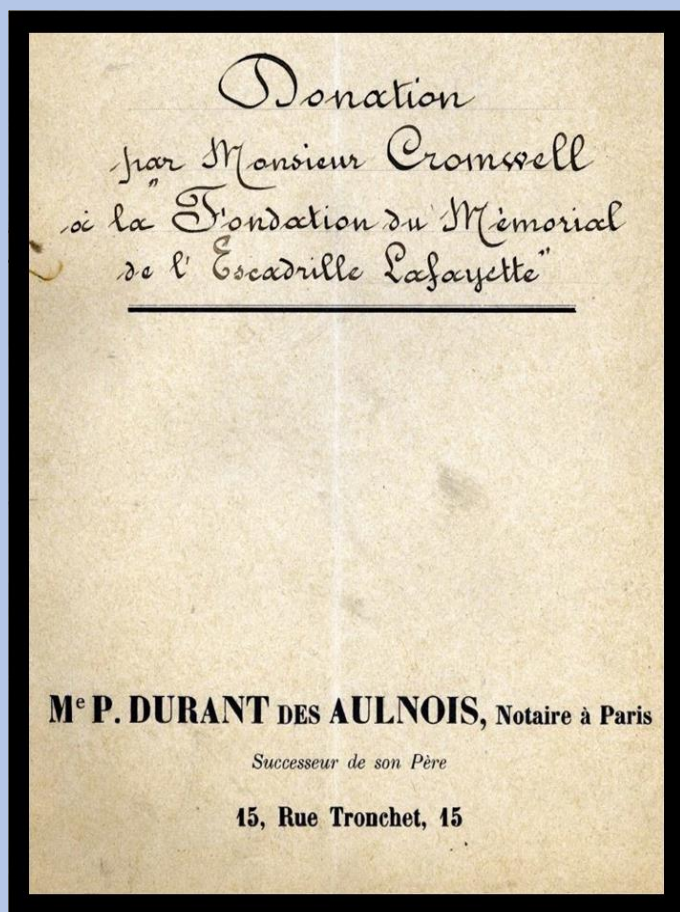
We give you below an extract of the act; we still have the original in calligraphy writing as well as its English translation.

On December 19, 1930, Me Pierre, Léon, Henri Antoine Durant Des Aulnois, notary in Paris and residing at 15, rue Tronchet, recorded an act in the presence of Mr. Max Schoop, representing Mr. Nelson Cromwell of American nationality, Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor and member of the New York Bar, residing at 39, rue Cambon in Paris. Act drawn up for the benefit of the "Fondation du Mémorial de l'Escadrille Lafayette" founded in 1930 and in the process of recognition, this organization receives a sum of "One million francs" \* with the main aim being to respect mainly the social object statutes. The capital was to produce income, the latter had to be allocated in whole or in part to the maintenance of the park and the monument in addition to future donations. The Council of Administration of the Foundation having met on May 6, 1931 officially took cognizance of it and approved it. The authentic deed bearing the conditional acceptance of the donation was received by the same notary on May 27, 1931.

This capital, known as the reserve fund, was invested in registered annuities on the State or in registered railway bonds, the minimum interest of which was guaranteed by the State (Article 13 of the Statutes).

Everything was well put together, but the founder could not know that his donation would devalue by nearly 400% from the date of his act and this until the end of the Second World War.

\* or around € 582,000- in 2015



Cover and 1st page of the act

## -2nd Testamentary Donation in NY of \$ 250,000 in 1948

The second world war having brought about a collapse of the franc, the funds placed in 1931 in francs were worth practically nothing anymore; indeed, the devaluation of the currency exceeded 1,500%. The founder had planned, dating from 1948, a testamentary donation of \$ 250,000 - among other bequests intended for many charities. The Foundation's desire was to keep this amount in dollars and invested in US dollars in New York. French foreign exchange legislation, very strict at that time, did not allow this. It was therefore necessary first to obtain the provisional and exceptional authorization of the Ministry of Finance. Colonel Thenault, during his brief presidency of the Foundation in 1948, began to undertake this process of regularization.

It was necessary, before the use of testamentary funds, to ask the Surrogate's Court of New York for several explanations on this subject.



Plaque placed on the walls of the staircase leading to the crypt



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Getting Started with the Project**

#### **Chapter 21- From Association to Foundation**

- Creation of the Association in 1923 and its Dissolution*
- Creation of the Foundation in 1931*
- Modification of the Statutes in 2008*
- Creation of the Association in 1923 and its Dissolution*

#### ***-Creation of the Association in 1923 and its Dissolution***

On March 15, 1923, under the law of 1901, - still in force today - the association, "Le Mémorial de l'Escadrille Lafayette" was incorporated. The main purpose of this first association was to obtain land from the French government and to build this noble task.

Mr. Ferdinand Faure, Senator of the Gironde, explained to the Senate, on behalf of the Finance Committee, in sufficiently explicit terms, the role of the La Fayette Squadron during the war, without there being any need to return to this in order to obtain the evolution of the statute of the Association in Foundation, which was rare at the time. Of course, this new status was more advantageous, in particular for collecting donations and bequests. Once this objective was achieved, the association was dissolved at the request of its founder by a general assembly on March 22, 1932. The Association voted to transfer all of its assets to the Foundation before its dissolution.

The following reasons were given at this meeting to justify its dissolution:

- The original members had almost all disappeared
- The land had been acquired by donation from the French government
- The Foundation Statute was much more advantageous

this is also true for Marshal Pétain who will forever remain the hero of Verdun. Our admiration will remain intact for this President of the Council and Minister of the Interior, a highly regarded politician before the war and this aside applies even to the Marquis de La Fayette who was strangely tossed around during the French Revolution. The President of the Republic Paul Doumer also signed the Statutes with his name on First page.

On December 1931. Then President of the Senate, he attended the inauguration of the Monument in 1928. Unfortunately, he was assassinated by bullets on May 6, 1932 in Paris by inaugurating an exhibition devoted to the writers of the Great War.

"No one can know what the future holds", good or bad, "Nemo scire quid futurum".

First of all, here is a copy of the declaration of association. The original layout of the typed text has been respected as much as possible in order to restore some of its original authenticity. You will then find an easily readable reproduction of the first two pages of the original Statutes, followed by articles concerning the aims of the Foundation and some indications concerning the rest of the Statutes.

1

THE LAFAYETTE SQUADRILLE

Under this name a group of young people from the United States of America fought alongside the French Army during the 1914-1918 war, and even before America's Intervention alongside the Allies. Of the 210 airmen who made it up, 64 fell while fighting.

In the report (appended to the minutes) of the Senate session of June 21, 1928, Senator Fernand Faure explained to the Senate on behalf of the Finance Committee, in sufficiently explicit terms, the role of the LAFAYETTE Squadron during war, without having to go back to it.

**II**

Constitution of the Lafayette Escadrille  
Memorial Association

On March 15, 1923, under the 1901 law on associations, "Le Mémorial de l'Escadrille La Fayette" was established.

The purpose of this association was, first of all:

"to bring to life in the heart of man, the spirit which inspires" the members of the Lafayette Escadrille, all unanimous in committing themselves to "the universal cause of Liberty under the French flag before" the entry into force. war of their Homeland in the great war ".

The second of her goals was "to erect a lasting monument symbolizing this spirit."

The other goals were as follows:

"To create and maintain, for the dead of the Squadron, a place" of rest worthy of their sacrifice. "

"To plan in this place what is appropriate to celebrate worthily" of the religious services. "

"Teach to the Youth of France and the United States" of America, the history of their country reciprocally, that by "public lectures, brochures, and any other means suitable to" achieve this goal. "

"To pursue such a work of education and charity" in accordance with the general purposes stated above, "to the extent that the resources of the Association will permit."



**Reproduction 1st page of the Original Statutes**

MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR

*Direction du Contrôle,  
de la Comptabilité  
et des Affaires Algériennes*

1<sup>er</sup> Bureau

ASSOCIATIONS

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

LE PRÉSIDENT  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Sur le rapport du Président du Conseil,  
Ministre de l'Intérieur,

Vu la délibération en date du 6 mai 1931 du  
Conseil d'Administration de la « Fondation du  
Mémorial de l'Escadrille Lafayette », dont le  
siège est à Paris;

L'acte authentique en date du 19 décembre  
1930 portant donation à cette Fondation de la  
somme de un million de francs, consentie par  
M. William Nelson Cromwell, Grand Officier de  
la Légion d'Honneur, avocat au Barreau de  
New-York;

L'acte authentique en date du 27 mai 1931  
portant acceptation conditionnelle de cette dona-  
tion par la Fondation;

Le projet de budget, les statuts de la Fonda-  
tion et les autres pièces de l'affaire;

L'avis du Préfet de la Seine en date du 15 juil-  
let 1931;

L'avis du Ministre du Budget en date du 2 août  
1931;

L'avis du Ministre de l'Instruction Publique  
et des Beaux-Arts en date du 24 octobre 1931;

L'avis du Ministre de l'Agriculture en date du  
7 novembre 1931;

L'article 5 de la loi du 4 février 1901 et  
l'article 12 de la loi du 30 juin 1923;

La Section de l'Intérieur, de l'Instruction  
Publique et des Beaux-Arts du Conseil d'Etat  
entendue.



STATUTES  
OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE MEMORIAL OF L'ESCADRILLE LAFAYETTE

**Purpose of the Foundation**

FIRST ARTICLE

The Foundation of the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial, instituted in 1930 by William Nelson Cromwell, as Founder", aims to:

- a) To allocate each year all or part of its annual income to the maintenance of the Memorial of the Escadrille Lafayette raised by the Association of the Memorial of the Escadrille Lafayette, and to the conservation of the accesses and surroundings of the Monument in the park where this monument is erected, including the four and a half hectares of land ceded by the French Government to the said Association, under the law of March 27, 1929, as well as all other land which could subsequently be rented, ceded or allocated to the said Association or the Foundation.
- b) To allocate the surplus of its annual income and all the donations that it may receive to the completion of the work undertaken by the said Association, that is to say the construction of a permanent monument dedicated to Memory of the Dead of the Lafayette Escadrille and of the Lafayette Flying-Corps and the creation of a place of rest worthy of their sacrifice in the Great War, intended to perpetuate in the hearts of men the spirit which encouraged them to commit to the universal cause of Freedom under the French Flag before the entry of their Homeland into the Great War.
- c) To receive, if applicable, from the Association du Mémorial de l'Escadrille Lafayette the rights acquired by this Association on the said Monument, as well as on the land ceded to it by the French Government and to be granted all rights to all movable property or real estate, to all leases, and in general, all the assets of the association, donations made to the Memorial of the Escadrille Lafayette in the event that the association ceases to exist.
- d) To receive, within the limits of its purpose, subject to the provisions of Article 10 below, all donations and legacies relating to its purpose.
- e) To facilitate the organization around this monument of all that is necessary to celebrate with dignity all services or commemorative ceremonies.
- f) To teach the youth of France, America and other Nations, the history of their respective countries through conferences, publications and all other means suitable to achieve this goal. The public will always have access to said land ceded by the French Government.

The Foundation will have its headquarters in Paris.

ARTICLE 2

The Foundation's means of action are:

The organization of conferences and commemorative ceremonies, the publication of bulletins, brochures, memoirs, the constitution of museums, exhibitions for the propaganda of the work.

## **Administration and Operations**

### **ARTICLE 3**

The Foundation is administered by a Council of fifteen members, composed as follows: •

1 °) Eleven members, including the founder himself, appointed by the Founder, and after his death, by the Council itself.

2 °) Four ex officio members, appearing in the Council ex officio, for the duration of their office, namely:

- a) The Minister of Finance or his representative.
- b) The Minister of Public Education and Fine Arts, or his representative.
- c) The Minister of Agriculture or his representative.
- d) The Ambassador of the United States or his representative.

The members of the first category (except the Founder who is a life member) and their successors are appointed by the Founder for a period of three years.

After the death of the Founder, the successors of the four members of the first category will be elected for ten years by the Board of Directors and renewed by half every five years. At the time of the first renewals, the names of the outgoing members will be designated by the vote of the lot.

The election is carried out in the meeting following that in which the mandate of the outgoing directors ended. '

The powers of outgoing members can be renewed indefinitely.

In the event of the death or resignation of a member of the Board of Directors, he will be replaced under the conditions specified above within two months of the death or resignation.

If the Founder fails during his lifetime to have appointed a successor within sixty days of the notification of a vacancy made to him in writing by the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors may itself appoint the successor.

The term of office of this successor will end at the time when the term of office of the person he replaces would normally have expired.

-The articles from 4 to 6 concern the members of the office, the frequencies of the meetings & various provisions.

-Article 7 concerns the Advisory Committee

-Articles 8 to 10 concern the Powers of the Board of Directors -Articles 11 to 13 concern resources

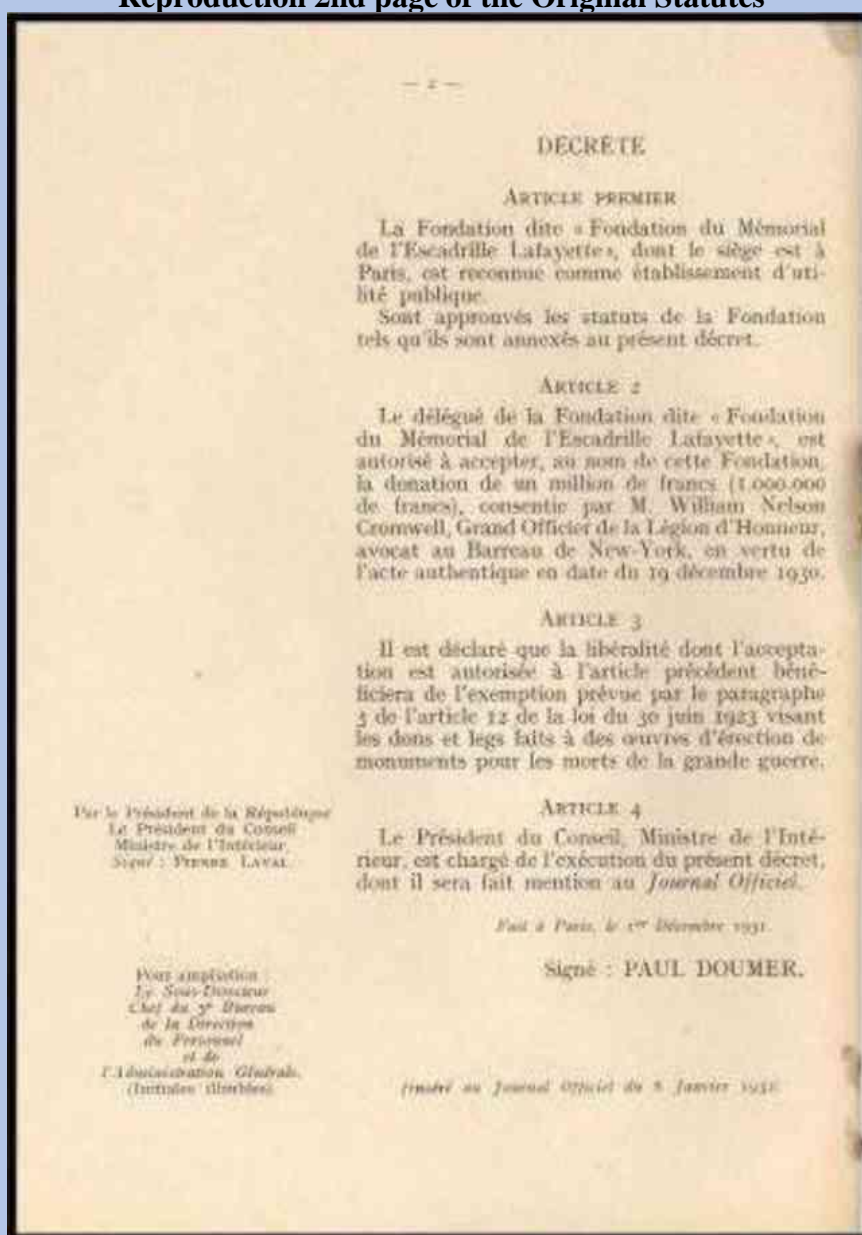
-Articles 14 to 16 concern changes to the statutes and dissolution -Articles 17 & 18 concern the Internal and supervisory regulations

## **-Modification of the Statutes in 2008**

The statutes of the Foundation, dating from 1931, themselves had to be completely overhauled to take into account the evolution of successive regulations. But the social object remained practically the same as that of 1931, the latter being inspired by the articles already appearing in the statutes of the association of 1923.

In 2006, a legal project began to bring these new statutes into conformity. In October 2008, the Ministry of the Interior officially notified the Foundation of their publication following a decree of May 11, 2007. Compared to the statutes of 1931, the following were modified mainly: the composition of the permanent members, the duration of the mandates, the donations and legacies, the conditions of dissolution, the internal regulations, the registered office and the supervisory authorities.

### **Reproduction 2nd page of the Original Statutes**



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Getting Started with the Project**

#### **Chapter 22- List of All Validated Drivers**

- Commemorative medal of the "Blue Ribbon"*
- the "Inscription Committee"*
- Search for Pilots to Rest in the Crypt*
- Search for Surviving Pilots*
- Discussion on the Registration of French Commanders*
- List of Drivers (often with the deceased and the survivors mixed)*
- Commemorative medal of the "Blue Ribbon"*

#### **-Commemorative medal of the "Blue Ribbon"**

An official list was provided by the War Office on June 23, 1927 and sent to Mr. Crenshaw regarding the award of the commemorative "Blue Ribbon", a ribbon strewn with stars and adorned with a silver Sioux head. This unofficial medal was awarded to all American volunteer citizens of the Great War before their country entered the war. It also benefited the enlisted members of the Legion, paramedics, American volunteer pilots, French staff and the civilians who guided them.

This list, although including some gross errors, such as the addition of a few French soldiers who did not have their place in this inventory, served as a basis for all the other lists produced since and has the great merit of existing. A selection and verification committee known as the "Inspection Committee" was set up as soon as it was received.

**Blue ribbon: approx (6cm x 4cm)**





This list included (reproduced as closely as possible) :

a) -6- American Directing Officers: (Messrs. WK Vanderbilt, de Sillac, Edmond Gros, Frederick Allen, Gec. Tyler, and Mrs. Georgia Ovington)

b) -5- French officers in command of the La Fayette squadron: (Cdt Brocard, Cdt Féquant, Capt. Thenault, Lt. De Laage de Meux, Lt. Louis Verdier Fauvety

c) -196- Volunteer pilots of the "Lafayette Flying Corps":

1 - 30- Volunteer Pilots Maintained in French Squadrons

2 - 68- Transferred to the United States Air Force

3- 21- Transferred to US Naval Aviation

4- 41- Killed at the front or died from wounds

5- 10- Killed in Schools, Died from illness or accidents

6- 13- Prisoners in Germany -Missing-Escaped-

7- 13- Lafayette Flying Corps

**In total 207 people: 6 Directors - 5 French officers - 196 American pilots**

### ***-the "Inscription Committee"***

Following this letter, a special commission was created; it consisted of Dr. Gros, Lewis Crenshaw, Austin B. Crehore and Paul Rockwell. This commission was to establish a list of deceased and surviving pilots who belonged to the "Lafayette Flying Corps". A dozen questionable or contentious cases quickly emerged. These questions had to be resolved with precision before the bodies were transferred and the list of names to be engraved on the Monument had to be drawn up. Numerous discussions, correspondence, and even telegrams were exchanged. Certain decisions were put to the vote, that of Paul Rockwell was still preponderant by his hold on the other members on this subject. Paul Rockwell liked to star in it in a directive and super active way; using a verve often too biting relating to the pilots.

### ***-Search for Pilots to Rest in the Crypt***

It should be understood that the census of the deceased pilots had to be carried out before drawing up the list of graves at the Monument. Concerning the lists of the deceased pilots and even for the survivors, the first basis of work retained, at the beginning of the discussions, was that established in volume 2 of "The Lafayette Flying Corps" of Hall & Nordhoff.

Nowadays, if we take a look at the list engraved on the Monument and concerning the graves in the crypt, we can see 68 graves plus those of the two French Commanders.

It hasn't always been that way. It was, for example, to know if one accepted a pilot killed by suicide Samuel SKINNER died on 12-11-1917. For other deaths from injuries and illnesses several years after the war, discussions were opened on a case-by-case basis. It was necessary to rule for Lawrence SCALAN who died on 11-25-1920, then for Walter YORK who died on January 6, 1921. Regarding another pilot, David PETERSON who died on March 16, 1919, it was even to rule on a plane crash that had occurred. post-war military mission to the United States, all of these appear on the Monument.

Some such as the Ltd Giroux, to give the latter only as an example, had died on May 22, 1918 in the "103rd Squadron" and had served voluntarily in France with the American Field Service but afterwards he was directly involved in the American air force and despite the family's request, this pilot could not be selected. It was the hard role of the commission to debate it and then advise the families requesting their burial at the Monument. Was also refused Lieutenant Edwin B. SCHREIBER, patented in Avord; he stayed in the hospital and on leaving, he enlisted in the American army where he was killed in a plane crash.

### ***-Search for Survivor Pilots***

The list and search for survivors with their address was much more complicated than that of dead pilots. In this case, it was a question of creating a "community" which would support the Monument project financially, would be invited to the inauguration, would communicate between its members and also with the parents and family of the deceased. The project was vast and largely achieved its objective thanks to this same group known as the "Inscription Committee". At the beginning, this list was also to appear on the Monument but this project never saw the light of day for fear of complaints, this in view of the complexity of establishing this list exactly.

The American authorities of the "War Department" from Washington, relaunched several times by a correspondent on the spot, provided some very partial lists and addresses of survivors but the whole with many errors, mainly in the transcription of the names which complicated the research. that lasted for years. The Foreign Legion, then based in Sidi Bel Abbés, also questioned in 1927, declared itself unable to establish a precise list of volunteers who had been transferred to the aviation but offered to investigate isolated cases.

After research, four pilots were unanimously considered as deserter (Arthur M. Allen, William Frey, Bert Hall & Walter David Rheno).

For others, the game of the date chosen or the body of assignment in the army has caused a number of questions. Some tricky decisions came after a majority vote, with Paul Rockwell tipping the scales in his direction in the event of a tie.

Supporting Dr Gros, in his negative opinion on this unfortunate black pilot Eugene BULLARD, Paul Rockwell claimed that he was not of American nationality but of West Indian origin and of British nationality. It took all the skill and weight of Mr. Crenshaw who for the occasion carried out a personal and detailed investigation in France and the United States. He was rehabilitated and placed prominently in the famous list of surviving pilots named "The Roster". What Dr. Gros never admits, either at the time or afterwards; several books about Bullard appeared in bookstores

Many cases had to be decided, such as that of two Americans enlisting in the Legion after the United States declared war on Germany and asking for their posting in the air force, etc.

There was even the letter from Charles de Roode dated May 23, 1927, who, although an American, volunteered in the air force and assigned to the Avord camp with the rank of Second Lieutenant, asked not to be part of from the list of survivors, citing the fact that he was only an interpreter and did not deserve this honor. Let us simply count for the record the legionaries assigned to the air camps after having enlisted in the Legion under American nationality while they were French.

The names of the lists below will give you an idea of the difficulties encountered and the work accomplished. The number of doubtful cases to be eliminated was greater than that of the list of the deceased, but on the other hand their importance was less. It was no longer a question of appearing in a burial place but on a list of volunteers that was sometimes questionable but could change without much consequence.

## ***-Discussion on the Registration of French Commanders***

First of all, it was a question of knowing whether this list should appear on the Monument after or before the American pilots; both opinions had their supporters.

In the end, it was decided to include them separately, but which of them still had to be chosen? There was a new debate on this subject.

Finally, was mentioned at the bottom of the first right pillar while looking at the Monument:

### **Copy of a newspaper clipping from the "Inscription Committee"**

Newspaper clipping which appeared  
some time in 1918

#### **ESCADRILLE MEN WHO HAVE LONG OVERSTAYED LEAVE**

Four members of the Lafayette Escadrille of the French army have long overstayed their leaves in the United States, according to a statement made by Maj. Edmond Gros of the liaison section of the United States Air Service.

They were granted six weeks each to visit their families in America. The men are Corporal Arthur M. Aten, who has been gone a year and a half, Corporal William Frey, absent for the same period; Adjutant Bert Hall, who has been away for two years, and Sergeant Walter David Rheno, who has not reported for six months.

Maj. Gros declares that an especially objectionable aspect of the men's behavior is that for some time after their return they were known to have worn the uniform of the escadrille and that two of them, Hall and Rheno, continued to display medals conferred by the service.

Aten took his leave immediately after receiving his preliminary instruction and was never at the front. Frey also has no service to his credit, but upon his return home, became a training camp instructor at an excellent salary. Hall was one of the original Lafayette men; he had seen real service in France, Russia and Roumania and had received the Croix de Guerre and the Médaille Militaire for distinguished conduct. According to Maj. Gros, however, he has since worn the Légion d'Honneur, to which he has no right. Rheno is entitled to the Croix de Guerre for bringing down two German planes.

Maj. Gros said that the American authorities would take action in these cases, if the French army would file official complaints, but this the French have so far neglected to do.

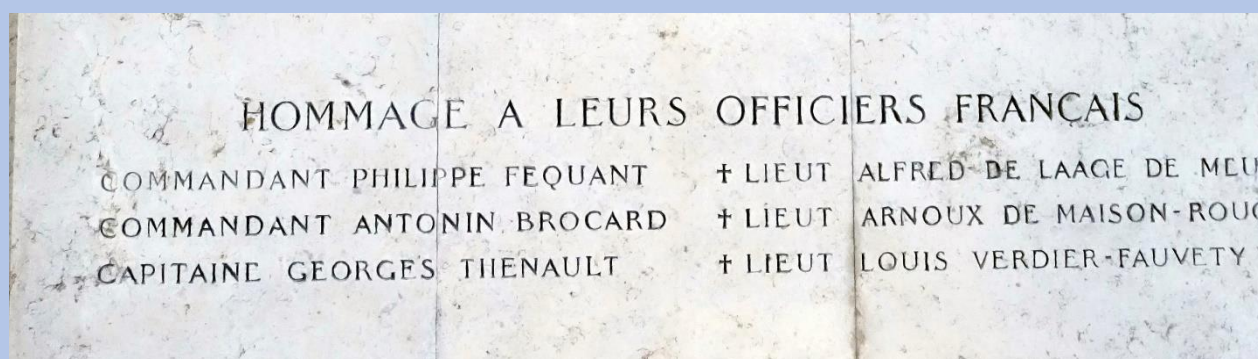


## TRIBUTE TO THEIR FRENCH OFFICERS

-Commandant Philippe FEQUANT  
-Lt. Arnoux of MAISON ROUGE  
-Captain Georges THENAULT

- + Lt. Alfred de LAAGE de MEUX  
- + Commander Antonin BROCARD  
- + Lt Louis VERDIER-FAUVETY

We will regret not finding the brave and tumultuous Captain HAPPE but perhaps he was only Acting as an interim Commander of the La Fayette Squadron.



### ***-List of Drivers (often with the deceased and the survivors mixed)***

There are no less than 20 official lists established between 1926 and 1930 by the Memorial Association to list pilots according to different criteria each time. It is a gigantic work of the members of the Registration Committee "(Dr Gros, Lewis Crenshaw, Austin Crehore and Paul Rockwell supported at times by Georgia Ovington and even sometimes by William N. Cromwell.

Most of these lists, especially those of the first years, include errors of different types: by omission, addition of bad names, various erasures, different spellings and especially erasures on the names of the pilots to really remember or those posing a problem.

-1926- 1 list (2 pages & 124 names): This first List seems to have been established by Mrs. Ovington, it details on 266 pilots, the passage of certain pilots in the various American colleges. The largest contingent leaving Harvard, then Yale, Columbia, Princeton, Cornell, Dartmouth and the University of Virginia, Brown University follow. The rest of the contingent exploded into many places. A handwritten note, counts the number of pilots having passed through colleges and indicating a total of 124, unfortunately among them 41 having been killed by act of war. This is a very first list, the only one preceding that of the "Blue Ribbon".

-1927- 6 lists (4 or 5 pages each and approximately 210 names per list): The first four lists typed and corrected at different periods are established in alphabetical order, they are often crossed out. The last indicates the pilots by year of engagement: either 18 for 1914, 11 for 1915, 32 for 1916 & 149 for 1917

-1927b- 2 lists: (4 pages and 146 names) The 1st list of 146 names devoted to the surviving pilots is alphabetical. The 2nd tries for the first time to put a home address for 135 of them.

-1928-01: 2 lists (4 pages and 67 names) The first is presented as a draft very crossed out and annotated by hand on all sides.

At the insistent and repeated request of the architect, pressed by the deadlines imposed on him, we find the second carefully typed list of the deceased pilots. The second list includes with full name, date of engagement, date of death and decorations. For the architect, it represents a voucher to be engraved on three of the pillars of the monument's arch. Missing the name of Samuel Skinner, not yet recognized but which will be added later. According to correspondence with the architect, this list was corrected many times in 1927 before arriving at the mature version.

1928a-5 lists (totaling nearly one hundred pages) We identify five large lists attempting to locate and provide various information when possible. It contains the addresses of the relatives of the killed, the survivors and members of their relatives: parents, grandparents, brother, sisters, uncle and sometimes even cousins.

1928b-1-The official and printed list of 22 pages & 200 names) This list intended to send out invitations for the inauguration includes relatives and addresses. It also includes the references of the six French officers engraved on the Monument or those of their families for the deceased. The family of deceased pilot James Ralph DOOLITTLE alone includes 22 guest references.

1929a-A list of 16 pages, this list breaks down the names of the pilots and their relatives by state:

1929b- A list of 3 pages and 51 Names, Breakdown of pilots and relatives abroad (except France)

1930c- A list of 49 bodies

<i>Arkansas</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Colorado</i>	<i>01</i>
<i>Connecticut</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Florida</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>Illinois</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Indiana</i>	<i>05</i>	<i>Iowa</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>Kentucky</i>	<i>01</i>
<i>Louisiana</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>Maine</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>Maryland</i>	<i>04</i>
<i>Massachussetts</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Michigan</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Minnesota</i>	<i>06</i>
<i>Missouri</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>Montana</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>01</i>
<i>New Jersey</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>New Mexico</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>NY City</i>	<i>71</i>
<i>NY State</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>North Carolina</i>	<i>08</i>	<i>Ohio</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>Pennsylvania</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>04</i>
<i>South Carolina</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>Tennessee</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>04</i>
<i>Vermont</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>Virginia</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>West Virginia</i>	<i>05</i>
<i>Wisconsin</i>	<i>02</i>				

*This list of 49 bodies is the only one that has been officially published the fourth of  
November 1930 and it does not  
Include one pilot of Maryland not yet buried at that time*

# Booklet of families buried in the crypt used for sending invitations to the inauguration

LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE		THE AMERICAN PILOTS	
AND			
FLYING CORPS			
ADDRESS LIST		Pilots	Relatives
OF PILOTS AND RELATIVES			
1st May 1928			
Published by			
MÉMORIAL DE L'ESCADRILLE LAFAYETTE			
81, Rue Parment			
NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE (France)			
		ABBOTT, Walterright	(Father) W. F. Abbott
		State Department, Washington D. C.	Chicago, Ontario, Canada
		ADAMES, John Russell and Mrs.	(Mother) Mrs. Anna F. Kelso
		110 Guaranty Trust Co.	33 Smith St., Hempstead, L.I., N.Y.
		1, Rue des Indes, Paris.	(Aunt) Mrs. Chapman Fink
			(Cousin) Miss Dorothy Fink
			112 W 7th St. Mansfield, N.J.
		*ASH, Ada Newton	(Brother) Homer J. & Laurence Ash
		Deceased	McNabb, Illinois
			(Uncle) Homer E. Tenney
			137 S. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.
		BACH, Jules James and Mrs.	(Mother) Mrs. Alice Bach
		69, Avenue Henri-Martin, Paris	65 av. Henri-Martin, Paris
		BAER, Paul Frank	(Father) A. E. Baer
		110 Buhi Aircraft Corp., Marysville, Mich.	
		BAIRD, Benjamin Homer	
		BALSLEY, Horace Clyde and Mrs.	
		1605 Moore Drive, Los Angeles, Calif.	
		*BARCLAY, Leif Norman	(Father) Dr. H. V. Barclay and Mrs.
		Deceased	644 Madison Avenue, New York City
		BASSETT, Charles Chester Jr.	(Father) C. C. Bassett
		30 Cedar St., Rye, N.Y.	Beacon Apartments, Washington, D. C.
		BATCHELOR, Henry Augustus 3rd	(Mother) Mrs. Gertrude B. Batchelor
		Delta Kappa Epsilon Club,	(Sister) Mrs. Solara Japan
		5 East 31 Street, N. Y. City	Brown Shipley & Co., London, Eng.
		*BAUGHAM, James Henry	(Mother) Mrs. W. P. Baugham
		Deceased	Box 3, Washington, N. Carolina
			(Sister) Mrs. Harry McMullan
			(Niece) Miss Patsy McMullan
			(Brother) Mr. Seth B. Baugham, Washington,
			N. Carolina
		*BAYLES, Frank Leeman	(Father) Mr. C. S. Bayles and (Mrs. Lydia T.),
		Deceased	9 Mill Rd., New Bedford, Mass.



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **Getting Started with the Project**

#### **Chapter 23- Quotes and Contracts**

- *Work kick off of the works*
- *Specifications*
- *List of Contracts*
- *Summary Table of Expenses*



#### ***-Kick-off of the works***

The architect Alexandre Marcel gave a first estimate of the costs of the future Memorial on July 14, 1925 by a letter sent to Mr. Charles Prince, President of the Executive Committee. He thought that the cost of the construction estimated by the Executive Committee at F.1,600,000 -of which F.600,000- reserved exclusively for the crypt -would be clearly insufficient; he recommended an additional reserve of F.100,000 to complete the crypt. However, he did not oppose Dr Gros any other amount but indicated that he would prefer to withdraw rather than to make a construction like exhibition. He underlined in the same correspondence having worn a maximum savings on the construction of the crypt. He added that all his final studies were ready with execution plans, draft estimates and specifications and that he could now launch tenders to four or five contractors.

But on December 9 of the same year, in the name of the same executive council, Dr. Gros, who in the meantime became the new President, ordered the architect to carry out the work. He details the figures already put forward by himself by only increasing the sum of the shell - outside the crypt - by F.50,000.

Dr. Gros invokes the bad financial situation in France and the rapid increase in certain taxes. The purpose of this analysis is to instruct the architect to quickly execute the necessary contracts with the contractors before undergoing foreseeable increases.

This leads us to note that from the start, there was divergence between Dr. Gros and Alexandre Marcel on the sums necessary for the realization of the project, the latter being carried out not without having pleaded for a larger budget. Of course, the result of this difference will not be felt until much later at the end of construction, immediately after the inauguration. The additional funds sought by Dr. Gros arrived but insufficiently because the initial estimates swelled as the work progressed.

If we want to understand the construction of the work and be able to judge future disorders, it seems essential to look at the original contracts, you will find a summary below with the specifications drawn up by the architect to the companies.

### ***-Specifications***

The architect first of all drew up specifications imposed on the contractors of the various Corps of State contributing to the construction of the Monument. Due to the complexity of the task and the multiplicity of stakeholders, it establishes separate contracts by trade. This process was carried out from 1926 to 1927, the first contracts signed relating to the shell and the last to sculpture and engraving.

This book includes 24 articles and will be signed by each of the companies working on the site and provides in summary:

- the deadlines and methods of payment (according to the regulations of the central society of architects)
- the regulations in force to follow etc.
- work not carried out
- The modification of the work during the construction site -The quality of materials and their delay in delivery
- The impossibility of subcontracting the work without authorization -The non-conforming work -All forms of delay etc.

-In the event that a request for modifications is issued by the Fine Arts or another legal authority, the specifications order the contractors to comply with these possible orders.

Several contracts include a somewhat obscure clause providing for additional construction or demolition work. We are not aware of any such modification request during the construction period.

### ***-List of Contracts***

The contracts are all signed for the Foundation by Dr Gros domiciled in Paris 23, avenue du Bois de Boulogne (avenue Foch Paris XVI °)

1°) 1924-1928 Mr. Alexandre MARCEL, Chief Architect of the Government from February 1925 to 1928- Fees paid -F.286.485- 2 °) Mr. Marcel MAGÉS, Government Architect from May 1928 to November 1931- Fees paid - F.45.318-  
Both domiciled : 15, quai Malaquais Paris VI°

Contracts not mentioned; however, we think that apart from the model paid at the fixed price; the architects were remunerated by a percentage granted according to the amount of the invoices paid. This represents less than 10% of fees compared to the total net expenses, a level considered reasonable at the time, especially taking into account the task and responsibilities.

3°) Lecoer Company, Construction Engineer & Reinforced Concrete Contractor - F.463.000-  
domiciled: 17, avenue Ledru-Rollin Paris XII °

07-01-1926: Reinforced concrete works contract / Deadline: Five months F.331.200- Undated:  
Additional reinforced concrete works / Three months deadline

Construction method used:

This very well-known company was a necessary choice at that time. The materials used are for the central motif of the composition, the triumphal arch, the porticoes and the crypt, concrete reinforced by posts with intermediate partitions of the same material. All the posts form vertical support points for the reinforced cement framework of the entire project; they will have to descend to the good ground and rest on continuous footings, also in reinforced concrete and strongly connected to each other to constitute a non-deformable system. Said soles will be calculated to withstand the weights which they will have to bear, so that the construction remains absolutely stable and that no cracks or tears, however small, occur.

### First Job:

According to the orders of the architect and at the places which will be designated to him, the contractor will have to make soundings to ensure the state of the ground. Before starting the work, he will draw a line of very apparent general level. In a monumental construction of this nature, the concern for the conservation of the built work must be the main concern of the architect, its author. By anticipating them, he must therefore avoid all the causes that could attack the building and subsequently reduce its duration. One of the main reasons for the rapid deterioration of a monument when proper precautions have not been taken is soil moisture. It is therefore most important in the current case, because the foundation of the building will be based on land brought back.

The rear facade will be used to constitute the terrace bordered by the half-underground crypt; itself in direct contact with the land brought back.

It follows that to resist the causes of humidity, instead of building solid walls allowing themselves to be pierced by water from the ground, which then rises vertically, the walls of the semicircular crypt, will be formed by a concrete partition. reinforced with 0.08 thickness reinforced by ribs. The double partition will be made of Vaugirard brick or the like and coated with cement on the inside. Small ventilation holes will be fitted to ventilate the voids between partitions.

The points below will be highlighted in the claims and lawsuits after construction and demanding justice for the disorders that will occur:

Note: When steps and pavements are established on built-up land, insufficient foundations do not remain stable, resulting in dislocation or cracks in said steps and pavements and a miserable appearance in a very short time. To ensure the stability and subsequently the conservation of these steps and pavements, it will be necessary to consider under each of them either a raft foundation, or a system giving results that are also certain but more economical. The contractor will remain solely and solely responsible for any dislocations or cracks that may occur.

The Arc de Triomphe in reinforced concrete:

It follows the technical recommendations and dimensions to be respected for, the load of floors, partitions and recommendations to avoid any subsequent cracking. The floor which will support a marble floor and mosaics will be calculated for a load of 500kgs per m<sup>2</sup>, a lower load is planned for the other places of the central plenum. The slopes to be respected are not forgotten.

Side porticos:

The pillars are provided hollow formed by a reinforced partition. The straight stairs leading down to the crypt are the subject of precise orders on their composition and the insulation of the walls by laying calandrite.



### About the side porticos:

This leads us to the construction of the underground crypt and the circular terrace above it. The terrace of the crypt is made up of a reinforced concrete floor left unworked with slabs and beams. The waterproofing of the floor of the annular terrace will be ensured by the calandrite coated with a cement filler. Instructions follow on the installation of this material in order to insulate the walls of the crypt and provide an air mattress between the partitions to combat humidity.

Note: The calandrite contained asbestos, the only effective insulator known at that time. Part of it will have to be removed at great expense during renovations at the beginning of the present century.

Contract for additional works & the basin

This contract concerns in the first part the construction of the two arched wings of the Monument forming a terrace.

In the second part we find the construction of a large basin of about 1300m<sup>2</sup> surrounded by a raft, to face on the one hand the pressure of the water and on the other hand that of the earth. Added to this last part is the installation of concrete planters at the bottom of the basin for the cultivation of water lilies.

Note (1): It seems probable that the demolition of the Château de Villeneuve in the 19th century left embankments at the site of the foundations of the monument, which makes it easier to understand the term “reclaimed land”. There are still a few large stones and visible vases placed on land above and to the left of the Monument, land located about a hundred meters away.

4°) Gasheau company, Earthworks company 23, avenue du Bois de Boulogne Paris

07-01-1926: Time allowed 45 days after installation of reinforced cement -F.89.000-

Earthworks to be carried out for the central motif, the triumphal arch, side porticoes, a crypt with semi-circular terraces above, arched terraces to the left and to the right of the central motif. This contract includes, in addition to the excavations necessary for the foundations, the backfill to be carried out methodically as the work progresses. Sanitation was planned to be carried out at the back of the crypt. The contract stipulates those surveys carried out on the spot revealed the exact nature of the soil to be excavated.

Note: All sealing problems encountered subsequently will come from the soundings. First, only one survey was carried out which did not encounter any water while the Monument rests on a water table. Then this single survey was certainly not deep enough.

5°) Vialatoux Company, Reconstituted Stone and Stucco Contractor

domiciled: 5, avenue Thiers in Lyon

01-30-1926: Agglomerated Stone and Stucco, Polished marble

Time allowed 12-12-1926 -F.260,000-

02-12-1926: Reconstituted Stone, Marbles and Stucco Contract Deadline

granted: 06-30-1926 -F. 227.200-

### Agglomerated or Reconstituted Stone:

Laying of an exterior covering of the reconstructed stone crypt of approximately 0.10 to 0.15 thickness depending on the location, to be placed on the concrete Euville stone of choice (called marble). The semi-circular covering will be crowned by a molded band as well as the installation of gargoyles rejecting water from the terrace. This terrace is crowned by a handrail and handrail.

### Stone Stucco and Polished Marble Stucco:

The crypt begins at the arrival of the two large staircases. On an annular plan it is in the form of seventeen barrels vaults forming a niche where the sarcophagi rest four by four. In addition, there are two recesses in the bottom of the oven, placed under the descents of the stairs to the semi-circular terrace. The successful tenderer must use the brick construction of 0.05x0.11x0.22. All these vaults will be paved with a Portland cement mortar screed. All stone stucco will be sanded without any connection and the coating must be of first quality. It is then asked to provide unparalleled work for the faux marble slabs on the tombs, formed into reinforced cement slabs after molding.

6°) Maison Mme Vve E. Despagnat, Masonry and Public Works Contractor

Domiciled: 96, rue de Lévis Paris XVII °

06-22-1926: Stone Cladding Contract / Deadline granted: One Year -F.1.510.000- 20-10-1927 Order for Supplement for Terraces and two Perrons -F.23.000- (Following the previous estimate) / Deadline granted: "According to first contract"

04-04-1928 Contract Paving of two Curved Terraces - to the left and to the right of the Motif

Principal- / Deadline granted: According to first contract -F.75.000-

\* This is the only case where the final payments were lower than the contract (by F2,000)

This estimate presented many corrections in its preparation and includes at least five copies before the final contract (which we do not have), we can explain this by the complexity of the task and the use of the already well-known reinforced concrete. but not commonly used.

### Arc de Triomphe & Side Porticos with Abouts & Perrons:

This estimate only includes the reinforced concrete carcass of the Monument, of which he must indicate to the architect the system he is proposing. Six porches and their steps three at the front of the monument and three at the rear. The large porch on the facade includes 6 steps 14 centimeters high. The 2 steps giving access to the two end motifs of the main facade will have 7 steps. On the rear facade in front of the arch, a large semicircular staircase with three steps and finally 2 porches of 4 steps on the sides. The two large straight staircases located to the right and left of the triumphal arch and leading to the crypt will include steps and counter steps treated with rough sawn (sanding of the steps). They will all have a slight slope so that the rain does not stagnate. All these steps and stops will be executed in "Bocqueville Gris" stone. For the stairs in installation and supply, the Contractor must carry out the very perfect execution according to the drawings or models which will be provided to him.

### Coating in Cold Stone:

The exterior coverings are placed at the base of the monument all around, up to 3.85m high, are made of polished Rocheret stone known as Orval yellow (the original quarry still exists). The places carved or bearing inscriptions are placed in 1st quality marble Euville stone. The dimensions of the stone and its thickness vary from place to place. The existing sculpted part in the vault of the Arc de Triomphe is not part of this contract. In general, the Euville stone cladding will go down to the first foundation in polished yellow Rocheret stone.

The contracting company acknowledges at the end of the contract that it has received the plans, sections and elevations of the general specifications and of this estimate.

The complementary contract of October 20, 1927 is very brief and is in fact a supplement to the first contract.

7 °) 07-07-1927 M. Ernest Dubois, 15, rue Mansart Paris IX °

Works of Statuary Sculptures (M. Ernest Dubois) F.40,000- Time allowed: 4 Months

Execution of two medallions each 2m60 in diameter, located on the rear facade of the Monument. It includes the execution of the plaster models to be accepted by the Architect. Although this is not specified in the contract or in subsequent surveys, we attribute to him the magnificent sculptures of Indian heads at the top and at the back of the Monument. The two sculptors hired to work on the Monument signed their various contracts on the same day.

8 °) 1927-1928 Céramique d'Art (Gentil & Bourdet) Contract of 18/10/1927 / F.70.700- Time allowed: two months.

Home address: 189, rue du vieux pont in Boulogne Billancourt

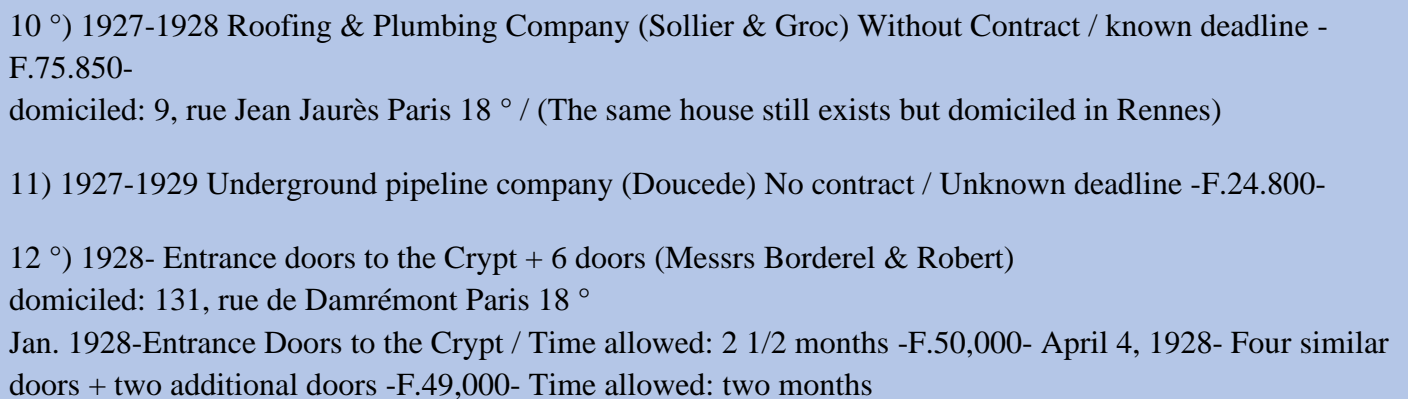
Art Ceramist whose factory oven was located not far from the Monument. We attribute to them the mosaic of the plenum -part located under the arch and including the Indian head-, this with a risk of deceiving us. It is a work very related to the other achievements of these outstanding Art Deco artists.

**If the 1st head represents an Indian face the 2nd shows a European face**





Time allowed: four months  
See details of this market below:



13°) 1928-Vitraux & Céramiques SA Mauméjean Frères -13 stained glass windows each with a ceramic inscription - approximately F.56,000 \*  
domiciled: Paris & Hendaye  
Amount paid by a special donation from Mrs. Spencer

### **-Summary Table of Expenses**

Conversions from the “Anciens Francs” to the “Euros” have been calculated using: [http://france-inflation.com/calculateur\\_inflation.php](http://france-inflation.com/calculateur_inflation.php)

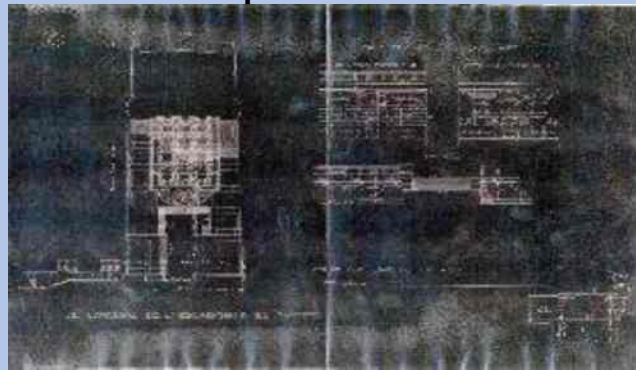
This calculator gives you any conversion since 1901. The super-rampant inflation since the end of the twenties to the present day is around 40,000%. The discounting calculations in euros are based on the old Francs since 1929, date of the table approved by the Board of Directors of December 31, 1929. You will find appearing in the 2nd column of the updating of these amounts in euros stopping in 2016.

We firmly believe that the reconstruction of the Monument nowadays would cost more than 3,592,768 Euros. It would then be necessary to take again the cost of the wages with the social charges largely increased nowadays, that of the standards of constructions much more restrictive, without counting multiple aspects related to a modern construction.

I obviously do not understand the cost of demolition of the current Monument because you have understood it well, it is only a school hypothesis.

The figures in the table above were not invented for the occasion, they were approved by the Board of Directors of the Association on October 31, 1929. My only modification was to break down the expenses of the construction of the big work which appear on this report in a single line of F.4.202.662, 75 to which my calculations ultimately bring a negligible difference of F.10.000-. This difference itself comes from a different calculation of the overruns of the structural work contracts, my calculation going up to 1931.

### Sectional plan of the Monument



Year	Year	Name of Speakers	Amount	Amount
Start	End		Final	Convert in
			Payments	Euros
				(updated)
1924	1928	M. Alexandre Marcel	286 485	177 941
1924	1931	M. Marcel Magés	45 318	28 148
1926	1928	Entreprise Lecoœur	837 900	520 435
1926	1928	Entreprise Gasheau	140 000	86 957
1926	1929	Entreprise Vialatoux	507 284	315 083
1926	1930	Maison Mme Vve E. Despagnat	1 606 000	997 516
1927	1927	Sculptures Statuaire (M. Ernest Dubois)	40 000	24 845
1927	1930	Sculptures, Gravures (M. E. Laperlier)	106 828	66 353
1927	1928	Céramique d'Art (Gentil & Bourdet)	70 700	43 913
1927	1928	Couverture & Plomberie (Sollier & Groc)	75 850	47 112
1927	1929	Canalisation souterraine (Doucede)	24 800	15 404
1927	1928	6 portes (Messieurs Borderel & Robert)	99 000	61 491
1929	1929	Vitraux & Céramiques Mauméjean	55 272	34 330
1924	1929	Dépassement de marchés Gros Œuvre	323 451	200 901
<b>Total Gros Œuvre</b>			<b>4 218 888</b>	<b>2 620 427</b>
1924	1929	Salaires, Intendance & Secrétariat	215 514	133 860
1928	1928	Inauguration	66 998	41 614
1928	1930	Déplacement des Corps	121 623	75 542
1929	1930	Provision pour dépenses ultérieures	1 000 000	621 118
1926	1926	Présentation de la Maquette	12 939	8 037
1926	1929	Impression, Frais bancaires, Recherches	25 388	15 769
1926	1929	Câbles, Photos, Surveillance, Voyages	76 634	47 599
1924	1929	Location, Téléphone, Timbres	32 457	20 160
1924	1929	Divers	13 916	8 643
			<b>5 784 357</b>	<b>3 592 768</b>

## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **The Crypt and the Tombs**

#### **Chapter 24- The Crypt: The Sacred Center Of The Memorial**

##### *-Introduction*

The crypt, made up of tombs and stained-glass windows, constitutes an inseparable whole and a whole to be assimilated for the visitor. We divide for the sake of clarity and precision the chapters concerning the crypt between its entrance, the stained-glass windows, the tombs etc. This is explained for simple practical reasons of presentation for the reader; the same goes for luminous crosses, chapel benches, doors and inscriptions. It is in fact an indivisible whole on the ground.

We have logically chosen to start with the entrance, the lighting and the benches and chapels (see Chapter (42) Crypt-From Doors to Lighting.

Without the remains of the pilots resting in the crypt, this monument would only be a simple place for a tourist walk; we will try to describe the main one to you.

We have seen fit to bring together, in this fourth and penultimate part of the work, two subjects close to our hearts and directly linked to the crypt. Thus, we devote a chapter to the subject of the transfer of bodies from their first burial to the Memorial Also in the same spirit, you can find (see Chapter 32) the location of the isolated graves of pilots, for example, those who did not never had their burial in the crypt but being represented there by a cenotaph.

Our goal is to communicate to you on the one hand, the answers to questions often asked by visitors of all ages, from all origins and on the other hand, hoping to communicate to you a little of the emotion felt in these places. Despite the care taken in this part of the work, we know that our descriptions will always be imperfect and that only the feeling of the place will give you the answer to your own question. We also understand that for plausible reasons of availability, distance etc., that this visit will not always be possible ... so we will do our best to communicate our feelings and our knowledge of the subject to you.

Perhaps a little used word can certainly express what we feel while writing on this crypt, it is a question of "extimacy", that is to say according to a great writer Michel Tournier, the desire to show everyone what is relevant to the order of the intimate and the unknown.



## Funeral Sergeant Hoskier and his machine gunner



*Haesc. 25 avril 1917.*  
*Obèques de Vergues pilote*  
*Hoskier et du mitrailleur Denny*  
*de l'escadillon "La Fayette".*

*Au Cimetière de Haesc. Le*  
*Capitaine Bohannault Commandant*  
*de l'escadillon achève son discours*  
*sur les tombes de ces braves*  
*morts pour la France le 23 avril 1917*

*Collection de l'adjudant Boretin*  
*de l'escadillon "La Fayette".*  
*Section 164.*

## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **The Crypt and the Tombs**

#### **Chapter 25- The Crypt: From Doors to Light**

##### *-Dimensions*

*-The Entrance and Exit of the Crypt -The Entrance Walls in Slate -The Doors*

*-The Luminous Crosses, Chapels & Benches -The Abandoned Poem*

#### **Dimensions:**

Approximate ambulatory length: 70 meters Width: 3m67

Width of each niche: 2m70 Width of the Pillars separating the niches: 1m Height

under Vault: 3m86

##### ***-The Entrance and Exit of the Crypt***

The semi-buried crypt of the Marnes-la-Coquette Memorial includes 17 niches each containing 4 tombs, i.e.  $(17 \times 4) = 68$  tombs. To this figure, we must add those of the two French Commanders of the Escadrille La Fayette, placed in cenotaphs, site of empty tombs (without body); they were buried after the pilots because they survived the two world wars. The crypt also includes an ambulatory; to get there, the recommended direction of the visit is to go down the Washington staircase. The graves are listed in order of death in combat, like the names inscribed vertically on the central arch. The coffins are placed on a slightly raised concrete slab, they are protected from the front, in each niche, by three slate plates placed end to end, which seal the opening over its entire width. A neo-Gothic appearance was given to this crypt, by the construction of brick vaults and in the form of cradles. Originally there appeared on the walls false stone joints painted by hand with a colored plaster. Also, along the exterior wall, the gaze falls on two chapels with a bench of rest and luminous devotional crosses encourage meditation.

## ***-The Slate Entrance Walls***

The walls facing the stairs are slate, they are illustrated with a cross and inscriptions in golden letters in both languages. The designers decided on it instead of the monumental cross, the project of which remained unanswered.

**Entrance of the Crypt Exit of the Crypt**



## ***-The doors***

Each of the two entrance doors placed in front of the stairs measures approximately 6m by 5m, the four corner angles are cut by a straight line formed by the posts of the porticoes. The floors are covered with a mosaic similar to that of the crypt

On April 4, 1928, Dr. Gros signed with “Messieurs Borderel & Robert” the so-called Art Ironwork market, an establishment well known for its specialized works in Art Deco style Ironwork (between 1929-1940). This company published catalogs of their works, few in number but much sought after. They ensured the artistic design of all the doors of the Memorial, eight doors in total.

-4 doors for pillar entrances  
-2 doors on the upper terraces -2 doors at the entrance to the Crypt

A second contract added to the plenum doors added two artistically decorated doors giving access to the side terraces.

The two arched doors, giving one to the entrance and the other to the exit of the crypt, are executed with decorative foliage friezes. The execution was foreseen by the founders as 'having to be very artistic in every detail'. The clear glass mirrors placed behind the ironwork were delivered and installed out of contract by a specialist contractor. The sculptures on ironwork are made by Marcel RENARD. The two doors at each end of the crypt are identical and have absolutely similar ornaments.

As we walk through this door, we think that their heroism has opened wide the gates of paradise to them, the text engraved on the grave below illustrating this point.

**Tomb with evangelical epitaph**



**BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART  
BECAUSE THEY WILL SEE GOD**

**Crypt exit door**





**Detail of the Crowned Angel**



**View of the paving of the Entrance and the Crypt**



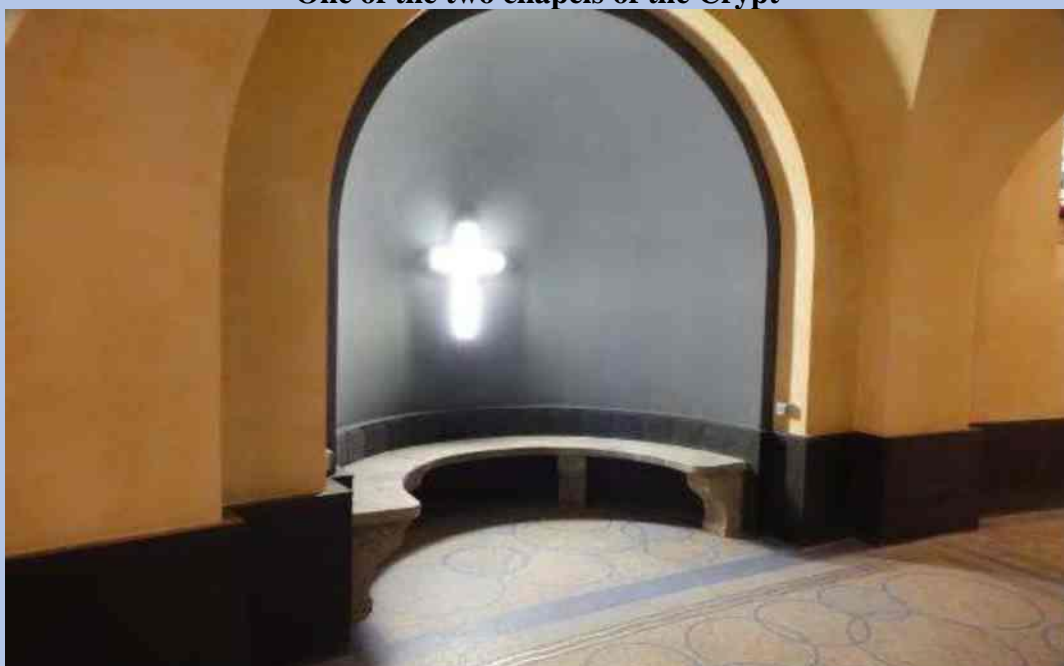
### ***-The Luminous Crosses, Chapels and Benches***

The luminous crosses of 0.82 x 0.52 are placed on a copper plinth in the center of the two chapels, they have been the subject of a complete restoration by making identical glasses at an art craftsman. The two vaulted chapels forming a half cylinder, said to be made in the bottom of the oven, are backed by the two staircases of the hemicycle leading down to the gardens behind the monument. Their maximum width is 3m50.

**Luminous cross**



**One of the two chapels of the Crypt**



## *-The Abandoned Poem*

Richard Le Galiennie (1866-1947), English poet living in Paris in the twenties, wrote especially for the Memorial the verses below which appeared in the inauguration brochure. The plan to engrave them in or near the crypt was considered but did not take shape.



For the  
Mémorial de l'Escadrille Lafayette  
at  
Villeneuve-l'Étang.

France of the many lovers, none than these  
Have brought you love of an intenser flame,  
These lads that on the wings of morning came  
Far from their homes across the Atlantic seas;  
Soldiers of your immortal chivalries  
Against the Gothic hordes that burn and maim,—  
Ah! not Thermopylæ hath fairer fame  
Than they that sleep here underneath the trees.

They tarried not while elders of the State  
Pondered politic armaments of aid,  
But their long councils laughingly defied :  
France is in peril! shall her lovers wait!  
Their golden youth they gave, and here are laid  
Deep in the arms of France for whom they died.

*Richard Le Galiennie.*

*June 17, 1927*



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **The Crypt and the Tombs**

#### **Chapter 26- The Crypt: The Niches**

##### ***-First Niche -Last Niche***

##### ***-Names Engraved on the Sarcophagi***

Failing that, within the framework of this work, we cannot focus on a study of the seventeen niches of the crypt, this coming more from the biographies of the aviators than from the history of the Monument. We will briefly review the first and the last of these. Then we will let you discover the photos of all the niches. Even if it means repeating ourselves in relation to the chapter indicated, here is a quick glance at two niches. The purpose of this chapter - apart from the photos - being to give you an explanation of the three graves relating to deaths after November 11, 1918, a question often asked during visits.

##### ***-First Niche***

Entering the crypt according to the order of visits - on the "Washington staircase" side, you will find on your left the first graves dating from 1916, those of the first killed of the Squadron, the names of which are among the most famous: Victor CHAPMAN, Dennis DOWD, KY ROCKWELL & Norman PRINCE, these four graves are actually cenotaphs. We think that these four names of the precursors are famous - for those interested in the Monument - and on the other hand amply commented in the various books and biographies which you will find the list in the Documentation at the end of the book.

##### ***-Last Niche***

Conversely, when leaving the crypt, you will always see on your left, the last niche No. 17 - before exiting via the "La Fayette" staircase -; it corresponds to the latest pilots recognized by the "Registration Committee" (Chapter22- List of All Valid Drivers).

The first tomb of this last category corresponds to a pilot killed before the date of the armistice of November 11, 1918. It is Theodore de KRUIJFF.

The second death, corresponds to a postwar flight accident in Florida and on behalf of the US military. Indeed, on March 16, 1929 one of the best pilots of the Escadrille David PETERSON was killed with his co-pilot.

Lawrence SCALAN was, at the start of hostilities, a hero of the trench fights in the Foreign Legion. He was given for dead after his plane fell on a building. Repatriated following a serious leg injury, he underwent eight different amputation operations due to gangrene, before dying of exhaustion on November 25, 1920.

Finally, Walter YORK, for the last tomb of the crypt First hired as a volunteer ambulance driver at the start of the war. He destroyed an enemy airplane on September 17, 1917, which earned him the Croix de Guerre with palm. While on leave in the United States he caught the flu, then tuberculosis which he could not get rid of until his death on January 6, 1921.



We salute in passing the tomb of General Brocard added later and placed in this niche where there are three cenotaphs. Theodore de Kruijff being originally the only true tomb of this last niche.

### ***-Names Engraved on the Sarcophagi***

Below are the photos of each of the tombs taken in the 17 numbered niches. The sarcophagi are made of marble stucco, faux marble painted by hand; they are painted on cement slabs. This technique, a little lost nowadays, requires research for the restorations of specialized artists.

The photos taken in the crypt are not always easy to reproduce and you will apologize for the imperfections that you have noticed.

**N°01= V. CHAPMAN / D. DOWD / KY ROCKWELL / N. PRINCE**



**N°02= JR Mc CONNEL / ECC GENET / RW HOSKIER / LN BARCLAY**



**N°03= OM CHADWICK / JC BIDDLE / N. GRIEB / WH MEEKER**



N°04= D. Mac MONAGLE / AC CAMPBELL, Jr / RM HANFORD / PAVELKA, Jr



N°05= HB PALMER / SW SKINNER / EA FOWLER / C. TINKARD  
+ Colonel Thenault



(Plaque posée en-dessous)





**N°06= B.S. WALCOTT / F.E. STARETT / D. SPENCER / P.P. BENNEY**



**N°07= W.H. TAILER / E.J. LOUGHRAN / W.C. WINTER / P. COLLINS**



**N°08= H. WOODWARD / S. LEE / D. ELY / D.E. STONE**





**N°09= C.W. CHAPMAN Jr / J.A. BAYNE / S.R. DREW Jr / G.R.V. LUFBERY**



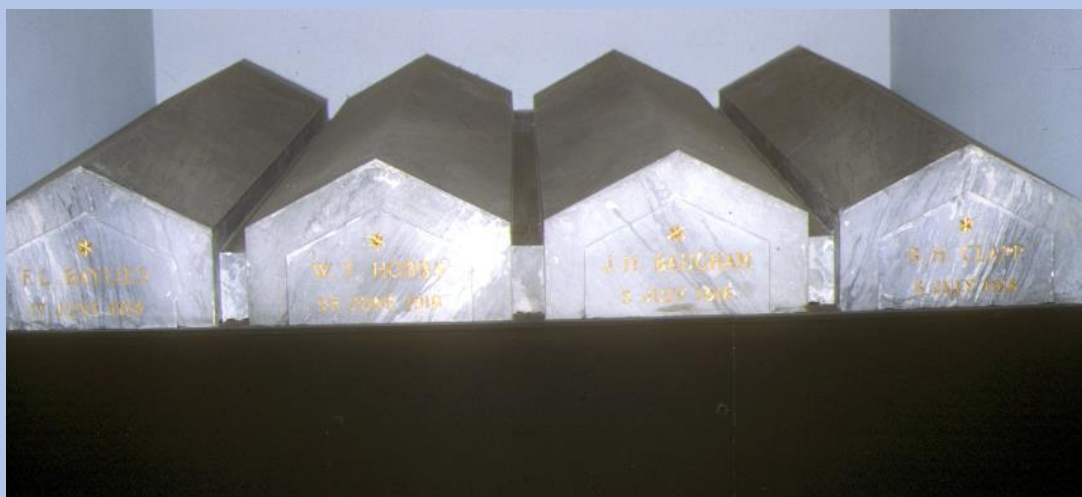
**N°10= H.F.W. JOHNSON / C.L. OVINGTON / A.N. ASH / A.D. PELTON**



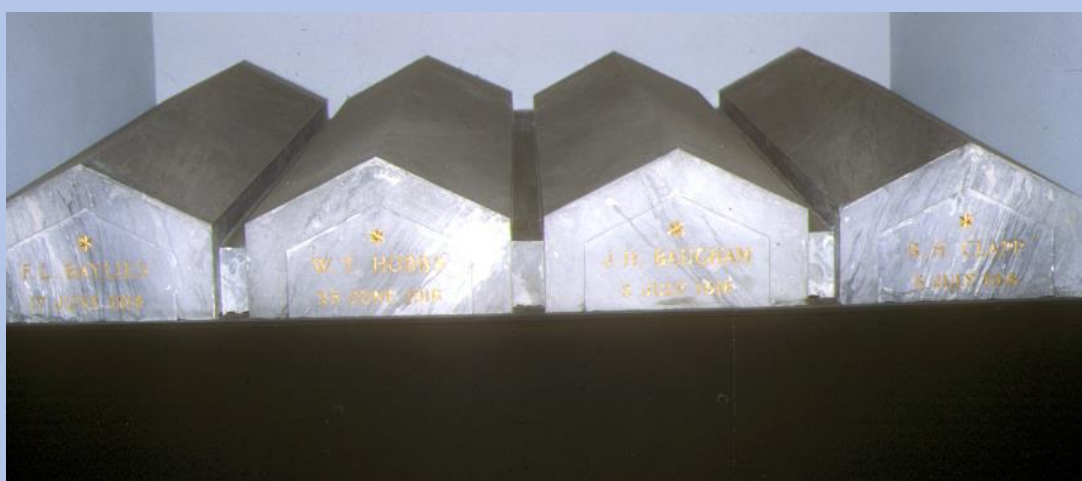
**N°11= P.W. DAVIS / A.H. NICHOLS / A. BLUETHENTHAL / C.F. CHAMBERLAIN**



**N°12= F.L. BAYLIES / W.T. HOBBS / J.H. BAUGHAM / R.H. CLAPP**



**N°13= DG TUCKER / V. BOOTH, Jr / M. LEHR / SM TYSON**

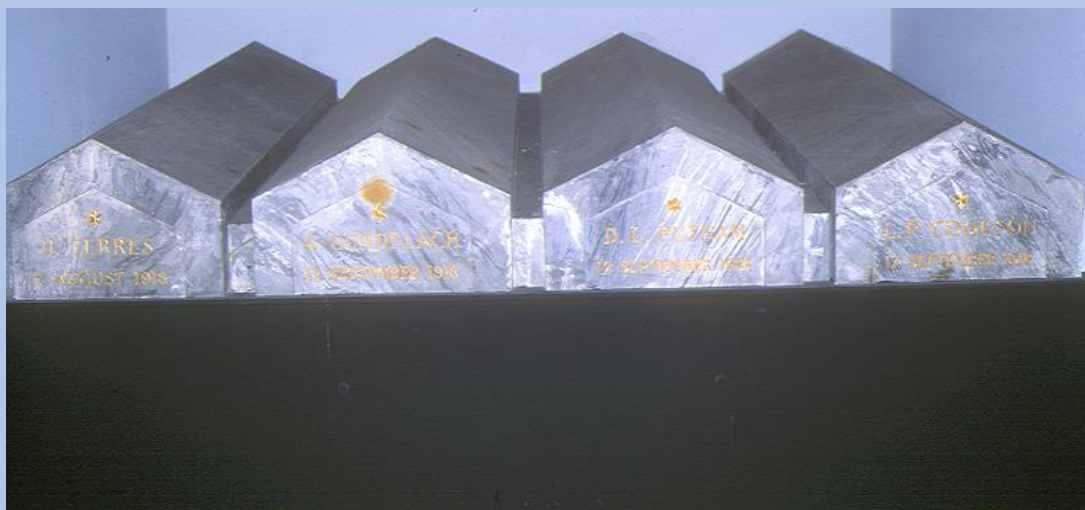


**N°14= JR DOOLITTLE / WB MILLER / WJ Mc KERNESS / SE EDGAR**

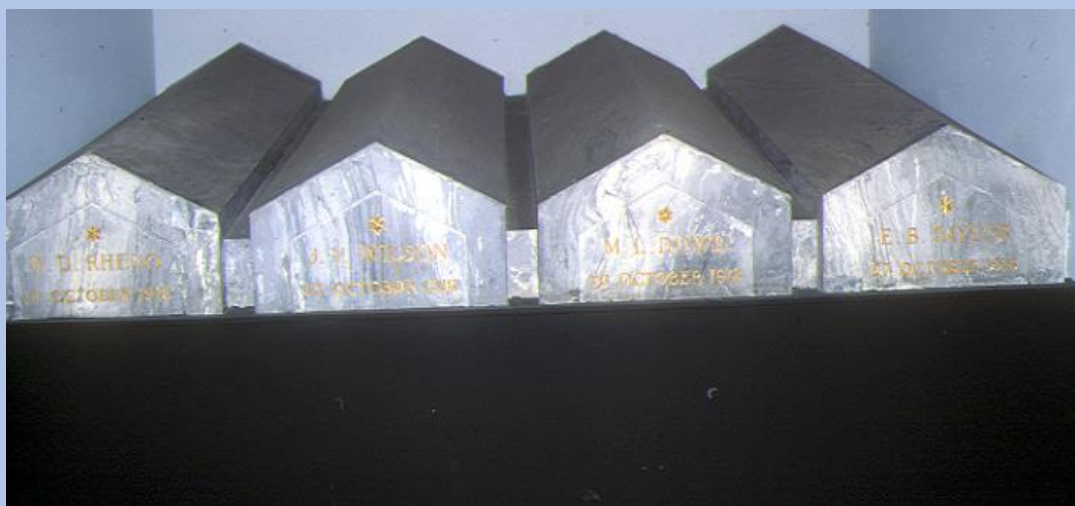




**N°15 = H. TERRES / A. GUNDELACH / DL PUTMAN / LP COOKSON**



**N°16 = WD RHENO / JV WILSON / ML DOWD / EB TAYLOR**



**No.17= T. by KRUIJFF / DM PETERSON / L. SCALAN / WR. YORK + General BROCARD**



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **The Crypt and the Tombs**

#### **Chapter 27- The Crypt: The Coffins & Reasons for Death**

- Description Crypt & Tombs*
- Lists & Ranking Order of Tombs*
- Post-inauguration burial plaques*
- Reason of Deaths*
- Restoration*
- Various*

**The emotion caused by a visit to the crypt is renewed each time.**

#### ***-Description Crypt & Tombs***

For the founding designers, it was a question of finding a place conducive to meditation, where each pilot, whatever his rank, his acts of war, or equal in his burial to all the other dead on the field of honor.

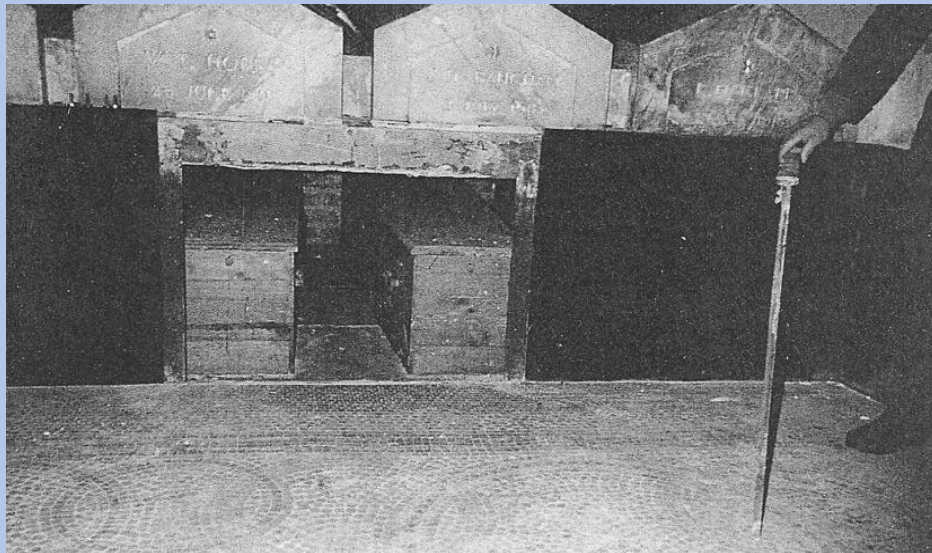
In this consecrated place, one walks in an ambulatory lit during the day by 13 stained glass windows or, in case of cloudy weather, with the help of a light diffused by spotlights. In good weather, the stained-glass windows are in value, especially in the afternoon given the west orientation of the crypt.

As you can see in the illustration below, the wooden coffins sit directly on the concrete slab and no nameplates appear on the front or sides. Behind the coffins, we can see the wall common to the crawl space and the crypt. The photo below bears witness to this extremely rare if not unique technical inspection of the interior of the cellars. The part hiding the coffins is sealed, for each niche, by three thick slates of Angers slate placed side by side.

The false stucco marbles form the top clearly visible with the names of the pilots and the date of death. The top gives the appearance of a traditional gravestone. The name of this cornice-shaped part was referred to by the renovating architect under the little-known term of “Stylobates”.



**Photo Foundation published for the study of the Gatier cabinet (1999)**



***-Lists & Order of Tombs in the Crypt***

The names and dates of death of the 68 pilots of the La Fayette Flying Corps were engraved on the imitation marble stucco. A task carried out by the engraver E. Laperlier, his mission consisted in engraving all the inscriptions in letters and numbers appearing on the monument. These marks relating to the killed pilots are visible on the 17 vaulted niches, each comprising 4 graves. You will find below the list of the 68 tombs in the order of the visit which corresponds to the one engraved on the two sides of the central arch.

**CLASSEMENT DES TOMBES DE LA CRYPTTE**

N°			Niche
1	V. CHAPMAN	23 JUNE 1916	1
2	D. DOWD	11 AUGUST 1916	1
3	K.Y. ROCKWELL	23 SEPTEMBER 1916	1
4	N. PRINCE	15 OCTOBER 1916	1
5	J.R. Mc CONNELL	19 MARSH 1917	2
6	E.C.C. GENET	16 APRIL 1917	2
7	R.W. HOSKIER	23 APRIL 1917	2
8	L.N. BARCLAY	1 JUNE 1917	2
9	O.M. CHADWICK	14 AUGUST 1917	3
10	J.C. BIDDLE, Julian C.	18 AUGUST 1917	3
11	N. GRIEB	28 AUGUST 1917	3
12	W.H. MEEKER	11 SEPTEMBER 1917	3
13	D. Mac MONAGLE	24 SEPTEMBER 1917	4
14	A.C. CAMPBELL, JR	1 OCTOBER 1917	4
15	R.M. HANFORD	15 OCTOBER 1917	4
16	P. PAVELKA. JR	11 NOVEMBER 1917	4
17	H.B. PALMER	12 NOVEMBER 1917	5
18	S.W. SKINNER	12 NOVEMBER 1917	5
19	E.A. FOWLER	27 NOVEMBER 1917	5
20	C. TRINKARD	29 NOVEMBER 1917	5
21	B.S. WALCOTT	12 DECEMBER 1917	6
22	F.E. STARRETT	3 JANUARY 1918	6

23	D, SPENCER	22 JANUARY 1918	6
24	P.P. BENNEY	26 JANUARY 1918	6
25	W.H. TAILER	5 FEBRUARY 1918	7
26	E.J. LOUGHRAN	18 FEBRUARY 1918	7
27	W.C. WINTER, JR	8 MARCH 1918	7
28	P, COLLINS	12 MARCH 1918	7
29	H, WOODWARD	1 APRIL 1918	8
30	S. LEE	12 APRIL 1918	8
31	D. ELY	21 APRIL 1918	8
32	D.E. STONE	21 APRIL 1918	8
33	C.W. CHAPMAN. JR	3 MAY 1918	9
34	J.A. BAYNE	8 MAY 1918	9
35	S.R. DREW. JR	19 MAY 1918	9
36	G.R.V. LUFBERY	19 MAY 1918	9
37	H.F.W. JOHNSON	21 MAY 1918	10
38	C.L. OVINGTON	29 MAY 1918	10
39	A.N. ASH	31 MAY 1918	10
40	A.D. PELTON	31 MAY 1918	10
41	P.W. DAVIS	2 JUNE 1918	11
42	A.H. NICHOLS	2 JUNE 1918	11
43	A. BLUETHENTHAL	5 JUNE 1918	11
44	C.F. CHAMBERLAIN	5 JUNE 1918	11
45	F.L. BAYLIES.	17 JUNE 1918	12
46	W.T. HOBBS	25 JUNE 1918	12
47	J.H. BAUGHAM	2 JULY 1918	12
48	R.H. CLAPP	6 JULY 1918	12
49	D,G, TUCKER	8 JULY 1918	13
50	V, BOOTH, JR	July 10, 1918	13
51	M. LEHR	15 JULY 1918	13
52	S.M. TYSON	19 JULY 1918	13
53	J.R. DOOLITTLE	26 JULY 1918	14
54	W.B. MILLER	3 AUGUST 1918	14
55	W.J. Mc KERNESS	15 AUGUST 1918	14
56	S.E. EDGAR	17 AUGUST 1918	14
57	H, TERRES	17 AUGUST 1918	15
58	D.L. PUTMAN	12 SEPTEMBER 1918	15
59	A. GUNDELACH	12 SEPTEMBER 1918	15
60	L.P. COOKSON	17 SEPTEMBER 1918	15
61	W.D. RHENO	10 OCTOBER 1918	16
62	J.V. WILSON	23 OCTOBER 1918	16
63	M.L. DOWD	26 OCTOBER 1918	16
64	E.B. TAYLOR	27 OCTOBER 1918	16
65	T, DE KRUIJFF	6 NOVEMBER 1918	17
66	D.M. PETERSON	16 MARCH 1919	17
67	L. SCALAN	25 NOVEMBER 1920	17
68	W.R. YORK	6 JANUARY 1920	17

### **Reconstruction of the crypt in briquettes and stucco (2004)**



### ***-Post-inauguration burial plaques***

We will not forget to read the plaques dedicated to the two French commanders also resting in this crypt. Indeed, Colonel Thenault (niche N ° 5) and General Brocard (niche N ° 17) are buried there; their remains occupy for each the place of two coffins of pilots whose bodies are missing. These two burials in question each date after the 2nd world war.

In May 1951, Charles Gray and Paul Rockwell were appointed to find a site in the crypt for the tomb of Colonel George Thenault.



Colonel G. THENAULT / Plate of nest N°05



*"Former brothers in arms of the one whose only distinction was not to command you but to serve with you, receive a last Farewell"*

General Antonin BROCARD Plate of Nest N ° 17





## ***-Reason of Deaths***

	<b><i>Fight /Accident /Injurie/Illness/Lost</i></b>			
CHAPMAN Victor	1			
DOWD Dennis		1		
ROCKWELL, Kiffin Y	1			
PRINCE, Norman			1	
Mc CONNELL,James R	1			
GENET, Edmond C				1
HOSKIER, Ronald W	1			
BARCLAY, Leif N.		1		
CHADWICK, O	1			
BIDDLE, Julian C.	1			
GRIEB, Norman		1		
MEEKER, William		1		
MacMONAGLE, D	1			
CAMPBELL, AC Jr	1			
HANFORD, Robert M	1			
PAVELKA, Paul		1		
PALMER, Henry B				1
SKINNER, Samuel W				1
FOWLER Eric A.		1		
TRINKARD, Charles		1		
WALCOTT, B S	1			
STARRETT, Frank E		1		
SPENCER, Dumaresq		1		
BENNEY, Philip P			1	
TAILER, William Hallet				1
LOUGHRAN, Edward J	1			
WINTER, Wallace C	1			
COLLINS, Phelps				1
WOODWARD, H	1			
LEE, Schuyler	1			
ELY, Dinsmore		1		
Corp STONE, Donald E	1			
CHAPMAN, CW Jr	1			
BAYNE, James A.		1		
DREW, Sidney R. Jr	1			
LUFBERY, G R V	1			
JOHNSON, Harry F		1		
OVINGTON, Carter L	1			
ASH, Alan Newton	1			
PELTON, Alfred D	1			
DAVIS, Philip W.	1			

***Fight /Accident /Injurie/Illness/Lost***

NICHOLS, Alan H	1						
BLUETHENTHAL, A	1						
CHAMBERLAIN C.F.	1						
BAYLIES, Frank L.	1						
Lt. HOBBS, Warren T.				1			
BAUGHAM, James H.			1				
CLAPP, Roger H.		1					
TUCKER, Dudley G	1						
BOOTH, Veron Jr.			1				
LEHR, Manderson	1						
TYSON, Stephen M	1						
DOOLITTLE J.R.	1						
MILLER, Walter B	1						
Mc KERNESS, William	1						
Lt. EDGAR, Stuart E.		1					
TERRES, Hugh		1					
PUTNAM, D E	1						
GUNDELACH, A.	1						
COOKSON, Linn P						1	
RHENO, Walter D.						1	
WILSON, Joseph V		1					
DOWD, Meredith L	1						
TAYLOR, Elmer B						1	
De KRUIJFF, T.						1	
PETERSON, David M		1					
SCANLAN, Lawrence			1				
YORK, Walter R.						1	
	35	17	5	3	7		1

<b>Fight</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Accident</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Injurie</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>DCA</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Illness</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Lost</b>	<b>1</b>

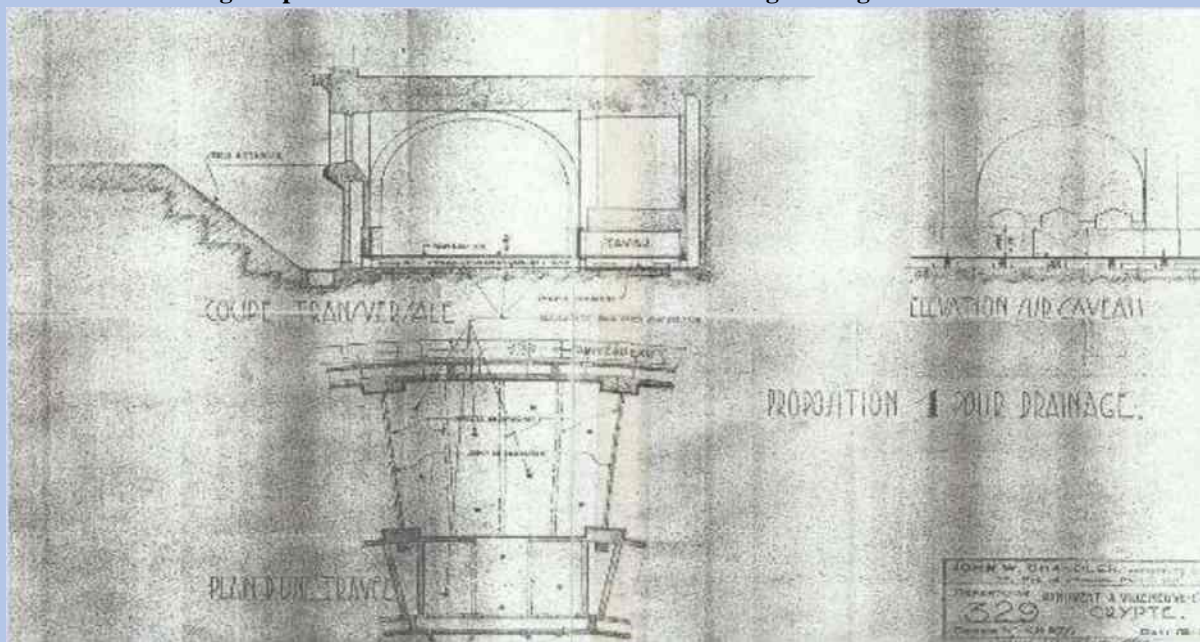
## ***-Restoration***

The crypt has given rise to several restorations since 1936, including the major one in 2002 funded on the French side by the Ministry of Culture (DRAC), the Hauts-de-Seine General Council and the French Souvenir (Souvenir Français) etc., on the American side by the United States Congress and many other French and American donors.

This buried and humid place suffers from numerous infiltrations of water since its origin. In fact, the walls and the ceiling allow water to pass through from the hemicycle. Added to this is the humidity created by a water table located under the monument and by runoff from neighboring heights. The Ministry of Culture, Defense and Congress of the United States participated in 1994 in studies and funding to restore the Memorial, the renovations of the 21st century are the most important since its construction.

In June 2008, the visit of the “First Lady” Laura Bush, resulted in a large donation; this sum was used for the renovation study undertaken in 2012. An agreement was signed that year for a complete repair of the monument between the Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs and the Director of the ABMC (American Battle Monuments Commission) representing the US government. This renovation was to be carried out, in view of the centenary ceremony of the Escadrille scheduled for March 20, 2016.

**Original plan of the vaults established for the raising of the ground in 1936**



***-Various***

We listen to noises in these funereal voids; we listen to the breath, wandering in the darkness, whose darkness shivers and at times, lost in unfathomable nights, we let us see formidable lights light up, the window of eternity.

**Victor HUGO**

**Ace pilot of the 1st world war -born in Chamalières- (Puy-de-Dôme)**



**Members of the Air Force "La Fayette" Squadron visiting the crypt**





**Visit of the “First Lady” Laura Buch in the crypt (2008)**

**Children on November 11<sup>th</sup> Ceremony**



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **The Crypt and the Tombs**

#### **Chapter 28- The Coffins of the Crypt Contract**

##### ***-The contract***

Below, a document found while writing the end of this book. This is the Market relating to Coffins, Exhumations and Transport from the tombs to the crypt.

A transfer did not take place; that of Dennis DOWD whose tomb still exists in Versailles in an abandoned military square, practically impossible to find because without a cross or name.

This document signed by Dr Gros on April 30, 1928, seems moving to us, it gives us unknown details on the nature of the coffins. We let you read it without further comments.

The authorities currently governing the Monument would be honored to transfer the grave of Dennis DOWD; the latter currently lying dormant in the old cemetery of Versailles. It appears to the visitor in a state of total collapse, without any inscription and practically impossible to find. While at the Monument a tomb has already been dedicated to him in the crypt. The distance separating these two points is less than 10 km. (See chapter 32 concerning Isolated Tombs). The centenary of the Monument's Inauguration in 2028 would lend itself well to such a ceremony of transferring the remains of our pilot - one of the first volunteers to register as soon as he left Ambassador Herrick's office. However, authorization from his descendants would be necessary beforehand.



**MONUMENT DE L'ESCADRILLE LAFAYETTE**  
**au Parc de Villeneuve l'Etang.**

---

**Marché de: Cercueils, Exhumations, et Transport.**

Entre les soussignés:

Monsieur le Docteur Ed. GROS, représentant le Mémorial de l'Escadrille Lafayette, demeurant à Paris, 23, avenue du Bois de Boulogne

d'une part,

et Monsieur Bernard J. LANE, entrepreneur de pompes funèbres, demeurant 9, rue Saussier-Leroy, à Paris (XVII)

d'autre part,

**IL A ETE CONVENU ET ARRETE CE QUI SUIT :**

**ART. 1.**

Mr. Bernard J. LANE s'engage à assurer toutes les fournitures et opérations nécessaires pour le regroupement au Memorial de l'Escadrille Lafayette au Parc de Villeneuve l'Etang, Commune de Marnes (Seine-et-Oise) des corps des membres de l'Escadrille, inhumés en France, en Belgique et en Italie, savoir: la fourniture des cercueils nécessaires, l'exhumation des corps, leur mise en cercueils, leur transport, et leur mise en place dans la crypte du Memorial.

Le nombre et l'emplacement des corps à regrouper se répartissent conformément à la liste insérée à l'article 6.

**ART. 2.**

**CERCUEILS.** Les cercueils seront en bois de chêne d'une épaisseur de 24 m/m après rabotage de la face extérieure. Le bois employé devra être sec, de bonne qualité courante.

Les dimensions extérieures des cercueils seront :

Longueur	1m70	Largeur à la tête	0m50
Hauteur	0m35	Largeur au pied	0m35

Ces cercueils devront être vernis extérieurement et munis de 4 poignées nickelées.

Chaque cercueil contiendra un cercueil intérieur en plomb, d'une épaisseur de 15/10 de millimètre.

Une plaque d'identité en métal blanc, sera apposée sur chaque cercueil.

ART. 3. EXHUMATIONS. Sauf dans les cimetières militaires Américains où les opérations seront assurées par les soins des agents du Graves Registration Service, l'exhumation et la mise en bière devront être exécutées suivant les usages et conformément aux règlements administratifs.

Après chaque exhumation les débris de cercueils seront placés au fond des fosses et ces dernières convenablement comblées.

Mr. LANE veillera à ce que les ouvriers qu'il utilisera observent toujours au cours des travaux l'attitude exigée par la décence et le respect dus aux morts.

ART. 4. TRANSPORTE. Les transports seront effectués au moyen de véhicules automobiles couverts et convenablement fermés de manière à soustraire les cercueils à la vue et à empêcher qu'ils ne soient détériorés sous l'action des intempéries.

ART. 5. DELAI D'EXECUTION. Mr. LANE devra commencer les opérations en temps utile pour que les corps soient déposés à la crypte du Memorial avant le 30 Juin, 1928.

En ce qui concerne les corps pour lesquels les autorisations nécessaires n'auraient pu être obtenues en temps utile, Mr. LANE devra en assurer le transport dans les mêmes conditions, au fur et à mesure de l'obtention des dites autorisations.

ART. 6. PRIX. L'ensemble des fournitures et opérations sera assuré par Mr. LANE aux prix forfaitaires individuels indiqués sur la liste ci-après :



LISTE DES CIMETIERES, AVEC INDICATION DU NOMBRE  
DE CORPS ET MONTANT DES FORFAITAIRES.

Localité.	Prix forfaitaire		Nombre de corps.	TOTAL.
	Pour le premier corps.	A partir du 2e corps dans le même cimetière et transportés ensemble.		
Bony	Frs. 2,309.	.....	1	Frs. 2,309.
- do -	.....	Frs. 2,044.	3	" 6,132.
Thiaucourt	" 3,054.	.....	1	" 3,054.
- do -	.....	" 2,598.	5	" 12,990.
Romagne	" 2,905.	.....	1	" 2,905.
- do -	.....	" 2,487.	8	" 19,896.
Mont Sec	" 3,104.	.....	1	" 3,104.
Versailles	" 1,155.	.....	1	" 1,155.
Wacragham	" 2,804.	.....	1	" 2,804.
- do -	" ..... 1,170.	" 2,412.	1	" 2,412.
Suresnes	" ..... 1,170.	.....	1	" 1,170.
- do -	" ..... 2,052.	" 1,080.	2	" 2,160.
Belleau	" ..... 1,853.	.....	1	" 2,052.
- do -	" ..... 1,269.	" 1,853.	4	" 7,412.
Annieres	" ..... 1,161.	.....	1	" 1,269.
St. Germain	" ..... 4,825.	.....	1	" 1,161.
Pau	" ..... 3,915.	.....	1	" 4,825.
- do -	" ..... 2,118.	" 3,915.	2	" 7,830.
Mattencourt	" ..... 1,902.	.....	1	" 2,118.
- do -	" ..... 2,540.	" 1,902.	1	" 1,902.
Bourges	" ..... 2,663.	.....	1	" 2,540.
Chateauroux	" ..... 2,402.	.....	1	" 2,663.
La Chappe	" ..... 2,324.	.....	1	" 2,402.
Flavy-le-M.	" ..... 1,994.	.....	1	" 2,324.
Ch. Thierry	" ..... 1,167.	.....	1	" 1,994.
Paris	" ..... 3,518.	.....	1	" 1,167.
Luxeuil-les-B.	" ..... 1,314.	.....	1	" 3,518.
Ermenonville	" ..... 3,350.	.....	1	" 1,314.
Belfort	" ..... 2,552.	.....	1	" 3,350.
Tours	" ..... 2,738.	.....	1	" 2,552.
Amblaincourt	" ..... 2,055.	.....	1	" 2,738.
Seringes et N.	" ..... 1,853.	.....	1	" 2,055.
- do -	" ..... 4,825.	" 1,853.	1	" 1,853.
Turin, Italy.	" ..... 2,118.	.....	1	" 4,825.
Roye	" ..... .....	.....	1	" 2,118.
			53	Frs. 126,073.

ART. 3. EXHUMATIONS. Sauf dans les cimetières militaires Américains où les opérations seront assurées par les soins des Agents du Graves Registration Service, l'exhumation et la mise en bière devront être exécutées suivant les usages et conformément aux règlements administratifs.

Après chaque exhumation les débris de cercueils seront placés au fond des fosses et ces dernières convenablement comblées.

Mr. LANE veillera à ce que les ouvriers qu'il utilisera observent toujours au cours des travaux l'attitude exigée par la décence et le respect dus aux morts.

ART. 4. TRANSPORTS. Les transports seront effectués au moyen de véhicules automobiles couverts et convenablement fermés de manière à soustraire les cercueils à la vue et à empêcher qu'ils ne soient détériorés sous l'action des intempéries.

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## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **The Crypt and the Tombs**

#### **Chapter 29-Crypt: Stained Glass Project and its Launch**

*-Notes & Dimensions*

*-The First Three Abandoned Projects*

*-The Mauméjean Project Adopted*

*-The Lineage and the Works of the Mauméjean Manufactory*

*-Donation from the Spencer Family of Chicago*

*-List & Photos of the Stained Glass in the Crypt*

#### ***-Notes and Dimensions***

Sometimes visitors are tempted to walk through the crypt, looking especially at the thirteen stained-glass windows and feeling the urgent need to photograph them; we are obliged to recenter them gently on the essential, that is to say the graves.

Unlike the battles located on the pediments, during the construction the council asked this time to respect the chronological order of the battles.

Description of the work:

-Dormant metal frame sealed to the masonry

-Removable frame (for ventilation of the crypt) in stainless steel intended to receive stained-glass windows composed of 3 panels screwed onto flat bars

-Overall dimensions of each tilting frame: 1m50 x 0m 90

-There are 11 stained glass windows for the battles plus 2 symbolic stained glass windows, i.e. 13 in all  
- Under each stained glass window has been arranged a beautiful mosaic with a Latin inscription (under the 1st & the 13th) or a battle name under the others either (from the 2nd to the 12th).

The paving of the crypt was also composed with mosaic from the company of ceramic artists (Gentil & Bourdet) then living in Billancourt. Of course, this mosaic of the floor, also of decorative art, should not be confused with the one placed below each stained-glass window by the Mauméjean workshops. The master's art of juggling both mosaic and stained glass.

## ***-The first three Abandoned Projects***

The principal members of the Council: Nelson Cromwell, Dr. Gros, Mr. Crenshaw, the architect and Paul Rockwell, appointed a special commission for stained glass, composed of Major Cotchett, Messrs. Hoff and Boyesen to resolve this problem early in 1928.

### **A-Project of the Architect**

The Architect presented several projects at the end of 1927, the drafts prepared did not retain the opinion of the majority. Its main and understandable objective was above all to put the lighting of the crypt before artistic considerations. This practical point of view did not seduce the committee, the whole was lacking, it seems in the eyes of the committee of decorative ambitions on the one hand and on the other hand did not show the side of 'Modern Crusaders' endorsed by the pilots (you can see below the note written by Alexandre Marcel on his most elaborate project).

### **B-Project Tiffany**

From that moment we tried to find solutions coming from the other side of the Atlantic ...

The second project approached since the appointment of the commission was to examine the preparatory work of "Tiffany Company" in New York, still in 1928. After having received from this famous house, models accompanied by an estimate of \$ 25,000 for the realization of the work - approximately \$ 350,000 nowadays. This amount was considered much too high and this project was abandoned because of its prohibitive cost; the price did not include the transport services with its insurance, the assembly on site and the current ceramic decoration. This track was officially abandoned on March 14, 1928. Although the names of other artistic firms from across the Atlantic were mentioned, we turned to a French solution.

### **C-Project known as "Damon & Barillet"**

These two masters of art deco on glass were approached for this project, faced with the lack of funding on the one hand and the prospect of a complicated project from an artistic and historical point of view; they were of the opinion to have each stained glass window made by a different artist and to mark the name of the donor on each glass. Although two members of the council immediately donated each for a stained glass window the project left many people doubtful about the coherence of the final result, we were there at the end of 1928.



1063

[illegible]

Les cieux seraient également de plus en plus chargés et de plus en plus orageux de la première baie jusqu'à la 7ème, et de moins en moins de la 7ème à la 13ème pour finir par un ciel complètement blanc à la dernière.

Pour éviter toute idée de tristesse dans la baie du crépuscule, il y aurait nécessité à laisser des rayons fusant à l'horizon très vifs sur le fond violacé du crépuscule.

Les rideaux presque fermés à la première baie, iront en s'ouvrant graduellement jusqu'à la 7ème baie sur laquelle ils seront presque ouverts et ils se fermeront graduellement de la 7ème baie à la 13ème.

Chaque teinte de verre devant être choisie séparément pour chaque morceau de verre, il n'y aura qu'au moment de la fabrication du dessin grandeur que l'on pourra se rendre compte réellement de l'effet de ces derniers verres.

### ***-The Mauméjean project adopted***

The fourth and last project was finally the right one.

MM. Shoop and Hoffer of the stained glass committee came into contact at the beginning of 1929 with the Maison Mauméjean.

This project had two important advantages over the previous ones:

-The final cost of the stained-glass windows in place in their metal joinery was seen to be greatly reduced compared to the Tiffany project and the uncertainty of the estimate hovering over the others. This is partly due to a special prize, granted "for patriotic reasons" from the Mauméjean house and its proximity to the Monument. Best of all, the advertised price included the artistic installation of the mosaic, not included in the previous quotes. The total coherence of the project was finally taking shape with very competitive deadlines and prices.

-We believe that the architect and the master glassmaker must have known each other through the School of Fine Arts, to which they both belonged, which then made it easier to follow up and place the order. Much less costly, more artistic, more complete, better followed, this third project won the prize hands down, especially as a benefactor interested in this project was already in sight and a provisional provision of funds had been secured. in the meantime. It was decided to place a firm order for the thirteen stained-glass windows at the end of the meeting of the association's council on February 26, 1929.

For practical reasons, it was also decided that the planes represented on the stained-glass windows would not bear distinctive badges, this had been previously considered in order to compensate for the missing badges under the vault. A single plane could technically wear a badge per stained-glass window, but this choice would become difficult; For example, it would have been necessary to also take into account the squadrons to be chosen for each of the battles; the idea was thus definitively abandoned. The artist was also left with some initiatives in relation to a rigorous historical order which was beginning to cause problems. The color model was approved in June 1929 after some reservations on the insignia of the stained-glass windows 1, 3 & 7 but these reservations disappeared at the end of the session in order to quickly send the project to the donor.

Due to the delay attributable to the first three aborted projects, the stained-glass windows were not finished and installed until 1930, simple transparent panes had been seen since the day of the inauguration. The final realization of the work dating from 1930 did not cause any problem.

The Mauméjean workshops created in 1860 and were first domiciled in Pau then in Biarritz. The Société anonyme Mauméjean was created in Paris in 1921. They artistically provided thousands of stained glass windows throughout the world. Their work was crowned with numerous international prizes: Madrid (1894), Paris (1925 and 1937), Philadelphia and Pamplona (1926), Milan and Madrid (1927), Seville (1930).

## ***-The lineage and works of the Mauméjean factory***

Joseph Mauméjean born in Dax in 1809, painter on earthenware, is the founder of the line. -Then by Jules-Pierre Mauméjean (1837-1962) painter and master glassmaker settled first in the Basque Country then at the Spanish court.

Artists in the crypt:

-Joseph Jules Edmond Mauméjean, known as José (1869-1952), also a painter and master glassmaker, carried out the works of the crypt with the help of his brothers. He founded in Paris with them the company of "Mosaïques-Émaux de Venise", which two years later became the Société Anonyme Mauméjean.

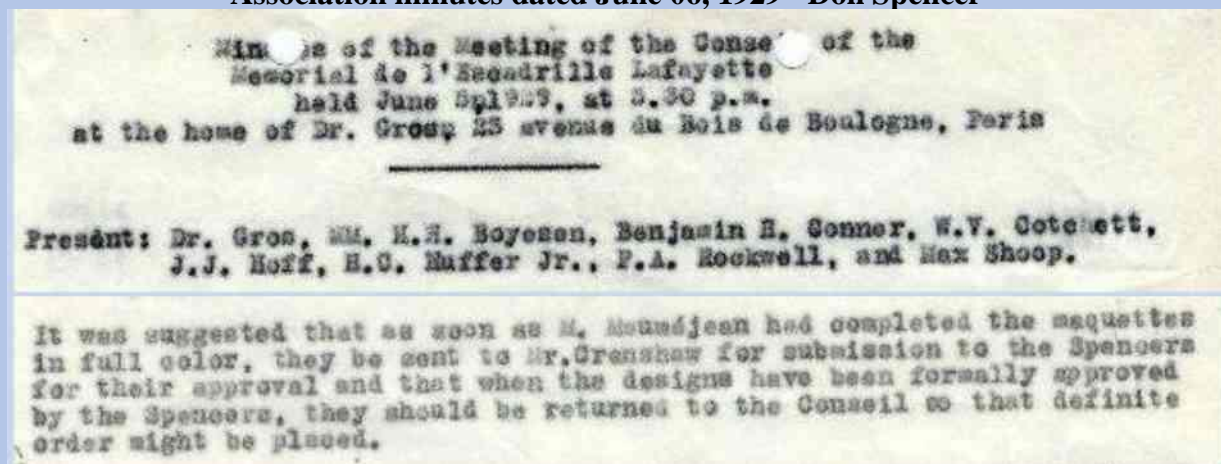
Numerous international prizes rewarded their works. Fourteen churches in France are proud of their stained glass windows without counting numerous works in Spain, in the world and even in America. The first stained glass window and the last one signed by SA Mauméjean.

*-Donation from the Spencer Family of Chicago*

Earl W. SPENCER Jr. and his wife's donation for the stained glass windows in the crypt was announced to the Memorial Association in June 1929. From a Chicago family, this couple had five children, the penultimate of whom was the pilot Dumaresq SPENCER assigned to Spad 50, killed in action and resting in the crypt. A second bond united them to the Memorial, their daughter having married another pilot Georges MOSELEY who served in Spad 150 and survived the conflict.

Note that the first wife of Count Spencer was named Wallis SIMPSON who became two marriages later, in 1937, the Duchess of Windsor, wife of the former King of England Edward VIII. Sometimes the little story joins the big one!

### **Association minutes dated June 06, 1929 "Don Spencer"**



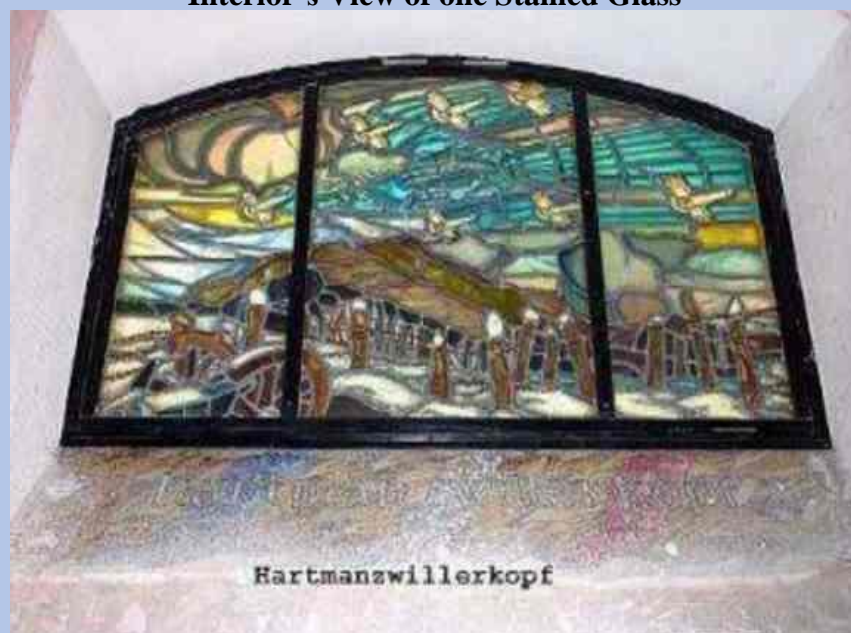
Several of these photos were taken by the artist's granddaughter, Mme Maus-Mauméjean, who in 2005 undertook an important dissertation on her grandfather's work. Although we have our own photos, we have chosen to either reproduce a number of his own or to draw inspiration from them in our shots. We hope to have thus reproduced their family, emotional, professional character, all combined with the sensitivity of the work. We thank her for her kind verbal authorization, given two years ago.

Each of the stained-glass windows is attached to a mosaic work bearing its name. This original presentation adds knowledge of the place to the emotion of stained glass.

We notice on each stained glass the representation not only of the planes but also that of the American eagle. On the other hand, and certainly for lack of space, the Battle of the Somme seems neglected in relation to the general context; however, the squadrons of our volunteers participated largely.

For each stained-glass window, we give you a photo of it along with a chosen detail. You will find that for each we have to make a choice among many other possible details. It does not seem out of place to give the general context of these battles by a short presentation, associated with the history of our heroes.

**Interior's View of one Stained Glass**





## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **The Crypt and the Tombs**

#### **30-Crypt: The Thirteen Stained Glass**

<i>1-Pro Libertate</i>	<i>7-Reims</i>
<i>2-Hartmanzwillerkopf</i>	<i>8-Chateau-Thierry</i>
<i>3-Verdun</i>	<i>9-Arras</i>
<i>4-St-Quentin</i>	<i>10-Soissons</i>
<i>5-Noyon</i>	<i>11-St-Mihiel</i>
<i>6-Craonne</i>	<i>12-Toul</i>
	<i>13-Pax Gloria</i>

The first masterpiece **Pro-Libertate** is located in front of the graves of the first killed in the great war. First stained glass window of an allegorical nature with the thirteenth and last **Pax-Gloria** which, of course, is in front of the last killed.

Only these two stained glass windows bear the mark (bottom right) of the master glassmaker Mauméjan. Admire the rather rare marriage of stained glass and mosaic that you will find below the 13 stained glass windows.

You should be able to admire them at different times of the day to appreciate all their beauty and subtlety under different lighting.

***They are the eternal companions of the glorious pilots***

***“Ad vitam æternam”***

## *1-Pro-Libertate*



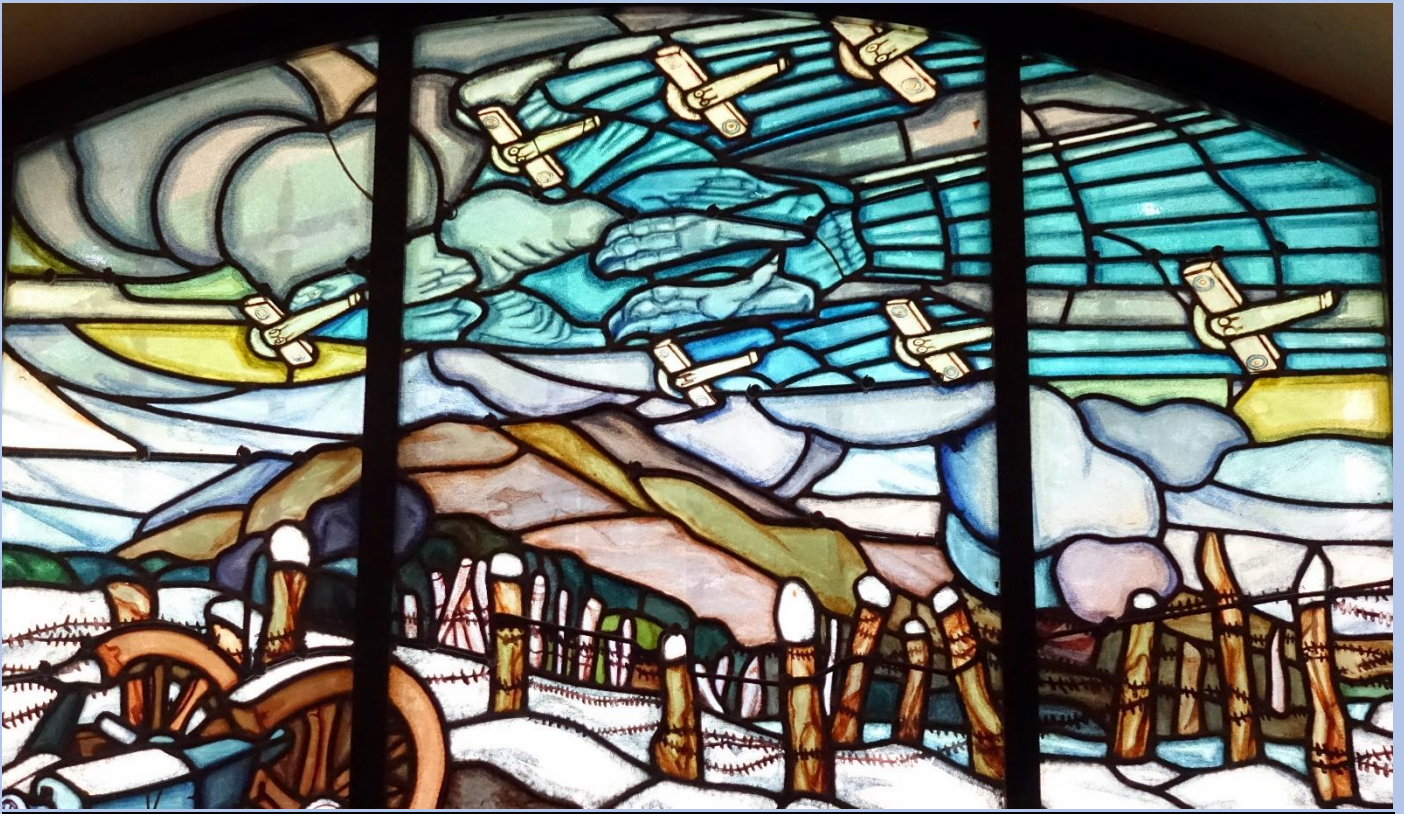
This first stained glass window could just as well have been classified last. Here the American eagle has fulfilled its duty and returns to its homeland, crowned with glory and escorted by eighteen planes. It flies over Mont St Michel, Archangel of France and already represented on the two arched doors of the entrance to the crypt. We can see on the right the sketch of the Statue of Liberty. Between the eagle's talons, we can see the oak tree symbolizing regeneration and immortality.

Of the 169 pilots who left for France, perished the brave resting in the crypt. This stained-glass window prepares the visitor to survey the crypt by looking in the direction of the visit at the stained-glass windows on its right and the tombs on its left. The eagle's will and strength were in the souls of all pilots.





## 2-Hartmannswillerkopf



Mont des Vosges nicknamed by the hairy "man-eater" or "mountain of death". The French and German soldiers will find refuge in the trenches; they will constitute a dense network. Here seven planes on mission fly over the trenches represented in winter weather. The place, which is in the town of Wattwiller, was renamed "Le Vieil Armand" after the "first World War".

We have all heard of the constant danger of cold in winter, the train of rats, lice, and foul odors in the trenches. To this is added the almost total absence of hygiene, the supply leaving much to be desired. Rain and mud were great enemies for the soldiers. The first use of aviation was the reconnaissance and guidance of artillery fire, hence the presence of the cannon.





### 3-Verdun -Meuse- (55)



We no longer present this long and illustrious battle which saw different episodes. In 1917, the Lafayette squadron was responsible for an attack zone of around thirty kilometers facing enemy hunters and artillery. Two systems of patrols were illustrated there, one attacking the enemy hunt and the other, flying low to both avoid the DCA and bombard behind the German lines. There were as many as 700,000 dead on both sides. How much unspeakable suffering is hidden behind this figure!





#### 4-St Quentin -Aisne (02)



In August 1914, the German soldiers entered the city, the Saint-Quentin, they will have to endure thirty-six months of military occupation preceded by an exodus and a return to a devastated city. The basilica, begun in the twelfth century, is in ruins. Air forces attack enemy positions with often unreliable aircraft.





## 5-Noyon -Oise- (60)



The city was taken in September 1914 during the German offensive starting from Belgium and heading towards Paris. From March 1917 to March 1918, the city was taken and taken over by the belligerents; the violent fighting will lead to its destruction, especially by aerial bombardments in order to cut the road to the enemy. On August 30, 1918, Noyon was finally released. The air supremacy of the allies greatly aided in this reconquest.





## 6-Craonne -Aisne- (02)



In 1917, the harshness of the fighting gave birth to a song, "La chanson de Craonne" whose protest lyrics were taken from trench to trench; its unknown author probably died in battle. This village is considered to be part of the famous and tragic "Chemin des Dames".

The Troop Assault, for the first time in history, was accompanied by vulnerable and poorly maneuverable tanks. The old village has disappeared; the new one was rebuilt in the valley. Sub-Lieutenant Kiffin Rockwell fought in the Craonne trenches with the 1st Regiment of the Foreign Legion.





## 7-Reims -Marne- (51)



Reims Cathedral, a jewel of Gothic architecture, is one of the most famous monuments of French heritage. It is also one of the symbols of the French nation since, in this place, the kings of France were sacred since Clovis in 498. In September 1914, the war began a month ago. The German advance was dazzling, on September 4, the "point helmets" made their entry into the city of Reims deserted by its inhabitants. A week later, the offensive of the first battle of the Marne led to the recovery of the city. The enemy came out on the night of September 12. The Germans maintained their position in Fort Berru built to the north. The front line freezes there for four years. The German artillery will particularly attack the cathedral. The city did not have time to protect its monuments. On September 19, 1914, an affected scaffolding burst into flames, lead from the roofs flowed into the gargoyles. Its reconstruction will take twenty years. The American foundations Carnegie and Rockefeller will provide financial assistance. US Ambassador Myron Timothy Herrick will play an important role in rebuilding the city its name was given to a town square. This perhaps explains the eagle protecting the cathedral. will play an important role in the reconstruction of the city; its name was given to a town square. This perhaps explains the eagle protecting the cathedral. will play an important role in the reconstruction of the city; its name was given to a town square. This perhaps explains the eagle protecting the cathedral.





## 8-Château-Thierry -Aisne- (02)



At the end of 1917, the American troops were already in combat in the trenches with the French troops. The following year, it was the admirable assault of the "US Marines" in Belleau in the Aisne. This battle of Bois Belleau, of great psychological importance, marked the first engagement of the American troops, placed under the command of General Pershing, as well as the beginning of the offensive of 1918. The allied troops marched from that date towards victory as illustrated by the artist by the sign "one way". This battle holds the sad record for the number of American soldiers killed during the First World War.





## 9-Arras -Pas-de-Calais (62)



In 1915, under the colors of the 1st Regiment of the Foreign Legion, after intense fighting, Kiffin Rockwell and Paul Pavelka were wounded. In March 1917, the Allied offensive on Arras included many nationalities. The French General Staff at the same time launched a massive attack on nearly eighty kilometers of front. After heavy shelling, troops advanced in the northern region and were able to capture the strategic “Crête de Vimy”. These operations achieved limited objectives; many resulted in a significant number of casualties. Arras was hit again during the Third Battle of Flanders in 1918, during the German retreat. Our American volunteer pilots greatly participated in this offensive. In the stained glass window, the American eagle can be glimpsed in a gap in the sky and one can also admire the “Renaissance” houses. The city was 90% destroyed.





## 10-Soissons -Aisne- (02)



Always and for a long time the privileged passage of the invasions, Soissons appears as one of the martyred cities of the First World War. The Saint-Gervais-et-Saint-Protais basilica-cathedral with two bell towers; she looks like a Gothic's cathedral with a classic style. Illustrated by the stained glass window, at the end of hostilities, the upper part of the facade tower and the first three bays of the nave are almost destroyed. The restoration lasted until 1937.

Like Reims and other towns in the region, Soissons was first taken at the end of August 1914 by the German army, then taken over by the French in September after the Battle of the Marne. While the French troops are moving towards the north and east of the country, the Germans follow the valley of the Oise. August 31, 1914, they are in Compiègne, September 2 in Soissons. To stop the progress of the enemy troops, General Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French armies, then launched the Battle of the Marne, a victorious counter-offensive which delivered Épernay and Reims, but insufficient to drive the adversary beyond the borders. Then began a trench warfare that would last nearly four years and cause immense human losses and considerable material damage. The city itself is a summary of the great war; Soissons was taken again in the spring of 1918 during the German offensive, before being definitively liberated during the summer.





## 11-St-Mihiel -Meuse- (55)



From September 12 1918 the " American Expeditionary Force », Ordered by the general Pershing retake the area of St-Mihiel 216,000 Americans and 250,000 men took part in the battle. They were helped, for the duration of this campaign, by 1,444 planes, 3,100 guns and 267 tanks. From the side German,13 divisions are holed up in the trenches. At eight o'clock, the American divisions attacked in a northwest direction. Despite strong resistance at the bastion of Montsec, considered impregnable until then, the attack proceeded as planned, the American units proving to be fast and efficient. The latter, forcing the admiration of all, break through the German lines. Foch wrote to General Pershing: "The First American Army, under your command, won a magnificent victory on this first day by a maneuver as skillfully prepared as it was valiantly executed. ". The battle of Saint-Mihiel announces the beginning of the great assault of the Allied armies on Germany. The losses, on the Franco-American side, are 7,000 men. On the enemy side 13,200 Germans surrendered with their equipment.

In 1932, a monument was built on the even hillock of the Montsec, a bastion, paying homage to American divisions. The Saint-Mihiel Saillant US military cemetery is located on the territory of the municipality of Thiaucourt-Regniéville and covers 16 hectares.





## 12-Toul -Meurthe et Moselle (54)



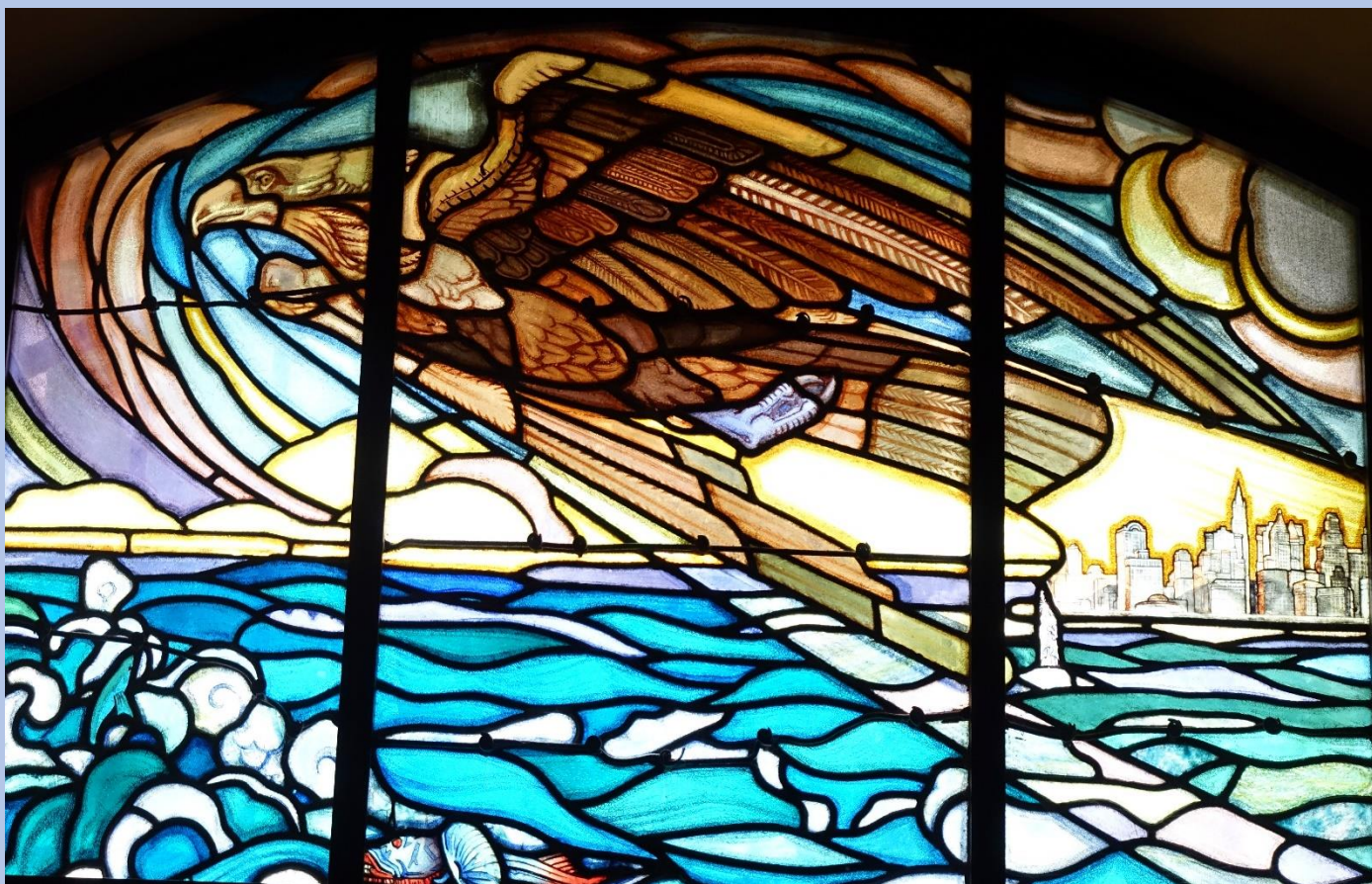
Our volunteers flew using the Meuse as a den, its outlines, lakes and forests, because the maps seen from the sky were difficult to interpret. The flight over St Mihiel to Toul and its surroundings was common on patrol. The artist shows us a bridge over the Moselle in Toul and an eagle going "over the enemy" on a magnificent blue.

As in all the department, the destruction is considerable despite the evacuation of the population and its goods, the possible protection of buildings and historic monuments as well as the defense of the city and its surroundings. The American troops arrived in reinforcement in the sector in 1917. On this occasion the city was proud of the visit of the daughter of the President of the United States, Miss Margaret Wilson, who visited the trenches.





### 13-Pax Gloria



Vivaldi Partition of Gloria -Image You Tube-



## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **The Crypt and the Tombs**

#### **Chapter 31- Crypt-The Transfer of Bodies**

*-Committee Responsible for the Transfer of Bodies*

*-Location of Bodies*

*- List of Bodies Buried in the Crypt*

#### ***-Committee Responsible for the Transfer of Bodies***

The first approach of which we are aware was initiated by Edgard Guerard Hamilton. With the support of the French government authorities he leaned on a committee made up of Charles Prince, uncle of the killed pilot, Mrs. Georgia Ovington, Norman Prince, Mr. HW Schreiber and Dr Gros. Hamilton has set up a committee known as the "Junction Committee". He promised himself to personally watch over each body transfer.

The purpose of this committee was to collect the bodies of the American pilots of the "Flying Corps" being ventilated in many cemeteries in Europe. This great geographical dispersion partly explains the lack of identification for seven tombs.

We must not confuse this "Junction Committee" tasked with a very specific task, the repatriation of bodies to a single location, with the "Inscription Committee". This latter committee was created a few years later, its main purpose being to agree on the names to be engraved on the Monument. He also had to draw up lists of pilots and their families according to many different criteria.

In 1922 Hamilton encountered some difficulties with the "United States War Department" then located in Battle Creek, Michigan; this organization refused and according to its statements, outright to help him. He then planned to collect the bodies of the pilots outside American military cemeteries. He had to rely solely on the French authorities, the latter understood better the meaning of the project consisting in bringing together in the same place those who fought together. The 80,000 American official dead of the 1st World War, were distributed in Europe in 2,400 different places, the number later reduced to 700, this without counting the individual graves.

No report written by this "junction Committee" has reached us. Hamilton carried out research by identifying the various graves of the pilots concerned. He is also credited with the origin of the idea of the construction of the Monument and the gathering of all the bodies in one and the same place. After the war, no specific location had been considered for this cemetery.

All that had been seen was a project without follow-up consisting in building a cemetery common to all the pilots of the "Lafayette Flying Corps" in the region of Verdun, this because of the fame of the place during the great war, which has since become a sort of national symbol. This project was subsequently abandoned because of its remoteness from Paris.

The pilot Hamilton, at the origin of all this idea and then on leave of the Foreign Legion for this specific mission, quickly joined the ranks of this elite unit. He served the Legion during the Rif War and remained there well beyond, thus ending his initial mission concerning the Monument.

We know that the Association then in charge of the Monument signed a contract with a carrier of the Funeral Services, which carrier asked the Architect of the Monument to respect certain standards to place the coffins correctly in the crypt.



## -Location of Bodies

Tombs listed: France, Belgium and Italy before the transfer of the Bodies

### PRESENT LOCATION OF THE DEAD

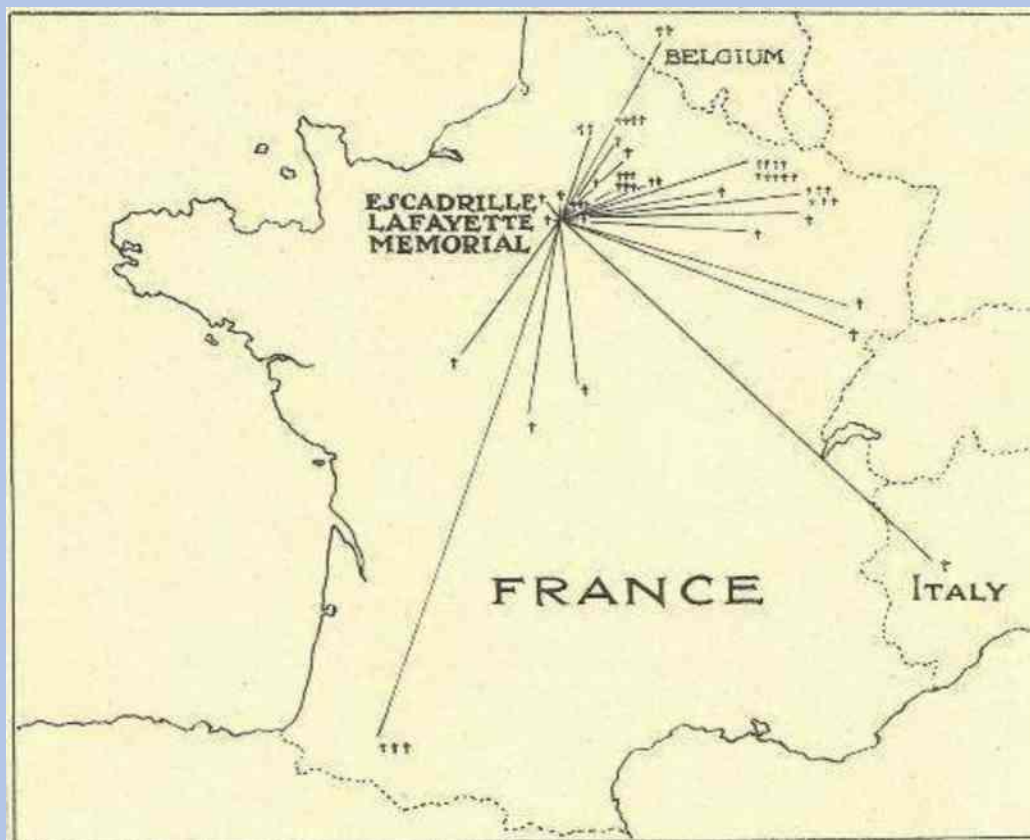
1. <i>Amlens</i>	Drew	11. <i>Paris</i>	Prince	21. <i>Bourges</i>	Grieb
2. <i>Amidres-sur-Oise</i>	Booth	12. <i>Romagne</i>	Barclay	22. <i>Chateauroux</i>	Hanford
3. <i>Hattencourt</i>	Genet		Benney	23. <i>Pau</i>	Fowler
	Hoskier		Clapp		Meaker
4. <i>Bony</i>	Bayles		Collins		Palmer
	Bayne		Dowd, M. L.	24. <i>Tours</i>	Starrett
	Taylor		Johnson	25. <i>Versailles</i>	Ely
5. <i>Waerghem</i>	Chadwick	13. <i>Le Cheppe</i>	MacDonagie	26. <i>Saint-Germain</i>	Dowd, D.
	Hobbs		Walcott		
6. <i>Flavy-le-Martel</i>	McConnell	14. <i>Thiaucourt</i>	Loughran		
7. <i>Suresnes</i>	de Kruijff		Chapman, C.		
	Miller		Edgar		
	Woodward		Gandelach		
8. <i>Ermenonville</i>	Skinner		Lufbery		
9. <i>Bellevu</i>	Baugham	15. <i>Montac</i>	Potnam		
	Campbell	16. <i>Amblaincourt</i>	Trinkard		
	Chamberlain		Davis		
	Nichols	17. <i>Luxeuil</i>	Tailer		
	Winter	18. <i>Belfort</i>	Rockwell		
10. <i>Seringes et Nesles</i>	Tucker	19. <i>Turin</i>	Spencer		
	Tyson	20. <i>Marseille</i>	Terres		
			Pavelka		

#### Returned to United States :

Biddie	Peterson
Bluthenthal	Rheno
Doolittle	Wilson
McKerness	

#### Remains unfound :

Ash	Ovington
Chapman, V.	Polton
Lee	Stone
Lehr	



The widely scattered graves in France, Belgium and Italy, where the dead have lain since the War.

**Photo taken on the day of the inauguration**



After much difficulty, the burial of the forty-nine bodies was carried out. The final ceremony then took place on November 4, 1930 at 11 a.m. This important event commemorated the placing under seal of the niches of the crypt. It was conducted in the presence of representatives of the French government, of the government of the United States represented by the "Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy", officers members of the Squadron, veterans of the "American Legion" and relatives and friends of the pilots.

A committee, duly appointed by the Association du Mémorial de l'Escadrille Lafayette after an official verification of the coffins, placed the official list in the archives of the Foundation, a copy of which you will find below. The other tombs being considered "empty" are cenotaphs. Wikipedia tells us that the word cenotaph comes from the Latin "kenos" (empty) and "taphos" (tomb). The cenotaph consists of a monument funerary not containing a body, raised in memory of a person or a group of persons, and whose shape recalls that of a tomb.

The goal of this final ceremony was also the reception of the last funeral remains, that of Wallace Charles WINTER, killed in combat on March 8, 1918 in Champagne. He piloted under the tricolor wings as a corporal of the Legion; unfortunately, his plane fell at Pont-Faverger in the Marne department, then enemy territory. The next day, he was to be transferred to the US Army with the rank of First Lieutenant.

He was buried in the American military cemetery of Belleau. His coffin was then brought provisionally to the American Cathedral on Avenue George V. He received the last military honors at the Monument in the form of several salutes of honor, as we still see during Memorial Day ceremonies. Previously, Dr. Gros retraced the origins and military career of this Chicagoan. The coffin draped with the star-spangled banner and surmounted by floral wreaths was lowered into the crypt.

Previously the penultimate burial had been that of Roger Harvey CLAPP, on September 23, 1930. He had died while testing an American military plane on July 6, 1918.

Often visitors to the crypt who arrive at the last niche -N ° 17- ask us why in the last three tombs there are dates after November 11. Here is some information on these three pilots who died after the date of the armistice and whose graves are cenotaphs.

Pilot David McKelvy PETERSON, was killed while piloting on March 16, 1919 in Florida. He was buried in Pennsylvania, the body was to be repatriated to France and this against the advice of the family, but it remained ultimately in its original cemetery. During his lifetime he accomplished heroic acts by engaging twice in combat against German formations whose strength was double the patrols he commanded. He was killed during a US Army military mission to Florida on March 16, 1919.

Lawrence SCALAN, first wounded in the leg on June 16, 1915 while fighting in the trenches as a Legionnaire, three-quarters of his unit having been decimated, he remained fifty-six hours without treatment on the battlefield. He was released from the hospital eighteen months later, but with one leg much shorter than the other. He returned to the Aeronautical Service in February 1917 where he had several plane accidents; finally and against his will, he was forced to give up. Returned to his homes in the United States in September 1917. After eight successive operations and the amputation of a leg, he died on November 25, 1920 from his war injury. Paul Rockwell insisted very much on seeing his inscription on the Monument.

Walter YORK was cited by the Commander-in-Chief, General Pétain, as one of the remarkable aviators and decorated with the Croix de Guerre with palm. He left his unit at the end of 1918 and contracted pneumonia on the return ship and was hospitalized on his arrival in New York. He never fully recovered and died on January 6, 1921 of tuberculosis. His family was notified of his inscription on the Monument in February 1928 by a letter from Lewis D. Crenshaw, Managing Director of the Foundation.

We know that this transfer of the bodies was the subject in 1928 of a special and personal donation from Mr. Nelson Cromwell of F150,000, or approximately € 61,000- nowadays.

*-List of Bodies Buried in the Crypt*

Official list drawn up during the last burial ceremony  
(Page 1)

November 4, 1930

Names of the Aviators  
whose remains repose in the Crypt  
of the  
Monument of the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial  
at Marnes-la-Coquette

1003

James Rogers McConnell 19 March 1917	Frank Almer Starratt 3 January 1918
Edmond Charles Clinton Genet 16 April 1917	Dumaresq Spencer 22 January 1918
Ronald Wood Hoskier 23 April 1917	Philip Phillips Bennet 26 Jan. 1918
Leif Norman Barclay 1 June 1917	William Hallett Tailor 5 Feb. 1918
Olivier Moulton Chadwick 14 August 1917	Edward J. Loughran 18 Feb. 1918
Norman Grieb 28 August 1917	Wallace Charles Winter, Jr., 8 March 1918
William Henry Meeker 11 Sept. 1917	Phelps Collins 12 March 1918
Douglas MacMonagle 24 Sept. 1917	Dinsmore Ely 21 April 1918
Andrew Courtney Campbell, Jr., 1 Oct. 1917	Charles Wesley Chapman, Jr., 3 May 1918
Robert Marshall Hanford 15 Oct. 1917	James Alexander Bayne 8 May 1918
Paul Pavalka, Jr., 11 Nov. 1917	Sidney Rankin Drew, Jr., 19 May 1918
Henry Brewster Palmer 12 Nov. 1917	Gervais Raoul Victor Lufbery 19 May 1918
Samuel Wiggins Skinner 12 Nov. 1917	Harry Firmstone Whelan Johnson 21 May 1918
Eric Anderson Fowler 27 Nov. 1917	Alfred Digby Pelton 31 May 1918
Charles Trinkard 29 Nov. 1917	Philip Washburn Davis 2 June 1918
Benjamin Stuart Walcott 12 Dec. 1917	Alan Hammond Nichols 2 June 1918



Cyrus Foss Chamberlain  
13 June 1918

Frank Lesman Baylies  
17 June 1918

Warren Tucker Hobbs  
25 June 1918

James Henry Baughem  
2 July 1918

Roger Harvey Clapp  
8 July 1918

Dudley Gilman Tucker  
8 July 1918

Vernon Booth, Jr.,  
10 July 1918

Stephen Mitchell Tyson  
19 July 1918

James Ralph Doolittle  
28 July 1918

Walter Bernard Miller  
3 August 1918

Stuart Emmet Edgar  
17 August 1918

Hugh Terres  
17 August 1918

Andre Gumbelach  
12 Sept. 1918

David Endicott Putnam  
12 Sept. 1918

Meredith Loveland Dowd  
26 Oct. 1918

Elmer Bowden Taylor  
27 Oct. 1918

Theodore de Kruljff  
6 Nov. 1918

***-List of Bodies Buried in the Crypt-Inventories***

1	Sgt	BARCLAY, Leif N.	N82	NY	June 1 1917	2
2	Sgt	BAUGHAM, James Henry.	N157	NC	July 2, 1918	12
3	Sgt.	BAYLIES, Frank Leaman.	SPA73	MY	June 17, 1918	12
4	1st Lt.	BAYNE, James Alexander	SPA85	MID	May 8, 1918	9
5	Corp	BENNEY, Philip Philipps	SPA167	PA	Jan. 26, 1918	6
6	Sgt	BOOTH, Vernon William, Jr.	SPAD96	NY	July 10, 1918	3
7	Sgt	CAMPBELL, Courtney A.	French Esc. St. Pol	HE	Oct 1, 1917	4
8	Corp	CHADWICK, Moulton Oliver	SPAD73	MY	Aug. 14, 1917	3
9	Sgt	CHAMBERLAIN, Cyrus Foss	SPAD85	MN	June 13,1918	11
10	1st Lt.	CHAPMAN, Charles Wesley, Jr	Lafayette Escadrille	AI	May 3, 1918	9
11	2d Lt	CLAPP, Roger Harvey	96th AeroSq	NY	July 6, 1918	12
12	Capt	COLLINS, Phelps	103rd AeroSq	MID	Mar 12, 1918	7
13	2d Lt	DAVIS, Philip Washburn	94th AeroSq	MY	June 2, 1918	11
14	2d Lt	By KRUIJFF, Theodore	Atatched Fr AS	NY	Nov. 6, 1918	17
15	Corp	DOOLITTLE James Ralph	<b>Lafayette Escadrille</b>	NY	July 26, 1918	14
16	2d Lt	DOWD, Meredith Loveland	147 AeroSq	NY	Oct 26, 1918	16
17	Corp	DREW, Sidney Rankin Jr	SPAD31	NY	May 19, 1918	9
18	1st Lt.	EDGAR, Stuart Emmet	103rd AeroSq	NJ	Aug. 17, 1918	14
19	2d Lt	ELY, Dinsmore	Spad102	HE	April 21, 1918	8
20	Pilot Av	FOWLER Eric A.	Aviation School	NY	Nov. 27, 1817	5
21	Sgt	GENET, Edmond C	<b>Lafayette Escadrille</b>	NY	April 16, 1917	2
22	Soldier	GRIEB, Norman	Aviation School	NY	Aug. 28, 1917	3
23	1st Lt.	GUNDELACH, André	96th AeroSq	HE	Sep 12. 1918	15
24	Soldier	HANFORD, Robert Marshall	Aviation School	NY	Oct 15. 1917	4
25	1st Lt.	HOBBS, Warren Tucker	103rd AeroSq	MY	June 25, 1918	12
26	Sgt	HOSKIER, Ronald W	<b>Lafayette Escadrille</b>	NJ	April 23, 1917	2
27	1st Lt.	JOHNSON, Harry Firmstone W, J,	Spad 84	PA	May 21, 1918	10
28	Sgt	LOUGHRAN, Edward J	Spad84	KS	Feb. 18, 1918	7
29	Shift	LUFBERY, Gervais Raoul	<b>Lafayette Escadrille</b>	CT	May. 19, 1918	9
30	Sgt	MacMONAGLE, Douglas	<b>Lafayette Escadrille</b>	IT	Sep 24, 1917	4
31	Sgt	Mc CONNELL, James R	<b>Lafayette Escadrille</b>	NC	Mar 19, 1917	2
32	Corp	MEEKER, William Henry	Aviation School	NY	Sep 11, 1917	3
33	2d Lt	MILLER, Walter Bernard	1st Aviation Squad	NY	Aug. 3, 1918	14
34	Sgt	NICHOLS, Alan Hammond	SPA85	IT	June 2, 1918	11
35	Corp	PALMER, Henry Brewster	Aviation School	NY	Nov. 12, 1917	5
36	Sgt	PAVELKA, Paul, Jr	<b>Lafayette Escadrille</b>	CT	Nov11,1917	4
37	Sgt	PELTON, Alfred Digby	N151	Canada	May 31, 1918	10
38	1st Lt.	PUTNAM, David Endicott	139th Aero Squad	MY	Sep 13, 1918	15
39	Corp	SKINNER, Samuel Wiggins	Aviation School	OH	Nov. 12, 1917	5
40	Corp	SPENCER, Dumaresq	N150	HE	Jan 22, 1918	6
41	Soldier	STARRETT, Frank Elmer	Aviation School	MY	Jan 3, 1918	6
42	Sgt	TAILER, William Hallet	SPA67	NY	Feb 5, 1918	7
43	Set	TAYLOR, Elmer Bowden	Attached 9 AeroSq	NJ	Oct 27, 1918	16
44	Set	LANDS, Hugh	US Navy AS	England	Aug. 17, 1918	15
45	Corp	TRINKARD, Charles	N68	NY	Nov. 29, 1917	5
46	Sgt	TUCKER, Dudley Gilman	SPA74	NY	July 8, 1918	13
47	Sgt	TYSON, Stephen Mitchell	SPA85	NJ	July 19, 1918	13
48	1st Lt.	WALCOTT, Benjamin Stuart	Attached French AS	DC	Déc.12, 1917	6
49	Corp	WINTER, Wallace Charles	SPA94	HE	Mar 8, 1918	7

CENOTAPHS							
51		ASH, Alan Newton	Br 134	HE	May 31, 1918	10	
52	Corp	BIDDLE, Julian C.	Esc. Spad 73	PA	Aug. 7, 1917	3	
53	Sgt	BLUETHENTHAL, Arthur	Esc. Bréguet 227	OF	June 5, 1918	11	
54	Sgt	CHAPMAN, Victor	Esc. La Fayette	NY	June 23, 1916	1	
55	2nd Lt	COOKSON, Linn P	Aviation School	HE	Sep 17, 1918	15	
56		DOWD, Dennis	Foreign Legion	NY	Aug. 11, 1916	1	
57	Corp	LEE, Schuyler	Esc. Spad 96	CT	April 12, 1918	8	
58	Corp	LEHR, Manderson	Esc. Spad 79	NY	July 15, 1918	13	
59	Sgt	Mc KERNESS, William	Esc. C. 46	CT	Aug. 15, 1918	14	
60	Sgt	OVINGTON, Carter L	Spad Squad 163	NY	May 29, 1918	10	
61	Sgt	PETERSON, David M	Esc. La Fayette	PA	Mar 16, 1919	17	
62	2nd Lt	PRINCE, Norman	<b>Lafayette Escadrille</b>	MY	Oct 15, 1916	1	
63	Sgt	RHENO, Walter D.	Esc. Spad 80	MY	Oct 18, 1918	16	
64	Adjutant	ROCKWELL, Kiffin Y	<b>Lafayette Escadrille</b>	OH	Sep 29, 1916	1	
65	Sgt	SCANLAN, Lawrence	Aviation School	NY	Nov. 25, 1920	17	
66	Corp	STONE, Donald E	Esc. Spad 12	NY	April 21, 1918	8	
67	Corp	WILSON, Joseph V	Esc. Br. 117	WV	Oct 23, 1918	16	
68	Corp	WOODWARD, Houston	Esc. Spad 94	PA	April 1, 1918	8	
50	Under Lt	YORK, Walter Raymond.	97th French AS	MY	Jan 6, 1921	17	
<b>The Two French Commanders</b>							
1	General	BROCARD,	<b>Lafayette Escadrille</b>	France	May, 1950	17	
2	Lt Col	THENAULT, George	<b>Lafayette Escadrille</b>	France	Nov, 1949	5	

## **The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**

### **The Crypt and the Tombs**

#### **Chapter 32 - The Isolated Tombs**

*-Notes*

*-Four Pilots Remained Buried in France*

*-Ten Pilots Buried in the United States*

*-Five Bodies of which the Remains Were Carried Missing*

***-Notes***

We count in the underground and annular crypt 17 niches of each 4 tombs is 68 tombs in total.

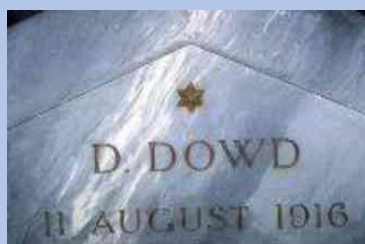
According to research carried out on the one hand by Dennis Gordon in his book "The Lafayette Flying Corps", and on the other hand in the lists of pilots at our disposal, we know with certainty that forty-nine bodies really lie in the crypt to compare with the 68 graves, or nineteen tombs represented by cenotaphs (tombs without a body).

We are going in this chapter and for the story to inform you of where the remains of these pilots lie by taking each of these graves one by one. Questions have been asked about this for a long time, but the answers given in the past have sometimes lacked precision. Let's try to shed all the light we can. The more or less important illustrations relating to the pilots, depend on our possibilities to obtain these photos. The pilots buried in France were privileged. Internet links should be copied into your browser, they will give you more information in several cases.

The United States of America has always taken great care of its fallen children by gathering their bodies in American military cemeteries managed by the "ABMC, American Battle Monument Commission". When you visit one of these cemeteries from the First World War, you are no longer on French territory but on American soil symbolized by the daily rise and fall of colors. But, to be entitled to this last residence, it is necessary that the death be after April 6, 1917, date of entry into war of the United States against the German Empire. This is why all the American pilots of the Lafayette squadron and of the Lafayette Flying Corps, engaged alongside France from 1914, died before this date of April 6, 1917, were buried either in the Memorial Crypt, or on the territory of the communes where they had fallen, or repatriated to the United States. In this chapter we only take up the cenotaphs of empty tombs. We have witnessed families coming to meditate on these empty graves and honor them in the same way as the others although, timidly we pointed out that these graves were empty; one family retorts that for them, their real grave was at the Memorial (a true and absolutely authentic anecdote).




## **-Four Pilots Remained Buried in France**



1-F- **DOWD Dennis** -Born in New York in 1887. Died August 11, 1916.

1st American volunteer in the Foreign Legion. He was also the first killed at the Buc school, following an accident, and the 2nd death of American pilots. His body rests in the old cemetery of Saint-Germain-en-Laye -tomb very degraded- only 20kms from the

Monument. Distinguished Service Cross / Niche 16 / St-Germain-en-Laye- CarréA / Tombe 151.




**American War Memorials Overseas, Inc.**  
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**Newsletter Issue 5, October 2009**

**Featured Isolated Burial: Dennis Dowd, WWI Infantryman and Pilot**



AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS LEAVING FOR ROUEN, AUGUST 25, 1914  
CROSSING THE PLACE DE L'OPÉRA, PARIS

The four men in line just behind the flag (right), are left to right: Edgar Wilson, Alan Seeger, Dennis Dowd, Ferdinand Caporale. René Philouste is carrying the large flag. He was released from duty to him by Seeger.

Dennis Dowd graduated from Georgetown University in 1908 and later attended law school at Columbia University. He was in Paris on legal business when World War I started, and immediately joined the French Foreign Legion. After passing a year in the trenches he was severely wounded in the Champagne region on 19 October 1915. During his many months in the hospital, he met and got engaged to Paulette de St Glin of Neuilly, France, daughter of a professor at the Sorbonne. They were to be married as soon as the proper paperwork could be processed. Back on active duty, Dowd joined the Lafayette Flying Corps and was in flight training at the Buc Aerodrome when he was killed in an airplane crash on 11 August 1916 at the age of 30. He is buried in an unmarked grave in the communal cemetery of St Germain en Laye, west of Paris. In the photo at left, he can be seen next to poet Alan Seeger, marching through Paris with a group of American volunteers. They later signed the flag, which is now in the French Army Museum in Paris.

“Source “American War Overseas”  
<https://www.uswarmemorials.org/html/doc>



2-F- **LEHR Manderson** -(1st Lieutenant)- Born in Nevada-

During a bombardment, although wounded, he ended his mission and returned with his apparatus. On July 15, 1918, being attacked by ten Albatross planes, He was shot down in flames. His plane was consumed like a pyre. His name appears on the list of missing persons in the American cemetery of Aisne-Marne in Bois Belleau.

Croix de Guerre with palm and star / Memorial Niche N ° 13

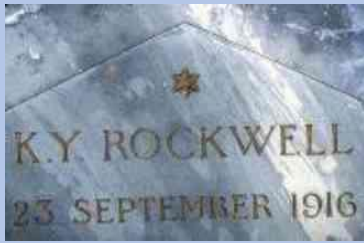
<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=1985588>

## WWI Isolated Burials

The many Americans who volunteered to fight or assist in WWI before our entry into the war were not eligible to be buried in our cemeteries if they were killed prior to April 6, 1917. Consequently, there are over 600 Americans that we know of that are buried elsewhere in Europe: in Commonwealth War Grave Commission cemeteries, in the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial, or in churchyards or town cemeteries throughout Europe. Pictured here is the gravesite of Dennis Dowd in the St Germain-en-Laye (France) town cemetery. Dowd had enlisted in the Foreign Legion and transferred to the Lafayette Flying Corps before he was accidentally killed in August '16.



<https://www.uswarmemorials.org/html/doc>



3-F- **ROCKWELL Kiffin** (Sergeant) - Born 1892 in Tennessee.

One of the first seven pilots of the squadron, Kiffin Rockwell is the second to die, shot down by the enemy on September 29, 1916. His remains are in the cemetery of Luxeuil-les-Bains (70300), Haute-Saône. About 90 kms from this place in Roderen (68800) in the Lower Rhine, one can see the stele evoking the crash of Rockwell's plane, a memorial space dedicated to it. He was very

attached to his brother Paul Ayres Rockwell who survived him; a former legionary himself, he was administrator during the construction of the Memorial (see Chapter 10).

Military medal with four palms / Memorial N ° 1 / Luxeuil-les-Bains cemetery in the Carré Militaire.

<http://www.aerosteles.net/stelefr-roderen-rockwell>







4-F- **WOODWARD Henry Howard Houston** (Sergeant) - Born 1896 in Pennsylvania. It goes through French military aviation schools. Flying on patrol that evening, he was killed in aerial combat near Montdidier on April 01, 1918. A memorial stele was erected at Rubescourt (80) where his Spad disappeared; another plaque was affixed to a wall of the village church. He rests in the American cemetery of Suresnes next to his first cousin, which may explain why his remains were not transferred to the Memorial.

Croix de guerre with palm / Memorial Niche N ° 8 / Suresnes: -Plot B Tomb 27-N-16.

<https://horizon14-18.eu/houston-woodward.html>

**Tombs near the cemetery of Suresnes, our pilot and his cousin Germain are thus united for eternity**





## *-Ten pilots Buried in the United States*



1-USA- **BIDDLE Julian Cornell** (Corporal) - Born September 23, 1888. On mission he took off on August 18, 1917 and disappeared in unstated circumstances. His Spad was found floating in the Larged Dunkirk and his body washed up on a Dutch beach Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre with Three Palms, Belgian Order of the Leopard Memorial Niche N ° 3 / Saint Thomas Episcopal Church Cemetery / Whitmarsh Montgomery County / Pennsylvania, USA

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=34306461>



2-USA- **BLUETHENTHAL Arthur** (Sergeant) - Born 1889 in Wilmington, North Carolina. Assigned to the Breguet227 squadron, died in aerial combat on June 5, 1918; he is buried in Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, North Carolina. After his country's entry into the war, he wanted to continue to stay in a French squadron. Previously it passed, like many pilots, in the ranks of the American Field Service paramedics. Cross of War with star / Cross of War with Palm /

Monument Niche N ° 11 / Oakdale Cemetery / Wilmington / New Hanover County / North Carolina, USA

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=8146570>



3-USA- **COOKSON Linn Palmer** (Caporal) - Born in Illinois in 1894. He had a bad fall from the cockpit following engine problems of the plane belonging to the aeronautical school of Pau. Ilenchaina different diseases; first repatriated to his homes, he died on September 17, 1918 of a complication following a surgery in the USA / Memorial Niche N ° 15 / Carlinville City Cemetery /

Macoupin County / Illinois USA

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=91988274>



4-USA- **McKERNES William J.** (Sergeant) Born in New York in 1895-. Assigned to the C45 squadron. Facing the combined attack of eight enemy Fokker, he engages in combat on August 15, 1918 at Ribécourt in the Oise; he was killed in the first few minutes, involuntarily leading to death his French teammate, for his last flight.

Croix de Guerre with star / Memorial Niche N ° 14 / Arlington National

Cemetery / Virginia, USA / Plot: Section 18, 2636

<https://fr.findagrave.com/memorial/57199196/william-john-mckerness>



5-USA- **PETERSON David Mac Kelvy** (Captain) - Born 1894 in Pennsylvania- He was assigned to the N124 La Fayette then transferred to the American army. For heroism, although he died on March 16, 1919 in Dayton Beach, Florida; while trying out a new plane, he remains symbolically at the Memorial. Distinguished Service Cross, with bronze oak / Croix de Guerre avec Palme / Memorial Niche 17 / Glen Dyberry Cemetery in Honesdale / Wayne County / Pennsylvania (G / 36)

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=76696653>



6-USA- **PRINCE Norman-** (First Lieutenant) Born in 1887 in Massachusetts A pilot graduate in the United States, he is considered one of the two founders of the Lafayette Escadrille. Died on October 15, 1916, on his return from a mission to Germany, his patrol, short of gasoline, was forced to land in the open field; his plane struck an electric cable on landing. First buried provisionally in Luxeuil, his body was transferred to the USA where it rests in Washington Cathedral. Holder of the Legion of Honor / Memorial Niche 01 /

St Peter & St Paul National Cathedral of the Diocese of Washington.

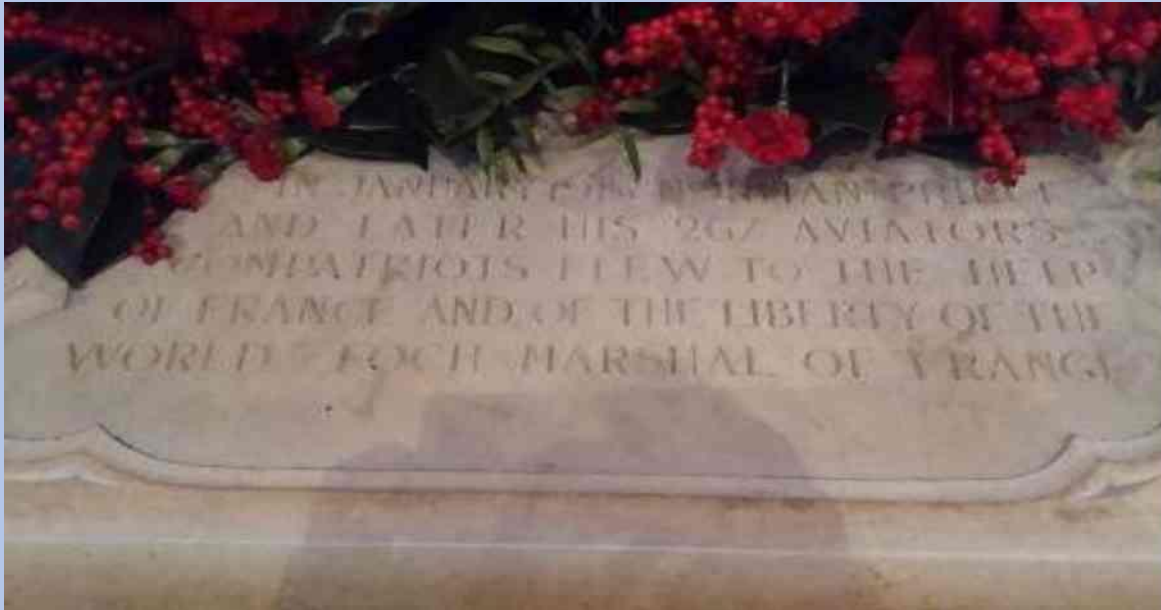
[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman Prince](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Prince)

### **Norman Prince Statue**



**Sculpture of Paul Landowski**  
**Photos Patricia Johnson & Adrien Deshayes**

### Citation from Marshal Foch



We also point out at the same time the tomb of President Woodrow Wilson also appearing in the Cathedral in Washington. He was in exercise during the 1st world war.



[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodrow\\_Wilson](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodrow_Wilson)



**Grave of the parents of pilot F. Prince who was one of the Founders of the Memorial**



**"This tomb Located in the crypt below the choir "**



7-USA **-RHENO Walter D.-**(Caporal), Born in 1895 in Massachusetts-A shot down enemy plane in August 1917. Died of pneumonia on returning from leave in the United States. Died October 10, 1918 at the American hospital in Neuilly. First buried in a provisional concession in Neuilly, his body was claimed by his mother and rests in his native land and in his uniform. Croix de Guerre with two palms / Memorial Niche No. 16 / Martha Vineyard

Haven in Massachusetts /

[www.usmilitariaforum.com/forums/index.php?/topic/65517-ww1-lafayette-flying-corps-uniformdocument-group/](http://www.usmilitariaforum.com/forums/index.php?/topic/65517-ww1-lafayette-flying-corps-uniformdocument-group/)



8-USA **-SCALAN Lawrence-** (Sergeant) Born in 1920 in LongIsland -NY. Died November 25, 1920 - Injured as a result of a series of accidents. With his defenses, he was reformed to cause injuries to the leg. Back in New York, he was amputated eight times. Following an operative infection he died of exhaustion. His remains, not located to date, should be found in New York State, presumably we believe he is buried in a cemetery on Long Island, where his father resided. Memorial Niche 17

Officially his name is Scalon, he has been written as Scalan on our documents and Memorial

<https://www.alamyimages.fr/photo-image-lawrence-scanlon-un-aviateur-americain-a-perdu-le-contrôle-de-sa-machine-500-pieds-au-dessus-de-l-école-de-l-aviation-francaise-a-avord-il-s-est-ecrase-sur-le-toit-de-cet-edifice-et-scanlon-echappe-d'accord-la-premiere-guerre-mondiale-90365440.html>



**9-USA- WILSON Volney Joseph**- Born in 1895. He shot down an enemy plane. Died October 23, 1918 while testing a Haviland "DH4" plane, its engine suddenly shutting off. Provisionally buried in Gondrecourt (55130) in the Meuse. Croix de Guerre with Star Memorial Niche N ° 16 / Mount Olivet Cemetery Parkersburg -Wood County- West Virginia (Plot 41-F)

<https://www.presbyteriansofthepast.com/2018/07/23/lieut-joseph-volney-wilson-1895-1918/>



**10-USA- YORK Walter**- (Sub-Lieutenant) Born in 1876 in the Massachusetts. Hired in June 1917 then attached to Spad97, he fought valiantly in Champagne. Chosen by Marshal Pétain to fly over the liberated Metz. He went on leave at the end of 1918 but caught tuberculosis on the boat bringing him back to New York. Died January 06, 1921. Croix de Guerre with palm / Memorial Niche N ° 17 / Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery

Etna / Penobscot County / Maine

Images Google : [sergent Walter York ww1 pilot lafayette escadrille/](#)

### ***-Five Bodies of which the Remains Were Carried Missing***



**1-D- ASH Alan N.** (Corporal) Born in Chicago in 1890.

He flew Blériot, Caudron and Nieuport planes as well. He was first assigned to the Avord flight schools in the Cher and the Crotoy in the Somme. Attached later to the Brl34 squadron, it was shot down on May 31, 1918 north of Oulchyle-Château and 60kms from Craonne. That day he was piloting a Breguet, then on the hunt for German bombers. His body has never been found. Memorial

Niche N ° 10 / <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSrid=639020&GRid=71588160&>



**2-D- CHAPMAN Victor**- Born in New York in 1890. -Do not confuse with his namesake Charles W. CHAPMAN another pilot also buried in the crypt- First pilot killed from the Lafayette Escadrille and first to fall in the crypt. Shot north of Douaumont on June 23, 1916 and then buried by the Germans who left in this place a cross. Subsequently his remains were transferred to the American cemetery of Meuse-Argonne to be officially recognized. According to the statements and collective memory dental identification and

the shape of the skull do not correspond to that of the pilot during his lifetime.

So that makes two burials for one man; presumably his real remains have simply disappeared. Military medal and Croix de Guerre with two palms / American Cemetery of Romagne-sous-Faucon located in Lorraine (Meuse) / Plot D, Rangée1, Tomb / Memorial Niche N ° 1

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=41501498>



3-D- **LEE Schuyler-** (Corporal) - Born in Pennsylvania in 1892, first a volunteer ambulance driver, he moved to Spad 96. Still a volunteer for dangerous missions, he died April 12, 1918, shot down by an enemy Fokker plane, above Beuvraignes in the of department the Somme. His plane was located and subsequently found, but never his body.

Croix de Guerre with Palms / Memorial Niche N ° 8

<https://patch.com/connecticut/newlondon/memorial-day-tribute-new-londons-unsung-hero-of-world-war-i>



4-D -**OVINGTON Carter Landram** (Lieutenant) Born in 1897 in Baden Baden (Germany)

It first went through the aviation centers of Avord, Pau & Cazeaux). Then assigned to the Spad 85 and Spad 98 squadrons. The Germans were flying east of Reims when, hidden by the clouds, it collided with another allied aircraft. He fell in Lagery located 40 km from Reims, neither of the two bodies nor of the aircraft were found. The Germans certainly set the planes

on fire and perhaps even executed the dying pilots (see Chapter N ° 9-Ovington Mrs. Georgia, she was devoted to pilots body and soul). Croix de Guerre with Palm / Memorial Niche

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=55949376>



5-D -**STONE Donald E.-**

(Corporal) - Born 1891 in New York. First passed through school

From Avord then from Pau, he was assigned to Spad12. Died April 21, 1918 in aerial combat involving 13 enemy planes. He distinguished himself in combat before disappearing again. Croix de Guerre with star as an ambulance driver / Croix de Guerre with star as pilot /

Memorial Niche N ° 8

<https://www.rbhousemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/RememberingWW1CasualtiesSM.pdf>

(On the 5<sup>th</sup> Page)

In order not to rule out any possibility although however very weak and rather even tiny chance, since 1921, there have been four remains of unknown soldiers exhumed from four different American military cemeteries, including that of Meuse-Argonne. Subsequently, these remains were transferred to the United States National Cemetery in Arlington. In one of them could possibly be found, the remains of one of our pilots whose body has disappeared ...

On same website you can also read:

**-Construction of the La Fayette Escadrille Memorial**

**-Inauguration, Centennial & Documentation**



**Keys to the La Fayette Escadrille Memorial” trilogy**  
**(All three books available on the “Editions999” website**

**-The Founders, the Project & The Crypt**  
**-Building**  
**-Inauguration & beginning 21st Century**

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**ISBN: 978-2-9572804-2-1 \_**

**To My Dear Co-Authors**

**And how not to thank my two co-authors for their help, their constant support without which this work would have remained unfinished.**

**JC Lemaire**

**DESHAYES Roger**

Audio-visual producer representing in France the American company "Viacom" (which owns, among other things, "Paramount". He discovered the monument at the request of the latter, which was planning to produce a mini-series to the glory of the Lafayette squadron. This project remained short-lived for lack of finding an interested French television channel Fascinated by this historical anecdote which influenced the entry into the war of the United States, R Deshayes created a website with his friend Madenian “lafayettepilotsmemorial.com” which he maintains while waiting for Jean-Claude Lemaire's site to take over.

[lafayettepilotsmemorial.com](http://lafayettepilotsmemorial.com)  
[lafayettepilotsmemorialkeys.com](http://lafayettepilotsmemorialkeys.com)  
[lafayettepilotsmemorialclefs.org](http://lafayettepilotsmemorialclefs.org)  
[lafayettepilotsmemorialclefs.net](http://lafayettepilotsmemorialclefs.net)  
[lafayettepilotsmemorialclefs.fr](http://lafayettepilotsmemorialclefs.fr)



**Roger Deshayes receiving the “Memorial’s Bronze Medal” from the hands of the former Secretary General of the Foundation (Circulation now sold out). We know what we owe our friend for this book and with many other things.**

## **JOHNSON (Eugene)**



**At the Monument on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Tireless researcher of the history of the two world wars. His father serving in the American army, in the 14th cavalry corps, distinguished himself in the Belgian Ardennes, mainly by fighting with his comrades-in-arms against the too famous 1st Panzer Division "SS Leibstandarte " SS Adolf Hitler. This division murdered American POWs at the crossroads of Baugnez , located a few miles south of the town of Malmedy in Belgium.

Bathed in his childhood by the feats of arms of the soldiers disembarked to save us, he extended his knowledge of the 1st World War when he discovered the Memorial following a visit to the Monument in 2001. He was one of the private donors for the major renovation before and after the works.

Passionate about history and full of knowledge, he undertook essential research in the United States and even some steps in France, this to prepare this digital book. Without Gene's action, this book would lack important informations and essential details.