



### 50<sup>th</sup> REUNION NEWS

It's almost that time again, our next reunion hosted by Lonnie & Patti Sedillo will be held Sept. 26-29, 2019 in Canon City, CO. Patti has created a new Facebook page, "348<sup>th</sup> Engineers Reunion" and will be posting reunion info as it becomes available. Here's a preliminary schedule of the weekend's activities:

Friday: Tour Ft. Carson Museum, lunch at Airplane Restaurant, dinner at K-Bob's Steakhouse. Saturday: Tour & lunch at Royal Gorge, dinner at DiRito's restaurant. The cost for the reunion will probably be \$170 per person.

Having an early count of those attending really helps when planning a reunion; a headcount form is posted on the Reunion page so you can let the Sedillos know if you're planning to attend. Your completed form can be emailed to [sedillos2015@yahoo.com](mailto:sedillos2015@yahoo.com) or mailed to: 348<sup>th</sup> F&F Reunion 2019, 215 W. Stanley Ave., Canon City, CO 81212. If are unable to use the form, send your name, address, email address, number of adults and children under age 12 attending to the addresses listed above.

### TAPS

Rolly Flick called to say his mother, Arlene Cadwell, passed away in July. Arlene was originally married to 348<sup>th</sup> veteran Edward Flick, then married 348<sup>th</sup> vet Russ Cadwell after both of their spouses passed away about the same time. Our condolences to both families.

### ALBERT SOTO

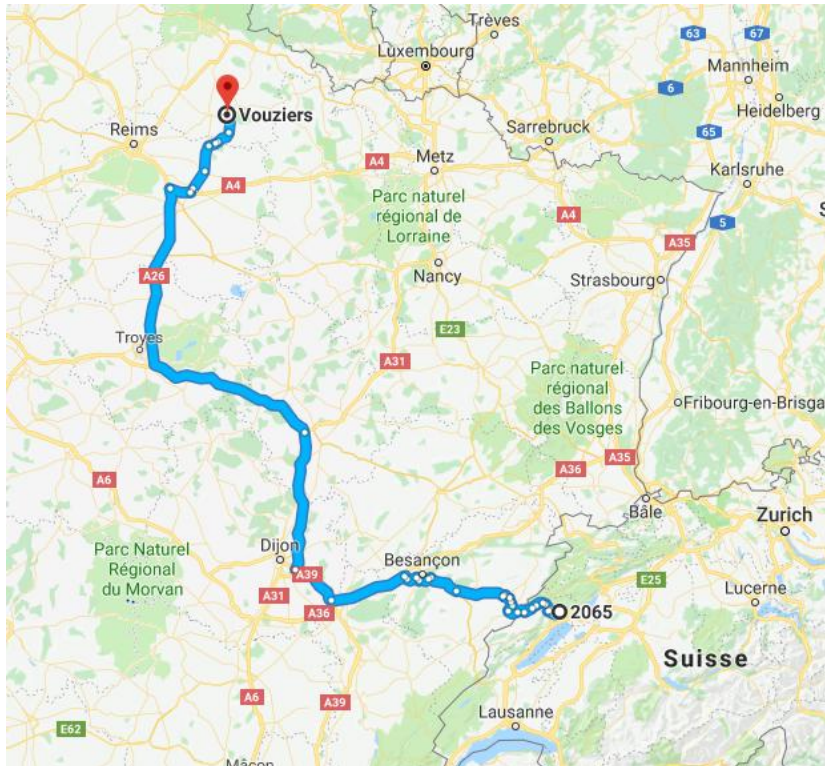


The 348<sup>th</sup>'s only D-Day casualty, Pvt. Albert Soto, B Co., is buried at the American Cemetery above the Normandy beaches. At the 2010 reunion, 348<sup>th</sup> vet Andy Anderson brought to our attention that Albert's cross is engraved "384<sup>th</sup> ENGR COMBAT BN" instead of 348<sup>th</sup>. While visiting the American Cemetery at Meuse-Argonne in France, our Swiss member Francois Lienher, learned that it's possible to have the original marble cross replaced with one that's engraved with the correct unit. Francois has filed a request with the American Battle Monuments Commission at the Normandy cemetery to have the cross replaced; the ABMC is now checking records for the new cross.

The following story about the restoration of a First Division monument commemorating the Meuse-Argonne battles near St. Juvin, France by 348<sup>th</sup> F & F members Joe Winslow, Francois Lienher, and Yves Hochstrasser was written by Francois. The 3 met in mid-September to replace a plaque which was stolen. Francois is from the French-speaking part of Switzerland; I've done a small amount of editing on Francois' article, but left most of it as written by Francois.

## **Operation St-Juvin / France**

Last year Joe asked me, relaying the 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Div. Assoc. request, if I was



ready to help for the installation of a new bronze plaque on a WW1 monument. Last year it was too difficult with a crowded period. This year was different, we prepared well in advance, in Switzerland we have a day off in mid-September. Reserved dates are 14 – 17 of September. Departure time from home at 2 p.m. with material and tools. It's always difficult to know which kind of tools we need for this kind of job.

I have taken pieces of wood for lifting, driller, a choice of bits, special glue, a scale and my tool box.

I needed 6.5 hours to drive. I had no problem for this portion. Once in Vouziers I meet Joe Winslow. He already was in the French Ardennes. We went in a special restaurant located in Vouziers, specialties are French West cuisine. So as Friday is the special day for the cook to prepare a Cassoulet, we ate that. It was a famous one.

Then we went to the B&B rented by Joe. It was huge because Joe have chosen a very big house due to the confirmation of Air Force helpers. Finally, no one came and we were only both. Bad !



Saturday morning, we would have a breakfast at the B&B, but finally we went again to Vouziers because it's the only village with a life around. Bakery for croissants and restaurant for coffee, down the hatch and let's go to St-Juvin for checking how we could attach the plaque. Our 2 brains worked a lot for this morning because dimensions were too wide, but finally it was better because this over sized is just covering damages made by robbers.

We moved to a village with a kind of Home Depot for buying some screws, bolts and rings. We found the perfect solution for this situation, proud of us. As it already was midday, we stopped just up of the



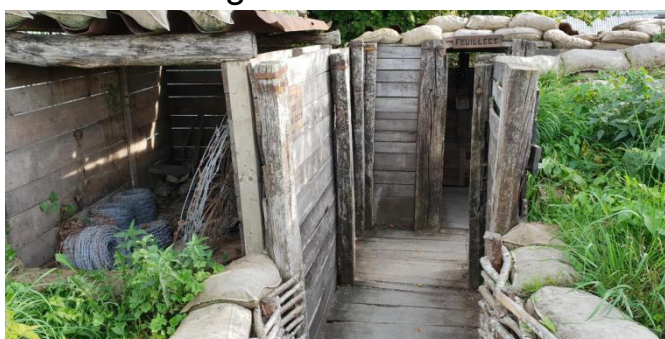
Meuse river for eating a homemade pizza, food was good but 3 dogs were yelling all along the meal.

Fortunately, the weather was good that afternoon. We started installation by measuring plaque, then we drilled the monument, it was very dusty. 8 checks and tests after arrived the strategic time of sticking. We were very anxious because the plaque is very heavy, just able to lift together with Joe. Ouf... We did it !!



The day after, a meeting with Yves was organized for passing the Sunday all together. It was a nice sunny day. We started our visits at the "Douaumont ossuary", horrible. The "Fort of Douaumont", it's a very huge fort with big cannons. The climate inside was fresh and humid; it must be horrible to stay inside for long time. With the soldier's equipment, only wool, leather and cotton they had no possibility to stay dry. During the day we visited "The Bayonets Trench" the legend says French soldiers were covered with earth due to big explosion. Only a part of bayonet was still visible, that gave the name. During the lunch I learned a new American expression " She's as stressed as a one legged man in a kicking contest" I hope it's true... We used this expression just because the waitress was not able to avoid running everywhere but for nothing...

We continue the day with a visit of a rebuilt trench and two museums. Monday morning after a good breakfast we met Joe in the St-Juvin monument for a last checking. All is OK. At 10 a.m. a meeting at the Cemetery was held, because



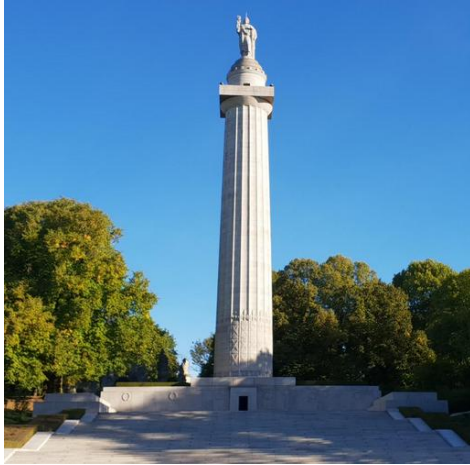
the rest of original bronze plaques are stocked over there. This Cemetery is very huge, much bigger the others I visited. We checked dimensions of plaques and also the damages they have.

We spent a part of the time in the Cemetery for visiting the....that's incredible... one of the two places where they engrave white crosses used in the American cemeteries. When I asked the employee he told me why

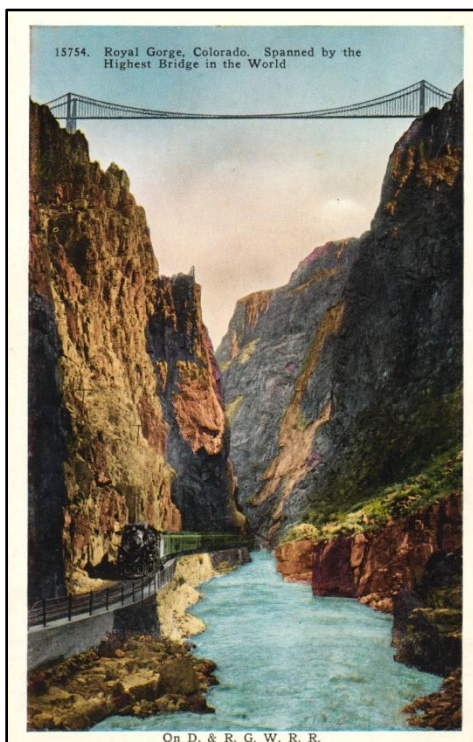


they have to engrave already today. It's because crosses can be damaged during cemeteries maintenance, or because a wrong spelling happened earlier. Just back at home I sent an email to the Colleville Cemetery in Normandy because Albert Soto's cross at the Normandy cemetery is wrong. It's written 384 instead 348. Now the request is in the American Battle Monuments Comm. for checking.

In the morning we went to a hill visiting a US monument, a huge column 180 feet high. We went up.



The rest of the day was for driving back to Switzerland. We just stopped in a big garage specialized in Jeep. In fact it's more a museum than a garage...



Once again, we'd love to see you at the reunion next fall. If you have questions you can contact Patti at [sedillos2015@yahoo.com](mailto:sedillos2015@yahoo.com) and be sure to check the reunion Facebook page. I'll also send emails to keep everyone up to date on the event.

Don't forget, 2019 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

Everyone have a nice Thanksgiving holiday. The next newsletter will be out after Christmas, so I'll take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Tom & Kelley Bryan