



SAWC LOGO AND PHOTOGRAPH USED BY PERMISSION OF ROBERT ASHBAUGH

SAWC 2016 VISIT TO NORMANDY

COMMEMORATING THE 72ND ANNIVERSARY OF
D-DAY, 2-10 JUNE 2016



**MICKIE WEINERT SPEAKING TO
416TH BOMB GROUP
ATTENDEES ABOUT HER
SAWC TRIP TO D-DAY
ACTIVITIES IN NORMANDY
FRANCE
IN GAINESVILLE, MO ON
OCTOBER 8, 2016**

Invitation to Normandy

Southern Arizona Women's Chorus

Dear Ms. Terrie Ashbaugh:

June 6, 1944; forever known as "D-Day", marked the Allied invasion of German occupied France and the beginning of the Liberation of Europe from Nazi tyranny.

In June of 2016, seventy-two years later, the "D-Day Anniversary Parade" and "American Musical Salute" will commemorate WWII and 72 years of Liberation, while saluting America's war veterans, and our active military men and women and their families. These officially recognized events will feature America's outstanding performing ensembles in an unforgettable and historic tribute.

On behalf of **Historic Programs** and the D-Day Parade Committee we congratulate the **Southern Arizona Women's Chorus** for your invitation as an official musical unit of the 2016 D-Day events and an official representative of The United States in Normandy France in June of 2016. Recently all military support for many national and international commemorative events has been eliminated making it necessary to find high quality civic music ensembles for these official events. **This invitation is based on a recommendation and your outstanding reputation.**

The Parade will step off on the actual anniversary day, June 6, 2016 in the French village of Sainte-Mere-Eglise, the first village to be liberated by American troops. Prior to the parade the **Southern Arizona Women's Chorus** will be featured as part of the Musical Salute to Liberation attended by thousands of French and US citizens. In addition, **Historic Programs** will present two official public ceremonies, which will take place at the St. James American Cemetery on June 5th, and at the Normandy American Cemetery on June 7th. It is anticipated that the **Southern Arizona Women's Chorus** will perform official music at both ceremonies and will join in a combined performance to memorialize all those who were laid to rest on the beaches of Normandy.

Congratulations on your invitation. We look forward to having your outstanding Chorus join us in Normandy June 2016.

Sincerely,

Earl T. Hurrey

Earl Hurrey
MGySgt USMC (ret)
Military and Veterans Liaison
Historic Programs

**THIS TOUR WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY
SPECIAL INVITATION FROM THE
ORGANIZERS OF THE D-DAY
COMMEMORATION DIRECTLY TO THE
SOUTHERN ARIZONA WOMAN'S
CHORUS ORGANIZATION**

SAWC ITINERARY			
DAY	DATE	WEEKDAY	EVENT
1	2-JUN	THURSDAY	DEPART U.S. FOR FRANCE
2	3-JUN	FRIDAY	ARRIVE PARIS, TRAVEL TO HOTEL COSITEL COUTANCES, NORMANDY
3	4-JUN	SATURDAY	UTAH BEACH, ST. MERE-EGLISE CONCERT AND D-DAY PARADE
4	5-JUN	SUNDAY	POINTE DU HOC, NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY CONCERT, OMAHA BEACH, BAYEUX & MONT ST. MICHEL
5	6-JUN	MONDAY	BRITTANY AMERICAN CEMETERY CONCERT. ST. MERE-EGLISE EVENING CONCERT
6	7-JUN	TUESDAY	LA MADELEINE, PARIS CONCERT
7	8-JUN	WEDNESDAY	D'ORSAY MUSEUM, PARIS
8	9-JUN	THURSDAY	FREE DAY IN PARIS
9	10-JUN	FRIDAY	DEPART FOR U.S



HOTEL COSITEL COUTANCES,
NORMANDY, FRANCE



MICKIE, ALMAR, DUTCH TOUR
DIRECTOR, BARBARA EVANS, FRIEND



PHOTO USED BY PERMISSION OF ROBERT ASHBAUGH

4 JUNE - SATURDAY



Utah Beach



BARB AND MICKIE
ON UTAH BEACH



PARTAGER L'HISTOIRE ET LA MÉMOIRE EN TOUTE LIBERTÉ
SHARE HISTORY AND MEMORY IN TOTAL FREEDOM



C'est ici à Utah Beach, que la bataille du débarquement fut gagnée. Au matin du 6 juin, l'effet de surprise joue en faveur des américains, la marée était basse, les bombardements aériens et maritimes furent précis et destructeurs. La flotte devait arriver face à Saint Martin de Varreville, mais l'explosion d'une mine et les violents courants marins bouleversent le plan. Ce sera 1800 m plus au sud, face au point d'appui WN5 que l'Histoire s'écrira. Utah Beach c'est l'Histoire d'une réussite totale.

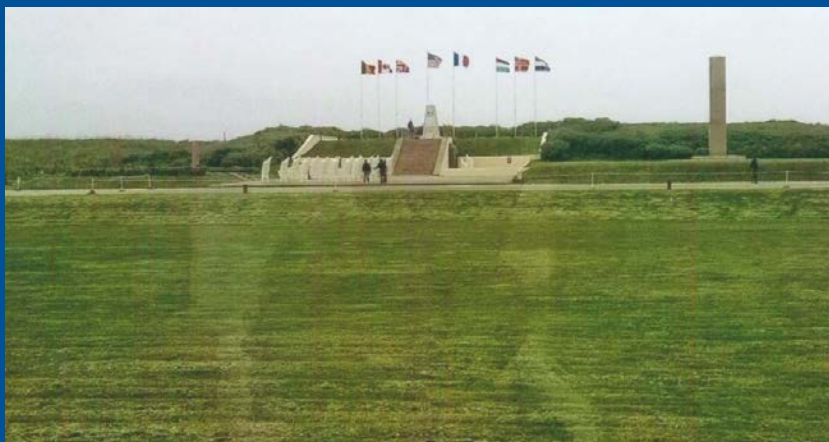
It's here on Utah Beach that the landing battle was won. In the early morning of June 6th, the surprise effect was an advantage as the tide was low and the air and marine bombings were very precise and destructive. The fleet should have arrived on the beaches of Saint Martin de Varreville but the explosion of a mine as well as strong currents drastically changed its course. Instead, history will be written 1800 meters further south, at the WN5 fulcrum. Utah Beach is a total success story.



Pour en savoir plus :
 venez louer votre visio-guide à l'office de tourisme communautaire à Sainte-Mère-Eglise
 rent your visio-guide in the tourist office in Sainte-Mère-Eglise
 tél. 02 33 21 00 33

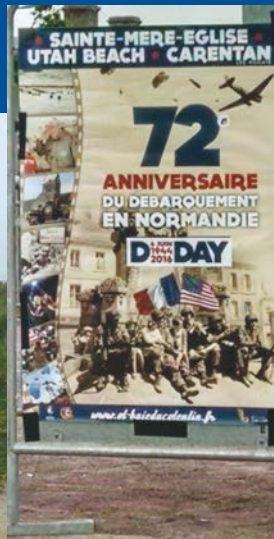


1st ENGINEER SPECIAL BRIGADE MONUMENT



4 JUNE - SATURDAY

4 JUNE - SATURDAY



UTAH BEACH

HIGGINS BOAT MONUMENT

On June 6, 1944 the majority of Allied troops initially arriving on the Normandy Beaches landed in one of two craft: the British Landing Craft Assault (LCA) or the American Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel (LCVP). In fact, some 1,089 LCVPs took part in D-Day.

Developed by Andrew Jackson Higgins in 1941, the LCVP was built by Higgins Industries in New Orleans. The Higgins Boat carried up to 36 troops, was capable of up to 12 knots and could be outfitted with a pair of Browning M1919 machine guns. The boats were crewed by four personnel.

By the time of the Normandy landings the LCVP had been used in every theatre of operations including Operation Torch in North Africa, landings in Italy, and in southern France. It was also used in the Pacific theatre.

This memorial to Higgins, his boats, and the men who rode ashore in them has been given to the people of France by the citizens of Columbus, Nebraska, the birthplace of Andrew Jackson Higgins. The memorial here is a replica of a memorial built in Columbus in 2001, and is also a celebration of partnership between Columbus and Sainte Marie du Mont ... two communities tied together by history and a heritage of freedom.





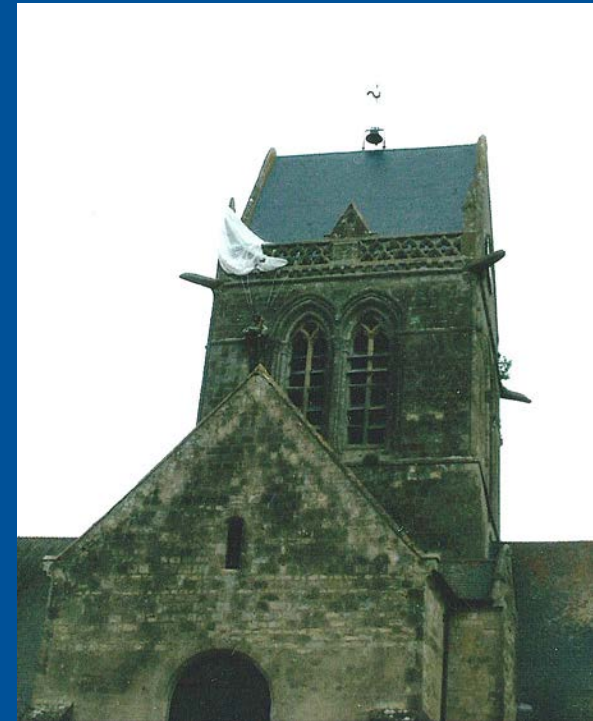
IOWA STATE MARCHING BAND

4 JUNE -
SATURDAY

SAWC MUSICAL SALUTE TO VETERANS



WW2 WAR BIRD FLY-BY
AT SAINT MÈRE EGLISE



PARACHUTE HANGING FROM ST. MÈRE
EGLISE'S CHURCH COMMEMORATING
JOHN STEELE'S PERILOUS DESCENT INTO
THE GERMAN HELD TOWN ON D-DAY



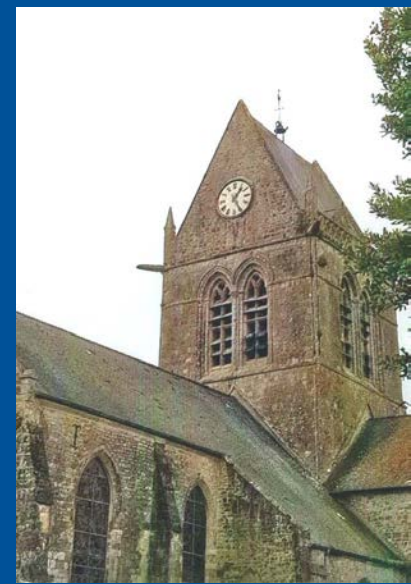


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SAWC MARCHING IN D-DAY
MEMORIAL PARADE

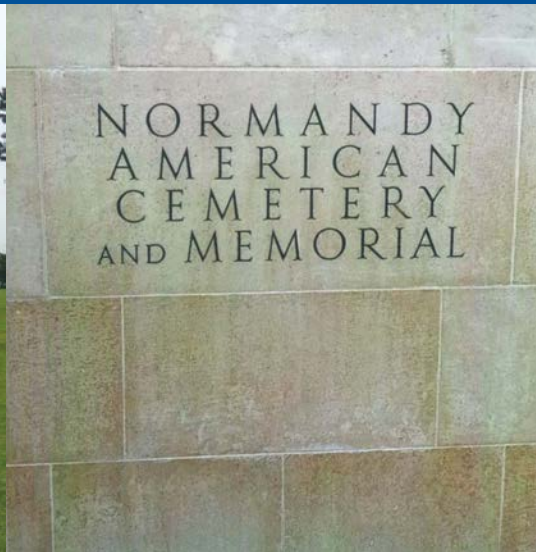
4 JUNE –
SATURDAY
IN
ST. MERE-EGLIES



WW2 COMBAT VEHICLES



NORMANDY CEMETERY HEADSTONES



REFLECTING POOL LOOKING TOWARD MEMORIAL AT NORMANDY CEMETERY

5 JUNE - SUNDAY



REFLECTING POOL LOOKING TOWARDS HEADSTONES AND CHAPEL

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION
Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial

Normandy American Cemetery is situated on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach, 9,383 air dead of the United States of America from World War II rest here. Most died in the landing operation and in the establishment of the Normandy beachhead. Additionally, the names of 1,557 Americans whose remains were never recovered or not identified are inscribed on the walls of the semicircular Garden of the Missing behind the memorial. A bronze rosette marks the names of those who were subsequently found. 307 headstones mark the graves of the "unknown".

The construction and care of this 172.5-acre cemetery and memorial are the responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission, an agency of the United States government. Use of the land was granted, in perpetuity, by the people of France.

After World War I the American Battle Monuments Commission erected a memorial chapel in each of the eight American military cemeteries in Europe, as well as eleven battlefield monuments.

At the end of World War II, fourteen additional military cemeteries were established overseas. Each contains a memorial with a relief in permanent graphic form of the achievements of the U.S. Armed Forces in that region. The Pointe du Hoc monument and battlefield monument, 10 miles (15 km) to the west, and the Utah Beach monument is located 30 miles (45 km) to the southwest.

The graves in these World War I and World War II cemeteries number approximately 39 percent of those originally buried. The remains of the other 61 percent were returned home at the request of the next of kin. A white marble headstone marks each grave, a Star of David for those of the Jewish faith, and a Latin cross for all others. At each of the memorials are inscribed the names of the missing who gave their lives in that region.

The American Battle Monuments Commission also operates two cemeteries in Latin America, the final resting place of Americans killed in the War of 1847 and of those who contributed to the construction and operation of the Panama Canal.

At American Supermarket manages each cemetery. English-speaking personnel are available during opening hours to offer information and assistance. This cemetery is open every day of the year.

Le cimetière américain de Normandie est situé au sommet d'une falaise dominant la plage d'Omaha. Ici reposent les corps de 9 387 victimes de guerre des Etats-Unis d'Amérique tombées au cours de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. La plupart ont péri au cours des opérations du débarquement et de l'établissement de la tête de pont. De plus, les noms de 1 557 Américains, dont les débris ne furent pas retrouvés ou identifiés, sont gravés sur des murs du Jardin des Disparus, derrière le Monument. Une rosette en bronze est apposée près des noms des disparus dont les corps furent retrouvés ultérieurement et 307 stèles indiquent les tombes de soldats "inconnus".

La construction et l'entretien de cette nécropole, d'une superficie de plus de 70 hectares, sont sous la responsabilité de la Commission des monuments de guerre américains, une agence gouvernementale des Etats-Unis. La libre disposition du terrain a été gracieusement concédée, à perpétuité, par le peuple français.

Après la Première Guerre mondiale, la Commission des monuments de guerre américains érigea une chapelle du souvenir dans chacun des huit cimetières militaires américains en Europe, ainsi que onze monuments commémoratifs sur les champs de bataille.

A l'issue de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, quatorze cimetières militaires américains furent aménagés en terre étrangère. Chacun comprend un mémorial où des cartes retracent les faits d'armes des Forces Armées des Etats-Unis d'Amérique dans cette région. Le monument de La Pointe du Hoc est situé à 15 km à l'ouest du cimetière et le monument de Utah Beach se trouve à 45 km au nord-ouest.

Les sépultures des cimetières des Premières et Deuxièmes Guerres mondiales représentent approximativement 39 % des sépultures initiales. Les dépouilles mortelles des autres victimes furent rapatriées. La demande de leurs proches. Une stèle de marbre blanc désigne chaque tombe ; une étoile de David pour les combattants de confession israélite et une croix latine pour tous les autres. Les noms des soldats portés disparus qui prirent dans la région sont inscrits dans chacun des cimetières.

La Commission des monuments de guerre américains a également la charge de deux cimetières en Amérique Latine, destinés à des Américains tués pendant la guerre de 1847 et de ceux qui participèrent à la construction et à l'exploitation du canal de Panama.

Un conservateur de nationalité américaine dirige chaque cimetière. Un personnel anglophone est disponible pour informer et assister les visiteurs durant les heures d'ouverture. Le cimetière est ouvert tous les jours de l'année.

World War I				World War II			
Cemetery	Location	Burials	"Missing"	Cemetery	Location	Burials	"Missing"
Ame-Meuse	Belgium (02), France	2,289	1,060	Androsses	Noville-en-Condroz, Belgium	5,328	462
Brookwood	Brookwood, England	468	563	Britanny	Saint-James (50), France	4,410	498
Flanders Field	Waregem, Belgium	768	43	Cambridge	Cotem, Cambridgeshire, England	3,811	5,127
Meuse-Argonne	Ramange-sous-Montfaucon (55), France	14,246	954	Epinal	Epinal (88), France	5,255	424
Our-Aisne	Serignes-et-Nesles (02), France	6,012	241	Florence	Florence, Italy	4,402	1,409
Saint-Mihiel	Thioncourt (54), France	4,153	284	Hines-Chapelle	Hines-Chapelle, Belgium	7,989	450
Somme	Bony (02), France	1,844	333	Lorraine	Saint-Amand (57), France	10,489	444
Suances	Near Paris (93), France	1,541	974	Luxemburg	Luxemburg	5,076	371
				Manila	Manila, Republic of the Philippines	17,206	36,282
				Netherlands	Margraten, The Netherlands	8,302	1,722
				Normandy	Colleville-sur-Mer (14), France	9,387	1,537
				North Africa	Carthage, Tunisia	2,841	3,724
				Rhone	Draughtman (83), France	861	294
				Sicily-Rome	Nettuno, Italy	7,861	3,095
				Surrenes	Near Paris (92), France	24	-
				Mexico City	Mexico City, Mexico	1563	-
				Corozal	Corozal, Republic of Panama	5,104	-



“SPIRIT OF AMERICAN YOUTH
RISING FROM THE WAVES”
AT NORMANDY MEMORIAL CENTER



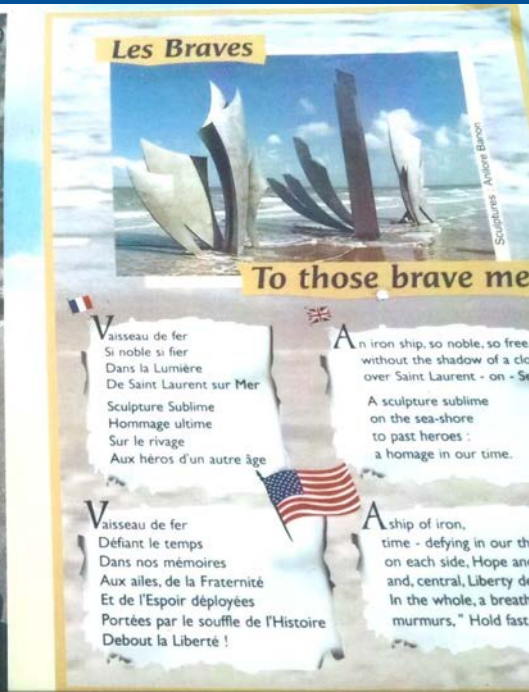
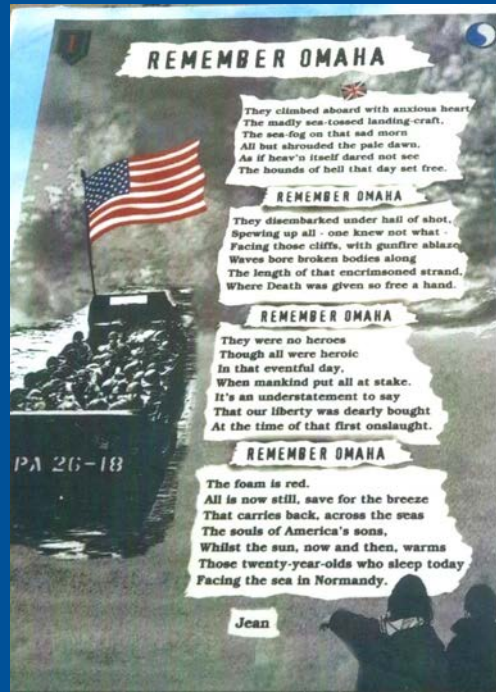
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SAWC PERFORMANCE AT NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY MEMORIAL CONCERT

5 JUNE –
SUNDAY



PHOTO USED BY PERMISSION OF ROBERT ASHBAUGH



LES BRAVES MEMORIAL ON THE SHORES OF OMAHA BEACH

DISPLAY "REMEMBER OMAHA"

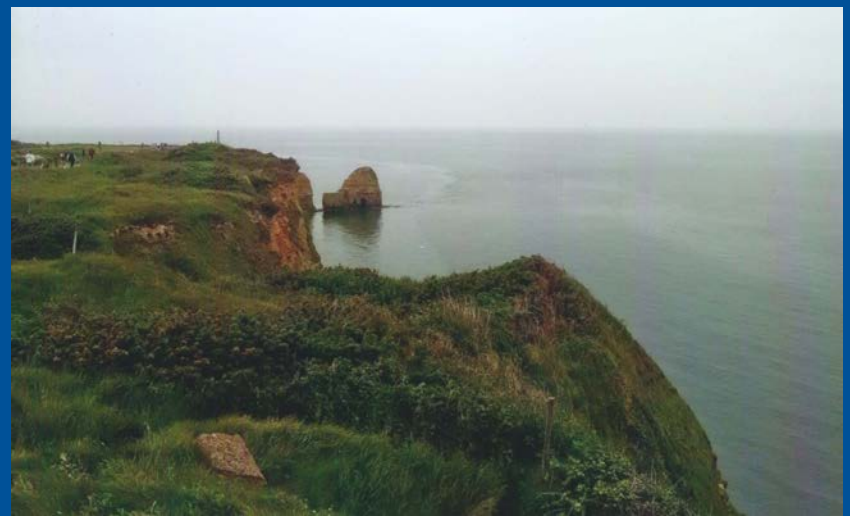
OMAHA
BEACH

5 JUNE -
SUNDAY



POINTE DU HOC

AERIAL VIEW OF POINT AND CLIFFS
(LOWER RIGHT CENTER) UNDER PRE-
INVASION ATTACK BY 9TH AIR FORCE A-20
BOMBERS.
CLIFFS WERE SCALED BY ELEMENTS OF 2ND
RANGER
BATTALION ON D-DAY



PRESENT DAY VIEW OF CLIFFS

6 JUNE - MONDAY



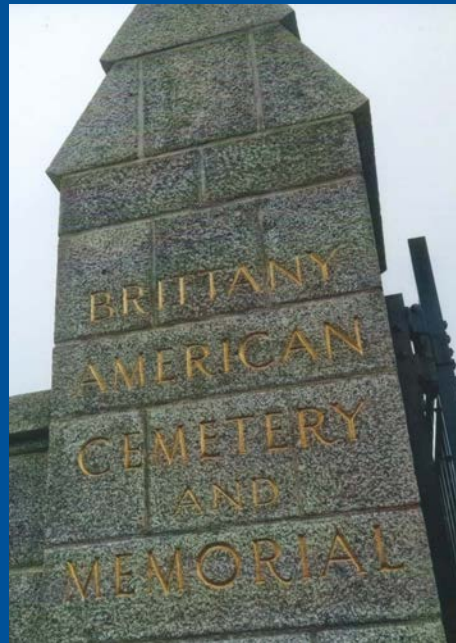
6 JUNE - MONDAY



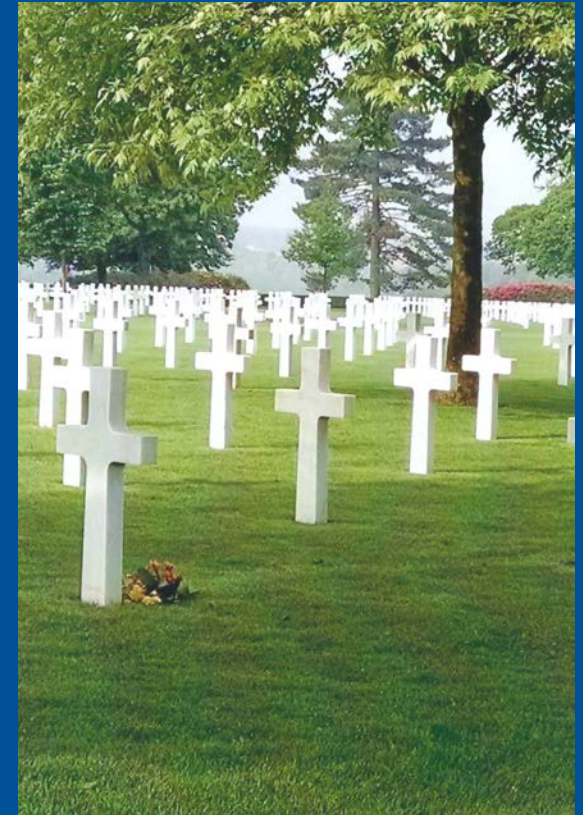
BARB AND MICKIE AT BRITTANY
AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL



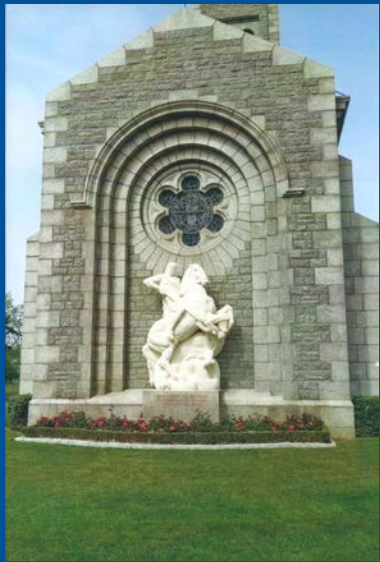
BRITTANY WALKING PATH



ENTRANCE TO
BRITTANY CEMETERY



BRITTANY CEMETERY HEADSTONES



REAR OF CHAPEL AT BRITTANY CEMETERY. STATUE IS ENTITLED: "YOUTH TRIUMPHING OVER EVIL"



SAWC PERFORMANCE AT WREATH LAYING CEREMONY, BRITTANY AMERICAN CEMETERY IN ST. JAMES ON D-DAY



6
JUN - 1944
D-DAY



MICKIE AT MAP IN BRITTANY AMERICAN CEMETERY CHAPEL

STAINED GLASS IN ST. MERE EGLISE
CHAPEL, 82ND AIRBORNE
PARATROOPERS DESCENDING ON D-DAY



PHOTO CREDIT: KNHAW AT ENGLISH WIKIPEDIA,
LICENSED UNDER THE CREATIVE COMMONS
ATTRIBUTION 3.0 UNPORTED

6 JUNE –
MONDAY



FLOWERS INSIDE BRITTANY
AMERICAN CEMETERY CHAPEL

EVENING CONCERT ST. MERE EGLISE



THIS PRESENTATION WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING:

- SOUTHERN ARIZONA WOMEN'S CHORUS, TERRIE ASHBAUGH, DIRECTOR
(SOUTHERNARIZONAWOMENSCHORUS.ORG)
- ROBERT ASHBAUGH, SAWC PHOTOGRAPHER
- BARB EVANS, FRIEND OF MICKIE WEINERT AND
- MICKIE WEINERT WHO GRACIOUSLY GAVE OF HER TIME AND PHOTOS FROM HER TRIP TO FRANCE



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM RICKELS

MICKIE WEINERT