



Timmes' Orchard Speech Sunday August 5, 2007

French speech given by Daniel Briard, President, Association U. S. Normandie ;
English translation speech given by Rodolphe Roger, Secretary, Association U. S. Normandie

Ladies, gentlemen, veterans, dear friends,

We are gathered here in front of this monument, that has been erected to respect the memory of what happened here...in this countryside...this salt marsh...and these orchards...during the first days of June 1944.

This monument pays tribute to the men of the 507th PIR, the 508th PIR, and the 325th GIR. It was inaugurated on Tuesday June 5, 2007, exactly 63 years day-for-day after "D-Day", by the granddaughter of Lt. Col. Charles J. Timmes, Mrs. Christiann Timmes Bosetti..

I address particularly to Mr. Wayne Pierce and Mr. John Marr. You have known these orchards that are in front of us, since you were here! We French, know that here, many American soldiers fought hard and suffered morally because of their isolation and physically because of their wounds, that were serious for some. We know, also, that many lost their lives at the feet of these hedges, in order to give us back the liberty that we had lost.

Lt. Col. Timmes dug his foxhole and established his command post very near here. And Lt. Col. Pierce, you dug yours just a few meters from his, just next to the Jules Jean farm. All of us here know this and will never forget it!

To give an account of what passed in this sector would take too long. What counts today, dear American friends, is that you know that the existence of this monument is the certainty that the numerous sacrifices that were accepted in these orchards and surrounding areas, will never be forgotten... neither by us, nor by future generations! In memory of all the soldiers who died, and in respect to their families, we will go now to place flowers in front of the monument and will observe a moment of silence.

In the name of **LIBERTY**, we address you with **great thanks!**

(Note from the translator : Three sprays of flowers were placed in front of the three standing stones..... one in front of the 325th GIR plaque by Lt. Col. Wayne Pierce and Bud Olson, both of the 325th GIR ; one in front of the plaque for the 507th PIR by John Marr (507th PIR) and Bob Murphy (505th PIR ; one in front of the plaque for the 508th PIR by Chet Graham (508th PIR) and Dave Bullington (505th PIR). See the attached photo.)
.....Vivian Roger, Association U. S. Normandie