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Shedding Light on a Dark Past in Compiègne, France

During World War II, the town of Compiègne in the Picardy region of France just 40 miles north of Paris was used as a major deportation station by Nazi Germany in order to transport detainees to concentration camps. Camp Royallieu contained 25 barracks in order to hold over 45,000 people from 1941 to 1944, including political internees and over 200 Americans. Today, Camp Royallieu has been converted to a museum commemorating the lives of these internees and the dark history associated with the camp. The museum is located within the old barracks buildings and commemorates the lives of the many internees who suffered and died here while waiting to be transported to concentration camps. Throughout the museum, there are letters, news clippings, maps, drawings depicting the lives of the prisoners, and many other artifacts. The museum also contains audiovisual materials which serve as part of the tour and provide further information on the history of the camp. Aside from the barracks, the museum also includes the Garden of Memory, a chapel, and the escape tunnel used by the internees during the war.



**A Monumental Success for
the State of Pennsylvania**

While the gunshots have stopped in Varennes, France, visible scars remain in its pockmarked landscape and a memorial erected by the State of Pennsylvania eternally reminds visitors of the sacrifices made at the site. Inaugurated in 1927 to honor all Pennsylvanians who gave their lives in France during WWI, the memorial is currently maintained by the State of Pennsylvania and the town. Recently the site received a \$300,000 cleaning and renovation and now shines brightly once more over the now-peaceful Aire Valley.



**In Memory of Lt. Colonel
Albert Peter Dewey**

In a chapel of the magnificent Bayeux Cathedral in Bayeux, France, a plaque honors Lt. Colonel Albert Peter Dewey. Dewey, who grew up near Bayeux, became the first American killed in French Indochina. As a veteran member of the O.S.S., he was sent to Saigon to develop intelligence, but he was shot to death by the Viet Minh after a case of mistaken identity on September 26, 1945. His body was never recovered. Today Dewey is listed on the Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, as well as on the town war memorial in Longues-sur-Mer, France.

About American War Memorials Overseas

AWMO recently participated in the premiere of the exposition "La Fayette nos voici!" ("La Fayette we are here!") at the World Center for Peace in Verdun, France. The exhibits featured a number of documents and artifacts relevant to the American entry into WWI.

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