



**Newsletter Issue 22, January 2014**

**Christmas in a Cave—the Tradition Continues**



On Christmas Eve in 1944, a Mass was said for American soldiers stationed in Maastrich and for those on their way to the Battle of the Bulge in some caves in a quarry in Maastrich. The soldiers carved their names into the soft stone of the inside of the cave to mark the occasion. The site is now owned by the large concrete company ENCI, who are preserving the caves and the elaborate carvings inside. A Dutch foundation continues the tradition of the Christmas eve mass every year by organizing the event, assisting ENCI



in the maintenance of the site, and doing the historical research associated with tracing the names on the wall. This is a truly remarkable collaboration to keep alive a unique and compelling memory. See their website at [shak44.org](http://shak44.org). A picture of Christmas 1944 is on the left, and 2013 is on the right. You may donate to their cause by directing your tax deductible AMWO donation to the SHAK 44 cave project.

**WWI Isolated Burial Restored — Kenneth Weeks**



Kenneth Weeks was born near Boston on 30 December 1889 and was educated at MIT and at the Beaux Arts in Paris. He was living in Paris as a writer when he enlisted in the French Foreign Legion in 1914. He spent the winter in the trenches and was chosen as a bomb thrower for his squad. On June 16 and 17, 1915, the Legion was engaged in heavy fighting near Souchez and Weeks was reported missing. His body was recovered from between the lines on 25 November and he was buried in the cemetery near Mount Saint Eloi, where he still rests. At the time of his death at 26 years of age, he had written five volumes of short stories.

After the war his mother wrote the book *Greater Love Hath No Man*, a rich volume of correspondence between her and American volunteers such as her son. His grave in St Eloi had fallen into disrepair and was in danger of collapsing—held up only by a wire strung around the cross. Local volunteers recently completely renovated the site, preserving the memory of this remarkable man.



About American War Memorials Overseas....

AWMO welcomes a new intern for a few months this winter. Nicholas Barnes comes to us from Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he is just finishing his studies at the University of Western Michigan. Nick will help us keep up the momentum on expanding our database.



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