



Aussac-Vadalle, November 22, 2024

Madam, Sir,

On June 19, 1944, ten young American aviators took off from England aboard the B17-G "Channel Express III" for a bombing mission to Bordeaux - Mérignac airport. A mission among many others for those who, just the day before, faced the air defense of Hamburg after having flown over the whole of Germany.

Seven of them did not return, they perished in the crash of their flying fortress in the towns of Aussac-Vadalle and Jauldes. The three others, although pursued by German troops, escaped with the help of the inhabitants and the help of the BIR-HAKEIM maquis.

This tragic episode in our history constitutes, for the inhabitants of our communities, an example of the fraternity that has always linked us to the American people. An unbreakable bond that led these young men to risk their lives for our freedom.

Dominic, William, James, Paul, Robert, Harold, Alfred died on our Charente land for our freedom, they were not 25 years old.

For the eightieth anniversary of their tragic disappearance, with your help, we were able to show the persistence of our immense gratitude.

You participated in the subscription launched to carry out the project of a memorial worthy of their sacrifice, thank you infinitely.

A moving ceremony took place on June 19, 2024 at the very scene of the Channel Express III crash. The population responded in large numbers to the invitation of the two municipalities and it was with humility and deep respect that the honors were rendered by the officials, the detachment of the 515th Train Regiment and the planes of the 709 Air Base of Cognac.

The attached brochure retraces the project and expresses our thanks to all the participants.

We noted, with great satisfaction, the involvement of the young people of our communities in the solemn tribute that was paid.

The Channel Express III remembrance committee, created to lead this project as effectively as possible, will continue its approach by completing the site with signage and facilities to facilitate the duty of remembrance.

We would particularly like to thank Ms. Nolwenn Thorin, who was fully committed to the committee but who had to return to her assignment outside the department recently. She is one of those young people who carry our hopes and who strengthen our confidence in the future.

We thank you for your support and please accept, Madam, Sir, our sincere and respectful greetings.

Jean- François Coussaud
Président Amicale des Anciens Combattants

Gérard Liot
Maire d'Aussac-Vadalle

Franck Thorin
Initiateur du Projet