



AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201-3367

Established by Congress 1923

September 11, 2008

Howard H. Smith, Treasurer
147th Engineer Veterans Association

Dear Mr. Smith:

I have received your letter requesting information on the status of your monument, which is located on the LeBrec estate in Englesqueville La Peres, France. I am enclosing two documents. The first is a letter sent to COL Itzel on August 9, 2004. This letter identified four tasks that needed to be accomplished prior to formal acceptance of the monument into the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) Trust Fund. The only item left unaccomplished is the easement. This has been complicated by the death of Mr. Robert LeBrec and the unwillingness of his survivors to grant such a right to the ABMC. Since this is something that is not under your association's control, I consider the monument to be in our Monument Trust Fund and the ABMC will use the funds that you placed in the fund to maintain this monument.

To help you understand the conditions of the trust fund, also enclosed is a copy of the guidelines we send to interested parties. Attachment 3 is the most informative about the agreement. I would like to highlight Arrangement 2 in this section, which stipulates:

“The Sponsors understand that pursuant to this arrangement, ABMC shall use its best efforts to indefinitely preserve and maintain the memorial. However, should the trust funds prove inadequate for the continued repair and long-term maintenance of the memorial, the ABMC has the right, subject only to agreement of appropriate foreign authorities, to demolish the Memorial.”

I highlight this because in your letter you state that you may need to determine what needs to be done with any remaining funds should you decide to disband your association. Any additional funds that you decide to add to the trust fund would help to better guarantee the future maintenance of your monument.

Your monument is now under the watchful care of our staff at the Normandy American Cemetery and our European Region engineers. The monument remains in excellent condition and the LeBrec family continues to be wonderful caretakers of it.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Sole
Director of Engineering and Maintenance



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August 9, 2004

LTC George A. Itzel, USA (Ret)
147th Engineer Veterans Association
439 Greenlow Road
Baltimore, MD 21228-1839

Dear Colonel Itzel:

This follows up on your letter of April 26, 2004 and your recent discussions with my staff regarding your association's request to join the Memorial Trust Fund Program (MTFP).

I am pleased to advise you that this Commission's European Region office has recommended the acceptance of the 147th Engineer Battalion Englesqueville la Percee monument to the Monument Trust Fund Program upon completion of the following:

- 1) An engineering inspection of the monument found that the following minor repairs are needed: cleaning of the monument; application of a fungicide and a joint repair.
- 2) Recording of an easement by Mr. Robert L. LeBrec, owner of Chateau Englesqueville, 14710 Trevieres, France, granting ABMC access to his property for the purpose of the inspection and annual maintenance of the monument;
- 3) A signed agreement with the LeBrec family that they will continue to maintain the monument, and
- 4) Assurance by your association that it will be able to provide ABMC with the sum of \$5,000 for the long term maintenance of the monument.

Upon resolution of the above issues, we will ask our European Region office to assist in coordinating the execution of the required documentation to include the 147th Engineer Battalion Englesqueville la Percee monument in its Memorial Trust Fund Program.

The efforts of the 147th Engineer Veterans Association to memorialize the sacrifices of its members during World War II are certainly a tribute to those who gave so much so that others may live free of fear and tyranny.

If we may be of assistance to you at any time, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Pond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Kenneth Pond
Executive Director