

## US Memorial Day 2015

*"We cherish too, the Poppy red that grows on fields where valor led,  
It seems to signal to the skies that blood of heroes never dies."*

On the last Monday in May, it is the custom at 3 p.m. local time, for all citizens of the United States of America "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect; by visiting cemeteries and placing flags or flowers on the graves of our fallen heroes; by visiting memorials; by flying the U.S. Flag at half-staff until noon.

Traditionally the bugle call "Taps" is played at 3pm

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrVOj3wLN\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrVOj3wLN_U)

Robert Shaw plays TAPS



tributes left by visitors to the Memorial on US Memorial Day





In the first year we commemorated Memorial Day, amongst the tributes we found a battered little plastic toy soldier. We cleaned and repainted him and put him on a stand. Each year he returns to be on parade on Memorial Day

**Our American Memorial Plaques.**



## 404th Fighter Group



Veterans from the 404th Fighter Group present a memorial plaque remembering the eight pilots who made their last flight from Winkton Advanced Landing Ground April 5th to July 4th 1944. Left to right Bob Huddlestone, Bob Bealle, Floyd Blair and Fred Varn present the plaque to FONFA's then chairman Les White.





## **Captain Darrell R Lindsey**

Captain Lindsey was killed leading a bombing mission by his Group in 1944. he made his last flight from RAF Holmsley South where our memorial is sited He was awarded the Medal of Honor. A Memorial plaque was payed for by local donations from the general public. It was unveiled by the vice chairman of the B26 veterans organisation. Captain Lindsey's sacrifice and the dedication events are captured in the text and photos below.

*"the 394th Bomb Group flew from Holmsley South in 1944. On August 9th 1944 the 394th flew to attack the rail bridge over the Oise River at L'Isle Adam, a few miles north of Paris. Despite his aircraft having being hit twice by anti-aircraft, having been blown out of formation once and the aircraft being on fire, 25-year-old Capt. Darrell Lindsey continued to lead the attack, and after the attack held his aircraft level whilst the crew escaped. Before Captain Lindsey could leave the cockpit, the wing tank exploded. The B-26 went into a steep dive and hit the ground in a ball of fire. Captain Darrell Lindsey was posthumously awarded America's highest decoration for valour, the Medal of Honor. Uncharacteristic of the formal, stilted citations for combat awards, the citation for Lindsey's Medal of Honor ends with these words: "All who are living today from this plane owe their lives to the fact that Captain Lindsey remained cool and showed supreme courage in this emergency." For him, completing the mission came first, the safety of his crew second, his own survival last"*