

The 87th IDLA has joined with the Best Defense Foundation and their executive director, Amanda Thompson (granddaughter of Jimmie Bordelon F-347) and Jack Johnson, local historian, to establish a monument to the 87th Infantry Division at Hill 360 outside of Obergailbach, France.



Jack Johnson is a veteran of the British Army and an avid collector of WWII memorabilia. His acquisition of an 87th ID uniform jacket inspired the idea for the memorial in Obergailbach and he is dedicated to preserving the legacy of those who fought during WWII.



Amanda Thompson is the Executive Director of the Best Defense Foundation, a US non-profit dedicated to bringing WWII Veterans back to their battlefields. Her grandfather served in the 87th ID, 347th IR, Co. F and was wounded near Obergailbach, France.

The mission of the Best Defense Foundation is to honor our veterans by returning them to the battlefields where they served, supporting Special Operations Forces in transition, and connecting their stories to the next generation. Jack feels that the 87th Infantry Division does not get the recognition of some more famous units even though the 87th has a similar service record. He was very surprised that there was no monument to commemorate the 87th service in the Saar and worked with local officials to locate a fitting place, Hill 360.

Information on contributing to the establishment of this monument is provided on the next page. Approximately half has been raised to date. The overall cost is estimated at 20,000 euros (approximately \$17,000).

To learn more about the Best Defense Foundation visit their website at <https://bestdefensefoundation.org/>



**TAKING CARE OF THE ONES
WHO TOOK CARE OF US**

- The memorial will consist of a marble plinth and platform flanked by U.S and French flags
- An educational panel will be added to assist visitors in the history of the battle, liberation and contributions of the 87th
- Enscribed will be the unit insignia and "In honor of the 87th Infantry Division who fought in and around Obergailbach in December 1944."



Donor Opportunities



Legacy Founder \$5,000

Name Recognition on
plaque near memorial
and recognition at
dedication event

Heritage Sponsor \$1,000

Recognition at dedication
event and online

Remembrance Supporter \$500

Recognition at dedication
event

Friend of the 87th Up to \$500

Recognition online

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information

Join The Mission



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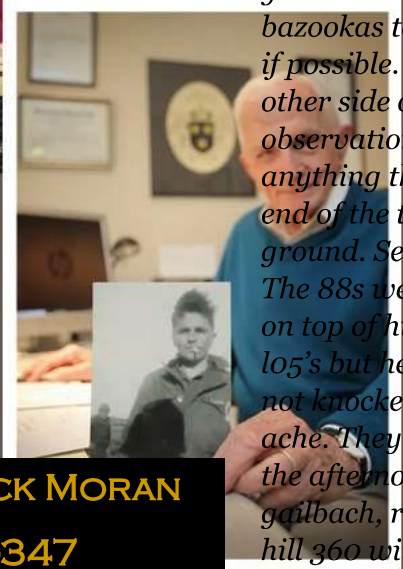
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Help us ensure their sacrifice is never forgotten.



PVT JACK MORAN
K-347

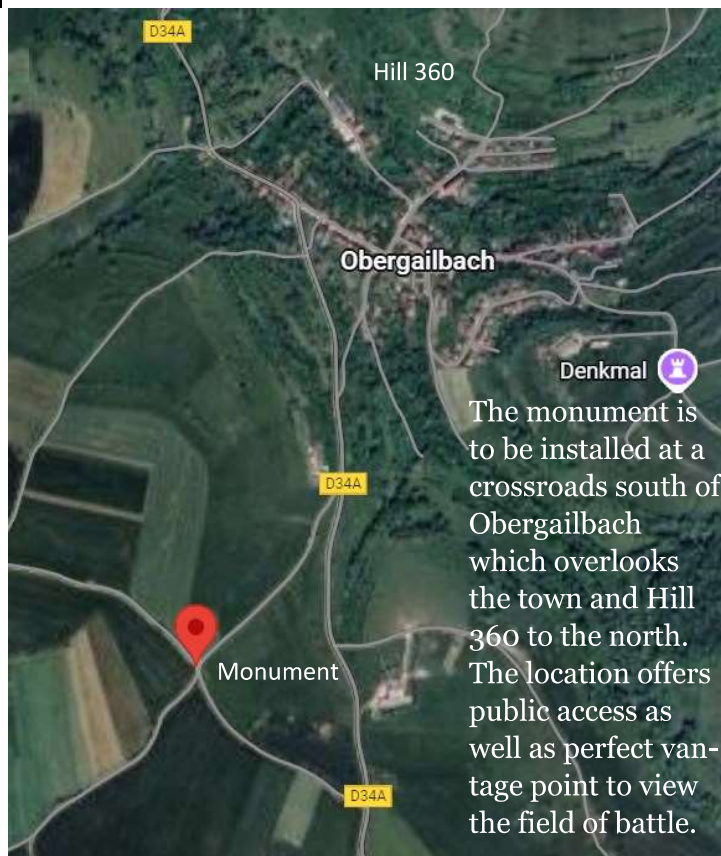


Veterans John Foy (A-347) and Jack Moran (K-347), who both fought in the battle to take Obergailbach, have given their support to the establishment of the monument to the 87th.

In August 2002, Jack wrote an account of the fighting in the Saar. Here are some excerpts mentioning Hill 360. [Link to story.](#)

In the morning we received orders to attack Obergailbach. We hurried across another open field under heavy artillery fire and curved down to high ground above the town. We hit a few rooftops with bazookas to keep the Germans nervous and moving if possible. The Germans controlled Hill 360 on the other side of the town and had very good artillery observation, plus tanks up there firing their 88s at anything that moved. We edged down to the left end of the town and dug in on some elevated ground. Several 88s whistled right over my hole. The 88s were coming from the German Tiger tanks on top of hill 360. I saw one tank hit by one of our 105's but he just backed into the woods apparently not knocked out but I'm sure the driver had a headache. They were very rugged tanks. About 4:00 in the afternoon orders came down to bypass Obergailbach, rush across a 300 yard valley and attack hill 360 without artillery preparation. Only seven

men of my squad are available for the attack. We reached the bottom of the hill okay and started up the hill firing from the hip. I was carrying the BAR and a lot of ammunition. We flushed out Germans as we went up the hill. They fired at us from their foxholes and other positions. I somehow got to the crest of the hill as it became dark. Sgt. Plants and I climbed into a rock pile. It was too dangerous to advance any further without more support as we were pretty sure the Germans were only about a hundred yards away in the woods at the top of the hill. Artillery was called in to shell the woods on the top of the hill but the shells came in a little short and burst very close to us. Dawn came along with L Company, who were going to relieve us for a day so we could get some food and rest. They moved through us and attacked the woods at the top of the hill but caught hell in the process. They suffered quite a few casualties. We dropped back down to Obergailbach which the Germans had now abandoned and were given some coffee and crackers. The town was full of wounded, and shells were crashing in so there was no real rest.



The monument is to be installed at a crossroads south of Obergailbach which overlooks the town and Hill 360 to the north. The location offers public access as well as perfect vantage point to view the field of battle.