

French town wants to honor Edward Hunter

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identification center in Cherbourg." The body was apparently identified as Hunter and was buried in France at St. James American Brittany Cemetery on Aug. 7, 1944.

At the request of his wife, Sara, his body was transported to New York on a ship in 1948 and subsequently buried in Cold Spring Cemetery. The grave is marked with a flat headstone. Edward Hunter is buried next to wife, Sara, who died in 1969.

"Seventy two years long time after this tragic event, we don't know who is this man and we want at Pontivy to know his identity to take contact with members of his family because this man lost his life in our town for the freedom," states Laboux. "He is part of the history of our city."

In 2013, the mayor of Pontivy gave a grant of \$700 to engage a researcher in College Park for four days of research. Investigation has uncovered some facts. As noted on his gravestone, Hunter was born Nov. 5, 1905. He was a skilled mechanic.

Laboux noted the Germans set the school on fire around 11 p.m. Aug. 3, 1944, with the fire being extinguished about 4 a.m. Aug. 4. Hunter's body was located Aug. 5 in the basement of the school. Laboux said he contacted Beck because Edward Hunter resided in the Cold Spring section of Lower Township. Laboux asked Beck to contact Cold Spring Cemetery.

"His life was ended in this place, we never forget him," wrote Laboux, who noted the French town wants to place Edward Hunter's name on a monument.

Edward and Sara Hunter had no children, so efforts to locate any relatives have proved difficult, according to Beck. Sara Hunter's maiden name was Reeves. She had two sisters and a brother, all deceased. Clement was born in 1904, Jennie in 1910 and Alice, whose married name was Emmons, was born in 1911.

Sara Hunter was the daughter of Mrs. and Mrs.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Lower Township Mayor Michael Beck stands at the gravesite of former Cold Spring resident Edward Hunter, who was killed in Pontivy, France, during World War II.

Andrew Reeves.

The 1940 census listed Clement as having three sons: Clement Jr., George A. and Leroy, and a daughter, Gail. Research showed Clement Jr. married Miriam Elliott at the Hotel Macomber in Cape May. She passed away in 2010 and was known as Micki Elliott Reeves.

Staff at the Museum of Cape May County in Cape May Court House located Edward Hunter's obituary and other documents. They note he held the rank of sergeant, lived in Cold Spring for 18 years and was employed as a carpenter prior to entering the military. He also worked on the construction of the Cape May Canal.

Hunter was also survived by three brothers, Walter of Philadelphia, Joseph of Delanco and Frank of Mount Cuba, Del., a step brother Thomas Rambo and two sisters, Mrs. Harvey Goodman of New Castle, Del., and Mrs. Victor Hollis of Philadelphia.

A memorial service was

held at Cold Spring Presbyterian Church on Sept. 17, 1944. "Rev. William Bullock, pastor and Chaplain Kenneth E. Heim, of the Cape May Naval Air Station will speak. The Army will be represented by a detachment from the Cape May Point Post," noted an obituary.

A press clipping states

Sara Hunter received a Purple Heart posthumously awarded for her husband, T/4 Edward N. Hunter, on Nov. 1, 1944.

A July 1948 press clipping from the museum states the body of Edward Hunter was aboard the Army Transport Greenville Victory, being returned from Europe to New York.

In the Oct. 4, 1944, edition of the Star and Wave, Bullock wrote about Edward Hunter in his weekly sermon column. Bullock stated "Somewhere in Normandy there is a grave possibly marked by a cross with either a name or a number or both, where the broken body of our brother Edward N. Hunter lies resting until the dawn-his spirit having returned to God who gave it."

Bullock quoted from a letter written by Edward Hunter on Jan. 12, 1943: "As being away from home I have realized my mistake in not coming to church. It has taken the Army to make me find my God again and I am so happy because of it."

From Hunter's letter dated March 23, 1943: "I arrived safely in Europe and am quite well and trust God you are the same. I want to thank you for the wonderful way you have received my wife and myself in the church."

Bullock wrote, "A letter received by his wife the same day that the fatal message came told her not to worry, revealing the fact that he was then on the field of battle."

Beck noted Hunter's name is on a stone memo-

rial in front of the Sandman Consolidated School containing a dozen names of local people killed in World War II.

Cold Spring Cemetery Superintendent Scott Rosell-Takayama had burial records for Edward Hunter and information from Spilker Funeral Home.

"As someone who was a son of our town, we absolutely owe him to find out everything we can about him so he gets the proper recognition in this town in France," Beck said. "It's also a lesson for our residents about war, the price of patriotism."

He said he is asking anyone with information about Hunter to contact

him. Beck said somewhere there must be a box with his medals, some letters written home and maybe even a telegram from his commanding officer.

"What this does is show that regardless of what we think, there's people in other countries that still appreciate the fact that we gave blood for their liberty," he said.

Beck said he wanted to let the residents of Pontivy know we appreciate their remembrance of Hunter but also Lower Township residents appreciate him as a hometown hero.

Anyone with information about Hunter may contact Beck by email at mbeck@townshipoflower.org or call (609) 886-2005.

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Jack Fichter/

CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE Edward N. Hunter is among those honored with this monument at the Sandman Consolidated School.

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**3D Moana PG 4:20, 9:35

**Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them PG-13 11:40, 3:30, 6:40, 9:40

**Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them PG-13 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

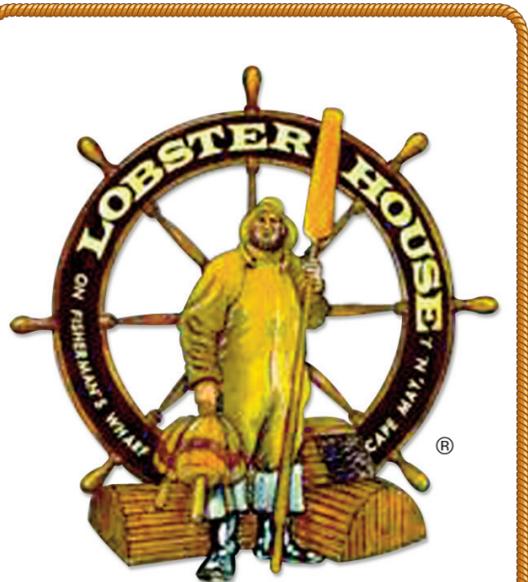
**3D Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them PG-13 10:30

Almost Christmas PG-13 10:50, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55

Doctor Strange PG-13 10:40, 1:20, 4:00, 7:10, 9:45

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