

Hallowed Ground

D-Day +1

Jean-Dominique Leullier (EAA 185689) shared this memory after reading about the EAA AirVenture Museum's plans to commemorate D-Day's 60th anniversary (see "Hotline"):

"In June 1944, I was a little boy of 4, but I still vividly remember the Normandy sky blackened with airplanes (and that's probably why I have always wanted to fly!): C-47s, Mosquitos, Spitfires, Mustangs, Typhoons, Marauders, Lightnings, B-25s, Piper Cubs, Stinsons, and many more. The noise of their engines, the noise of the bombs they were dropping, and the noise of shot-down airplanes are still in my ears."

By D-Day +1, many of those warbirds landed on an emergency landing strip (ELS-1) constructed by U.S. troops in

Poupeville. This bag of soil, personally delivered to EAA by Jean-Dominique and his wife, Pat, in 1989, is from that airstrip, located not far from their home near Caen, France.

Jean-Dominique noted the soil wasn't easy to get. He first had to get permission from the French-American Ninth Air Force Normandy Association, overseers of the site. "When they learned it was for the EAA Museum," he wrote, "I got the green light."

This small bundle of hallowed earth is on temporary display in the Eagle Hangar, near the Supermarine Spitfire Mk IX currently on loan from the Seattle Museum of Flight.

Kathleen L. Witman

