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LE CANARD ECUEILLOIS

Wednesday, September 30th 2015

German WW2 Soldier Shared life with French Family

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The house where Hugo lives in
Gehée, has got a strange story:



Hugo's
great-
grand
father
captured

a German soldier during the
Second World War. It was at the
end of the war and it lasted for 8
months.

The soldier was accommodated and
fed and, in exchange, he worked
with Hugo's grandmother at the
farm. The man slept in the barn of
the property. He wasn't unhappy
even if he wanted to see his
girlfriend who lived in Germany
next to the Alsatian border. He
didn't have any children. His name
was Ernest. Currently, Hugo and

his family are living in this house
and his great-grandfather is still
alive : he told Hugo about this
story.



At the time, it wasn't unusual to
see French families living with a
German prisoner. In fact, these
soldiers were called "prisoners" but
their lives were not very hard. They
were free as long as they stayed on
the French families' properties.
They had to work for these families
but in exchange they were fed and
accommodated (sometimes they
even had their own room). It was
better than fighting on the front
and risking to be killed!