

## **Avenue Miss Pell**

Against the wishes of her family Isabel Pell (1900-1952), an American citizen, flees to Paris then to Auribeau-sur-Siagne with her companion the Marquess of Forbin in the 1930s. In her fight against the invaders during the Second World war, she is arrested with her friend in 1942 by the Italians and assigned to residence in Puget Théniers (the first house to the right of the fortified gate). They were liberated when the Italians left in 1943 just before the arrival of the German troops. However even though she was under surveillance, Miss Pell managed to act for and with the Resistance, her goodwill and determination were greatly appreciated by the local population.

On her return to Auribeau-sur-Siagne, she continued acting for the Resistance then joined the American army for the Allied Landing. In November 1944 the Liberation Committee of Puget Théniers award her the title of honorary citizen and give her name to the old street *fuore de bari* (*outside the city walls*)

## **The end of the castle in Puget**

In May 1690, the fort is taken and occupied by the French. The Marquis de la Fare strengthens its position but the minister for war Louvois, asks him to destroy it when he decides that the country is finally conquered. This is done in August 1691. After the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) the House of Savoy, reconquers the territory and partially restores the fortress which sees no action until October 1792 (see no.7, p.14) when forces of the French Revolution occupy the village. A counter-offensive by the Sardinians enables the recovery of the town on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1793. Some hurried work is undertaken to restore the castle. Even though it constitutes “with its barracks and small powder-house, an excellent station, where 100 men could push back 1,000, there was not even a barrel of powder”. On the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1793 Sardinian troops evacuate the town with no fighting and pillage Puget Rostang in passing.