

CENTENNIAL YEAR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



1945



1919

2020

***History of
The American Legion
Department of France
1920 - 2020***



John P. "Jake" Comer
National Commander
1987 - 1988

The American Legion's Department of France occupies a sacred place in the identity of the largest organization of U.S. wartime veterans. Originally chartered as the Department of Continental Europe, Legionnaires on the continent have proudly and bravely upheld the organization's highest values and purposes.

Foremost, they honor the fallen heroes of wars past, whether their names are known or not, no matter how long ago they sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today. The Department of France continuously reminds us that the price of those freedoms was paid in blood. From a roadside cemetery in Ireland's County Mayo to Flanders Field in Belgium, all who gave their lives fighting for justice, freedom and democracy under the flag of our nation shall never be forgotten, thanks primarily to The American Legion's Department of France.

Beyond that, this department represents a taste of home for thousands of active-duty personnel and their families, stationed far away from everything they ever knew and loved. American Legion youth programs like Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports, Oratorical competition and Junior ROTC connect the children of U.S. troops with a brand of U.S. patriotism that would be otherwise difficult to obtain overseas, among others who don't understand who we are, or why we fight for our beliefs.

For many years, I have been deeply involved with FODPAL – Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion – having once served as its president. I have often been honored and delighted to visit American Legion posts in Europe and elsewhere on the planet, who always remind me that no matter where you are on the map, foreign or outlying from the continental United States, the soul of the organization remains the same, and the purposes for which we associate know no boundaries.

Congratulations to the Department of France for a century of service.

For God and Country,

John P. "Jake" Comer

American Legion Past National Commander

FODPAL Past President



**National Adjutant
Daniel S. Wheeler**

I am reminded where we come from, what it means and why it matters every time I enter the National Executive Committee Room of American Legion National Headquarters. There hangs "America" by French combat veteran Leon Reni-Mel. Portrayed is the timeless and haunting image of a U.S. doughboy embracing a wounded French soldier. The American is calling for a medic to help his ally, his brother in arms. Reni-Mel began this painting on Nov. 11, 1918, the date the Great War ended, ultimately giving birth to The American Legion, which would stimulate a century's worth of care and compassion for those who fought with their lives for freedom, no matter where or when.

The painting was presented to American Legion National Headquarters in 1922. To me, it is a continuous reminder of our roots in France and of our role on the international stage. No one understands the importance of global security, human compassion nor the sacrifices necessary to secure them better than those of us who serve our communities, states, nation and the world in The American Legion.

In that painting are the seeds of what we now call Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. Found in the eyes of the wounded French soldier is the plea for effective diplomacy and strong national security. Within the brush strokes are American Legion values that are not stuck in history, but transcend it, because they are timeless, and the Department of France knows this better than anyone else.

Thank you, Department of France, for all you have done in your first century. Enjoy this history and let it help guide you for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Wheeler
National Adjutant



**The American Legion, Department of France
Department Centennial Commander
Jimmie Dale GR07**

The American Legion was created in France after WWI in 1919, now 100 years later we are celebrating our Centennial Year. I am very fortunate to have been elected as the Department of France Centennial Commander this year. It is a great honor and privilege to belong to such a great organization that has doing so many great things for Veterans and their families.

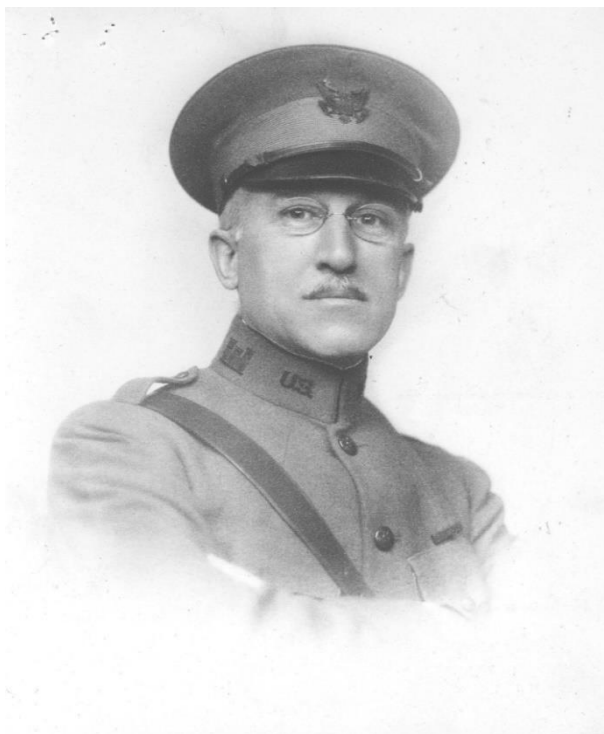
Since its induction as a chartered Veteran organization the American Legion has helped provided more opportunities for many Veterans, family members and their kids. I am reminded of our mission: The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veteran's service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Since I've been the Department Commander I have enjoyed traveling to many different events and post's throughout Europe. I have participated in all our Department Awareness Drives this year and I've also enjoying a few dinners alone the way. As this year draws to a close, I'm looking forward to the New Year 2020 and the all many possibilities that comes with it. I enjoy the knowledge that I serve with the American Legion, which is a nonpartisan not for profit organization that has great influence on Capitol Hill with the legislative process when it comes to helping veterans and their dependents.

The American Legion successes depend entirely on active membership participation and volunteerism. I've learned that doesn't happen by accident, we have a strong core or a group of members that are willing to give up their weekends and personal time to help support our great organization. I salute all the members of the Armed Forces for everything they do for us every day; I also salute all our great American Legion members for everything they do for veterans and their family members.

For God and Country, We Serve,

Jimmie Dale
The American Legion
Department of France
Commander



Francis Drake FR01

Was the first American Legion Commander of The Department of Continental Europe, forerunner to the Department of France

Col. Francis E. Drake, one of The American Legion's founders and a charter member of both The Department of Continental Europe and The Department of France, passed away on Feb. 13, 1960, at the age of 94. Col Drake was the first Department of Continental Europe commander.

Col. Drake was an electrical engineer who devoted much of his life to improving friendship between France and the United States. He was instrumental in the building of Pershing Hall in Paris.



H. H. Harjes FR01

First American Legion Department of France Commander



Francis Drake FR01



Arthur W. Kipling FR01



Julian Thomas FR01



Albert Bennett Cudebec FR01

**The four gentlemen above attended the First Caucus of The American Legion
15-17 March 1919**

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

HISTORY

Research and Creation of this Booklet by the following:

James Zulick, (PEL) Paris Post #1 Paris, France, Past National Executive Committeeman
Merwyn M. Beavers, (PEL) Rhein Main Post #5 Waldorf-Hessen, Germany, Past National Executive Committeeman
Doug Haggan, Rhein Main Post #5 Waldorf-Hessen, Germany, Past National Vice Commander
James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany, National Executive Committeeman

A Special Thank You goes out to Jeffrey Stoffer Director of Media and Communication, and members of his staff Holly Soria, and John Raughter for the work they put into this history booklet.

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The 1920's The Beginning a Time to Foster World Peace

The original American Legion National Executive Committee meeting minutes laid the foundation to establish "The Department of Continental Europe" on Feb. 7, 1921.

SEE ATTACHMENT 1

THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION KANSAS CITY, MO. OCTOBER 31. NOVEMBER 1 AND 2 1921

Report of the Committee on Organization

That it is to the best interests of The American Legion as a whole and its outposts upon the continent of Europe, that under existing conditions for some years to come, these Posts assembled under the direction of the present Department of France, under the title of "Department of Continental Europe," that said Posts be so notified and said department so chartered.

SEE ATTACHMENT 2

1920 - 1921 National Commander - Frederic W. Galbraith Jr. (OH), National Convention - Cleveland, Ohio

Department Commander - Francis E. Drake, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - No Vice at Large Commander or Vice Commanders

Department National Executive Committeeman - Francis E. Drake, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - No Alt NEC

Department Adjutant - Norman B. Coster, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

THE DEPARTMENT AIDS IN THE DEVOLOPMENT OF FICAC (FEDERATION INTERALLIEE des ANCIENS COMBATTANTS)

History of FIDAC

In 1920, American Legion Department of Continental Europe Commander Francis Drake was instrumental in the formation of the Federation Interalliee des Anciens Combattants (Inter-Allied Ex Servicemembers Federation), or FIDAC. FIDAC was an international assembly of veterans who had served the armed forces of the western allies. FIDAC provided a forum for an inter-allied commemoration of war and the dead, to organize inter-allied assemblies and thereby conserve an inter-allied comradeship of ex-servicemembers. Membership was restricted to veterans of the allied forces. Member countries included the United States, France, Great Britain, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Serbia. FIDAC resolved, at the end of its third annual meeting, to seek, among other things, world peace through the eventual disarmament of the "implements of war" and the creation of an "international court ... to outlaw war." FIDAC's well-known insistence on internationalism, peace and disarmament in the inter-war period made this episode part of a larger and longer trend.

La Federation Interalliee des Anciens Combattants (FIDAC) was founded in Paris, Nov. 28, 1920, as a federation of veterans' organizations from the following allied countries:

Belgium

The United States of America

France

Great Britain

Italy

Poland

Romania
Kingdom of Serbs
Croates and Slovenes
Czecho-Slovakia

The American Legion became an active member of the federation, representing the United States. The headquarters of the federation were in Paris, at 96 rue de l'Universite.

The main objective of FIDAC was to maintain, foster and develop the spirit of comradeship which manifested itself on the battlefields of the Great War and to use this comradeship to advance the cause of peace. Allied ex-service members felt that by holding together they could unite their countries. And through that solidarity, they could keep world peace.

By its constitution, FIDAC stood aloof from all political parties or sectarian denominations. Its constitution was as democratic as the constitutions of its component members. It supported the governments of its constituent countries and was determined to help those governments in any way in its power, to ensure that justice is provided to the war disabled, the widow and orphan; to help in the maintenance of law and order; and to generally to assist in obtaining as full a realization as may be possible of the results of the victory achieved in common.

Grave Endowment Fund

In April 1920 a group of Founding Fathers which included The Department of Continental Europe Commander Francis Drake, and Department Chaplain Frederick W. Beekman created a trust called the Graves Endowment Trust to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves of those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and of those who served during the period of the Vietnam Hostilities, who lie overseas. They may adopt and use such methods and means as they may deem advisable, including the active cooperation and aid of overseas Departments and Posts of The American Legion and any other agencies, and in pursuance thereof may prescribe details, methods, and practices deemed necessary, expedient, or convenient. The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust or any part thereof for any other purpose.

In addition to the above guidelines this fund will financially aid Departments and Posts outside the continental United States of America to honor and decorate individual graves of those veterans who were laid to rest outside American Battle Monument Commission controlled facilities.

1921 - 1921 National Commander - John G. Emery (MI), (14 June 1921 to 2 November 1921) replaced Frederic W. Galbraith Jr. (OH) who passed away in a car accident in Indianapolis, Indiana.

1921 - 1922 National Commander - Hanford MacNider (IA), (Assumed the position of National Commander on 2 November 1921) National Convention - Kansas City, Missouri

Department Commander - Cobot Ward, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Roy H. Hale, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - R Emmitt Condon, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - W.S. Parkard, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Arthur W. Kipling, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

The Story Behind the Painting

The painting on the cover of this month's American Legion Magazine is titled, "America" and is the work of artist Leon Reni-Mel. A lieutenant in the 246th regiment of the French Infantry, Reni-Mel was also the official artist of the French Ministry of War. He started painting "America" on Nov. 11, 1918, and presented it to The American Legion in 1922.

The work was, according to the artist, an expression of France's gratitude to the Americans. Answering the call to battle were 4,743,826 Yanks, 116,708 of whom would die before the truce was declared. At a ban

quet given Aug. 27, 1921, at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, American Legion representatives were on hand. National Cdr. John G. Emery was told of Reni-Mel's wish to present the painting to The American Legion.

On Sunday, May 6, 1922, an official dedication ceremony was arranged by the then Department of Continental Europe. At the dedication, Reni-Mel said, "To you, sons of free America, soldiers of the Great War, I dedicate "America".

After the ceremony, the painting was sent to the Legion's National Headquarters in Indianapolis. Signed by Gen. John J. Pershing and Marshal Foch, French Minister of War, "America" now hangs in the National Executive Committee room at National Headquarters.

THE AMERICAN LEGION/NOVEMBER 1983

FRENCH GIFT FOR LEGION.

War Ministry to Present Painting to American Body Saturday.

PARIS May 2.—Presentation of the picture "America" by the French Ministry of War to the American Legion will take place Saturday afternoon. The painting, which was ordered especially by the War Ministry from its official painter, Rene-Mel, depicts an American soldier with his right arm around a wounded French poilu, supporting him, while with his left he is warding off the enemy.

The presentation will be made officially by Minister of War Maginot to Colonel Cabot Ward, head of the American Legion in Europe, representing National Commander MacNider.

Marshal Foch will deliver a short speech, to which Ambassador Herrick will reply. The painting will be shipped to America later.

The New York Times

Published: May 3, 1922

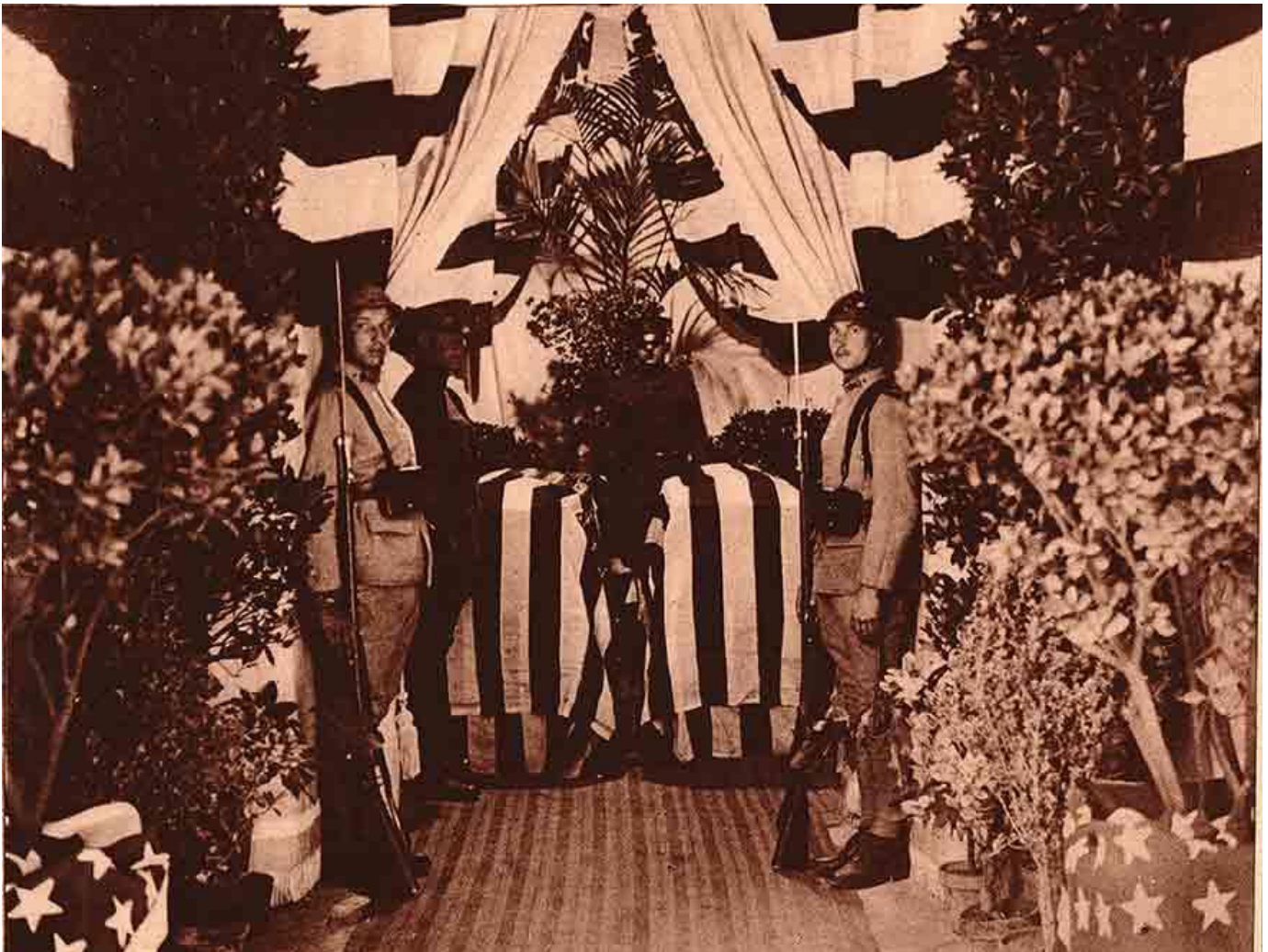
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Accepting this artwork from the French Ministry of War was American Legion Department of Continental Europe, Department Commander Cabot Ward on behalf of The American Legion National Commander Hanford MacNider. This artwork hangs at the head of the NEC Room, on the fourth floor of The American National Headquarters. After smoking was prohibited in the late 1990's this piece of artwork was one of the first to be refurbished to remove decades of nicotine staining.



Cabot Ward of Paris Post FR01 is elected U.S.A. Vice President to FIDAC at the first Annual Convention held in Paris, France, for 1921-1922



Selecting the Unknown Soldier of WW1 in France by Sgt. Edward Younger (standing in the center, back) /from the collection of the author

The Unknown Pallbearer from The American Legion

The four unknown soldiers came from four different cemeteries: Aisne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne, Somme, and St. Mihiel. Only one would make the journey back home to the United States. On Oct. 22, 1921, the unknowns were disinterred from each of the four cemeteries, and on Oct. 23, 1921, were transported under guard of honor by an officer to the Hotel de Ville, Chalons-sur-Marne, France. Originally, it was to be an officer selecting the first Unknown Soldier. Maj. Gen. H. L. Rogers, the Quartermaster General, learned however that the French had used an enlisted man to select their unknown soldier, so he changed U.S. plans and ordered Maj. Robert Harbold, who was in charge of the ceremony to pick an enlisted man to select America's unknown.

On Oct. 24, 1921, Maj. Harbold, with some French and American soldiers, rearranged the caskets, placing them in different positions around the room so that the cemetery could no longer be determined. Maj. Harbold assembled the pallbearers and then called Sgt. Edward F. Younger forward. "You will take these flowers, proceed to the chapel, and place the bouquet on one of the four caskets resting there," Harbold ordered. "The one you select will be the Unknown Soldier." He handed Sgt. Younger a bouquet of white roses. Younger entered the makeshift chapel, circled the caskets three times and placed the bouquet of white roses on the third casket from the left.

Sgt. Younger was also given the duty of escorting the Unknown Soldier. That left Maj. Harbold one pallbearer short to accomplish the mission. With a group of American Legion members assembled in the Hotel de Ville, Maj. Robert Harbold selected one Legionnaire to replace Younger as the sixth pallbearer.

That evening, the Unknown Soldier was escorted to the train station in Chalons-sur-Marne where a funeral train waited for the trip to Le Havre, France, to meet the USS *Olympia*. On the trip from Chalons-sur-Marne to Le Havre, the train had to stop in Paris for the night, at which time Maj. Harbold picked three soldiers and three American Legion Members to stand guard over the Unknown Soldier.

On Oct. 25, 1921, the funeral train departed Paris for Le Havre, where it met the USS *Olympia* at 1300 hours.

No records can be found to provide the names of the four American Legion Members – one pallbearer and three train-station guards – involved with this sacred journey. It is safe to assume, given the logistics and time necessary to travel to France from the United States that they were members of the American Legion Department of Continental Europe.

1922 - 1923 National Commander - Alvin M. Owsley (TX), National Convention - New Orleans, Louisiana
Department Commander - Dr. Edmund L. Gros, Paris Post #1 Paris, France (**resigned 25 November 1922**)
Department Commander - Arthur W. Kipling, Paris Post #1 Paris, France (**was elected 25 November 1922**)
Department Convention - Paris, France
Department VCAL - Arthur W. Kipling Paris Post #1 Paris, France (**was elected Commander on 25 November 1922**)
Department VCAL - H. H. Harjes, Paris Post #1 Paris, France (**elected VCAL on 25 November 1922**)
Department National Executive Committeeman - R. Emmitt Condon, Paris Post #1 Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - W.S. Parkard, Paris Post #1 Paris, France
Department Adjutant - Francis Jaques, Paris Post #1 Paris, France



Cabot Ward of Paris Post FR01 is elected U.S.A. Vice President to FIDAC at the second Annual Convention held in New Orleans, Louisiana, for 1922-1923

First Official Convention of Continental Europe

The annual convention of the Department of Continental Europe of The American Legion was held in Paris, July 17, 1922. This was the first convention to include all posts in Europe, according to the decision of the Third National Convention. Represented in the convention were the Paris Post, Constantinople Post, Amarrac Post of Coblenz, Warsaw Post, Brussels Post and Garden of Eden Post of Harpoot, Asia Minor, in Turkey. A brief summary of the proceedings follows:

Constitution: A department constitution was adopted.

International Legionism: Expressed approval of the policy of the national organization in supporting the Inter-Allied Veterans Federation (FIDAC) and urged further development of that policy as one of the best available methods for preserving the peace of the world. FIDAC called for agreements between the different Allied nations to extend to foreign veterans and disabled veterans of Allied service the advantages given by their own countries.

Flag: Urged the adoption of strong measures to prevent the misuse of the American flag in Europe for advertising or other purposes and asked for reciprocal agreements between the Allied nations to that end.

Propaganda: Strongly condemned the persistent German propaganda seeking to separate France from her Allies and tending to misrepresent the position and attitude of France since the war. Outlined a method of combating harmful post-war propaganda in all the Allied countries.

Name Change Resolution: Presented to those assembled at the convention was a request that the American Legion National Headquarters change the department name from the "The Department of Continental Europe" to "The Department of France." The reason: all of the original posts except those in France had closed.

1923 - 1924 National Commander - John R. Quinn (CA), National Convention - San Francisco, California

Department Commander - H. H. Harjes, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Benjamin H. Connor, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Paul A. Williams, Paris Post #1 Paris France

Department Adjutant - Albert N. Connett Jr., Paris Post #1 Paris, France

A Perpetual Tribute to the Dead
 "Graves Endowment Fund"
 SEE ATTACHMENT 3

The Department of Continental Europe on June 17, 1923 approved a Resolution that requests name change to The Department of France.
 SEE ATTACHMENT 4

**Legionnaires in France Want
 New Department Name
 (From *The American Legion Weekly*, Aug. 10, 1923)**

The national convention of the Legion at San Francisco will be asked to change the name of the Department of Continental Europe to the Department of France, in accordance with a resolution adopted at the recent convention of the department held in Paris. At the department convention the following officers for the coming year were elected: Commander, H. H. Harjes, of Morgan, Harjes & Co.; vice-commander, B. H. Connor, American attorney in Paris; finance officer; E. Levasseur; historian, V. J. Oldshue, editor of the *Paris Evening Telegram*; adjutant A. N. Connett; chaplain, the Rev. Frederick W. Beekman, dean of the American pro-cathedral in Paris; judge advocate Leon Frazer, former executive officer of the United States Veterans Bureau in Washington. Samuel P. Bailey, of the Paris branch of the Equitable Trust Company, of New York, was elected National Executive Committeeman. The post clubrooms are now located at 16 Avenue Wagram, in a building which sheltered the Etoile Club during the war.

**The Department of Continental Europe
 Plays a Big Role in the Development of the
 Grave Endowment Fund**

One of the characteristics which distinguishes The American Legion is its ability to look ahead and lay careful plans for the future. Among the most sacred obligations resting upon us is the duty of observing Memorial Day in an appropriate manner. This is accepted without question, and it is probably safe to say that throughout the length and breadth of our land no hero's grave goes unmarked.

The American Legion, however, from the first has recognized its obligation to the memory of those comrades who sleep forever in foreign lands. Each year since the Armistice and including 1922, funds for the purpose have been raised throughout the organization and have been used in placing individual floral tributes upon all of the graves in countries overseas.

Late in the year 1922, suggestion was received from Mr. Francis E. Drake, of Paris, who during the preceding years had been untiring in his attention to this entire subject, that an endowment fund be raised, the income from which would be sufficient, when properly invested, to provide suitable decoration for each individual grave throughout all time. Correspondence ensued. Some slight misunderstanding developed as to the means to be employed, the amount to be raised, etc. The amount finally decided necessary, however, was \$300,000.00; \$100,000.00 of which, was either on hand with the American Memorial Day Committee in Paris or was to be raised by them from the American colonies in the capitals of Europe; \$200,000.00 to be raised by The American Legion in the United States.

The National Executive Committee at its meeting in January gave approval to the project and authorized the Commander to undertake raising this amount of money. The details of the campaign were entrusted to the editor of the American Legion Weekly. The amount desired was \$200,000.00. This was allocated to the several Departments on the basis Of twenty cents a head for members of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, as of December 31, 1922. Emphasis was placed on the necessity of raising this money from the membership itself, it being felt that a twenty cent contribution from each of the members

of the organization toward laying a wreath upon the graves of their comrades for all time was not too much to expect from the members of an organization dedicated to purposes such as ours. At the same time the

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National Commander desired to avoid a general solicitation of the public for funds. The response was inspiring. Nothing which The American Legion has ever undertaken has met with greater commendation. Individuals, Posts and Departments responded with a will. Over \$100,000.00 was received by the National Treasurer by Memorial Day. The effort continued. Cuba and Mexico were the first to fill their quotas, followed in rapid succession by The District of Columbia, Rhode Island, Argentine and Delaware.

At the present time twenty-six Departments have over-subscribed their quotas; thirty Departments have not yet completed theirs. Approximately 10,000 individual subscriptions were received at Headquarters. Each donor received an individual receipt from the National Treasurer and all contributions in excess of \$1.00 were acknowledged through the columns of The American Legion Weekly. Posts everywhere recognized the interest of patriotic citizens in this enterprise and an opportunity was given all who cared to do so to contribute to the fund, emphasis constantly being placed on the thought that no one was asked to subscribe but the help of any one would be welcomed. Scores of newspapers in every locality rendered invaluable aid to local Posts. Our debt to those publications is acknowledged.

There is no more inspiring chapter in the annals of the organization than is furnished by the individual letters and comments which accompanied donations to this Fund a can full of pennies, nickels and dimes from the patients of a tubercular sanitarium; a dollar bill from a hard working Mother whose only son sleeps forever in Romagne; checks from President Harding and Woodrow Wilson. From all over the United States, from rich and poor, high and low, the response came.

By action of the National Executive Committee a Board of Trustees has been created, consisting of the Past National Commanders, the Chairman of the National Finance Committee, the National Treasurer and the National Adjutant (secretary) to have custody of this Fund and to prepare a permanent plan of regulations covering its use.

The committee expressly recognized as a cooperating agency a subcommittee in France consisting of H. H. Harjes, Commander of the Department of Continental Europe; Francis E. Drake, Chairman, American Overseas Memorial Committee; The American Ambassador to France, The American Consul General in Paris, The President of the American Chamber of Commerce in France.

At present the Fund amounts to \$152,657.17. It is invested in United States Treasury Certificates and Fourth Liberty Bonds and is held by the National Treasurer.

As years go by it will become a matter of increasing satisfaction to members of the organization to realize that this great task is done and that as generations come and go our comrades who sleep in foreign fields each year will have laid upon their graves a tribute of love and affection made possible through the foresight of their comrades who survived the conflict. So far as is known nothing of this character has ever been accomplished previously in any country.

Fifth Annual Convention, THE AMERICAN LEGION, SAN FRANCISCO, October 15-19, 1923

Longer Than the Legion

The Legion can exist no longer than its longest-lived member.

But the Legion's \$100,000 Graves Endowment Fund will exist in perpetuity, and will provide for the decoration of every Overseas Grave as long as time shall last.

France and South Dakota Win Cups in Member Races

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., (Sept. 14, 1925) - The old world and the new divided honors in the national membership trophy contests of The American Legion for 1924-1925, it was announced here by James F. Barton, National Adjutant. The Department of France, the first foreign department ever to win such an honor becomes the possessor of the Hanford MacNider Trophy Cup.

The Department of France's winning percentage was 163.80, based upon greatest percentage of increase over the preceding year's membership.

The Department of France, in winning the Hanford MacNider trophy, is the first foreign department to win

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a national trophy cup in competition with state departments, declared Adjutant Barton.

Commenting upon the membership situation as shown by the results of the national trophy contests, Frank E. Samuel, National Director of Organization and Membership, said: "A most satisfactory membership situation for 1925 is disclosed by the national trophy contests, which indicate membership as of September 5, 1925, when both the D'Olier and the MacNider contests closed. The results show that a healthy condition of membership prevails in the Legion. Some indication of the closeness of the race is seen when it is known that certified public accountants were necessary to decide the contests."

The above was published in The American Legion News Service 9-19-25

In October 1923 at the American Legion National Convention, a resolution was passed to recharter the American Legion's Department of Continental Europe as The Department of France.

**In February 1924 The Department of Continental Europe was rechartered The Department of France
SEE ATTACHMENT 5**

1924 - 1925 National Commander - James A. Drain (WA), National Convention - St. Paul, Minnesota

Department Commander - Benjamin H. Connor, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Hugh A. Bayn, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Paul A. Williams, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Albert N. Connett Jr., Paris Post #1, Paris, France

The American Legion, The Department of France has just won the Hanford MacNider Trophy for making the highest percentage increase in membership this year over average of membership in past years.

1925 - 1926 National Commander - John R. McQuigg (OH), National Convention - Omaha, Nebraska

Department Commander - Hugh A. Bayn, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - A.N. Connett Jr., Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Benjamin H. Connor, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Edwin W. Thorn, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1926 - 1927 National Commander - Howard P. Savage, Ill., National Convention - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Department Commander - Edwin W. Thorn, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Julian M. Thomas, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Paul A. Williams, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Daniel F. Gibbs, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1927 - 1928 National Commander - Edward E. Spafford (NY), National Convention - Paris, France, with a ratification convention held on Oct. 18, 1927, in New York, New York

Department Commander - Julian M. Thomas, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Charles Hicks, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Benjamin H. Connor, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France



**Julian Thomas
Commander
Department of France**

Julian Thomas, Department of France commander, gives the opening address to the 9th American Legion National Convention, Paris, France, Monday, Sept. 19, 1927.

SEE ATTACHMENT 6

Paris Pilgrimage of 1927: 'let us salute those who have come to salute us'

Written By Jeffrey Stoffer, The American Legion, Media & Communications Director

SEE ATTACHMENT 7



American Legion National Convention Parade Paris, France, 1927

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1928 - 1929 National Commander - Paul V. McNutt (IN), National Convention - San Antonio, Texas

Department Commander - Charles Hicks, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Albert Bennett White Cudebec, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

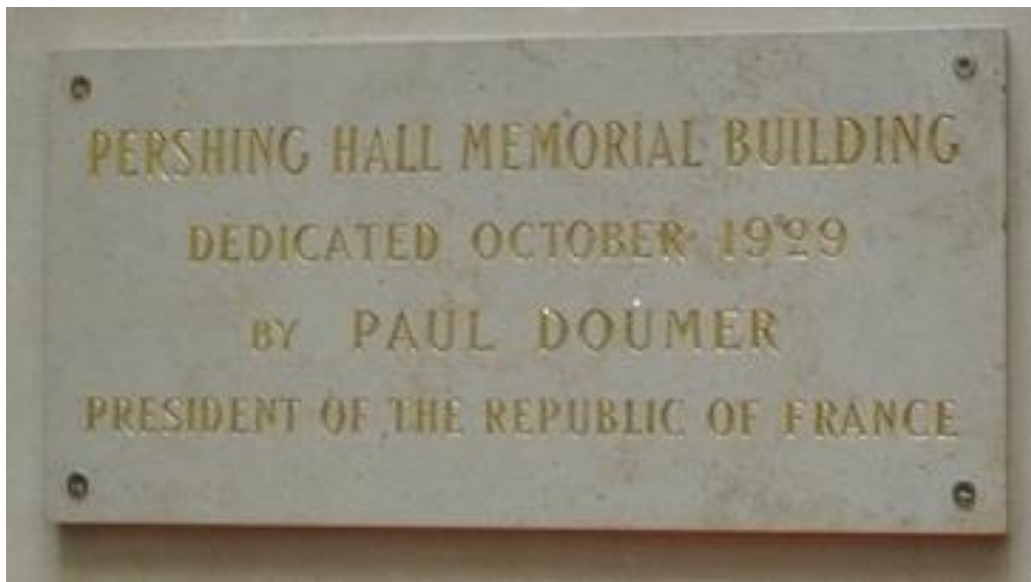
Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Benjamin H. Connor, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France



American Legion Plaque- Pershing Hall



**Paul Doumer Plaque
Pershing Hall Dedicated in October 1929**

Paul V. McNutt, national commander of The American Legion, journeyed to Paris at the head of a delegation of Legionnaires representing many sections of the country and dedicated The American Legion Memorial Building — an impressive structure of stone at 49 Rue Pierre Charron, within a few blocks of the Arc de Triomphe and between the Avenue des Champs Elysees and the Seine. Formally dedicated in honor of General Pershing, this magnificent building is the home of Paris Post 1 of The American Legion, the center of many widely varied activities of Americans in Paris and a rendezvous for Legionnaires visiting France. In the presence of the French and American government officials and other dignitaries who attended the dedication ceremonies, both Past National Commander McNutt and General Pershing expressed the sentiment that the building would be a bond of common interest between France and the United States.

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General Pershing said:

"If The American Legion is a powerhouse of friendship and kindness, then this building is its greatest sub-station, from which will flow a steady current of understanding. And I hope that our French friends will ever feel that this building is their home as it is our home."

The American Legion Monthly May 1930

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**The 1930's
Time of Uncertainty
and the End of FIDAC**

1929 - 1930 National Commander - O. L. Bodenhamer (AR), National Convention - Louisville, Kentucky

Department Commander - Albert Bennett White Cudebec, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - John Leachmann, Riviera Post #3, Nice, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Benjamin H. Connor, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Ford B. Stevens, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1930 - 1931 National Commander - Ralph T. O'Neil (KS), National Convention - Boston, Massachusetts

Department Commander - Steven Szlapka, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Edwin W. Thorn, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Donald R. MacAfee, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1931 - 1932 National Commander - Henry L. Stevens Jr. (NC), National Convention - Detroit, Michigan

Department Commander - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Dr. James V. Sparks, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Edwin W. Thorn, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - Robert L. Mills, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1932 - 1933 National Commander - Louis A. Johnson (WV), National Convention - Portland, Oregon

Department Commander - Dr. James V. Sparks, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Henry W. Dunning, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Julian M. Thomas, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Jerome J. Stenger, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1933 - 1934 National Commander - Edward A. Hayes (IL), National Convention - Chicago, Illinois

Department Commander - Henry W. Dunning, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Julian M Thomas, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Jerome J. Stenger, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

A Latchstring Out in Paris

By Bernhard Ragner

The American Legion Magazine September, 1933

SEE ATTACHMENT 8

1934 - 1935 National Commander - Frank N. Belgrano (CA), National Convention - Miami, Florida

Department Commander - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Harold L. Smith, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Monta J. Carole, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Jerome J. Stenger, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

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“THE GRAVES ENDOWMENT FUND”

Gets a New Name

A program which The Department of Continental Europe was a major player in developing and launching, the “The Grave Endowment Fund” gets a new name “The Overseas Graves Decoration Trust” and a firm mandate.

DIGEST OF MINUTES, National Executive Committee Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 23 and 24, 1934

SEE ATTACHMENT 9

1935 - 1936 National Commander - Ray Murphy (IA), National Convention - St. Louis, Missouri

Department Commander - Harold L. Smith, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Dr. James V. Sparks, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Samuel P. Bailey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Monte J. Carole, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Edward A. Thureson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France



Uncle Sam Buys Pershing Hall
SEE ATTACHMENT 10



Photo taken in 1953 by Friedrich Kellner. Photo courtesy of Robert Scott Kellner

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In the spring of 1936, The Department of France entered into an agreement with American Legion Paris Post FR01 and The American Legion Myron T. Herrick Post 4 to build a mausoleum in Neuilly France.
SEE ATTACHMENT 11

1936 - 1937 National Commander - Harry W. Colmery (KS), National Convention - Cleveland, Ohio

Department Commander - Dr. James V. Sparks, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Elbert L. Dodds, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Edwin I. Murphy, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department of France Observes 20th Anniversary of War Entry

The method in which the Legionnaires in Paris celebrated the 20th anniversary of America's entry into the World War is described by the following letter written to the editor of The National Legionnaire by George F. Denis, Paris, acting adjutant of the Department of France:

"On the 20th anniversary of our entry into the World War, the largest French veterans' organization sponsored a dinner in Paris to which about twenty-five American veterans were invited. All the officers of the Department of France, the Paris Post Color Guard, as well as commanders and some officers of other veteran organizations, were present.

French are Hosts

"I may say that every American there belongs to our Legion. The 'Union Nationale des Combattants' is the name of the French veteran group, and its national executive committee as well as the Paris district executive committee, were our hosts. Their President, General (National Commander) Jean Goy, and the president of the Paris District, George Lebecq, spoke.

"Our Department Commander, Jimmy Sparks, and the Paris Post Commander, B. H. Conner, replied. And something that never happens in veteran gatherings in the States is the fact that all speeches were made in French. I wonder, however, if the French nationals present were able to comprehend some of the words uttered by our American orators. It was an extremely cordial reception and our French comrades were wonderful and hospitable entertainers. In short, by the spirit of good fellowship and comradeship which prevailed, the dinner was more like a family meal, not having the slightest touch of an official function, in spite of the addresses made.

Menu Card Attractive

"A word about the menu card, the front cover of which was very artistically decorated, bearing a leitmotif:

'Twentieth Anniversary of an Act of Faith in the Rights of Humanity The Veterans of the U. N.C. to their American Comrades.'

"On the lower half of the cover to the right our Commander in Chief, General Pershing, at salute, while in the background American troops debarking from an American steamer. Naturally, our Star Spangled Banner also occupied a prominent place on the card

"Our buddies who have gone before us were not forgotten. The U. N. C. deposited a wreath at the Monument to American Volunteers in the French Army in memory of all our dead.

"With the rough draft given above, you will have some copy for one of your issues which our comrades back home will be glad, to read and which will also come in handy in connection with the pilgrimage activities. It is seldom you hear from this part of the world. In my opinion more copy should be forwarded to you, as Paris claims the honor of being the birthplace of our Legion."

THE NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE JUNE, 1937



American Legionnaires visited Germany and met with Adolf Hitler in February 1937, two years after the Legion passed a resolution denouncing Nazism.

Department Commander James V. Sparks is to the right of Adolf Hitler. Legionnaire Bernhard A. Ragner to the left, National Executive Committeeman James L. McCann to the far right.

[SEE ATTACHMENT 12](#)

1937 - 1938 National Commander - Daniel J. Doherty (MA), National Convention - New York, New York

Department Commander - Elbert L. Dodds, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Bernhard A Ragner, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - George F. Denis, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1938 - 1939 National Commander - Stephen F. Chadwick (WA), National Convention - Los Angeles, California

Department Commander - Bernhard A. Ragner, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - George A. Aubrey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - George F. Denis, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Commemorative Plaque to Mark Site of American Legion's Birth

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 14. To mark the fact that The American Legion probably is the most American institution ever born on foreign soil, the national organization of The American Legion has taken steps to erect a commemorative plaque on the building now occupying the spot where the Cirque de Paris, in Paris, France, formerly was located.

It was in the Cirque de Paris that the original caucus of March 15, 16 and 17, 1919, was held, when 1,000 men and officers of the A. E. F. took the steps which culminated in the formation of The American Legion.

The plaque, which is to be dedicated with appropriate ceremonies by The American Legion in the Department of France on the evening of March 17, will bear approximately the following wording in both English and French:

March 15-17,1919.

Plaques identifying the sites of the St. Louis Caucus of May, 1919, and the first National Headquarters of The American Legion in New York already have been erected. These plaques were dedicated in connection with preparations for the St. Louis 1935 and the New York 1937 conventions.

Every effort is being made by the Department of France to locate members of the original Paris caucus to participate in the dedicatory and birthday ceremonies of March 17. National Executive Committeeman James L. McCann, of Paris, France, will represent the National Organization of The American Legion at the ceremonies. Bernhard Ragner, Commander of the Department of France, is in charge of the arrangements.
THE NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE FEBRUARY, 1939

**Department of France Will
Decorate 30,000 A.E.F. Graves**

Commander Elbert Lee Dodds, American Legion, Department of France, has been chosen as chairman of the Memorial Day committee which will arrange for the ceremonies to be held on Sunday, May 29, and for the decoration of more than 30,000 A. E. F. graves. In France, it is the custom to hold such ceremonies on the Sunday nearest May 30, and this tradition is followed since it permits a greater number of persons to take part.

"Every A. E. F. grave will be decorated," declares Commander Dodds, "although some of the isolated graves are in far-away places, difficult to reach. Further, rank will cut no ice; every dead comrade will be honored, whether he was a general or a buck private, whether he was the son of a President (Quentin Roosevelt, who sleeps near Chateau-Thierry, where he crashed in his airplane) or the cook of General John J. Pershing (Jules Antoine Biron in the cemetery at Cannes)."

Ceremony at Cemeteries

There will be a ceremony at each A.E. F. cemetery, and the chairmen in charge, as appointed by Commander Dodds, are as follows:

ROMAGNE, where 14,255 soldiers are buried, Major Clifford V. Church.

FERE EN TARDENOIS, 6,012 graves, Jack W. Hunter. Past Commander Bernhard Ragner, of Paris Post, will be the American speaker.

BONY, 1,832 graves, Colonel Nelson Dean Jay, with Vice Consul John R. Wood as vice chairman.

ST. MIHIEL CEMETERY, at Thiaucourt, 4,152 graves. Commander Carl E. Berlin, of Myron T. Herrick Post.

SURESNES, 1,541 graves, Commander George A. Aubrey, of Paris Post.

BELLEAU, 2,287 graves, Past Commander James L. McCann, national executive committeeman for the Department of France.

ISOLATED GRAVES, Roland Klein.
THE NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE MAY, 1938

**French Veterans of World War I
Honor Americans Memorial Day**

PARIS, France, July 12. An interesting report of the Memorial Day services conducted by The American Legion and by French World War I veterans in the American Cemetery at Bony, France, where members of the 27th and 33d U.S. Divisions are buried, has just reached National Headquarters here from George J. Denis, Adjutant of the Department of France.

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The principal speaker was General Adelbert de Chambrun, a descendant of General Lafayette. Other speakers included Camilie Planacassagne, Sous-Prefet of St. Quentin; G. Normand, President of the French

Ex-Service Men of the District of St. Quentin; Colonel Nelson Dean Jay, and the Mayor of Bony. Colonel Jay was chairman of the program.

The number of Legionnaires attending the ceremony was augmented by several thousand Frenchmen and their families. The superintendent of Bony Cemetery is Orlando Overstake, who hails from Decatur, Ill., and is a member of Paris Post No. 1 of The American, Legion.

THE NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE July 1938

Department of France Attains Great Record

PARIS. France, Sept. 1.—The Department of France has reached the second highest membership ever recorded in enrolling 714 members for 1938, according to the announcement of Legionnaire Eddie Thureson, department membership chairman.

Affiliated organizations of The American Legion in France have also come through to make enviable records. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit, of Paris Post No. 1, has exceeded its quota, and enrolled the highest membership ever recorded. The 40 and 8 voiture has exceeded its 1937 membership, and the Paris Post, squadron of The Sons of The American Legion has gone to a new high in membership.

"Our own squadron in France has more members than are enrolled in a couple of the U. S. departments," Department Adjutant George F. Denis wrote, "in spite of the fact that these departments have four to seven times more Legionnaires."

Officers elected to serve the Department of France during 1939 are:

Bernhard Ragner, Commander;

George A. Aubrey, Terrel C. James, and C. E. Berlin, Vice Commanders;

Reverend Clayton E. Williams, Chaplain;

Roger Boulogne, Finance Officer;

Jack Hunter, Historian;

Clifford V. Church, Judge Advocate;

H. A. Buick, Sergeant-at-Arms.

George F. Denis continues as Department Adjutant.

James L. McCann National Executive Committee

Sedley Peck Alternate National Executive Committeeman

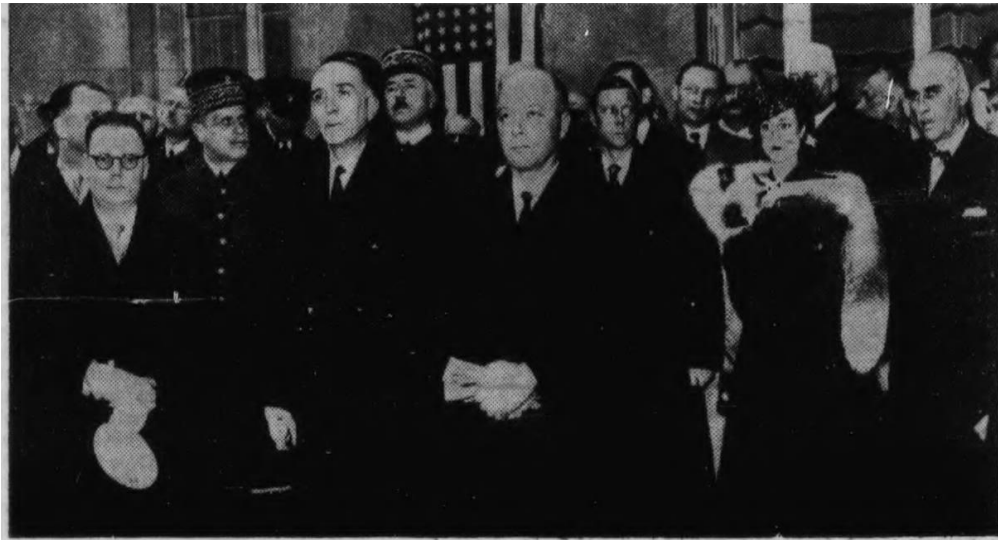
THE NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE SEPTEMBER, 1938



14 Rue Ernest Psichiari, 75007 Paris

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Officials Observe Legion Birthday in France



PARIS, France A distinguished gathering celebrated the 20th anniversary of The American Legion, which was born in the old Cirque de Paris here May 15-17, 1919. A bronze plaque was placed on the building that the Cirque de Paris. It was a gift of the national organization of The American Legion and was brought from New York on the S.S. lie de France. From left to right, foreground: Bernhard Ragner, commander, Department of France; Champetier De Ribes, Minister of Pensions; William C. Bullitt, U. H. Ambassador to France; the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, and Prevost De Launay, president of the Municipal Council.

On March 17, 1939, on the 20th Birthday of The American Legion, a plaque was mounted on the wall outside the Cirque de Paris where the first caucus of The American Legion took place 15-17 March 1919.

[SEE ATTACHMENT 13](#)

In the spring of 1939, The American Legion named Whitney Godwin for American Vice-President and selected Jack Crowley for 1940 for FIDAC, but in the summer of 1939, with war breaking out, The American Legion formally withdrew its membership from FIDAC. In the fall of 1939, it was apparent that the end was near for FIDAC, due to events in Europe. The FIDAC congress scheduled for Belgrade for late 1939 was never held and FIDAC disbanded. Over the 19-year history of FIDAC, The American Legion's Department of France held a prominent role in its history. At the 21st Annual National Convention of The American Legion in Chicago, Sept. 25-29, 1939, The American Legion National Headquarters and The American Legion Department of France formally withdrew its membership by resolution. FIDAC: "Upon this subject this Committee makes recommendation in the form of a resolution which for the purpose of this report will be designated as Resolution No. 2 of the Convention Foreign Relations Committee.

Resolution No. 2: 'RESOLVED, That The American Legion withdraw from FIDAC and that for that purpose notice or notices as may be required by the constitution and by-laws of that organization be given to the end that such withdrawal may be accomplished at the earliest possible date.'



GENERAL OF THE ARMIES JOHN J. PERSHING

1937

George Conlon

Presented to The American Legion by the Honorable William C. Bullitt, United States Ambassador to France, the Department of France of The American Legion, and his friends and admirers, on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary Pilgrimage of The American Legion to France, October 5th, 1937.

John J. Pershing
General of the Armies of the United States
Commander in Chief
American Expeditionary Forces
1917-1919

DIGESTS OF MINUTES, National Executive Committee Meetings, Los Angeles, California, September 18 and 22, 1988 Resolution in Appreciation of the John J. Pershing Bust.
SEE ATTACHMENT 14

The 1940's War is on the Horizon The Doors are Closed and a New Beginning

1939 - 1940 National Commander - Raymond J. Kelly (MI), National Convention - Chicago, Illinois

Department Commander - George A. Aubrey, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Gething C. Miller, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Neutrality Is Keynote of Legion Policy

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Sept. 12, 1939

A determined stand for strict neutrality, in the present European conflict by The American Legion, has been taken by National Commander Stephen F. Chadwick

Commander Chadwick made public the following cablegram, which he received-from George A. Aubrey, Commander of the Department of France:

"Have you any objection to organization 'American Legion Ambulance Corps' sponsored and controlled by Department of France? Unanimously approved by Department Executive Committee. Please, cable. Urgent."

To this inquiry Commander Chadwick replied:

"Your request sympathetically understood, but impossible to grant it. American Legion means entire organization. We are chartered by Congress, which has enacted neutrality law, and the spirit such a law would forbid the involvement private American organization."

THE NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE September, 1939

May 22nd, 1940 Antwerp Post BE01 goes into Exile in Pershing Hall.

SEE ATTACHMENT 15



June 1940 Pershing Hall is closed.

From June 1940 to February 1946 The American Legion Department of France was a Department in Exile in New York City, New York and Washington, D.C. The following officers were elected in June 1940 and were held in place until the Department of France Convention in Paris, France ,in June 1946: Department Commander, National Executive Committeeman, Alt National Executive Committeeman, and Adjutant. While in exile, the Department held regular gathering in both New York and Washington, D.C., but no official meetings or conventions were held during the exile years.

UNDER authority of a resolution passed by the National Convention at Boston, until further notice, the National Adjutant will accept renewal dues of members of the Department of France now resident in the United States. The customary dues for members living in the United States are \$5.00, which should be made payable to National Adjutant Frank E. Samuel, 777 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, and mailed, in his care, addressed to Edward E. Thureson, Department Commander, The American Legion of France. Proper receipts will be issued and a system will be worked out with the Department of France, for proper disposition of such monies, and for eventual issuance of membership cards by the Department of France.

The AMERICAN LEGION Magazine December, 1940

Where are they now

By Sedley Peck, Alt. National Committeeman

The American Legion Magazine December, 1940

[SEE ATTACHMENT 16](#)

1940 - 1941 National Commander - Milo J. Warner (OH), National Convention - Boston, Massachusetts

Department Commander - Edward A. Thureson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - **NO VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE DURING WORLD WAR II**

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1941 - 1942 National Commander - Lynn U. Stambaugh (ND), National Convention - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Department Commander - Edward A. Thureson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - **NO DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE CONVENTIONS HELD DURING WORLD WAR II**

Department VCAL - **NO VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE DURING WORLD WAR II**

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

We Shall Keep the Faith

By Frederick W. Beekman Department of France Chaplain

The American Legion Magazine May 1942

[SEE ATTACHMENT 17](#)

1942 - 1943 National Commander - Roane Waring (TN), National Convention - Kansas City, Missouri

Department Commander - Edward A. Thureson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - **NO DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE CONVENTIONS HELD DURING WORLD WAR II**

Department VCAL - **NO VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE DURING WORLD WAR II**

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Memorial Day Remembrance of War I Dead Symbolic Decoration Service Held in Arlington for Graves Overseas

The graves of America's dead overseas, most of them in cemeteries now in enemy hands, were again remembered by The American Legion on Memorial Day by a beautiful symbolic decoration service at Arlington National Cemetery, overlooking Washington, on the Virginia hillside where the Unknown Soldier lies.

Erected before the Argonne Cross at Arlington was a cross for each of the seven American cemeteries in France and Belgium, a cross for the isolated and unmarked graves and the men buried at sea, and a cross, in 1943, for the first time, for the overseas graves of World War II.

To this scene of white crosses before a background of handsome evergreens, and with a foreground of soft green turf stretching between rows of crosses over the World War dead who lie in Arlington, marched the National Pilgrimage Committee of The American Legion, the 1943 Memorial Day Committee, the Department of France (in exile) Committee, and committees from the Departments of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Leading the way from the Arlington Amphitheater to the Argonne Cross was the U. S. Marine Band, led by Capt. Wm. E. Santelmann.

The ceremonies were simple and impressive. The Marine Band played the "Marseillaise," the "Barbanconne" and "The Star-Spangled Banner," and at the site of the symbolic crosses, Bugler Wallace McNeel blew "To the Colors." Rev. Howard E. Snyder, past department chaplain of the District of Columbia, pronounced the invocation; Helena A. Gilliaert sang "Roses of Picardy," and John R. Long read Col. Joel McCrea's poem, "Flanders Field."

Sedley Peck, past commander, Department of France, presiding, laid a wreath at the foot of the Argonne Cross, and then the wreaths for each overseas cemetery were placed, one by one, by Legionnaires, with a salute for each.

As the ceremony ended, the volleys of the firing squad and the slow, clear, unforgettable bugle notes of "Taps" echoed across the sacred hillsides of Arlington.

Decoration of the Crosses

Following is a list of the American cemeteries symbolically decorated, the number of Americans resting in each, and the name of the representative who laid the wreath for each commemoration:

Meuse-Argonne (Romagne-sous-Montfacon), 14,242. Edward A. Thureson, Commander, Department of France.

Olse-Aisne (Serlinges et Lesles), 6,012. Captain Stephen Szlapka, Past Commander, Department of France.

St. Mihiel (Thiacourt), 4,152. Henry Dunning, Past Commander, France.

Alsne-Marne (Belleau), 2,288. Elbert Lee Dodds, Past Commander, France.

Somme (Bony), 1,836. Elbert Burns, Chef de Chemin de Fer, Forty and Eight.

Suresnes (near Paris), 1,541 Clifford V. Church, Department of France.

Waereghem (Flanders Field), Belgium, 368. Jerome V. Stenger, Department of France,,

Scattered Graves—Buried at Sea, 1,537; MIA's, 1,247; In French Cemeteries, 42; Lafayette Memorial, 18. Captain Daniel Gibbs, Department of France.

World War II wherever they are now resting. Francis Macalease, Sons of The American Legion, Paris Squadron.

THE NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE JUNE, 1943

1943 - 1944 National Commander - Warren H. Atherton (CA), National Convention - Omaha, Nebraska

Department Commander - Edward A. Thureson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - **NO DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE CONVENTIONS HELD DURING WORLD WAR II**

Department VCAL - **NO VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE DURING WORLD WAR II**

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France



**Past Department Commander
George Aubrey Killed by Nazis.
SEE ATTACHMENT 18**

1944 - 1945 National Commander - Edward N. Scheiberling (NY), National Convention - Chicago, Illinois
Department Commander - Edward A. Thureson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Convention - **NO DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE CONVENTIONS HELD DURING WORLD WAR II**
Department VCAL - **NO VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE DURING WORLD WAR II**
Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1945 - 1946 National Commander - John Stelle (IL), National Convention - Chicago, Illinois
Department Commander - Edward A. Thureson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Convention - **NO DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE CONVENTIONS HELD DURING WORLD WAR II**
Department VCAL - **NO VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE DURING WORLD WAR II**
Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France



December 1945 Pershing Hall reopens, however, under the new name of "American Legion Pershing Hall Service Club." The U.S. Army uses a major part of the building as a recreation center and canteen.

1946 - 1947 National Commander - Paul H. Griffith (PA), National Convention - San Francisco, California
Department Commander - John R. Wood, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Convention - Paris, France
Department VCAL - Julius P. Winter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Julian P. Winter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1947 - 1948 National Commander - James F. O'Neil (NH), National Convention - New York, New York

Department Commander - Harold L. Smith, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Gething C. Miller, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - LeRoy Carlson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

After World War II in the fall of 1946, Paris Post 1 took over total control of the mausoleum in Neuilly, France.

1948 - 1949 National Commander - S. Perry Brown (TX), National Convention - Miami, Florida.

Department Commander - Raymond P. McDaniel, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - George F Denis, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Vaughn G. Callen, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

At the 1949 National Convention Miami, Florida a group of Legionnaires from the Foreign Departments band together for a unified voice. The group became known as FODPAL (Foreign and Outlying Department and Post of the American Legion). The first president was Clarence M. Simpson, The Department of Canada.



The 1950's

Sedley Peck is First Member of the Department Elected FODPAL President

1949 - 1950 National Commander - George N. Craig (IN), National Convention - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Department Commander - Gething C. Miller, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Charles D. Wilkes, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Donald A. Palmer, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

1950 - 1951 National Commander - Erle Cocke Jr. (GA), National Convention - Los Angeles, California

Department Commander - Charles D. Wilkes, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Vagn G. Callen, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - John A. Laux, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1951 - 1952 National Commander - Donald R. Wilson (WV), National Convention - Miami, Florida

Department Commander - Vagn G. Callen, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Henry Fitch, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Clarence L. Glover, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1952 - 1953 National Commander - Lewis K. Gough (CA), National Convention - New York, New York

Department Commander - Clarence L. Glover, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Leo E. Jolin, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Nelson Morris, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Howard C. Dulin, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1953 - 1954 National Commander - Arthur J. Connell (CT), National Convention - St Louis, Missouri

Department Commander - Lloyd H. Cronwall, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Howard C. Dulin, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Nelson Morris, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - John K. Kingsley, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1954 - 1955 National Commander - Seaborn P. Collins (NM), National Convention - Washington, D.C.

Department Commander - Leo E. Jolin, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Theobald M. Quinn, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Nelson Morris, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Carl J. Batter Jr., Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1955 - 1956 National Commander - J. Addington Wagner (MI), National Convention - Miami, Florida

Department Commander - Melvin C. Smith, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

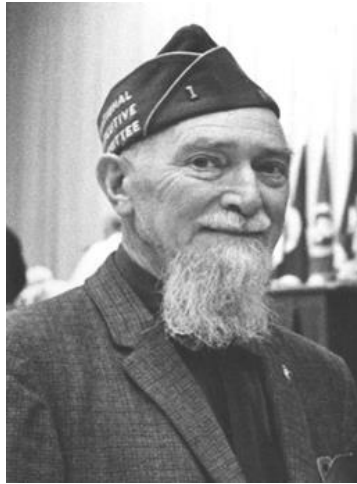
Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Carl J. Batter Jr., Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Nelson Morris, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - John A Halupka, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1956 - 1957 National Commander - Wilbur C. "Dan" Daniel (VA), National Convention - Los Angeles, California
Department Commander - Carl J. Batter Jr., Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Convention - Paris, France
Department VCAL - Martin G. Bencee, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Melvin C. Smith, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - Russell M. Porter Jr., Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1957 - 1958 National Commander - John S. Gleason Jr. (IL), National Convention - Atlantic City, New Jersey
Department Commander - Martin G. Bencee, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Convention - Paris, France
Department VCAL - Jesse O. Anthony, Paris Post #1 Paris, France
Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Melvin C. Smith, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - Arnaud L. Clerc, Paris Post #1, Paris, France



**Sedley Peck, Paris Post FR01
was elected President of FODPAL at the
Annual breakfast in Atlantic City, New Jersey.**

1958 - 1959 National Commander - Preston J. Moore (OK), National Convention - Chicago, Illinois
Department Commander - Russell M. Porter Jr., Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Convention - Paris, France
Department VCAL - Harold Marstellar, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Jesse O. Anthony, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - Leo B. Gordin, Paris Post #1, Paris France

**April 29-30, & May 1, 1959 National Resolution 58 Creates (PHOC) Pershing Hall Operating Committee.
[SEE ATTACHMENT 19](#)**

The 1960's

First Time entry into National Oratorical Contest

1959 - 1960 National Commander - Martin B. McKneally (NY), National Convention - Minneapolis, Minnesota

Department Commander - Joseph McDermott, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Paris, France

Department VCAL - Russell M. Porter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Jesse O. Anthony, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Clifford C. Seeley, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1960 - 1961 National Commander - William R. Burke (CA), National Convention - Miami Beach, Florida

Department Commander - Gordon M. Jochmann, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany

Department Convention - Paris, France


Department VCAL - Alan C. Saluave, Ludwigsberg Post #1 Ludwigsberg, West Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Dana W. Lyman, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Clifford C. Seeley, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Leo E. Jolin, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

In March of 1961, The Department of France enters The American Legion National Oratorical contest for the first time.

ALNS **AMERICAN LEGION NEWS SERVICE** 82 

National Headquarters P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind. Phone MElrose 5-8411

Washington Office 1608 K St., N. W., Washington, D. C. Phone EXecutive 3-4814

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3-17-61

INDIANAPOLIS---(ALNS)---A 49th department entry in the 1961 American Legion national high school oratorical contest has been certified by the Department of France which, for the first time in its history, has sponsored such competition among the American high schools in France and Germany.

Representing the Department of France at the Regional 3 competition on April 10 at Baltimore, Md., will be Richard J. Stillman II, 17, a student at Paris, France, American High School. He won the department contest on March 8 and was presented a trophy by National Commander William R. Burke, who was in Europe at the time on an inspection tour of eight countries.

Young Stillman is no newcomer to oratorical competition. He placed fourth in the Legion's national finals in 1960 in Penn Yan, N.Y., after winning contests in the Department of Pennsylvania, Regional 3, and Sectional A.

He was the principal speaker at four different Memorial Day services last year, and was a guest speaker at the Pennsylvania department convention.

**PARIS, FRANCE (ALNS) The American Legion Department of France has been declared the winner of the John R. Quinn Trophy, Department Commander Joseph T. McDermott has been informed. The John R. Quinn Trophy is awarded annually to that department having the highest percentage of membership on June 15 of the current year as compared with its average enrollment for the four preceding years.
AMERICAN LEGION NEWS SERVICE, July 1, 1960**

1961 - 1962 National Commander - Charles L. Bacon (MO), National Convention - Denver, Colorado
Department Commander - George S. Long, Verdun Post #6, Verdun, France
Department Convention - Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department VCAL - Robert Riddle, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Dana W. Lyman, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Clifford C Seeley, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - Donald V. Rowe, Munich Post #8, Munich, West Germany

1962 - 1963 National Commander - James E. Powers (GA), National Convention - Las Vegas, Nevada
Department Commander - Frederick J. Deyeso, Munich Post #8, Munich, West Germany
Department Convention - Garmisch, West Germany
Department VCAL - Clifford Inman, Ludwigsberg Post #6, Ludwigsberg, West Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Howard F Davis, Ludwigsberg Post #6, Ludwigsberg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - William N Hedge, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1963 - 1964 National Commander - Daniel F. Foley (MN), National Convention - Miami Beach, Florida
Department Commander - Clifford Inman, Ludwigsburg Post #6, Ludwigsburg, West Germany
Department Convention - Garmisch, West Germany
Department VCAL - Henry Hicks, Munich Post #8, Munich, Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Howard F Davis, Ludwigsburg Post #6, Ludwigsburg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Joe Singletary, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1964 - 1965 National Commander - Donald E. Johnson (IA), National Convention - Dallas, Texas
Department Commander - Walter Lindquist, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Convention - Paris, France
Department VCAL - Helmut Isenberg, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Henry Hicks, Munich Post #8, Munich, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Howard Dulin, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1965 - 1966 National Commander - L. Eldon James (VA), National Convention - Portland, Oregon
Department Commander - Helmut Isenberg, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Convention - Garmisch, West Germany
Department VCAL - Robert F. Fulgham, Munich Post #8, Munich, West Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Frederick Deyeso, Munich Post #8, Munich, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Howard Dulin, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1966 - 1967 National Commander - John Edward Davis (ND), National Convention - Washington, D.C.
Department Commander - Howard C. Dulin, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Convention - Garmisch, West Germany
Department VCAL - Clifford Inman, Ludwigsburg Post #6, Ludwigsburg, West Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Walter E. Lindquist, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Edgar J. Houseman, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1967 - 1968 National Commander - William E. Galbraith (NE), National Convention - Boston, Massachusetts

Department Commander - Helmut Isenberg, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Convention - Garmisch, West Germany

Department VCAL - Albert Doum, Munich Post #8, Munich, West Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Walter E. Lindquist, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Edgar J. Houseman, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1968 - 1969 National Commander - William C. Doyle (NJ), National Convention - New Orleans, Louisiana

Department Commander - George F. Getz Jr., Hanau Post #7, Hanau, West Germany

Department Convention - Garmisch, West Germany

Department VCAL - Carl J. Studer, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Walter E. Lindquist, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - F Daniel Mortara, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Adjutant - Leo E. Jolin, Paris Post #1, Paris, France



"AMERICA"

Symbolizing the friendship between the United States and France is viewed by its painter, French artist Leon Reni-Mal at the American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind. The artist began the painting on Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1918, and it was presented officially to The American Legion in 1922. The distinguished artist and his wife made their visit during the Legion's current golden anniversary observance. This article was in the December 1968 issue of The American Legion Magazine.

D-Day Plus a Quarter-Century

(This message has been prepared by American Legion National Commander Doyle for a commemorative album to be published by the Legion's Department of France on the 25th anniversary of D-Day at Normandy on June 6, 1969.)

There probably is no more significant single day in the history of modern warfare than June 6, 1944, when allied forces more than two and three quarter million strong, stormed the beaches of Normandy and southern France to launch the Crusade In Europe.

As we note the 25th anniversary of this momentous event our thoughts go back to yesteryear, to comrades whose life's blood was spilled on the soil they struggled to liberate from the grasp of the tyrant, and both very tender and very terrifying experiences crowd the memory. We also sadly note the recent loss of the brilliant Supreme Allied Commander to whom this work is dedicated, General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

All the hell that is warfare was unleashed that day, and in the next 11 months it spread across all of Europe. In less than a year it was all over, but in that short span of time the door to eternity opened to receive millions of God's children, friend and foe alike. The world was gravely wounded, but when it was over we worked to bind the wounds, to heal humanity as quickly as possible, to start over as best we could.

The toll was staggering, but the world survived. A tyrannical force was obliterated and men who had labored under its yoke were once more privileged to breathe the sweet air of freedom. Even today, a quarter of a century later, men continue to try to assess the cost and to determine if it was worth it.

When we consider what the condition of mankind and of humanity might be today, had victory not been ours, there should be little question as to whether or not it was worthwhile.

It is always our fondest hope and our most fervent prayer that man shall never again wreak such havoc upon himself and such destruction upon God's earth.

**By William C. Doyle National Commander The American Legion
The Advance, June, 1969**

The 1970's Gold Anniversary Celebration In Paris, France


1969 - 1970 National Commander - J. Milton Patrick (OK), National Convention - Atlanta, Georgia
Department Commander - Carl J. Studer, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Convention - Center Chiemsee, West Germany
Department VCAL - Robert J. Conrad, Bitburg Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - James E. Zulick Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - F Daniel Mortara, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - James F. Graziano, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1970 - 1971 National Commander - Albert Chamie (CA), National Convention - Portland, Oregon
Department Commander - Jerome Guilds, Oberammergau Post #100, Oberammergau, West Germany
Department Convention - Garmisch, West Germany
Department VCAL - Leon Turrou, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department National Executive Committeeman - James Zulick, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Robert Conrad, Bitburg Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Benjamin H. Chain, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1971 - 1972 National Commander - John Geiger (IL), National Convention - Houston, Texas
Department Commander - Jerome Guilds, Oberammergau Post #100, Oberammergau, West Germany
Department Convention - Trier, West Germany
Department VCAL - Leon Turrou, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department National Executive Committeeman - James Zulick, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Robert Conrad, Bitburg Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Dan Bioni, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1972 - 1973 National Commander - Joe Matthews (TX), National Convention - Chicago, Illinois
Department Commander - Helmut Spangenthal, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany
Department Convention - Nancy, France
Department VCAL - George A. Keros, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department National Executive Committeeman - James Zulick, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Robert R. Dardis Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - Dan Bioni, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

Munich Post #8 sets up hospitality for the 1972 Olympics in Munich, West Germany.



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C. D. DeLoach, *Chairman*
P. O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
(317) 635-8411

HEADQUARTERS

James C. Watkins, *Director*
1608 K St., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006
(202) 393-4811

0182

For God and Country

For release 7-21-72


INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--The Department of France and Munich Post 8 are planning a warm reception for American Legionnaires and their families who will be visiting the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany, Aug. 26-Sept. 10, according to Rolf Von Reitzenstein, vice commander of The American Legion District of Germany and a member of the Olympics Committee, Department of France.

During an interview at Legion National Headquarters here, Von Reitzenstein pointed out that information booths will be set up at the Munich airport, along the Autobahn and at the Olympics Stadium. "There will also be open houses in all Legion posts in Germany and France during this period," Von Reitzenstein added.

The German Veterans of Bavaria, one of the largest German veterans organizations, is assisting the Legion volunteer guides during this period. For further information you may write to Munich Post 8, The American Legion, Clayton J. Blackmer, Cmdr., HQEES Admin SUCS, APO New York 09245.

1973 - 1974 National Commander - Robert Eaton (MD), National Convention - Honolulu, Hawaii
 Department Commander - Helmut Spangenthal, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany
 Department Convention - Bitburg, West Germany
 Department VCAL - John Holmes, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany
 Department National Executive Committeeman - James Zulick, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
 Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Robert R. Dardis Paris Post #1, Paris, France
 Department Adjutant - Daniel S. Campbell, Hanau Post #7, Hanau, West Germany

Department Adjutant Daniel Campbell presents the Belgium Cross to three national officers.



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P. O. Box 1055 HEADQUARTERS 1608 K St., N. W.
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 Washington, D. C. 20006
 (317) 635-8411 (202) 393-4811

0242
 For God and Country

For release 10-26-73


INDIANAPOLIS--(ALNS)--Three Legionnaires have been awarded the Belgium Cross for their contributions in the areas of foreign relations and the furthering of friendship between veterans of the United States and the veterans of Belgium.

Daniel S. Campbell, Department Adjutant of France, presented the medals, on behalf of Leon DeCleyre, President of Federation Nationale Ancient Combatants, to Past National Commander Joe L. Matthews, National Adjutant William F. Hauck and National Public Relations Director James C. Watkins during the Legion's fall meetings here.

Past National Commander Matthews was honored for the contribution he made in foreign relations during his visit to Europe. National Adjutant Hauck and Director Watkins were honored for "their participation in furtherance of the Freedom Torch activities over the past 14 years."

The "Freedom Torch" has been a part of the commemorative ceremonies held in Belgium and the United States for the past 37 years, honoring the sacrifices of the two countries' war veterans.

The Department of France celebrates its Golden Anniversary in Paris, France.



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 (317) 635-8411 (202) 393-4811

0035
 For God and Country

For release 2-22-74

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--Though The American Legion was born in France at the famous March 15-17, 1919 Paris caucus of the First American Expeditionary Force, it was not until February 12, 1924, that the Department of France was granted its charter.

On February 16 of this year, the Department of France, which administers Posts in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Sweden as well as in France, marked its Golden Anniversary in the Pershing Hall Memorial Building in Paris. Approximately 150 people, including representatives from the American Embassy and French authorities, attended the anniversary dinner.

-alns-

1974 - 1975 National Commander - James Wagonseller (OH), National Convention - Miami Beach, Florida
Department Commander - John Holmes, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany
Department Convention - Antwerp, Belgium
Department VCAL - Spurgeon Boyd, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department National Executive Committeeman - Helmut Spangenthal, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Clarence C. Brown, Bitburg Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Daniel S. Campbell, Hanau Post #7, Hanau, West Germany



Department Commander John Holmes, Department Adjutant Daniel Campbell, and NECman Helmut Spangenthal were present for the casting of the 1976 "Freedom Bell" in Aarle-Rixtel, The Netherlands.

[SEE ATTACHMENT 21](#)
[SEE ATTACHMENT 22](#)

1975 - 1976 National Commander - Harry Wiles (KS), National Convention - Minneapolis, Minnesota
Department Commander - John Holmes, Rhein Neckar Post #3 Heidelberg, West Germany
Department Convention - Frankfurt, West Germany
Department VCAL - Spurgeon Boyd, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department National Committeeman - Helmut Spangenthal, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Clarence C. Brown, Bitburg Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Daniel S. Campbell, Hanau Post #7, Hanau, West Germany



Helmut Spangenthal of Rhein Neckar Post GR03 was elected President of FODPAL at the Annual FODPAL Breakfast in Minneapolis Minn.

1976 - 1977 National Commander - William Rogers (ME), National Convention - Seattle, Washington
Department Commander - Spurgeon Boyd, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Commander Emeritus - Thomas W. Barnett, Buedingen Post GR14, Buedingen, West Germany
Department Convention - Munich, West Germany
Department VCAL - William R "Bo' Williams, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Helmut Spangenthal, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - John Holmes, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Edward Drayton Paris Post #1, Paris, France

At the Department of France Convention held in Munich, West Germany, June 19-22, 1976, a resolution was passed to do away with the Districts of France and Germany. An amendment to the constitution was passed to have eight vice commanders in lieu of district commanders. They were assigned as follows: one Department Vice Commander-at-Large, two Vice Commanders for France, four Vice Commanders for Germany and one Vice Commander for Belgium, Denmark and Sweden.

**Helmut Spangenthal
Presentation**

INDIANAPOLIS National Adjutant William F. Hauck of Indiana was inducted into the Association of Arts, Sciences and Letters, a 60 year old French honor society at the National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion in Indianapolis.

Membership in the association honors individuals recognized for outstanding achievements in various fields of endeavor, and its membership is international in scope.

National Adjutant Hauck was recommended by Commander Spurgeon C. Boyd, Department of France, and the award was made by NECman Helmut Spangenthal, Department of France.
AMERICAN LEGION NEWS SERVICE May 6, 1977

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The Chair now recognizes Helmut Spangenthal for a presentation.

**PRESENTATION
Helmut Spangenthal, France**

The French organization known as the Association of Arts, Science and Letters was founded in Paris 60 years ago for the purpose of recognizing outstanding achievements in various fields of endeavor. It is international in character, and its recognitions extend to deserving individuals all over the world.

Distinctions are given based on the specific recommendations of persons holding a responsible position, and who is familiar with the accomplishments of the person recommended.

In this instance, Bill Hauck was recommended by Department Commander Boyd, Department of France, for outstanding services performed as a principal National Administrator of the largest veterans organization in the world, and also for the contribution he made in an organization dedicated to the welfare of veterans, their families, and their orphans.

Will the National Adjutant please step forward.

... National Adjutant William Hauck approached the podium.

MR. SPANGENTHAL: This award was received last Sunday night by the Department Commander in behalf of National Adjutant Hauck. I said I wanted to dispense with the French kissing act.

Bill, on behalf of the Department of France, we congratulate you and present you with your diploma.

... Applause, as National Adjutant Hauck was presented with his certificate from the Association of Arts, Science and Letters.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT HAUCK: Thank you very much.

Gentlemen, I do appreciate the Department of France recommending me for this award from the French Government. Certainly it is a great honor, and Helmut, if you will convey my thanks to Spurgeon Boyd, the Department Commander, and the proper French officials, I will certainly appreciate it. Thank you very much.

1977 - 1978 National Commander - Robert Charles Smith (LA), National Convention - Denver, Colorado

Department Commander - William R "Bo" Williams, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany

Department Convention - Lesigny, France

Department VCAL - John Norsworthy, Bitburg Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Helmut Spangenthal, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany

Department Alt Executive Committeeman - John Holms, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany

Department Adjutant - Edward Drayton, Paris Post #1, Paris, France



Department Commander William "Bo" Williams and Department Adjutant Edward Drayton meet U.S. President Carter. This article was in the March 1978 issue of The American Legion Magazine

Thomas W. Barnett, 54, of Buedingen Post GR14, passed away recently. Mr. Barnett was Past Commander of Post 14, The Department of France, and was named the first 'Honorary Department Commander' of The Department of France during 1977 Convention in Lesigny, France.

1978 - 1979 National Commander - John Carey (MI), National Convention - New Orleans, Louisiana

Department Commander - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt, West Germany

Department Convention - Kaiserslautern, West Germany

Department VCAL - Jackie D Legg, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, West Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Helmut Spangenthal, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Robert H. Winkler, Bitburg Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany

Department Adjutant - Yott Whitmore, Paris Post #1, Paris, France



Merwyn M. Beavers (right), department commander of France, presents check for \$2,436 for the St. Jude Children's Research hospital program to Earl Franklin Jr., chairman of the National Commission on Children and Youth, as National Cdr. John M. (Jack) Carey looks on during the October conference. The money was raised by Vernon P. Fleming of Otha T. Spriggs Post 21, Crailheim, West Germany.

The 1980's

All Time High in Membership and Department moves its Headquarters

1979 - 1980 National Commander - Frank Hamilton (IN), National Convention - Houston, Texas

Department Commander - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt, West Germany

Department Convention - Berchtesgaden, West Germany

Department VCAL - Jackie D Legg, Rhein Main #5, Waldorf-Hessen, West Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Helmut Spangenthal, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Robert H. Winkler, Bitburg Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany

Department Adjutant - Ken Johnson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

At the convention in Berchtesgaden, a resolution was passed to accept a new constitution and do away with the eight vice commanders and have five vice commanders. This is the constitution, which we operate under today. It has been amended several times since.

The Department had an all-time high in membership of 7,900-plus in 1980.

1980 - 1981 National Commander - Michael Kogutec (NY), National Convention - Boston, Massachusetts

Department Commander - Jackie D Legg, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, West Germany

Department Convention - Gothenburg, Sweden

Department VCAL - Roger Lantagne, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Helmut Spangenthal Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt, West Germany

Department Adjutant - Ken Johnson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France



Sergeant First Class (SFC) Donald Robert Hohman, 38, U.S. Army Medical Corps, a member of The American Legion, Harry S, Truman Post 2 Frankfurt, West Germany, The Department of France, was released from captivity on Jan. 20, 1981, after 444 days as one of the 52 American hostages in Tehran, Iran.

SEE ATTACHMENT 23

1981 - 1982 National Commander - Jack Flynt (TX), National Convention - Honolulu, Hawaii
Department Commander - Jackie D Legg, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, West Germany
Department Convention - Willingen, West Germany
Department VCAL - Martin Ventrone, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, West Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Helmut Spangenthal, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Ken Johnson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
At the National Executive Committee meeting on May 6, 1982, the American Legion passed a resolution to relinquish management of Pershing Hall.

1982 - 1983 National Commander - Al Keller (IL), National Convention - Chicago, Illinois
Department Commander - Robert H. Winkler, Eifel Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany
Department Convention - Willingen, West Germany
Department VCAL - Ray Harrison, Ortha T. Spriggs Post #21, Crailsheim, West Germany
Department Executive Committeeman - Bill Lombardo, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Paul Chevalier, Eifel Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Ken Johnson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Excerpt from National Executive Committee, THE AMERICAN LEGION, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 13-14, 1982

SEE ATTACHMENT 24

1983 - 1984 National Commander - Keith Kruehl (WI), National Convention - Seattle, Washington
Department Commander - Robert Winkler, Eifel Post #20
Department Convention - Willingen, West Germany
Department VCAL - Eugene Gibbs, Wiesbaden Post #1983
Department Executive Committeeman - Bill Lombardo, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Paul Chevalier, Eifel Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Ken Johnson, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

On May 9-10, 1984 National Resolution No. 35 Dissolved (PHOC) Pershing Hall Operating Committee.

SEE ATTACHMENT 25

1984 - 1985 National Commander - Clarence Bacon (MD), National Convention - Salt Lake City, Utah
Department Commander - Robert H. Winkler, Eifel Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany
Department Convention - Grand Canary Islands
Department VCAL - Charley Rallis, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Bill Lombardo, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Joseph F. Owens, Audie Murphy Post #30, Wurzburg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Ralph Browne, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany

In late 1984, The Department of France sued The American Legion National Organization in the U. S. District Court in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Department of France contends that The American Legion National Organization was in Breach of Contract for breaking the Pershing Hall Operating Committee (PHOC) agreement to manage Pershing Hall.



**Bill Lombardo of Kaiserslautern Post GR01
was elected President of FODPAL at the
Annual FODPAL Breakfast in Salt Lake City, Utah**

1985 - 1986 National Commander - Dale Renaud (IA), National Convention - New Orleans, Louisiana
Department Commander - Charles Rallis, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department Convention - Heilbronn, West Germany
Department VCAL - Floyd Chatterton, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, West Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Bill Lombardo, Kaiserslautern Post#1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Joseph F. Owens, Audie Murphy Post #30, Wurzburg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Ralph Browne Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany, and Michael Verville, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany

At the first Department Executive Committee meeting, on June 22, 1985, at Heilbronn, West Germany, William Weaver of Dwight D. Eisenhower Post #13, Augsburg, West Germany, was elected Vice Commander Emeritus. At the same first DEC, Arnie Matanky of Paris Post #1, Paris, France, was elected for life to the honorary position of Department Vice Commander of The Department of France.

1986 - 1987 National Commander - Judge James Dean (MS), National Convention - Cincinnati, Ohio
Department Commander - Charles Rallis, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department Convention - Bad Nauheim, West Germany
Department VCAL - Don Smith, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, West Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Bill Lombardo, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Jackie D. Legg, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Michael Verville, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany, and Douglas Haggan, Kaiserslautern Post #1 Kaiserslautern, West Germany

At the second DEC, on June 18, 1986, at Bad Nauheim, West Germany, NECman Bill Lombardo gave a briefing on the PHOC lawsuit against The American Legion, National Organization.

[SEE ATTACHMENT 26](#)

1987 - 1988 National Commander - John Jake Comer (MA), National Convention - San Antonio, Texas
Department Commander - Michael Verville, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany
Department Convention - St. Avold, France
Department VCAL - Frank Hoyle, Friedberg Post #16, Friedberg, West Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Bill Lombardo, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department Alt. National Executive Committeeman - Jackie D Legg, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, West Germany

Department Adjutant - Douglas Haggan, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany, and Ralph Browne, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany

1988 - 1989 National Commander - Hon. H. F. "Sparky" Gierke (ND), National Convention - Louisville, Kentucky

Department Commander - Frank Hoyle, Friedberg Post #16, Friedberg, West Germany

Department Convention - Menton (Riviera), France

Department VCAL - Edward Drayton, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn M. Beavers, Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt/am, West Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Verville, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany

Department Adjutant - Michael Verville, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, West Germany

We Remember Our Comrade's Buried Overseas

The American Legion Magazine May, 1989

SEE ATTACHMENT 27

After almost five years and after investing more than \$79,000 in lawyer fees, The Department of France in the Breach of Contract lawsuit case against The American Legion National Organization over breaking of the Pershing Hall Operating Committee (PHOC) agreement is over. At the Fourth DEC, on June 15, 1988, in Mentone, France, Vice Commander Edward Drayton Chairman of the PHOC investigation committee reported the Pershing Hall Investigation was wrapped up, that all debts have been paid on the lawsuit, and that the court had terminated litigation without prejudice to either The Department of France or The American Legion National Organization. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to appropriate \$1,105 to pay the remaining legal cost for the PHOC lawsuit.



Hotel de Ville (City Hall) St Avold, France, home to The American Legion Department of France Headquarters.

Nov 1989 The American Legion, Department of France Headquarters was officially moved from Pershing Hall in Paris, France to the Hotel De Ville, St Avold, France.

The 1990's Eiffel Tower Becomes Official Insignia in 1991

1989 - 1990 National Commander - Miles Epling (WV), National Convention - Baltimore, Maryland
Department Commander - Michael Verville, Rhein Necker Post #3, Heidelberg, Germany (**resigned 8-2-1989**)
Department Commander - Edward Drayton, Paris Post #1, Paris, France (**took office 8-2-1989**)
Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, West Germany
Department VCAL - Edward Drayton, Paris Post #1, Paris, France (**resigned 8-2-1989**)
Department VCAL - Douglas Haggan, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, Germany (**was elected 8-2-1989**)
Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn M. Beavers, Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt/am, West Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Ray Harrison, Ortha T. Spriggs Post #21 Crailsheim, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Wayne Costa Friedberg Post #16, Friedberg, West Germany, and Gorley Stokes, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, West Germany

Alt NEC Michael Verville resigned his position as Alt NEC so he could run for Department of France Commander. Ray Harrison was elected Alt NEC to fill the office left vacant by the resignation of Alt NEC Verville.

Due to the unexpected PSC move of Department of France Commander Michael Verville back to the United States in August of 1998, a Special Department Executive Committee Meeting was held at Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt, Germany, to ratify the appointment of Edward Drayton Paris Post #1 as Department of France Commander. Doug Haggan was to elected as the new Vice Commander at Large to fill the position left vacant by the move of Edward Drayton to Department Commander.

May 1990 National Commander Miles Epling officially opened the doors to the new headquarters for The American Legion, Department of France.

1990 - 1991 National Commander - Robert Turner (GA), National Convention - Indianapolis, Indiana
Department Commander - Douglas Haggan, Harry S. Truman Post #2 Frankfurt/am, West Germany
Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, West Germany
Department VCAL - Wally Bolton, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt/am, West Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Pietz, Eifel Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Gorley Stokes, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, West Germany



PROCEEDINGS of the National Executive Committee, THE AMERICAN LEGION National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana, May 2-3, 1990. Presentation of Significant Gift to The National Headquarters Library

MR. BEAVERS, France: Mr. Commander, would you step forward again. It is a great pleasure for me to present to you, from the Department of France, a part of the history as found in a piece of the Berlin Wall,

which was knocked off the wall on the 27th of November last year, by Legionnaire Douglas Haggan from Harry S. Truman Post No. 2 Frankfurt, West Germany. Right on top of that, they struck a medal commemorating the end of the Wall, dated November 9, 1989. It is my pleasure to present this to you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER EPLING: Thank you.



At the Second DEC on Oct. 20, 1990, in St. Avold, France, NECman Michael Beaver made a motion that was seconded by Vice Commander at Large Wally Bolton, that the Eiffel Tower be the official insignia for The Department of France, and that it will be mandatory for it to be embroidered on the front of all red, white, and blue Legion uniform caps by Emblem Sales. Motion carried.

At The Department of France Convention held June 22-25, 1991, in Bitburg, Germany, the delegates ratified the motion made at the 1990, 2nd DEC that the Eiffel Tower the symbol of the Department of France, and further that the Eiffel Tower emblem be affixed to the front of the Department of France Legion cap.

1991 - 1992 National Commander - Dominic DeFrancesco (PA), National Convention - Phoenix, Arizona

Department Commander - Douglas Haggan, Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt/am, Germany

Department Convention - Bitburg, Germany

Department VCAL - Wally Bolton, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt/am, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Pietz, Eifel Post #20, Bitburg, Germany

Department Adjutant - Gorley Stokes, Rhein Main Post #5

1992 - 1993 National Commander - Roger Munson (OH), National Convention - Chicago, Illinois

Department Commander - Wally Bolton, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, Germany

Department Convention - St. Avold, France

Department VCAL - Jimmy Schafer, Eifel Post #20, Bitburg, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Douglas Haggan, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Frank Hoyle, Friedberg Post #16, Friedberg, Germany

Department Adjutant - Gorley Stokes, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

1993 - 1994 National Commander - Bruce Thiesen (CA), National Convention - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Department Commander - Walt Landi, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, Germany

Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany

Department VCAL - William "Bill" Marshall, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Douglas Haggan, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Adjutant - Gorley Stokes, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany



Arnie Matanky of Paris Post FR01 was elected President of FODPAL at the Annual FODPAL Breakfast in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Alt NEC Frank Hoyle returned to the United States just after the 1993 Department Convention, and Merwyn "Mike" Beavers was elected to fill Frank Hoyle's term as Alt NEC.

At the National Executive Committee meeting in May of 1994, a resolution to terminate the Department Charters of Canada, Panama, and Italy was passed. The Department of France gained 5 Posts in Italy, 5 Posts in Greece, and 2 Posts in Ireland.

The decision was made following the recommendations in a two-year study of foreign and outlying Departments and how they may benefit from organizational realignment.

"Members residing in these Departments will benefit by receiving improved efficiency, communication and comradeship because of this action," said Chairman Herman G. Harrington of New York
SEE ATTACHMENT 28

1994 - 1995 National Commander - William Detweiler (LA), National Convention - Minneapolis, Minnesota

Department Commander - Gorley Stokes, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Convention - Cherbourg, France

Department VCAL - William "Bill" Marshall, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Frank Hoyle, Friedberg Post #16, Friedberg, Germany

Department Adjutant - Robert Loudon, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

At the Annual FODPAL Meeting held at the 1994 National Convention, Doug Haggan of Rhein Main Post GR05 was appointed Asst FODPAL Secretary.

1995 - 1996 National Commander - Daniel Ludwig (MN), National Convention - Indianapolis, Indiana

Department Commander - William "Bill" Marshall, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany

Department VCAL - Phil Oakley, Eifel #20, Bitburg, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Frank Hoyle, Friedberg Post #16, Friedberg, Germany

Department Adjutant - Robert Loudon, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

1996 - 1997 National Commander - Joseph Frank (MO), Convention - Salt Lake City, Utah
Department Commander - William "Bill" Marshall Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany
Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany
Department VCAL - Steven Pratschler, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Frank Hoyle, Friedberg Post #16, Friedberg, Germany
Department Adjutant - Robert Loudon, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

1997 - 1998 National Commander - Anthony Jordan (ME), National Convention - Orlando, Florida
Department Commander - William "Bill" Marshall, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany
Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany
Department VCAL - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Frank Hoyle Friedberg Post #16, Friedberg, Germany
Department Adjutant - Tim O'Neill, Riley Leroy Pitts Post #7, Worms, Germany

1998 - 1999 National Commander - Butch Miller (VA), National Convention - New Orleans, Louisiana
Department Commander - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany
Department Convention - Bitburg, Germany
Department VCAL - Kenny Rogers, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Steven Pratschler, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, Germany
Department Adjutant - Tim O'Neill, Riley Leroy Pitts Post #7, Worms, Germany, and William (Bill) West, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

The commemorative First Caucus Plaque at 14 Ernest Pschari in Paris, France, was refurbished in time for the 80th Anniversary of the First Paris Caucus rededication ceremony on March 14, 1999.

Paris Post 1 Commander Ken Johnson was Master of Ceremonies, in attendance for the rededication and wreath laying ceremony were Department Vice Commander John Burns from Ireland, NECman Mike Beavers representing the National Commander, and many local dignitaries.



Doug Haggan of Rhein Main Post GR05 was elected President of FODPAL at the Annual FODPAL Breakfast in New Orleans, La.

The 2000's Doug Haggan Appoint Permanent FODPAL Secretary

1999 - 2000 National Commander – Hon. Alan Lance, Sr. (ID), National Convention - Anaheim, California

Department Commander - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany

Department VCAL - Frank Wing, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Steven Pratschler, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, Germany

Department Adjutant - William 'Bill' West, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Doug Haggan of Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf, Germany is moved from Asst. FODPAL Secretary and is appointed as permanent FODPAL Secretary.

2000 - 2001 National Commander - Ray Smith (SC), National Convention - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Department Commander - Nola Maloney, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, Germany

Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany

Department VCAL- Frank Wing, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department Adjutant - William 'Bill' West, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany



The Department of France elected its first female Commander. Her name is Nola Maloney. She was formerly the Department Chaplain and currently works as a civilian employee with the U.S. Air Force.

3 Departments earn special awards

Earlier in the membership year, National Commander Ray G. Smith offered a new incentive award to all departments. The top three department commanders and membership chairmen attaining the highest percent of membership gain, excluding direct mail solicitation members, from Feb. 1 to May 9 would earn distinguished, specially selected gifts on stage at the national convention, in San Antonio.

Those qualifying departments and their specially selected gifts are:

📌 **First place - engraved diamond studded gold ring awarded to Department of France Commander Nola L. Maloney, 1.06 percent gain.**

📌 **Second place - engraved diamond-studded silver ring awarded to Department of Delaware Commander Newton R. Brackin Jr., 0.97 percent gain.**

📌 **Third place - engraved bronze plaque awarded to Department of Vermont Commander Donald T. Tetreault, 0.97 percent gain.**



Fred Platt of Generals Ward & Chennault & Lt Helseth Post CP01 was elected President of FODPAL at the Annual FODPAL Breakfast in Milwaukee, Wis.

2001 - 2002 National Commander - Ric Santos (MD), National Convention - San Antonio, Texas

Department Commander - Nola Maloney, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, Germany

Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany

Department VCAL - Keith Morros, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department Adjutant-William 'Bill' West, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

2002 - 2003 National Commander - Ronald F. Conley, Sr. (PA), National Convention - Charlotte, North Carolina

Department Commander - Nola Maloney, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, Germany

Department Convention - Kaiserslautern, Germany

Department VCAL - Liam F. Kane, John F. Kennedy Post #63, Dublin, Ireland

Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department Adjutant - William 'Bill' West, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany, (resigned 4 - 2003 moved to the states), Frank Hanchak, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany (assigned 4 - 2003)

Father and Son Reunited

The American Legion is an organization that was created to help veterans.

But the mission doesn't stop there. Steve DuBois will testify to that point.

DuBois, a member of Fair Oaks Post 383 in Fair Oaks, Calif., and his family saw firsthand what Legionnaires are willing to do for active-duty servicemembers and their families. In the process, father Josh DuBois was reunited with his son, 4 year-old Anthony.

Legionnaires in the Departments of California and France with input from National Headquarters staff were able to cut through red tape, establishing full parental sponsorship for Josh and paving the way for Anthony's plane ride to Hanau, Germany, to live with his father.

"I feel like I finally have closure," Josh said. "It's finally over, and I have my son with me. It's hard to explain how I feel. I'm just relieved we can move on as a family."

Josh's relief is understandable, considering what he and his family went through in order to reunite him with his son.

Thanks to the work of Legionnaires and the Family Support Network, 4 year old Anthony DuBois has been reunited with his father, who is serving in the Army in Germany. In November, Josh a specialist E-4 stationed with C Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery unit in Hanau was awarded custody of Anthony, who at the time was in the custody of Child Protective Services in Sacramento County. But Josh had been in Germany since July, so the courts basically turned Anthony over to his grandfather, Steve, without granting him legal custody.

"That put us in a bit of a predicament," Steve said. "We were very glad to have him, but we had no legal custody. Anthony had no insurance, anything like that. We were kind of like, 'What do we do?'"

Steve knew that Josh wanted his son and that Anthony needed to be with his father. Getting the two together was the problem. He contacted legal organizations, local churches and even the media. No one seemed interested in helping.

"That's when I thought about The American Legion. I thought with Josh being in the military and me being a veteran, the Legion could at least push us in the right direction," Steve said. "So I fired off an e-mail to the national commander. I knew this wasn't really a veterans issue, but the Legion deals with much more than that."

While Steve was hopeful to get a response, he had no idea how expedient it would be. He was immediately sent an e-mail response, setting the wheels of the Legion's Family Support Network in motion.

"I got a call two days later at work from my wife. She told me representatives from the Legion were at the house waiting to talk to me," Steve said. "I was just seeking information, and they were already there to help."

Post 859 Commander Cal Coley and Jim Fiedler, National Membership assistant director, spoke with Steve. After a meeting, Coley set the wheels in motion to get Josh fully recognized by the Army as Anthony's guardian.

"I'm retired, but I've stayed pretty current with the way things work in the military, so I thought I could help them out," said Coley, a 20-year Air Force veteran. "After talking with the grandparents, my thinking was we needed to get the boy DEERS (Defense Legionnaire Steve DuBois, left, seen with his wife Michelle, was able to reunite his son and grandson, thanks to the work of Legionnaires in the Departments of California and France. Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System) qualified, which qualifies him as a military dependent."

Coley contacted Beale Air Force Base, 40 miles north of Sacramento, and explained to officials what the family needed and found out exactly what the family must do to get the proper paperwork done. Beale officials worked with their counterparts in Germany to quickly make Anthony a military dependent.

"Cal was able to arrange getting an ID card for Anthony, as well insurance through TRICARE," Steve said. "He knew who to contact and what they needed. We needed to do very little ourselves. And the people at Beale did a lot that they probably didn't have to do. I think a lot of that had to do with Cal."

With Anthony being recognized as Josh's dependent, the boy could have received government-sponsored transportation to Germany. But that was unnecessary when the Sacramento County government offered to fund the trip.

Across the Ocean. Meanwhile, Josh who is married and has two small children in Germany was working with Legionnaires from the Department of France, who kept him informed on the progress toward getting his son home.

"(Department Adjutant) Bill West was on the dot, letting me know what forms I needed to fill out," Josh said. When I wanted to know the status of how things were going, he either told me when I called or called me back within a day. I was never left in the lurch wondering how things were going."

Josh has been approved for a Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grant of \$1,000. On the local level in Germany, West said members at Thomas W. Barnett Post GR14 in Buedingen did a lot of the footwork and also raised money to help buy a dinner and Christmas presents for the DuBois family.

"Our post is small, and we don't have a lot of money, but if we can help someone, we will," Post GR14 commander Carl Hackworth said. "We had another member of the post provide a bed for the family, too."

"It was really nice to be able to help out, and it was very nice to see the boy with his father. You could really see how happy the two were together."

The Reunion. On Jan. 1, Steve touched down in Germany with his grandson. Steve and his wife had shown Anthony pictures of his father and new family countless times, so Anthony recognized his father right away, despite the fact Josh hadn't seen him for two years.

"It was stirring. I'm 6-foot-5 and 220 pounds, with gray hair, and I was reduced to tears," Steve said. "When we got off the plane and they saw each other for the first time, Josh had an amazed look on his face. It's something I'll never forget for the rest of my life." "Anthony is a great, great little boy, and he's getting along great with the other kids," Josh said. "And he always jumps in my lap and wants to cuddle with me. It's really nice having all of us together."

"Anthony is such a deserving child, and it's kind of just really neat that all this happened," Steve said. "I'm just glad there was an organization out there that could help make it happen." While Steve is quick to name names when giving out thanks, the Legionnaires involved say they were simply fulfilling the mission of the organization.

"This was a post effort, and anyone in the post could have done it," Coley said. "We were just happy we were able to do something to help the family. That's what The American Legion is all about."

Now Josh DuBois, who has joined Post GR14, knows this.

"They're a great group of people there, and they've got great programs," Josh said of France's Legionnaires. "The organization's support chains are incredible. My dad looked all over the place trying to find some way to get Anthony over here. Thank God he went to The American Legion. The fact is, God and The American Legion got my son here."

By Steve Brooks Editor The American Legion Magazine
Dispatch February 8, 2002

2003 - 2004 National Commander - John A. Brieden III (TX), National Convention - St Louis, Missouri

Department Commander - John Miller, David Chavez Post #1982, Ansbach, Germany

Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany

Department VCAL - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department Adjutant - Nola Maloney, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, Germany

2004 - 2005 National Commander - Thomas P. Cadmus (MI), National Convention - Nashville, Tennessee

Department Commander - John Miller, David Chavez Post #1982, Ansbach, Germany

Department Convention - Geiselwind, Germany

Department VCAL - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - William "Bill" Marshall, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department Adjutant - Nola Maloney, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, Germany

2005 - 2006 National Commander - Thomas L. Bock (CO), National Convention - Honolulu, Hawaii

Department Commander - Liam F. Kane, John F. Kennedy Post #63, Dublin, Ireland

Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany

Department VCAL - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - William "Bill" Marshall, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department Adjutant - Nola Maloney, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, Germany (**resigned 7 - 2005 Got an assignment to Kuwait**), James Settle, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany (**appointed 7 - 2005**) (**resigned 3 - 2006 for personal reasons**) Maxwell Rice, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany (**appointed 3 - 2006**)



Nola Maloney of Rhein Neckar Post GR03 was elected President of FODPAL at the Annual FODPAL Breakfast in Honolulu, Hawaii.

2006 - 2007 National Commander - Paul A. Morin (MA), National Convention - Salt Lake City, Utah

Department Commander - Liam F. Kane, John F. Kennedy Post #63, Dublin, Ireland

Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany

Department VCAL - Carl Hale, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department National Executive Committeeman - William "Bill" Marshall, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department Adjutant - Maxwell Rice, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

The Department of France was the birthplace for Operation Comfort Warriors, The American Legion's program to provide recreational and comfort items to U.S. military personnel recovering from wounds and illnesses in DOD facilities. It was born in May 2007 in Germany. American Legion National Commander Paul A. Morin was on his official visit to the Department of France and noticed while visiting Landstuhl Regional Medical Center that war-wounded personnel lacked personal comfort items, some of the televisions were broken, and, although the patients were receiving excellent medical care, they had little to occupy their time in recovery. When Morin returned to the United States, he called on The American Legion to raise \$50,000 in a six-week period to purchase some new televisions, DVDs, iPods, books and video games. He called the fundraiser Operation Landstuhl. Six weeks later, Legionnaires from around the world had contributed more than \$250,000 to the effort. The following year, after learning of similar needs for comfort items at military hospitals and transition units, American Legion National Commander David K. Rehbein expanded the program into Operation Comfort Warriors, which in its first complete decade, has purchased millions of dollars' worth of comfort items, recreational experiences, art supplies, sporting goods, physical

therapy equipment and more.

Operation Comfort Warriors continues to provide financial assistance to the Chaplain's Closet at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Wound Warrior Center (USO), and the Fisher House, which purchases comfort items for recovering troops and their visiting family members.

2007 - 2008 National Commander - Martin F. Conatser (IL), National Convention - Reno, Nevada

Department Commander - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany

Department VCAL - Liam Kane, John F. Kennedy Post #63, Dublin, Ireland

Department National Executive Committeeman - William "Bill" Marshall, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department Adjutant - James Settle, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany



**Tim Brown of Generals Ward & Chennault & Lt Helseth Post CP01
was elected President of FODPAL at the
Annual FODPAL Breakfast in Reno, Nev.**

2008 - 2009 National Commander - David K. Rehbein (IA), National Convention - Phoenix, Arizona

Department Commander - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Department Convention - Sankt Englmar, Germany

Department VCAL - Liam Kane, John F. Kennedy Post #63, Dublin, Ireland

Department National Executive Committeeman - William "Bill" Marshall, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department Adjutant - James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

The 2010's

All in One Family and Centennial Celebrations

2009 - 2010 National Commander - Clarence E. Hill (FL), National Convention - Louisville, Kentucky

Department Commander - Robert Gray, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, Germany

Department Convention - Kaiserslautern, Germany

Department VCAL - Liam Kane, John F. Kennedy Post #63, Dublin, Ireland

Department National Executive Committeeman - William "Bill" Marshall, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Michael Umland, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany

Department Adjutant - James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany (**resigned 9 - 2009 for personal reasons**), John D. Fleming, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, Germany (**appointed 9 - 2009**)

2010 - 2011 National Commander - Jimmie L. Foster (AK), National Convention - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Department Commander - Robert Gray, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, Germany

Department Convention - Bray, Ireland

Department VCAL - John Odom, Riley Leroy Pitts Post #7, Worms, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Liam Kane, John F. Kennedy Post #63, Dublin, Ireland

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - John Miller, David Chavez Post #1982, Ansbach, Germany

Department Adjutant - John D. Fleming, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, Germany

2011 - 2012 National Commander - Fang A. Wong (NY), National Convention - Minneapolis, Minnesota

Department Commander - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Department Convention - Ludwigshafen, Germany

Department VCAL - Ronald Moore, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - Liam Kane, John F. Kennedy Post #63, Dublin, Ireland

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - John Miller, David Chavez Post #1982, Ansbach, Germany

Department Adjutant - James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

2012 - 2013 National Commander - James E. Koutz (IN), National Convention - Indianapolis, Indiana

Department Commander - Ronald Moore, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany (**resigned 3 - 2013 for personal reasons**)

Department Commander - James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany (**assumed Commander position 3 - 2013**)

Department Convention - Wuestenrot, Germany

Department VCAL - James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany (**resigned 3 - 2013 to become Commander**), Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany (**elected Vice Commander at Large 3 - 2013**)

Department National Executive Committeeman - John Miller, David Chavez Post #1982, Ansbach, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - H Ownby, Generals Ward & Chennault & Lt Helseth Post CP01 Shanghai China/Houston, Texas

Department Adjutant - Maxwell Rice, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany



**Robert Fuelling of Paris Post FR01
was elected President of FODPAL at the
Annual FODPAL Breakfast in Indianapolis, Ind.**

2013 - 2014 National Commander - Dan Dellinger (VA), National Convention - Houston, Texas

Department Commander - James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Department Convention - Wustenrot, Germany

Department VCAL - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - John Miller, David Chavez Post #1982, Ansbach, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - H Ownby, China Post #1/Houston, Texas

Department Adjutant - Maxwell Rice, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany



A real American Legion Family

He lives in a part of Germany where the U.S. military footprint is fading, but Josh Settle, who at age 15 was elected commander of the SAL Detachment of France last spring, is not the only top-level American Legion Family officer in his home. His father, James, is commander of the Legion's Department of France. Josh's Germany-born mother, Isolde, is the Department of France Auxiliary president.

National records can neither confirm nor deny that this is the first time in history an American Legion department commander, Auxiliary department president and SAL detachment commander all from the same family served in those capacities at the same time. It is, at the very least, a rarity.

James Settle joined The American Legion in 1999 after a 21-year career in the U.S. Army. A former MP, James served as an American Legion Post Adjutant, Department Adjutant and Vice Commander at-Large

before his election as Department Commander last June.

As his dad was advancing in the Legion, young Josh was at his side, having joined the SAL in 2002. "He took me to the meetings since I was small," Josh said. "I didn't know anything different. I liked the patriotism. You don't find that in Germany."

By the time he was 11 years old, Josh was the SAL detachment chaplain, saying prayers at meetings and sending get-well and sympathy cards to Legion families. With dual citizenship, Josh said he was "taught to love my country both of them. I was taught to be proud to be German and American."

The Settles work hard to keep American patriotism alive in Western Europe. They participate in major U.S. holidays and ceremonies, and at least twice a year the family joins other Legion Family members in commemoration activities that honor nearly 11,000 Americans who are laid to rest, or remembered as missing, at the Lorraine Cemetery near St. Avold, France, an American Battle Monuments Commission site that has more U.S. graves than any other World War II cemetery in Europe.

The Settles agree that membership growth in Europe is a big challenge when a considerable portion of department and detachment members live in the United States. Those members who live in Europe are often asked to represent both the Legion and the SAL at ceremonies. "When we are at an event, we always say to bring both caps - your American Legion and SAL cap to show that we support one another," James said. "The key words are family and teamwork," Isolde said. "I believe here we are building a stronger American Legion Family. It's all of us working together."

The American Legion Dispatch January 2014

Under the Canopy

By Jeffrey Stoffer

The American Legion Magazine February, 2014

[SEE ATTACHMENT 29](#)

2014 - 2015 National Commander - Mike Helm (NE), National Convention - Charlotte, North Carolina

Department Commander - James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Department Convention - Weisshorn, Germany

Department VCAL - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman - John Miller, David Chavez Post #1982, Ansbach, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Liam Kane, John F. Kennedy Post #63, Dublin, Ireland

Department Adjutant - Maxwell Rice, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany



Doug Haggan, Rhein Main Post #5 Waldorf-Hessen, Germany, was elected National Vice. Commander at the American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is the first Department of France member to be elected to an American Legion national office.

2015 - 2016 National Commander - Dale Barnett (GA) National Convention - Baltimore, Maryland
Department Commander - Keith Abernathy, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany
Department Convention - Ludwigshafen, Germany
Department VCAL - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - John Miller, David Chavez Post #1982, Ansbach, Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - Ronald Moore, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany
Department Adjutant - Maxwell Rice, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Alt NEC Liam Kane resigns his position as Alt NEC and Past Department Commander Ronald Moore was elected Alt NEC to fill remainder of Liam Kane's term.



H Ownby of Generals Ward & Chennault & Lt Helseth Post CP01 was elected President of FODPAL at the Annual FODPAL Breakfast in Baltimore, Md.

2016 - 2017 National Commander - Charlie Schmidt (OR), National Convention – Cincinnati, Ohio
Department Commander - John Shanahan Jr., Pride of Erin Post #1, Dublin, Ireland
Department Convention - Houffalize, Belgium
Department VCAL - Joseph "Joe" Schram, Flanders Field Post #2, Flanders Field, Belgium
Department National Executive Committeeman - Nola Maloney, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany
Department Adjutant - Maxwell Rice, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

2017-2018 National Commander - Denise Rohan (WI), National Convention – Reno, Nevada
Department Commander - James Dennis, Audie Murphy Post #30, Wurzburg, Germany
Department Commander Emeritus - Gary Miller, Stuttgart Post #6, Stuttgart, Germany
Department Convention - Ludwigshafen, Germany
Department VCAL - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany
Department National Executive Committeeman - Nola Maloney, Rhein Neckar Post #3, Heidelberg, Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committeeman - James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany
Department Adjutant - Maxwell Rice, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany
Department Adjutant Emeritus – Robert “Bob” Fuelling, Paris Post #1, Paris, France



January 2017 The American Legion, Department of France is the first Department to strike and issue a commemorative centennial challenge coin.

At the 2nd Department of France, Executive Committee Meeting in October 2017, at Geilenkirchen, Germany, Gary Miller was elected Past Department Commander Emeritus with voice and vote. This honor was bestowed on Legionnaire Miller for his 19 years of service to the Department of France in the position of Department Finance Officer. This is the first time in the Department of France history that this honor has ever been rendered.

On November 1, 2017, the Department of France became only the second Department behind the Department of Ohio to be enrolled into the Direct Membership Transmittal Program.

The Department of Ohio was the test Department for e-check transmittal stateside, and the Department of France as a test Department for both e-checks, and credit cards overseas. The Direct Transmittal Program allows a Post to transmit membership direct to The American Legion National Headquarters.



At the 3rd Department of France Executive Committee Meeting on March 17, 2018, at Ansbach, Germany, Robert "Bob" Fuelling was elected Department of France Adjutant Emeritus, and further that he be the Department of France Permanent Department Secretary to the National Convention as long as his health permits. This honor was bestowed on Legionnaire Fuelling for his 20 years of service to the Department of France in the position of Department Assistant Adjutant. This is the first time in the Department of France history that this honor has ever been rendered.

Also at the 3rd Department of France Executive Committee Meeting on March 17, 2018, at Ansbach, Germany, Robert "Bob" Fuelling was awarded a Department of France Life Membership.

**American Legion's foundation of service
Denise H. Rohan National Commander**

During my travels to The American Legion Department of France in early June, I had the opportunity to

provide an Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) grant of \$20,000 to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. I presented this grant alongside Sons of The American Legion National Commander Danny Smith, Auxiliary National President Diane Duscheck and Department of France leadership. It truly was a gift from our Legion Family.

The American Legion Dispatch July 2018

2018-2019 National Commander – Brett Reistad (VA), National Convention - Minneapolis, Minnesota

Department Commander - James Dennis, Audie Murphy Post #30, Wurzberg, Germany

Department Convention - Wustenrot, Germany

Department VCAL - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman – James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42 Schweinfurt, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman – Hans Stockenberger, Generals Ward & Chennault & Lt Helseth Post CP01 Shanghai China/Henderson, Nev.

Department Adjutant - Maxwell Rice, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany (**resigned Sept. 16, 2018**)

Department Adjutant – Hans Stockenberger, Generals Ward & Chennault & Lt Helseth Post CP01, Shanghai China/Henderson, NV. (**appointed Sept. 16, 2018**)



15 – 17 March 2019 a group of American Legion representatives from various Posts in Europe and the United States were present in Paris to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion.
SEE ATTACHMENT 30

2019-2020 National Commander – Bill Oxford (NC), National Convention - Indianapolis, Indiana

Department Commander – Jimmie Dale, Riley Leroy Pitts Post #7, Wiesbaden, Germany

Department Convention - Eitorf, Germany

Department VCAL - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany

Department National Executive Committeeman – James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42 Schweinfurt, Germany

Department Alt National Executive Committeeman – Hans Stockenberger, Generals Ward & Chennault & Lt Helseth Post CP01 Shanghai China/Henderson, Nev.

Department Adjutant - Maxwell Rice, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany



**James Settle of Omar Bradley Post GR42
was elected President of FODPAL at the
Annual FODPAL Breakfast in Indianapolis, IN.**



On August 26th, 2019 at the Annual FODPAL Breakfast after 25 years of service Doug Haggan, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf Germany, retires as FODPAL Secretary.



**1919 Caucus Plaque was
Refurbished November 2019**

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic that is sweeping the globe, the National Commander's June 2020 trip to Europe has cancelled.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic that is sweeping the globe, the 4th DEC which was to be hosted by David Chavez Post GR 1982, Ansbach, Germany was cancelled.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic that is sweeping the globe, Department of France Commander Jimmie Dale issues the following announcement.

SEE ATTACHMENT 31

Awards presented to The Department of France

SEE ATTACHMENT 32

Active Posts in The Department of France

SEE ATTACHMENT 33

Cancelled Posts Charters in The Department of France

SEE ATTACHMENT 34

Past Department Commander's

SEE ATTACHMENT 35

Past Department National Executive Committeemen

SEE ATTACHMENT 36

Past Department Adjutant's

SEE ATTACHMENT 37

Past National Vice Commander

SEE ATTACHMENT 38

2018 History Booklet Preface

SEE ATTACHMENT 39

2019 History Booklet Preface

SEE ATTACHMENT 40

All of the information contained in this booklet is correct, according to various records we have checked, and the research that we conducted.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION

Many Thanks to the following Legionnaires for their hard work.

James Zulick, **(Deceased)** Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Past NECman 1970 - 1974

Department of France

Merwyn M. Beavers, **(Deceased)** Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Past NECman 1988 - 1992 & 1994 - 2004

Department of France

Doug Haggan, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Past National Vice Commander 2014 - 2015

Department of France

James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

Alt NECman 2017

Department of France

In Closing

That is it for the Centennial Edition of The American Legion, Department of France History Booklet. I hope you enjoy it as much as I enjoyed do the research to put it together. I took on this project 6 years ago as I was doing research project on another subject; it started out as 7 pages, now it is up the almost 200 pages.

I have been a member of this Department for 45 of its 100 years, and I learned an awful about The Department of France the ups the downs, the defeats and the victories. It was really neat doing this. Maybe 20 years from now someone will pick this up and say "WOW I didn't know that about The Department of France".

This will be the last edition, I have taken this project as far as I think I can, now it's time for someone younger to continue this project, find new material, write more history, and to take it into the next Century of The Department of France.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO FAIL TO STUDY HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT.

Enjoy and Thank You

MADISON AND DEARBORN STS.
CHICAGO

The Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

PARIS EDITION

PARIS EDITION
420, RUE SAINT-HONORÉ
TÉL. LOUVRE 04-26

September 30, 1919

Mr. Henry D. Lindsley,
Chairman Executive Committee,
The American Legion, New York.

My dear sir,--

So far as I have been able to discover there is no organization whatever in France of the American Legion.

It seems to me a rather extraordinary circumstance that here where the Legion was born there is not a trace of it. Others have been struck by the fact. As an editor I get an appreciable number of letters from ex-soldiers asking where to address the Legion. And I knew personally several men who are wondering why we have no post or camp here in Paris.

Hudson Hawley, who was one of the sustaining spirits of "The Stars and Stripes" talked with me several days ago about taking action to get a post here. When he gets back from a trip into Central Europe we purpose issuing a call, using The Tribune's capacity for reaching men, for a meeting of some sort to see what can be done. I understand there are not less than 7,000 former soldiers in France, of whom a considerable portion are in Paris.

Unless some other suitable step toward forming an organization has been taken please give us your assistance. Please send us all available literature as we know relatively little of the development of the Legion since it transferred from France to the States. Tell us how to organize. We'll do the rest. Of course Hawley and I only want to get something started. We'll be quite willing to find older and wiser heads to put at the head of things. Hawley was a private with the 26th Division, then "The Stars and Stripes." I was lieutenant in the press section of intelligence and did most of my service helping take care of the correspondents at the front.

Very truly yours,

George Reynolds
George Reynolds
Managing Editor

M E E T I N G
of the
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of the
A M E R I C A N L E G I O N

* * * * *
Monday Afternoon
February 7th 1921,
at
Hotel Washington
Washington, D.C.
* * * * *

THE CHAIRMAN : Mr. Fennell will present the matter of the regulations and authority for chartering Legion Departments established in foreign countries. We have such provision and we have a number of Departments.

MR. FENNEL OF CONNECTICUT : I wish to present the following resolution :

(Reading)

"WHEREAS, Considerable progress has been made in the formation of Posts of the American Legion in several foreign countries and

"WHEREAS, Section 1, Article 3 of the Constitution of The American Legion provides that the National Executive Committee may establish departments of The American Legion in foreign countries

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Departments of The American Legion be and they hereby are established as follows :

Department of Mexico
Department of Panama
Department of Phillipino Islands
Department of Argentine Republic
Department of British Isles
Department of Canada
Department of France

the limits of such departments to coincide with the political boundaries of such countries. The Headquarters of the Departments thus established shall be located at such cities within the departments as they themselves may designate, and

"PROVIDED, That as a condition precedent to the recognition of any department in any foreign country, there shall be two or more regularly chartered Posts of The American Legion in existence and that there shall have been hold a department convention to which all members of The American Legion or those eligible therefore, resident in such foreign country, shall have been invited to be present either in person or by representative."

THE CHAIRMAN : Do you move the adoption of that resolution ?

Mr. FENKELL : I move the adoption of that resolution.

Mr. WALMSLEY OF LOUISIANA : I second that motion.

Mr. MILLER OF DELAWARE : May I ask the gentleman a question ? Is any provision made in there for the delegation to the Annual Convention or the Executive Committeemen from these various Departments ?

Mr. FENKELL : The Department itself would so rule as to how that should be handled. I assume it would be the same as now.

THE CHAIRMAN : They are entitled to representation on the National Executive Committee if they are chartered.

Mr. WITHINGTON OF HAWAII : Let me say that there is

a legal question involved from the Panama Department, as to why it should be considered a Foreign Department, or would it be wise to put that in the class with the Philippine Islands, Alaska and Hawaii ?

Mr. FENKELL : I should say it would be expedient to have it as Panama.

Mr. DeVILL OF PANAMA : We have two posts formed, but we are in communication also with some eligible men at a point some few miles from the Canal Zone in Panama proper where they are working for the United Fruit Company. The Canal Zone is just a strip of land going through the Republic of Panama and we have also a question about Costa Rica. The United Fruit Company have some holdings there and there are Americans working for the company there. We were going to refer that to the national body.

THE CHAIRMAN : It seems to me that the Panama Zone and Panama are two entirely different places and that the Department of Panama should be known as the Panama Zone and if you are going to establish one in Panama it should be called Panama and if one in Costa Rica it should be called Costa Rica.

Mr. DeV SILL : It would be impossible to have a department of Panama and a separate Department of the Canal Zone, because they would straddle us and there are not enough men eligible for The Legion in Panama to warrant even having a post there. The men who live in Panama and are eligible for The

Legion belong to our Legion post in the Canal Zone.

THE CHAIRMAN: Here is the provision of the Constitution; Article III, Section 1.

(Reading)

"The American Legion shall be organized in Departments and these in turn in Posts. There shall be one Department in each State, in the District of Columbia, and in each Territory of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish additional Departments in Territorial Possessions of the United States and in foreign countries."

What is the pleasure of the Committee on the original motion?

MR. PHILLIPS OF NORTH CAROLINA: May I inquire of the gentleman from Connecticut why he includes the Argentine Republic rather than Cuba or Brazil?

MR. FISHELL: There is a post down there.

THE CHAIRMAN: They have already established posts.

MR. PHILLIPS: I didn't know that, I am glad to hear it.

MR. SHEPFIELD OF RHODE ISLAND: Mr. Commander, I'd like to ask just how many members of The Legion belong and come from these foreign countries? It strikes me that if you had six posts you would have three National Committeemen on this Committee and the result would be that they would have as much weight in the Committee as the Committeemen from Pennsylvania,

Massachusetts and New York and I would like to find out whether it is worth while, whether there are sufficient Legion members in these various countries to form separate departments and give them that representation.

MR. WASHINGTON OF HAWAII: Mr. Commander, this matter was thoroughly thrashed out by the Cleveland Convention and the rights of the smaller Departments were thoroughly protected. I don't think it is within the rights of the Committee to discuss that. We are in our Department a Constitutional Department. The gentleman is from the State of Rhode Island and he is hardly in position to speak about the disparity of size and people of the two states. His two senators have the same right as the senators from New York. Someone once said when Depew was from New York and Howlands was from Nevada it wasn't the question of the size of the population but the result on the floor. I think, however, it might be well to call attention to the fact that at least two Departments outside the Continent had at the last convention more members than one or two State Departments.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is very difficult to tell Mr. Sheffield how many members they have but they are certainly eligible for membership in The American Legion and that is about the only tie they have between their mother country and the place they live in. And personally, I am strongly of the opinion that they should be granted all the rights and privileges in the ties that they want to be bound to us in and that we want to have

them in with.

MR. WICKER OF VIRGINIA: Mr. Commander, it seems to me that we are possibly making a mistake if we are going to create these Departments as this resolution would call for. I realize that a small state must have the same right as the larger states in a matter of this kind but we want to consider the votes in the National Convention and I would like to ask whether we could create a so-called department as we are doing here and at the same time provide that they would have a smaller number of votes than a Department in the National Convention and invite them up in some way so that the South American or Central American countries would be entitled to one vote here. I think we would make a mistake if we can't do that.

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is as to whether or not you can take away certain representation which they are entitled to under the Constitution and give them a smaller representation. The Judge Advocate says the only way to do is to amend the Constitution.

Is there any further discussion?

...The motion is carried...

THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION
THE AMERICAN LEGION

1921 National Convention
Kansas City, Missouri

October 31st
November 1st & 2nd
1921

The following resolution was adopted: Resolution #5

WHEREAS, during the last two years since the formation of The American Legion, Posts have been established in Europe more rapidly than could have been foreseen; and

WHEREAS, owing to circumstances geographical and otherwise, the Department of France has become the natural rallying point and center for those Posts; and

WHEREAS, in a great majority of cases there is but one American Legion post in each of the respective countries, such as, for instance, Belgium, Poland and France; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that it is to the best interests of The American Legion as a whole and its outposts upon the continent of Europe, that under existing conditions for some years to come, these posts be assembled under the direction of the present Department of France, under the title of "Department of Continental Europe", that said posts be so notified and said department so chartered.

Mr. SMITH (London) : This does not include the British Isles.

... The resolution was adopted...

A Perpetual Tribute to the Dead

The American Legion has pledged eternal memory to more than thirty two thousand comrades-in-arms, fellow-veterans of the World War whose bodies will rest forever in the soil of Europe. It is a duty of honor the duty of seeing that thirty two thousand graves be held forever as sacred American ground. It is an obligation that cannot be measured in years it extends on into time that can only be measured by the life of the republic.

The Legion cannot live forever. Even as the Grand Army is dwindling today, the Legion will dwindle someday. Even as younger hands today are decorating the graves of the Grand Army's comrades and of Confederate veterans, so younger hands will decorate graves of the Legion's comrades and of Legionnaires someday. Perhaps it was with the history of the Civil War veterans in mind that the National Executive Committee of The American Legion has authorized that a fund of \$100,000 be raised as a permanent endowment from which to insure that on one day of each year, for all time, the grave of every American World War I veteran in Europe shall be decorate. This fund, with a like sum already available from private contributions, will suffice; it will make certain beyond the lives of the men who raise or give the money that on Memorial Day, May 30th, of every year the Legion will pay its tribute of memory.

The Legion voluntarily assumed the responsibility of decorating the graves overseas almost at the time of its birth. Three years ago Paris Post and other posts of what is now the Department of Continental Europe undertook, with the aid of Legionnaires back home, to carry out in Europe the full spirit of Memorial Day. Every American veteran's grave in Europe was decorated that year, and the year after, and last year, too. But the money was just sufficient to meet the needs of the year. It is true that a million francs was raised through the activity of Paris Post, and that the million francs was administered as a fund (Ambassador Myron T. Herrick, representing the United States at Paris, is honorary chairman of the fund), but it is also true that the income from a million francs (the principal representing the equivalent of only \$66,000 at present exchange rates) is less than half enough to meet the needs of each year's duty. Last year the Legion was called on to raise \$35,000. This year, however, the Legion has decided to raise no less than A Perpetual Tribute to the Dead \$100,000 to obviate similar annual calls in the future to endow each grave in perpetuity.

There are not quite 32,100 graves of American veterans in Europe. It is for the members of The American Legion and of The American Legion Auxiliary to raise the money to insure the annual tribute which the National Executive Committee has pledged. Two francs fifty centimes will decorate one grave once a year. The income from a million francs will decorate about fifteen thousand graves once a year forever. One hundred thousand dollars has been promised by the executive committee, which is composed of representatives from every State, who were unanimous in pledging the Legion's word to raise the fund, so every Legion department has in effect been pledged. The sum asked actually amounts to slightly less than fifteen cents for each member of the Legion and of the Auxiliary. It must be raised. The Legion has promised to raise it.

How shall it be raised? The National Executive Committee did not say. That is left to posts and units and departments. Whether posts will raise their share by local drives, by individual contributions or by public solicitation depends on local conditions. No attempt was made to specify any of these things only that the Legion's Members of The American Legion decorating the graves of dead comrades - in - arms at Belleau Wood Cemetery, France, Memorial Day, 1921. The Legion v. o w plans to raise \$100,000 as a permanent fund to insure that the grave of every American World War veteran in Europe shall be decorated on every future Memorial Day honor was pledged, and the Legion's pride pledged, that the sum required should be raised before May 30th. Moreover, the Legion is pledged that the fund will be carefully guarded.

The National Treasurer of The American Legion at Indianapolis, Indiana, will be the immediate recipient of contributions.

The American Legion Weekly will acknowledge all contributions of one dollar or more from whatever source.

The fund need not be raised exclusively within the ranks of the Legion or its Auxiliary. In every city campaigns for such unselfish purposes arouse spontaneous enthusiasm among all classes of citizens. The Legion's position is absolutely unselfish; its campaign cannot but reflect credit on the organization; your post's campaign cannot but reflect credit on your post. The graves will always remain in France. Today only a million francs is available to con

tinue the American Memorial Day decoration custom overseas. Aply administered though it may be, it is not half big enough; it cannot grow big enough of its own accord. It can only grow by contribution, by what is given in excess of the principal. The interest must be used each year, for on May 30th of each year a representative of the Legion must always place a wreath over each grave.

The United States Government maintains the graves, keeps them in splendid appearance. But the United States cannot annually pay the little direct, personal tribute of memory to which each grave is entitled. That tribute is the duty the self-imposed duty of The American Legion.

Here is where the graves of American veterans in Europe are located: France and Belgium, 31,400; England, 488; Scotland, 140; Ireland, 40; Spain, 1.

And The American Legion purposes that the one grave in Spain, no less than the 31,400 graves in France, shall have its annual tribute the wreath representing undying comradeship from brothers-in-arms, and undying respect and memory from the entire country. The time is short, the task is great, but the Legion intends to see it through.

The American Legion has pledged itself to raise at least \$100,000 before May 30th of this year. This money will insure that the grave of every American World War veteran overseas will be decorated on every Memorial Day of the future. The time is short. Contribute as much as you can as soon as you can. Personal as well as post donations are solicited. Every contribution of one dollar or more to the fund will be acknowledged in the American Legion Weekly. Send contributions to Graves Endowment Fund, National Treasurer, The American Legion, Indianapolis, Ind.

THE AMERICAN LEGION WEEKLY MARCH 9, 1923

Graves Endowment Fund

The vision of thirty-two thousand American graves in Europe is before the eleven thousand posts of The American Legion. Thirty-two thousand graves—more than a full-strength division of our dead abroad! What shall bur thought of them be on Memorial Day this year and in years to come? Three-quarters of a million Legionnaires are giving the answer. The people of the whole United States will join in that answer. That answer is: This year we are going to provide a Graves Endowment Fund which shall insure that on every Memorial Day, for all time to come, flowers and wreaths shall be placed on every American grave abroad in the name of The American Legion and the American people. Thus, in 1973 as in 1923, our honor, our respect and our remembrance will be accorded our comrades who sleep on foreign soil, and as we march to our own cemeteries in our cities and towns here at home, it will be a satisfaction to us to know that thousands of miles away our duty is being equally well performed.

The Posts of The American Legion are responding rapidly to the appeal for perpetual honor to our dead abroad. Scarcely had word gone forth of the Legion's effort to raise more than \$100,000 for the Graves Endowment Fund than responses began to arrive at the office of the National Treasurer of The American Legion. Telegrams pledging contributions, letters with checks, forecast an overwhelming expression of America's heart and soul—five years after the war, our dead thrill our emotions and memory. Posts everywhere are pledging quotas which indicate their contributions are based on a feeling of proud privilege.

Wyandotte Post of Kansas City, Kansas, expresses heartfelt sentiments in forwarding its initial contribution. Post Adjutant James K. Cubbison, Jr., writes:

"Actions speak louder than words money speaks louder than actions please find enclosed check for \$100."

From Phoenix, Arizona, Frank Luke, Jr., Post testifies to its regard for the dead overseas in the telegram shown herewith.

These are typical responses by posts which took early action in the Graves Endowment Fund campaign. Learning of the Legion's national effort, they took immediate steps to help. In all parts of the country other posts have taken similar steps. In Fargo, North Dakota, where Gilbert C. Grafton Post has a membership of 800, the sum of \$93 was contributed by 75 members who attended the meeting at which the Graves Endowment Fund was discussed. A committee was appointed to meet with the Auxiliary Unit and to get in touch with all members.

Thomas Dismuke Post of Houston, Texas, which has long had a fine record for success in its service activities, on

learning of the Graves Endowment Fund wrote immediately that it would not wait until the next regular post meeting two weeks later but would act through its executive committee at once. "We assure you of our co-operation as far as our means will permit," said A. W. Larkin, post adjutant.

Charles A. Learned Post of Detroit is also living up to its reputation for activity above and beyond the call of duty within the Legion. At the first post meeting held after learning of the Graves Endowment Fund it appointed a committee which will raise the post's contribution. It will accept donations from the general public, recognizing that the decoration of our graves abroad is the duty of the American people as well as of The American Legion.

Once more it should be emphasized that The American Legion in raising a permanent Graves Endowment Fund to obviate the necessity of making yearly appeals for contributions is acting as the trustee of the whole American people. American Legion posts accept as a privilege and duty the task of calling on the citizens of their communities to share in this effort. Every American who was grateful and proud when almost five million men abandoned the business of earning a livelihood to fight in their country's defense should now be proud to give a testimonial of that gratitude and pride. We may therefore justly expect that a country united in wartime will be a unit once more in paying perpetual respect and honor to those who made the great sacrifice for us all.

To insure that the full amount needed will be raised \$100,000 at the smallest estimate the full giving capacity of each community must be drawn upon. Shared by the whole nation, the burden will not be a heavy one. Each community should be proud to record the evidence that it is doing its share.

All contributions of one dollar or more to the fund will be acknowledged in the columns of the magazine. Contributions should be forwarded to the Graves Endowment Fund, National Treasurer of The American Legion, Indianapolis, Ind. The fund will remain in the national treasury of The American Legion subject to expenditure only for the purpose of decorating the graves of American soldiers overseas on Memorial Day. The fund will be invested to yield an income sufficient for each year's work. The income will furnish the funds needed for this yearly effort for all time to come. A yearly accounting will be prepared under the direction of the National Treasurer of The American Legion and the Legion's National Finance Committee. The names of all contributors will be preserved in the official archives of the organization, where for years to come they will be a reminder of the way an American duty has been performed.

THE AMERICAN LEGION WEEKLY MARCH 30, 1923

WHEREAS, Paris Post is the only real Post of the Legion in Continental Europe; and

WHEREAS, the insistence upon linking Paris Post in a Department with shadowy Posts in other countries imposes a financial burden on the Post from which it derives no benefit and the presence in Paris of Department Officers elected by foreign Posts blankets the importance of Paris Post in public functions and in relations with the Allied Veteran Organizations and with the French Government and Officials and the foregoing produces irritation and dissatisfaction and has threatened to disrupt the Post its membership having fallen from over eight hundred in 1922 to three hundred and sixty in 1923; and

WHEREAS, there is no more reason why Paris Post should be linked in a Department with Posts in Germany, Turkey or in any State except France than that a Post in Louisiana should be placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Maine or Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, there are in Paris over one thousand five hundred men eligible for membership in the Legion many of whom are prevented from joining the Post by reason of the above

NOW THEREFORE be it

RESOLVED That the Department of Continental Europe in Convention Assembled unanimously and earnestly urges that the petition of Paris Post expressed in its above Resolution be granted; that the original Charter granted to the Department of France (amended by the National Convention so as to be a Department of Continental Europe) be restored and that the amendments to the present Constitution of the Department be approved restoring the name of the Department once more to "Department of France" and limiting its jurisdiction to Continental France; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the officers of the Department and its Delegates to the National Convention are directed and instructed to use every proper means to accomplish the above object.



**Julian Thomas Commander Department of France
Give the Opening Address to the Ninth Annual
American Legion National Convention
Paris France Monday, September 19, 1927**

Greetings of the Department of France were extended by Julian Thomas, Department Commander, as follows:

Comrade Commander, Comrade Foch, Comrade Pershing, Comrades and Distinguished Guests of The American Legion: On behalf of the members of The American Legion living in France, it is my great pleasure to welcome you, comrades, to a peace-time France.

When the A. E. F. left for home some years ago, it left behind some of its members who, for one reason or another, decided to remain overseas. This group included some of the most active organizers of The American Legion. It was, therefore, perfectly natural that they organized here in France posts, or, rather outposts, of that organization, keeping alive in the hearts of the members the principles on which the Legion was founded and which have made it a truly great organization today.

The result is that the Legion members in France are loyal in every sense of the word to the principles which bind us together and which make us stronger every day. The Americans in France are a really fine type of loyal citizens and we are proud to count them among our members. They are not in any sense expatriates.

I have been asked to say a few words about some of the activities of the Legion in France, and will confine myself to one or two examples to give you an idea of what we are doing. As with you at home, our most important work is our welfare work, which takes most of our funds and much of our time. It is little short of marvelous what good the Legion and its Auxiliary in France have done in this line. We have had to face the situation where hundreds of former soldiers and their families, through sickness, or the losing of an uphill economic battle, or through plain hard luck, have required assistance in some way. The Legion and Auxiliary in France have done all in their power to be of assistance and comfort to these men and their families and have succeeded remarkably well. Hundreds have been returned with their families to the United States. Food, clothing and money have been furnished. The co-operation of other American organizations, especially the American Aid Society, in this good work is deeply appreciated. Great credit is due the Legion departments in America, particularly the Department of New York, in spite of the fact that they must be already heavily burdened with local demands for funds.

We are not going to apologize for our rather humble headquarters on the Boulevard Lannes, for we feel that we would rather live in an old Forty and Eight box car than to refuse help to any worthy comrade. However, at the next convention of the Legion in Paris, we hope to have something more inviting and elegant to show you.

Our color guards keep the flag of our country and the banner of the Legion flying side by side in a land which is foreign in one sense, but distinctly home-like in another sense. They carry the colors at the funerals of our buddies who have passed beyond, and travel all over France, joining our French comrades in various ceremonies. We believe they are a great help in encouraging continued good feeling among veterans of different nationalities here.

Memorial Day is fittingly celebrated in France. The American colony is joined by French dignitaries and delegations from all districts in which the six American cemeteries, or the scattered, isolated graves are located. Flags, wreaths and other suitable decorations are furnished by the Overseas Memorial Day Association from funds, most of which come from the proceeds of a trust fund established some years ago by

the national organization of The American Legion. Except in the case of isolated graves, which have been withdrawn from its jurisdiction, the cemeteries are under the efficient care of the American Graves Registration Service. I need not tell you how well the cemeteries are kept. You will see for yourselves during your pilgrimages to them.

The Legion takes charge of all ceremonies, the committee handling all details being generally headed by the Commander of Paris Post. So, those whom the A. E. F. has left temporarily in France, or who have returned to France, do their utmost to show in a fitting way their respect for and keep alive the memories of the thousands whom the A. E. F. left permanently here.

There are over one hundred isolated graves, scattered all over France. Everyone is visited by a Legionnaire who reads the Legion prayer, and joins with the French officials and others present in an appropriate ceremony. I wish every family in America could know of the sympathetic respect shown for our dead by the French people. I wish that they could see the services in the cemeteries. I wish that they could see groups of little children, plodding through mud and rain with bouquets of flowers to place upon some isolated grave, perhaps in some field long from the roadway. There are cases where delegations of French children go each week with flowers and place them on the graves of our comrades. If the families of these dead could see the care that is taken and the respect that is shown, they would not only feel the comfort that follows naturally, but would also feel that by leaving their dead in the soil on which they fell they are contributing mightily toward international peace and good will.

We are glad to be able to pay tribute to the American organizations in France which have worked so faithfully with the Legion here and without which we could have done nothing. The American Embassy and Consulate Generale and the consuls throughout the country have always given us their whole-hearted support and guidance. We regret that through illness our ambassador is unable to be present with us at this convention, for we know his enthusiasm for this convention in Paris. I am sure that I express the feelings of all present when I say that we hope God will spare him for many more years in the service of our government among the people he loves so well. The American Aid Society, the American Hospital, the Overseas Memorial Day Association, American Chamber of Commerce, the various fraternal organizations, the various churches and religious organizations, and, in fact, every American organization in France, have shown the most laudable spirit of co-operation. This makes our work a pleasure.

I wish to express to you and to the representatives of the French government present our deep appreciation of their co-operation, for the many kind things they have done for the Legion in France. We have asked many favors, both for the membership collectively and for individuals. We have always been received with the proverbial French courtesy, and wherever possible our wishes have been complied with.

It is a long story, the story of the last ten years, and the many changes which have taken place since the days of war. We have watched with sympathetic interest the struggles of those dark days succeeding the war and have had the opportunity of discussing internal affairs with Frenchmen and securing their opinions on local and international matters, as well as seeing their industry and frugality in everyday life. We have had the pleasure of seeing the miracle performed in the last few months in French finance and industry, through the honesty and far-sighted statesmanship of Premier Poincare and his associates in the French Government. The land of Joffre and Foch can well be proud of this man who has received every honor that his government could bestow upon him, but, instead of seeking a well-deserved rest, responded to the call for more effort purely from a spirit of patriotic service to his country.

I trust you will not think me presumptuous in saying what I am to say, but I believe that we, who have been more or less in constant touch with the average Frenchman for a number of years, are able to interpret to you their real feelings, and I want to assure you that there is only one sentiment, one thought for us among real patriotic French people, and that sentiment is one of sincere welcome. A hammer on an old empty boiler makes a lot of noise, but no soldier will be misled by the rumpus.

We trust that you and your families will have a most enjoyable and profitable time in France. We have a kindly thought for those who were unable to be present with us here and express the hope that this Paris convention will be made a decennial event, and that we will convene here periodically in the land of our birth as an organization, as long as there are any of us left to convene, so that we may enjoy from time to time together the elevating influence of the common emotions of our brotherhood in arms.

I assure you, Comrade Commander, that we are proud to be members of The American Legion, and we hope that we will always act in a way which will bring honor and credit upon that organization.

Legion in France Thanked Resolution

Whereas, Ten years ago the American Army was being organized to war against the common enemy in France; and

Whereas, The veterans of that Army are assembled in France in commemoration of the victory they shared with their glorious allies; and

Whereas, Their brothers in arms welcomed them as brothers in peace in a manner that has inspired an even greater admiration for the people of France; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion in ninth annual convention in Paris takes this means of expressing its gratitude to the Government of France and the various government officials for the thorough preparations which have made the sacred pilgrimage of the Second A. E. F. so inspiring and memorable that The American Legion reaffirms its high regard for the people of France and our comrades, the veterans of France, and conveys to them its heartfelt appreciation of their hospitality, friendship and co-operation; that it is the sincere belief of The American Legion that this convention has forged another link in the ever-increasing chain binding together these two great republics. And be it finally

Resolved, By The American Legion, in National Convention assembled, that we express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the officers and members of the Department of France and Paris Post No. 1 and their Auxiliary for the untiring efforts in making the Ninth Annual Convention such an outstanding and memorable success.

ATTACHMENT 7

Paris Pilgrimage of 1927: 'let us salute those who have come to salute us'

They called it the "Second AEF." More than 20,000 American Legion members and their families made a journey lasting between 23 and 27 days, depending on which of seven different U.S. ports were used, to Paris, France, city of the organization's founding in the nation where most of their war had been fought.

The Second AEF Paris Pilgrimage also served as the 9th American Legion National Convention, which had to be ratified in New York the following month to meet legal conditions of the organization's federal charter. American Legion business was indeed conducted in Paris, at the famous Trocadero Palace, Sept. 19-23, including resolutions on universal military training, increasing the service-officer corps, urging cities and towns to establish municipal airports and calling for roadway improvements as automobiles began teeming across the landscape. The American Legion Department of California won the award for most miles traveled to convention. American Legion bands and drum corps competed.

Gen. John Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during the war, addressed his fellow Legionnaires in the opening session of the convention. While there, he explained to the French that "an Army grows to have a personality as distinct as that of any human being – a personality composed of body, brain and soul. Of these, the immortal part is the soul, and fortunately the soul of the AEF has passed into The American Legion."

Pershing was joined at the convention by Marshal Ferdinand Foch, commander of the allied armies during World War I. As Legionnaires were warmly welcomed in Paris and the villages where they had fought a decade earlier, Foch told them: "My dear comrades, no other country will understand you better than France. In the days of anguish, Pershing came leading the American Army and said, 'La Fayette, we are here!' And today, when France dresses her wounds, The American Legion says, 'For peace and liberty, together and forward.' Who is the Frenchman who would not answer this call?"

American Legion Publicity Director Marquis James, a future two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer, described the reception in France this way: "There was cheering everywhere, and it was not mere formal politeness and conventional hokum. Two nations met face-to-face and discovered that old ties were stronger still than either had ever imagined... The common ground of France and America at Paris was the common ground of humanity and simple virtues."

The convention was just one big stop in a multi-country tour led by National Commander Howard P. Savage that autumn. Hundreds of Legionnaires joined him in official visits to Italy, Belgium, Switzerland and Great Britain Sept. 24 - Oct. 11, following the convention. In those countries, grateful Europeans conducted ceremonies, gave tours, took photos and showed the veterans what had become of their old battle-grounds after the war.

Groups from the convention fanned out across France to revisit places like Chateau Thierry, Belleau Wood and Cantigny. Traveling with the Legionnaires were Gold Star Families, who mourned their fallen loved ones, forever resting among their comrades, where they paid the ultimate sacrifice.

James and Philip Von Blon wrote in the December 1927 *American Legion Monthly* of the experience revisiting the landscape of their war zones. "Chattering washwomen pounded clothes on the banks of a stream that Americans had forded under machine-gun fire. A girl milked cows at dusk behind the rebuilt stone enclosure of a barnyard that Yanks had stormed and taken, over the bodies of German dead. A Frenchman with one arm steered a plow along a slope of Montfaucon. Village after village ... so many heaps of stones in a blasted desert (have) been re-created – new and spruce and confusing."

The Legionnaires marveled at towns that had been rebuilt and at the scars still visible. "In Lucy-le-Bocage, the church is still a ruin with the lifeless hands of the tower clock fixed at 13 minutes to 2. One part only of Belleau Wood bears any relation to the past. This tangle of small growth is the sanctuary of

50 Marines whose bodies were never found.”

The National Convention Parade up the Champs Elysee through the Arc de Triomphe, past the French Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, stretched six miles and included more than 30 bands. France had proclaimed the American Legion parade day a national holiday. Some 13,000 are believed to have marched in it, including veterans of allied nations. Hundreds of thousands watched.

“Along these streets the population of half of Paris gathered,” James and Von Blon wrote. “They pressed 10 deep against the lines of French infantry that formed a stationary guard of honor over the route. They climbed lamp posts, sat on the tops of taxicabs, filled every window and perched like sparrows on cornices and roofs.”

More than 3,000 attended the convention-closing ball at L’Opera.

A Paris newspaper covering the convention reported on the diversity of veterans participating – with particular interest in Native Americans who paraded in full tribal regalia.

“This people is made up of all the races of the world, and all of them marched past before us, the Spaniards from Nevada and California. English from Connecticut and Massachusetts. Czechs from Illinois, French from Louisiana, Germans from Michigan and Wisconsin. Mexicans from Texas, Sioux Indians and the trappers from Nebraska.

“These people are young. There was youth in their costumes, in their music, in their bands, in their new banners. There was youth in their step, in their bearing, in their faces. At the head of their procession marched symbolically a little fellow four years old.

“These people have order. There was not a second's confusion in their movements. They marched with precision, with natural discipline.

“And these people love France. It was as a salute to our country that they came, and to throw flowers for remembrance on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

“Let us love those who love us. Let us salute those who have come from so far to salute us. It is the future which we watched march past, the future which belongs to youth and to order.”

Above Story Written by
Jeffrey Stoffer
The American Legion
Media & Communications Director

A LATCHSTRING OUT *in* PARIS

By Bernhard Ragner

LEGIONNAIRES who visited the graphic pictorial representation of the World War known as the Panthéon de la Guerre in Paris in 1919 will be interested to know that this celebrated exhibit, sponsored by Pershing Hall, is being shown at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago and will, of course, continue to be on exhibition throughout the Legion's National Convention. Pershing Hall was founded as a result of the action of the National Convention of the Legion in Paris in 1927. It is headquarters of Paris Post and of the Department of France and maintains open house for all Legionnaires visiting Paris.

AS FAR back as Emerson, American visitors have remarked that Main Street, after crossing the ocean, runs straight through Paris. Superficial observers have mistakenly interpreted this as a criticism, but rightly understood, this piquant epigram is a real compliment. Certainly, the better aspects of Main Street (not the literary distortion or fictional caricature) have come to Paris, and are given practical, helpful and significant expression in Pershing Hall, that Parisian epitome of what is best in American life.

Set down at 49 Rue Pierre Charron, only two minutes' walk from the Champs Elysées, this memorial to the A. E. F. is a vibrant incarnation of Americanism, for it honors the dead by serving the living. A social center and a war museum are combined in this tiny but representative fraction of American soil magically (it seems) transplanted to the beautiful capital of France. It is a unique fusion of the practical, artistic and sentimental.

Europe is dotted with splendid American institutions: Churches, clubs, chambers of commerce, schools, hospitals, libraries. All of them, I am convinced, do a good American job—for America; but each one by its very nature is restricted to a specific mission, and so represents only a segment or two of American endeavor. Pershing Hall, on the contrary, is all-inclusive and all-American, embracing the entire circle. It comprises all of America's achievements and aspirations—cultural and patriotic, social and civic, for nothing that is American is foreign to Pershing Hall. As a matter of fact, it is the only non-diplomatic and unofficial parcel of United States territory abroad, and yet distinctly national, which exemplifies our country as a whole.

How so much of America—so much that is typical, consequen-



Notable visitors at Pershing Hall prior to its dedication on Armistice Day, 1931. In the front row on the balcony, left to right, are Francois Latour, Mayor of Paris; the late Paul Doumer, then President of the French Republic; Ambassador Walter E. Edge, and Francis E. Drake, President of Pershing Hall

tial, and intrinsically worth-while—could be thus assembled, brought to France, and then be compressed into such a brief compass is a marvel which astonishes even the sponsors of Pershing Hall. How did it come about? Who performed the miracle?

Some mythical giant from a modern Brobdingnag, it seems, provided the substantial and picturesque raw materials required; he found them, doubtless, in an enormous (Continued on page 48)

A Latchstring Out in Paris

(Continued from page 21)

grab-bag of varied but genuine Americana which he good-naturedly tossed to Paris. Upon landing here, these diverse elements were sorted out, adapted to France and to each other, and finally welded together as Pershing Hall.

Included in these elements were "a little red school house," a photographic honor roll of United States heroes; a Ship-Penniless-Americans-Back-to-the-U. S. A. Bureau; an Elks' lodge room; a Moose gymnasium; a hometown library; a Franco-American museum and art gallery, plus cozy club rooms, frequented now and then by President Roosevelt and Amos and Andy—via the radio. Also: a moving picture theatre; a lecture hall; a landing place, once a year, for an American Santa Claus; and a war reference library.

It was not necessary for our giant to furnish the American buffet-bar (a very popular feature) where American sandwiches accompany French wines and beers, and where—it is worthy of note—French temperance and French moderation are the invariable rule.

As this enumeration indicates, Pershing Hall is neither sectional nor sectarian nor partisan; creed and class cut no ice here; all are equally welcome. Although it is the home of Paris Post and its Auxiliary Unit, although it serves as a sort of Legion embassy in Paris, representing the Legion at large, nevertheless it is much more than this. It greets and serves Americans who are outside of the Legion, and when the last Legionnaire has faded away, Pershing Hall will remain as a center of Americanism in Paris, since it is managed by a self-perpetuating corporation.

When the grandchildren and great grandchildren, now unborn, of A. E. F. veterans visit France in let us say 1998 A. D., Pershing Hall will be there to stimulate their patriotism. It will, then as now, house souvenirs of historical value, priceless documents and war records, memorials to the A. E. F. dead, and so keep alive for future generations the purest sentiments and highest motives of the Americans who took part in the World War.

In 1998 Pershing Hall will certainly be

the Town Hall of the "American City of Paris," as it is today.

Certainly, in 1998 as now, the "little red school house," which really isn't red, will enable Franco-American kiddies to absorb the Americanism of their A. E. F. forefathers. On Christmas Eve, then as now, American children will gather about a toy-filled tree to sing Yule-tide carols.

In 1998 as today, physicians will give lectures, illustrated with moving pictures, on how to cure and prevent diseases. Then, as in November, 1932, Americans will stage election night radio parties.

Then, as today, Americans will certainly come to Pershing Hall every day for advice and help and guidance, whether medical, legal, or otherwise practical. But we hope before another century dawns that the Ship-Penniless-Americans-Back-to-the-U. S. A. Bureau will have shut up shop, due to lack of clients. This bureau, which performs a necessary and difficult job, is now operated in connection with the American Aid Society. (Just a friendly parenthesis: No new clients from

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The AMERICAN LEGION Monthly

America are desired. We already have more local business than we can handle, and so we issue this candid warning to all Americans who may be suffering from that well-nigh universal I-want-to-go-to-Paris fever. Don't do it, please—unless you have a safe-ful of cash.) Repatriating A. E. F. veterans, their families and other Americans stranded here has become a poignant, heart-rending problem. We are doing the best we can to find a proper solution.

The "American City of Paris," although it has no mayor and no city council, is fortunate in possessing enlightened, public-spirited, and self-sacrificing citizens such as Francis E. Drake, president of Pershing Hall, one of its founders, and today its guiding spirit. For more than three decades Colonel Drake has been a "business ambassador" in Paris, loving and admiring France, but conserving his Americanism intact. He served as United States Commissioner to the Paris Exposition in 1900; for years he was director for Europe of the Westinghouse interests; during the war he was chief of staff for General Dawes. Today Pershing Hall is his job, his hobby, his dominating passion. His presidency is not of the easy, honorary variety, all flowers and nothing to do—quite the contrary. It involves real work, definite tasks, and daily duties; every morning, the colonel is at his desk, making plans, solving problems, and developing the scope of Pershing Hall. Aided by competent collaborators, he has made it what it is today. It may be recalled that Colonel Drake was the first commander of the Department of France, The American Legion; further, during 1921, he accompanied Marshal Foch, as aide-de-camp, on his historic tour of the United States.

Pershing Hall was dedicated on November 11, 1931, by President Doumer of France, that sterling gentleman who lost four sons in battle and who himself died a patriot's death, victim of an assassin's bullet. Further, since Pershing Hall is located in Paris, since it is consecrated to the memory of Yankee soldiers who fell on French battlefields, a spirit of friendliness toward France pervades the entire structure. Especially is this so in the Franco-American museum where ageing letters, fading reports, hallowed souvenirs and the artistic depiction of historic events visualize how the United States and France, in the past, have stood shoulder to shoulder for principles which they both held sacred.

We have no desire to pin medals on ourselves. But, in all frankness, we (and this we includes the best elements of the American colony in Paris) are not ashamed of our service record. It bears witness to competent work, intelligently done, for America, for France, for understanding and peace. So we invite all Americans, when they come to Paris, to look us over, to give us a thorough inspection, and thus get acquainted with the Center of Americanism which we, in their behalf, are operating "over here."

SEPTEMBER, 1913

**DIGEST OF MINUTES
National Executive Committee Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana
November 23 and 24, 1934**

Overseas Graves Decoration Trust

The following report on the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust, submitted by Past National Judge Advocate Remster A. Bingham, was adopted, with certain amendments and the request that the Chairman of the National Finance Committee, the Treasurer, National Commander and Past National Commanders consent to the plan:

This matter of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust has been before you before and action has been deferred on the matter of the perfection of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust from time to time and it still remains the unfinished business of this body.

In view of the changing personnel of your body, I believe that I should recount the record for your benefit.

At the March, 1920, meeting of the National Executive Committee, Doctor Beekman of Paris appeared before the Committee and explained that there had been an American Memorial Day Committee in France for twenty years to care for about 300 American graves there. In 1919 the number had increased by the thousands of World War veterans buried in France, so that the American Memorial Day Committee was reorganized with the help of the Army and the A. E. F. welfare organizations, and an appeal was conducted by them for funds through newspapers in the United States to care for the graves on Memorial Day.

The American Memorial Day Committee in 1920 was composed of representatives of various American organizations, including The American Legion in Paris, and Doctor Beekman asked that The American Legion in the United States help them in procuring funds for that year. After discussion it was moved that the National Commander be authorized or directed, through such committee as would be appointed by him to take care of the situation, to call upon the Departments in a way which seemed to him best to effect the collection of the necessary funds.

In 1920-1921-1922 The American Legion conducted an intensive campaign of soliciting funds for the proper decoration of the "graves of our comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice and lie buried in foreign soil," which funds were transmitted to the American Memorial Committee.

In October of 1922, however, the American Memorial Day Committee was reorganized under the name of the Overseas Memorial Association, and in 1923 Colonel Francis Drake, who succeeded Doctor Beekman, suggested that The American Legion provide a permanent Endowment Fund the income of which would be used for the care of graves.

At the January, 1923, National Executive Committee meeting it was moved that the Commander be authorized to take proper steps to endeavor to secure a permanent Endowment Fund for such purpose, and it was thought that a fund of \$300,000 would give sufficient income for all the needs of the Overseas Memorial Association, and The American Legion undertook to raise one-third of this amount as a permanent Endowment Fund for the proper decoration of graves. The other two thirds was to be raised by other agencies.

There soon, however, was a conflict in the matter of raising funds, and the Overseas Memorial Association was notified that The American Legion would not countenance any solicitation of funds for this purpose in the United States except those carried out through our own organization. This left the Overseas Memorial Association unable to raise through its agencies the necessary funds, and the Legion assumed the burden of raising additional funds and raised in all \$162,059.70.

The money was turned over to the Treasurer of The American Legion and was actually handled by the National Treasurer under the direction of the National Commander and the Finance Committee, and has ever since been so handled.

At the May, 1923, meeting of the National Executive Committee, the National Finance Committee of The American Legion recommended the creation of a proper board of trustees for the administration of said funds and made certain recommendations. These recommendations did not meet with favor, due largely, I believe, to a difference in opinion between a Past National Commander who had very definite convictions on the matter, which convictions were contrary to the established policy of the Finance Committee. As a result of this impasse, the trust agreement was not prepared, and the funds remained in the hands of the National Treasurer under the direction and control and in conjunction with the National Commander and the National Adjutant.

In this squabble the form of trust proposed by the Executive Committee was not acceptable to one of the mandatory trustees, Past National Commander Foreman, and the particular and foremost objection seemed to be concerning the question of whether or not the National Treasurer of The American Legion should also be the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees.

However, at the October meeting in 1926 the agreement was reached. That agreement calls for the creation of a Board of Trustees composed of the Past National Commanders of The American Legion, and permitted them to take complete charge of the funds in question, executing their trust wherever and through any agencies they may see fit.

Since that time and until the present time every National Commander has signed an acceptance of the Trust and there is no record of the Trustees ever having convened, assumed charge of the fund, established any policies or in any way administered the duties of their said trust, and the fund still remains in the hands of the National Treasurer as a separate fund administered by the National Treasurer in conjunction with the National Commander and National Adjutant.

I am advised, however, that some of the Past National Commanders met in Washington on March 14, 1927, to effect and organize their trusteeship, and that General Foreman was named General Chairman; Past National Commander John G. Emery was named Secretary; and Past National Commander Hanford MacNider was named Treasurer, but no minutes were kept of the meeting and no record of such an organization meeting has ever been received at National Headquarters.

In 1933 an investigation made by Past National Commander Johnson through the agency of the Comptroller disclosed a situation sufficiently recent to require but brief mention, namely, that the funds which were contributed to the Overseas Memorial Association were being used to decorate graves, while the funds which the Association had acquired otherwise were not expended but were used to roll up a considerable sum.

Thereafter an agreement was effected with the Overseas Memorial Association to the effect that we would remit no more money until the income of our fund reached a parity with their fund. In other words, the overseas graves decoration would be conducted by them in the manner of their previous practice but out of their own funds until we were on a parity.

I was directed to make an investigation of the feasibility of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Agreement which had been approved and ordered by the Executive Committee but which had never become effective, and I made certain general observations which may be summarized as follows:

That the legal control of the fund at the present time is in the Treasurer, under the direction of the National Commander and National Adjutant, and that the National Treasurer is the proper custodian of the fund.

I reported that in light of the failure of the Past National Commanders to organize that it was not, in my opinion, feasible for them to act as Trustees, it being too unwieldy, and that they were not sufficiently in constant touch with the work, and further that the clause in the agreement with reference to making the administration of the funds a first charge (no control over the administration of the fund being set out in the Agreement), it would be possible for the Trustees to remove the fund from the National Headquarters, set up offices, personnel, and create obligations which were unnecessary as the National Organization had the facilities for the handling of this administration without expense except those items known as actual "collection charges."

I recommended that the agreement be redrawn and that the Chairman of the National Finance Committee, the National Adjutant and the National Treasurer, for the reason that these men are in intimate contact almost daily with

National Headquarters and its operations, be made Trustees; that the National Commander of The American Legion, who is responsible for the conduct of Legion affairs during his administration, be made a Trustee;

That the two immediate Past National Commanders, who would be sufficiently in touch with the work to lend advice and continuity to the policies and program of the Trusteeship, be made Trustees.

This, I believe, would make a workable Board of Trustees composed of six men who are available on necessary occasions without added expense.

The accounting and auditing service of the Legion would be available without expense, and, in addition, I believe the Treasurer should be the Treasurer of the Trusteeship, believing that any steps toward the centralization of the custodianship of all Legion and affiliated funds is advantageous on account of investment programs, policies and conservation of bond expense.

I also made some changes having to do with the tenure of the Trust. As a lawyer I am fearful of perpetual and irrevocable trusts, and I have made this Trust subject to the will at any time of the National Convention or the National Executive Committee, knowing that the purposes for which the fund was created cannot legally be violated; that is to say, if the Agreement becomes onerous at any time the Trustees may appeal to the National Executive Committee or The American Legion in convention assembled for such relief as they deem advisable, entailing the fund of the Trust only for the purposes for which it was created which we cannot in honesty violate; namely, for the decoration of the graves of those of our comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice and lie buried in foreign soil.

This Trust Agreement has been in your hands, was published in full in the November, 1933, Digest of the Minutes of the National Executive Committee, and since that time action has been deferred out of respect to General Foreman and his inability to be present.

To give you an idea on that, recently a large block, a sizeable block, of government bonds would have been payable November 15. In October it became apparent that in addition to the interest which would come by reason of the coupons available, a very sizeable premium would be available if we sold the bonds at that time. It was discussed and it was decided that the best policy was to do it and to take that extra profit. The question of disposing of the bonds was then raised. I assured both the Adjutant and Treasurer of their authority to sell those bonds. If the bonds went to Chicago somebody would say, "How could the Trustees, without having authority, sell them." Of course, they hadn't signed this trust agreement. Then somebody said that another man had the authority and he drew the reply from General Foreman that General Foreman, and he alone, had the right to touch those bonds. However, we sold the bonds and took the profit.

May I suggest that it is high time that this matter be given your attention to the end that unbusiness like conditions now existing be corrected. I, therefore, recommend to you the endorsement of this Agreement and I will read it to you:

"OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION TRUST AGREEMENT RESOLUTION"

"Whereas, In pursuance of what is deemed a sacred duty, a fund has been and is still being contributed to by the several State Departments of The American Legion and by other patriotic organizations and persons, of which the income is to be used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the Army and Navy of the United States in the Great War, who lie buried overseas; and

"Whereas, The undersigned, who are under this instrument designated and appointed Trustees of and charged with the custody, control and administration of said Fund, desire to and do hereby declare by this instrument the trusts under which said Fund, with all additions and accretions thereto, is held by them and the manner in which it shall be held and administered and the income thereof used and disbursed;

"Now, Therefore, The undersigned, Trustees of said Fund, which shall be known as the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust of The American Legion (hereinafter referred to as Trust Fund), do hereby declare that said Trust Fund, and all additions and accretions thereto, when delivered to their custody and care, is held by them in trust for the uses and purposes herein set forth, that is to say

“The Trustees shall consist of the current National Commander of The American Legion, and the immediate Past National Commander of The American Legion, and his predecessor, who shall serve respectively for three, two and one years, to be calculated from the last day of the National Convention of The American Legion, and the National Adjutant and National Treasurer of The American Legion, and the Chairman of the National Finance Committee of The American Legion, who shall serve so long as he remains such National Chairman, which Trustees shall execute in duplicate an acceptance of said Trust and file the same within thirty days from date thereof with the National Adjutant of The American Legion, provided that the National Adjutant shall, after the organization of said Trustees as hereinafter provided, file one of such original acceptances with the Secretary of said Trustees. “The Trustees shall collectively be known as Trustees of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust of The American Legion (hereinafter referred to as Trustees).

“Hereafter each National Commander of The American Legion shall automatically become a Trustee of said Trust Fund upon his election as said National Commander and the execution of the acceptance of said Trust in the manner aforesaid, and he shall thereafter continue as Trustee for three years, and the National Treasurer of The American Legion and the National Adjutant of The American Legion, and the Chairman of the National Finance Committee of The American Legion shall also be Trustees.

“The Trustees shall serve without compensation and shall organize themselves by the selection from amongst their number of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, the National Adjutant of The American Legion shall act as Secretary, and the National Treasurer of The American Legion shall be the Treasurer. And said Trustees shall from time to time select such other officers as may be deemed necessary, and all of whose duties shall from time to time be prescribed by the Trustees.

“The Trustees may from time to time adopt such rules and regulations for the performance of this Trust as may by them be deemed proper, necessary or expedient, and which are in conformity with and not contrary to the provisions and purposes of this instrument.

“The Trustees shall select a national bank (hereinafter referred to as a depository) in which shall be lodged, subject to such rules and regulations as the Trustees may from time to time prescribe, the securities in which the Trust Fund is invested, provided that at all times the title to such securities shall be and remain vested in the Trustees.

“The Trustees may change the depository whenever in their judgment it is deemed expedient.

“The Trust Fund shall be invested in securities issued by or guaranteed by the United States, or in securities which are the direct obligation of the state or the union.

“The Trustees shall use the income of the Trust Fund to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the army and navy of the United States in the Great War, who lie overseas, and may adopt and use such methods and means as they may deem advisable, including the active co-operation and aid of overseas Departments and Posts of The American Legion and all other agencies, and in pursuance thereof may prescribe details, methods and practices deemed necessary, expedient or convenient. The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Fund or any part thereof for any other purpose whatsoever.

“The Trustees shall cause to be kept accurate books of account showing the amount of the Trust Fund, the securities in which it is invested, detailed receipts and the sources thereof, and the disbursements and the character thereof, and shall render such statements thereof (at least annually) to the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, and at the end of each year an audit by a firm of certified public accountants which shall be submitted to the national convention of The American Legion.

“The National Executive Committee shall have the power at any time to cause an audit to be made of the books of the Trustees and an examination of the securities by a Committee appropriately appointed by said body.

“This Trust shall continue at the will of the national convention of The American Legion and/or the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

“The Trust hereby created shall become effective and be in force and effect upon the delivery to and acceptance by said Trustees of the Trust Fund, and the unexpended increment arising therefrom or the securities in which the same may have heretofore been invested.

“This instrument is executed in duplicate originals, one of which is lodged at National Headquarters of The American Legion and the other with the Trustees.

“It is expressly understood that this agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided, however, that the integrity of the purpose for which said Fund was created shall be preserved as to purpose.

“In witness whereof the Trustees have hereunto set their respective hands and affixed their respective seals as of the day of 1934.

In conclusion it has been suggested that there might be some question as to the method of changing the Trusteeship and disposing effectively of the previously executed, but so far non-effective, Overseas Graves Decoration Trust.

There are two methods, in my opinion, open to achieving this. The first involves the consent of all parties to the plan, which would include The American Legion, the Past National Commanders, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the National Adjutant, and the National Treasurer.

As a second alternative, if the consent is not obtained, then an action should be brought in a Court of Equity having original jurisdiction in matters of this sort, for the substitution of new Trustees, and I believe upon a showing of the conditions, a court would not hesitate to take jurisdiction of the fund and place it in the hands of such Trustees as you may designate.

I do not believe the second will be necessary, for if you approve the Trust Agreement and couple with it a request that all Past National Commanders, the Chairman of the National Finance Committee, the National Adjutant, and National Treasurer consent to the plan, it will in all probability be carried out.

With this you should give the National Commander authority to consent on behalf of The American Legion.

Respectfully Submitted
Remster A. Bingham
National Judge Advocate

NOTE. After considerable discussion, the National Executive Committee directed that the following amendments be inserted in the proposed Overseas Graves Decoration Trust reorganization:

That the National Commander during his year in office be the Chairman;

Usual provision that there shall be no personal liability;

That all prior actions inconsistent herewith by this Committee are hereby revoked.

The Paris Post

UNCLE SAM BUYS AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING IN PARIS

The United States Government has become the owner of the American Legion Building, better known as Pershing Hall. The title to the property was accepted by former Senator Henry French Hollis, acting as Special Assistant Attorney General of the United States. The price paid by Uncle Sam was 1,298,319 francs. This is exactly the amount of the mortgage held on the building by the Crédit Foncier de France. The transaction marks a definite step toward the settlement of the financial difficulties that led to the closing of Pershing Hall on April 30th. Heated controversies between the Building Corporation and members of Paris Post took

place when the building closed down. After occupation of the building by four "musketeers" who refused to give up the ship, so to speak, the Paris Courts decided to let Paris Post run the building as long as expenses were paid under the aegis of an administrator.

A splendid spirit of co-operation was shown by the French Government, which waived claims to transfer taxes on the discharge of the mortgage, and 76,630 francs in accrued taxes. The Crédit Foncier likewise waived claims to indemnity amounting to 81,500 francs.

In accordance with the terms of the Act of Congress of June 28, 1935, under which the title has been

acquired, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to appropriate \$482,032.92 of the Army Recreation Fund, composed largely of money left by the very successful A.E.F. newspaper, "The Stars and Stripes", for effecting a settlement of any indebtedness connected with Pershing Hall, to the end that this memorial as so freed from debt may be perpetuated.

As the price paid for the building, including 32,000 francs in notaries fees, is about \$213,840, there still remains a surplus of \$268,192. Pershing Hall will be maintained by the United States Government for the use of veterans of the World War.

Commander Elbert Lee Dodds of Paris Post of the American Legion has been given the mission of looking after Paris Post interests in Pershing Hall. He has done wonderful work in this regard, as has Department Commander Sparks.

Past Commander Benjamin H. Conner is likewise to be congratulated on his activity in safeguarding the interests of Paris Post in Pershing Hall.

With regard to the use of "The Stars and Stripes" funds in the purchase of Pershing Hall, we are pleased to announce that we have received word from the States that a Stars and Stripes Association has just been formed comprising all who had the honor of working on the famous newspaper. Ye editor of "The Paris Post", who was connected with the paper, is a member of the newly formed organization. Mr. Harold W. Ross, of "New Yorker" fame, is president; and Mr. John T. Winterich, vice-president; with hard-working Chet Geesey, as secretary. Much of the credit for forming the association is due to Secretary Geesey. Mr. Nat T. Worley is treasurer, and the directors are Messrs. George Wrench, Richard S. Jones and Egbert White. Friend Wrench is well known in Paris, where he was for many years connected with an important travel bureau.



Pershing Hall when taken over by the Legion.

The American Legion Paris Post #1 Mausoleum Neuilly Cemetery Near Paris A Monument to American Veterans



Center Name Panel



Right Name Panel



Left Name Panel

The American Legion Paris Post #1 Mausoleum 1953



Photo taken in 1953 by Friedrich Kellner. Photo courtesy of Robert Scott Kellner

The following is a brief history of the Paris Post #1 Mausoleum.

In 1936, the mausoleum was a joint project of The American Legion's Department of France, American Legion Paris Post 1 and The American Legion Myron T. Herrick Post 4.

Sedley Peck, American Legion Department of France Alternate National Executive Committeeman and Paris Post 1 member, was a driving force in the building of the mausoleum.

The city of Neuilly, France, donated three sections of land in Neuilly Cemetery under a perpetual title jointly to The American Legion Department of France and The American Legion Paris Post 1.

After World War II, Paris Post 1 took over total control of the mausoleum.

This memorial is a worthy addition to American memorials and monuments in France. It is a fitting resting place for America's post-war dead, who rest under a beautiful memorial adorned with the seal of The American Legion, where the Stars and Stripes will forever be billowing in the wind, letting all from around the world know that this spot is, in reality, American soil.

There are 285 veterans and two known spouses interred in the Paris Post #1 Mausoleum.

Cleaning of the mausoleum is volunteer work. Maintenance costs are not monthly nor annually but as needed. All costs are paid by Paris Post 1 funds of saved membership dues and member donations. Maintenance includes gold paint touch-up, ensuring seals are secure and replacement of U.S. flags.

For those who choose, it is the final resting place for Paris Post 1 members and their spouses.

**MEETING OF' THE
TRUSTEES OF THE OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION" TRUST
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 5, 1937**

The Trustees of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust of The American Legion met in the office of the National Adjutant at National Headquarters. Indianapolis, Indiana, at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, 1937.

The following members were present:

Harry W. Colmery, Chairman,
Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., Vice Chairman.
John R. Ruddick, Treasurer,
Frank A Samuel, Secretary,
Sam W. Reynolds, (Chairman, National Finance Committee)
Ray Murphy (absent)

Sedley Peck, Alternate National Executive Committeeman representing the Department of France, appeared before the Trustees presenting a problem with reference to removal of bodies of Overseas American Veterans from graves upon which the ten or fifteen years concession has been or will in the course of time be terminated, unless some party at interest renews the concession. French regulations permit removal and final destruction of the remains.

Mr. Peck presented a petition (EXHIBIT B) to the Trustees asking that a limited portion of the annual income from the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust might be used for removal of remains or the renewal of concessions on these graves, thus making it possible for The American Legion to preserve such graves in accordance with the terms of its Trust. He stated cost would run approximately \$75.00 @ grave for some two hundred (200) graves.

The Trustees were in doubt as to whether it is possible to use the Trust Funds in this manner in view of that clause in the Trust Agreement providing that the income thereof 'shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Funds or any part thereof for any other purpose whatsoever.'

It was decided that the Trustees recommend to the National Finance Committee that the National Judge Advocate institute a proceeding under the Declaratory Judgment Act of the State of Indiana, or in some other contributing State, for the purpose of obtaining a construction of the powers of said Trustees under the above quoted language.

Frank A Samuel, Secretary

EXHIBIT B

Paris Post is raising 50,000 francs to purchase a portion of Neuilly Cemetery, Paris, whereat to inter deceased veterans in the future.

Owing to international agreement only the war dead may be interred in National Cemeteries. Post war dead lie in small private cemeteries, all over France Grave concessions in France are on a 10 or 15 years or perpetual basis. Many veterans lie in 10 or 15 year graves. The Department of France keeps records of these burials and a few months before the expiration dates contacts the next of kin when known and tries to get them to purchase extension. If the grave concession does expire the bodies are exhumed and what remains is dumped in the lime pit, an abhorrent fate for an American veteran's remains. Three such disinterments have occurred. Twelve more have expired, and we have been granted a short stay pending possible action in their cases.

The income from the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund which was donated by members of the Legion through Departments has not been used the past few years and will not be for several more years (until a parity of this fund with the fund of similar name and purpose organized in France) and is building up an increase of principal of 3 to \$5.000 per year.

There are approximately 200 graves of veterans in France which are on the aforementioned short term concessions. It would cost approximately \$75 each to preserve these graves either by purchasing perpetual care concessions where they lie, or by concentrating these remains at the Legion plot in Neuilly Cemetery. It is proposed to take these remains as the concessions ends, place them in urns and seal them in a Memorial wall each in a 12 inch cube space, each space to be marked by an appropriate bronze plaque to be supplied by the U. S. Graves Registration Service.

The Department of France would administer this matter, calling on the funds made available by the American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Fund, as needed; such calls being in each case justified by proper vouchers.

As stated above, it is estimated that \$15,000 would cover this entire expense, \$1000 to \$2000 the first year, and approximately \$1000 per year until finished, which would be in 15 years from data

Respectfully submitted,
SEDLEY PECK

**National Executive Committee Meetings
New York City, N. Y.
September 19 and 23, 1937**

Upon invitation of the Chairman of the Resolutions Subcommittee, Ralph B. Gregg, National Judge Advocate, presented the following portion of the report, which was adopted:

Mr. Commander and Members of the National Executive Committee:

At the May meeting of the Trustees of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust, I was requested by the Commander and those Trustees to file an action under the Declaratory Judgment Act of Indiana to get a declaratory judgment construing a portion of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Agreement. I shall read that particular section which they wished construed. The section involved is this:

“The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Fund or any part thereof for any other purpose whatsoever.”

The particular word which they wished construed was that word “preserve,” and it came about in this manner. There are a number of graves in France, graves of overseas veterans, located on leased soil. Those leases are expiring and they wanted authority, if possible under this Trust Agreement, to remove those remains to a permanent resting place. I was of the opinion that the word “preserve” gave them that authority, but they did not wish to make any expenditure until they had some legal construction by the Courts. I thought also that the Trust Agreement gives this Committee the power to amend. I went into court and filed an action under the Declaratory Judgment Act of Indiana and the court construed that word as giving the Committee the authority to make the expenditures for that purpose. This authority, gentlemen, is purely permissive and is not mandatory.

I have prepared this resolution for the consideration of this Committee. It merely goes to the amendment of the Trust Agreement in conformity with the court order.

“**Whereas**, The National Judge Advocate heretofore filed an action in the Probate Court of Marion County, Indiana, in which Indianapolis Post No. 4, Inc., of the Indiana Department of The American Legion, on its own behalf and on behalf of all other contributors of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust of The American Legion, was the plaintiff, and Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., J. Ray Murphy, Harry W. Colmery, John R. Ruddick, Frank E. Samuel, and Sam W. Reynolds, Trustees of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust of The American Legion, were named as defendants for the purpose of obtaining a declaratory judgment defining the powers of the Trustees under the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust of The American Legion in connection with that provision of the Trust Agreement reading as follows:

“The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Fund or any part thereof for any other purpose whatsoever;’ and

“Whereas, The issues were closed in said action and the Court entered a Decree, a copy of which is appended to this resolution; and

“Whereas, The Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Agreement heretofore executed by the Trustees of said Trust on the fourth day of November, 1935, contains the following provision, to-wit:

“It is expressly understood that this Agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee; provided, however, that the integrity of the purpose for which said Fund was created shall be preserved as to purpose;’ and

“Whereas, Said Trust Agreement under the authority as contained in said last quoted provision should be amended to conform with the construction of the powers of said Trustees as set out in said Court Order; now, therefore, be it

“RESOLVED, That the provision in said Trust Agreement reading as follows:

“The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Fund or any part thereof for any other purpose whatsoever;’ be amended to read as follows:

“The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Fund or any part thereof for any other purpose;

“Provided, however, that the authority of said Trustees to preserve said graves shall include the right on the part of said Trustees to devote a sufficient amount of said income either in renewing the concessions on the graves of those veterans who served in the Army and Navy of the United States in the Great War, whose graves are located in small private cemeteries throughout France in leased soil under ten and fifteen-year concessions, which in many instances are expiring, or to expend a sufficient portion of said income for the purpose of removing the said bodies upon the termination of said respective leases to a permanent resting place, and to take credit for any funds so expended in future current reports to be filed in said Trust; and

“Provided, further, that said authority shall be permissive and not mandatory and shall be inclusive and not exclusive.’

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in all other respects said Overseas Graves Decoration Trust be and remain as originally executed.

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the National Judge Advocate is hereby authorized to prepare an amended agreement in conformance with this resolution to be executed by the present Trustees under said Trust Agreement.”

*** The Court Decree referred to in the above resolution reads as follows:

INDIANAPOLIS POST NO. 4, INCORPORATED,
OF THE INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN
LEGION, ON ITS OWN BEHALF
OF ALL OTHER CONTRIBUTORS
TO THE OVERSEAS GRAVES
DECORATION TRUST OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION.

VS.

FRANK N. BELGRANO, JR.,
J. RAY MURPHY,
HARRY W. COLMERY,
JOHN R. RUDDICK,

FRANK E. SAMUEL,
SAM W. REYNOLDS,
Trustees of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust of the American Legion.

**Decree Entering Declaratory Judgment Defining Powers of
Trustees Under Overseas Graves Decoration
Trust of the American Legion**

Comes now the plaintiff, Indianapolis Post No. 4, Incorporated, of the Indiana Department of The American Legion, on its own behalf and on behalf of all other contributors to the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust of The American Legion, by counsel, and come also the defendants, Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., J. Ray Murphy, Harry W. Colmery, John R. Ruddick, Frank E. Samuel and Sam W. Reynolds, Trustees of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust of The American Legion, in person, and this cause being as issue upon the plaintiff's complaint herein and the respective answers filed by said defendants, is now submitted to the court for trial, finding and decree.

The court, having heard the evidence, having considered the issues as presented by the various pleadings herein, and being otherwise duly advised in the premises, now finds that the plaintiff, together with other patriotic organizations and persons, created by voluntary contributions, a trust fund of approximately One Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$170,000.00), the income from which is to be used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the Army and Navy of the United States in the Great War who lie buried overseas, which fund and the accumulated income therefrom is now in the custody of the defendant Trustees.

The court further finds that said fund, including the income there from, is to be administered by the designated Trustees under the terms of a certain trust agreement known as the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust of The American Legion, a copy of which is made a part of the complaint and designated as Exhibit "A", and that the defendants herein are the Trustees under the terms of said agreement, and are charged with the proper administration of said fund.

That there are approximately two hundred (200) veterans who served in the Army and Navy of the United States in the Great War, whose graves are located in small private cemeteries throughout France, on leased soil, under ten and fifteen-year concessions, which in many instances are expiring, and unless renewed upon expiration, the bodies will be exhumed and the remains dumped into a lime pit.

That to remove said bodies as said respective leases expire will require an expenditure of approximately Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00) for each body so removed, and that the said Trustees have ample income from said trust fund on hand with which either to renew said concessions or to remove said bodies as said leases expire to a permanent resting place. That said trust agreement contains the following provision:

"The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Fund or any part thereof for any other purpose whatsoever." That the authority of said Trustees to use the income from said trust fund for the purpose of honoring, preserving and decorating said graves as set out in said provision includes the right on the part of said Trustees to devote a sufficient amount from said income either to renew the Concessions on said graves as they respectively expire, or to expend a sufficient portion of said income for the purpose of removing said bodies upon the termination of said respective leases, to a permanent resting place, and to take credit for any funds so expended in their future current reports to be filed in said trust.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that said defendants as the duly appointed, qualified and acting Trustees of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust of the American Legion, under the terms of said trust agreement, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to expend a sufficient sum from the income of said trust fund from time to time, either for the purpose of renewing the leases on the graves of those soldiers and sailors of the United States in the Great War whose bodies lie buried in leased soil in France upon the expiration of said respective leases, or to expend a sufficient amount as each lease expires, for the purpose of removing said bodies to a permanent resting place, and to take credit for said expenditures in their future current reports to be filed in said trust.

That the costs of this proceeding in the amount of dollars be paid by said Trustees from said trust fund.

Dated this 25th day of June, 1937.

(Signed) SMILEY N. CHAMBERS,
Judge of the Marion Probate Court.

The plot for the mausoleum was purchased by Paris Post 1 and The Department of France for 50,000 francs from City of Neuilly in June 1937. It is located in the New Cemetery of Neuilly. The mausoleum was constructed with donations from individuals and firms from around the world. It was completed and put into use in April 1939. It contains burial plots and niches for urns. The names of those buried in the mausoleum are carved into the granite and gilded. At the time of construction, a granite name panel was built in the center of the monument. It has since been filled with names. Two other name panels have been added, one on the right side and one on the left side. The panel on the right side has also been filled with names. The panel on the left side has several names on it.

The City of Neuilly sur Seine may be providing some maintenance since the cemetery belongs to the city.

As of June 7, 2018, Comrade Edward Olesak, who was a great World War II member who always traveled from the United States to Paris during Memorial Day weekend to carry the U.S. flag, was the last member buried at the mausoleum.

THE MAUSOLUM DESIGN

In the beginning, this was a joint project between The American Legion Department of France, Paris Post 1 and Myron T. Herrick Post 4. Commander Aubrey appointed Mr. George Washington Lopp project manager, and Mr. H Kennedy, Director of Morgan & Co., as architect and contractor. The planned design included an elevator donated by Otis Elevator Co. The elevator was needed to access the subterranean crypt that would be able to handle 400 caskets and urns. The American Legion National Headquarters provided three solid bronze emblem plaques at a greatly reduced rate and were transported to Neuilly France by United States Line free of charge; also, the French government waived all the import duties on the three American Legion emblems. The Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund provided \$1,000 to cover the cost of excavation of the subterranean work. The monument is made of the finest French granite, called Granit de Lanhelin, which was donated by the stone quarries. The French Railways made unusual concessions and transported all materials at a 50 percent reduced rate.

The architectural design and construction plans for the mausoleum were submitted to Gen. Pershing and American Ambassador Bullitt. Gen. Pershing is quoted after seeing the model and plans, "that not only did he wish the monument to be built but that it should be done without changing a single item." The French government and the City of Neuilly waived all taxes in connection with the project. A decree signed by the Prefet de la Seine stipulated that this land is a perpetual concession and is to be cared for later by the City of Neuilly. The total cost to build the mausoleum was 336,000.00 francs.

LET THE CONSTRUCTION BEGIN

Building started in 1938 and was completed in early 1939. Paris Post 1 already owned a 2-meter-by-3-meter plot in the Neuilly Cemetery, but it was determined that piece of land would not be of sufficient size to complete the planned project. The U.S. Ambassador to France Mr. William Bullitt approached the city officials of Neuilly to procure more land. The City of Neuilly donated an additional 100 square meters. Gen. Pershing is quoted to say, "May I ask that you extend to all those who have had a part in this worthy undertaking my hearty congratulations and best wishes."

AMERICAN EMBASSY

PARIS

*Embassy
Neully Plot*

FOR THE PRESS

CONFIDENTIAL RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION
NOT EARLIER THAN 3:30 P.M. OF SUNDAY,
MAY 28, 1939.

* * *

TO BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE AND NO PORTION,
SYNOPSIS OR INTIMATION TO BE PREVIOUSLY
PUBLISHED, QUOTED FROM, OR USED IN ANY
WAY

* * *

Text of the remarks of The Honorable
William C. Bullitt, American Ambassador
to France, at the new American Legion
Cemetery at Neully, on May 28, 1939.

Mr. Chairman, Monsieur le Président du Conseil, Messieurs les Généraux, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Department of France of the American Legion, encouraged by General Pershing and assisted by American friends, has carried out a duty of remembrance and friendship by acquiring this plot of ground so that men who served in the World War may find here a permanent resting place.

The graves here consecrated will be preserved with loving care. The American Legion stands for loyalty. In this case it has been loyal and will be loyal to those of its comrades who might otherwise be buried in unremembered graves.

The men who lie here fought in the hope that they might bring lasting peace to the earth. Because there is not yet peace in the world, it has become the habit of many shallow critics to say that their sacrifice was useless, and to add that another World War is inevitable. I believe that both these statements are profoundly untrue.

It is a fact that the good relations between all the nations of the earth which the American soldiers believed would be created at the close of war have not been created. Since the Armistice of 1918 the history of the world has been blackened by wars of conquest. But it requires nothing more than an examination of the Treaties of Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest to convince any man that if these soldiers had not fought as they fought, and if the war had not been won by the side which won it, the condition of mankind would be far worse than it is today. They prevented the creation of a world far fouler than the world in which we live.

If this accomplishment seems small, remember that it is the tragedy of struggles in the international field that often the greatest sacrifices lead not to permanent good, but only to the avoidance of destruction. The worst is averted, the best is

not

not created.

Nations, like men, must often choose between dreadful alternatives. For example, any nation can avoid war if it is ready to accept slavery. But to Americans, as to all the great peoples of the western world, the acceptance of war is a less horrible alternative than the acceptance of enslavement. Our American doctrine has been clear since the day when Patrick Henry spoke the words, "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" We, therefore, understand and sympathize with nations which, whatever the odds, prefer to fight for their freedom rather than submit to the heel of a conqueror.

The American soldiers who lie here helped to keep the torch of liberty alight in the world. That is enough justification. No death for freedom is ever in vain. They left us freedom -- freedom and the obligation to fulfill their dream of peace. The measures necessary for the achievement of peace are often disagreeable, burdensome and expensive. In Utopia, that ideal land created more than four hundred years ago by the imagination of Sir Thomas More, war was detested as much as war is detested today in America. Yet the inhabitants of Utopia were accustomed to indulge in daily drills because they acknowledged that they might be called upon to make war for two causes: First, "to defend their own country". Second, "to drive out of their friends' land the enemies that have invaded it."

Today, nations that have been most reluctant throughout their history to accept the burdens of daily drill and

obligations to assist friendly peoples in case they should be attacked, have accepted drill and have pledged themselves to come to the aid of remote peoples. Why have they acknowledged these obligations as the Utopians acknowledged them? Because they know that if great nations wash their hands while lesser powers are destroyed, a day will come when they themselves will face the enemy without friends. And they know that it is not enough to be strong -- but alone.

The words, "On earth peace, good will toward men", were spoken many centuries ago. In spite of all the wars and sufferings through which humanity has passed since they were spoken, good will between the peoples of the earth has grown. The area of peace has grown. It may be that mankind must pass through many more horrible experiences before peace is finally achieved, but we are bound by a covenant of death to carry on the quest for peace of these friends of our youth.

Let us here re-dedicate our efforts to the realization of their dream of peace; but let us not forget that there are times when men must take arms to save all that is worthy in human life, and that if arms break peace, they also defend it. And let us remember that their deaths did serve. "They also serve who only stand and wait." True! But they serve much more who fight and die. For us, the living, the command is "to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

WRONG INFORMATION IS PRINTED BY THE US PRESS

The cost to build the mausoleum was 336,000 francs, all in donated money. In 1939 and 1940, The American Legion Department of France, American Legion Paris Post 1 and Myron T. Herrick Post 4 were having a hard time raising funds to complete construction. Donations came in from The American Colony in France and from American Legion posts and departments throughout the United States. At one point, Paris Post 1 contacted U.S. banks and corporations to sell them sponsorship packages to fill a shortfall of 55,000 francs.

In addition, at one point in early 1939, someone in either the Department of France or Paris Post 1 was misquoted and articles showed up in newspapers all around the United States claiming that the U.S. government rented graves in French Cemeteries where American soldiers were buried. This was false information, and we could not find anywhere that the papers ever printed retractions.

**The American Legion, however, did release the facts to the American people.
SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Oct. 1937.---Neither The American Legion nor the United States Government is paying any ground rental on the eight official, permanent burial grounds for the A.E.F., World War dead in France, England, and Belgium. Those governments have exempted all permanent American military cemeteries from the payment of all taxes or duties of any kind.

To correct an impression to the contrary, General John J. Pershing, Chairman of The American Battle Monuments Commission, addressed the following letter to Congressman John J. Cochran, October 6, 1939:

"In reply to your inquiry of October 4, I wish to say the United States Government does not pay rent on the graves of our American dead who are buried in France. In fact, the French Government has exempted us from the payment of taxes or duties of any kind whatsoever on the land on which our cemeteries and memorials are located and on the materials which we have sent to France for these establishments."

In an extension of remarks of Representative Thomas E. Martin, read into the Congressional Record of October 20, the War Department explained its policy with regard to establishment of permanent American cemeteries in Europe.

This War Department explanation stated that bodies of deceased World War veterans who died during the War were handled in accordance with the wishes of the next of kin. Impetus was given the establishment of permanent cemeteries by the sentiment expressed by former President Theodore Roosevelt, who asked that the body of his son, Lt. Quentin Roosevelt, should remain where it fell. "Where the tree falls, let it lie," was the manner in which this distinguished father expressed his wishes.

"There are some isolated graves in various parts of Europe," the War Department stated, "containing remains left there at the request of next of kin, referred to as 'do not disturb graves,' which are governed by the rules of the cemeteries in which they are located, and over which the War Department has no jurisdiction."

Legion Cares For Post War Graves

However, approximately 200 bodies of American World War soldiers and sailors, representing post-war deaths, are buried in scattered small private cemeteries throughout France, on leased soil, under 10 and 15-year concessions.

It was to pay for the renewals of these few grave concessions, or for the transfer of such bodies from their temporary graves to permanent resting places, that The American Legion obtained a court order in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 26, 1937, on petition of Indianapolis Post 4, for authority to make such expenditures from the income from its \$24,000 Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund.

The Court decreed that the authority of the Trustees of this American Legion fund created for the purpose of "honoring, preserving, and decorating the graves of American World War dead overseas," included the right to devote a sufficient amount from the income either to renew these grave concessions as they expired, or to remove the bodies upon the termination of the grave leases to a permanent resting place. The American Legion estimated it would cost an average of \$75 for each body so removed.

Under that authority, the sum of \$430 has been expended by the Trustees of the fund for disinterring and reburying 10 American post-war dead during 1939.

Memorial to Post-War Dead

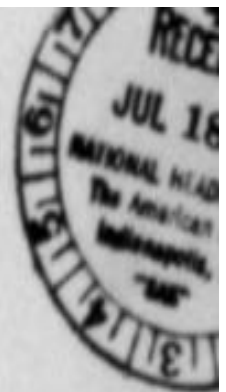
The national organization of The American Legion contributed \$1,000 toward the completion during the summer of 1939 of the subterranean vaults of the Legion Memorial in Neuilly Cemetery, overlooking Paris. This memorial eventually will care for 400 bodies. It is designed to hold the remains of American veterans who have died in France since the World War. Such bodies will be concentrated there from private cemeteries all over France where they now lie in temporary leased plot, with the risk of final disposition in the potter's field. American post-war dead are not eligible for burial in the military cemeteries maintained in France, England, and Belgium by our Government under the jurisdiction of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The American Legion Memorial at the Neuilly Cemetery was started by Paris Post 1 in the summer of 1937 when an American Good Will Mission to France made a contribution of 17,800 francs to the post for this purpose. To this sum were added funds from the Paris and the Myron T. Herrick Posts of The American Legion in France.

Cooperation from the City of Neuilly was offered in a substantial way when it donated three lots to add to the plot purchased by The American Legion to make the site large enough for public ceremonies to be held at the Memorial. The granite quarries gave the stone free of cost, the only charge being for labor involved in the extracting and cutting. The French Railways made a one-half rate for carriage of the materials. The French Government waived all taxes.

AIRMAIL

PERSONAL



Henry H. Dudley, Esq.,
National Adjutant,
777 North Meridian Street,
Indianapolis 6, Ind.

Dear Comrade Dudley,

I desire to thank you for your fine letter of 28th June in connection with my recent election to the post of Department Commander. There are, as you say, many responsibilities inherent in this position and, insofar as I can foresee, the overall situation both at home and abroad is becoming increasingly difficult. It is to be hoped that unemployment will not again become endemic.

We trust that the current year will bring some further posts to our Department. Of course Paris, with its highly centralized government, is the only really large city in France and, as such, attracts most Americans away from the small provincial cities. However, there are a number of Americans in Lyons and Bordeaux, as well as in the industrial center covered by the tri-cities of Lille, Roubaix and Tourcoing. All of these places are too distant from Paris to expect legionnaires regularly to come to Paris for meetings. Again the Belgian cities of Brussels and Antwerp are thriving, and, of course, there are ex-service men working in Belgium.

Along an entirely different order of ideas, we in Paris are faced by a new and urgent problem: Between the two "last World Wars" a number of our ex-service men--some of them legionnaires--died in France and were buried in cemeteries distant from Paris. The families or friends of these men, sometimes with some help from the Legion and sometimes without the knowledge of the Legion, had them buried in local cemeteries. In France burial rights fall into several categories: on the one hand the municipalities (who always control French cemeteries) rent burial concessions for a term of years, and I think the longest term is twenty years, but it may be shorter. Certain portions of the cemeteries are set apart for these short or long-term concessions. Then the other category is a "perpetual concession"; the latter is much more expensive

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

49 RUE PIERRE CHARRON
PARIS

Henry H. Dudley, Esq.

12 July 1949

-2-

than were temporary burial rights. When the period for a temporary concession has expired, the remains are exhumed and removed to the pits. In most cases it is quite impossible to convert a temporary concession into a perpetual concession; thus when a concession has expired, and in order to prevent the remains being removed to the pits, it is necessary to purchase a perpetual concession, either in the same cemetery or in some other graveyard. This latter operation has become very expensive. And of course the transport of cadavers or of remains is likewise costly.

We have, as you know, a Legion Cemetery near Paris, and this is held in perpetuity for ex-service men. It has become urgently necessary to do something about the remains of our former comrades whose concessions have expired in cemeteries more or less distant from Paris. In some cases the municipalities who control these cemeteries have been very comprehensive and patient, and there are instances where the temporary concessions expired years ago without any actual removal and disposition of the remains. But where the cemeteries are becoming crowded and the demands for burials in temporary concessions exceed the accommodations, it is impossible to expect the authorities to postpone the exercise of their rights for further indefinite periods.

What we would like to do over here is to remove the remains of these outlying graves to our Legion Cemetery near Paris, not only for the presently pending cases which are numerous, but also for those which may occur in the future when the concessions have expired. However, the expenses relative to the exhumation and transport are very far beyond the means of this Department, and greatly exceed any amounts allocated for burial.

You will hear something more formal upon this subject in the relatively near future, but I thought I should take this opportunity to advise you that it is one of our most serious anxieties. The position as a whole is further complicated by the fact that in most cases we are unable to reach any of the next of kin or, alternatively, where the family has been reached the relationship is so distant, or the next of kin are so financially placed that funds are not forthcoming.

Again thanking you for your good wishes, and with best regards,
I am,

Your sincere comrade,


Gething C. Miller

THE AMERICAN LEGION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

INDIANAPOLIS 6, IND.

MEMORANDUM TO: MR. DUDLEY

DATE July 20, 1949

RE: Use of Overseas Graves Decoration Trust funds for removal of bodies of American veterans from private cemeteries in France for permanent reinterment in the American Legion plot in Neuilly Cemetery, Paris.

The above subject was first presented to the Trustees of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust in meeting of May 1937 by Sedley Peck, representing the Department of France. Mr. Peck reported that there were approximately 200 American veterans buried in small private cemeteries all over France, with burial plots leased for 10 or 15 years, and that it would cost approximately \$75 each to preserve these graves either by purchasing perpetual care concessions where they lie - or by removing these remains to the Legion plot in Neuilly Cemetery. He estimated that \$15,000 would cover this entire expense - \$1,000 to \$2,000 the first year, and approximately \$1,000 per year until finished, which would be in 15 years from date.

Shortly after this meeting, on recommendation of the Trustees, the Legion obtained a court order for authority to make such expenditures from the income of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust and the Trust Agreement was amended to include the following paragraph:

"Provided, however, that the authority of said Trustees to preserve said graves shall include the right on the part of said Trustees to devote a sufficient amount of said income either in renewing the concessions on the graves of those veterans who served in the Army and Navy of the United States in the Great War, whose graves are located in small private cemeteries throughout France in leased soil under ten and fifteen-year concessions, which in many instances are expiring, or to expend a sufficient portion of said income for the purpose of removing the said bodies upon the termination of said respective leases to a permanent resting place, and to take credit for any funds so expended in future current reports to be filed in said Trust;"

In May 1938 the Trustees took the following action with regard to expending funds for the removal of remains of veterans from overseas graves:

"The Trustees confirmed their earlier mail votes whereby our commitment in this respect shall be only on a year to year basis; vouchers to be supported by the Department Commander and Department Treasurer of The American Legion of France under bond, as required by the Trustees. The Trustees voted to allow a maximum of \$2,000.00 for the first year for this purpose, covering approximately twenty-six graves, and a maximum of \$1,000.00 for each of the next thirteen years, covering approximately thirteen graves per year, but subject to redetermination in the month of May of each year."

On November 19, 1938, the Trustees voted to authorize the disbursement of \$1,000.00 as final payment in completing evacuation and construction of underground emplacements in the American Legion plot in Neuilly Cemetery.

Each year up to 1942 the Trustees in their annual meetings authorized the expenditure of \$1,000 for reburial expenses for the ensuing year, although no requests were received for such funds since early in 1940, due to war conditions in Europe. No mention is made of this activity in the minutes of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust since April 29, 1942.

In the three years during which Overseas Graves funds were being used for reburial purposes, a total amount of \$2,122.37 was expended, with 35 bodies reburied. A detailed account of such expenditures follows:

May 1, 1937 to April 30, 1938

Disinterment of five bodies and reburial
in American Legion Vault \$ 70.00

May 1, 1938 to April 30, 1939

Disinterment and reburial of ten bodies 619.00

Permanent concession for remains of
Winfield Winters at Mouson, France 11.10

For completing excavation and construction
of underground explacements in Neuilly
Cemetery 1,000.00

May 1, 1939 to April 30, 1940

Disinterment and reburial of 19 bodies 422.27

TOTAL

\$2,122.37

Helen Howard

COPY

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

July 27, 1949

65-2

Mr. Oething G. Miller, Commander,
The American Legion, Department of France,
49 rue Pierre Charron,
Paris, France

Dear Commander:

The following is submitted in response to your personal communication of July 12:

The matter of use of Overseas Graves Decoration Trust funds for removal of bodies of American veterans from private cemeteries in France for permanent reinterment in the American Legion plot in Neuilly Cemetery, was first presented to the Trustees of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust in meeting of May 1937, by Sedley Peck, representing the Department of France. Mr. Peck reported that there were approximately 200 American veterans buried in small private cemeteries all over France, with burial plots leased for ten or fifteen years, and that it would cost approximately \$75 each to preserve these graves either by purchasing perpetual care concessions where they were, or by removing the remains to the Legion plot in Neuilly Cemetery. He estimated that \$15,000 would cover the entire expense - \$1,000 to 2,000 the first year, and approximately \$1,000 per year until finished, which would be in 13 years from that time.

Shortly after that meeting, on recommendation of the Trustees, the Legion obtained a court order for authority to make such expenditures from the income of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust and the Trust Agreement was amended to include the following paragraph:

"Provided, however, that the authority of said trustees to preserve said graves shall include the right on the part of said Trustees to devote a sufficient amount of said income either in renewing the concessions on the graves of those veterans who served in the Army and Navy of the United States in the Great War, whose graves are located in small private cemeteries throughout France in leased soil under ten and fifteen-year concessions, which in many instances are expiring, or to expend a sufficient portion of said income for the purpose of removing the said bodies upon the termination of said respective leases to a permanent resting place, and to take credit for any funds so expended in future current reports to be filed in said Trust."

In May 1938 the Trustees took the following action with regard to expending funds for the moving of remains of veterans from overseas graves:

"The Trustees confirmed their earlier mail votes whereby our commitment in this respect shall be only on a year to year basis; vouchers to be supported by the Department Commander and Department Treasurer of The American Legion of France under bond, as required by the Trustees. The

COPY

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Trustees voted to allow a maximum of \$2,000.00 for the first year for this purpose, covering approximately twenty-six graves, and a maximum of \$1,000.00 for each of the next thirteen years, covering approximately thirteen graves per year, but subject to redetermination in the month of May of each year."

On November 19, 1933, the Trustees voted to authorize the disbursement of \$1,000.00 as final payment in completing evacuation and construction of underground emplacements in the American Legion plot in Neuilly Cemetery.

Each year up to 1942 the Trustees in their annual meetings authorized the expenditure of \$1,000 for reburial expenses for the ensuing year, although no requests were received for such funds since early in 1940, due to war conditions in Europe. No mention is made of this activity in the minutes of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust since April 29, 1942.

In the three years during which Overseas Graves funds were being used for reburial purposes, a total amount of \$2,122.37 was expended, with thirty-five bodies reburied.

The Trustees of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust meet only once each year -- in May. It would be my suggestion that you watch the situation you have described, and let us have a full and complete report, with an estimate, or actual figures if possible, of the bodies which should be removed. Then we can bring the subject up again at the May 1950 meeting.

This will also acknowledge receipt of the resolution from your Department convention, requesting the Secretary of Defense to include in the actual operations of the American Graves Registration Command, the removal of probably forty bodies from their present graves and to transport and reinter them in the permanent plot of the American Legion in Neuilly Cemetery near Paris. This, of course, will be referred through the usual channels for consideration at the forthcoming Philadelphia National Convention.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

HENRY H. DUDLEY,
National Adjutant

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

49 RUE PIERRE CHARRON
PARIS



10 August 1949

*W.W. ...
Committee - ...
Endowment ...
A.L. ...*

Mr. Henry H. Dudley, National Adjutant,
The American Legion, National Headquarters,
Indianapolis 6, Ind.,

Dear Comrade Adjutant,

I desire to thank you for your fine explanation of the financial position of National Headquarters relative to the removal of bodies of ex-service men from outlying cemeteries and particularly where temporary concessions have expired or are expiring.

As concerns those outlying graves, I am now informed that either you or someone on your behalf has already written to this Department in respect to this same problem but that the letter has been kept in one of the Committee files and that accounts for my entire historical ignorance of the facts.

Apparently the trustees have done everything that has been requested of, or suggested to them, and there is only one further question that comes to my mind at this time: Considering that the commitment is merely on a year-to-year basis, would the trustees be inclined to consider favorably a request for remittances to cover reinterment of a great number of remains, that is to say those which have accumulated over a period of approximately ten years? Had we been able to carry on this work from time to time, and as concessions expired, I believe that the annual allocation of the trustees would have been adequate. At the present writing there are more than forty cases which have accumulated, and we would not get very far with this work if we were deprived of cumulative rights in the fund, but were forced to begin again with only \$1,000.00 available for the current, and for each of the succeeding years.

The cases which have been brought to our attention have in fact averaged fewer than thirteen per annum. As a guess I would say that the sum of the expenses for the forty-odd remains urgently requiring removal would not reach the amount of \$10,000.00. Naturally we shall attempt to get estimates for each particular case and whilst all estimates in France today are subject to revision due to frequent increases in wages, transportation, etc., we shall give our best appreciation of the figures.

There is one other element which enters into the picture: Most costs in France have increased substantially beyond the corresponding devaluation of the franc in relation to the dollar. For example there are very

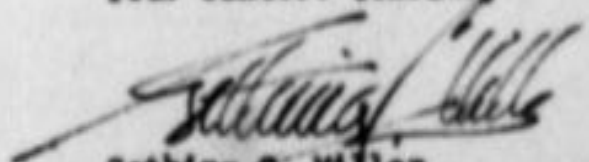
few things that can be purchased here with the same number of dollars as before the war.

(Of course that is true also at home so I shall not labor the point.)

Returning to the question of the Army Graves Registration Command doing this job for us, as recommended in the resolution of the Department Convention. I believe that this Command is gradually being withdrawn from France but presently has more than adequate facilities for the performance of this particular task and the Army Graves Registration Command could certainly do the work better and more quickly than outside contractors. We over here would feel better if Army Graves Registration Command would undertake the work, but I am very gratified to know that if the Resolution does not pass through the Convention there is still another possibility of getting help from the Trust Fund.

With renewed thanks, please believe me to be,

Your sincere Comrade,



Gething C. Miller
Commander
Department of France

Standard Operating Procedure-Post Mausoleum
Paris Post #1
The American Legion

1. **PURPOSE:** Paris Post #1 owns and maintains a Mausoleum and Legion Monument in the new cemetery of Neuilly, located in the community of Nanterre in the Hauts de Seine Department. The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure is to establish the rules concerning the use of this mausoleum and the respective responsibilities of the Post and of surviving family members.
2. **ELIGIBILITY:** All members of Paris Post #1 who are in good standing at the time of death are eligible to be buried in the mausoleum. Spouses of members in good standing may also be buried if both spouses agree in writing to be cremated. This measure is necessary due to the limited space available for full sized coffins. In the case where the spouse precedes the member in death, and burial with the member is desired, the cremated remains must be stored by the member in order to have them interred in the mausoleum at the same time as the member's cremated remains. If the spouse dies after the member then the remains must be stored until the next planned veteran's burial or the family chooses to pay the funeral fees for immediate burial. The term "members" includes the Paris Post #1 Auxiliary who are in good standing.
3. **FORMALITIES:** The Post Service Officer will provide necessary assistance and guidance to surviving family members to accomplish the necessary formalities required for burial in the mausoleum. All costs, including Paris Post 1 ceremony support, transportation of the remains, opening and closing of the grave and all local and national taxes will be paid by the surviving family.
4. **ENGRAVING:** The names of all those presently buried in the mausoleum are engraved on the marble slabs behind the emblem of The American Legion. This engraving is completed by the Rebillon funeral home company in order to maintain a standard size and quality. The cost of this engraving will be paid directly to the Rebillon funeral home company by the surviving family. The Post Service Officer will assist in making the arrangements for this engraving.
5. **MAINTENANCE:** The monument and mausoleum are established for perpetual care by the cemetery custodian. However, the Post does pay annually for the maintenance. Surviving families who are able to do so are asked to make a donation to the Post in memory of their family member, either at the time of burial or at any other convenient time. It is suggested that persons who intend to be buried in the Mausoleum make some provision in their wills or testaments to help cover this annual Mausoleum cleaning cost.
6. **PROCEDURE:**
 - A) Paris Post #1 members should plan as soon as possible confirming in writing to the Post Commander and Service Officer to be buried in the Mausoleum.
 - B) Once burial agreement is confirmed to the Paris Post #1 member by the Post Commander and Post Service Officer, the member should write a letter outlining the funeral plans to include certification of completion of the required funeral service payments either by advance payment to the Paris Post 1 or by confirming that family members will pay for the funeral no later than the date of the funeral ceremony.
 - C) Provide one copy of funeral agreement letter mentioned in 6b to the Paris Post #1 Service Officer and to family members to ensure no questions will arise to preclude the planned burial service when the time arrives.
 - D) To ensure last wishes are fulfilled, it is recommended to include the burial instructions letter and the Paris Post #1 Mausoleum burial agreement memo signed by the Post Commander confirming payment plans for the burial services in the member's Last Will and Testament.
 - E) Cremation and burial of the remains in an urn is required in order to assure adequate space in the Mausoleum for the future years.
 - F) Upon the member's death, immediately inform the Paris Post #1 Service Officer and Post Commander of requirement to begin funeral services planning. If the member was registered with an address in France, the family should also inform the American Citizen Services office of the U.S. Embassy / Consulate of France. The Post Service Officer could assist with the U.S. Embassy contacts.
 - G) Obtain required death certificate records (Act de Deces) in accordance with current French laws. The Post Service Officer could assist members that live in the United States who wish to be transferred to France for burial.
 - H) Coordinate funeral ceremony with the Paris Post #1 Service Officer.

- I) The FEES mentioned in the Paris Post 1 SOP, paragraph 8 – Cost Estimates, are the responsibility of the member or the member’s family.
7. **SPOUSE BURIALS:** There are three options for spouse burials as mentioned in paragraph 2 (Eligibility).
- (A) The first minimal cost option is for the family to store the spouse’s cremated remains until the veteran member’s ceremony occurs and both urns are buried in the same funeral ceremony simultaneously for the one funeral service fee described in paragraph 8 (Cost Estimates).
- (B) The second minimal cost option allows planning for spouses whose veteran member died and was buried in the Post Mausoleum before the spouse. Option Two instructions are for the family to store the spouse remains until the next available planned Veteran funeral. The Paris Post will coordinate for the Post Mausoleum to remain open for both the Veteran’s funeral and then the second Spouse funeral about one hour later. All Veteran members of Paris Post 1 planning to be buried in the Post Mausoleum must agree to this arrangement that takes care of our Legion Widows. The Veteran member pays the Mausoleum opening / closing fees and the Spouse burial is at no cost.
- (C) The third option is the full cost option to bury a Spouse in the Post Mausoleum. If the spouse’s veteran died and was already buried and if the spouse’s family prefers to not wait or store the ashes, the family may choose to pay the fees mentioned in paragraph 8 and plan an individual funeral ceremony.
8. **COST ESTIMATES**
- A) Estimations as of September 2015 and subject to change without notice – confirm with Paris Post 1 Service Officer when completing funeral plans to determine current year cost estimates.
- B) 1,100 Euros to open and reseal the tomb and placing an urn, funeral home services, funeral home administrative fees, and standard taxes.
- C) 400 Euros for name engraved into the marble wall and gold paint, final cost depends on the length of the name. Inscribing the name is not a Paris Post 1 requirement; totally a family decision.
9. **CONTACTS:**
- A) First contact the Paris Post #1:
- Paris Post #1, Commander Carl W. Hale
crlhl@hotmail.com
- Paris Post #1, Service Officer Chuck Steiner
cjsteiner@aol.com
- B) Families of American Legion Paris Post #1 members living in France must contact the U.S. Embassy, Paris, informing about the death.
- The U.S. Embassy Paris** contacts are:
Consular Services, 01-43-12-29-93 or 01-43-12-20-21
Federal Benefits Unit, 01-43-12-27-05
- C) Coordination contacts (for Post Service Officer)
- Superintendent of Neuilly Cemetery:**
(Conservateur, Mr. Sylvain PROST-BOUCLE)
01-47-75-04-28 / 06-86-38-92-34
- Monumental Mason: Rébillon Company:**
Rébillon Neuilly agency: 01-46-24-02-04 Fax: 01-46-24-25-85
Rébillon Cemetery Agency: 01-47-75-02-37
Email: Neuilly@rebillon.fr
10. **UPDATES:** This SOP will be reviewed annually to update contacts and costs.

AMERICAN LEGIONNAIRES VISIT GERMANY

Comrades J. L. McCann, Bernhard Ragner and J. V. Sparks, members of the American Legion delegation to the Permanent International Committee of War Veterans Meeting in Berlin, have returned to Paris and report a most interesting visit. Comrades Bailey and Dodds, two other members of the delegation, were unable to go.

The following fourteen nations were represented: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, the United States, and Yougoslavia.

The reception of the delegations, on Sunday February 14th, was of a most flattering character. A high ranking military or naval officer met each incoming delegation at the station, and conducted them in a special military car flying the colors of their country, to the Kaiserhof Hotel where they were received by the reception committee of German War Veterans, under the presidency of the Duke of Saxe-Cobourg, and

apartments were reserved for the members.

On Monday morning, there was an assembly of the delegations in the Kaiserhof Hotel where the delegates were given an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. Their first visit was made to Lieutenant-General Goering, Chief of the German Air Force, at the Air Ministry Building. The delegations were received by the Duke of Saxe-Cobourg, who made an address to General Goering. The Minister made a most interesting speech in which he expressed his satisfaction at finding himself in the company of his comrades of the war, representing both camps. He made a notable reference to the fact that the next war, if it came, would not be a « fraîche et joyeuse entreprise », but it would be a catastrophe for European civilization as it would destroy the elite of all nations engaged in it. He was presented to each delegate present. General Goering spoke without notes in German, his speech being translat-

ed by Dr. Paul Schmidt, who acts as interpreter for Herr Hitler.

The delegates proceeded to the Air Club, the old Prussian Diets Building, where a luncheon was presided by the Duke of Saxe-Cobourg, in the absence of Herr Von Ribbentrop, German Ambassador to England, who could not leave London.

After luncheon, the first business meeting of the Congress was held in the Aviators Club, under the presidency of the Duke of Saxe-Cobourg. Each delegation was invited to make a statement. The American delegation made the following declaration: « The American delegation is very conscious of the very grave and serious problems confronting international relationships. The peoples of the entire world are suffering hardships which are unnecessary. Although these problems are of very serious dimensions, they are not of unsurmountable proportions. They only require sincere and loyal international cooperation. We, as

(Cont. page 8)



(Cliché New York Herald-Tribune.)
Herr Hitler Receives American Legionnaires. Comrades Sparks and Ragner are on each side of the German Leader. Comrade McCann is next to the General.

AMERICAN LEGIONNAIRES VISIT GERMANY

(Cont. From Page 2)

veterans of the World War, have a sacred mission to perform and we must especially combat the mistaken idea that peace cannot be maintained. We must also combat the mistaken idea that the employment of force is necessary to solve international problems. We returned to the United States on November 11, 1919, and was assigned to the 2nd Division at Camp Travis, Texas. We are very happy to announce that we have just received from our Chief in America the following cable: "The American Veterans pledge cooperation to convince mankind that peace is possible by international cooperation and God's benediction."

Afterwards, the congress considered the adoption of a constitution for the Committee.

Dinner was served at the Kaiserhof and the principal speaker was Field Marshal von Birkenstetten, of Austria. Later a very spectacular military torch light retreat, with music, was staged on the square before the

Gen. Harbord Leads Convention Preparations

(Cont. From Page 1)

He was promoted to be a brigadier general of the regular Army on November 30, 1918, and major general on September 8, 1919. On November 18, 1922, the Secretary of War approved his application for retirement from active service on December 29, 1922, to become president of the Radio Corporation of America on January 1, 1923.

General Harbord is a holder of the Distinguished Service Medal, U. S. Army; Distinguished Service Medal, U. S. Navy; Knight Commander, St. Michael and St. George, Great Britain; Commander, Legion of Honor, France; Croix de Guerre, with two palms, France; Grand Officer, Order of the Crown of Belgium; Commander, Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, Italy; Grand Officer, Prince Danilo, Montenegro, and La Solidaridad, Panama.

Mr. Condon has a long record of Legion service. He served as commander of the 1st New York Legion District 1932-33; as a member of the National Distinguished Guest Committee, 1933-34; and is now a member of the National Rehabilitation Committee.

Kaiserhof Hotel, a ceremony which will leave a lasting impression on the memory of those who witnessed it.

The following morning was devoted to sight-seeing. The American delegates visited Potsdam and the Royal Church where the tomb of King Frederick the Great is enshrined. They also visited the Sans-Souci Palace and the gardens, and returned to Berlin by 12 o'clock, for the very imposing ceremony before the monument of the German War Dead, where a large wreath was placed, on which the national colors of the fourteen nations represented had been attached. This ceremony attracted many thousands of onlookers. After the ceremony an imposing military parade was staged.

The delegates were later guests of Field Marshal von Blomberg, Minister of War, at the Aviators Club. Although his address was delivered in German it was noticed that throughout the luncheon he spoke entirely in very fluent French.

The afternoon was employed by the various delegations in unofficial discussion regarding the final adoption of the Constitution and selection of officers.

The dinner, on Tuesday evening, was presided by the head of the Nazi Party, Herr Rudolf Hesse, who addressed the gathering.

After the dinner, the delegates rushed back to their hotels to change from full dress to travelling suits and a special Pullman train took them to Berchtesgaden, an eleven hour trip. The reception of the inhabitants of the Bavarian village was very cordial and during the informal breakfast the orchestra played melodies from every country represented. The Americans were thrilled to hear the strains of "Yankee Doodle", "Old Kentucky Home" and other favorites, played within the shadows of the Bavarian Alps.

For luncheon the delegates were taken to a tavern, high up on the mountain side, and here folk dances and folk music provided most delightful diversion. British, Yugoslavs, Poles, Frenchmen and others danced with the girls of the village. Herr Hans Oberlindober presided at the luncheon.

The delegates were then transport-

ed over roads of ice and snow, winding amid the mountains covered with fir trees to the country-home of Chancellor Hitler.

The "mise en scène" for the Fuhrer's entrance was very elaborate. The delegates were arranged in a large circle and were kept waiting for the entrance of the Fuhrer. He was unaccompanied. He bowed, gave a Nazi salute, took his position on the steps of his reception room and listened attentively to the addresses of the Duke of Saxe-Cobourg and Signor Carlo Delcroix, the temporary president of the Permanent International Committee of War Veterans, who made a most eloquent speech. Herr Hitler remarked on how interested he was in the visit, and paused often for the photographers, also signing a very generous number of post cards as souvenirs. Afterwards, he visited each delegation, sitting down at the tables that had been arranged for tea. This reception lasted for about three hours.

At the station, on their return to Berlin, each delegate was presented with a package containing wooden handicrafts as souvenirs of their visit to Adolf Hitler.

On Thursday morning, the last day of the Congress, the final draft of the constitution was adopted. Signor Carlo Delcroix was unanimously elected president of the Committee, and Colonel George R. Crossfield, of the British Legion, was elected secretary. Each national section was invited to elect a president to represent its country on the Committee.

The final luncheon was at the Kaiserhof Hotel where the Ambassadors, Naval and Military Attachés, of the various countries and many German officials were present. Signor Carlo Delcroix made a most impressive speech in which he said: "Twenty years ago I lost the sunshine. I found it in my children, and the honor that has been paid me to-day in naming me president of the Veterans of the World War, is sufficient to pay my sacrifice. I dedicate my life to an endeavour to promote peace."

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IF YOU WANT A GOOD MAGAZINE, PATRONISE PARIS POST ADVERTISERS

Mark Legion Birth Site In Paris

Memories of Twenty Years Ago Recalled at "Cradle"

By BERNHARD RAGNER Commander, Department of France

The National Legionnaire April, 1939 Page 1 & 2

PARIS. Vibrant memories of 20 years ago were evoked, with wistfulness and longing, on Friday, March 17, when the "cradle" of The American Legion was marked with a commemorative tablet presented by national headquarters and which read, in both French and English,

**On This Site
Was Born
The American Legion
March 15-17, 1919**

To the Department of France was confided the task of arranging the ceremonies which accompanied the dedication of this tablet and, if our French friends tell the truth, we must have done a good job of it. Certainly, the ceremony was marked by dignity, patriotism, and Franco-American friendship. French officialdom out did itself, providing three companies of the Republican Guard, also the famous band of this historic organization. Ambassador William C. Bullitt represented the American government and, in the name of the Legion, presented the tablet to the city of Paris. M. Champetier de Ribes, minister of pensions, and M. Le Provost de Launay, president of the municipal council of Paris, both spoke, and we were honored by the presence of General Billotte, military governor of Paris, by General Couraud, his predecessor, who is loved and respected by the veterans of the Rainbow division, and by General Marriaux. We had also invited the Duke of Windsor, in his role as a former officer of the British Army; he was accompanied by the duchess.

However, let us review the ceremonies from the start. The first fraction, a most dramatic and colorful one, was in the famous courtyard of the Invalides. Here, a military review was given in our honor, and the Franco-American hymn, "LaFayette, We Are Here!" written and composed by M. Maurice Ruffin, a French comrade, was played for us; further, a manuscript copy was presented for inclusion in our archives. Perhaps a thousand persons witnessed this ceremony, which was accompanied by a rather disagreeable shower that, fortunately, only lasted a few minutes. While the national anthems were played, all the civilians uncovered, as the raindrops and the hail stones danced upon our heads. But, we had been soldiers once: and our stoic indifference to the tempest proves, I hope, that we still have the soldier-spirit. This storm, however, did not interfere in the slightest with the ceremony, which went through according to the schedule planned.

Famous Military Units

Immediately afterward, led by the detachments of the Republican Guard, we marched to 14 rue Ernest Psichari, the site of the onetime Cirque de Paris, where the first caucus of the Legion was held. As we arrived, the buglers sounded "Aux Champs." Promptly at 4 o'clock our program began, being carried to America by the Columbia Broadcasting System, and throughout Europe by a dozen European stations, including Radio-Geneva, Radio-Luxembourg, Paris-Mondial, and most of the French stations, both private and official. The stirring strains of "La Marseillaise," rendered as only the Republican Guard Band can do it, opened the exercises. Immediately afterward, the invocation was pronounced by the Rev. Clayton E. Williams, pastor of the American Church in Paris, and departmental chaplain of the Legion,

In my capacity as commander of the Department of France, it was my privilege to speak next. In my remarks I said:

"Twenty years ago, on this very spot, a thousand officers and men of the A.E.F. formed The American Le

gion and solemnly pledged their allegiance "To God and Country.' Two of these men are with us today; namely, General Henry J. Reilly, once of the Rainbow division, and Mr. Allan H. Muhr, who served with distinction in the French, British and American armies. Today, The American Legion has 11,506 posts, and during 1939, our membership will certainly go beyond the million mark. From a thousand to a million: such is the progress our Legion has made in two decades. All the while, we have remained faithful to our Americanism, and we still combat 'the autocracy of both the classes and the masses." we still strive to make right the master of might. Such was our ideal in 1919; such it remains in 1939."

Despite the heavy duties which he must fulfill, particularly during these troubled times, Ambassador Bullitt attended our ceremony and was the principal speaker. In part, he said:

"The American Legion, born in peace, is dedicated to the preservation of peace, and its principles of justice, freedom and democracy are the foundation of the policies by which the government of the United States attempts to promote peace. We know that the growth of good relations between nations, as between individuals, is a slow growth, and that the establishment of decent international *mores* can come only through the gradual acceptance of decent customs in international life. We know also that crimes against international morality are being committed every day. In consequence, the United States which, while believing in peace, believes also in the Individual's and the nation's right to liberty and justice, is implementing its armaments so that it may not be defenseless should its institutions be attacked."

Then, turning to the president of the municipal council, Mr. Bullitt said:

"It gives me great pleasure to present to the city of Paris, in the name of The American Legion, which was here conceived, this memorial. It will serve, I hope, as another reminder of the friendship of France and America, a friendship which has been cemented by comradeship in arms and by our mutual devotion to the principles of liberty, democracy and peace."

In accepting the memorial, M. Le Provost de Launey (a war veteran) emphasized "the solidarity between France and America in their belief in the ideals of a working democracy. The Legion will always have the gratitude, the friendship, and the confidence of France." M. Champetier de Ribes, who represented the Daladier cabinet (also a war veteran), spoke in a similar strain, and eloquently paid tribute "to the American sacrifices for liberty and democracy during the Great War." A benediction by Father Urbain Cambournac, a French ex-soldier, followed, after which "The Star-Spangled Banner" crashed upon the air.

Adjournment to Pershing Hall was next on the program, and there a friendly, comrade like reception was held. All American organizations in the French capital were represented; also all groups of French ex-service men. Two toasts were pronounced; one, "To The Soldiers of France," by myself; the second, "To The American Legion," by M. Georges Rivollet, former minister, secretary general of the National Confederation of Ex-Service Men.

After which there was an abundance of sandwiches, cakes, and so forth, washed down by champagne and other beverages. The Duke and Duchess of Windsor thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and engaged in cordial conversation with Legion officials present, such as James L. McCann (national executive committee-man, who represented national headquarters), Julius Snowhill (Paris Post commander), Gething C. Miller (commander of Myron T. Herrick Post) and George Aubrey (chairman of the organizing committee).

Sing "Madelon"

In the evening a stag dinner was held, with a hundred veterans present, two-thirds American, one-third French. General Gamelin, French chief of staff, was the guest of honor; also the presidents of the more important ex-service associations of France. "Over There" was sung, followed by "Madelon" and "Long, Long Trail." Speeches were brief and few, and when the day ended, everybody agreed that we had done a good job for The American Legion. This impression was reinforced the day after, when we saw how generously the French newspapers had "covered" our birthday party. Half a dozen Parisian papers had photographs on page one, while the articles were all of them half a column in length at least. In most of them, friendly reference was made to the Legion program, and the speeches—particularly the ambas

sador's—were quoted at length.

The Department of France is proud that, as delegate of national headquarters, it was permitted to plan and arrange these ceremonies. True, we regretted that neither National Commander Chadwick nor National Adjutant Samuel could be with us; but we know they were with us in spirit, as their cablegrams demonstrated, in truth, we received almost two dozen telegrams or cablegrams wishing us a "Happy Birthday," one of them from the French War Veterans' Association in New York.

Finally, to show that we are on the job, we sent a cablegram ourselves to Frank Samuel informing him that, on the Legion's birthday, we had attained the quota set for the Department of France for the year 1939. Now, we are working to surpass it.

The above story was published in THE NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE APRIL, 1939

ATTACHMENT 14

DIGESTS OF MINUTES National Executive Committee Meetings Los Angeles, California September 18 and 22, 1938

That the resolution thanking William C. Bullitt, United States Ambassador to France, Department of France, of The American Legion, George Conlon, American sculptor, and others concerned, for the presentation of a marble bust of General Pershing, do pass:

Appreciation of Bust

"Whereas, There was presented, through the National Commander of The American Legion, Daniel J. Doherty, to our National Organization, October fifth, nineteen hundred thirty-seven, in Paris, France, on the occasion of The American Legion Pilgrimage, a very remarkable bust of General John J. Pershing; and

"Whereas, This splendid work of art was executed by George Conlon, American sculptor; and

"Whereas, The inscription accompanying the bust reads as follows:

JOHN J. PERSHING General of the Armies of the United States Commander in Chief American Expeditionary Forces 1917—1919

Presented to The American Legion by the Honorable William C. Bullitt, United States Ambassador to France, the Department of France of The American Legion, and his friends and admirers, on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary Pilgrimage of The American Legion to France, October 5th, 1937; and

"Whereas, The bust is now on exhibition at The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, where it will be permanently housed; and

"Whereas, This gesture on the part of the United States Ambassador to France, the Department of France of The American Legion, the friends and admirers of General Pershing, and the American sculptor, has profoundly touched the hearts of Legionnaires, recalling vividly the close association between those who served the Republic of France and the United States during the days of the World War; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled this eighteenth day of September, nineteen hundred thirty-eight, in the City of Los Angeles, California, that we record herewith our full measure of appreciation and our deep sense of gratitude to all immediately concerned; and be it further

"Resolved, That this expression be appropriately recorded and forwarded to the United States Ambassador to France, the Department of France of The American Legion, and the American sculptor."

ATTACHMENT 15

THE
 American Legion



PARIS POST No. 1

49, RUE PIERRE-CHARRON, PARIS (8^e)

Tél. : ÉLYSÉES 60-64

Check Postal a/c N° 1682 /85

May 22 1940

Comrade Frank Samuel
National Adjutant of the
American Legion
777 No Meridian St
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Comrade Samuel;

You'll certainly be surprised that I am writing to you this letter on the stationary of the American Legion Post No 1 Paris, but I am terribly sorry to announce to you that it was absolutely impossible for me to save the archives of our Post, and I was obliged also, with tears in my eyes, to leave our flags behind. I left our flags with the Mess the Officers in Brussels, 30 Blv. Waterloo, Brussels.

I repeat, Comrade Samuel, that it was humanely impossible to do more than what I have done for the Legion.

What I did save is our treasury which amounted exactly to 720.74 dollars.

I hope you realize, Comrade Samuel, that \$720.74 dollars represents a terrible big fortune to our Brussels Post, and in order to get this money out I sacrificed everything that was my own. It was impossible in the lapse of time I had at my disposal to save the treasury of the Legion and my own money. There was no hesitation on my part what to do. I am certain that there could be no hesitation in the mind of any other Comrade of ours. By belonging to the Legion we are still soldiers and I have simply done my duty as a soldier.

I take with this letter the opportunity to give you the reason why it was humanely impossible for me to save the archives of the Legion and our flags. Our Commander, Comrade Raymond C Purcell, left for England on the sixth of May and when Belgium was invaded he was not back yet in Brussels. In order to take out the Legion funds two signatures were necessary, the Commanders and mine, and the bank officials could not according to regulations give out the money of the Legion on my signature only. Also we had in Belgium three days legal holiday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, it was only on Tuesday, the 14th of May, that I could do something in order to

THE
American  Legion

PARIS POST No. 1

49, RUE PIERRE-CHARRON, PARIS (8^e)

TÉL. : ÉLYSÉES 60-64

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save the Legion treasury. I had to turn heaven and earth in order to be able to get out the money of our Legion on my own signature only. It took me a day and a half to do it, and on Wednesday at four o'clock in the afternoon I had to leave Brussels, because there was no more train to be had. I stayed to the very last minute thinking that possibly some of our Comrades might need my aid, and I left only when there was no possibility to stay any longer.

I suppose, Comrade Samuel, you might be interested to know what really happened in Belgium during the days of invasions by the Germans. It came so quick that I myself am asking yet whether what had happened is really the reality.

On the 7th of May we had our regular Legion meeting. We usually had our meeting the first Tuesday of each month, and from this you could see that no one of us had the slightest idea that something like that might happen.

You certainly remember, Comrade Samuel, that after the great war many people in the States did not or could not believe that Belgium was crucified by Germany without any military justification, many in States could not believe that it was possible for any civilized nation to kill innocent men, women and children if no international military law or laws were transgressed.

If there was the slightest doubt in my mind it certainly disappeared now from what I have witnessed during these terrible days before I left Belgium. Everybody must consent that Belgium has done everything in order to be able to stay neutral. I hardly believe that any other nation has done more than Belgium did in order to keep up friendly relations with Germany. Only lately Germany solemnly declared that they guaranty the independence of Belgium. A few days before the invasion economic negotiations were being conducted by Belgium and Germany. The Belgian government has repeatedly notified the population that no reason exists why Belgium should ever be invaded. This idea of security was so deep in the minds of the Belgian population that the bombing and destructions of Belgian cities were merely accidents, and that they were due to battles between Allied and German planes. On Saturday the 11th of May I went yet to Ghent and on my return I found the train packed with children coming from

THE

 American Legion

PARIS POST No. 1
 49, RUE PIERRE-CHARRON, PARIS (8^e)
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- 3 - 6

the different institutions in O stende. These children were being returned to their parents. Several miles from Brussels we were attacked by a German bomber. All were ordered to get out of the train and to seek safety in the open.

You could imagine the horrified cries of these children of these innocent beings who do not yet know that we are living in a civilized world. The German bomber came down almost to the ground machine gunning right and left. We had some victims, and it is only due to the approach of an Allied plane that all of us were not killed or wounded.

When this letter reaches you, Comrade Samuel, you'll certainly know that Leuven is again destroyed and with it the wonderful great library which the States rebuilt after the great war.

From what I read I see that there are some people in the States who believe that when these free European nations will disappear that our States will still be able to retain its Democracy.

Comrade Samuels, I beg to excuse me if my report to you is long, but you could imagine the state of emotion one is in when he is compelled to leave everything behind. Even if there was no immediate danger for me and my family I would not have remained and to see the treasury of our Legion fall into the hands of the Germans. In the hope to see you and in the hope to be able to shake hands personally with you, I remain,

Yours Fraternally,

N. B. MELTZ
 N. B. MELTZ.

ADJUTANT
AMERICAN LEGION
 Brussels Post n° 1
 144, Chaussée de Gand
 BERCHEM-S^TE-AGATHE

*P.S. You could
 contact with me
 through the Paris
 office even if I am post No 1
 not in Paris. As long as I
 am in France I'll be constantly
 in touch with N.B.M.
 the Paris office. PARIS POST NO. 1.*

June 1, 1940
255-2

*CANCELLED
8-21-1979*

Mr. H. B. Melts, Adjutant,
Brussels Post No. 1, The American Legion,
Care Paris Post No. 1,
49 Rue Pierre Charron,
Paris (8e) France

Dear Comrade Melts:

Thank you very much for your consideration in writing us so promptly, on May 22, after settling in Paris. We have read and re-read the content of your letter, and have passed it around among our Division Heads here at the Headquarters.

We congratulate you heartily upon having made the very best of a disappointing and discouraging situation. It seems to us that the procedure finally followed, in taking up your headquarters with Paris Post No. 1, was just about the only one left open to you. Even though you were not able to transfer the archives, including the flags, you accomplished a lot, under most difficult conditions, in transferring the funds belonging to your Post.

I will not attempt to write at length just now, as I want several more here to see your letter today, before we close the office for the week-end.

If and when conditions assume a fair degree of normalcy, and after you reestablish your own Post Headquarters, we will send all types of literature and office supplies, which will go a considerable way in replacing the archives which you have lost. However, it seems inadvisable to attempt to make shipments of this type of material while the mails and express are difficult and uncertain.

Assuring you that we are all thinking of you good folks daily, and wishing for a quick, honorable re-establishment of peace, I am,

Sincerely yours,

FRANK E. SAMUEL,
National Adjutant

*CC of both to
Shirwood*

LUCE'S PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU

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Veterans

Adjutant of Belgium Post Loses Archives

When quick-stepping German troops marched over Belgium to occupy its capital city of Brussels, N. B. Meltz, adjutant of Belgium Post 1, American Legion, suddenly found himself one of thousands of refugees forced to flee the Low Country into France.

In a letter to Frank E. Samuel, national adjutant, Meltz mentioned that "it was absolutely impossible for me to save the archives of our post, and I was obliged, with tears in my eyes, to leave our flags behind. Along bomb-pitted roads the adjutant followed the stream of refugees across the Belgian border and Northern France into Paris.

Paris Post 1 on the Rue Pierre Charron gave shelter to Meltz and a scattered handful of other veterans who hoped for relief from flight. Now, with the French surrender to Germany, the fate of the Paris Post members and its refugee boarders is unknown.

An object of interest to all veterans visiting San Francisco, the Veterans' War Memorial building will throw its doors wide open to guests and friends gathered for the thirteenth annual American Legion pilgrimage grand ball on Saturday, June 23, at 8 o'clock. Every room and feature of the city landmark has been tidied up for mass inspection by the public.

The grand ball, a social high light for Legionaires throughout California, will hit its stride in the main auditorium of the building. American Legion leaders from all corners of the State have been scheduled to appear, under the patronage of De-

partment Commander William S. Dunn.

For the third time in as many years, Major John R. Lynch Post, colored camp, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will step up its outdoor activities to a 1940 peak with a picnic and get-together at Oak Park Cove in San Mateo on Sunday, June 22. Dancing, races and contests have been arranged to occupy the time of most merrymakers, but topping all features will be the bathing beauty parade, winding up in prize-winning competition for the entrants.

Following are the meetings to be held today at the Veterans' War Memorial building:

Marine Corps drum corps; Rainbow Division Veterans; San Francisco Jewish War Veterans; Richter McKinnon Camp and Auxiliary, U. S. V. W.; Addie Ballou Tent, D. U. V. O. W.; P. G. Bunch Unit, A. L. A.; Canadian Legion and Auxiliary; McKinley Fleet No. 1; Southern Pacific Unit, A. L. A.; 363d Infantry Post, A. L. A.; Regular Veterans' Association Auxiliary.

Legion Leader Flees

Adjutant of Belgium Post Loses Archives

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JUN 24 1940
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
The American Legion
Indianapolis, Ind.

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Where are they now?



LLOYD G. CORNWALL of San Jose, California, was elected as Commander of Paris Post No. 1, Department of France, at the October meeting of that Post. Thirty-five members attended this election session of the Mother Post of the Legion, the first regularly-called meeting since the German occupation of the French capital.

Cornwall is the man who convinced the French capital that "corn on the cob is food for humans." He is a very successful corn grower and the first farmer to head Paris Post.

Pershing Hall, the home of the Legion in France, was closed and locked during that first week of panic which followed the entry of German troops into Paris on June 14th. Fully half of the population of three million had fled to the south by that date. Those who remained waited and watched and wondered behind closed doors and shutters. When it became evident that the well-disciplined troops, and the minutely-organized occupation of the city offered no immediate danger to anyone who would comply explicitly with the German orders, doors were opened, and a semblance of normal life was resumed.

Pershing Hall was reopened by the bar man, who had never left the building. He had moved into the living quarters

Everybody in the Legion has heard about Sedley Peck, Alternate National Executive Committeeman of the Department of France, and almost everybody is familiar with his splendid beard. The magnificent services which he rendered to France as Director of the American Volunteer Ambulance Corps, later as a French army officer, and in other ways are not forgotten by that people, though he has here rather glossed them over in reporting on his buddies of Pershing Hall, the "Second American Embassy" in the Legion's birthplace



Pershing Hall, Paris Post's officers and its wheelhorses of accomplishment in a happier day, and the last issue of the Post's newspaper before the surrender of France. Below, Sedley Peck

of Jim Macaleese on the top floor when the genial secretary of Paris Post left for Bordeaux with his wife and four children on June 12th. To the amazement and joy of the Legionnaires who remained in Paris, the same French agents de police were still on their special duty of patrolling before Pershing Hall. The fact that the building was closed had not altered their standing orders. And they are still there on the job, for the extraordinary services rendered to the Americans of Paris by the Legion during the past year of war conditions, has given official status to Pershing Hall.

Coincident with the outbreak of the war in September of last year all persons were required to have official orders each time they left or entered the city, or visited any other town. Also, official papers were required to secure gasoline and a steadily increasing number of essential supplies. Special workers' permits were required for any employed person, and the matter of registration of foreigners, passport visas, vital statistics of all kinds, and the multiplicity of paper work,

The AMERICAN LEGION Magazine

which the French people have developed into a career, made the situation of foreigners almost impossible. The American Embassy was swamped by the five thousand American citizens who besieged it for relief. Here the Legion stepped into the picture. Comrades George Washington Lopp, James V. Sparks, James L. McCann and Alan H. Muhr, to name a few of the leaders, secured official consent from the French government to instal a branch of the prefecture of police in Pershing Hall. They further received the right to consider all members of the Legion and their families as "titular anciens combattants" and thus entitled to all of the special considerations granted to those Frenchmen and foreigners who had actually been in combat organizations during the World War. They got the right to open an official gasoline and oil filling station and to issue orders upon

succeed in getting back to Paris from the south. The chief work being done by Paris Post at present is a canteen or grocery store which is conducted in Pershing Hall by Commander Cornwall. It has both official and unofficial sources of food supply which it issues on ration cards. This canteen, which serves all Americans, has the permission and approval of both the French civil and the German military authorities and is being conducted in such a manner as to continue to enjoy these essential permits.

Paris Post is carrying on. Other officers on the job besides Commander Cornwall include United States Consul John R. Wood; Jerome Stenger, also of the Embassy; George Washington Lopp of the

offices at Vichy, but is planning to reopen his Paris office. Rev. Clayton Williams, Chaplain of the Department of France, who came to America as a refugee, is returning to Paris to reopen the American Church of Paris. He knows the risks, but feels that while any of his congregation remain there, he should return. Edward Thureson, Commander of the Department of France, and Jack Hunter, Adjutant, are assisting the post officers in many ways.

Colonel Nelson Dean Jay of Morgan's is heading the volunteer committee for the American Red Cross. With Red Cross men Chatfield-Taylor in Paris,

The anguish shown by these French refugees, the utter hopelessness of their lot as they tried by various means to salvage household goods—all this Paris Post members and their families experienced



it. No other nationals in France benefited by such accommodation. The United States Embassy was greatly relieved of routine and special work, and officially commended and thanked the Legion for its services.

Today these services still continue, but on a greatly reduced scale, since there are so few Americans in Paris. Three hundred and fifty is the official estimate, with perhaps another thousand dependent upon them. Some fifty Legionnaires are still in Paris. These numbers are being steadily increased as the refugees

American Volunteer Ambulance Corps; Frank Pospishil, who has reopened his paint store after serving throughout this war with the Ambulance; Dan Gibbs, who is Superintendent of the Romagne Cemetery; Henry Dunning, the former Secretary of Fidac, who is now Secretary of the American Club, and Robert L. Miles, who is working with the American Hospital. Dr. Edmund Gros, the Director of that Hospital, who has worked untiringly throughout the war, recently suffered a stroke and at last reports was making his way slowly to the United States.

Dr. William Davenport now has his

and McCoy and Allen in Bordeaux he did yeoman work. James R. Connelly, who is Chef de Gare for the Grand Voiture of France of the Forty and Eight, is at his post in the American Embassy with Glenn Parker and L. J. Daymont. Daymont's son has recently rejoined his father after having been a prisoner in Germany following capture while serving with the American Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Peter Berlin, son of the late Carl Berlin who died (Continued on page 40)

By
SEDLEY PECK

DECEMBER, 1940

19

Where are they now?

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of Worthington Pump, and Clarence Popp, manager of General Electric, are still on the job in Paris. There is an indication in this brief list as to why American citizens stay on in the war-torn countries. Al Sondime, who had the agency in France for American cigarettes and the American agencies for many brands of luxury liquors, came to America on one of the refugee ships, but is now on his way back to Paris.

Bordeaux Post No. 2 of the Department of France, is still active in the person of Commander Ora Sitton, whose brewery offered a place to sleep for many Americans, including the Volunteer Ambulance men who were stranded in that city at the time of the retreat. Ora Sitton worked valiantly with the American Red Cross during the refugee floods which augmented the population of Bordeaux from its normal 260,000 to more than a million and a quarter during the second fortnight of June.

Back in the lush days of 1930 there were thirty thousand resident American citizens in the Paris region. At the time of Munich there were about ten thousand. Upon the declaration of war there were half that number. Today there are less than five hundred. The exodus over the past decade had been quiet and in the natural course of world events—until June 3d last, when Paris was bombed from the air for the first and only time of the war.

FROM here let this story become an eye witness account of the dispersion of the membership of the Mother Post

of the Legion. And the same facts can be multiplied tenfold for a picture of the Americans in flight, and many thousand-fold if the whole scene is to be considered.

The Americans in Paris and all France had been officially requested by Ambassador William Bullitt to leave France unless they had imperative reason to remain. Many had gone, of course, and the more well-to-do had taken houses for their families in the country. The American Legion Auxiliary, under the leadership of Mrs. Edith Sanua-Seymour, had found homes in the provinces for its four hundred children. But the bombers came on June 3d. They followed the news of the Dutch defeat of May 14th, and the Belgian collapse of May 28th, and the military shake-up which brought General Maxime Weygand back to France to replace General Gustave Gamelin. They came at the moment when the French capital, through the indisputable evidence of refugees and wounded soldiers and civilians, was face to face with the knowledge that the censorship and propaganda bureaus had deceived them both as to the extent of the retreat and as to the nearness of the advancing Germans. They came when faith in the government and the army was therefore shaken, for the first time in this war. And these bombs had precisely the opposite effect of the bombings of the World War, or those of Barcelona. In the former instances the civilian suffering had only stiffened the resolution of resistance. Now they spread terror and the fear—even the conviction—of the invincibility of the German might.

The AMERICAN LEGION Magazine

WE SHALL KEEP FAITH

By

FREDERICK W. BEEKMAN

IF YE break faith with us who die."

So sang John McCrae, the Canadian soldier-poet of the last war. Since 1918 on every Memorial Day, every Armistice Day, every All Saints Day those of the A. E. F., of the B. E. F., of the French and Belgian veterans of the World War fallen in battle have been remembered by their comrades, their countrymen and Allies in church and cemetery throughout France, England and Belgium.

Early in May, 1918, I received a telephone call from General Pershing's G. H. Q. at Chaumont asking for the formation in Paris of a Memorial Day committee to collect funds and purchase flowers and flags to be placed on the graves of our Hero Dead lying in the Military Cemeteries and in graves then isolated. This was done, and it was the forerunner of the Memorial Day Association which functioned with loyal devotion every year since 1918, and even in 1940 and 1941. (This association was organized after the founding of The American Legion, and was assisted generously by The American Legion at National Headquarters.)

Armistice Day, 1939, and Memorial Day, 1940 and 1941, are worth recalling. On November 11, 1939, when the present war was a little over two months old, all but one of our military cemeteries in France were in military zones under French army command. The American Embassy therefore arranged with the French commander of the Verdun zone to hold services at Romagne, our largest cemetery, and General Huntziger, commanding, requested the privilege of passing in review within the cemetery itself crack units of his troops. Standing just opposite the Cemetery Chapel, this ill-fated Alsatian General who was destined to receive Hitler's Armistice terms in the railway coach at Compiègne and afterwards crashed to his death in France, reviewed units of his army which marched by. Then followed by his staff he mounted the broad steps to the beautiful chapel and reverently laid a wreath before the altar, in memory of those lying under the white crosses on the hillside nearby.

An hour later, Colonel Horace Fuller, Captain Stone, American Military and Naval attachés, representatives of the Legion and forty others, sat down at luncheon in the Hotel Vauban at Verdun,

Drawing by
Edward M. Stevenson



They knew what they were fighting for

Very Rev. Frederick Beekman, D.D., Dean of the American Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Paris, France, since 1918, is currently a special lecturer under the War Department to American army camps and schools. He was Chaplain of Paris Post in 1940 and before that had served as Chaplain of the Department of France

as guests of General Huntziger, before returning to Paris.

The following May the Memorial Day Association and the Legion prepared an unusual observance. As all cemeteries ex-

cepting Suresnes were in German hands or on the battle front, marble crosses, one for each cemetery, were brought to the American Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, Paris, and placed along

the Altar Rail. As a part of the Church Service, at the call of each cemetery a comrade stepped forward, placed a poppy wreath at the base of the cross, stood at attention and saluted. Then the American Ambassador and other representatives of the Allied governments and veterans associations with colors came to the Chancel, saluted and retired. The Italians, present in former years, were noticeably absent.

This great church service, repeated every year since its inauguration, was most impressive, never more so in any year since May, 1918, when the German army had crossed the Marne at Château-Thierry and shells were falling in Paris.

At the conclusion of the service, led by Ambassador Bullitt and his Embassy Staff, the congregation left the church, passing along the Battle Cloister, where in sculptured stone are recorded the insignia, losses and battle credits of the principal units of the A. E. F. and the Navy. Then all marched to the Arc de Triomphe, where the Ambassador and officers of the Legion laid a wreath on the grave of the "soldat inconnu."

Less than two weeks thereafter the enemy was at the gates of Paris, and the Battle of France was lost.

Nothing could surpass in tender devotion the unbroken remembrance given by comrades to those who had given "the last full measure of devotion" to the cause of right and truth. Yet was that what John McCrae meant when he penned his immortal lines: "If Ye Break Faith With Us Who Die"? Rather was he not thinking of the Cause for which the Allied armies fought and died?

And what was that cause? President Wilson expressed it, "To make the world safe for Democracy." For Democracy could not be safe, no Democratic country could be safe unless those forces unleashed upon peaceful neighbors in the summer of 1914 were defeated.

Despite all the propaganda poured out upon the world, and interpretations of the First World War given for the purpose of securing support to certain post-war movements, sound thinking men are today agreed that had not Germany and Austria willed that war, with invasion of



A wreath laid by a Gold Star Mother at the grave of an unknown American soldier in the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery at Romagne some years ago

Belgium and France, there would have been no war. For years peaceful neighbors had heard German threats accompanied by sabre rattling and "Do this or else."

In 1914 they heard it again behind the back of Austria. Realizing that if they yielded, other demands would follow, until Europe came under the heel of German might, they ignored the threat and the war was on, not to end until millions of men had fallen and the United States had sent the A. E. F. overseas, two million strong, to insure victory for the defenders of the right and the democratic order.

How long ago it seems since General Pershing and Staff with the advance guard of the A. E. F. landed in France! How distant that day at Cantigny when our men received their baptism of fire, or those days at Belleau Wood and Château-Thierry when the enemy felt the unbreakable power of the First and Second Divisions!

Returning to New York after the war, Lieutenant General Robert E. Bullard,

who commanded the Second Army, referring to the repulse of the German attempt to cross the Marne, said, "A German officer stated to me that he had never before witnessed such deadly, concentrated rifle fire as the Americans showed on that day. Every man must have been a sharpshooter. How do you account for it, General?" I replied, 'Oh, those boys learned their stuff shooting squirrels in Maine or Georgia. The American infantryman aims at a target, not simply at the enemy.'"

Yes, the glorious A. E. F. of 1917-'18 and their Allies of 1914-'18 living and dead did their duty bravely and well, but faith was not kept with them. The Treaty of Versailles is not to be charged with it. Admitting faults as to the freer passage from one country to another of economic goods, it was the fairest and best treaty which had come out of Europe in a thousand years. Of the four charges made against it by the Germans, viz., territory lost, reparations paid, livestock and agricultural products returned and colonies seized, not one is well founded.

Not an inch of European territory was taken from them which was rightfully German. The post-war German government borrowed 200 million pounds sterling from England and the U. S. A., and paid just half that sum in cash repara-

(Continued on page 48)



The beautiful cemetery at Suresnes overlooking Paris, the only American military cemetery not in German hands when Dean Beekman conducted Memorial Day services in the Cathedral at Paris in 1940

We Shall Keep Faith

(Continued from page 15)

tions under the treaty. Livestock and goods assessed against them for livestock and goods taken in the occupied and devastated regions of northern France and Belgium were restored in but half the amount taken. "Lost colonies" about which they cried long and loudly to impress the German people and keep alive hatred of their conquerors in preparation for another war amounted to less than one-half of one percent of the total German trade.

And the decade beginning with 1920—in retrospect how tragic it now seems! These were the years of the pacifist crusade, of Allied disarmament, of a League of Nations without teeth, where they debated and debated, and talked and talked, of the ever-recurring cries from Germany to cut down their debt or forgive it entirely or else "Germany would go Bolshevik," and it was forgiven—of the Soviet "liquidation" by execution and forced famine of millions of Russians.

Then came the fatal thirties. The Japanese seizure of Manchukuo from a friendly and peaceful China. The rejection of Secretary Stimson's clear-sighted proposal to the British to stop Japan when it could have been done by joint American-British warning, but British pacifist, panicky fear that the Japs without an ally might fight nations having four times their naval strength, together with the narrow, short-sighted interest in British-Japanese trade agreements, tossed away that golden opportunity. Stopped then, there could have been no Japanese-Chinese War, no Japanese alliance with Hitler, no Pearl Harbor, no Hong-Kong, Singapore, Manila, Java nor Burma, no threat to untold numbers of American lives in the Pacific . . . "If ye break faith with us who die."

So, emboldened by the blindness,

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weakness and cowardice of the democracies, Mussolini defied them, and with poison gas, tanks and airplanes defeated the primitive Abyssinians, many fighting with shotguns, bows and arrows, and spears.

It was in the early thirties that Hitler and his Nazis finally came to power, trampled on the weak Weimar Republic and began to organize a Germany, always willing to follow a crafty, ruthless leader promising loot.

The provisions of the Versailles Treaty were quietly broken. Rearmament for a new and powerful army and navy began, arms factories hummed, labor discontent was shrewdly quieted by improved conditions, largely by means of British-American loans and dishonest trade practices. Joining the League of Nations, which he held in contempt, Hitler soon found an excuse to leave it, taking with him Italy and Japan, with whom he formed the Axis of totalitarian powers. The Axis at once divided the world into spheres of influence—a new Europe and Africa under Germany and Italy, a new Asia, "Asia for the Asiatics," under Japan.

This called for the destruction of the British, French, Chinese and Dutch Empires, the prohibition of American trade with Europe, Africa and Asia except on Axis terms, the Axis monopoly of South American trade—in brief a United States in a straitjacket.

During all of this time what were the victorious nations of 1918 doing? While Germany under orders preferred guns to butter, the intended victims preferred butter to guns and refused to face the facts or to be disturbed by those who warned that their butter wouldn't last long.

They preferred to believe propagandists who told them the United States had been cleverly drawn into the war.

in order to pull other nations' chestnuts out of the fire and pay the bills.

In England, the United States, and other Christian countries, the foolish pacifists without a realistic hair in their heads, with no knowledge of peoples, the rate of human progress, not even geography, were in the saddle. They owned the churches, held conferences, captured the inexperienced college undergraduates, outlawed war by resolution, and visited Geneva.

At the right moment Hitler moved, openly defying the Treaty of Versailles, and marched into the Rhineland with his tongue in his cheek, ready to get out if the French army opposed. But pacifistic England refused to back France and the move succeeded.

Came the war in Spain, then Munich, where Chamberlain for England and Daladier for France bowed before Hitler and Mussolini, practically giving up Czecho-Slovakia to the wolves and making certain the next demand upon Poland.

For this, Chamberlain and Daladier are now denounced as "appeasers." They were. Yet there are those who go back of 1938 and ask "Who is responsible for appeasement at Munich?" and they answer, "Those who for years disarmed Britain militarily and morally, leaving her with little to fight with. Those who stopped their ears and minds to Churchill's clear-viewed warnings, only to rush to him years afterwards to save them from the results of their own folly."

And in France? Greedy employers and venal politicians had created a condition that led to a Socialist-Communist-led revolt. In 1934-'35 these parties came to power de facto, and in 1936 Leon Blum formed his Popular Front Government with the aid of Daladier's left-wing Radical-Socialists. They embarked upon a legislative program, not wisely within the

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framework of the economic system which had obtained in France and all Democratic countries for a century, but in a sweeping and revolutionary way which was bound to and did divide Frenchmen into two hostile groups hating each other bitterly, much more bitterly than they hated Hitler.

So determined were these Leftists to establish a Socialist system and purge their rivals of power and property that they neglected their first duty as a government and failed to equip properly their army for modern warfare. Blum and Daladier may deny this charge, but neither the Popular Front Government nor Marshal Petain and his Superior Council of War can be acquitted. Both are guilty. The Maginot Line was not completed and General de Gaulle's statement still stands: "Had France 5,000 more planes and 7,000 more tanks she would not have lost the Battle of France."

But for us Americans, as we compare French and American conditions, it is interesting to note that in 1936 when, following an appropriation of twelve billions of francs to increase the air force to meet that of Germany, only 340 planes were produced, that during that twelve-month period there were 364 strikes with tools downed within the arms' factories involving 400,000 skilled workmen, that General de Gaulle's pleas for heavy tanks fell on deaf ears.

"Where is your patriotism—what of France?" I said to one labor leader. He replied, "My patriotism is in my pocket. Anyone having it in any other place is an idiot." Well, there are no longer labor unions in France. These men work long hours on short pay and like it.

And in the United States, since Pearl Harbor, when even the most obstinate isolationist was forced to admit that the action of the Legion in its convention at Milwaukee was right, are there still those who can be placed alongside the European betrayers of our comrades?

It must be admitted with shame that there are. Not many, but too many. The American Legion knows who they are. Briefly, they are those who prefer business as usual, profits as usual, strikes and walk-outs as usual, politics as usual, pet hates as usual, complacent religion as usual, prayers for peace instead of victory—all those who in a thousand ways are hindering a one hundred percent efficiency and conquering spirit in a war in which we win all or lose all. Such influence must be stopped.

America can be proud of its growing Army and Navy, its airmen and its Leathernecks. But they are in uniform and cannot talk. We, their comrades of other wars, can. Let us do it with no uncertain voice, as we root out and denounce everyone who willfully or ignorantly would betray the fighting men of the grandest republic on earth, fighting for the greatest cause—human freedom.

MAY, 1942

WHEN PURCHA

George Aubrey Killed by Nazis

Past Commander Was Underground Fighter With the Maquis

Information has come that George Aubrey, who had served both as post commander of Paris Post No. 1 in France, and as department commander of the Department of France of The American Legion, lost his life during the recent war while fighting the Germans as a member of the Maquis, the French underground group.

Gordon Moon, vice-commander of Paris Post 1, tells the story in a letter to friends in the United States.

George Aubrey was chief of the Maquis in the Cher district all during the period of the German occupation of France. Things were very hot and the French resistance was very active, particularly after the "D" Day invasion.

On July 18, 1944, Aubrey went with five of his Maquis on patrol duty. They encountered a German group, and there was an exchange of shots. Aubrey, though wounded in the arm and shoulder, tried to escape by hiding in a small ravine. The Germans found him there, and as he was recognized as being of the Maquis, Aubrey was killed without further ado.

In recognition of his bravery, he has been posthumously named an honorary citizen of St. Amand Montrond (Cher).

All honor to this liberty-loving Legionnaire, who served bravely in the place and under the circumstances that were available to him in the fight for liberty, and who—like thousands of others—made his life a sacrifice in behalf of those who remain.

George A. Aubrey



Name: George A. Aubrey

Rank: Major

Serial Number:

Unit: French Resistance

Date of Death: July 18, 1944

State: Massachusetts

Cemetery: Private cemetery in Creuzier-le-Vieux, France

Plot:

Row:

Grave:

Decoration: Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster

George A. Aubrey was born in Northampton, Mass., in 1893. He entered the Army as a captain and served as company commander during WWI, eventually being promoted to the rank of major. He sustained multiple injuries in September 1918 at the Battle of Saint Mihiel, and was discharged soon after. Following his military service, he married French woman Alberte Viette in 1919 before moving to the United States to study engineering. Two years later in 1921, he returned to France where he worked as an automotive engineer with General Motors France before starting his own business. He had two sons, Norbert and Guy. Aubrey was an active member of the newly founded American Legion, and his participation in the organization increased prior to the start of WWII. He served as Post Representative to the Department of France in 1930, Post Historian in 1931, was a member of the Post Executive Committee from 1933 to 1934, Post Commander in 1938, and Department of France Commander from 1939 to 1940. When WWII broke out, Aubrey led Legion efforts to organize the American Volunteer Ambulance Corps and made weekly radio broadcasts to the United States. He actively encouraged American involvement in the war and helped to continue Legion activity despite the fast-approaching German forces. When France fell in 1940, Aubrey was one of only 500 Americans left in Paris, and he was forced to flee less than a year later. From his new location south of Paris near Saint Amand-Montron, he continued his efforts by remaining in contact with the Allied forces, organizing a group of maquis fighters (his code name was LAFAYETTE), and assisting the Free French in North Africa until his death in July 1944. Aubrey was killed in the commune of Bétête when driving home from a meeting with other French Resistance leaders. After coming across a German unit, Aubrey and passengers in his car opened fire but were easily overtaken by the Germans. Aubrey was shot multiple times by machine gun fire; however, he managed to hide secret documents detailing Resistance plans before he was killed. He was buried in a nearby family vault but was moved to a cemetery in Creuzier-le-Vieux on May 5, 1948, for permanent, proper burial. Aubrey was posthumously awarded the French Croix de la Légion d'Honneur and is honored on plaques at Place des Etats-Unis and Pershing Hall in Paris. There is also a street named after him in Saint Amand-Montron where he is an honorary citizen. Each year since his reburial, dedicated French citizens have held a ceremony at his grave site to honor his service and sacrifice.

**PROCEEDINGS of the
National Executive Committee
The American Legion
April 29-30 —May 1, 1959
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

**REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
FOLLOWING REPORT OF
PERSHING HALL SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

Subcommittee Chairman Stone submitted the following resolutions which were unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION NO. 58

Title: Pershing Hall.

Submitted by: Special Committee Study Pershing Hall.

WHEREAS, The Government of the United States is vested with title to a building in Paris, France, known as "Pershing Hall," a Memorial commemorating the Commander-in-Chief, Officers, Men and Auxiliary Services of the American Expeditionary Forces, which is now being operated for the use and benefit of all American Officers and Enlisted Men of the Great Wars; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Treasury of the United States holds a special fund created by Act of Congress under Public Law 171 of the 74th Congress, approved June 28, 1935, known as the "Pershing Hall Memorial Fund" in the sum of \$193,403.22, exclusive of currently accrued interest, which he is authorized to invest and reinvest in interest-bearing United States Government Bonds, the accrued and accruing interest therefrom to be paid to the National Treasurer of The American Legion for use in the maintenance and/or perpetuation of the said Pershing Hall; and

WHEREAS, On August 16, 1939, an "Operating Agreement" was entered into by and between the National Organization of The American Legion and the Department of France of The American Legion, and Paris Post No. 1 of said Department, for the purpose of "providing for the operation, maintenance and/or perpetuation of said "Pershing Hall," which is still in effect, providing among other things that the earnings from said Fund be transmitted to the Department of France and Paris Post No. 1, but said funds are not sufficient to meet the cost of maintenance and/or perpetuation of said Memorial as the sum of \$70,000.00 is presumably needed for capital repairs and capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with an unnumbered resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee at a regular meeting October 17-19, 1956, the Legislative Commission of The American Legion on March 1, 1957, appeared before the House Subcommittee on Appropriations in connection with hearings on general government matters and made a plea for an appropriation in the amount of \$70,000.00 to cover the cost of the capital repairs and improvements urgently needed to said Pershing Hall, but were refused on the grounds that The American Legion had no standing before said sub-committee; and moreover were informed that unless and until it was determined what agency of the government had jurisdiction over the building no further consideration would be given to a request for appropriations for the purposes stated; and

WHEREAS, In early 1954 the National Executive Committee authorized the appointment of a Special Committee to consider and report on matters relating to foreign departments and Posts of The American Legion, including the operation of Pershing Hall under said Agreement, and said Committee has been continued from year to year with some change in personnel; and

WHEREAS, It is the consensus of said Special Committee that there is room for improvement in the operation of Pershing Hall; and

WHEREAS, Your Special Committee is of the firm opinion that the intent and purpose of Public Law 171, 74th Congress, can best be accomplished, and the American Legion's trust obligations thereunder can best be discharged, if

the National Organization is directly represented on the Pershing Hall Operating Committee; and **WHEREAS**, The present Operating Agreement also provides, inter alia, that said agreement may be terminated by either party thereto upon giving six (6) months' notice to that effect to the other by registered mail, and under the law applicable may be terminated for cause at any time, should cause exist; and

WHEREAS, It is also the consensus of said Special Committee that The American Legion should either terminate said Agreement by giving the required notice to the Department of France of The American Legion and Paris Post No. 1 of said Department, or terminate said Agreement for cause, and upon said termination enter into a new Agreement with said parties under which the day to day operation, maintenance, and/or perpetuation of said Memorial shall be supervised for and on behalf of The American Legion by a Standing Committee to be known as the "Pershing Hall Operating Committee" appointed by the National Commander with the approval of the National Executive Committee, all as hereinafter provided; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 29-30, May 1, 1959:

1. That the National Adjutant of The American Legion be and he is hereby authorized, for and on its behalf, to give written notice to the Department of France of The American Legion and Paris Post No. 1 of said Department, terminating said Agreement as provided in Section 2, Article IV thereof, provided however, that said Agreement is not terminated at an earlier date by mutual consent of the parties, or for cause, and the National Commander be empowered to take such action, if any, as may be deemed advisable to carry out the Legion's obligations and interests.

2. That said Special Committee be and it is hereby authorized to negotiate a new Agreement with the Department of France, The American Legion, and Paris Post No. 1 of that Department, subject to the approval of the National Commander, the National Adjutant, and the National Judge Advocate, for the operation, maintenance, and/or perpetuation of said Pershing Hall in a manner suitable to the prestige and dignity of said Memorial.

3. That the National Commander of The American Legion be and he is authorized, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee, to create a Standing Committee, to be known as the "Pershing Hall Operating Committee," which shall supervise, for and on behalf of The American Legion, the operation, maintenance, and/or perpetuation of said Memorial by said Department of France, The American Legion, and Paris Post No. 1 thereof, with authority to promulgate and designate by regulation, its responsibilities under this resolution.

4. That said Committee shall be composed of three (3) ex-officio members, with voice and vote,

- 1.** The National Adjutant of The American Legion, or his nominee,
- 2.** The Commander of the Department of France, The American Legion, or his nominee,
- 3.** The Commander of Paris Post No. 1, Department of France, and six (6) additional members, who shall be members of The American Legion and who are residents of the Paris area of France, to be selected and appointed by the National Commander, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee; two (2) serving for terms of one (1) year, two (2) serving for terms of two (2) years, and two (2) serving for terms of three (3) years, and their successors to be appointed for terms of three (3) years each.

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 4, 5, 1961**

Resolution No. 55: Pershing Hall

Origin: Special Committee on Pershing Hall

Submitted by: Special Committee on Pershing Hall

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on April 29-30, May 1, 1959, adopted Resolution No. 58, in connection with "Pershing Hall," a building located in Paris, France, a Memorial Commemorating the Commander-in-Chief, Officers, Men and Auxiliary Services of the American Expeditionary Forces, now being operated for the use and benefit of all American Officers and Enlisted Men of the Great Wars, the resolved clause of which is quoted herein below:

RESOLVED, * * *

1. That the national adjutant of The American Legion be and he is hereby authorized, for and on its behalf, to give written notice to the Department of France of The American Legion and Paris Post No. 1 of said department, terminating said agreement as provided in Section 2, Article IV thereof, provided however, that said Agreement is not terminated at an earlier date by mutual consent of the parties, or for cause, and the national commander be empowered to take such action, if any, as may be deemed advisable to carry out the Legion's obligations and interests.

2. That said special committee be and it is hereby authorized to negotiate a new Agreement with the Department of France, The American Legion, and Paris Post No. 1 of that department, subject to the approval of the national commander, the national adjutant, and the national judge advocate, for the operation, maintenance, and/or perpetuation of said Pershing Hall in a manner suitable to the prestige and dignity of said memorial.

3. That the national commander of The American Legion be and he is authorized, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee, to create a standing committee, to be known as the "Pershing Hall Operating Committee," which shall supervise, for and on behalf of The American Legion, the operation, maintenance, and/or perpetuation of said memorial and by said Department of France, The American Legion, and Paris Post No. 1 thereof, with authority to promulgate and designate by regulation, its responsibilities under this resolution.

4. That said committee shall be composed of three (3) ex-officio members, with voice and vote, viz:

1. The national adjutant of The American Legion, or his nominee,
2. The commander of the Department of France, The American Legion, or his nominee,
3. The commander of Paris Post No. 1, Department of France, and six (6) additional members, who shall be members of The American Legion and who are residents of the Paris area of France, to be selected and appointed by the national commander, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee; two (2) serving for terms of one (1) year, two (2) serving for terms of two (2) years, and two (2) serving for terms of three (3) years, and their successors to be appointed for terms of three (3) years each."; and

WHEREAS, The first and second resolved clauses of the said Resolution No. 58 have been complied with and a new operating agreement has been executed by the proper officials of the Department of France and Paris Post No. 1 for the operation, maintenance and/or perpetuation of said Pershing Hall, all as provided for in the second resolved clause of said Resolution No. 58; and

WHEREAS, During the course of negotiating the said Pershing Hall operating agreement it was deemed desirable to make one minor change in the language dealing with the composition of the Pershing Hall Operating Committee, namely, to delete the language "or his nominee" appearing in paragraph 2 of the fourth resolved clause of said Resolution No. 58; and

WHEREAS, It is the consensus of your Special Committee on Pershing Hall, your national adjutant, and your judge advocate that the finalized agreement will enable The American Legion to properly fulfill and discharge its obligations of trust to the government of the United States in connection with the operation, perpetuation and maintenance of said Pershing Hall; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 1960, That

1. That National Commander Martin B. McKneally be and he is hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of The American Legion the said Pershing Hall Operating Agreement, and National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore to attest the same and affix the corporate seal thereto;

2. That approval is hereby granted for the following persons to serve on the standing committee known as the "Pershing Hall Operating Committee," for the terms hereinafter expressed, all as provided for in the fourth resolved clause of Resolution No. 58 and under Article IV of the said Pershing Hall Operating Agreement;

1. Ex-officio Members:

John R. Wood, American Consul, France, as nominee for National Adjutant E. A. Blackmore

Joseph P. McDermott, commander, Department of France

Howard C. Dulin, commander, Paris Post No. 1, Department of France

2. Additional Members Resident of the Paris Area of France:

To serve for a term of one year:

William C. Buell

James L. McCann

3. To serve for terms of two years :

Horton B. Kennedy

Russell M. Porter

4. To serve for terms of three years:

Eugene H. Callison

Fred J. Sears

and their respective successors to be appointed for terms of three (3) years each; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled does hereby ratify the act of deleting the language to wit: "or his nominee, appearing in paragraph 4 of the resolved clause of Resolution No. 58 referred to hereinabove, and approve the language, as presently written contained in Article IV, paragraph one, sub-paragraph "2" of the said Pershing Hall Operating Agreement, which has been approved.



A **AMERICAN LEGION NEWS SERVICE**
L **NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION—THE AMERICAN LEGION**
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C. D. DeLoach, *Chairman*

James C. Watkins, *Director*

P. O. Box 1055
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
 (317) 835-8411

HEADQUARTERS

1608 K St., N. W.
 Washington, D. C. 20006
 (202) 393-4811

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For release 1-17-75

WASHINGTON--(ALNS)--Representatives of the United States, The Netherlands and The American Legion participated in the casting of a new symbol of the American Bicentennial at a foundry in Aarle-Rixtel, The Netherlands, on Friday, Jan. 17.

At 3 p.m. on that day, craftsmen cast the Freedom Bell, a double-scale model of America's Liberty Bell. The American Legion is donating the Freedom Bell to the American Freedom Train on behalf of America's children.

Kingdon Gould, Jr., the United States Ambassador to The Netherlands; a representative of The Netherlands; John D. Holmes, Commander of The American Legion Department of France; Daniel Campbell, Adjutant of the Legion's Department of France; and Helmut Spangenthal, The American Legion of France's National Executive Committeeman; participated in the ceremony in the Dutch village.

Commander Holmes was the personal representative of James M. Wagonseller, National Commander of The American Legion.

The creation of the bell is part of a tradition that stretches back to the days of the Pilgrims. The casting process began at a signal from the master founder and 20 tons of molten metal was released into the mold. After the metal cured, the bell was lifted from the mold for the final step--the tuning of the bell precisely one octave lower than the Liberty Bell itself.

"We envision this bell," said Commander Wagonseller, "as an inspiration to the young, an encouragement to them to firmly grasp the responsibilities necessary to direct America's future path."

The Freedom Bell will be carried to the American people aboard the American Freedom Train, another Bicentennial symbol. The train, a specially-created showcase of America's heritage, will travel the 48 contiguous states, bringing many families a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience this nation's past, present and future.

"Communities across the country are telling us that the American Freedom Train is providing them a focal point to their own Bicentennial celebrations," said Jon A. Foust, president of the American Freedom Train Foundation. "We want the millions who see the train, especially the school children, to view this as a living history lesson."

The Freedom Bell's 17,000-mile journey begins in Delaware April 1. The American Freedom Train is being sponsored by a grant from General Motors Corporation, Kraft Foods, Pepsi Cola Company and the Prudential Insurance Company of America.

-alns-

"BE COUNTED AGAIN FOR AMERICA"



Sgt. Donald R. Hohman, a 12-year Army veteran from West Sacramento, CA, father of four, was on temporary duty with the medical support unit at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, having arrived three months earlier from his regular post at the U.S. Army's 97th General Hospital, Wiesbaden, West Germany.

Despite the tension and hostility so evident on that morning—and readily apparent even when Hohman had arrived from West Germany—Hohman was relaxed and counting the days until he could return to Wiesbaden and to his German-born wife, Anna, and their young children. But that was not to be—not until after 444 days and nights of hell during which Hohman, for the first time in his life, “really learned to hate.”

For Sgt. Hohman, the long ordeal began shortly before noon on November 4. A band of armed terrorists exploded into the apartment building near the Embassy where he and several other Americans were living. The intruders kicked in the doors as they searched the apartments.

“I went over the balcony, dropping from the second floor to the first floor,” remembers Hohman. “I thought I was going to get away over the adjoining wall, but a policeman pointed me out to the terrorists and they surrounded me.”

Hohman was taken to the Embassy compound where, with the other Americans, he was bound and blindfolded. It was a scene of chaos and confusion. The sergeant was moved to four different locations inside the compound during the first day. At first, he says, most of the Americans thought it was going to be a sit-in demonstration that could be ended

without forceful resistance. “After a while, we knew differently.”

Like the other hostages, Hohman had to wear only what he had on—in his case, bluejeans, corduroy jacket and casual shoes. It was to be his prison “uniform” for the next 14½ months.

When the realization of the hostages’ plight sank in, Hohman thought: “This is an act of war because they breached the wall into our Embassy compound. But I thought the government would take care of it immediately, or at least in the next couple of days.”

The Iranian government?

“No, our government. I believed that the United States was strong enough to say to Khomeini: ‘Okay, you’re going to let these people go,’ and the Iranians would comply.”

Were the Iranian captors students or terrorists?

“They were terrorists. The minute they came over the wall they were terrorists in my book. Some may have been students before they came over, but once they breached that wall they were terrorists.”

Hohman says, “There didn’t seem to be anyone in charge. There was a scheme to it because they had people wearing different colored armbands, but I never knew of anyone really directing the operation.”

Had the terrorists been met with armed resistance, would they have dispersed, as they did after an earlier assault on the Embassy in February?

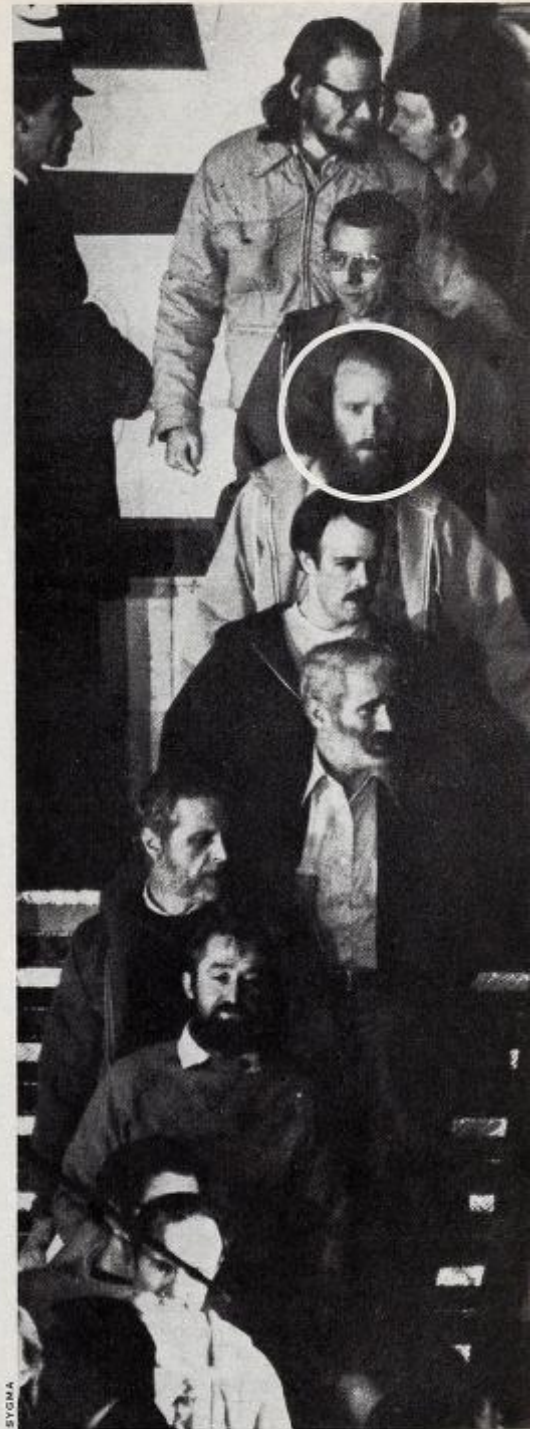
“I don’t know,” says Hohman. “I have wondered about that. I did talk to many of the terrorists later and they said they had written wills for their families, expecting to die when they came over the wall. However, I think if our Marines had been allowed to fire, all of us may have died.”

Hohman says there was no question of the fanaticism of the terrorists. “They showed hate, and that’s where I learned my hate . . . Until then, I never had truly hated anybody in my life. I may have disliked certain people, but they (the terrorists) taught me how to really hate.”

In retrospect, the sergeant says this feeling of rage toward his captors probably helped him get through the ordeal. “I returned the feelings of the terrorists.”

Hohman believes that much of the fanaticism and hatred came from young Iranians educated in the United States. “They showed a kind of love-hate relationship (toward America). There are things they

(Continued on page 46)



(Opposite page). Freed hostage and fellow Legionnaire SFC Donald R. Hohman's welcome home included New York City's largest-ever ticker-tape parade. (Left). Hohman—being greeted by his German-born wife, Anna, upon his arrival in Wiesbaden—was the first hostage to be reunited with his family. (Above). A bearded and exhausted Hohman is shown with his fellow hostages arriving in Algeria.



"I Was Khomeini's Hostage..."

(Continued from page 13)

really liked about the United States, but there were things they despised, calling our government corrupt, our people oppressed—particularly blacks and Chicanos."

They picked up many of their "hate America" slogans on campuses in the U.S.?

"In my opinion, yes. Two of the terrorists who interrogated me, a man by the name of Hosein and a girl we called 'Sister Philadelphia,' had attended colleges in the U.S." Hohman learned later that "Sister Philadelphia" was known on American TV as the ubiquitous "Mary," often seen translating at sessions televised inside the Embassy.

"She had attended schools in Philadelphia for six years," says Hohman. "Hosein was educated at Berkeley. He was one of the most rabid anti-Americans."

Hohman believes the terrorists "used" U.S. TV and the press to get their messages across. "I flatly refused to let them take pictures of me because I knew they would be used for propaganda tools of some sort." At first, he recalls, the terrorists would try to force him to appear. "They would threaten, 'You must do this or that, and if you don't we'll be harder on you.' But after I refused they stopped bothering me."

Were you tortured?

"I don't think torture is the right word. I was abused, sure, and kept in cold, windowless cubicles hardly large enough to lie down in. I was beaten on three occasions. Usually it was because I refused to be treated like an animal. When I'd get really vocal, they would lock me in solitary and work me over."

With their fists?

"Yes, with fists, but they usually wouldn't work on my face, and I never got any broken bones. Only bruises." Hohman thinks that the techniques used in the beating were learned from experts.

Hohman saw no direct evidence of Communist influence. In fact, he says, the terrorists were "down" on both the U.S. and the Communists. "They wanted nothing to do with either side."

One of Hohman's most terror-filled moments came on February 6, 1980, during an incident described by the hostages as "the Gestapo raid." He says, "They came in and stripped us

down and held us in a hallway of the Chancery building. They slid the bolts of their automatic weapons back and forth and then pulled the triggers. We couldn't see what was going on because we were blindfolded. It's an eerie thing to hear those weapon bolts being pulled back. Those kids were so crazy with weapons to begin with . . . They would point them in any direction and they were always going off."

Actually, Hohman said, during the first week of captivity, he had about decided that he and the others would be killed. "I wrote my wife telling her, 'This may be it and I may not be coming home.' Fortunately, she never got that letter. It really would have upset her."

Like other hostages, Hohman received very few of the many letters his family sent to him. Instead, the Iranians on occasion would distribute letters picked at random from the many thousands sent by Americans across the country. "It was the mail from America that we hung on," he remembers. "And the terrorists knew it, and played on it."

Sgt. Hohman was held in solitary confinement on four occasions. "It was usually when I got vocal and cussed them out about something. When I really got mad I'd call the guards such names as, 'You dirty rotten bastards. You guys are animals; you're pigs!'"

"They'd say, 'You can't curse the students.' And I'd reply, 'Why not? What are you going to do to me? I'm already a hostage.'"

At that point, Hohman would be taken to a dark, makeshift cell where from two to four men would beat him with their fists. By this time, the American was too weak to resist. "I had dropped from my normal weight of 130 pounds to around 120 and, on one occasion, to only 115 pounds." This was early last year after Hohman had gone on a hunger strike for 21 days, hoping it might induce the terrorists to release their captives.

Hohman says he and several other hostages had thought "very seriously" about trying a mass escape if they had not been set free by January 20, the day of President Reagan's Inauguration. "We were getting tired of being in prison. It was either go out in a blaze or sit there in prison

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and rot for God knows how long."

Hohman says he never felt altogether abandoned. "The letters I read told me that the American people were still fighting for us out there. Every time I'd read a letter, it would be an uplift."

A low point came when the sergeant learned last August that his youngest brother's wife had died—the previous April. "I greatly admired my sister-in-law and the news came as a terrible shock."

Hohman spent much of his time exercising or reading. He was among the "lucky" ones with access to some 5,000 books from the compound's high school. He also wrote an estimated 600 letters to friends and relatives, only about 30 of which ever reached their destination.

Hohman expressed rare bitterness over visits by groups of American clergymen to the Embassy last Christmas and Easter. "I refused to attend the services they held for us. I think they probably caused us more harm than good." The sergeant's greatest ire was reserved for those visitors who told the media in the U.S. that the hostages were being well treated. As far as he is concerned, it is unbelievable that anyone could have been "suckered" into giving such a report.

No regular religious services were allowed for the hostages. What did most to sustain Sgt. Hohman was his strong belief in family ties, something his father had encouraged. "I depended on my family and the few letters that got through. Also, one of the biggest things was knowing that the American people were out there fighting for us. I *knew* that they weren't going to give up. Some of the other hostages thought the country had forgotten us. But I said, 'No,' that if I believed that, I would have to lie down and die."

Hohman is convinced that his military training also helped keep him going. "My medical training really helped, too. As a result, I don't think they (the terrorists) could ever have gotten to my head . . ."

At times, the Iranians would come to Hohman and ask his advice for treating ailments of the other captives. "They would say, 'Your brother has so-and-so wrong with him.' I couldn't prescribe anything for the serious cases, but I did try to offer suggestions whenever I could."

What do you think of Iranian medical facilities?

"They stink. Most of the so-called medics we encountered had about as much know-how as a tenderfoot Boy Scout, maybe less." Hohman thinks it's something of a miracle that all of the American hostages survived. "It can only be because we were in such good health at the beginning.

"Our mental condition also held up surprisingly well. If you can keep sharp mentally, you can take anything. And we did, for the most part."

What lifted spirits to a great extent, says Hohman, were the times when two of the women hostages were allowed to do some of the cooking. "The Iranian food we got was mostly starchy stuff like rice and it tasted terrible. Also wormy dates. It was a real treat to get a decent meal for a change, and our women seemed to like showing off their gourmet cooking to the Iranians."

Now that he is back home, Sgt. Hohman has nothing but praise for the moral and material help provided to his family during his captivity. "The U.S. Army was 105 percent behind them. Anything my wife wanted or needed was provided."

As for the huge welcome home the hostages got in the U.S., Hohman says he's naturally delighted. "But the word 'hero' sticks once in awhile," he says, "because I can't see myself as a hero. I rather think we were victims, people in the wrong place at the wrong time. The people who were heroes were the eight Americans who died coming in to get us."

The outpouring of patriotism and national unity that accompanied the welcome left Hohman "surprised and proud. I'm grateful to feel a symbol of this, to be a part of history. It's going to help me readjust my life."

What most impressed you on coming back to the U.S.?

"Looking into the faces of the American people, the emotion, the openness that they had when they greeted us—it will stay with me until I die. It was beautiful."

Hohman says he feels bad that some Vietnam veterans have expressed bitterness that they were not given a similar welcome when they returned home from the war. Before the ticker-tape parade in New York, however, he did meet one Vietnam veteran who felt differently. "He must have read my thoughts because

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he told me, 'Get out there and really give it a damned good show. You're doing this for us, also.' I said, 'You're right and we'll stand tall for you.'"

Do you find any "lessons" for America from the long ordeal?

Personally, Hohman feels it was a mistake for the U.S. to have allowed the Shah into the country for the medical treatment that might have been available elsewhere. Beyond this, he believes the Embassy's personnel should have been allowed a choice of staying or leaving before the takeover, when the threat of mob action was clearly apparent.

And the seizure?

"The Embassy guards were a pretty tough bunch of Marines," says Hohman. "But I don't know how long they could have held off the mob before the 'cavalry' arrived."

At the same time, he adds, "When the terrorists first came over the wall, we didn't think it was as serious a situation as it really was. They talked only of a 'sit-in,' and there seemed no reason to believe otherwise. At first, the terrorists were waiting for Khomeini and the people to back them. If they hadn't received that backing, they probably would have walked away."

As for the ill-fated rescue effort last April, in which eight Americans died in an air collision at a desert rendezvous, Hohman believes, as do many of the ex-hostages, that it should have come within seven to 10 days after the Embassy's takeover, and in full force. "It may have cost us a lot of lives, but it would have shown that no one could step on the United States."

Personally, the sergeant is glad President Carter negotiated for the hostages' release. Yet, he feels it could set a bad precedent. And he thinks there's no reason why the U.S. should honor an agreement which, in reality, is tantamount to blackmail. Hohman also believes there's no reason for the U.S. to retaliate against Iran at this late stage. "They're bound to bring about their own downfall," he says, "and soon."

What the Iran experience showed above all, says the sergeant, is the need for a highly-trained, well-equipped strike force capable of moving to the rescue "right now," and, perhaps, it should be patterned after commando units used successfully by

the West Germans and Israelis in recent years. Although the U.S. is putting together such a force, Hohman is among those who wish it could have been ready 14 months ago.

If there was anything to be gained by the experience, Sgt. Hohman feels, as do the other hostages, that it showed the effectiveness of true national unity. President Reagan impressed the returnees as a strong and dedicated leader. And there is praise, too, for former President Jimmy Carter.

"When Mr. Carter came to see us in Germany," says Hohman, "I didn't want to even shake his hand. But he turned me around 100 percent. I respect him for coming forward and for being totally honest with us, including accepting responsibility for the failures. I'll always respect him and honor him for that."

As for the sergeant himself, he's still in the process of readjusting to normal life. "Also, I'm busy getting reacquainted with my children—Cathy, now 15; Yuri, 12; Kai, 8, and my older daughter, Janet, who presented me with my first granddaughter last November while I was out of touch with the world."

The Hohmans will be returning this month to West Germany, and in September, he plans to enter a course of study leading to service as a physician's assistant.

Following his freedom, Hohman also received his stripe as sergeant first class. And his overriding feeling is one of pride and gratitude—to his country and his uniform. "All I can say," says the sergeant, "is that I'm proud to be a member of the United States Army. It's the grandest feeling I've had in a long time."

The sergeant then asked a favor, "Could *The American Legion Magazine* let everyone know that I'd like to hear from the people who wrote me in captivity so that I can personally thank each of them.

Sgt. Hohman's address until next August: c/o 97th General Hospital, Box 31, APO, New York, NY 09757.

Chances are he'll be busy for quite a time answering a mountain of mail.

Editor's Note: *SFC Hohman's Legion membership, which expired while he was a captive, has been renewed for 1981. He's also getting a year's back issues of the Legion Magazine to help him catch up.* ■

PROCEEDINGS
of the
National Executive Committee
THE AMERICAN LEGION
National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 13-14, 1982

Page 102 - 103 Proceedings of Wednesday, October 13, 1982

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Any further action? Yes, sir.

MR. LOMBARDO, France: I would like to ask why the change for further study for this Resolution No. 2015. I spent an hour or perhaps a little bit more yesterday with the Internal Affairs Commission outlining a lot of information which they had not had access to previously. Any amendment, any resolution such as this which could have such long range complex things happening to it, I think that we should have the time, and we should go along with the Commission to hold this resolution for further study, because rejecting our resolution, turning this memorial back over to the United States Government is so final. And it is just like cutting up, or cutting off your nose to spite your face. We would like a little bit more time for all the Members of the Executive Committee as to why we wish to retain this as a memorial.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STONE: May I address the gentleman, Mr. Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Yes, sir.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STONE: The reason why we are asking for a rejection on this matter is the fact that the National Executive Committee has already acted on this matter. It is already in the hands of the Government. And we would look very stupid to go back and try to say, Government, we made a mistake, we want to change things. Action has already been taken, and as far as we are concerned it is a mute question.

MR. LOMBARDO, France: Through the Chair, may I respond?

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Yes, sure.

MR. LOMBARDO, France: I think we are looking more stupid if we go ahead and we reject the resolution put in by the Department of France, reversing the resolution that was made at your last meeting here. I don't feel that we were adequately represented by our former NECmen. I don't believe all of the facts were brought up to all of the members here. I believe this resolution was passed in error. Basically, most of us in France agree that a change has got to be made. We have got to change the Pershing Hall Operating Committee. The mistakes we made in this contract were signed back in 1961 establishing the PHOC, which stands for Pershing Hall Operating Committee. The Pershing Hall Operating Committee has done an adequate job as such, however, the voting members on this particular Committee all came from the France area, the reason this resolution was passed last year, was that some of the scandal that came up from the Paris Post No. 1, and in that area those were the reasons for this resolution turning this building back over to the United States Government in the first place. We in Germany, who represent 80% of the Legionnaires were outvoted 8 to 1 the way the Pershing Hall Operating agreement was set up, when the National Organization was at first a part of the contract, and the second part of the contract was divided between Paris Post No. 1 and the Department of France. We had eight other members on it, and the other six members all had to reside in the vicinity of the France area, namely the Paris area. The Chairman of the Pershing Hall Operating Committee, his name is Russ Porter, he was appointed by the National Judge Advocate at that time. So, in effect, Paris had eight votes and the Department of France had one vote. We were, all down the line trying to clean up. And a lot of this scandal, by the way, is erroneous. A lot of it is in innuendos. Some of it is true. There is no doubt about it, quite a bit of it is true. And we have already established the fact that we are making progress in the Paris area. A new Commander who is sitting aside of me, named Bob Winkler has already demanded that the financial reports of the Pershing Hall Operating Committee be turned over to

us for audit. Now, we have gone through all of this. We have had an investigation for this resolution, the resolution for which we are now trying to reverse was passed. And all we are doing by turning in Resolution No. 2015 is asking for further time, time to prove to you all that this can be a permanent asset to The American Legion. We are going to look much more like a fool in the eyes of the French people and the French Government to which this building has meant so much. So, I want to appeal for the body that we go along, we don't necessarily want to accept it — we will go along with holding it for further action as recommended by the Internal Affairs Commission. And please give us a little bit more time. And we guarantee you, you will not be sorry.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: Mr. Lombardo, I only remind you that the National Executive Committee at its main meeting made a unanimous decision to terminate the agreement at the Pershing Hall site in Paris, France. The Staff and myself had done what we were Commissioned to do by this National Executive Committee. The Chairman now has reported to you on the report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and that is the question before the body at that time. Is there any further discussion? If not, all those in favor, signify by saying aye; those opposed, no. The ayes have it and it is so ordered.

MR. LOMBARDO: France is opposed.

MR. GOLEZ, Philippines: Philippines, Mr. Chairman, the Philippines would like to register no on the proposal.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KELLER: All right, record two no votes.

PROCEEDINGS of the
National Executive Committee
THE AMERICAN LEGION
National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 9-10,1984

“Pershing Hall Operating Committee Dissolved”

Resolution No. 35 (Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission)

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 29, 30, May 1, 1959, adopted Resolution No. 58, which Resolution authorized execution of a contract in connection with Pershing Hall and the formation of the Pershing Hall Operating Committee; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 4-5, 1960, adopted Resolution No. 55, which confirmed the appointment of said Pershing Hall Operating Committee; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 1982, adopted Resolution No. 23, which authorized the termination of the contract authorized in Resolution No. 58 and confirmed in Resolution No. 55, and which ended the authorization for the Pershing Hall Operating Committee; and

WHEREAS, Since the Pershing Hall Operating Committee continued to function solely as a Conservator of Assets for the United States, [which has failed to protect its building for almost two years] must now be deemed to have completed this service and this fact needs to be officially acknowledged for the record; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 9-10, 1984, That the foregoing Committee known as the “Pershing Hall Operating Committee” is hereby dissolved.

[Editor’s note: deleted by amendment]

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STONE: Your Committee recommends approval and I so move. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chevalier, France.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KREUL: The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion?

MR. CHEVALIER: I rise, Mr. Commander for two points:

First, I would like to offer an amendment to the motion by, in paragraph four, the fourth Whereas, and I would like to strike the first seven words of the third line.

There seems to be something left out, and I have discussed it with the Chairman and he was going to check into it.

I would like the paragraph to read as follows, “WHEREAS, Since the Pershing Hall Operating Committee continued to function solely as a Conservator of Assets for the United States for almost two years must now be deemed and so forth to the end of that paragraph, I would like to offer that as amendment to the motion.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DEAN: I have discussed this with the NEC from France. There was some grammatical problem, and he and I discussed this before lunch. We find nothing wrong with the accepting of the amendment that he is pointing out. The question was that the United States has not participated in trying to keep the buildup in the last two years, and it was a reflection that Pershing Hall Committee have not kept it up. But they have worked very hard doing it. So this does not do anything but clarify, and we will accept the amendment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KREUL: Would the Resolutions Committee accept?

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STONE: The Resolutions Committee will accept the amendment.

MR. CHEVALIER, France: The second part I would like to rise for favorable discussion on the resolution. I would like permission to speak from the podium, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KREUL: The Chair recognizes you.

MR. CHEVALIER: Mr. Commander, distinguished colleagues, a year ago, the Department of France attempted to address this illustrious group on this topic, but we were denied. We have been seeking the action of this resolution for two years, since the passage of Resolution 23.

This Pershing Hall Operating Committee has been the cancer, the root cause of all our mutual problems.

This Committee has sought to perpetuate itself for personal gain, among other things.

For example, what started out to be part time jobs has grown in total annual salaries to approximately 60% of their budget.

They have added a history of failing to collect rents at the time we met prohibiting them from paying their debts in a timely manner.

Just recently, they have secured a 100,000 franc overdraft authorization to meet current operating expenditures. Failure to have taken this action earlier has caused great harm for the Department of France, and has forced it to neglect its responsibilities in membership, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

Our very existence was being questioned and in doubt. It is interesting to note that the Paris Post No. 1, which was originally thought as being the nucleus for the problem is really in good shape. It has a positive \$150,000 bank balance, and its day today affairs are in good order.

With the adoption of this resolution, gentlemen, we can now communicate with our proper authorities to insure steps are taken to properly control Pershing Hall.

It also removes the Department of France from possible financial liability. We can now work to rebuild the Department of France and generate membership to support this great organization.

In closing, I would like to thank this body for the association they have given me and the education during the last two years, and because I am going to retire my red cap in August, and I am going to climb into the possession of a blue cap Legionnaire, with a star and steer on it and proudly support the Department of Texas in this great organization.

I urge you to vote a resounding aye when the Commander asks for it. Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER KREUL: Any further discussion? If not, all those in favor, signify by saying aye; those opposed no. The motion is carried.

CORRECTED COPY - 21 JUNE 1986


 45 RUE PIERRE CHARRON
 75008 - PARIS - FRANCE
 PHONE 225 41 93
 723 44 56

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
 FRANCE - GERMANY - BELGIUM - DENMARK - SWEDEN - ENGLAND
 MINUTES OF THE FOURTH DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

HOTEL AM HOCHWALD, BAD NAUHEIM, W. GERMANY, 18 JUNE 1986

 The Fourth Department of France Executive Committee Meeting was convened by Department Commander Rallis at 1600 hours, 18 June 1986. After the formal opening ceremonies of the American Legion, Adjutant Browne called the Roll.

OFFICERS PRESENT

Department Commander RALLIS
 Vice Commander HOLCOMB
 Vice Commander JACKSON
 Finance Officer KLING
 Sgt-at-Arms VERVILLE
 Adjutant BROWNE

Vice Commander HAGGAN
 Vice Commander HOYLE
 NECMan LOMBARDO
 Alternate NECMan OWENS
 Asst. Sgt-at-Arms MURPHY
 Judge Advocate SMITH

POSTS REPRESENTED

Kaiserslautern Post 1
 Rhein-Neckar Post 3
 Stuttgart Post 6
 Friedberg Post 16
 Audie Murphy Post 30
 Rick E. Louray Post 165
 Isabel La Catolica Post 292

Harry S. Truman Post 2
 Rhein Main Post 5
 Thomas W. Barnett Post 14
 Eifel Post 20
 Vilseck Post 45
 Nuernberg Post 1985

The Commander ruled that, Paris Post 1, being under suspension, could not be seated.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN PRESENT

Awards/Membership - McCLAREN
 POW-MIA/PR - GROMME

Boys State/VIP - BEAVERS

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS PRESENT

Past Commander LEGG Past Commander BEAVERS

1. A quorum being present, the body proceeded into the business of the day.

2. Ratification of Minutes. The Minutes of the Third DEC, 8 March 1986, and the Minutes of the Special DEC, 20 April 1986, were distributed. A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the minutes and except them as written.

Decision: Motion carried.

3. Financial Report 1985/86. The Financial Report from 1 June 1985 to 15 June 1986, was distributed to all present, and then read. A motion was made to accept the report and duly seconded.

Decision: Motion carried.

Association étrangère autorisée par Monsieur le Ministre de l'Intérieur

Minutes of the Fourth DEC, Department of France, 18 June 1986, continued.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. Status of Pershing Hall Incident. Chairman Lombardo reported that the case against PHOC was continuing in court and that the French Judge had ruled himself incompetent on the case, however, he made two favorable opinions for the Department. First decision was that the Department Office had indeed been illegally entered into. Second was that the three Department Officers (Rallis, Lombardo and Holcomb) being sued were acting on behalf of the Department of France. Chairman Lombardo also stated that the lawyers fees (\$12,000) would include all future court actions with the exception of a possible appeal which would require an additional (\$350.00) for an additional attorney (Required under French Law) and approximately \$40.00 for Balif Fees for each summons served. Commander Rallis read the letter from the lawyer which verified his fees and also his receipt of the above mentioned money from the Department. Commander Rallis finished up the discussion by reading correspondence from the State Department Office of Foreign Buildings which stated that the State Department had no authority over the building as of this date (This includes the U.S. Embassy in Paris). They also stated that they had drawn up their own plan for management of the building. Their plan does not include an representation by the Delaware Corporation. The Commander read a letter he wrote to the National Commander requesting written confirmation on National's position for transition of Pershing Hall to the U.S. Government. Both letters are on file at the Department.

Decision: None required.

13. Closing Remarks. Commander Rallis thanked all for their cooperation and support during the past year, and after the closing prayer, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Attest:

RALPH F. BROWNE, OR
 Department Adjutant

CHARLES RALLIS
 Department Commander

We Remember Our Comrades Buried Overseas

THE crack of 21-gun salutes and the stirring notes of bugles echo throughout cemeteries as Legionnaires place flags at the graves of America's war dead. Such scenes are common in the United States on Memorial Day, but few people are aware that the graves of GIs buried on foreign soil are not forgotten either.

Because of the Legion's Overseas Graves Decoration Trust, established by Legionnaires in 1921, flags and other decorations are placed at overseas U.S. military cemeteries. This year, for example, Memorial Day observances will be conducted in Belgium, France, England and the Philippines. Overseas Legion posts and other groups regularly conduct services to honor America's fallen warriors from the four wars of this century.

Over the years, the trust fund has decorated the graves of Americans buried in West Germany, Tunisia, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand and New Guinea, among other sites.

"The trust is a permanent endowment and guarantees future generations will remember the sacrifices of these brave Americans," said Nat'l Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle, secretary of the trust. "Legionnaires preserve the memories of our fallen defenders through this special fund."

During the wars, Memorial Day services in the United States also paid tribute to those buried on foreign soil. Regular services were held in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the dead of World War I. After France fell to Nazi Germany during World War II, Legion posts throughout the United States conducted Memorial Day services for those buried in French graves.

Since the war, Flanders Field Post 2,



GARDENS OF STONE—Legion funds also pay for the flags of allies buried in the same cemeteries.

This Legion trust guarantees future generations will remember the sacrifices of these brave Americans.

.....

Belgium, of the Department of France, has continued to honor our dead in Memorial Day ceremonies aided by the trust. The post coordinates activities with the American Overseas Memorial Day Association, and conducts services at military cemeteries at Flanders Field, Ardennes and Henri-Chapelle. Post 2 and the association also hold services on other occasions such as

Veterans Day and V-E Day.

"American flags are not the only national colors we place," said Spanogle. "Funds from the trust also pay for the flags of allies who are buried in the same cemeteries as Americans. When the Department of France places 3,900 flags on American graves for Memorial Day 1989, it also will leave 4,036 national flags of French, British, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish servicemen who were killed in World Wars I and II."

While trust funds are designated exclusively for decorating the graves, a one-time exception was made in 1937 when some funds were used to pay for moving 34 deceased WWI servicemen from temporary to permanent graves.

Spanogle said Post 1, London, England, also receives assistance to place flowers and wreaths at military cemeteries in Cambridge, Brookwood and Ypres.

"We couldn't do what we do on Memorial Day without the support of the trust," Post Cmdr. Billy Bauch recently wrote in a letter to National Headquarters. "The turnouts for Memorial Day ceremonies in England are always outstanding."

In the Pacific, the Department of the Philippines conducts and coordinates flag placements on the graves of Americans and Filipinos at Manila Cemetery and other sites on the island archipelago.

Memorial Day services for Americans buried in foreign lands are especially significant, said Spanogle.

"When you witness the endless rows of white crosses and Stars of David, and fathom what so many Americans have given in the cause of freedom, you can't help but be moved," he said. "In every sense, it is a day of remembrance, a tribute to those who never made it home from foreign battlefields. The Overseas Graves Decoration Trust helps the world remember the sacrifices made by those who no one should forget." □

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 4-5, 1994

Resolution No. 33: Foreign Departments
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, It is among the founding principles of The American Legion "to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness" as expressed in The Preamble to Constitution of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of The American Legion empowers the National Executive Committee to "establish Posts in the territorial and insular possessions of the United States and foreign countries, and shall designate the Department under whose jurisdiction they shall function" (Art. III, Sec. 1), to charter Departments which "shall be composed of the Posts within their respective areas, and such other Posts as the National Executive Committee may approve" (Art. VIII, Sec. 1), and to "cancel, suspend or revoke the charter of a Department for any good and sufficient cause to it appearing" (Art. XI, Sec. 1.); and

WHEREAS, The establishment and maintenance of Posts and Departments of The American Legion readily accessible to all members has proven to be the most effective means to fulfill the founding principles of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Commission has completed a study of the Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion and concludes that those members residing or holding membership outside the Continental United States will benefit by the improved efficiency, communication and comradeship resulting from the realignment of said Departments and Posts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled at Indianapolis, Indiana, May 4-5, 1994, That in order to improve the delivery of services to members and enhance their opportunities for comradeship and mutual helpfulness, the following be implemented and become effective upon the close of the 76th Annual National Convention of The American Legion:

1. Cancel the charters of the Department of Italy, the Department of Canada and the Department of Panama;
 2. Reassign all Posts currently assigned to the Department of Italy to the Department of France;
 3. Reassign the two posts residing in Ireland and assigned to the Department of Canada to the Department of France;
 4. Reassign the remaining nine Posts of the Department of Canada to the nearest contiguous Department in the United States;
 5. Reassign the Posts in the Department of Panama to the Department of Mexico;
- and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee does and hereby directs The National Internal Affairs Commission to develop a policy by which all future decisions concerning the assignment of Foreign and Outlying Posts to Departments will be guided; and does and hereby directs the National American Legion Magazine Commission to investigate alternative delivery methods for The American Legion Magazine which may provide more timely and cost-effective delivery to members residing outside the Continental United States.

UNDER THE CANOPY

While the civil rights movement was happening in America, 1st Air Cav Sgt. Fred Steen and his men were breaking barriers of their own in Southeast Asia.

BY JEFF STOFFER

Fred Steen's combat tours are etched in his soul. Recollections of fighting the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong guerrillas in the valleys, jungles and flatlands of Southeast Asia with the 1st Air Cavalry are vivid: stifling subtropical heat, poisonous snakes, bloodsucking leeches, a crafty and vicious enemy, and the mental strain of "old Death," as Steen calls it – always present, always threatening to send a comrade home in a body bag or rain down on an enemy bunker.

The scenes, screams and odors of jungle warfare remain fresh in the mind of Steen, now 82 and living in Germany with wife Heidi, where he spent much of his noncombat military career. Since retiring from the Army after than 30 years in, Steen has written two books about his Vietnam War experiences, one of which is a novel classified as fiction only because he changed some names, dates and locations, he says.

His prose in "Black Knight Alfa: The Most



A soldier in the U.S. Army 1st Air Cavalry holds his rifle above his head as he serves as a "traffic cop" for helicopters landing in a field during an operation north of Saigon in the Vietnam War.

Feared Infantry Company," is not so much about battle plans and execution, nor does it contain stereotypes of disillusionment among U.S. troops, as do so many accounts of the war. It's about an attitude of confidence, discipline, pride and success among smart, well-trained soldiers of multiple races fighting a common enemy in unfamiliar territory. Steen's stories illustrate U.S. battlefield victories in a war he says "the NVA and the Cong did not win. The American soldiers sure as hell did not lose that war."

An older noncommissioned officer at the time he was deployed to Vietnam, Sgt. 1st Class Steen was known as "Top" among the younger men, who included some of his officers. He had entered the Illinois Army National Guard several years earlier, in the twilight of military segregation, and fondly remembers singing "Jodie" with other black soldiers in a training environment that was far from colorblind. In the regular Army, he says, he pulled KP even though he was a sergeant. Combat in the Vietnam War, Steen explains in "Black Knight Alfa," did much to change perceptions:

We had to stick together or old Charlie would be more than happy to hang us separately. Our common goal was to live, and we had a common group of enemies who were trying their best to kill us. Out there in the bush, old Death made us either brothers or dead bodies ... We were all soldiers – white soldiers, black soldiers, brown soldiers, red soldiers. The binding word is soldier.

Steen's tours included combat leadership of a LRRP (long-range reconnaissance patrol) team that penetrated deep into enemy-occupied regions early in the war. Later, as a platoon sergeant, he learned to convert fear among his men and within himself into a resolve to beat the enemy at his own game. He remembers those men with respect and gratitude he frequently expresses in his book:

When any of my men hurt, I hurt. When one of them died, I died. We walked through hell together, and I would do it again and again if necessary. May God bless them all, wherever they are today.

More than 40 years have passed since Steen came eyeball to eyeball with the enemy he refers to only by nickname, but his opinion of North Vietnamese forces remains the same as it was when he was in theater. "My thoughts of Charlie then and now are unprintable," he said in a recent interview with *The American Legion Magazine*. A

member of Post GR06 in the Department of France, Steen discussed his wartime experience and why he felt compelled to write about it.

You describe "Black Knight Alfa" as a novel based on true stories. What percent is true, and what percent is story?

All of the stories are true. The story part relates to providing the reader with the (fictionalized) names of the main characters.

From the time you entered the Army, you had a desire to go straight into combat. Why?

I had stood with my soldier brothers in the sunshine during training. In the war, I was determined to stand with them in the shadows, if that was God's will. I had to go to Vietnam, and I was determined to stand beside my brothers on the line.

At that time, did it matter to you that acceptance of black combat soldiers was a breakthrough in the military?

My lifetime wish was to be a soldier. From the beginning of the war in Vietnam, my soldier brothers were going to join the fighting. We, the black men, had always fought for our country. Remember Crispus Attucks, March 5, 1770.

The rapidly growing freedom movements were taking place back home in America, and those of us black soldiers were fighting like hell to stay alive.

The timing of the fighting back home was very difficult for all of us at that time. We were already fighting. During the early civil rights movement, the black soldiers were still undermined, enslaved in a way. This was an untruth perpetrated by racists: that a colored man could not be a good soldier, that he was dumb, incapable of being a true man and a good soldier. Our old detractors had raised their voices, trying to keep us down. We had long ago proven that they were not telling the truth. And so the war in Vietnam was the right time for Katie to bar the damn door – the time for the black soldier to take his rightful place in the strong line right behind the call to glory ... duty, honor, country.

But I guess folks were hearing what they wanted to hear, even though it wasn't all true. I was in more than one company and led a LRRP, and we did not smoke pot through the barrels of our shotguns or any other way. We were truly brothers in arms. And if we wanted to stay alive, skagging was not the way. With us, my life depended on the



At 82, Fred Steen remembers with great pride his time as a member of the 1st Air Cav in Vietnam. Photo courtesy Fred Steen

soldiers on the line beside me. We didn't have time for doing drugs. We spent our time together staying alive.

What about the anti-war movement during your time in Vietnam and after?

American public opinion and opposition to the war did not trouble me at the time because I was a soldier, dedicated to the government of the people, by and for the people. I took an oath, and I stood by that oath, all the way up to this very second.

But yes, it does hurt whenever I hear someone bad-mouthing us Vietnam vets. That's why I wrote "Black Knight Alfa."

What is the image that comes to mind when you think about your wartime enemies?

Charlie was not incompetent in battle and killed a lot of Americans. In truth, his competence was based mainly upon his being able to hide behind the skirts of women. And yes, our incompetence in not being able to find him in his underground ratholes. The truth is that Charlie did not win the Vietnam War.

So much of your recollection of the war is set "under the canopy," where some horrific fighting occurred. Why?

Sometimes it was damn spooky, constantly dark, and we had to hold onto our minds to keep from blowing what little we had left all to hell. We had to trust each other and our ability to fight and, most importantly, to win.

We knew it for sure that old Charlie was just as restricted as we were. And, yes, in most cases he had the advantage because the damn canopy was

his, in his jungle. Old Charlie had read our manuals and knew the restrictions about having mask clearances before shooting our mortars. He didn't know how we had perfected the use of our thump guns. When they jumped us, we continually came up with new ways to make them back off or to run like hell.

We learned to make the canopy work for us, to use the eerie darkness on our behalf. Sometimes the heat or humidity was our worst enemy. Under the canopy was where trust and teamwork stood out for us. And it was proof positive that we could fight old Charlie and beat him at his own game. He couldn't scare us into submission. Teamwork and the unbreakable will to survive was our mainstay ... oh, and I cannot forget that magnificent little Claymore anti-personnel device. We tried real hard not to do the same thing over and over again. Sometimes we simply disappeared just like old Charlie was said to be able to do. In our case, we had it down to an exact science.

We were in contact or firefights with Charlie almost daily, nights included. During those times, all of us had accepted the cold hard fact that "I" could be next on that medevac flight out of here. And so our frame of mind was adjusted to that fact. I was not a stranger to old Death. I had learned the dignity of our troopers and, yes, I was asking God to let me go out with the same dignity.

When you were in Vietnam, experiencing all this, why did you make a vow to one day write about what really happened?

It seemed that most books about the American soldiers fighting the war were written by officers and civilian reporters. I was only a sergeant first class, and without a diploma for anything. It appeared to me that some kind of diploma or higher education was required, and I was fresh out of diplomas. I just wanted to tell our stories to the world ... about all of our American soldiers, of those proud Americans who stood together and held the line.

All of my stories and work come directly from my road and my will to leave a scratch on the wall of my cave. In my heart, I only wanted to set the record straight and to say that my troopers were, and still are, the best ever.

My country allowed me to walk through the valley of death with the best men this world has ever witnessed. I am blessed that I knew them. ☺

Jeff Stoffer is editor of The American Legion Magazine.



The American Legion Centennial Celebrations in Paris, France, 15 - 17 March 2019

Approved by Carl Hale Past Post Commander Paris Post FR01

Three days of events were held on March 15-17, 2019 in honor of the American Legion National Centennial Celebration in Paris, France.

The celebrations kicked off at the American Legion Paris Post #1 Mausoleum. The Department of France delegation of approximately 60 combined representatives of Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Legion Riders, and French veterans gathered at the La Defense Grand Arche and walked together to the mausoleum at Nouveau Cimetiere de Neuilly. Included in the delegation was Stephen Johnson, the Commander of Post 112, and his wife, Linda, traveling from the Department of California to participate in the Paris events.

Department Chaplain Harvey Briggs initiated the ceremony with a prayer of remembrance. Mr. Renaud De Beauchamps, a French military veteran, representing the City of Neuilly and a French veteran's organization called the Souvenir Francais, made opening remarks. He has been a supporter of Paris Post 1 since 1974.

To mark the Centennial with a special event, the participants assisted in reading all 287 names listed on the mausoleum wall. The first names read belonged to the World War I members of The American Legion, the last names are World War II, Korea and Vietnam War veterans. Department of France Commander James Dennis and Detachment of France Auxiliary President Sonja Dennis presented a wreath at the American Legion Mausoleum.

The delegation then proceeded to a French military memorial located in the same cemetery dedicated to French veterans of WWI, WWII, and the Indo-China war. We reflected on the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion including, "to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars". The department commander laid a wreath and Legionnaires visited the French WWI and WWII graves.

After lunch, Legionnaires returned to the Memorial to American Volunteers for a wreath laying ceremony. Commander Stephen Johnson of the Department of California, Post 112, presented the wreath. The ribbon inscription on all the Centennial wreaths was, "American Legion, 1919 - 2019". A group of French technical school students presented a second wreath coordinated by Paris Post 1 Auxiliary member, Anne Marie Mattson.

After a series of group photos with the students, the Legionnaires boarded a bus and preceded to 14 Rue Ernest

Psichiari, 75007 Paris, where the memorial plaque identifying the first American Legion caucus meetings is located. Paris Post 1 member Bernard Gilliam provided a moving presentation about the significance of the Paris caucus and the founding of The American Legion. The bus transferred the Legionnaires to the Palais de Chaillot for the final location of the first day.

On Saturday morning, the official photographer, Ms. Kara Ferguson, captured a group photograph of all Department of France participants of the American Legion Centennial in Paris with the Eiffel Tower in the background.

Every Memorial Day, members of Paris Post 1 participate in the Suresnes American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) ceremony. To share this experience during the American Legion Centennial a similar ceremony was planned. After the group photo at the Place du Trocadero, the Department of France delegation proceeded by bus to the Suresnes American Cemetery at 123 Boulevard Washington, 92150 Suresnes, France. The American Battle Monuments Commission Deputy Director for Operations (and member of Paris Post 1) Mr. Gerald Leffler, welcomed the Legionnaires. Chaplain Briggs gave a prayer. The cemetery superintendent provided opening remarks. To mark the American Legion Centennial commemoration, Department of France Commander Dennis, presented a wreath and gave a speech at the cemetery. The ABMC superintendent and his associate then gave a special site tour.

The American Legion Centennial dinner in Paris began with an opening prayer by the Department Chaplain Harvey Briggs. Paris Post 1 Commander Carl W. Hale presented the symbolism of the POW MIA table placed in a corner of the dining room. A round of toasts were provided: for the United States of America, the Republic of France, the American Legion, the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and Marines, the Special Forces and the POW MIA.

Commander Hale highlighted the legacy of the longest continuous member of Paris Post 1 with 63 continuous membership years, Joseph M. (Mike) Trautman.

Retired Army Brig. Gen. Robert A. Glacel provided a presentation of the 7th Infantry Regiment and the regimental association's centennial visit of Belgium and France. At the end of the dinner a 50 – 50 raffle was coordinated, with Past Paris Post 1 Auxiliary President Elizabeth Herwood winning. She donated half to a Legionnaire who had been the victim of a robbery.

The Saturday celebration officially ended at 11 pm. Some Legionnaires continued the party into the early morning of Saint Patrick's Day. On the last day, March 17th, the delegation visited The American Cathedral in Paris, which is one of the oldest English-speaking churches in Paris. It is an Episcopal Church. The Very Reverend Lucinda Laird, Dean and Rector, recognized the American Legion Centennial and participating Legionnaires. The Legionnaires received a detailed tour of the Church and the Cloister dedicated to the American Units that served in World War I and II.

That evening marked the final event to honor the American Legion Centennial. At 5:30 pm Legionnaires gathered at the Place de Charles DeGaulle, historically known as Place de l'Etoile, Arc de Triomphe, to participate in the Memorial Flame ceremony in honor of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Legionnaires selected to participate were Department Vice Commander Dennis Owens, Paris Post 1 Vice Commander Edwin Canady, and Paris Post 1 members. The ceremony ended at 7:30 pm.

The American Legion Department of France successfully coordinated and participated in the American Legion Centennial in Paris, France, from March 15 to 19, 2019. The members honored the legacy of those who served and sacrificed. They continue to lead by the example of veterans taking care of veterans and their families. They maintained the standards set by the founding members of The American Legion and look forward to next opportunity to serve for the greater good.



For God and Country

**The American Legion
Department of France**

**BELGIUM-CHINA01-DENMARK -ENGLAND-FRANCE -
GERMANY-GREECE- IRELAND-ITALY-NETHERLANDS-
PORTUGAL-SPAIN-THAILAND**



*The Department of France
Celebrating 100 Years of Service to Veterans, God, and Country*

Due to the COVID-19 virus, which is an unprecedented virus that is spreading all over the world, infecting people and causing death. The Commander has issued the following orders

The Department of France will not conduct any activities where members must gather together in groups, until this virus is contained, and it is safe to conduct normal business again, as deemed by local government agencies/ authorities.

The following activities have been cancelled for the Department of France

1. Memorial Day Ceremony in Saint Avold France 24 May 2020
2. Boys/Girls State 21-27 June 2020 Director(Comrade Schram)Notified of this status/action

The following activities have been postponed for the Department of France until further notice

1. Awards Committee Meeting the current date 11 April 2020
2. 4th DEC, Convention and the 1st DEC. The venue for the current date 18-20 June 2020 is to be cancelled

In accordance with Article VII Department Constitution Section 3

Section 3. If the Department Convention shall fail to meet or elect and install officers at the appointed time, those in office shall continue and exercise full authority until their successors are duly elected and installed.

The Buddy Check Program (See attached Buddy Check Brochure During Corona Pandemic) we need to be sure to continue checking on our Veterans, Members and their Family Members to ensure their safety and checking on any health issues, and to inquire if they need any assistance. Use phone, E-Mail or other telecommunications where available to keep in touch with your Veterans, Members and Department Representatives.

Because of the many Countries, States, and cities that have placed restrictions on movement and traveling, and cities have advised their citizens to shelter at home, and venture outside only for emergencies(Hospitals, doctors, receiving medicines and of course grocery shopping) All are encouraged to follow the directions and guidance of their local government agencies/authorities.

Additional Information On Legion Family Events

1. SAL 4th DEC, Convention and 1st DEC postponed until further notice

Current Date 6 June 2020.

2. American Legion Auxiliary District of France 4th DEC, Convention and 1st DEC Postponed until further notice Current Date 20 June 2020.
3. All Legion Riders activities (Planned Rides) postponed/suspended until further notice.

Please stay safe and follow the guidance of your local authorities. Take care of each other by conducting those very important BUDDY CHECKS!

Yours in comradeship

James M. Settle

James M. Settle

NECMan Department of France

Assistant Adjutant

PDCDR



ATTACHMENT 32

National Awards Presented to The Department of France

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

- 1921, Marshal Ferdinand Foch and M. Charles Bertrand, France
- 1921 Lt. Gen. Baron Jacques, Belgium
- 1923 Josef Haller, Poland
- 1926 Ignace Jan Paderewski, Poland
- 1927 Comte Francois Marie Kobert DeJean, France

THE AMERICAN LEGION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

All nominations must be presented to the National Adjutant, at least fifteen (15) days before the spring meeting of the Internal Affairs Commission and these nominations will be presented to the committee during their regular session.

All awards must be made at a session of the National Convention.

The number of awards must not be over one in any one year.

In the event said Internal Affairs Commission shall make any such recommendations for The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal, at the May meeting of the National Executive Committee held in the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, each year, not more than three (3) persons shall be nominated; when nominations are reported said committee shall go into executive session, and shall, by written ballot, select not more than one of such nominees by a majority vote of the full membership of the National Executive Committee to receive The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal; only one ballot shall be taken and in the event none of any such nominees receives an affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of said National Executive Committee, no American Legion Distinguished Service Medal will be awarded for the year in which such vote is taken. It shall not be mandatory for the Internal Affairs Commission to submit any nominations for such award.

Qualifications to be considered are outstanding service to the nation and to the programs of The American Legion.

- 1921 Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France
- 1921 General Baron Jacques of Belgium
- 1926 Ignace Jan Paderewski of Poland

- 1921 Charles Bertrand of France
- 1923 General Josef Haller of Poland
- 1927 Comte Francois M. R. DeJean of France

DEPARTMENT AWARD FOR 100% POST CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORTING

Achieve 100% of posts indicating Children & Youth activity on Consolidated Post Report forms.

Submit its Department Children & Youth Report to National Headquarters by the deadline date. Any department whose membership is equal to or above the membership of the smallest department of the 50 States and the District of Columbia shall be recognized in this award. The size of the departments, for comparative purposes, shall be determined by the immediately preceding full calendar year's membership for all departments concerned.

1982 1983 1998

INTERNATIONAL AMITY AWARD

It shall be awarded to specific individuals who shall be war veterans within the accepted meaning of the term and members of an authentic veteran organization established in the territory of any of the nations associated as war-time allies of the United States of America.

It shall be awarded to such individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans affairs and for service and contributions made in the development of international good will and comradeship between their organization and The American Legion.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1962 Raymond Triboulet, France | 1962 Jean Louis Bonet-Maury, France |
| 1962 Robert A. Vivien, France | 1962 P. N. Frstenberg, Belgium |
| 1963 Antoine Ginee, Belgium | 1963 Jean Sainteny, France |
| 1963 Maj. Gen. Lucien Truyers, Belgium | 1963 Wladyslaw Anders, Poland |
| 1965 Maj. Gen. Julien Bouhon, Belgium | 1965 General of the Armies Martial Valin, France |
| 1965 Gen. Jacquest P. L. De Grancey, France | 1966 Gen. Pierre Koenig, France |
| 1968 General Henri Zeller, France | 1968 Dr. Pierre Weber, France |
| 1969 Edouard Emond Leon Dejean, Belgium | 1971 Stanislas Szewalski, Poland |
| 1972 Jacques Medecin, France | 1973 Leon DeCleyre, Belgium |
| 1975 Mrs. Adelina Guerin-Beau, France | 1976 Claude-Lucien Ferrer, France |
| 1977 Andre Rigoine de Fougerolles, France | 1978 Pierre Taillacoit, France |
| 1979 Mrs. Clementine Pletsier-Degroot, Belgium | 1979 Pierre Leopold Henry Portier, France |
| 1979 Aime S. Leocard, France | 1980 Guy Cudell, Belgium |
| 1981 Mathias Moeris, Belgium | 1981 Leon Zitrone, France |
| 1982 Prof. Paul Pin, France | 1983 Lt. Col Gaston Adrein Georges Barbeau, France |
| 1984 Fernand Wauthier, Belgium | 1987 Mary Jane Noreillie, Belgium |
| 1990 Francois Harter, France | 1991 Louis Van Thienen, Belgium |
| 1992 Benno R. Niedzielski, France | 1992 Andre Ernest Verheugen, Belgium |
| 1994 Paul Asussaresses, France | 1996 Maurice Martineau, France |
| 1997 Pierre-Christian Taittinger, France | 2019 Phillipe Colinet Belgium |

Hanford MacNider Trophy Cup

1925

THE ARTHUR D. HOUGHTON SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TROPHY

Awarded annually to that Detachment of Sons of The American Legion in each of five membership categories (I- 200-1,000 members; II - 1,001-3,000 members; III - 3,001-6000 members; IV - 6001-12,000 members; V - 12,001 or more), each of said Detachments attaining the greatest percentage of increase over previous year's membership when compared with all Detachments in its category.

1944 1946

HENRY D. LINDSLEY TROPHY

Awarded annually to the Department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 31.

1980 2006

**JERRY L. HEDRICK MEMBERSHIP AWARD
(RENAMED FROM NORTH CAROLINA TROPHY)**

The Jerry L. Hedrick Membership Award is to be awarded annually to that department thereof not included among the several state departments or the Department of District of Columbia, that has the highest percentage of members by the close of business March 31 each year as compared with the total number of members in the department on December 31 of the preceding year.

1925 1946 1965 1980 2000 2003 2005 2006

The John R. Quinn Trophy

Awarded annually to that Department which on Dec. 31 has achieved the highest percentage of its previous all-time high membership

1960 1976 1977

General Henri Gouraud Trophy

Awarded annually to that Department in each of six categories established by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, each of said Department having been the first in its respective category to attain or exceed its nationally assigned membership quota.

2014 2018 2019

ONE HUNDRED PERCENT MEMBERSHIP AWARD

1931 1932 1936 1938 1939 1940 1944 1945 1946 1948 1950 1952 1957 1959
1960 1965 1965 1967 1970 1971 1972 1973 1976 1980 1991 1992 2000 2001
2002 2003 2006 2014 2018 2019

All Membership Target Dates Award

1991-1992 1992-1993 2017-2018 2018-2019

National Department Commander of the Year

Awarded to the Department Commander that accessed Nationals 100% Membership Goal by 1 May of the current Membership Year.

1980 Michael "Mike" Beavers 1992 Doug Haggan 1993 Wally Bolton 2001 Nola Maloney
2018 James Dennis 2019 James Dennis

Culture of Growth (Membership)

2005 2016 2017 2018 2019

"Cadmus Cavalry,"

The intent of the program was to encourage Departments to focus on renewals and new starts as a means to grow and maintain their membership.

2005

THE AMERICAN LEGION PATRIOT AWARD

2008

The Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Clinical Pastoral Division

**FODPAL (Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion)
Presented to The Department of France**

**Robert J. "Bob" Conrad
FODPAL
Membership Award Department Level**

2005-2006 France

2009-2010 France

2017-2018 France

**Joseph "Joe" Craig
FODPAL
Membership Award Post Level**

2009-2010 Copenhagen Post DK01 France
2015-2016 Flanders Field Post BE02 France
2017-2018 Ramstein Post GR02 France

2014-2015 Flanders Field Post BE02 France
2016-2017 George S. Patton Post GR45 France

**Erle Cocke Jr Award
FODPAL APPRECIATION AWARD**

2004 Doug Haggan France

2012 Ron Howko France

2017 Kenneth Aungst

France

ATTACHMENT 33

ACTIVE POSTS IN THE AMERICAN LEGION					
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE					
UPDATED 18 October, 2019					
Post #	Post Name	Location	Temporary	Permanent	Renamed
CP01	Generals Ward &Chennault< Helseth	Shanghai China/ NV USA	1919	04/20/20	01/08/54
FR01	Paris Post	Paris, France	12/13/19	08/04/21	
IT01	Rome	Rome, Italy	09/03/25	08/21/26	
GC01	Athens	Athens, Greece	01/10/27	09/16/27	
DK01	Copenhagen	Copenhagen, Denmark	04/11/33	10/12/33	
BE02	Brussels TO Flanders Field	West Flanders, Belgium	08/07/33	09/01/53	10/04/25
FR05	Nice TO Riviera	Nice, France	06/27/49	09/30/53	05/31/66
IR02	Farther Francis P. Duffy	Killarney, Ireland	01/22/51	09/21/51	
GR01	Kaiserslautern	Kaiserslautern, Germany	04/06/53	08/26/53	
GR06	Stuttgart	Stuttgart, Germany	11/14/55	11/19/56	05/09/79
IR03	Commodore John Barry	Dublin, Ireland	11/06/57	05/08/58	
GR20	Bitburg TO Eifel	Bitburg, Germany	04/17/61	12/11/64	01/04/80
GR13	Dwight D. Eisenhower	Augsburg, Germany	10/09/69	11/23/70	
GR03	Alfred H. Watts TO Rhein Neckar	Heidelberg, Germany	10/23/70	06/28/71	08/20/76
GR14	Budingen TO Thomas W. Barnett	Budingen, Germany	05/06/71	10/19/71	05/09/79
GR05	Rhein Main	Waldorf, Frankfurt	10/18/72	04/06/73	
GR30	Audie Murphy	Wurzburg, Germany	05/03/73	07/08/74	
GR79	Heilbronn TO John Wayne	Heilbronn, Germany	08/17/75	03/28/77	08/28/79
SP292	Isabel La Catolica	Madrid, Spain	10/06/76	04/12/78	
GR1982	David Chavez	Ansbach, Germany	05/04/83	04/30/85	
GR45	General George S. Patton	Vilseck, Germany	05/08/85	10/09/85	03/28/17
GR07	Riley Leroy Pitts LOCATION CHANGE	Weisbaden, Germany	09/01/87	04/15/88	06/27/19
GR42	Omar Bradley	Oberwern, Germany	05/03/90	10/02/90	
IR63	John F. Kennedy	Dublin, Ireland	05/08/97	04/22/98	
PO01	Portugal	Lisbon, Portugal	10/18/00	06/20/08	
GR09	Sergeant William D. Nelson	Neu Ulm, Germany	05/09/01	10/11/01	
NL01	Rotterdam TO Margraten	Margraten, Holland	09/07/01	03/06/02	08/10/17
GR02	Ramstein	Ramstein, Germany	10/20/14		
TH01	Brig. Gen. Robin Olds	Thailand	10/20/15	07/21/16	
IR01	The Pride of Erin	Dublin, Ireland	12/4/15	08/10/17	
IT02	PVT Masato Nakae	Vicenza, Italy			
EG02	Liberty	Lakenheath, England	03/18/17		
EG303	Molesworth	Molesworth, England	10/16/19		
FR9999	Headquarters Post	St. Avold, France			

ATTACHMENT 34

<p align="center">THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE CANCELLED POSTS CHARTERS</p>						
<p align="center">Produced by James Settle, Doug Haggan, and The American Legion Library</p>						
<p align="center">UPDATED 8 September 2018</p>						
Post #	Post Name	Location	Temporary	Permanent	Replace	Cancel
FR03	Standard	La Rochelle, France				11/1920
GR05	Andernach	Andernach, Germany				03/1922
FR02	Loir et Cher	Gievres Camp, France				02/1922
BE02	Brussels	Brussels, Belgium				10/1925
TR05	Constantinople	Constantinople, Turkey				10/1925
GR04	Giessen	Wieseck, Germany				10/1925
GR04	Amaroc	Koblenz, Germany				10/1925
TR03	The Garden of Eden	Mamuret-Ul-Aziz, Turkey				10/1925
PL02	Warsaw	Warsaw, Poland				05/1925
PL01	General Tadeusz Kosciuszko	Warsaw, Poland				05/1926
SP01	Washington Irving	Madrid, Spain				05/1928
SC10	Rosneath	Dumbartonshire, Scotland				07/1945
SD01	League of Nations	Geneva, Switzerland				05/1947
IT05	Eternal City	Rome, Italy				10/1953
FR02	C A Pauson	Bordeaux, France				05/1955
FR03	Rivera	Nice, France				05/1955
FR09	Jeanne D Arc	Orleans, France				05/1955
FR06	Verdun	Verdun, France				05/1955
GR02	Harry S. Truman	Frankfurt W. Germany				05/1957
GR02	Bremen	Bremen, W. Germany				05/1957
EG02	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Blackpool, Lancashire, England				05/1957
FR12	Amelia Earhart	Dreux, France				11/1957
GR01	Frankfurt	Frankfurt, W.Germany				05/1958
LX07	Luxembourg	Grand Ducky of Luxembourg				08/1958
EG02	Gen. Henry H. Arnold	London, England				10/1958
GR05	Rhein Main	Waldorf, W. Germany				08/1959
DK99	Francis Marion Zeigler	Denmark				05/1959
GR09	Donald A. Haapapuro	Neu Ulm,W. Germany				09/1959
GR05	Schwabisch-Gmund	Schwabisch-Gmund, Baden				09/1959
GR10	Hunsruck	Barenbach, W. Germany				05/1960
GR10	Heidelberg	Heidelberg, W. Germany				05/1960
IR01	Michael O'Donoghue	Cork City, Ireland				05/1960
BE01	Brussels	Brussels, Belgium				05/1962
FR11	Wallace H Logie	Chateauroux, France				09/1964
FR13	General LaFayette	Nancy, France				09/1964
FR14	Simon Buckner	Verdun, France				09/1964
FR06	John J. Pershing	Verdun, France				09/1964
FR10	George S. Patton Jr	Boulogne, Sur-seine France				09/1964
GR03	Schweinfurt	Gochsheim, W. Germany				05/1968
FR04	Myron T. Herrick	Paris, France				05/1968
GR02	Joseph J. Sadowski	Ulm, W. Germany				05/1969
GR15	George S. Patton Jr	Heilbronn, W. Germany	05/06/60			05/1969
GR22	John F. Kennedy	Mainbullau, W. Germany				05/1969
GR13	Hohenfels	Hohenfels, W. Germany				05/1969
GR11	Baumholder	Mettweiller, W. Germany				10/1971
GR12	Ramstein	Mackenbach, W. Germany				10/1971
GR04	Wiesbaden	Wiesbaden, W. Germany				05/1972
GR05	William L. Delray	Bad Toelz, Germany				08/1972
GR02	Dexheim	Dexheim, W. Germany				10/1972

GR15	Idar-Oberstein	Idar-Oberstein, W. Germany				08/1973
GR17	Bad Kreuznach	Bad Kreuznach, W. Germany				05/1974
DK03	Vedaek	Vedaek, Denmark				05/1974
SP77	Madrid	Madrid, Spain				05/1976
GR12	Nuernberg	Fuerth, W. Germany				05/1976
GR10	Hunsruck	Barenbach, W. Germany				08/1976
GR78	George S. Patton Jr	Karlsruhe, W. Germany				08/1976
GR100	Colin D. MacManus	Vilseck, W. Germany				08/1976
GR15	Erlangen	Erlangen, W. Germany				05/1978
GR09	Donald A. Haapapuro	Neu Ulm,W. Germany				05/1978
DK02	Post of Denmark	Copenhagen/Odense, Denmark				05/1979
GR04	Giessen	Wieseck, W. Germany				05/1979
GR76	Zweibruecken	Zweibruecken, W. Germany				05/1979
GR333	Kitzingen	Kitzingen, W. Germany				05/1979
GR11	Sembach	Sembach, W. Germany				05/1979
EG40	Battle of Britain	Suffolk, England				05/1979
BE01	Brussels-Antwerp	Brussels, Belgium				08/1979
GR63	John F. Kennedy	Berlin, W. Germany				05/1980
GR1976	Mannheim Bicentennial	Mannheim, W. Germany		06/30/77		05/1982
EG64	England	Cambridgeshire, England	10/15/80			05/1982
GR07	Hanau	Hanau, W. Germany				05/1982
GR10	Bad Kissingen	Bad Kissingen, W. Germany				05/1982
GR21	Otha T. Spriggs Jr.	Crailsheim, W. Germany	10/20/71	02/02/72		09/1986
SW01	Stockholm	Stockholm, Sweden	06/08/26	09/20/37		05/1993
EN1987	Shefford	RAF Chicksands, Eng	10/21/87	09/13/88		09/1993
GR21	Otha T. Spriggs Jr.	Crailsheim, W. Germany	10/20/71	02/02/72		05/1994
GR08	Munich	Munich, Germany	11/02/53	06/09/55	04/16/73	05/1994
GR1189	Berlin 9	Berlin, Germany	10/17/91	02/03/93		05/1994
GR22	2nd Armor Division- Iron Duce	Osterholz-Scharmbec, Germ	09/01/87			05/1994
GR1985	Nuernberg	Nuernberg, Germany	05/08/86			05/1994
IT02	Bari	Giovinazzo, Italy	03/13/26	02/11/52		05/1994
GR02	Harry S. Truman	Frankfurt, Germany	05/02/74	02/20/75		05/1994
IT03	Palermo	Palermo, Italy	03/22/26	02/11/52		09/1994
IT05	Eternal City	Rome, Italy	07/18/55	02/04/57		09/1994
GC02	Tripolis-Kalamata	Tripolis, Greece	08/26/33	12/14/34	09/19/63	10/1998
GC03	Patras	Patras, Greece	04/11/36	12/28/36		09/1998
GC05	Salonica	Thessaloniki, Greece	04/08/48	12/27/50		09/1998
GC04	Crete	Canal Crete, Greece	08/09/38	02/08/40		09/1998
IT04	Joseph Woodruff	Naples, Italy				09/1998
GR1995	Sgt Stoney Bell Memorial	Bad Aibling, Germany	10/23/95	09/06/96		09/2000
GR1983	Wiesbaden/Mainz	Wiesbaden, Germany	05/04/83	08/16/83		09/2000
GR8153	Baumholder Home of Champions	Baumholder, Germany	05/05/94			09/2000
EG2000	East Anglia	Mildenhall, England				10/2005
GR11	Sembach	Sembach, Germany	03/01/03	10/12/03		10/2005
PO02	Azores	Azores, Portugal	09/07/01			06/2005
GR04	Giessen	Giessen, Germany	10/18/99	04/18/00		10/2005
GR10	Babenhausen	Babenhausen, Germany	05/05/05			08/2011
GR165	Rick E. Louray	Pirmasens, Germany	05/10/84	01/21/86		08/2011
GR16	Friedberg	Friedberg, Germany	04/30/75	02/23/76		08/2011
GR03	Amaroc Post	Cologne, Germany				
GR03	Alfred H. Watts	Heidelberg, Germany				

PAST DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE COMMANDER'S



Francis Drake FR01
1920 - 1921
Attended the First Caucus
15-17 March 1919



Cabot Ward FR01
1921 - 1922



Dr. Edmund L. Gros FR01
1922 - 1922



Arthur W. Kipling FR01
1922 - 1923
Attended the First Caucus
15-17 March 1919



H. H. Harjes FR01
1923 - 1924



Benjamin H. Connor FR01
1924 - 1925



Hugh Bayne FR01
1925 - 1926



Edwin W. Thorn FR01
1926 - 1927



Julian Thomas FR01
1927 - 1928
Attended the First Caucus
15-17 March 1919



Charles Hicks FR01
1928 - 1929



Albert Bennett Cudebec FR01
1929 - 1930
Attended the First Caucus
15-17 March 1919



Steven S. Szlapka FR01
1930 - 1931



Sedley C. Peck FR01
1931 - 1932



Dr. James V. Sparks FR01
1932 - 1933



Henry W. Dunning FR01
1933 - 1934



James McCann FR01
1934 - 1935



Harold Lesley Smith FR01
1935 - 1936



Dr. James V. Sparks FR01
1936 - 1937



Elbert Dodds FR01
1937 - 1938



Bernard A. Ragner FR01
1938 - 1939



George A. Aubrey FR01
1939 - 1940



Edward A. Thurson FR01
1940 - 1946



John Wood FR01
1946 - 1947



Harold Lesley Smith FR01
1947 - 1948



Raymond P. McDaniel FR01
1948 - 1949



Gerhing C. Miller FR01
1949 - 1950



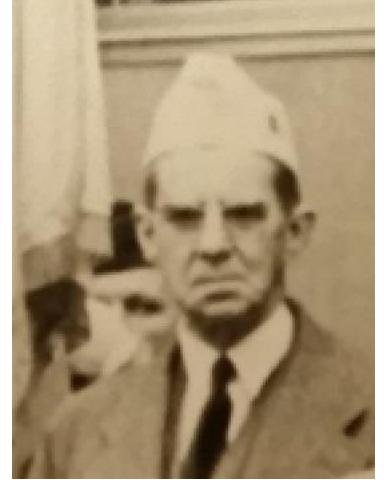
Charles D. Wilkes FR01
1950 - 1951



Vagn G. Callen FR01
1951 - 1952



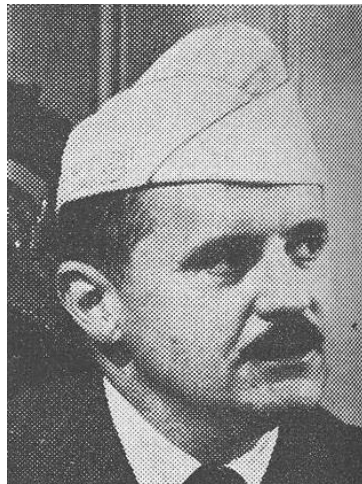
Clarence Glover FR01
1952 - 1953



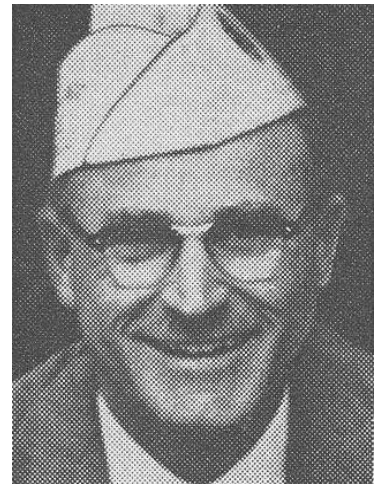
Lloyd H. Cornwall FR01
1953 - 1954



Leo E. Jolin FR01
1954 - 1955



Melvin C. Smith FR01
1955 - 1956



Carl J. Batter FR01
1956 - 1957



Martin G. Bencze FR11
1957 - 1958



Russell Porter FR01
1958 - 1959



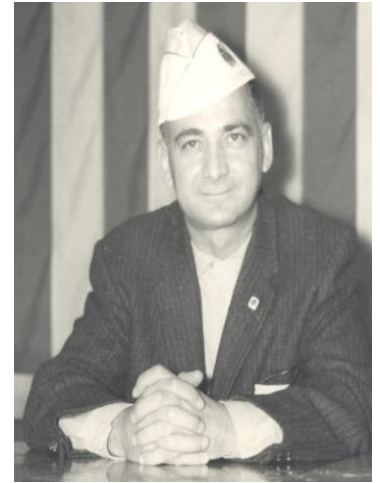
Joseph McDermott FR01
1959 - 1960



Gordon M. Jochmann GR01
1960 - 1961



George S. Long FR06
1961 - 1962



Frederick Deyeso GR08
1962 - 1963



Clifford Inman GR06
1963 - 1964



Walter Lindquist FR01
1964 - 1965



Helmut Isenberg FR01
1965 - 1966



Howard C. Dulin FR01
1966 - 1967



Helmut Isenberg FR01
1967 - 1968



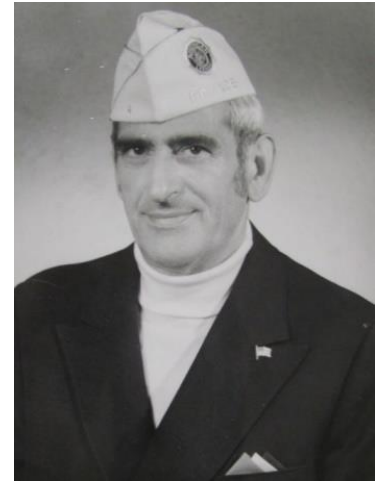
George Getz GR07
1968 - 1969



Carl Studer FR01
1969 - 1970



Jerome Guilds GR100
1970 - 1971



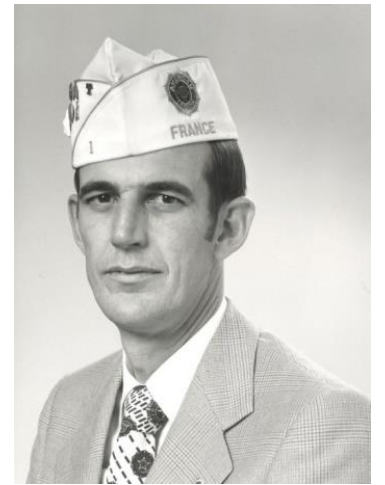
Helmut Spanenthal GR03
1972 - 1974



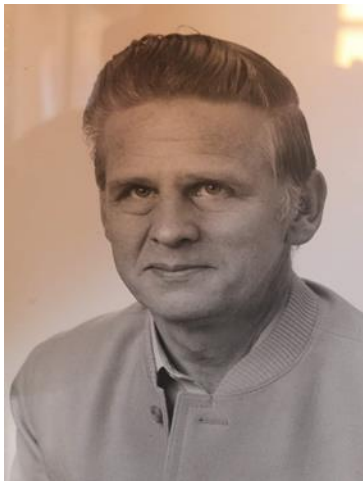
John Holmes GR03
1974 - 1976



Spurgeon Boyd FR01
1976 - 1977



William Bo Williams GR01
1977 - 1978



Thomas W. Barnett GR14
EMERITUS
1977 - 1977



Mike Beavers GR02
1978 - 1980



Jack D. Legg GR05
1980 - 1982



Robert Winkler GR20
1982 - 1985



Charlie Rallis GR01
1985 - 1987



Mike Verville GR03
1987 - 1988



Frank Hoyle GR16
1988 - 1989



Mike Verville GR03
1989 - 2 Sept 1989



Edward Drayton FR01
2 Sept 1989 - 1990



Doug Haggan GR02
1990 - 1992



Wally Bolton GR01
1992 - 1993



Walt Landi GR01
1993 - 1994



Gorley Stokes GR05
1994 - 1995



William "Bill" Marshall GR42
1995 - 1998



Mike Umland GR06
1998 - 2000



Nola Maloney GR03
2000 - 2003



John Miller GR1982
2003 - 2005



Liam Kane IR63
2005 - 2007



Joe D. Brown GR42
2007 - 2009



Robert Gray GR01
2009 - 2011



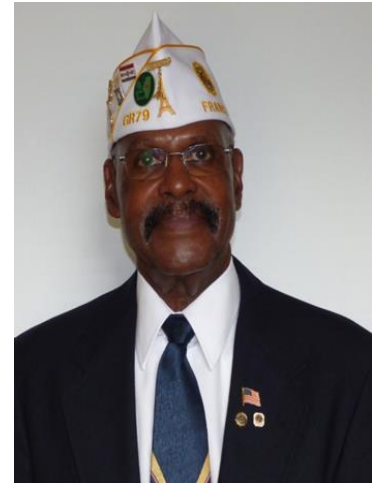
Joe D. Brown GR42
2011 - 2012



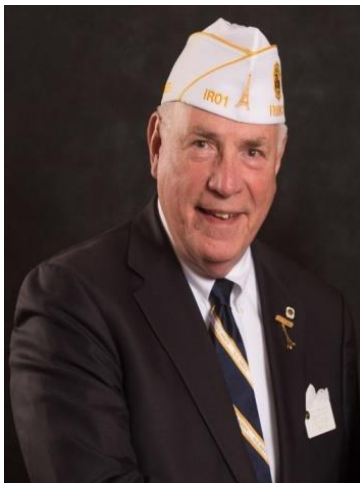
Ronald Moore GR05
2012 - 2013



James Settle GR42
2013 - 2015



Keith Abernathy GR79
2015 - 2016



John Shanahan IR01
2016 - 2017



Gary Miller GR06
EMERITUS
2017 - 2017



James Dennis GR30
2017 - 2019



Jimmie Dale GR07
2019 - 2020

Albert Bennett Cudebec photo comes courtesy of "Special Collections, Lehigh University Libraries, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania"

PAST DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN



Francis Drake FR01
1920 – 1921
Attended the First Caucus
15-17 March 1919



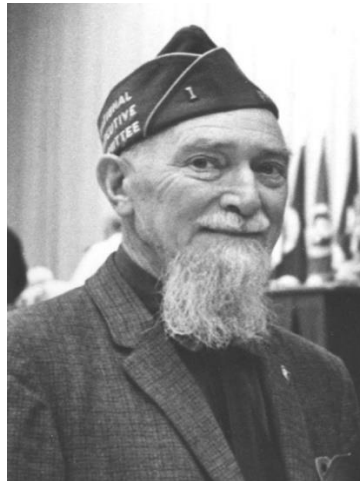
R. Emmett Condon FR01
1921 – 1923



Samuel P. Bailey FR01
1923 – 1936



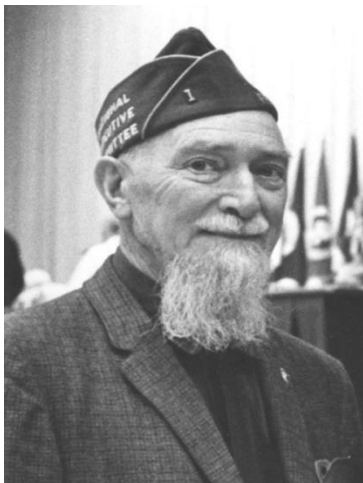
James McCann FR01
1936 -1952



Sedley C. Peck FR01
1952 – 1960



Dana W. Lyman FR01
1960 - 1962



Sedley C. Peck FR01
1962 – 1966



Walter E. Lindquist FR01
1966 – 1968



James E. Zulick FR01
1968 – 1974



Helmut Spangenthal GR03
1974 – 1982



William Lombardo GR01
1982 – 1988



Merwyn M. Beavers GR02
1988 - 1992



Doug Haggan GR02
1992 – 1994



Merwyn M. Beavers GR05
1994 – 2004



William Bill Marshall GR42
2004 – 2010



Liam Kane IR63
2010 – 2012



John Miller GR1982
2012 – 2016



Nola Maloney GR03
2016 – 2018



James Settle GR42
2018 - 2020

PAST DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE ADJUTANT'S



Norman B. Coster FR01
1920 - 1921



A. W. Kipling FR01
1921 - 1922
Attended the First Caucus
15-17 March 1919



Francis Jaques FR01
1922 - 1923



Albert N. Connett, Jr FR01
1923 - 1925



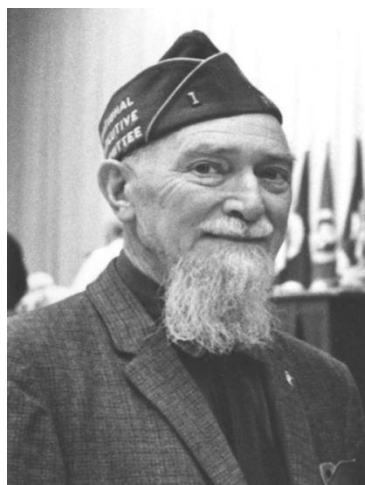
Edwin W. Thorn FR01
1925 - 1926



Daniel F. Gibbs FR01
1926 - 1927



James L. McCann FR01
1927 - 1928



Sedley C. Peck FR01
1928 - 1929



Ford B. Stevens FR01
1929 - 1930



Donald R. MacAfee FR01
1930 - 1931



Robert L. Miles FR01
1931 - 1932



Jerome J. Stenger FR01
1932 - 1935



Edward A. Thureson FR01
1935 - 1936



Edwin L. Murphy FR01
1936 - 1937



George F. Denis FR01
1937 - 1939



John W. Hunter FR01
1939 - 1946



Julian P. Winter FR01
1946 - 1947



Leroy Carlson FR01
1947 - 1948



Vagn G. Callen FR01
1948 - 1949



Donald A. Palmer FR01
1949 - 1950



John A. Laux FR01
1950 - 1951



Clarence L. Glover FR01
1951 - 1952



Howard C. Dulin FR01
1952 - 1953



John K. Kingsley FR01
1953 - 1954



Carl J. Batter, Jr. FR01
1954 - 1955



John A. Halupka FR01
1955 - 1956



Russell M. Porter, Jr. FR01
1956 - 1957



Arnaud L. Clerc FR01
1957 - 1958



Leo B. Gordin FR01
1958 - 1959



Clifford C. Seeley FR01
1959 - 1960



Leo E. Jolin FR01
1960 - 1961



Donald V. Rowe GR08
1961 - 1962



William N. Hedge FR01
1962 - 1963



Joe Singletary FR01
1963 - 1964



Howard Dulin FR01
1964 - 1966



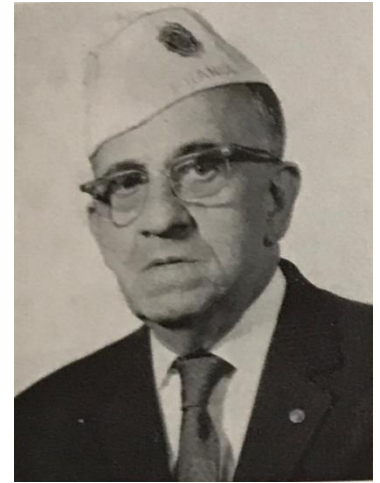
Edgar J. Houseman FR01
1966 - 1968



Leo E. Jolin FR01
1968 - 1969



James F. Graziano FR01
1969 - 1970



Benjamin H. Chain FR01
1970 - 1971



Dan Biondi FR01
1971 - 1973



Daniel S. Campbell FR01
1973 - 1976



Edward Drayton FR01
1976 - 1978



Yott E. Whitmore FR01
1978 - 1979



Kenneth E. Johnson FR01
1979 - 1985



Ralph Browne, Jr. GR01
1985 - 1986



Michael R. Verville GR07
1986 - 1986



Doug Haggan GR01
1986 - 1987



Ralph Browne, Jr. GR01
1987 - 1987



Michael R. Verville GR07
1987 - 1988



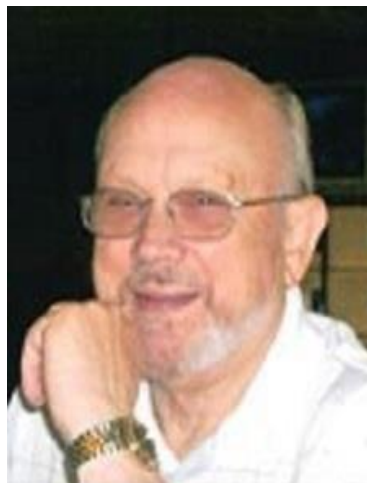
Wayne W. Costa GR16
1988 - 1990



Grant Whiteley GR02
1990 - 1990



Gorley E. Stokes GR05
1990 - 1994



Robert J. Loudon GR05
1994 - 1997



Timothy P. O'Neill GR03
1997 - 1998



William R. West GR79
1998 - 2003



Frank Hanchak GR42
2003 - 2003



Nola Maloney GR03
2003 - 2005



James Settle GR79
2005 - 2006



Maxwell Rice GR79
2006 - 2007



Nola Maloney GR03
2007 - 2007



James Settle GR79
2007 - 2009



John D. Fleming GR01
2009 - 2011



James Settle GR42
2011 - 2012



Maxwell Rice GR79
2012 - 2018



Robert "Bob" Fuelling FR01
Emeritus 2018



Hans Stockenberger CP01
2018 - 2019



Maxwell Rice GR79
2019 - Present

PAST NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



Doug Haggan GR05
2014 - 2015
178

2018 PREFACE BY
Jeff Stoffer
National Director of Media & Communications

The American Legion, which would grow into the largest U.S. veterans service organization, was conceived at a caucus in Paris, France, March 15-17. Eight months later, The American Legion Department of France installed its first commander, Lt. Col. Francis E. Drake, and appointed its first adjutant, Norman B. Coster. The department and its original officers were given “accredited” status because the national organization had yet to determine its policy on chartering American Legion departments and posts in foreign countries.

The Department of France shed its “accredited-only” status after approval by the Legion’s National Executive Committee on Feb. 7, 1921. The first posts of The American Legion’s Department of France were located in Belgium, Germany, Poland, Turkey and, of course, France. Drake was also commander of Paris Post 1.

At The American Legion’s third national convention, Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 1921, in Kansas City, Mo., the Department of France became the Department of Continental Europe and had six posts: Paris Post 1, Paris, France; Brussels Post 2, Brussels, Belgium; Amaroc Post 3, Cologne, West Germany; Warsaw Post 4, Warsaw, Poland; Andernach, Germany; and Garden of Eden Post 6, Constantinople, Turkey.

Two years later, however, on Oct. 14, 1923, the 5th National Convention in San Francisco passed a resolution submitted by Paris Post 1 to reconstitute the Department of France. By that time, other posts in Europe had faded away, and Paris was the only one remaining active on the continent. The American Legion Department of France’s current charter – in use today – was adopted on Feb. 12, 1924, to encompass an area covering Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain and Sweden.

At the Department of France Convention held in Munich, West Germany, June 19-22, 1976, a resolution was passed to do away with the districts of France and Germany. An amendment to the constitution was passed to have eight vice commanders in lieu of district commanders. They were assigned as follows: one department vice commander-at-large; two vice commanders for France; four vice commanders for Germany; and one vice commander for Belgium, Denmark and Sweden.

Through the years, the Department of France expanded its reach and became the home department for posts from various other places around the planet, including China Post 1, which has been operating in exile since 1948, and Brig. Gen. Robin Olds Post TH01 in Thailand. The number of posts in the department is now 32, spanning across 13 different countries.

Department Headquarters is located at Hotel De Ville in St. Avold, France, and has other offices in Germany. The original American Legion Department of France headquarters was located at Pershing Hall, 49 Rue Pierre Charron, in Paris, which is now owned by the U.S. government and leased to a private hotel and restaurant.

The Department of France is a triad with three levels of authority – department, districts and posts. The department is led by a commander, vice commander at-large, two vice commanders for the District of France, two vice commanders for the District of Germany and other elected and appointed officers. Posts and other districts are similarly organized. The Department of France Convention is annually conducted in June when officers are elected for one-year terms, with the exception of National Executive Committee member, whose term runs from two to seven years, and is elected during the National Convention in late August, at the same time as the new national commander.

The Department of France is an active participant in FODPAL (Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion), a group that came into existence at the 1950 National Convention in Miami Florida, to include all foreign departments, U.S. territories, Alaska and Hawaii.

Today, The American Legion Department of France has established itself as an important support network for active-duty U.S. military personnel and their families in Europe, conducting and supporting youth programs such as Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports, Junior ROTC and oratorical competition for students. Department of France Legionnaires also help veterans with their VA and military benefits and perform volunteer services at DoD health-care facilities like Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. The department is also chief ambassador of remembrance for fallen U.S. troops laid to rest at American Battle Monuments Commission-administered cemeteries and other memorials and monuments.

2018 PREFACE BY
Brett P. Reistad
National Commander 2018-2019

The American Legion's story begins in the Department of France. It was here in the months following the armistice of Nov. 11, 1918, where members of the American Expeditionary Forces waited to re-enter an uncertain future, having fought with their lives to make, as President Woodrow Wilson pledged, the world "safe for democracy."

The cost of fulfilling that pledge can be calculated in many ways, foremost of which is the number of Americans – more than 117,000 – who gave their lives to fulfill it. The enduring benefit of accomplishing such a deadly and difficult mission was a stronger America, a nation that would become revered worldwide as a beacon of hope, liberation and international integrity.

When Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., called three other officers to Paris in January 1919 to discuss the future ahead for America, they did so with the cost of war fresh on their minds. On that occasion, and in a follow-up gathering the next month, they made a commitment that wartime U.S. veterans worldwide would spend the next century fulfilling – to make America stronger, to honor the fallen, to preserve and protect the hard-won peace and to "cement the ties of comradeship" forged in battle.

From the Paris Caucus of March 15-17, 1919, through establishment of overseas Memorial Day commemorations and the American Battle Monuments Commission, to the inception of an international coalition of wartime veterans – *Federation Interalliee des Anciens Combatants* – that laid a foundation later adopted in many ways through NATO, the early American Legion in France built and nurtured respect and understanding of the United States that continues today.

History is more than what happened when. It is a statement of identity, recognition and interpretation of the formative spirit that brought something to life and keeps it growing over the years, in The American Legion's case, 100 of them.

The ideas that set into motion our great organization indeed began in France. Care for disabled veterans, honor for those who made the supreme sacrifice, demands for a military strong enough to prevent war and hope for a more unified future were all envisioned by The American Legion's founders, not the least of whom was first Paris Post 1 Commander, Col. Francis Drake.

I congratulate the Department of France for its place at the beginning of our organization and, moreover, for its ongoing service in support of values that have proven timeless and will guide us well into our second century.

For God and Country,



Brett P. Reistad
American Legion National Commander
2018-2019

#Team100

PARIS, FRANCE



**THE BIRTHPLACE OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION**