

# DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

[HTTP://AMERLEGIONDEPTFRANCE.ORG](http://amerlegiondeptfrance.org)

MARCH 2010

## FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello my fellow Legionnaires. I want to wish you and your love ones well and hope all are doing fine after these last weather storms. I didn't get a chance to visit the Posts like I wanted to; however, I was able to visit most of the Posts who held Oratorical Scholarship Program contest.

Starting with the GR01 contest held at Kaiserslautern High School, the Master of Ceremonies was Post Commander John Fleming. The contestants were Jordan Dockery, Patrick O'Neal and Amaya Hamilton. GR07 held their Oratorical Contest and had two contestants, Dominquez William and Trevin Hamilton.

GR06 hosted the Department Oratorical Contest at Patch American High School on 20 February 2010. There were four contestants in attendance:

Amaya Hamilton, GR01; Matthew Finley, GR03; Christina Lowry, GR06; and Trevin Hampton, GR07. GR06 MC Doug Clemence conducted a great Contest and all four contestants were winners. However, only one contestant can go to the National Contest and that is (drum roll) Christina Lowry sponsored by GR06.

This month, 20 March, is the 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC hosted by GR42 in Schweinfurt. We would like all Department Officers and Committee Chairman to have their reports turned in to the Department Adjutant as soon as possible, but not later than 6 March 2010. This will help to cut back on time spent on giving reports.

VCAL Kane attended the Department Oratorical contest. We discussed the status of the convention, and the deadline for Award packet turn in, as



well as the meeting date for the Awards committee, which will be held 1 May 2010, in Kaiserslautern, at GR01.

Talked with NECMan Bill Marshall about the National Commander's visit in May, and we have a rough plan laid out.

Yours in Comradeship,

Robert Gray



## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

### Commander

Robert Gray, GR01

### Adjutant

John D. Fleming, GR01

**Vice Commander At Large** - DK01, FR01, GC01, IR02, IR03, NL01, PO01, & SP292

Liam Kane, IR63

**Vice Commander** - GR09, GR13, GR30, GR42, & GR79

Michael Besant, GR1982

**Vice Commander** - GR01, GR06, GR14, GR20, GR45, GR1982, & IR63

James Dennis, GR30

**Vice Commander** - GR03, GR05, & GR07

VCAL Kane

**Vice Commander** - BE02, CP01, FR05, & IT01

Kevin B. Keehnen, GR01

### National Executive Committeeman

William "Bill" Marshall, GR42

**Alternate National Executive Committeeman**

John Miller, GR1982

### Chaplain

Ronald Moore, GR05

## VCAL RAMBLINGS

As we approach nine months of our Membership Year its time to once again reflect and to report on our stewardship. Our Department Membership needs to be addressed by one and all alike. We can go out and recruit at least one member to bring us up the ladder and achieve our goals, we can do it. Adjutant John Fleming has issued an up-to-date listing on our figures. Don't be left behind.

There is only a little over eight weeks left to submit your Post Award Package. Closing date will be 31 April, packages to be mailed to Department Adjutant, to reach him on or before 30 April, each entry must be in triplicate. The

## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

Need Help? Call or email me.

George T. Hall  
Office: 06221 57 8236 or  
DSN 370-8236  
Phone Mobil 0171 937 9871  
[hallgt@yahoo.com](mailto:hallgt@yahoo.com)  
Your DSO is here to Help  
VA CLAMS, SSA, DFAS

### Post Events

Kaiserslautern Post GR01 is celebrating The American Legion Birthday, 17 March, at 1830, at the Restaurant Asia, Mainzerstr 105. All Legion, Auxiliary, SAL members and friends are welcome. For more information, contact Post Commander John Fleming at email: [commander@k-townamericanlegion.org](mailto:commander@k-townamericanlegion.org)

Awards Committee will meet on 1 May at a venue to be arranged. We hope to see an increase in entries in 2010. It is an honor to win a Department Award, so it's up to each Post to take the opportunity to have a member being honored by his or her Department in front of all at the Department Convention in Dublin in June.

## 16-20 June 2010

Yes, it's getting close folks, and we need your cooperation on the final bookings and your deposits. Post IR63 will be in attendance at the 3rd DEC to help with any and all queries and to collect your deposits (25 %). Thank you in advance for your help. Some have not replied at all.

My journeys took me to various Posts and venues since we last met and I have had working sessions with our Department Commander Robert and Adjutant John on a number of occasions, the latest being last weekend during my latest visit. I had the opportunity to meet three of our Vice Commanders; Kevin, James and John Odom, who has come on board as the fourth Vice Commander for the Department. There will be some regigging of Posts assignments, details of which will be conveyed later this month. If you need any help please contact the Department VCAL or any Vice Commander. We are here to help.

Last weekend I attended the Department Finals of the Oratorical Competition and it was of a very high standard with the winner, Christine Lowy, showing very well using her experience from having participated in last years contest. Well done to all four finalists, their families, schools and Posts for their great effort. Thanks also to GR06 for once again hosting the Finals. We had a good turnout of Legionnaires there, including members from the participating Posts and Department Officers Robert Grey, John Fleming, John Odom, Kevin Keehnan, James Dennis, George Hall, Mike Young and Liam Kane. Doug Clemence did his usual good job as M.C. of the day. Once again thanks to all but to those who went there you could make a difference.

Lets finish with the Department Convention and remind you all that you will enjoy it so don't miss a golden chance to have a great time in the Emerald Isle in June.

Just a reminder that all Reports for the 3rd DEC should be sent to Department Adjutant at least 10 days in advance the of Meeting (or bring 30 copies) this will help in the smoother running of the Meeting

Liam Kane Department VCAL

[departmentadjutant@gmail.com](mailto:departmentadjutant@gmail.com)

## POST MEETINGS

Below is a partial listing of Post and their General Membership Meetings. If you would like to attend a Post meeting, please contact the respective Commander and/or the Adjutant.

GR01: 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly, Post Home

GR03: 1st Thursday monthly Post Home

GR06: 2nd Wednesday monthly Post Home

GR07: 1st Tuesday monthly Post Home

GR13: 3rd Saturday monthly Post Home

GR14: Second Wednesday of the month Post Home

GR42: Third Sunday of the month Post Home

GR79: Second Saturday of the month Post Home

GR1982: Third Wednesday of the month Post Home

PO01: Third Wednesday of the month Past Com. House

IR03: First Saturday in April, first Sat. in Oct for elections

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS (CON'T)

### **Historian**

Eric Thoresen, GR01

### **Finance Officer**

Gary Miller, GR06

### **Service Officer**

George Hall, GR03

### **Judge Advocate**

Michael Young, GR01

### **Sergeant-at-Arms**

Hal Rittenberg

## Chaplain's Page

**Special Days/Legion Events:** 15<sup>th</sup>- American Legion Birthday, 20<sup>th</sup>- Equinox; 20<sup>th</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> DEC at GR42, Community Service Month.

**Christian Religious Days:** 17<sup>th</sup>- St. Patrick's Day; 21<sup>st</sup> - Passion Sunday; 25<sup>th</sup> Annunciation of the Virgin Mary; 27<sup>th</sup>- Lazarus Saturday; 28<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday;

**Jewish Holidays** (Year 5770): 30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> – Pesach (first two days of Passover)

**Islamic Holidays:** None that I know of.

Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

### **Post Everlasting reported in February:**

Harold Burkert- Brother of Manuela Brown and Bother-in-law of IPC Brown

William O. Johnson, GR05

Carlos Harris, GR14

### **Prayers for the Sick:**

George Hall, GR03

Shawn Ashe, GR42

Doug Clemence, GR06

Nola Maloney, GR03 and Past Department Commander

John H. Miller, GR1982 and PDC & present Dept Alt NECman

Phil Gatchell, GR03

Edward Hayes, GR03

Kenneth Grasser, GR09

Brenda Dearborn, Dept of Maine present Americanism Chair and past chaplain

Harold M. Wild, GR13

Ronald (Ron) Hansen, GR06

Marlene Watson, Widow of GR13 charter member William Watson

Paul Johnson, Dept of Wyoming 3rd District VC and Past Chaplain

Larry "Yard Dog" Ewerds, GR07

Edwin F. Hoffman, GR13

Robert Downs, GR79

Brian Charters, IR63

Michelle Gerdeman, daughter of Comrade John Gerdeman, Sr. GR07

Harry Hall, GR42

Isadore Pink, GR07

Niece of Comrade Dave Mendez, GR01

Cyndia, wife of Comrade Dan Halsey, GR03

Marie-Anne Godefroid, wife of Comrade Carl Hale, FR01

James W. Johnson,

Mike Paguaia, GR03

Jerry Deaver, GR07

Rose Jeffries, GR07

Harry Jeffries, GR07

Gorrell Cheek, GR1982

Kevin Murphy, GR05

Bill Tilman, GR14

George Davis, GR42

Michael Umland, GR06 and Past Department Commander

A. "Ray" Cline, GR14

Joe D. Brown, GR42, IPDC

Robert Loudon, GR05

Dallas Smith, GR05

Family of Wendell P. Dore, Department of D.C. Commander

Mother and Father-in-law of DVC James Dennis

are undergoing, were undergoing or were scheduled for, medical treatment.

No other deaths or other illnesses were reported to me, but we continue to pray for those comrades, family members and friends of the Legion who have passed away or are ill.

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Greetings Comrades,

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the American Legion Family,

You think it would be easy to write a few encouraging words to you every month after four years of service as your chaplain. Surprisingly, it seems to get more difficult each time because I need to cut down the many things I want to say to you. 350

words may sound like a lot, but it really is a small number when it is time to talk about the many principles that we as members of The American Legion need to uphold as protectors of the American value of life and those who served in defense of this great Nation.

Again, we are all veterans or the families of veterans, and that means we have all given something of our lives for our country. Whether we actually fought or not is

unimportant. Each service member gives an open contract, up to and including the ultimate sacrifice in case of need. The American Legion respects that and accepts war era veterans and not only war theater veterans as some other Veterans Service Organizations do.

The War on Terrorism is expensive in that lives are lost, civilian and service members wounded and the financial cost involved. We can be against the war but, we as a

society can never be against those brave souls who are fighting or serving in the defense of our country. I hope that we can make people realize the fine distinction and very thin line between demonstrating against a policy and demonstrating against a serviceman or woman.

Let us ensure that every serviceman, servicewoman and every veteran knows that we appreciate his or her service and let them know they have a place where they have friends and a caring ear. Tell them about the American Legion family and accept them into our fold with no hesitation or doubt.

God is important for The American Legion. God is important for our daily lives. There are many religions that celebrate religious

holidays this month. Please remember to keep God in first place in our lives just as we do in The American Legion Preamble.

May God bless you and give you strength to continue His work in helping our service members and fellow veterans.

God bless our servicemen and women, as well as their families, no matter where they serve.

**Rev. Ronald Moore,**  
**Dept of France Chaplain**  
**Home: 0049-(0)6196-569027**  
**Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812**  
**Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de**

### **Legacy Scholarship Fund – February-March 2010 Update**

#### **Legacy Run 2010 - Scheduled for August 2010 Department of France Collection Date - July 2010**

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund is for children of fallen Veterans killed while on active duty or called to federal duty since 09/11/2001.

The Department of France provisional organization was officially recognized as the Department of France A.L. Pony Express Messenger Service during the Convention period in June of last year. The sole purpose of the A.L. Pony Express is to bring Legacy Scholarship donations from outlying Posts to the National Commander. Status as a Way Station or Messenger is open to all members of The American Legion Family regardless of affiliation with the A.L. Riders or having a motorcycle.

Six Posts signed up as Department of France Pony Express Way Stations and ten members were sworn in as Department of France Pony Express Messengers in June 2009. Although the period from June 20 to August 31 was very short, we were able to pass funds from three Posts (GR42, GR14, GR05,) directly to the National Commander at the Convention in Louisville, KY last year. These Posts received a letter directly from the National Commander in thanks for their donation.

We now have a little more time until the end of July 2010, and I hope that we can use that time effectively to raise funds for the Scholarship Fund. I'll be riding again this year and have already registered for the event from August 22-26, 2010, which will take a long route from Indianapolis to Milwaukee.

What you can do?-

1. Please register your Post as a Department of France A. L. Pony Express Way Station. Each Way Station is authorized two messengers who will be sworn in and receive a badge from Ron "Gypsy" Moore as Coordinator for the Department of France

A.L. Pony Express System.

2. Set out a collection can for the Legacy Scholarship Fund and hold these funds as dedicated funds until collection time at the end of July. Talk to people, set up an event to raise donations and then write out your Post's U.S. \$ check drawn on a U.S. bank for the amount you collected. These checks will be passed to the National Commander in an open envelope showing your Post's name and address.

3. Let people know about the Legacy Scholarship Fund and the fact that they can also donate online at the Legion.Org website. Have members of your Post directly sign up as a "Supporter" of the 2010 Legacy Run by registering directly with the Legacy Run Registration in Indianapolis. Their \$50 registration fee lets them receive the same packet and patch that the riders who participate in the Run do. Wear it with pride.

The following link leads to the information page about the Legacy Scholarship Fund including a Donate button and a 2010 Legacy Run registration form (link just above the map):

<http://legion.org/riders/legacy>

I'm riding on the Run because it's fun, it's for a good cause and it gives the Department of France a lot of visibility because we send someone from so far away. I'm proud to wear the patch with Department of France on my vest and happy to let them know the Department of France is one of the best departments of The American Legion. I ride for and with you. Thank you in advance for your support and help.

For God and Country!

**Ron "Gypsy" Moore,**  
**Dept of France AL PE Messenger Service Coordinator**  
**Tel/Fax: +49-(0) 6196-569027**  
**Mobile: +49-(0)172-7417812**  
**Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de**

# Department Convention 2010

The host Post: JFK IR63

The Venue: Royal Hotel, Bray County, Wicklow, Ireland

The Date: 16 - 20 June 2010 and beyond.

The Bookings are high and we need those few who have not registered to kindly do so or tell us that they are not attending.

The POST WEBSITE is up and running and will be updated weekly. The Post meets again to-night to work for your Convention.

<http://www.americanlegionirelandpost63.com/>

is our contact, please have a look.

Some people have even booked in for longer periods than the actual Convention. We can do great deals for you if you want to do the same. We're here to help, just contact us by e-mail if you require any information.

We are working on the social side for you. One item of interest will be a talk on the Irish who fought on the American side in Korea and Vietnam. This will include slides and Books by the Author who will conduct the free show.

A group of Irish Dancers will perform for us and are willing to show you the odd step or two.

Details of events in and around Bray are also available, and of course, remember that you are in County Wicklow, The Garden of Ireland.

Trains and Buses run on a very regular time to Dublin City. the scenery on both are worth a trip and we will supply time tables on request.

Some of our Post will be available to assist you on all matters at all times during the Convention. JUST ASK. YOU'RE AT HOME IN IRELAND.

Failte Roimh To Leir go dti Bri Cualainn. ar an ocaid den Comhdail Leguna na Stait Aontaite Roin na Bfranca 2010. OCumann 63

## **AER LINGUS SALE**

### **GREAT FARES FROM MAINLAND EUROPE TO IRELAND.**

**CHECK OUT [airlingus.com](http://airlingus.com)**

**SALE ENDS 12 MARCH 2010**

Package consists of the following:

Fare consists of:

Bed and Irish or Continental breakfast.  
1 Convention coin for each person registering.  
Banquet on Saturday Night.  
Bus Trip & BBQ.

4 Night package	Single room	€290.00
	Double room	€377.00
	Triple room	€506.00
3 Night package	Single room	€219.00
	Double room	€290.00
	Triple room	€393.00

2 Night Package	Single room	€155.00
	Double room	€211.00
	Triple room	€282.00

1 Night Package	Single room	€90.00
	Double room	€124.00
	Triple room	€159.00

Family rooms available on request.

Package for 5 Nights please contact me.

Booking Dates:

31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 (Numbers attending)

Booking deposit 25% must be paid on or before 3<sup>rd</sup> D.E.C.

1<sup>ST</sup> MAY FINAL DATE FOR BOOKING AND PAYMENT  
Your cooperation for the above will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You, *Liam Kane, Convention Chairman*

## Sons of The American Legion

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sons of The American Legion Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be held in Stuttgart on the 13th of March 2010. Please make sure you have your delegate letters ON HAND.

Spring is here “like a lion” after the *blizzards* of January and the *snow storms* of February. It is great to see sunshine for a whole day. We’ve had several already and there is the promise of many more...

If this is spring > then ELECTIONS are right around the corner. It is never too early to begin searching for young people who show drive, enthusiasm and have strong beliefs in the ideals we all stand for. They are there among us, but they need our help and encouragement. Spend some time with a young Legionnaire this month. Ask him (or her) how he feels about the American Legion, and how he feels about serving this organization. We need good leaders at all levels of service from Squadron to Detachment and beyond. If you feel that you want to take a stronger leadership role in the Sons of The American Legion, ask your Squadron Commander, or contact any Detachment Officer. (Of course, I can always be reached at home or on my mobile phone).

As we exiting the winter of another American Legion Year, I want to thank all Squadron and Detachment Officers who have served so well these past two years. My special gratitude goes to Detachment Adjutant Jim Dennis! Jim has been my right hand man for two years. I have known him for more than a decade. We have served the Department together in many tough and exasperating situations. I thank him for everything he has done for me, Squadron GR-42, the Department of France and this Detachment.

I will not seek another term as Detachment Commander. It is time to step aside and let another Legionnaire assume the mantle of leadership. My final words: “Let’s take an active role in mentoring our future leaders”!

Frank J. Hanchak  
Commander  
Detachment of France  
Sons of The American Legion

[frank.hanchak@gmail.com](mailto:frank.hanchak@gmail.com)  
0171-473-9782

## Eagle Scout Service Projects and Spring Cleaning

Our proud and distinguished American Legion halls within the Department of France have welcomed Comrades, fellow Legionnaires, fellow Veterans, active duty service members and their families for nearly 90 years.

We like to think of our local American Legion halls (aka Post home) as nice and cozy, but sometimes they do need a little Spring cleaning.

Your local military community Boy Scout troop may have some potential Life Scouts seeking out some worthy “Eagle rich environments” to provide friendly service to a worthy benefactor. And many times they find the American Legion very worthy of spending some time working on.

What do these Life Scouts do? In addition to many other Scouting advancement requirements they must lead a service project.

What is a service project? The definition from their workbook states; “While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to your religious institution, school, or your community.”

Our local American Legion halls throughout the Department of France pose some excellent opportunities for a few young Scouts to perform some well needed work around your local hall.

Specifically, can you think of any projects around your local Post Home that have been waiting for many spare hands to accomplish the job? Does your Post Veterans Memorial still shine? Have the Post Home steps worn and walk-way eroded over many harsh winters? Does your Post have a Scouting Chartering Organization Representative or community liaison? They may be able to guide a team of Scouts and local volunteers to set up new memorials, clean statues, place concrete benches around your Legion hall and make it more welcoming and friendly to our Legion and Veteran Families!

Contact your local BSA Troop today!

“For God and Country”  
Scouting Forever and  
Venture On!

Dave Sears  
Scouting Chairman  
The American Legion  
Department of France



## AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE PROGRAM

I would like to start the 2010 year with a few words of thanks to those few Department of France Post that have, for the past 12 years, supported our program and provided some outstanding young men from their communities. Now we are at the mid-way point and need to start first with our Post selection of candidates and notifying the Department of France of their desire to send a Boy or Boys to Boys' State.

As always a successful program will depend on timely input, cooperation, and coordination of all needed information between both the Department of France and our host State of Maryland.

### Let's re-energize Boys State

Two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, created The American Legion Boys State, believing there was a need for American youth to be trained in the workings of their local and state governments. The program paved the way for American Legion Boys Nation, a similar experience at the federal level in Washington. Boys State has spread throughout the nation and enjoyed continuing growth – until recently.

In 1996, nearly 25,000 students participated in Boys State in 49 American Legion Departments. In the past few years that number has dipped. Some departments have experienced a moderate to steady increase in participants; others have dropped anywhere from 100 to 400 participants. During a recent Boys State National Conference in Indianapolis, program officials cited several reasons for the decline. An increase in competing youth activities, fewer participating posts, and applications going out too late in the school year, among others. In my opinion, the most alarming reason given was that as post leader's age, they are failing to mentor younger Legionnaires on the importance of Boys State. One of the keys to any organization's future is the mentoring of younger members who will become the next generation of leaders. American Legion Boys State has been around for 72 years, successfully introducing young Americans to the inner workings of government. Boys State, like every program, has a cost. In most cases, these expenses are paid by the sponsoring Legion post, a local business or another community-based organization. I know that the rising cost of living is taking a toll on most of us, but Boys State shouldn't be seen as an expense. Rather, it falls under what I call the value of membership. Look at it as an investment in our nation's future.

Since 1996, we've lost 5,000 Boys State participants. How many of those young men were would-be future senators, professional athletes, entrepreneurs, or maybe even president? The lessons learned at Boys State can and often do cultivate a desire to enter public service. Just as important, they educate America's youth about the responsibilities that come with being a citizen of our great country. It's worth our time and our investment to keep this program alive and well.

With your leadership your post can be a part of this great program and become a mentor, and cost of the program can always be shared with other legion post or parents.

NOTE: The Maryland Boys State program is where The Department of France send our Boy's each year, typically begins on Father's Day and runs through the following Saturday. Depart: Sat 19 June 2010, Return: Sun 27 June 2010.

Eligibility Guidelines provided, a boy who is a junior during the past school year with a GPA of 3.0, US citizen. For more information you can go on line [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). And applications may be obtained through your local American Legion Post Boys State representative or Americanism representative.

The Department of France, as the sponsoring Department will provide each Post, High School, and Student and Parent all the information as required. Please contact Department Boys' State Director, for more information.

John H. Odom. Sr  
Department of France Boys' State Director  
CMR 418, Box 3111  
APO AE 09058  
E-mail: [jhlolilbro@aol.com](mailto:jhlolilbro@aol.com)  
49-(0)174-6935296 or  
49-(0)170-1785054 or  
49-(0)621-7245742-Home

## Department of France Oratorical Contest

Photo Right: Contest Winner, Christina Lowry being congratulated by Commander Gray.

Photo Below: Vice Commander James Dennis, Matthew Finley, Commander Robert Gray, Amaya Hamilton, Adjutant Fleming, Christina Lowry, Chairman Doug Clemence, Trevin Hampton, and VCAL Kane



Photos by Kevin Keehnen



**SUBJECT: TOUR TO MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE, FRANCE, 27 MAR 10**

**“VALLEYS OF HEROES”**

**(SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE OF RAY CHAMBERS, FRANK HAVLIK, STANLEY WARDEN)**

**UPDATE AS OF 12 JAN 10**

It was The Lost Battalion and the beginning of the Patton mystique, where airpower and ground power together won the day, where a 1SGT broke through leading his tanks, where a mountaineer from the Valley of the Three Forks of the Wolf became a legend. It was the largest single ground battle ever fought by the United States. It was the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of World War One. This year our military history tour will take us to the area around Varenne en Argonne, close to Verdun. As usual, we will see the actual battlefield sites and get briefings on the action and personalities involved. We will see actual films of the action while on the bus, and we will be briefed on the combat action right where it occurred. We will see Vacquois Hill, the Aire River valley and the 28<sup>th</sup> Division Memorial, the Lost Battalion site, Chatel Chehery (SGT York), and the Meuse Argonne American Cemetery at Romagne. We will end by having dinner in a nice place.

**HOW TO SIGN UP.** Send Patricia Schlachter an email, say you want to go. If you are not on the DoDDS global, send the email to Patricia.Schlachter@eu.dodea.edu . Since the bus must be paid, we ask that if you say you will go, you pay. Patricia will handle all the cash. Please send a separate email to Dave Theis to confirm your briefing topic (SEE below)

**WHO MAY ATTEND.** Mannheim of the Mannheim schools' family, which means teachers, principals, parents, spouses (children may not understand all the topics briefed), office professionals, military members, interested civilians- in fact, anyone who enjoys learning history. This will be a slightly different way to do a field trip.

**COST.** The cost of the bus will be prorated among the attendees. Figuring 30 people attending, the cost for the bus will be about 30 Euros per person, the evening meal about 20 Euros per person. Any drinks or souvenirs are at your own expense.

**TIMELINE.** Given below for **27 Mar 10**

0545 Assemble at Mannheim High School, in front of school

0600 Depart

0600-0900 Enroute. Historical Videos and briefings (NOTE. In general, there will always be briefings while enroute).

0900 L'Arche. Bathroom stop

0915 Depart

0950 Vacquois Hill. Dismount, briefings on site

1035 Depart

1050 28 Division Memorial. Dismount

1105 Depart

1125 Lost Battlion. Dismount

1155 Depart

1215 Varenne. Dismount. Lunch break in town

1315 Depart. Enroute, terrain appreciation

1335 Chatel Chehery. Dismount, walk York trail,

1555 Depart (see 11D monument, Exermont and Gesnes)

1620 Meuse Argonne American Cemetery. Dismount, visit gravesites

1700 Depart

1745 Arrive L'Arche Dinner (cafeteria style, very good chow)

1845 Depart

2230 Arrive Mannheim High School

**WHAT TO WEAR.** Warm and rain proof outerwear, good outside shoes, take an umbrella. This tour will take place regardless of weather. For this tour, please also bring a pair of regular shoes for the bus and dinner, and a large plastic bag for your outside shoes. We may have to change shoes after visiting Lost Battalion and Chatel Chehery.

**WHAT TO BRING.** Euros (about 30 for the bus, 15/20 for lunch, 20 for dinner, extra for whatever snacks and souvenirs you will desire), camera, snacks and drinks for the bus, your notes. Please note that there are no ATM machines at any of our stops. It is best to bring cash.

**COMMUNICATION.** If you have a German cell phone, anyone calling you from Germany need only dial your regular cell phone number. If you have a US cell, the prefix for France is 0033.

**SAFETY.** If you didn't drop it, don't pick it up. We will only go to places that are safe; however, please be careful.

**Please bring this sheet with you**