November was another busy month for the department. I was able to visit GR03 and GR05’s membership meeting it was well ran and executed. I had the opportunity to attend the Mid Winter Ball from the 40&8 on 6 Dec 2008 the Ball was well planned thanks to Local 1524 for a job well done. I would like to thank those posts that made the 75% membership cutoff, but don’t forget the Holiday season is upon us, and the 80% cutoff date is Jan 7 2009, so make sure you keep your recruitment in hand. Please keep in mind that the 80% is the hardest percent to obtain due to the Holiday Season. Our Membership Chairman (Comrade Mike Umland) is doing a 120 percent job at membership so please support him and your department, by ensuring that transmittals are done correctly and submitted in a timely manner. If your post is having problems with membership or you have not submitted a transmittal for this membership year you are not only hurting you post and its members, but also the Department in whole. If you need help setting up a membership drive please contact either your vice Commander, or the VCAL, or myself.

The 3rd DEC is being held in Paris (FR01) on 21st of March 2009 (Depart Germany on 20th and return on the 22) GR01 is organizing a bus for this trip which will depart K-town (GR01 Post Home) the cost is €75 per person Round Trip. We need 49 passengers to reserve this bus; in addition we can reserve your room at a discount because of the amount of people that will be attending. And if we have enough people we should be able to reserve another bus. Please keep in mind time is running short canvas your post and see who will want to attend the 3rd DEC, (to include supporting FR01’s 90th anniversary) and please pass this information on to me. So that I can further pass it on to GR01. In the Last Department Newsletter I mentioned we were looking for a Legionnaire to step up and take over Boy’s State Chairman. To Date we have not received any Legionnaires. Those names given at the 2nd DEC are not interested in accepting the position. This program is for our future leaders, and this program WE SHOULD NOT LET DIE, so come up to the plate so that we can keep this program alive and ongoing. In the last month we have had a lot of Legionnaires and family members report Post Ever Lasting or have been sick, I would like to thank the Department Chaplain, Department Adjutant and the Department Vice Commanders for ensuring that the information was
disseminated in a timely manner. For those of you that have lost family members, and legion members, I give you my condolences for the Department of France. Please do not forget that the holidays are upon us if you have Legionaries, or Military personnel in your area that do not have a family member with them, or others that do not have a family in the area, please invite them to your Christmas Event. Don’t forget during this holiday season to remember to keep all of Military Services in your prayers for their safety and save return home, and to thank them for keeping us free and safe. I wish all of you a Very merry Christmas and a happy New Years; please keep yourselves safe during this season. May God bless you all. I f you are having any problems please do not hesitate to contact your Post Officers, Department VC, or myself.

For GOD and Country

Joe D. Brown
Department Commander

From the Department Adjutant:
My Fellow Legionnaires,

First let me also congratulate those Post’s that achieved the 75% goal. As the Department Commander reminded you the 80% goal is 7 January 2009, it is also the hardest goal to meet, so I also remind you to keep busy on the membership reminders, to those members that have not renewed their 2009 membership, and to keep your membership drives ongoing. If you will remember at the 1st DEC we agreed to support Paris Post FR01 on their 90th Anniversary events, that date is approaching fast so please start making your plans to attend not only Paris Post FR01’s Anniversary but also to attend the 3rd DEC. Bus arrangements are in progress for this event at this time (See Commander Brown’s article for more information). The Department Oratorical Finals is also approaching fast; hopefully you have already started your phase of the Oratorical event at your post location, and will have a contestant at the Department finals. As I mentioned earlier, the 3rd DEC is to be held in France, hosted by Paris Post FR01, hopefully there will be members at this DEC, then the last one, I would really like to see a full house this time, so come out and support this DEC. As mentioned by th Commander we still do not have a Chairman for Boy’s State, I hope that someone will step up and assist the Department in keeping this program alive, and ongoing. I and my family would like to take this time to wish each and every one of you, a Happy and safe Christmas, and a prosperous New Year. Those of you that supply inputs to the Department Newsletter please send your input to americanlegion@hotmail.com. In closing please, remember if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away pisces@t-online.de. Please keep those in harm’s way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

James M. Settle
Department Adjutant

Department NECman’s Comments Re-Run for Info

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH

William Marshall
Department NECman

Vice Commander’s Corner

Vice Commander at Large Liam Kane

BE02, DK01, FR01, FR05, IR02, IR03, IT01, GC01, NL01, PO01, SP292, CH01

After an unhealthy October its great to be back to better form and more activities especially at Legion. Our biggest Celebration during November is of course THANKSGIVING and we in the Dublin Post had a lovely Dinner in North Star Hotel preceded by our AGM which yielded little change at Officer Board. I have some info re the Turkey which I want to share with you the fowl that we eat here in Europe originally came from Mexico but President Benjamin Franklins choice was that of the wild Turkey as the National Bird of America means that the American Turkey is 1000% a home bird. I have being trying to push all the Posts to which have been assigned to of the need to get the outstanding renewals in NOW before the Christmas Festival clicks in. IR63 has had a good response and has even secured 3 new members in this Island off the European mainland. Sad to report the death of one Irelands best known and loved member’s Barry Buttmer IR02 Fr. Francis Post in Killarney. Barry was such a good man in his job of Service Officer not just at his own Post but he also acted as the Liaison Officer for all 3 Irish Posts with the US Embassy in Dublin. There was a huge turnout at his Funeral including legion people from all over Ireland. I spent a very enjoyable night at US Presidential Election Night in Guinness. Hop Store and made a few contacts and of course left American Legion Leaflets around which resulted in one new member. Just Yesterday I flew to Paris for the second time, this time to attend a very special function held by the French President to honor our Post Commander of Paris Post FR01 Clarita Geoghegan. This great honor was bestowed in front a large attendance of people from the French Defense Dept, French Veterans, a Representative from the US Embassy, Family members, husband Anthony, and their ”3 Children and 2 grandchildren”, members of French Veterans Associations, members of Paris Post FR01, Friends of the American Legion who together with their French Veterans formed a Guard of Honor during the whole occasion I was delighted to be asked to attend and did so on behalf of the Department. of France. Congratulations to Clarita who deserved the award for her great work for veterans. My previous trip in November to Paris Post 1 was to install the newly elected Post Officers. There was a larger than usual attendance and Dinner was provided in the Post Home cooked by you know who. I have been reminding the four Vice Commanders, of the need to try to get their Post’s to push along the Membership drive and I now appeal to Posts to use these four Frank, Jerry, Robert and Shawn who are willing to help Posts throughout the Department. so call on them or Myself or Dept. Commander Charley, we are here to help the Legion. no matter what the problem may be. Just in case our December Newsletter does not reach you before the 25th of December, may I take this opportunity of wishing you and your Families, and fellow Post members, a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. And please make an effort to help those who are not as lucky as we are to enjoy the Christmas; Nollag Sonra do gach uile duine! Leagun na Stait Aointhe America Roinn na Frainne.
Greetings my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH

Shawn Ashe
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Robert Gray
GR03, GR07, GR09, GR14

I want to wish everyone a safe holiday, and I trust your Thanksgiving was as pleasant as mines. On Nov. 7, at Panzer, parade field, in Kaiserslautern, 21st TSC held a Veteran’s Day retreat ceremony, Maj. Gen Yves Fontaine, commanding general of the 21st TSC, which, I had the honor of being the guest speaker. My theme was how we thank a veteran. I was very proud to represent the Department and fellow legionnaires. In preparation for this event, I’ll like to thank, GR01, Mike Young, and the Department, for this opportunity. On Nov 8, we the members of GR01, in Kaiserslautern, placed, American flags on the graves of our veterans, On Nov. 11th, I was given the honor to lay a wreath at ST. Avold, France, by department commander Brown, with NECman William Marshall. As I laid the wreath, I couldn’t help but feel true history as it was being made. Many of things stood out in my mind, as I was meditating on the events that occurred. As a reminder of the events that unfolded that day was the American Legion riders, which some had drove up to three hours, in the pouring rain. I personally want like Legion Riders, to include, Eddie Kane, and James Murray. On Nov 16, I was invited by GR09, to lay a wreath on host nations fallen. This had been the first time that the post had participated in this event, they are to be commended. We had the greatest honor to be part of history. Again, reflecting on my personal thoughts, as legionnaires, this is part of what we always preached, you will never be forgiven. I want to thank GR09, Jerome Aman, and George Hernandez, for the hospitality, and the privilege of meeting with the pillars of the community, and George for the wonderful pictures in which he took. I also want to take this opportunity to remind the posts, December is a month where we need 100% sign up. Again, I wish all a safe and pleasant holidays, take care

Robert Gray
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Frank Hanchak
GR01, GR20, GR45

I would like to begin this month’s article by recognizing my colleague, Vice Commander Robert Gray. Past Post Commander, Mike Young from GR-01 wrote: “Vice Commander Robert Gray gave an excellent reading yesterday. He was the guest speaker at the 21st Memorial Day ceremony and was introduced to the audience of 100 by Maj General Fontaine. Comrade Gray represented the 40/8, American Legion Post and Department in a professional manner giving light overall to the American Legion”. I heartily agree with Past Commander Young. Thank you VC Gray for representing this Department so well.

I didn’t travel much this month. In fact, I made no official visits as Department Vice Commander. However, to date, I have traveled 2421 recorded miles. (One or two trips were not logged). That should slow down for the next month or so, but I will be traveling with a vengeance after the first of the year.

Those of you who are reading this now have made it through the Thanksgiving holiday. I did too! While trying desperately to get myself invited for Turkey Dinner, I contacted my posts (and others as well) to see if anyone was having a function on Thanksgiving Day. It turned out that no-one had anything scheduled. I really wanted to spend the day with my Legion Family, but it was not to be. Oh well, maybe next year someone will invite me for turkey. (I went downtown and had a bratwurst instead)…

On November 29th, Department Commander Brown invited me to Thanksgiving dinner at a party for friends and family. Thank you Commander Brown! I enjoyed the evening.

I have no reports of Christmas activities from any of my posts. (See my article as Post Commander for information on the Omar Bradley Post Christmas Dinner)… Don’t forget to KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!

Frank J. Hanchak
Vice-Commander
frank.hanchak@gmail.com
0171-473-9782

Frank J. Hanchak
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Jerry Aman
GR13, GR42, GR79, GR1982, IR63

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH
Contact me at E-mail Address Jerry503@aol.com or phone number 07307-4492 or 073075752
For God and Country
Jerry Aman
Department Vice Commander
Special Days/Legion Events: 7th- Remember Pearl Harbor (Dec 7, 1941); 31st - New Year’s Eve

Christian Religious Days: 6th - St. Nicholas Day; 8th - Immaculate Conception (Cath); 12th - Advent Fast begins (Orth); 21st Yule; 25th- Christmas & Feast of the Nativity (Orth); 28th- Holy Innocents; 21st - Yule; 25th - Christmas & Feast of the Nativity (Orth); 28th - Holy Innocents; 28th - Feast of the Holy Family (Cath); 31st - Watch Night

Jewish Holidays (Year 5769): 22-29th - Hanukkah

Islamic Holidays: 6-9th - Hajj, 9th - Eid al-Adha; 29th - Muharram (First day of the New Year)

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

Post Everlasting reported to December 1st:

Emmi Seeburger, wife of GR14 Vice Commander George Seeburger
John Cunningham, GR01
Eddie Johnson, GR09
Son of Comrades Leon and Rosa Petri, GR-42
Leopold Karl Trompisch, father in law of DADJ James Settle
Father of GR01 Adjutant John Fleming
Barry Buttimer, IR02
Jesse Strange, GR03

Prayers for the Sick & Ill:

George Hall, GR-03
Shawn Ashe, GR-42
Doug Clemence, GR-06
Nola Maloney, GR-03 and Past Department Commander
John H. Miller, GR-1982 and PDC & present Dept Alt NECman
Phil Gatchell, GR-03
Edward Hayes, GR-03
Wife of Post GR03 Comrade Robert Pierce
Kenneth Grasser, GR-09
Brenda Dearborn, Dept of Maine present Americanism Chair and past chaplain
Harold M. Wild, GR-13
Ronald (Ron) Hansen, GR-06
Marlene Watson, Widow of GR-13 charter member William Watson
Paul Johnson, Dept of Wyoming 3rd District VC and Past Chaplain
Donnie Swearengin, GR 09
Larry “Yard Dog” Ewerds, GR-07
Edwin F. Hoffman, GR-13
Robert Downs, GR-79
Brian Charters, IR-63
Michelle Gerdeman, daughter of Comrade John Gerdeman, Sr. GR-07
Harry Hall, GR-42
Rance Cottingham, GR-09
Carl Hackworth, GR-14
Isadore Pink, GR-07
Hal Rittenberg, GR-09, Dept Sergeant-at-Arms

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.

Greetings Comrades,
Greetings Sisters and Brothers of the American Legion Family.

Yesterday was summer, Christmas now stands before the door and 2009 is just around the corner.

No matter our religion, we always seem to get caught up in the hectic of the holiday season. The stores are open longer, people are bustling on the street, but few are smiling or making a happy impression. If we all felt happy it would be great, but unfortunately many start to feel stressed buying presents and preparing our houses for the coming holiday season. Other people may feel depressed during the holiday season for other reasons. Important is that we remain open to our comrades, families and friends of The American Legion and to our servicemen and women no matter where they serve.

Please remember that the holiday season has to do with love, not with buying presents. It has to do with sharing and interaction with one another. Don’t break your budget trying to buy that expensive present when a small one (or even one or two less) will do just as well. It isn’t the amount you spend; it’s the love and thought behind it that counts. With our country in the throes of a small recession, maybe it is time our children learn about budgets, controlled spending and the credit card trap. Remember your children are smart and if they are helping you keep a control on spending, everybody has a win-win situation, now and in the future.

I have a hug and a smile for each of you. Please be sure to pass it on. I wish all of you a very happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

God bless all of you and God bless our servicemen and women and all who are serving in our defense.

Service to God and Country!
Pastor Ronald Moore,  
Dept of France Chaplain  
Home: +49-(0)6196-569026  
Fax: +49-(0)6196-569027  
Mobile: +49-(0)172-7417812  
Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de  
Rev. Ronald Moore  
Department Chaplain
George Hall
Department Service
If a retiree is eligible for both CRDP and CRSC, he/she may participate in the CRSC/CRDP Open Season. This annual election will be from January 1 through January 31, 2008 and allows the retiree to choose which payment is preferred (federal law states that you can receive CRDP or CRSC; not both)

Beginning in late December, eligible retirees will be mailed a CRDP/CRSC Open Season Election Form. The retiree needs to return the form only if making a change from CRDP to CRSC or vice versa. If the retiree prefers to keep things the way they are, then do nothing, and the payment the retiree now receives will continue uninterrupted.

To help the retiree make a more informed decision, the form will include a comparison of the CRDP and CRSC entitlement amounts as well as information about the collection actions and taxes to which each type of payment is subject.

If the retiree wants to change from CRDP to CRSC or vice versa, the form must be completed and postmarked by January 31, 2008. If the form or envelope is dated after this date, it will not be processed and the current payments will continue.

The change in the payment will be effective the first business day of February 2008. Due to a 30-day processing timeframe, the retiree may receive their first payment on the first business day of March 2008 and a retroactive adjustment for the payment that would have been paid on the first business day in February. The retiree’s election will remain in effect unless changed in a subsequent annual open season.

George Hall
Department Service Officer

Sons of The American Legion Frank Hanchak
I hope all Sons of The American Legion had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I wish you an even better holiday season in December. Stuttgart Squadron Commander Douglas Clemence welcomed me at their Post Meeting on November 12th. Thanks to Commander Doug for a wonderful visit. There are several Squadrons I have not visited yet. Please invite me to your next Squadron meeting. Have a wonderful Christmas Season and I will see you next year!

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

Americanism Carl Hackworth
Thomas W. Barnett Post GR14 laid a wreath at the German Cemetery. Where the memorials are from Armstrong Barracks in Buedingen. We had six American Legion members present on Sunday 9 Nov.2008 at 11.00 A.M. If any other did something please let me know The Dept of France laid a wreath at St.Avold.
Carl Hackworth
Americanism Chairman

Frank Hanchak Commander GR42
Omar Bradley Post GR-42 will have our annual Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 13th at 1400. In keeping with our Family reputation, we will focus more on a family dinner rather than having our usual Christmas Party. We will still have fun, but we will focus more on a traditional Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings instead of just a gathering for games and fun activities. (Sorry ladies, no cake walk this year). Does your Post have a web site? Have you recently looked at the Department of France, The American Legion Website? It is at: www.amerlegiondeptfrance.org. Omar Bradley Post GR-42 brought up at our last meeting the possibility of establishing a Post Home Web Site. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the Omar Bradley Web site will be up and running. How is your web site working? Is it a valuable tool for getting information out to the general public, or is it a waste of resources, money and time? I am eager to hear about your web sites, and I am also eager to see Post web sites linked to the Department Web site. There is little information coming from Post Commanders and Adjutants about your post activities. I encourage all Post Commanders to write your Vice Commanders and let them know what is happening at your Post Home. Encourage them to write about their posts and all the wonderful things you are doing. If we don’t hear about your Post Activities, we assume there is nothing happening! SO > Get the word out about what is happening in your post!

Frank J. Hanchak
Post Commander
Omar Bradley Post GR-42
The American Legion

Rev. Chaplain Moore AL PE Coordinator

Here ye, Hear ye!
To all members of the Department of France American Legion Family, consisting of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.).
The American Legion Pony Express (AL PE) Messenger System for the Department of France is being provisionally formed. We need Stations, Way Stations and at least two messengers assigned from each station. The supervision of the system remains under the auspices of The Department of France Commander and the Department of France AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore, who will also be transporting donations to the National Convention as Department of France messenger.

Post or messenger participation does not require any funding, extra dues or incur costs for the Post. The Post would act as a collection point for donations for the 2009 Legacy Run and ensure that those donations are received by the messenger who will be delivering the donations to the National Commander during the National Convention. All efforts of the Posts and messengers are on a voluntary, best effort basis.

The National AL PE Messenger System was in use during the 2007 Legacy Run for the coordinated movement of donations to ensure that Legacy Scholarship Fund donations were delivered to the National Commander along the Legacy Run route or at the National Convention. It is not a separate American Legion program but is recognized as a tool for use by The American Legion nationally. Outlying departments were not considered to be part of the National plan and were not included in the setup.

Discussions were held with the National AL PE Coordinator who has been made aware of the oversight of not including The Department of France in the organization. He has now included us, subject to final Department of France Commander approval.

The plan and proposal have been made to the Department Commander, subject to approval at a DEC. We are to set up a provisional system which, if proven feasible, will become the official department organization after DEC approval has been obtained.

Why incorporate the system in your Post?

It is a win/win situation for our Department, Posts and indirectly for the AL Riders. It is not dependent on ALR membership which should make it interesting for all Posts at present, not just those who ride or have motorcycle riders.

What is involved?

- Collect funds for the 2009 Legacy Scholarship Fund as usual.
- Get at least two messengers and register your Post as a PE Collection Station with the Department AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore at revronmoore@yahoo.de giving Post Name, Post full Address, Post telephone number Post email address

MESSENGER

- Messenger name, contact telephone, email address and city/country of residence (don’t need full address of messenger).
- Messengers will be sent a return email confirmation
- Coordinate with the Department AL PE Coordinator to have donation checks and pledges moved to the final collection point by deadline July 31, 2009. All checks should be in U.S. $ and made payable to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Please note- No other items will be transported by messengers.

That’s all there is.

We will be collecting for the 2009 Legacy Run again next year and you can use your AL PE Status to increase your visibility within your community. Increasing visibility should mean increased interest in membership in your Post and an increase in donations from outside of your Post.

What is the Legacy Scholarship Fund?
http://legion.org/programs/legacyrun/legacyscholarship

What is the Legacy Run?
http://legion.org/programs/legacyrun/overview

How can you donate?
- Sign up as a rider or supporter.
- Coordinate with the Dept of France AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore, to have your donations/pledges moved to the designated Department of France Final Collection by July 31, 2009
- Make an individual online donation at the legion.org site

Donations for 2008 exceeded $515,000 by the end of Convention, surpassing the $409,000 collected in 2007.

Please remember, only those Posts and messengers registered through and with the Department of France AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore, will be part of the official Department of France System.

Rev. Chaplain Moore

Department AL PE Coordinator

A word from IR02 Adjutant Glen Foy

On Sunday November 9th members of the Fr. Francis P. Duffy Post, IR02, joined with members of the Royal British Legion, Irish United Nations Veterans and members of the Irish National Ex-Service men in participating the annual act of Remembrance of all who have died in the Great...
Wars. This ceremony is held on the nearest Sunday to November 11th—the date of the ending of the First World War. Vice Commander Mike Devine laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of the Post members. The Post has participated in this ceremony, in the city of Limerick, since 1994. On the same day other members of the Post broke new ground by joining with members of the Irish Organization of Ex-Service Men and Women in a ceremony of Remembrance held in the town of Tralee. As in Limerick, members of the American Legion were made very welcome. A ceremony of celebration of the 90th anniversary of the ending of World War 1 was held in Ennis Cathedral, County Clare, on Tuesday November 11th. Our Post Adjutant laid a wreath in memory of the 36 Clare men who died while serving in the U.S. Military in WW1.

It is only of recent years that there has been any recognition of the part played by Irishmen in the First World War. Most of them served in the British army, and with the British centuries old subjection of Ireland their service was air-brushed from Irish history.

Glen Foy
Post Adjutant IR02

Department Events

GR09 Support Germany Army on Wreath Laying Ceremony

Post Members of IR02
Comrade Ed Candy Paris Post FR01 Shakes hands with President Bush.

Manuela’s Birthday Party with Department Officer’s

Thanksgiving Event in Heilbronn

Members of Post GR03 with Department Commander and Department Vice Commander Hanchak
POST HAPPENINGS

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

GR01: First Wednesday day of the month at Post Home
GR03: First Thursday of the month Post Home
GR06: Second Wednesday of the month Post Home
GR07: First Tuesday of the month Post Home
GR13: Third Saturday of the month 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 Post Com. House
IP03: First Saturday in April, first Sat. in Oct for elections

Editor’s Note:
Please support your Newsletter, send all inputs to the below listed E-mail address. Note new suspense date for Newsletter inputs is the 26th of the month. Remember anyone in the Department can submit inputs to the Department Newsletter.

americanlegion@hotmail.com
James M. Settle
Department Adjutant / Editor