A History of The American Legion

1919

Department of France
1920 - 2019

2019 Edition
Brett Reistad of Virginia
The American Legion National Commander
2018-2019
A Message from National Commander Brett P. Reistad

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 Combattants – 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,

[Signature]

Brett P. Reistad
American Legion National Commander
2018-2019

#Team100
Francis Drake

Attended the establishing Paris Caucus of The American Legion, March 15-17, 1919, and was 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
First American Legion Department of France Commander
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
HISTORY

Attended the First Caucus of The American Legion
Founders of The American Legion

American Legion National Convention Parade Paris, France, 1927

Research and Creation of this Booklet by the following:

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

A Special Thank You goes out to Jeffrey Stoffer Director of Media and Communication for the work he did to edit
this history booklet.
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

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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

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.

SEE ATTACHMENT 3

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In April 1920 a group of Founding Fathers which included The Department of Continental Europe Commander Francis Drake, created a trust fund called the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund 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 Fund 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 past 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 Committee - R Emmitt Condon, Paris Post #1 Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committee – W.S. Parkard, Paris Post #1 Paris, France
Department Adjutant - Arthur W. Kipling, Paris Post #1 Paris, France

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.

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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, Amaroc 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.

SEE ATTACHMENT 4

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

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.

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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 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

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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

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

1925 - 1926 National Commander - John R. McQuigg (OH), National Convention - Omaha, Neb.
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 - Paul A. Williams, Paris Post #1, Paris France
Department Adjutant - Edwin W. Thorn, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

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

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

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

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
Pershing Hall Dedicated in October 1929

SEE ATTACHMENT 7
The 1930’s
Time of Uncertainty
And the End of FIDAC

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

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

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, Ore.
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

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

1935 - 1936 National Commander - Ray Murphy (IA), National Convention - St. Louis, Mo.
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
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 9
American Legionnaires visited Germany and met with 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.

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

**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 Committee  
The above was published in THE NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE SEPTEMBER, 1938

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Officials Observe Legion Birthday in France

PARIS, France A distinguished gathering celebrated the 30th 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 has replaced the circus. 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 11

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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.’

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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 12
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."

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.
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 Committee - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committee - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

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.

1941 - 1942 National Commander - Lynn U. Stambaugh (ND), National Convention - Milwaukee, Wis.
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 Committee - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committee - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

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 Committee - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committee - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

1943 - 1944 National Commander - Warren H. Atherton (CA), National Convention - Omaha, Neb.
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 Committee - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committee - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department of France Memorial Day Remembrance 1943
SEE ATTACHMENT 13

Past Department Commander George Aubrey Killed by Nazis.
SEE ATTACHMENT 14

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 Committee - James L. McCann, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Alt. National Executive Committee - Sedley Peck, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Adjutant - John W. Hunter, Paris Post #1, Paris, France

Department Commander - Edward A. Thureson, 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, Calif.
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

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

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

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 Elected
First Member of the Department
To the Position of FODPAL President

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

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

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

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

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 – Theobold 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

Department Commander - Melvin C. Smith, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Convention – Paris, France
Sedley Peck, Paris Post FR01 was elected President of FODPAL at the group’s annual breakfast in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

April 29-30, & May 1, 1959 National Resolution 58 Creates (PHOC) Pershing Hall Operating Committee.
SEE ATTACHMENT 15
The 1960’s  
First Time entry into  
National Oratorical Contest

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  

Department Commander - Gordon M. Jochmann, Kaiserslautern Post #1, Kaiserslautern, West Germany  
Department Convention – Paris, France  
Department VCAL - Alan C Saluave, Ludwigsberg Post #1 Ludwigberg, 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.  
SEE ATTACHMENT 16

On May 4-5, 1961, National Resolution No. 55 finalizes creation of the Pershing Hall Operating Committee.  
SEE ATTACHMENT 17

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

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

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, Ludwigsberg Post #6, Ludwigsberg, 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

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

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

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. Lindquest, 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

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. Lindquest, 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
The 1970’s
Gold Anniversary Celebration
In Paris, France

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

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

Munich Post #8 sets up hospitality for the 1972 Olympics in Munich, West Germany.
SEE ATTACHMENT 18

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

Department Adjutant Daniel Campbell presents the Belgium Cross to three national officers.
SEE ATTACHMENT 19

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

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The Department of France celebrates its Golden Anniversary in Paris, France.
SEE ATTACHMENT 20

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

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 Committeeeman - Clarence C. Brown
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.

Department Commander - Spurgeon Boyd, Paris Post #1, Paris, France
Department Commander Emeritus – Thomas W. Barnett, Buedingen Post #14, 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.

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.

SEE ATTACHMENT 23

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
The 1980’s
All Time High in Membership
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.

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

**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.

**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
At the National Executive Committee meeting on May 6, 1982, the American Legion passed a resolution to relinquish management of Pershing Hall.

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

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 Contact for breaking the Pershing Hall Operating Committee (PHOC) agreement to manage Pershing Hall.

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

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

After almost five years and after investing more than $79,000 in lawyer fees, The Department of France in the Breach of Contact 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

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

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

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

Department Commander - Frank Hoyle, Friedberg Post #16, Friedberg, West Germany
Department Convention - Menton (Riveria), 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
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.

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

The American Legion, Department of France Headquarters was officially moved from Pershing Hall in Paris, France to the Hotel DeVille, St Avold, France.
The 1990’s Eiffel Tower Becomes Official Insignia in 1991

1989 - 1990 National Commander - Miles Epling (WV), National Convention - Baltimore, Md.
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 Committee - Merwyn M. Beavers, Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt/am, West Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committee - 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.

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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.

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 Committee - Merwyn "Mike" Beavers, Harry S. Truman Post #2, Frankfurt/am, West Germany
Department Alt National Executive Committee - Michael Pietz, Eifel Post #20, Bitburg, West Germany
Department Adjutant - Gorley Stokes, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, West Germany

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.

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At the Second DEC on Oct. 20, 1991, 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.

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

At The Department of France Convention held June 22-25, 1991, in Bitburg, Germany, the delegates voted and approved the Eiffel Tower as 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.

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

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.

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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.

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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.

SEE ATTACHMENT 27

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 Louden, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

Department Commander - William "Bill" Marshal, 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 Louden, 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.

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 Louden, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany

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'Neil, Riley Leroy Pitts Post #7, Worms, Germany

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
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

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 GR05 is moved from Asst. FODPAL Secretary and is appointed as permanent FODPAL Secretary.

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

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, N.C.
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, and Frank Hanchak, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

2010 - 2011 National Commander - Jimmie L. Foster (AK), National Convention - Milwaukee, Wis.
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, Minn.
Department Commander - Joe D. Brown, John Wayne Post #79, Heilbronn, Germany
Department Convention - Wuestenrot, 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, Ind.
Department Commander - Ronald Moore, Rhein Main Post #5, Waldorf-Hessen, Germany
Department Convention - Wuestenrot, Germany
Department VCAL - James Settle, Omar Bradley Post #42, Schweinfurt, Germany
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 - Wuestenrot, 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: for the first time in the history of The American Legion all three leading positions are in one family. James Settle, is Commander of The Department of France; Isolde Settle, the wife of James Settle, is the Department of France Auxiliary President; and Josh Settle, the son of James Settle, is the Detachment Commander for the Sons of The American Legion in France.

2014 - 2015 National Commander - Mike Helm (NE), National Convention - Charlotte, N.C.  
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.

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  

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

Alt NEC

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 Committeeeman - 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 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 Committeeeman - 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.

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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.

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In November 2017, the Department of France became only the second department behind the Department of Ohio to be enrolled into the Direct Transmittal Program. The Department of Ohio was the test department for e-check transmittal, and the Department of France as a test department for both e-checks and credit cards. The Direct Transmittal Program allows a post to transmit membership records direct to the national organization.

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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.

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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.

2018-2019 National Commander – Brett Reistad (VA), Minneapolis Minnesota
Department Commander - James Dennis, Audie Murphy Post #30, Wurzburg, 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, Nev. (appointed Sept. 16, 2018)

Awards presented to The Department of France
SEE ATTACHMENT 28

Active Posts in The Department of France
SEE ATTACHMENT 29

Cancelled Posts Charters in The Department of France
SEE ATTACHMENT 30

Past Department Commander’s
SEE ATTACHMENT 31

Past Department National Executive Committeemen
SEE ATTACHMENT 32

2018 History Booklet Preface
SEE ATTACHMENT 33

All of the information contained in this booklet is correct, according to various records we 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
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
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 know personally several men who are wondering why we have no post or camp here in Paris.

Hudson Hawley, 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 knew 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 elder 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,

[Signature]

Managing Editor
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. FENNELL 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 Com-
mittee 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 fol-
loows:

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. FERRILL: 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 Committee men from those various Departments?

Mr. FERRILL: The Department itself would set 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. FERRILL: 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. DUVILL: 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 XIII, Section 1.

(Reading)

"The American Legion shall be organized in Departments and those 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. PENNELL: 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. SHEFFIELD OF RHODE ISLAND: Mr. Commander, I'd like to ask just how many members of the Legion belong and come from those 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 those various countries to form separate departments and give them that representation.

MR. WETHERINGTON OF HAWAII: Mr. Commander, this matter was thoroughly threshed 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 Dopew was from New York and Newlands 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
MR. WIGGLESWORTH: 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...
History of FIDAC

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-servicemen 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.
WHEREAS Paris Post No. 1 at a special meeting called June 17th, 1923 to take steps relative to this Convention unanimously passed the following Resolutions:

"RESOLVED that this Post again appeals to the National Executive Committee of the American Legion and if such appeal be rejected or if the National Executive Committee lacks authority to grant the request, to the National Convention; for authority to withdraw from the Department of Continental Europe; and, further, if the Department Organisation be considered necessary in foreign territory, this Post earnestly petitions that the Department of France be reconstituted and that this Post be placed therein. And further

Resolved that the Commander of the Post be and hereby is instructed to forward notice of this appeal and petition in due form and through the proper channels to the National Headquarters of the American Legion for action by the competent authorities."

And, at the same meeting, the Post unanimously passed the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED that the Delegates of the Post are instructed to amend the Constitution of the Department and to take all other steps which may result at the earliest possible date in restoring the Department of France."

And,

WHEREAS, the desire above expressed has been formally expressed by the Post twice before during the current year at meetings at which Resolutions to that effect were passed by overwhelming votes; and

WHEREAS, certain officers of the Department some time ago opposed the granting of the Post's petition to the above effect addressed to the National Executive Committee, but their opposition was based in part on a supposition, since then conclusively demonstrated to be erroneous, that the real sentiment of the Post was not in favor of the wish expressed in its Resolutions and on the supposition, since demonstrated not to be well founded, that there were several Posts in Continental Europe besides Paris Post (Amour, Garden of Eden, Constantinople, Brussels and Warsaw) capable of real life and activity; and

WHEREAS, all of said Posts have since said date ceased to exist or function except possibly Warsaw which has never since it was chartered, fourteen months ago, paid any National or Department dues, does not answer letters, and whose Charter has finally been suspended, and
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 Organisations 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.
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Inasmuch as it appears that a proper number of Pats have applied for Charters in the Republic of France, and that such applications have been approved in due form,

Now therefore, pursuant to the powers conferred by the Constitution of The American Legion, the National Executive Committee hereby creates the Department of France to consist of all Pats within the area of the Republic of France. By the granting of this Charter to said Department authority is given to establish and maintain the same, and this instrument, unless revoked or suspended, shall be conclusive evidence of the lawful existence thereof.

By the acceptance of this Charter, the said Department acknowledges reverence to jurisdiction and declares itself to be in all things subject to the Constitution of The American Legion and the rules, regulations, orders and laws promulgated in pursuance thereof; and further, the said Department pledges itself, through its Pats and the members thereof, to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution of The United States and the principles of true Americanism, for the common welfare of the living and in solemn commemoration of those who died that liberty might not perish from the Earth.

In Witness Whereof, this Charter is signed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, under the hand and seal of the National Commander duly attested by the National Adjutant, at Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, the 15th day of February 1924.

[Signatures]

Russell G. Bremner
National Commander

James A. Graves
Assistant Commander
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 cooperation. 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.
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.

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 above was published in The American Legion Monthly May 1930
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 3,983,319 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 81,300 francs.

In accordance with the terms of the Act of Congress of June 29, 1935, under which the title has been acquired, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorised to appropriate $482,632.92 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 $213,346, there still remains a surplus of $368,192. 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 organisation. Mr. Harold W. Ross, of "New Yorker" fame, is president; and Mr. John T. Winterich, vice-president; with hard-working Chet Geese, 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.
The American Legion
Paris Post #1 Mausoleum
Neuilly Cemetery Near Paris
A Monument to American Veterans

Center Name Panel
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.
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 therefrom, 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 $ 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 MAUSOLEUM 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

FOR THE PRESS

CONFIDENTIAL RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION
NOT EARLIER THAN 3:30 P.M. OF SUNDAY,
MAY 28, 1939.

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TO BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE AND NO PORTION,
SYNOPSIS OR INTIMATION TO BE PREVIOUSLY
PUBLISHED, QUOTED FROM, OR USED IN ANY
WAY

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Text of the remarks of The Honorable
William C. Bullitt, American Ambassador
to France, at the new American Legion
Cemetery at Neuilly, 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 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."
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 PAGES THE FOLLOWING PAGES
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Oct. 14.—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. Impeccus 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 Care 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 $304,000 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 $630 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 plots, 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.
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
than mere temporary burial rights. When the period for a temporary concession has expired, the remains are exhumed and removed to the pite. 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 pite, 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 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,

[Signature]

Gething J. Neilson
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 authorised 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 Houzon, France 11.10

For completing excavation and construction of underground emplacements 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
Mr. Gething 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
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 readjustment 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 22, 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 1939 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 M. DOOLITTLE,
National Adjutant
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 reinvestment 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
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 Décès) 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 Wagner 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 Kaisershof 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 Kaisershof 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 translated by Dr. Paul Schmidt, who acts as interpreter for Herr Hitler.

The delegates proceeded to the Air Club, the old Prussian Diet Building, where a luncheon was presided by the Duke of Saxe-Cobourg, in the absence of Herr Von Ribbentropp, 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)
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. Returned to the United States on November 21, 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 Marshall von Birkenstetten, of Austria. Later a very spectacular military torch light retreat, with music, was staged on the square before the 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 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 Breechesgarten, 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 Oberlinboher presided at the luncheon.

The delegates where then transported 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 Führer's entrance was very elaborate. The delegates were arranged in a large circle and were kept waiting for the entrance of the Führer. 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-Coburg 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 passed 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 endeavor to promote peace. »

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IF YOU WANT A GOOD MAGAZINE, PATRONISE PARIS POST ADVERTISERS
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 larded by dignity, patriotism, and Franco-American friendship. French officialdom outdid 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 Rulf, 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 Unite

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 1 said:

"Twenty years ago, on this very spot, a thousand officers and men of the A.E.F. formed The American Legion 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 committeeman, who represented national headquarters), Julius Snowhill (Paris Post commander), Gething C. Miller (commander of MyrT. 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 ambassador'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
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."
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-Montfaucon), 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), 1.54L Clifford V. Church, Department of France.

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

Scattered Graves—Buried at Sea, 1,537; Unlocated, L247; 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 above story was published in THE NATIONAL LEGIONNAIRE JUNE, 1943
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 Montreuil (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.
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.
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 Peris, 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.
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 hereinafore, 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.

ATTACHMENT 18
ATTACHMENT 19

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.

ATTACHMENT 20

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-
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. Wagoneller, 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 Wagoneller, "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.

"Community's 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. Foist, 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"
President Carter found an American Legion welcome at the Tomb of France's Unknown Soldier during his visit to the Arc d'Triomphe in Paris on his recent overseas tour. Here he shakes hands with Department of France Commander William R. "Bo" Williams while Department Adjutant Edward Drayton waits in turn. Behind President Carter is French President Giscard d'Estaing. Legionnaires also were on hand when the two chiefs of state toured Normandy battle sites of World War II.

This article was in the March 1978 issue of The American Legion Magazine.

Past Department Adjutant/Past Department Commander Edward Drayton is between Department Commander Williams and President Carter.
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.

ATTACHMENT 25

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.
ATTACHMENT 26

CORRECTED COPY - 21 JUNE 1986

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
FRANCE-GERMANY-BELGIUM-DENMARK-SWEDEN-ENGLAND

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

HOTEL AM LOGIS, BAD HADENHEIM, W. GERMANY, 18 JUNE 1986

OFFICERS PRESENT

Department Commander RALLIS
Vice Commander HANCOCK
Vice Commander HOYLE
Vice Commander JACKSON
Finance Officer KLEIN
Sgt-at-Arms VERVILLE
Adjutant BROWNE

POSTS REPRESENTED

Kaiserslautern Post 1
Rhein-Neckar Post 3
Stuttgart Post 6
Priesberg Post 16
Audie Murphy Post 30
Rick E. Louray Post 165
Isabel La Cathole Post 292

Harry S. Truman Post 2
Rhein Main Post 5
Thomas W. Bennett Post 14
Elfsel 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 – MCLAREN
Boys State/VIP – BEAVERS
POW-MIA/PR – GROMME

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS PRESENT

Past Commander LEGGE
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 to receive 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 d'Anglais 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 Ralls 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 been illegally entered into. Second was that the three Department Officers (Ralls, 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 Bail 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 monies by the Department. Commander Rallis finished up the discussion by receipting correspondence from the State Department Office of Foreign Buildings which stated that the State Department had no authority over the building at 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 of 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:  CHARLES RALLIS

Department Commander

Ralph E. Brown, Jr.
Department Adjutant
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.
National Awards Presented to The Department of 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
1923 General Josef Haller of Poland
1927 Comte Francois M. R. DeJean of France

1921 Charles Bertrand of France
1926 Ignace Jan Paderewski of Poland

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.


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 wartime 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 Robert A. Vivien, France
1963 Maj. Gen. Lucien Truyers, Belgium
1965 General of the Armies Martial Valin, France
1968 General Henri Zeller, France
1969 Edouard Emond Leon Dejean, Belgium
1972 Jacques Medecin, France
1976 Claude-Lucien Ferrer, France
1978 Pierre Taillacoe, France
1979 Pierre Leopold Henry Portier, France
1980 Guy Cudell, Belgium
1981 Leon Zitrone, France
1983 Lt. Col Gaston Adrein Georges Barbeau, France
1987 Mary Jane Noreillie, Belgium
1991 Louis Van Thienen, Belgium

1962 Jean Louis Bonet-Maury, France
1963 Jean Sainteny, France
1965 Maj. Gen. Julien Bouhon, Belgium
1965 Gen. Jaquost P. L. De Drancey, France
1968 Dr. Pierre Weber, France
1971 Stanislas Szewalski, Poland (France)
1975 Mrs. Adelina Guerin-Beau, France
1977 Andre Rigoine de Fougerolles, France
1979 Mrs. Clementine Pletsier-Degroot, Belgium
1979 Aime S. Leocard, France
1981 Mathias Moeris, Belgium
1982 Prof. Paul Pin, France
1984 Fernand Wauthier, Belgium
1989 Joon-Yeol So, Korea, Francois Harter, France
1992 Benno R. Niedzielski, France
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 1947

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.


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

ONE HUNDRED PERCENT MEMBERSHIP AWARD

2018

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.

2018 James Dennis
Culture of Growth (Membership)

2016 2017 2018

“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
FODPAL (Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion) Presented to The Department of France

Robert J. "Bob" Conrad
Membership Award Department Level


Joseph "Joe" Craig
Membership Award Post Level

2009-2010 Copenhagen Post DK01 France 2014-2015 Flanders Field Post BE02 France
2015-2016 Flanders Field Post BE02 France 2016-2017 George S. Patton Post GR45 France
2017-2018 Ramstein Post GR02 France

Erle Cocke Jr Award

2004 Doug Haggan France 2012 Ron Howko France
2017 Kenneth Aungst France
# ACTIVE POSTS IN THE AMERICAN LEGION
## DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

**UPDATED 9 February 2018**

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<tr>
<td>GR03</td>
<td>Alfred H. Watts</td>
<td>Heidelberg, Germany</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ATTACHMENT 31

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
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 – PRESENT

Albert Bennett Cudebec photo comes courtesy of “Special Collections, Lehigh University Libraries, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania”
ATTACHMENT 32
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 Peck FR01
1952 – 1960

Dana W. Lyman FR01
1960 - 1962

Sedley Peck FR01
1962 – 1966

Walter E. Lindquist FR01
1966 – 1969

James E. Zulick FR01
1969 – 1974
ATTACHMENT 33

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.
FRANCE

THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ICI EST NÉE L'AMERICAN LEGION
15-17 MARS 1919
ON THIS SITE WAS BORN
THE AMERICAN LEGION
MARCH 15-17, 1919