We are coming into the 5th month of 2021, and the Pandemic is still among us. We will be hitting the 4th wave of Virus with a new variant of it more cases have been reported here in Germany. We must remember that we remain safe and protect ourselves, practice social distance and wear a mask when and where required, follow Host nation laws. A Vaccine is now being distributed into and is open to most all. The Lockdown’s are still continuing. We still must remain open hearted and think positive, most of us have survived many other Pandemics. We will survive this one.

I have just returned from a trip from US going and coming requires a Covid-19 Test and it must be Negative before flying and if not careful, you can be delayed like I was. I received my first Vaccine while in the States and will be receiving the 2nd one here. I suggest that all Post refrain from having any closed meetings and follow the local laws. The Department as is National is aware of the issues pertaining to those Post that have PO status in their Garrisons, it is being worked on by National. Please refrain from contacting anyone other than the Department with this matter.

As everyone is aware, we will not be having a Convention this year. The Health and Welfare of all Department Members is a Priority to me. Rather the having a Convention, we will be having a 4th DEC/Elections/1st DEC during the same time frame. The Department Adjutant will be sending further information in the near future.

Most of all let us not forget the Buddy Check, remember that some Post members might not have a smartphone or computer. Pay them a Visit to see how they are doing. let us not forgot those that cannot be home due to mission requirements and those that have no one or nowhere to go.

Thanks...Santos

V-E Day (1945)

V-E Day stands for Victory in Europe Day. It marks a very important event in World War 2 - the end of the War with Germany on Tuesday 8 May 1945. ... It marks a very important event in World War 2 - the day Japan surrendered to the Allies after almost six years of war on 15 August 1945.
Greetings Comrades,

May is here, the weather is getting better, and hopefully we can get out and enjoy.

1. Certification of Officers: Thank you to the Posts who have recently held elections and sent in the Notification forms. I can add all Post officers to the Post Officers Roster in Nationals database. Reminder, after Post elections or a change in Post Officers, it is required to send two forms to the Department Adjutant. Immediately after Post elections, the Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants form must be sent to the Department Adjutant. As soon as possible after Post elections, the Certification of Post Officials report needs to be forwarded to the Department Adjutant.

2. 4th DEC, Elections, 1st DEC: Here is what to expect: The Call to the 4th DEC will be sent out about 21 May and will include Post Delegate Memos and Officer Nomination forms. Those two documents will have suspense dates. Everyone who is nominated will receive an email asking if they accept the nomination. That email will have a suspense date. Nomination will be announced during the 4th DEC and nominees will have a chance to speak. We will use 9 June to determine Delegate strength for Elections. Delegate memos will be sent to individual Posts and will have a suspense date. Election ballots will be sent to all Delegates and will have a suspense date. There will be an Election Roll-up session on 27 June where the winners of the Election will be announced. Shortly after the Roll-up session, the 1st DEC will be held. The Call for the 1st DEC will be sent out about 7 June and will include Post Delegate Memos and a suspense.

The biggest thing I want to stress is that there will not be any 2nd, 3rd, or 4th reminders. The suspense date/time is firm, and anything received after the suspense date/time will not be accepted. Example: if the suspense date is 1800 CET, 7 June 2021, and an email is received at 1843, 7 June 2021, it will be rejected.
The American Legion
Department of France
Department Service Office

What we do
The Mission of the Department Service Office is to provide benefits information, assistance and advocacy to all who have served and their families. Many Veterans are unsure of their entitlement to benefits so we ask that anyone who identifies as having served to contact our office to be directed to an appropriate resource.

The Department Service Office provides services and help with the following benefits:

- Comprehensive VA benefits counseling
- Assistance with Foreign Medical Program care enrollment
- Claims preparation and submission
- Claims follow-up to ensure final decisions
- Initiate and develop appeals on unfavorable VA decisions when appropriate to include representation at VA Hearings
- Survivors Death Benefits

What do Department Service Officers do?
A DSO will ensure that Veterans and their families receive all federal benefits available to them. DSO’s do this by providing effective and dedicated representation to veterans and their families, free of charge.

You will never receive a bill from us!

DSO’s are trained and accredited by the American Legion to represent veterans in their claims for benefits. DSO’s are versed in applicable federal laws to provide the best representation possible.

The Department Service Office should be the first stop for all recently discharged service members and anyone who has served in any of our armed forces branches to receive a complete benefit explanation.

Department Service Office Staff
Office Views by Appointment Only.
Please Call +49-9802 83 2269 for an appointment before visiting the office.

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USAG Ansbach, Katterbach Kasernen
Building 581B, Room 318
91522 Katterbach-Ansbach, Germany
Map: https://goo.gl/maps/g?Klnr7TDu42
AMERICAN LEGION LIBERTY WALK 2021
Saturday August 28th, 2021

Commemorate the "Battle of the Vierstraat Ridge" by the 27th & 30th US Divisions Aug/Sep 1918.

Place to be: Visitors Center Kemmel
Start walk: 09.00-13.00
7, 12 or 18 km
Expo visitors center: 09.00-15.00

FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
americanlegionlibertywalk@gmail.com

The organization is not responsible for any accidents, damage or theft.
Responsible publisher: Joseph Schram, American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02
Looking for Post histories and photographs

With the 2020-2021 year nearly finished, I would like to take this opportunity to ask each post for the following information:

1. Post Histories
   a. Post Officers & photos
   b. Post Activities & photos
   c. Newsletters

2. End of year activities report

All Information Will Be Included in the Department of France’s Historical Archives

B-17 Museum In Utzenstorf

The B-17 Museum Utzenstorf (Switzerland) offers a display of historical of foreign aircraft from 1939 and 1945. The museum specializes in the story of US Army Airforce emergency landings and crashes during WWII. In addition the museum has a display of American World War II uniforms to include headgear, flight goggles, medals, photographs and various debris of American military aircraft. It also includes the B-17 emergency landing of Utzenstorf and the B-24 crashes in Bätterkinden and Jegenstorf.

For more information, the museums web page can be accessed with these two links:

https://www.b17museum.ch/bio_e.php / https://www.b17museum.ch/index_e.php
Gold Award Scout of the Year

Gold Award “Scout of the Year” Award with the following:
- Plaque
- Certificate
- $500 Prize & Advancement to Nationals

The deadline for nominations to Department Adjutant is 10 June

The Gold Award is the highest achievement within the Girl Scouts of the USA, earned by Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts. Only 5.4% of eligible Girl Scouts successfully earn the Gold Award.
It was my honor to present my 46th US Burial flag to the Collins family on 17 April in Castlebar, Co. Mayo. Mr. Collins was a U.S. Army medic during the Viet Nam war, born in Boston, Ma but lived here in Mayo for the past 31 years. Mr Collins was predeceased by his wife Mary just eight days prior to his own demise. The family is entitled to burial funding from the U.S. Government but only after the funeral expenses have been paid in full. The family have set up a go fund me page and I would ask all the Department of France posts to consider a donation. Thank you.

Ron Howko
Ireland 03
Past Commander

Did you know?
... Even though the name Memorial Day was in use in the 1880s, Decoration Day was still in use as a name for the day until after the end of World War II.

...On Memorial Day, a custom is that the American flag is flown at half-staff until noon, and then raised until sunset.

...Late May was chosen as the date for Memorial Day as the flowers used to decorate graves would be in full bloom.

31 May 2021
COINS LEFT ON TOMBSTONES

While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave.

These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America’s military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin.

A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier’s family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect. Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited.

A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with him in some capacity. By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.
La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses) is an independent, by invitation, honor society of American veterans, more commonly known as “The Forty & Eight”.

The Forty & Eight is committed to charitable and patriotic aims. Our purpose is to uphold and defend the United States Constitution of the United States, to promote the well-being of veterans, their widows, widowers, and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include among others, programs that promote child welfare and nurses training.

Membership is by invitation, and open only to honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-19 CIRCUMSTANCES, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, ALL FUTURE PICTURES TURNED IN FOR THE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER PICTURING GROUPS OF LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS (2 or more – Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, Riders), FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO BE WORN BY LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS, OUT IN THE OPEN AND INSIDE BUILDINGS. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESENT GERMAN AND MILITARY POLICIES.