

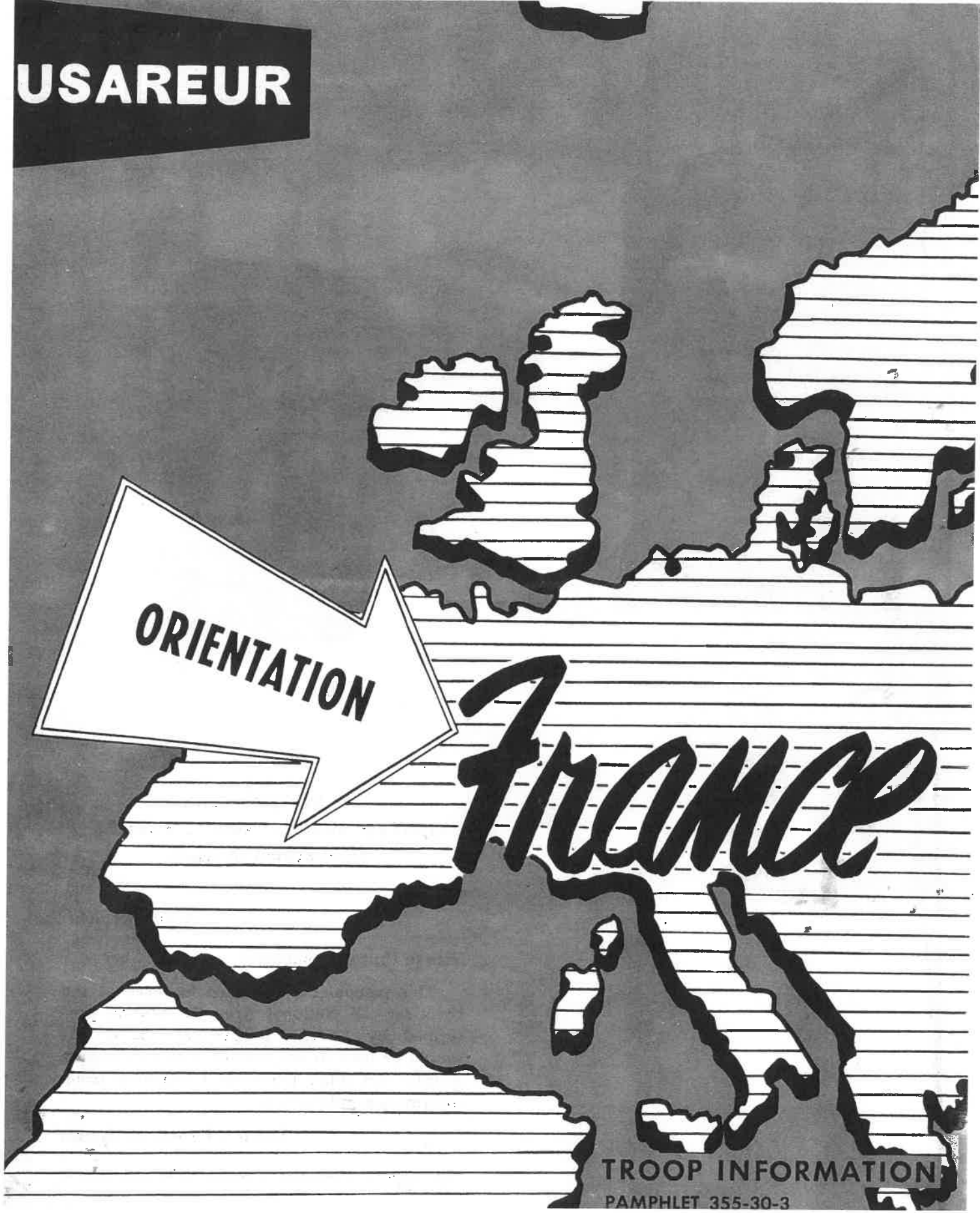
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USAREUR

ORIENTATION

France

TROOP INFORMATION
PAMPHLET 355-30-3





**HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE
Information Division**

APO 403

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Note to Unit Commanders:

This pamphlet is designed to serve as the basis for the National Area Orientation prescribed by USAREUR Circular 355-30*. It should be used in conjunction with *Orientation Europe* and other pertinent USAREUR troop information publications.

Troop Information Branch

*This pamphlet supersedes USAREUR Orientation France, dated 1957.

ORIENTATION FRANCE

Whether you're a Texan visiting New York or an Earthman visiting Mars, it helps to know something about where you are. Your assignment to France is no exception to this rule. You'll enjoy your assignment a lot more—you'll do a better job—if you learn something about France and the French.

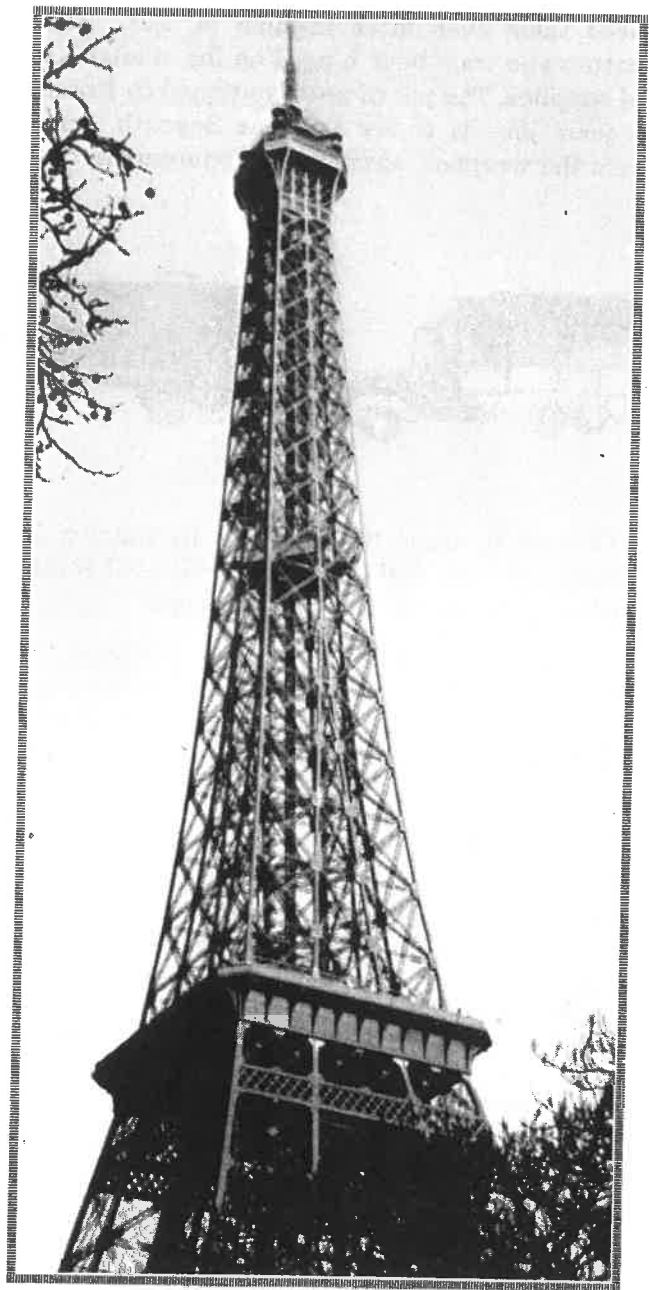
You know a little about France already, of course. Every American does. You know that the capital of France is Paris, a fabulous city by any standard. You know that the top man in France is Charles De Gaulle, one of the most respected of Western leaders. You know that France produces some of the world's best wines, cheeses, and perfumes. The French language you know to be one of the most beautiful. French women—well, you've undoubtedly heard reports about their grace and charm.

This is all nice to know, but unfortunately it won't get you very far in France. To make something of your assignment here you'll need to know quite a bit more. That's where this orientation comes in. In these pages you'll find a good deal of what you need to know to get you started on your assignment here, something about the people, the customs, politics, and so on.

FRANCE AND THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST

But first, let's consider for a moment why you're in France. In the general orientation on Europe we discussed the reasons why U.S. troops are here overseas. We discussed the communist threat, and showed how, in recent years, the West has taken steps to meet it. We told of how the United States joined with some of the other free nations of the world, including France, to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

You're here because of the communist threat. If war should come, you'd be serving as a member of the NATO forces. But why in France?

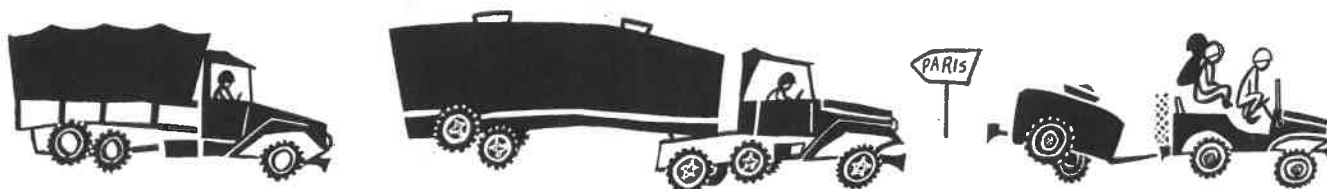


The bulk of U.S. ground troops in Europe—chiefly the Seventh Army—are in the Federal Republic of Germany. These are forward troops. Some of them are right up against the Iron Curtain.

Troops need supplies, quickly and in quantity. They need them in time of peace; they need them even more in time of war. Many battles and wars have hinged on the availability of supplies. The job of units stationed in France—your job—is to see that the Seventh Army gets the weapons, ammunition, equipment, fuel

and food it needs to carry out its mission in Germany. This is the task of the United States Army Communications Zone, Europe.

The French are also making a sizable contribution to NATO's military forces. France has about a million men under arms. About three fourths of these are in the Army, the rest in the Air Force and Navy. Some 50,000 men serve in a separate component of the Army called the Gendarmerie.



France is a logical place for the Zone. It has good seaports and an excellent transportation system. Its terrain is ideal for the rapid movement of supplies and men. Lying to the rear of Seventh Army installations, it is a terrain that is defensible.

COMZ has been supplying forward U.S. troops for more than a decade.* During these years it has developed into one of the finest logistics systems ever devised. Any war would find COMZ ready to roll.

The French ground contribution is to NATO's Central Army Group, which operates in the heart of Europe from the Alps to the Ruhr. French units thus serve side by side with USAREUR and German units. Operating with CENTAG are a French army, a French corps, and three French divisions, two infantry and one armored. The French naval contribution to NATO is largely in the Mediterranean. For air support France provides NATO with a Tactical Air Command.

This is France's peacetime effort; in the event of an emergency, the French contribution to NATO would be augmented.

The French Armed Forces

In providing a base for COMZ the French have thus put a good part of their land area into the service of NATO. But the French contribution in this respect covers more than just COMZ. It is by courtesy of the French that a lot of NATO's so-called "infrastructure" has

France in the Nuclear Age

This contribution to NATO is the more valuable because of France's growing nuclear potential. Atomic devices are being tested in the Sahara in a program aimed at equipping French units with nuclear weapons. Legislation passed by the French National Assembly (the chief legislative body) late in 1960 provides for the creation of an atomic striking force that will cost well over a billion dollars. The plan pro-

*For more complete information on COMZ, see USAREUR-COMZ Pamphlet 355-12.

vides for a stock of atomic bombs and warheads and the construction of equipment to deliver them, such as planes and missiles. Some French units are already equipped with short-range non-atomic missiles. A French long-range missile is under development.

France didn't explode its first atomic device until February of 1960, and so was relatively late in joining the nuclear powers.* But the French were pioneers in early nuclear research. We'll discuss this further in the section on science.

France has also developed some fine non-nuclear weapons and equipment. Its Mystère and Mirage fighter planes are among the world's best jets. The French also have a jet helicopter, called the Djinn, designed for antitank warfare. In radar they have developed a battlefield model that can detect a man several miles distant. A French antitank missile, the Entac, is being bought by the U.S. Army.

The French Soldier

Frenchmen are drafted between the ages of 20 and 37. They serve for 18 months, and may be recalled for short periods later. There is a French Defense Service for men over 37, consisting of rescue squads, and decontamination units.

The French soldier is well trained and equipped. He has a rich military tradition and a long record as a good fighter. As American soldiers we should be proud to serve alongside him.

This isn't the first time French and American soldiers have served together. The French sent forces under Lafayette and Rochambeau

*'KNEEL DOWN, MEN! STAND UP OFFICERS!' THE
CHRISTENING OF NEW CADETS IN THE COURT
YARD OF THE INVALIDES, PARIS - PART OF
RICH, FRENCH MILITARY TRADITION.*

*The other nuclear powers: the United States, Russia, and Great Britain.

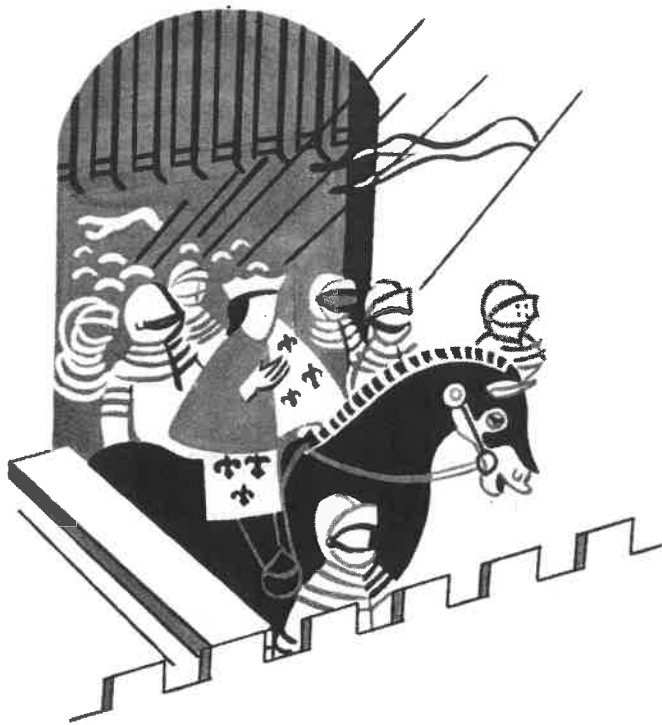
to help us in our War of Independence in 1776. In 1918 we partially repaid the debt by sending the American Expeditionary Force to aid the French in World War I. World War II again saw Americans fighting alongside the French, and again they fought to victory.

Now we are in France for a third time. Our common enemy is aggressive communism. This time we serve together in peace. We hope war won't come; but if it does, we, the French, and NATO are ready.

FRANCE AND THE FRENCH

France is an old country, yet today it has a spirit of youth and newness. The Fifth Republic is still young; it wasn't born until late 1958. Under its new constitution the Government has been stabilized and streamlined. The French economy has been vitalized. In 1958 the franc was devalued, and a stronger New Franc appeared. France is a leader in the new European Common Market, which is breaking down the tariff wall between the countries of western Europe and stimulating industry and trade.





Under the vigorous leadership of President Charles De Gaulle there have been sweeping reforms throughout French society. The average Frenchman is much better off than he was a few years ago. France has risen in stature as a member of the European community.

A Republic Is Born

The first and second French Republics were killed by the *coups d'état* (revolts) of Napoleon I and Napoleon III. The Third Republic was founded in 1871. Its founders were naturally concerned that the new Republic might again be upset by a "man on horseback". To try to prevent this they wrote the constitution to strengthen the legislature at the expense of the executive.

The Third Republic collapsed when Hitler's tanks rolled into France in 1940. It was replaced by the Vichy dictatorship of Marshal Philippe Petain.

After the war the founders of the Fourth Republic remembered the shame of Vichy more vividly than the generation of instability that

preceded it. They established another strong legislature, with a weak executive. Among the critics of this new government was Gen. Charles De Gaulle, who had been leader of the Free French Forces during World War II. De Gaulle predicted that the government would be unstable and ineffective.

His predictions came true. The 13 years of the Fourth Republic (1945-1958) included some of the most trying in France's history. Not all of the difficulties of these years stemmed from the unstable government, but many of them did. Many involved problems that a strong executive might have solved. But instead, government after government—more than a score in all—fell in the face of crisis after crisis.

Of these crises there were plenty. World War II had dealt a heavy blow to the French economy. Agricultural and industrial output fell to a dangerous low; 60 per cent of the French transportation system was knocked out. The French Communist Party exploited this situation by instigating strikes and inciting general unrest throughout the country. Costly conflicts in Indochina, Tunisia, and Algeria put a heavy drain on the country.*

It was the problem of Algeria that brought French difficulties to a head. In 1958, after four years of fighting between the French Army and Moslem rebels, control of this French area was seized by elements loyal to Gen. Charles De Gaulle. In June of that year, in a crisis that threatened civil war, the French Assembly voted General De Gaulle in as Premier.

The new Premier acted swiftly. He called for and got authority to rule France by decree for six months, until order was restored. He framed a new constitution—overwhelmingly approved by the French people—designed to strengthen the executive branch of government. De Gaulle became President in December 1958. A new Republic, the Fifth, was born. For the old one there were few mourners.

*In 1954 France gave up Indochina, which was partitioned into several independent countries. Tunisia became independent in 1956. Algeria will be dealt with later in this orientation.

How the Government Works

The new Government is a mixture of the European and American systems. The French President plays a role in the Government similar to that of the U.S. President. There is a Premier too, as in Britain and Italy; but he is appointed by the President and serves as a sort of deputy to him.

Here are the most important of the President's powers:

He is responsible for the handling of foreign affairs and for national defense. He can suspend laws and force their review in parliament. He can submit basic legislation and constitutional amendments to a referendum (that is, submit for voting by the people). He can dissolve the National Assembly (the chief legislative body) and force new national elections in case of conflict between the executive and parliament.

Finally, the President can, in cases of grave national emergency, take over the Government itself, for as long a time as he feels is necessary. This power President De Gaulle invoked in April of 1961, when Army leaders seized Algeria in defiance of the French Government.

The President is elected for a term of seven years, by a huge electoral college consisting of the deputies (members of the National Assembly) and 100,000 mayors and city officials throughout France. He can be reelected for an indefinite number of terms.

The President's right-hand man is the Premier. The Premier handles the day-to-day operation of the Government and deals with parliament. He can push legislation through parliament on a motion of confidence which can only be blocked by an absolute majority of the members. Although the Premier is appointed by the President, he is responsible to parliament, and only parliament can remove him from office.

From the description of the President's powers above, it can be seen that his position in relation to parliament is a strong one. Article 34

of the Constitution strictly limits the legislative power of the National Assembly. All matters not set forth in this article may be regulated by governmental decree (by the executive branch). The Assembly may censure the Government, however, forcing it to resign, under certain circumstances.

The Assembly is made up of deputies from metropolitan France, the overseas departments, and the overseas territories (to be discussed later). Deputies are elected directly by the people. Unless the Assembly is dissolved, they serve for a five-year term. The Assembly may be dissolved at any time by the President. But once it is dissolved and a new Assembly elected, it cannot be dissolved for one year.

Senators are elected for a term of nine years by an electoral college. Legislation may originate either in the Senate or the Assembly.

The constitutionality of legislation is determined by a special Constitutional Council. (In the U.S. this is done by the Federal Supreme Court.)

Local Administration

Continental France (including the island of Corsica) is divided into 90 *departments*, which are something like our counties. (The French don't have the equivalent of our states.) Each department is administered by a *prefect* and a locally elected general council. One prefect in each group of departments is also *inspector-general*, and has authority over other prefects in the group. Prefects and inspectors-general are appointed by the Minister of the Interior (a member of the Premier's Cabinet).

The Community—Algeria

Continental France, together with France's overseas departments and territories and a number of African Republics, make up what is called the *French Community*. The Community has been compared with the British Commonwealth. For although France governs the overseas departments and territories, the African

Republics are totally independent, and associate with the rest of the Community voluntarily, as the Commonwealth nations do; this association is primarily for reasons of trade and assistance.

The overseas departments that have been most in the news recently are those of Algeria. Since 1954 Algeria has been torn by a conflict that has taken the lives of thousands of French and Arab Moslems and has cost several billion dollars. There are three sides to this conflict: first, the Arab nationalists, who have been fighting to gain independence for Algeria; second, the French Government, which has tried to end the conflict and which, under President De Gaulle, has tried to work out a settlement for the area that will be acceptable to both the nationalists and the French settlers; finally there are the French settlers in Algeria, who, together with some elements of the French Army, have insisted that Algeria remain French. This last group has seized power in Algeria three times in defiance of the French Government: once in 1958, just before De Gaulle was swept into power, and twice in 1961, in protest against De Gaulle's policies.

But De Gaulle has dismissed these protests and is going ahead with negotiations aimed at ending the Algerian rebellion and letting the Algerians themselves decide their future. This could mean total independence for Algeria or some kind of continued association with France.

Besides Algeria, France has overseas departments and territories in other parts of Africa, in

South America, in the West Indies, and in the Pacific.

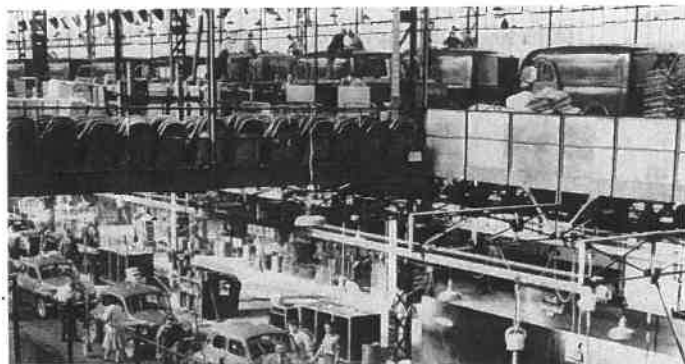
Economy

France's new Government has been built on a steadily expanding economy. The New Franc* is one of the soundest currencies in Europe. French industrial and agricultural output are pressing steadily upward.

France is also playing a greater role in the European Common Market. The Market aims at merging six competing economies—those of France, Germany, Italy, and the Benelux countries—into a huge strong one. Imagine the economic picture in America if each of the 50 states were competing with the others, levying high tariffs on each other's goods and otherwise strangling free trade. This was how the European economy worked before 1958. The Market, when it gets into full operation, will make of western Europe a free-trade area like that of the United States. A French and a German manufacturer, for instance, will be in much the same relative positions as a New York and a California manufacturer.

But the Common Market isn't merely a plan for the future. It is in operation now. France, for example, has already made drastic cuts in import duties. They were made in April 1961 and affected dozens of trade items, from corks to movie cameras. They applied not only to

*Worth about 20 U. S. cents.



Common Market countries but to many others, including the United States.

Besides the Common Market, France is a member of the European Coal and Steel Community, which is pooling the coal and steel production of the Common Market countries. France also belongs to Euratom, a similar plan, which is doing the same for atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Industry, Agriculture

France has what it takes to make industry go. It is rich in natural resources. There are huge coal deposits in the northwest departments. The iron ore deposits in eastern France and the bauxite (aluminum) deposits in central France are among the richest in the world. In southwestern France are important reserves of oil and natural gas. (The departments in the Sahara also supply oil and gas.) There is plenty of hydroelectric power, and development of the Rhone and Rhine Rivers is pressing ahead. The French railway system, which is nationally owned, is one of the best in Europe.

French manufactures include chemicals, textiles, cars, and iron products. Nearly a third of the population of France are small farmers. They produce grains, sugar beets, and fruit.

France is the most important wine-producing country in the world: it produces about a billion gallons a year. Many of its wines, such as its Burgundy, Champagne, and Bourdeaux, are known and esteemed the world over. Wine-

growers associations hold growers to strict account for the quality of their products.

History

In talking about the French Government we briefly mentioned the previous French republics. Now let's take a longer look at French history.*

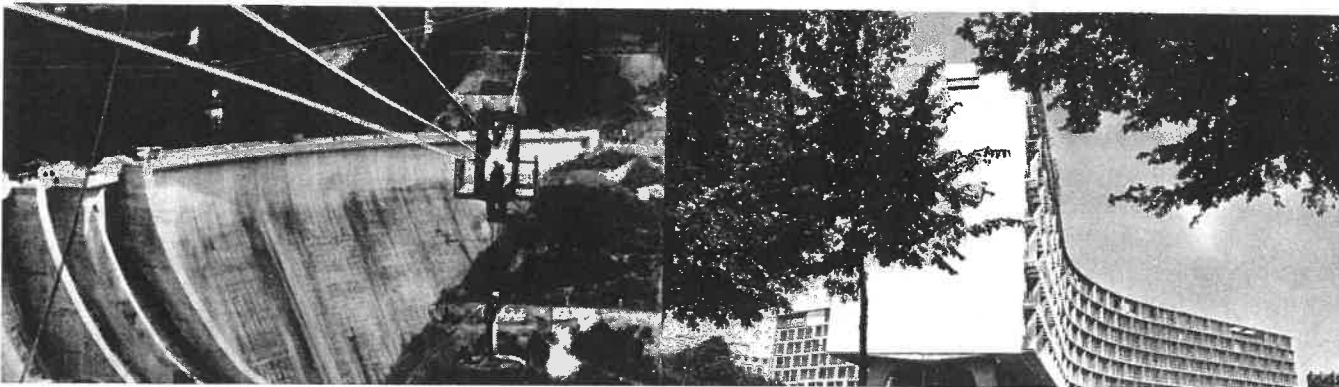
France is a Latin country and has its roots in the Roman Empire. It was Julius Caesar who conquered France—then called Gaul—for the empire, just before the birth of Christ. As the Empire declined, its place was taken by the Frankish Empire, which became the new cornerstone of European unity. Under Charlemagne (768-814), its greatest leader, it included all of what is now France, Belgium, and Holland, and nearly all of Germany and Italy.

Charlemagne's Empire declined after his death. The Treaty of Verdun (843) divided it into three parts, thereby laying the foundation for the division of modern-day Europe. The eastern kingdom, extending from the Rhine to the Elbe River, became the core of modern Germany. A central kingdom comprised Italy, the Lowlands, Burgundy and Lorraine. The western kingdom comprised most of present-day France.

The Vikings (called Normans) invaded France in the 9th century, and in the year 911

*Unfortunately there is only space in this pamphlet for a thumbnail sketch of French history. For more complete accounts, check with your Special Services library.

FRANCE'S STEADILY INCREASING ECONOMY BUILT ON A SOUND CURRENCY AND BACKED BY RICH NATURAL RESOURCES MAKES HER AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE GIGANTIC EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET, THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY AND EURATOM.



conquered lands in the north of the country, which became Normandy. In 1066 the Normans conquered England, thus beginning the connection between France and England that was to be one of the chief problems of the French monarchy in the Middle Ages.

The French kings of this time were weak; their real authority seldom extended much beyond their own feudal land holdings. This authority was repeatedly challenged by the powerful duke of Normandy and by the great lords of Flanders, Burgundy, and Aquitaine. But the strength of the monarchy grew over the years, particularly under Louis VI, Philip II, Louis IX, and Philip IV.

France fought England in the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) over English holdings in France. By 1429 the English were masters of practically all of France north of the Loire River. But in that year Joan of Arc led French armies to victory, and by 1451 France was again in control of most of her land, now under King Charles VII.

In the sixteenth century, Protestantism, in the form of Calvinism, rose to challenge the authority of the Catholic French kings. The

Religious Wars that broke out in 1560 were thus also political. In 1598 Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes, which granted toleration to the French Protestants (called Huguenots) and gave them a measure of political power.

From 1624 to 1642 French affairs were managed by the powerful Cardinal Richelieu, who broke the power of the Huguenots and did much to strengthen the state. In 1661 Louis XIV, the "Sun King", took personal control of the government, and the authority of the French monarchy reached an all-time high. It was Louis who revoked the Edict of Nantes and drove the Huguenots out of France. But, on the positive side, his reign saw a great development of the French colonies in Canada and in the East, and a flourishing of commerce and the arts.

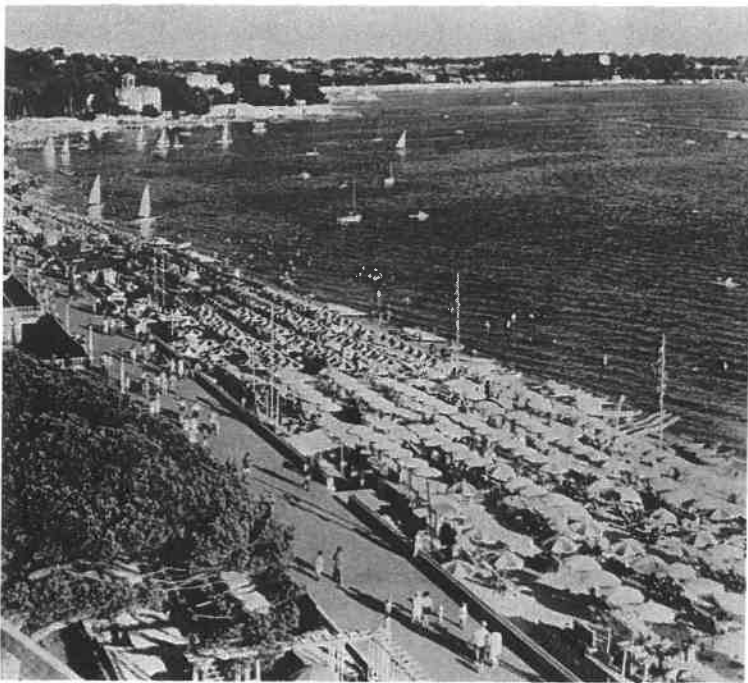
Meanwhile the rivalry between France and England continued; in the War of the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years' War France sought to maintain her world power. In the latter, however, known to us as the French and Indian Wars (1756-1763), she lost Canada and most of French India.

In the meantime the French monarchy had grown more extravagant, at the expense of the people, who were without rights and often without food. On 14 July 1789—now celebrated as France's Independence Day—the dam erupted; the French people stormed the Bastille, a prison in Paris, heralding the beginning of the French Revolution.

The Revolution was stormy and bloody, and unfortunately it didn't immediately achieve all it had set out to achieve. But it did pave the way for the coming of real democracy in France. Furthermore, the ideals of the Revolution—of liberty, equality, and fraternity—spread throughout Europe. It was to these ideals that the people of such countries as Germany and Italy, for example, looked when they later began the struggle to establish democracies in their own countries.

But in France the road to democracy led through dictatorship. The First French Republic was torn by violence and disorder. In 1799 a young general named Napoleon Bonaparte





ALTHOUGH FRANCE IS FARTHER NORTH THAN MOST OF THE U.S., THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IS ABOUT 52 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.

The Land

France is the largest country in Europe west of the Soviet Union. But in American terms she is small. She is considerably smaller than Texas, and only one-third larger than California. Nevertheless, her population is over 45 million, or about one-fourth that of the United States. This means that the French population is far more dense than America's. France has over 200 persons per square mile, as compared with about 50 per square mile in the U.S.

Roughly speaking, France has six sides. Three sides border on the sea: the North Sea and English Channel, which separate her from Great Britain; the Atlantic Ocean; and the Mediterranean Sea. Two sides are mountains: the Pyrenees to the southwest form a natural barrier between France and Spain, while the Alps and Juras form boundaries with Switzerland and Italy. The sixth side faces West Germany to the east, Belgium and Luxembourg to the north.

Despite the fact that France is farther north than most of the United States, her climate is very temperate. Warm Gulf Stream currents keep the annual average temperature at 52 degrees Fahrenheit. The climate of the French Mediterranean coast is similar to that of Florida. Winters are mild in the south, cool in the north, and spring and summer are normally warm and sunny.

France has a varied terrain. The Parisian region, Normandy, and the Chateaux country are gently rolling; but the Brittany coast is rugged. The highest mountain in Western Europe, Mount Blanc (15,871 feet), is in France. Beyond the Massif Central range in central France un-

stepped in to restore order, and by 1804 had himself crowned Emperor of France. Napoleon led French armies to the conquest of half of Europe before his final defeat in 1815 at Waterloo (in Belgium). But though he brought war to the Continent, Napoleon succeeded in establishing order and economic prosperity in France. He also translated the principles of the Revolution into a new code of civil law which still stands today.

After Napoleon came a monarchy, followed by another short-lived republic (the Second), and then an empire again, this time under Napoleon III, nephew of the first Napoleon.

After France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War (1870), the Third Republic was formed. It lasted until 1940, and it was during this period that France again rose to become a great world power.

Although the Nazis overran France in 1940, the Resistance Movement and the Free French Army under General De Gaulle fought side by side with the Allies until V-E, in 1945. France then began her long pull toward recovery that was to be climaxed by the return of the same General De Gaulle as head of the Fifth Republic.



broken plains sweep through most of the country to the northern borders.

France's major rivers are: the Rhone, which flows south to Marseilles; the Loire, which flows first north to Orleans, and then west to Nantes; the Garonne, which empties into the Bay of Biscay at Bordeaux; and the Seine, which winds its way through Paris into the Channel. The Rhine forms part of France's border with West Germany.

Philosophy and Science

There isn't room in this pamphlet for a complete discussion of French achievements in science and the arts, but the next few paragraphs will give you an idea of their importance.

French science and scientific technique are based on the work of the philosopher Rene Descartes (1596-1650). Descartes is often called "the father of modern philosophy." He began the modern tradition of methodical doubt and skeptical analysis, which is the basis of today's physics. Blaise Pascal invented the calculus of chances and established the intuition as a respectable source of knowledge. Voltaire preached toler-

ance and tried to free man from his prejudices. Jean Jacques Rousseau's writings strongly influenced the American and French Revolutions. The great life philosopher Henri Bergson was active earlier in the present century, and today, Jean Paul Sartre is one of the leading figures in existentialism.

Descartes had begun a long tradition of philosopher-scientists in France. But many great French minds devoted themselves strictly to science. Laplace (1749-1827) was the greatest mathematician of his time. (Lavoisier (1743-94) was the founder of modern chemistry. Coulomb and Ampere were pioneers in electricity. Jean Martin Charcot, working in the 19th century, opened the road into modern psychiatry which Freud was later to follow. Louis Pasteur discovered the world of bacteria and created the process of sterilization that bears his name.

Pierre and Marie Curie discovered radioactivity, thus beginning the age of atomic energy. In 1939, another French scientist, Frederic Joliot, proved the explosive disintegration of uranium, which eventually resulted in the atomic bomb.



FOR YEARS FRANCE HAS BEEN
A HOME FOR ARTISTS, PAINTERS,
WRITERS.

The Arts

Mention art and you think of France. To many people art and France—particularly Paris—are synonymous. For years Paris has been a home for artists, for painters and writers. It has drawn them from all over the world: Picasso from Spain, Van Gogh from Holland, James Joyce from Ireland, and Hemingway from America.

But France itself has had no shortage of artists. Rabelais was probably the greatest French writer of the Renaissance. He was followed by Montaigne, famous for his *Essays*. Later in the French literary tradition came the philosopher-satirist Voltaire; Victor Hugo, creator of the famous hunchback of Notre Dame; Gustav Flaubert, whose novel *Madame Bovary* rocked the literary world; and Guy de Maupassant, famous for his short stories. Recent French writers include Marcel Proust, Andre Gide, and Albert Camus. Modern French plays are in demand both in Europe and America, plays by Jean Giraudoux, Jean Anouilh, and Sartre.

But it's painting more than writing that we usually associate with France, names like Delacroix, Cezanne, Dufy, Matisse, Renoir, and

Degas. In Europe and America the image of the artist is a French bohemian in smock and beret.

In music France has never been as strong as in literature and painting. But it has produced such men as Bizet, best known for his opera *Carmen*, and Debussy and Ravel.

YOUR LIFE IN FRANCE

But all we've said about the arts in France will be useless if you don't take advantage of them while you're here. You'll leave France the poorer if you don't take in a painting exhibition and, perhaps, visit Paris and see the Comedie-Francaise. As for movies, the French are producing some of the best in the world today.

The theater, the movies, and getting around in general will require a little knowledge of French. This is another opportunity you shouldn't miss while you're here: learning some French. You'll never have a better opportunity.

The first step is a visit to your local Education Adviser. He's the man who can tell you about the courses being held at your installation. But don't fool yourself into thinking a language course alone will do the trick. There's more to it than that. Learning a foreign lan-

guage is no snap. You have to work at it. To learn to *speak* French you'll have to get out and meet the French people—talk to them. Use your French, no matter how poor you think it is. People won't laugh at your mistakes; they'll be flattered that you're making an effort to learn their language.

And as long as you're getting out to meet the French, remember that there's nothing like making a good impression. Trying to speak French is just one way of doing this. The general rule is to be on your best behavior. Remember that how you act in the local community will reflect on the U.S. Army and America. So far as the French are concerned, *you are* the U.S. Army and America. They will judge your Army and your Country by the way *you* behave.

In *Orientation Europe* a code for behavior was set down.* Now is a good time to review that code. It's straightforward and simple; all of what it says applies in France. It's based on common courtesy, for that is what we must practice during our tour in France. Just remember that we are guests of the Republic of France.

*See pages 16 and 17 of that USAREUR TI pamphlet.



The French expect nothing more of us than that we behave like good guests toward their host.

But this caution isn't intended to discourage you from seeing France and meeting the French. On the contrary, it's intended to help. You'll get a lot more out of your off-duty time if you show the French your best side—in other words, if you act like a soldier.

The Status of Forces Agreement

What about our legal rights and obligations in France? Do we come under French law or U.S. law?

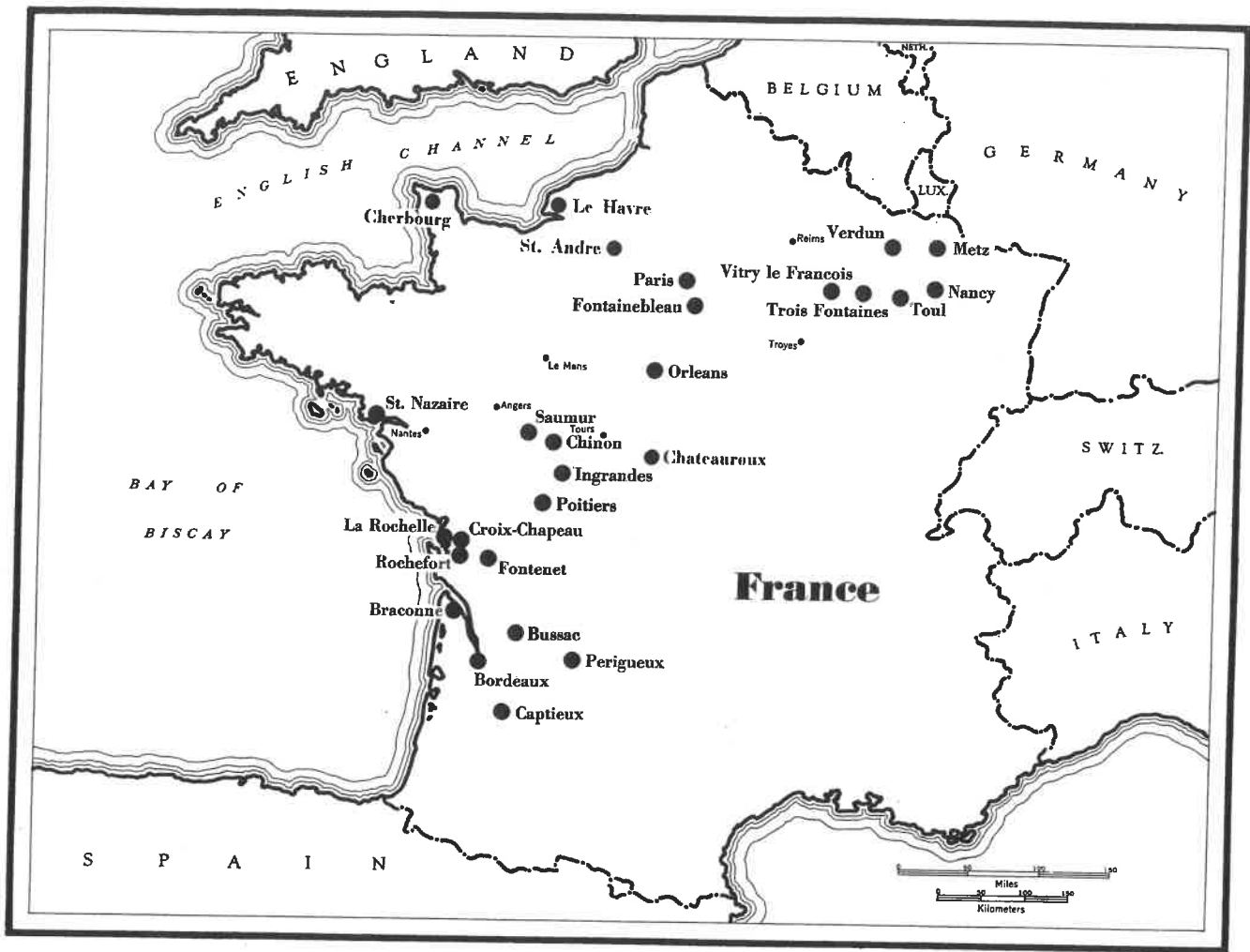
Under both, actually. Our legal rights and obligations here are defined by a document called the NATO Status of Forces Agreement, which was signed by the United States and France. It prescribes in what cases French law will prevail and in which U.S. law prevails.

Generally we are subject to French law while we're here, just as aliens in the United States are subject to U.S. law. But the Forces Agreement does give us a few special privileges. We enjoy certain exemptions from French taxes, for example, and we may import certain goods duty-free.

But nowhere in the Agreement is implied the right to disobey French law. French civil and criminal law extend to anyone who happens to be in France. A gendarme can arrest and detain any American soldier for violation of French law.

In general, all acts that are considered crimes in the United States are also crimes in France. But there are some additional acts which are regarded as crimes in France but are *not* crimes in the United States. For example, one French law provides that anyone who, through carelessness or negligence, causes another person injury may be fined and imprisoned. Two-thirds of the Americans tried in French courts are tried for this offense, and few are acquitted.

French law includes the idea of "comparative negligence." Take as an example a car ac-



cident—the typical case—in which both parties are at fault; that is, in which you are only partly responsible. You may still be found guilty of negligence if a French citizen suffers injury. Thus French law is a good argument for careful driving.

Unlike American practice, French railway conductors may fine or arrest passengers for violating railroad regulations, particularly for occupying a first-class seat with a second-class ticket. Resisting arrest or striking a policeman results in stiffer penalties in France than in the U.S. There are many black-market laws, outlining offenses like the sale of any product to a French National which was brought to France

free of customs duties. This includes your personal goods and goods you buy in Army installations.

Here are a few special areas of law and conduct worth watching:

1. *Credit.* Buying on the installment plan is not advised. Cash purchases are insurance against civil suits and judgments against you for failure to make payments. If you do buy on time, insist on a written understanding that covers the total cost, the amount of payments, and when payments are due. Then be certain to pay promptly! Americans who default in paying their bills bring

discredit upon the integrity of all Americans, and they may be tried by court-martial for dishonorably failing to pay their debts.

2. *Leases and Rent.* Since leasing apartments or homes in France is an intricate business, U.S. personnel are advised to contact their Legal Officer before renting or signing leases. It will be necessary to have an inventory of the furniture in the apartment and to check the proposed lease agreement for expensive clauses, like obligations to pay a percentage of the landlord's personal taxes. Insist on a written agreement specifying the *total* cost, and be sure that the inventory is complete and that it specifies the condition of the furniture, in order to avoid later damage claims.
3. *Hunting and Fishing.* To hunt or fish in France requires a license or permit from the government. Each department (county) has special rules covering open seasons for particular game, hunting quotas, where to hunt, and how to hunt. Violations of hunting and fishing regulations tried in French courts usually result in payment of a fine, civil damages, and court costs. So be sure to have a license to hunt or fish, and make certain *you do not* hunt or fish out of season or on private property.
4. *Taxes.* U.S. forces are exempt from most French taxes, but not all. Personal income derived from Army pay or from U.S. sources, as well as personal property owned by U.S. personnel, is not subject to French tax. However, income derived from enterprise in France, other than military pay or from U.S. sources, is taxable. Most goods on the economy have taxes included in the price. Off-post personnel in France may be liable for a number of taxes: living-quarters taxes, assessments for garbage pick-up and sewer maintenance, user taxes for radio and TV sets, municipal taxes, and social security tax if domestic servants are employed. However, no U.S. personnel are liable to pay taxes when they are levied

YOU AND THE U.S. DOLLAR

*You've probably heard about the drain of gold from the United States and of some of the steps being taken by our Government to check it.**

Now that you're in Europe, you can help keep the U.S. dollar sound—without much of a sacrifice on your part. There are two ways you can help. First, you can make an extra effort to save as much of your pay as possible. You can do this through Soldiers' Deposits or by buying U.S. savings bonds. A Class E allotment makes saving painless. Personnel sections have full details on savings and allotments. By saving more of your pay you'll be helping both your Country and yourself. The nest egg you accumulate during your tour here will come in mighty handy later on.

The second way you can help in checking the flow of U.S. gold and dollars abroad is by spending as little of your pay as possible on the foreign economy. There are a number of ways you can do this. One is to patronize U.S. Army facilities whenever possible. This includes your PX, snack bars, Army theaters, commissary, and so on. Before you buy an item on the local economy, check to see whether you can get it in an Army facility. Make full use of the lay-away and mail-order services in your PX.

These are just a few things you can do to help alleviate America's gold shortage. None of them demands much of a sacrifice; all of them will help keep the U.S. dollar sound.

*For a more complete account, see USAREUR TI Fact Sheet No. 49, "Dam the Dollar Drain."

and assessed in the name of a landlord or any other person.

5. *Car Insurance* in France, like apartment leases, is a complicated matter. Car owners should check very carefully the requirements for insurance and make certain there are no loopholes in their policies. All drivers must have a minimum of \$102,000 liability insurance. Every policy-holder is expected to be thoroughly familiar with all terms and conditions of his policy. Procedures for obtaining a driver's license in France may be learned from the post Provost Marshal's office. Requirements for registration include evidence of ownership, a fee for a carnet and plates, a valid insurance policy, and a car inspection.
6. *Driving rules* are somewhat different in France than at home. For instance, in many towns you must park on the side of the street with even numbers on even-numbered days, and just the opposite on odd-numbered days. Horn-blowing is forbidden in some places, and French law requires special amber-colored headlights on all cars. Be familiar with the road rules before you step on the gas. Cautious driving is a good idea all the time. It wins respect from the French, pedestrians and drivers alike. And it saves lives.

You and the French

We've said a good deal about France and relatively little about the French people. This has been intentional. We've tried to steer away from making sweeping generalizations about the French. They're a wonderful people, and you'll find getting to know them a rewarding experience. But we won't try to define the French character. There have been entire books written on it. Certainly it couldn't be summed up in the brief space of this pamphlet.

One thing you might keep in mind regarding the French, however—and this goes for all Europeans: they're more conservative than we

FRANCE AT A GLANCE

Area: 212,659 square miles, or about one third larger than California. But France's overseas departments and territories make up an area about four times this figure.

Population: Just over 45 million (about 200 persons per square mile, compared to 50 per square mile in the United States).

Flag: three vertical bars, blue, white, and red.

Money: the New Franc, worth about 20 U.S. cents.

Industry: chemicals, textiles, cars, iron products — the world's biggest wine-producing country. Big deposits of coal, iron ore, bauxite, and oil.

Agriculture: nearly a third of the population are small farmers. They produce grains, sugar beets, and fruit.

Defense: about a million men under arms, three fourths of these in the Army. Training and equipment topnotch. France now has the atom bomb and is pressing ahead with nuclear research and the development of missiles.

Religion: predominantly Roman Catholic, with only about 1 million Protestants.

Americans. French tradition is centuries old. It's loosened somewhat in recent years, but it still is strong in French life. It causes the French to live at a more leisurely pace, for example. It causes the people to resist change and new ways of doing things. The French like the tried and true. They are generally conservative in their dress, their manners, in everything they do.

Keep this conservatism in mind in your contacts with French people. Learn to respect the French way of doing things. Be patient—and try to understand—when you find things done differently from the way they're done at home.

We'd expect the same attitude of French troops stationed in our country.

And now you've been "oriented," you've "read the book." But you're only beginning to learn something about France and the French. In these pages we've tried to pass on to you information of practical value—information that will help make your tour more rewarding, help make the job you turn in here a job well done. But this has all been merely orientation, that is, preparation for experience. Now it's up to you to take over where orientation leaves off.

And so—*bienvenu*—welcome to France!

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**ORIENTATION
FRANCE**