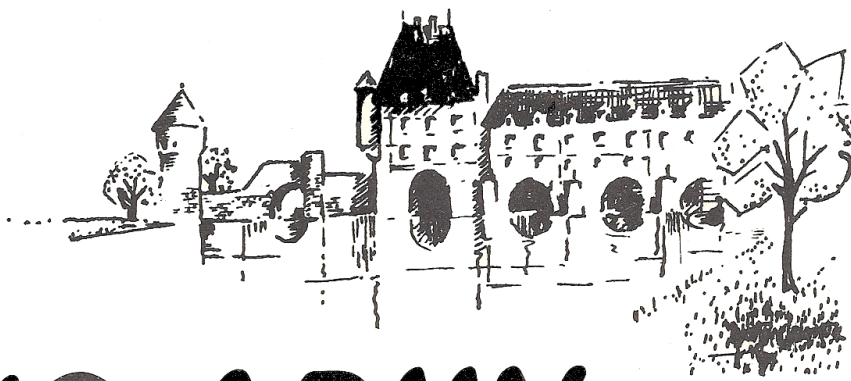


WELCOME

to the



US ARMY

COMZEUR

1 March 1963
USACOMZEUR PAMPHLET 355-12

TO AMERICAN SOLDIERS¹

You are coming to France, you are friends and allies; we bid you welcome. Our two countries have every reason to be friendly and to understand each other. We have, each to the other, a mutual debt of gratitude. Without the French assistance of Lafayette and Rochambeau, the US would perhaps never have existed. Without the soldiers of Pershing, and later of Eisenhower, France would have had great difficulty in preserving her liberty.

The present must be worthy of the past: this friendship must be maintained and strengthened. This depends much on you. In France, you will represent your country; it will be judged by your behavior. I know, I who have lived long in the US, that the Americans are friendly, benevolent and generous. It is up to us to give the same impression now that you are coming to live on a strange continent.

You are coming to a very old country, which has a noble history and a great culture. It is proud of this; it has the right to be. Respect its memorials and its customs. You will find its habits different from you own. Do not blame it. Do not blame it. It is quite natural that different kinds of events would engender a different kind of life. If you look well, you will find beneath these differences a common trait – which is the love of liberty.

Because the peoples have a long history, do not believe that they are backward. On the contrary, modern France is a country of pioneers. Go and see the factories, they will surprise you. Remember that only a few years ago, France was in ruins. War destroyed its towns, its bridges, its railroads. You see today a country rebuilt. That implies great courage and great work. Respect the French and they will respect you.

Andre MAUROIS
De l'Academie Francaise
President de l'Association
France – Etats-Unis

Editor's Note: "France United States Association

The **Association France-US** is a French association, apolitical, independent and private. It was founded in 1945 under the auspices of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of [United States in France](#) . It was among the Presidents of the National Council: [Paul Claudel](#) , [André Maurois](#) , [Thierry Maulnier](#) and [Maurice Couve de Murville](#) , whose kingpin was Mr. Mackinsky for over 25 years. It was he who arranged all travel charters of the period 1966/1975 with US companies, such as Capitol Airways, Trans World Airways and International Airlines.

It is a non-profit association (Law of July 1901), which aims to contribute to a better understanding and greater mutual understanding between the two peoples. The national association, governed by a National Council brings together all of more than 30 local associations "France-United States" and manages the activities of that of Paris. The total represents over 2,000 members including nearly 400 in Paris. The national office is located at 39 Boulevard Suchet, 75016 Paris, Tel 01 45 27 80 86. Site: <http://www.france-etatsunis.com>
It promotes the meeting to another culture, another story, another heritage: For more than half a century, the United States France Association is devoted to strengthening the bonds of friendship, deep and historical, in the through conferences, debates, academic exchange and cultural events. It opens the dialogue by organizing monthly meetings where various topics are discussed with emphasis on human relationships in a friendly atmosphere.

Its members represent all categories of the population, in particular through a policy of moderate contributions. It is independent and apolitical, resources mainly from contributions of its members. Its activities are organized by volunteers.

She informed the French on the [United States](#) by:

- Cultural activities: conferences, debates, concerts, film screenings study circles, youth meetings, open forums, academic exchanges, English classes and all appropriate means.
- Its quarterly journal FRANCE-USA, dedicated to Franco-American relations, which appears regularly since 1947.

She informed the Americans on [France](#) by:

- Its meetings to discuss various aspects of Franco-American relations, by sharing our American friends of French public opinion.
- She followed his links established with the Federation of the various committees of the [French Alliance](#) in the United States that includes a swarm of animated committees mainly by Americans. “

SOURCE: http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_France_%C3%89tats-Unis



WELCOME TO COMZ

You are being assigned to the United States Army Communications Zone, Europe, to carry out one of the most vital missions in the worldwide scope of United States Armed Forces commitments.

You will be here as a member of an organization supporting the North Atlanta Treaty Organization (NATO) team, comprised of fifteen nations pledged to “mutual aid and assistance” in case of attack. The United States Government is one of the original twelve countries signing this treaty in April 1949.

The United States Forces are in France as allies of free people to insure the survival of the Western world’s free, democratic nations. Preserving an unshackled Western Europe is of as great importance to us as it is to the people of Europe’s free countries. If communist domination ever spread across Western Europe the United States would be alarmingly vulnerable to aggression.

WHAT IS COMZ?

COMZ is the supply base and the logistical bulwark for the United States Armed Force facing eastward in Europe.

Modern warfare has categorically demonstrated that an army without a strong, smoothly operating supply line is a “dead duck.”

An apt description of the vital role of a communications zone supply line was voiced recently by General Lyman L. Lemnitzer: “Military effectiveness demands that the items which are needed must be available where they are needed, in adequate quantity, and at the time required.”

Fulfillment of this responsibility for the US Army, and to a certain extent for other US services, in Europe is the task of the COMZ supply line.

COMZ's job – your new job – is to keep that vital supply line strong, flexible and ready to meet every need of the combat soldier.

COMZ is a complex of ports, pipelines, supply depots, supply control centers, truck fleets and railways extending from the Atlantic coast of France to beyond the Rhine River in Germany. But more than materiel, COMZ represents people too; soldiers with their families, and American, British, French, German, Dutch and other civilians who combine their talents in an integrated structure to keep those supplies moving.

WHY COMZ?

In 1945 all supplies from the United States for our armed forces entered Europe through Bremerhaven, Germany. Bremerhaven is an excellent port on the North Sea and would be quite adequate for peacetime needs. But Bremerhaven's potential vulnerability in time of war was suddenly made vivid by the communist blockade of Berlin in 1948-49. Bremerhaven, lying as it does on the flat plains of Northern Germany, is near the natural, historical route of European invasions from the East. The necessity for larger supply channels and alternate routes of supply became obvious.

On 6 November 1950, the French and American governments reached an agreement whereby the United States was permitted to organize, staff and maintain a line of communications (LOC) in France. This line is COMZ.

Present day COMZ has a proud heritage of two previous LOC's across France. From 1917 to 1919 General Pershing's AEF was maintained in the field by the first American supply complex based in France. In World War II the Services of Supply, so vividly characterized by the famed Red Ball Express, magnificently supported the most materiel-consuming war in man's history from French ports and other French facilities.

WHY FRANCE?

Certain conditions are vital to an effective supply line: a long coastline with all year ports (France has 2,000 miles of such coastline); large land area for huge and dispersed supply operations (France is the second largest country in Europe with 212,659 square miles – about the size of Texas); it must be to the rear of an operational theater and relatively safe from becoming cut off by any enemy (all of the countries which border France are either partners in NATO, friendly to the Western block like Spain, or traditionally neutral like Switzerland); it must have a modern road and a rail network over which to move supplies (France has 85,000 miles of highway and 55,000 miles of railroads) and its people must be receptive to your aims and the necessity of your being in their country. (France is a NATO member. More than that, her ties with the US and our people are not only cordial but are based on enduring historical associations and partnership in the greatest struggles for freedom that both nations have undergone.)

GROWTH OF COMZ

Five days after the signing of the LOC Agreement, about 1,000 United States technical service troops with 300 trucks and trailers moved into France. By mid-November of 1950 the first supply ships were being unloaded at Bordeaux and the 500-mile supply line across France was a going concern.

From that small first contingent COMZ has grown into a vast network of efficient builders and operators of this new supply line. Highly skilled military and civilian technicians, from engineers to transportation specialists, from depot personnel to hospital technicians, all contribute their skills to keep needed supplies flowing to forward areas.

COMZ delivers – delivers supplies where needed and when needed and with an enviable record of speed and efficiency. Each member of COMZ, regardless of assignment, contributes his share to this moving logistical chain.

The headquarters of the United States Army Communications Zone, Europe, is in Orleans, about 70 miles south of Paris. COMZ is composed of five major commands, four of which are in France: Fourth Logistical Command at Verdun; Seine Area Command (SACCZ) at Paris; US Army Fort Area Command (USAPAC) at La Rochelle, and Orleans Area Command (OAC) at Orleans. The fifth, US Army Port of Embarkation (USA PEB) is located in Bremerhaven, Germany. Operation of the supply and maintenance system is the task of subordinate units too numerous to list here.

RELATION OF COMZ TO NATO, SHAPE, US EUCOM & USAREUR

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is comprised of 15 nations pledged to mutual defense, to the elimination of international economic conflict and to the encouragement of cultural and economic cooperation. Member nations of the NATO alliance are: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe (SHAPE), located near Paris, is the organization of NATO, which welds the military forces placed at NATO's disposal by the member nations into a unified defense machine.

United States European Command (US EUCOM), also located near Paris, is the headquarters coordinating all United States Forces in Europe (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the various Military Assistance Advisory Groups (MAAG's).

United States Army, Europe (USAREUR) at Heidelberg, Germany, is the senior US Army Headquarters in Europe.

COMZ, as a major subordinate command of USAREUR, is a part of the United States contribution to NATO.

YOU AND FRANCE

America is in the forefront of world affairs. It is vital that we understand the people of the world with whom we are bound by our deepest associations and beliefs.

Understanding many people with whom we are not familiar is a learning process, which takes effort and application. But the effort is truly worthwhile and always results in a broadening of our own lives.

The time you spend in learning to understand the French will be rich in rewards both to you and to the United States.

The late Andre Siegfried, one of the leading contemporary French historians, in his book “The Soul of the Peoples,” sums up the diverse outlook and development of the French people:

“France presents three faces to the world, for she is at the same time Western, Continental and Mediterranean. The result is a balance, which is original and perhaps unique.

“On the Atlantic front she looks out over the ocean and is attracted by the influence from overseas. This France belongs to the group of liberal Anglo-American civilizations and is authentically “Western.” On the other hand, as a continental power, she is indissolubly linked by her flesh and blood to Europe, and is no longer, from this angle, Atlantic but Continental, attached to the land and essentially European.

“Finally, on the Mediterranean front, France is in direct contact with Africa and Asia, the East and Far East; in other words, linked in space with an exotic and fabulous world and in time with the most illustrious history of mankind.

“The unique character of French psychology comes precisely from this diversity, forged by the passage of centuries into a unity. The unity itself is contradictory, influenced by the East and West, the past and the future, tradition and progress.”

This diversity of people in one country is not unique to France. Remember the difference you found in local customs on that last trip across the United States!

One salient fact in history should deeply affect us as Americans: France is the only major European power, which has never fought a war against the United States. In fact, one of the main reasons why you are a member of a great and free country today is because France contributed heavily in men, materiel and guidance to the struggle of our thirteen colonies.

YOU ARE AN AMBASSADOR

You and your family are US ambassadors.

You don't receive the salary and privileges of ambassadors, you don't deal with government officials, attend diplomatic parties or make policy. But you do rub shoulders with average people. To many Frenchmen you will represent the only contact they may ever have with America and Americans.

Reverse the situation. Put “Jacques Dupont” (the equivalent of “John Doe”) in a small town in the U.S. whose inhabitants never expect to get to France. What Jacques does, what he says, how polite he is and how he tries to fit into the local scene would condition the entire town's reaction to the French people.

Here in France YOU are America. You are responsible for what the average Frenchman thinks about America. It is vital to our country's welfare for our people to live together in harmony with our allies in NATO. You can do much by your conduct to cause “Jacques Dupont” to understand you and the American ideal and way of life.

FRENCH CUSTOMS

You will find many customs in France, which will differ from our own. Have no doubts – many American customs are just as puzzling to a foreigner when he visits the States.

Part of the enjoyment and education of living abroad is being able to observe and share ways of life different than ours.

Come to France with an open mind. Accept what you find, observe and enjoy it. But remember this is the Frenchman's France, you are the guest.

FRENCH HISTORY

History has more importance in every-day living in Europe than it has at home. Americans coming to Europe must remember that any nation is proud of its past, especially when the past has been glorious.

France, in its 2,000 years of history, has developed a goodly share of interesting villains and heroes and those of you who take the time to read before coming over, will be rewarded by a greater appreciation of the country and the people among whom you will spend the next few years. Consult your local library for books on modern as well as historical France.

The influences of the French is felt in many aspects of our American life – such of it stemming from descendants of French immigrants to America in the 17th and 18th centuries and others who came to America to help us in our fight for freedom.

Travel and study opportunities are unlimited for those who are interested in history, ancient and modern. Some COMZ soldiers like to visit places where their parents or they themselves served in World War I or World War II. Many visit the monuments, cemeteries and battlegrounds around Verdun, the Meuse-Argonne and Belleau Wood. Others will want to see the site of the D-Day invasion of World War II on the beaches of Normandy.

Whatever your interests, you will find France rich in her own contributions to Western culture and in associations meaningful to Americans.

THE FRENCH FAMILY

French families generally keep very much to themselves. Acceptance into the family circle is a process, which takes a long time in France.

The conventions for acceptance vary greatly from one stratum of society to another but in all phases of French life, it is rare for a family to receive someone whose situation in life is unknown to them.

Different regions of France have different approaches towards the stranger: The North and South are very hospitable, while in the center of France, acquaintances take longer and local customs are not unlike those of the United States.

If you are not greeted with open arms by your neighbors in the town you live in, it's not because you are an American. Its just part of the pattern of living in France.

The French, great hosts that they are, are handicapped today by economic factors. French custom makes it mandatory to honor one's friends by offering them a large and choice meal accompanied by good wines. Many Frenchmen today are just making ends meet. Potluck doesn't exist.

FRENCH CHARACTER

The French appear both expensive and reserved but the contradiction is only a surface one. Outward gestures or demonstrative reactions are very important in daily life but do not commit one to anything.

The French are not a secretive people but they guard their home life and their private life jealously. It just isn't good taste to question people one does not know – even casual acquaintances – about political opinions, religious beliefs, professions, salary, income or their private lives. A Frenchman would resent your intrusion into his private affairs – but he would equally resent a fellow-Frenchman delving into these areas.

The French people don't show their friendship as openly or as quickly as Americans do, but friendship, once given, don't make casual acquaintances easily with Americans but they don't make them easily with fellow Frenchmen either.

The same goes for the use of first names. The French, who are more formal than they appear to be, do not use Christian names with the same abandon as we Americans. This is not anti-American; it's just a European custom.

It is easy for Americans in France to jump to conclusions because we don't always understand customs, which differ from ours. There are many day-to-day things, which we consider important but, in France, these matters may be unimportant to the French.

RESERVE YOUR DECISION. Don't condemn – understand.

TRAVEL

One of the most enjoyable phases of your overseas tour of duty is the opportunity you have to travel; to see new places, sample new foods, meet interesting people and enjoy the wonders that Europe has to offer.

France has myriad attractions, which can entice the most demanding sightseer. Every American installation in France is surrounded by, or near, picturesque beauty and interest.

Paris, the capital of France, has a well-known wealth of attractions such as the Arch of Triumph; the Louvre, the largest art museum in the world, the soaring Eiffel Tower; historical Notre Dame and the renowned Avenue des Champs Elysees. Paris is a world-famed amusement city of restaurants and nightclubs; it is also a city of beauty and serenity.

A few kilometers from Paris is Versailles; the majestic palace of Louis XIV, with marble fountains and lovely gardens. Fontainebleau, located southeast of Paris, is a chateau that has served, among other things, as a winter hunting resort for French kings.

The Loire Valley, which stretches from Nantes to Orleans, is land rich in beauty and historical background. It was there that Saint Joan of Arc was proclaimed “Maid of Orleans” for rallying her people and driving the British out of Orleans, the first large French city to be liberated in the Hundred Years War. Castles and chateaux, along the banks of the river Loire and in the surrounding country, stand as eloquent witnesses to the greatness of old France.

The forests of Ardennes; the hills of Picardy; the drained marches of Flanders; the vineyards of Champagne; Verdun, scene of many battles in many wars and fulcrum of World War I – these and many other places are found in the northeast section of France.

Somewhat more distant from most COMZ installations but still within visiting distance is the Riviera on the Mediterranean coast of France where swimming, sunbathing and deep-sea fishing can be enjoyed. The different French mountain ranges offer the winter sports enthusiast skiing, ice skating and breathtaking scenery. In the northwest is the province of Normandy, lush and green, where rusty skeletons of ships that stirred the English Channel on D-Day, still stand open to the sky. Not far away may be found the strangely beautiful Mont Saint Michel, and Rouen, the ancient city where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake.

Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, England and other interesting countries are readily accessible without expensive transportation costs or traveling great distances.

Keep in mind always that although your main reason for coming to COMZ is national defense, you are also given a magnificent opportunity to visit and live in places that most Americans have read about and longed to know. Yours for the taking is travel beyond the dreams of most Americans. You can explore large and fascinating areas at leisure, enjoying rich and meaningful contact with peoples who have provided our own land with much of its finest heritage.

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING

France is roughly on the same latitude as the Northern United States. However, the weather is usually somewhat warmer because of the proximity of the Gulf Stream. Except for the summer this country has a climate similar to that of New York City.

Year around, clothing should be mainly of the warmer variety, except for the months of July and August. Hot spells are unusual, and last for a few days only.

Good rainwear is essential. The further east you go the less temperate the winters.

Military personnel may normally wear civilian clothing on off-duty time.

Dress in France (in all Europe) is more conservative than in the United States. Bizarre clothes, gaudy colors, slacks and shorts for women just aren't worn, except at resorts and beaches.

NOTE: SERVICES PROVIDED FOR MILITARY AND DEPENDENTS ARE NOT REPRODUCED, AS THERE IS NO HISTORICAL VALUE.

**HEADQUARTERS
US ARMY COMMUNICATIONS ZONE, EUROPE
APO 58, US Forces, 1 March 1963**

1. USACOMZEUR Pamphlet 355-12 is published for the personal information and guidance of all personnel newly assigned to U.S. Army Communications Zone, Europe who are stationed in France.

2. Previous editions of this pamphlet are superseded.

(AEZIN, Orleans Mil 8056)

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

**C. F. TANK
Brigadier General, GS
Chief of Staff**

s/Neil M. Matzger
**NEIL M. MATZGER
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General**

DISTRIBUTION:

**1500 – 4th Log Comd
1000 – OAC
500 – SACCZ
500 – USA PAC
500 – USA PDC
500 – 1st Sig Gp
500 – 37th TC (MT)
500 – 819th Hosp Cen
2000 – USA POE, N.Y.
1000 – USA Repl Stn, Ft Dix, N.J.
1500 – McGuire AFB, N.J.
1000 – USA TTC (Atlantic)
1000 - Info**

ⁱ Transcribed and presented from an original document submitted by a member of the 97th EBC by Larry L. Castleman, MAJ (Ret.), United States Army and former member of the 97th.