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The American Legion in Paris

As we leave the World War I Centennial events behind us, it is worth reflecting on the aftermath of the war. One enduring legacy has been the creation of the American Legion. As thousands of impatient soldiers waited in France to be sent home, then LTC Ted Roosevelt suggested the forming of a veterans organization to help stem declining morale. The first caucus was held in Paris from 15-17 March 1919, and is remembered today by a bronze plaque on the building where it was held at 14 rue Ernest-Psichari in the 7th arrondissement. Pershing Hall, at 49 rue Pierre Charron in the 8th

arrondissement, was dedicated as a WWI memorial in October 1929 and served as the Legion's Paris Headquarters until 1991, except during the war years of 1940-1945. Today it is a luxury hotel that retains many of the WWI artifacts in its common areas. A final Legion site is their mausoleum in the New Cemetery of Neuilly-sur-Seine. The city of Neuilly donated the plot in 1937 and it has been accepting burials of expatriate legionnaires since April 1939. Paris Post 1 will celebrate the centennial of their creation on 13 December at an event in Paris.



Roosevelt's Cane on D-Day



Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr., the son of President Theodore Roosevelt, is well known for directing the American troops during the Normandy landings of World War II. Roosevelt, who was injured in World War I, and afterwards walked with a cane; a cane that gained fame after Henry Fonda's performance in *The Longest Day*. Elizabeth Riemann, a teacher near Columbus Ohio, knew that her grandmother held onto an old wooden cane all her life, but no one in the family understood the importance of it; she claims that her father once tried to burn the cane for firewood. But upon doing some research into her family history, Ms. Riemann discovered documents that revealed a close friendship between her great uncle, who fought in WWII, and General Roosevelt. She learned that the old wooden cane her family had kept in their basement for so long, was actually that of General Theodore Roosevelt Jr. Ms. Riemann contacted the Utah Beach

Museum in Normandy to donate the cane, so that it could be memorialized near General Roosevelt's burial place at the American Normandy cemetery. But when plans to get Ms. Riemann to Normandy went awry, the Utah Beach Museum contacted the American War Memorials Overseas Foundation who were all too happy to help and to retrieve her. Ms. Riemann arrived carrying the cane and smiling; she was proud to tell the story of her great-uncle and General Roosevelt, and happy that it was returning to its rightful home. Thanks to the help of Ms. Riemann, the Utah Beach Museum, and American War Memorial Overseas, the cane will soon be on display at the Utah Beach Museum.