

The Contract
("Le Contract")

The contract in the Legion is commonly thought to be for a fixed five years. In actual fact there is a probationary six-month period. If the Legion decides that you are not suitable to be a Legionnaire then you will be discharged. Likewise, you too have a choice, but not until the end of the six-month period. If at the end of the six months you no longer wish to be in the Legion you have the option to leave. At the end of the six months the Legion has the option, to add a further six-month probationary period to the contract.

At the end of the 4 months training you will be asked which regiment you would like to join it is at this point that you have the option to leave the Legion, which will take a least five weeks at Aubagne before you are released.

The contract will be translated into your native language. You will be told that the contract is for five years and handed the paper to sign. The contract is written in French. You do however have the option to leave at any time during your first three weeks at Aubagne without obligation. The Legion will normally donate F500 towards any travel expenses to get you home. Below is a translated example of what will be presented before you when you sign at the end of the three weeks selection period:

If you feel that the French Foreign Legion way of life is for you; further contracts can be signed with the Legion after the initial five years. These can be for either six months, one year, eighteen months, two years, three years, four years or five years. Whether or not the Legion accepts you for further service is dependent on your conduct during the previous years.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please note that the contract below was correct at the time it was issued to this database on the 30th March 2000. This is not the format of the contract; we have stated it here for wording only. The Names and signing dates are fictional.

ACT OF ENGAGEMENT
in the name of (1) Hampson Denis
as a foreigner in the Foreign Legion

In the year nineteen hundred and ninety nine, the first of January at 1100Hrs, presenting himself before us was (2):

1. Mr HAMPSON Denis aged: 21 years professional in the trade of: builder living in Bromley District of Kent in the Country (3) Great Britain. Son of (1)

Steven and of (1) Jane nee Brown living in Liverpool.

Hair: Blonde blue Eyes: Blonde Eyebrows: Lightly joined Chin: Shape Nose: Convex Teeth: CM80% Face: Oval Additional Features: Scar l. arm, L. Leg Height: 1m 89 Weight: 94Kgs Any additional marks: Tattoo l. upper arm

Who has declared his wish to serve as a foreigner in the Foreign Legion, and to this effect has presented us with l. A certificate dated on this day 18.04. 00 by (5) the French Army Doctor Du BOSK, Doctor in charge of the 1 ere RE, Aubagne and certifies that the applicant suffers no disability and has reached all the physical and height requirements for service in the Foreign Legion.

2. His birth certificate and proof of identity (3) certifying that he was born on 22.09.69 in Liverpool (GREAT BRITAIN) and is of British Nationality.
3. Authorization have been received from his legal representative (6).
4. (7) After having verified the documents presented before us, he has read article (8) 6,7 and 13 on Decree No. 77-789 as on 1st July 1977 relates to foreign military personnel.

The applicant has been informed that:

1. His services are effective as of the date of his signing this present contract.
2. The present contract carries a probationary period of six months eventually renewable one time (une fois) by the military authorities. The probationary period takes effect from the date of signature on this present contract.

THIS CONTRACT DOES NOT BECOME DEFINITIVE UNTIL THE END OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

3. During the initial probationary period the contract can be terminated:
4. Either at the request of the recruit as agreed by the military authorities for reasons of a personal or social nature or as a result of serious difficulties in adapting to the Foreign Legion during the first four months of service. In this case the military authorities must have notified the final decision before the end of the probationary period.

Or at any time, by the military authorities because of: - a pre-existing condition prior to engagement. - an inability to adjust to work which the job entails or to serve in the ranks of the Foreign Legion. - an inability to adjust to a military way of life.

During the renewed probationary period this contract can be terminated by the military authorities for reasons of unsuitability for work or any inability to adjust to a military way of life.

5. At any time during the service the contract can be terminated according to the

conditions laid down in article 32 of FLM no. 2500/DEF/PMAT/EG/B as modified on 4 July 1978 - notably: - on the request of the recruit for reasons of a justifiable and urgent nature, the details of which have occurred since the date on which the contract was signed:

By reason of physical inability, by the military authorities regarding insufficient Professionalism or as a disciplinary measure.

Considering these details the candidate has agreed to serve with honour and faithfulness for a period of five Years as of this day and undertakes in the course of this Contract not to take advantage of French services or Qualifications previously held.

The recruit has promised equally to serve within the ranks of the Foreign Legion wherever the government might deem it necessary to send him, and after having read the present act has enjoined his signature;

Recruit's signature.

Signature Of the administration Officer

Signature Of the French Army or the Deputy Administrator.

Probationary period renewable on for a period of six months starting from the date of confirmation as Decided by the Commanding Officer of the Foreign Legion.

Contract: annulled - terminated - cancelled (3) - as decided

By (9) on 2000 Contract became effective on 2000 (3)

Signature Of ChiefAdministration Officer for the French Army or the Deputy Administrator.

(1) Name and surname of recruit.

(2) Name of the commissioner of army ground forces or his acting local representative.

- (3) Delete as appropriate.
- (4) Once the details are known.
- (5) Name rank and position of the officer signing the contract.
- (6) If the recruit is less than 18 years old.
- (7) If the recruit is French and is not yet satisfied of his legal obligations, the ministry authorises engagement under a changed name.
- (8) If the recruit does not speak French, he will be given a reading in his language on the clauses in this act.
- (9) Indicate the reason.

The Guard Duty "Le Garde"

A Legionnaire on guard duty is a very impressive sight, which requires intensive preparation, known as "Le Garde", and is a privileged position of responsibility. A Legionnaire on guard duty is the barracks front line protection under the direction of a Sergeant ("Chef De Poste") and the Caporal du Jour. A Legionnaire is armed with a FAMAS and has live rounds in the magazine. There is also the "Force d'Intervention Rapide", on guard at all times.

"Le Garde" consists of six Legionnaires, a Caporal and a Sergeant along with a buglar ("Clairon"). The guard duty is for 24 hours, which commences at 6.00am with a ceremonial changeover, and finishes at 6.00am the following morning. A Legionnaire will be on guard for 2 hours on 4 hours off. Duties include the raising and lowering the flag on the Place D'arme at the same time as the "Clairon".

Preparation is very important; "Tenue de Garde" is worn, which in the summer means fifteen creases in the shirt. If in the winter then the brown jacket and trousers are worn, the "Epauettes de Tradition" are worn on the shoulder along with the blue waistband ("Centurion Bleu") which is worn underneath the combat belt on all guard duties. (The music wears a white belt). At 8pm all those on guard duty change into "Tenue de Combat".

Health

There are some concerns about health before a new recruit may consider joining.

Listed below are the most popular questions asked about health:

Fitness:	As a Legionnaire, he must be physically fit.
Glasses / Vision:	Are permitted within the Legion, however depending on one's vision will depend on passing selection.
Skin Color:	We all have the same color blood!
Eczema:	There is no recorded information of any new recruit not being selected due to eczema.
Asthma:	This will certainly affect the selection process for a new recruit, if successful, it is highly unlikely that the recruit will be able to join the parachute regiment.
Diabetics:	This may pose a problem when joining, however should a Legionnaire become a diabetic after joining, then there will be no problem.
Color Blindness:	A Legionnaire is not required to fly airplanes, however it is very unlikely that a recruit with color blindness would be able to join the Parachute Regiment.
Tattoos:	Many Legionnaires have tattoos and as long as there not on the face or are of an offensive nature.
Drugs:	Recruits are tested for drugs, if a Legionnaire is caught with drugs, then he will pay the price.
Smoking:	35% of Legionnaires smoke
Height:	There are no recorded height restrictions

Leave/Holidays ("La Permission")

Nearly a year will have past before a Legionnaire can experience any real permission. If however a Legionnaire is stationed at the 2nd REP, in Calvi, then during their first year of service they will not be permitted to leave the island.

There is no leave at Christmas ("Noel") 25th December and "Camerone" 30th April, for any serving rank of the Legion.

A Legionnaire may travel within France on his Legion ID Card ("Carte D'Identite"), officially it is not permitted for a Legionnaire to leave France within the first three years of the contract.

Leave pass ("Titre de Permission"), This is the only time a Legionnaire is permitted leave the barracks in civilian clothing. An address in France must be given or that of "Fort De Nogent" in Paris or "Malmouse". Both "Fort De Nogent" and "Malmouse" permit Legionnaires to stay as guests, which costs around 15 Francs per night, food and wine is free.

A major benefit when on leave in the Legion is the discount available on the French trains (SNCF) to which all Legionnaires are entitled to a seventy five per cent discount on all rail fares in France on showing an ID card.

In the 1st year of service a Legionnaire is entitled to 15 days leave, 2nd year of service 20 days, 3rd year of service 25 days, more than 3 years service 45 days.

Should a Legionnaire return late from his permission then there is a punishment of the statutory ten days in prison.

Learning French

In recent years the Legion has built French lessons into its basic training regime, noting that with modern weapons and systems, it is essential that orders be instantly understood. The Legion uses a very simple system, they show you pictures, making the recruit repeat it until he gets it right. The English speaking are usually paired with a French speaking recruit known as a "Francophone" who will help explain the contract and to complete the forms during the first few weeks at Aubagne. The Interviews at Aubagne with the BSLE ("Gestapo") will be carried out with someone present who speaks your language.

Legion Rules

1. It is strictly forbidden for a Legionnaire to have a bank account.
2. Marriage is only permitted when the rank of Sergeant is achieved, or after 9 years service.
3. A Legionnaire is not permitted to live off the barracks.
4. A Legionnaire may not own a car or a motorbike. (This does not apply to Caporaux chefs, Sergeants and or the ranks above).
5. A Legionnaire is not permitted to leave the barracks ("Quartier") in civilian clothing except when going on "Permission".
6. Should a Legionnaire be granted leave in the evening then he must return to the barracks by 6.am the morning after or he will receive the statutory 10 days in prison.
7. Legionnaires are addressed by their Surnames not their Christian names.
8. A Legionnaire with less than 3 year's service is not permitted to leave the country during the permission. A Legionnaire stationed at the 2nd REP at Calvi, Corsica, is not permitted to leave the island for the first year (and first tour) of service, this is a regimental tradition.

Pioneers

On ceremonial duties, the pioneers wear a "buffalo hide" apron and carry felling axes. All pioneers must wear a beard and must obtain permission to remove them. The Pioneers form the major part of CCSR stationed at the Legion's Headquarters at Aubagne and are the biggest pioneer section throughout the Legion, which comprises of 3 Sous Officers and 36 Pioneers, all regiments have a pioneer section. On the right upper arm of the "Tenue" a pioneer will wear crossed axes motif on the ecusson. There is also a company of Pioneers at the 6eme REG, now known as 1ere REG/2nd REG.

Uniforms ("La Tenue")

Every Day Uniform	La Tenue De Combat Vert.
Uniform of Barracks	Tenue De Sortie.
Parade Uniform (and Ceremonial)	Tenue De Parade.
Guard Duty	Tenue De Garde.

Sport's Uniform
Winter Uniform

Tenue De Sport
Tenue D'Hiver

Please note that the Legion's Band Parade Uniform is slightly different from the Ceremonial Legionnaire's uniform, where by the Band wears a white belt, not a green combat belt.

The Green Beret

Most Armed Forces around the world issue a beret of some kind after passing a period of training. The Legion however, will issue a beret from the second week at Aubagne, and after the successful completion of selection with the Legion's Seven Flames and Grenada insignia. The Kepi is what must be earned.

Blue Waist Sash

As early as 1882, a broad sash was worn around the waist beneath the clothing as a protection against stomach ailments. Gradually, blue came the established color, and the blue waist-sash (known as the "Centurion Bleu"), now worn over the tunic or greatcoat, became another distinctive item of the Legion uniform.

Epaulettes

Until 1868, the Legion wore the same epaulettes as the line infantry, red for grenadiers, pale yellow for riflemen.

In 1868, the Legion adopted the epaulettes (known as the "Epaulettes de Tradition") with green shoulder strap and red fringe that are still worn today.

Abolished between 1884 and 1887 and again in 1915, the epaulettes were restored by General Rollet in 1930, since when they have been jealously preserved while most other units have discarded them. The rank of Legionnaires, NCO's and Officers is now shown on the Epaulettes.

The Green Tie

Regulation wear of youth camp stocks discovered by RMLE in 1945.

A Typical Legion Day

06h00	Section assembles for morning Appel in PT Kit. "Tenue de Sport".
06h15	Breakfast at the "Refectoir for Le Petit

	Dejeuner”.
06h30	Corvet Quartier, picking up cigarette ends, and general rubbish.
07h00	Assembly “Rassemblement” by individual Section’s. Monday’s will be the complete Regiment. Followed by footing (running).
08h30	Shower, change in to combat’s “Tenue Verte”. Commence General Duties for the morning.
12h30	Lunch
14h00	Return to General Duties for the afternoon.
17h00	Evening meal “Repas du soir” (La Soupe).

Did You Know?

Listed below in this section of the database are some facts about the French Foreign Legion.

1. Through its history some 670,000 Legionnaires have served within its ranks, so if you where to take a figure of thirty successful candidates out of every five hundred, which would mean a sox percent success rate then 10833333.00 have tried to join.
2. Legionnaires are addressed by surname only.
3. The "Kepi Blanc" was first seen in public in Paris on the 14th July 1939.
4. The Legion marches at 88 paces per minute.
5. There are no Frenchmen in the Foreign Legion.
6. The most common things associated with the Legion are Beau Geste, Gary Cooper, Laurel & Hardy, Kepi Blanc, the desert.



7. Contrary to common myth, the Legion does not give refuge to criminals, either is the Legion a group of Mercenaries.
8. The hand of Capitaine Jean Danjou was lost when his own musket misfired.

Identity

There are no Frenchmen in the Foreign Legion except for Officers. Should a French national (Born in France) wish to join the Legion then they will have their identity changed automatically. Their nationality will be changed to either a French Canadian or a French Swiss or a Belgium National.

Nearly 75% of recruits wish to have their identities changed for one reason or another.

Once a Legionnaire has reached three year's service he may request that he rectify his name (to revert back the original name at the point of joining). A Legionnaire who has gone through this process is permitted to wear any foreign medals from previous military service. He will also be granted permission to leave the country during permission.

("La Permission")

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Miscellaneous Information

A Sorry nothing listed under A.

B Banners: Banners may be placed on the site for a monthly advertisement fee, please use the information request page.

Beds: In the Legion the bed is stripped every day and the blankets folded to an exact size and placed one on top of another. These will sit at the end of the bed with the top cover ("Couverture") underneath. The sheets are folded and rolled in an exact manner to form a tube. These are

then laid diagonally across each other on top of the blankets to form a cross.

Beer: Lager is served in half-pints in France and is referred to as "Demi" or "Pression".

- C Commanding Officers: A list of all Regimental Commanding Officers is available from 1831 to date via our information request page.

Completion of Service: A Legionnaire who completes his contract will receive the "Certifiat De Bonne Conduite", along with other documents.

- D Sorry nothing listed under D.

- E Sorry nothing listed under E.

- F Food: The Legion is hard - but food is for sure ("c'est Dur - Mais Gamelle c'est sur"). Legion food varies considerably from quartier to quartier (camp to camp). In some, the food is of an exceptionally high standard. At Castelnaudary the food is of the highest standard.

Finish Legion Website: [Click here](#)

- G Sorry nothing listed under G.

- H Haircuts: Short round the back and sides and 5mm on top.

- I Sorry nothing listed under I.

- J Sorry nothing listed under J.

- K Sorry nothing listed under K.

- L Sorry nothing listed under L.

- M Military Police: Police Militaire (PM's) are the Legion's Internal Police Force.

N Sorry nothing listed under N.

O Other Legion Organizations:

www.dienbienphu.org
www.legionestranira.org

P Sorry nothing listed under P.

Q Qualifications: Of course it helps to have qualifications in any walk of life, however you still must pass the 4 months training like everyone else.

R Russian Legion Website: [Click here](#)

S Signature Book: is held at Aubagne and is known as the "le Livre d'or".

T Tattoos: Are permitted in the Legion, however not on the face, and the tattoo must not be offensive.

U Sorry nothing listed under U.

V Sorry nothing listed under V.

W Websites: there are currently some 3000 Websites World Wide that mention the French Foreign Legion in one way or another.

Work: Working in the Officers mess ("corvet mess officiers").

Working in the Sergeants and above mess ("corvet mess sous-officiers").

Working in the Legionnaires mess ("Corvet Foyer" or "Corvet Refectoire").

Guard Duty ("Le Garde").

Women: Women currently are not permitted to join the Legion and throughout its history there has been no

women Legionnaires this however one day may change. (The Cavalry's 1st REC "Godmother" the Comtesse Ladislas du Lurart (Known to Legionnaires as "Marraine") is the only honorable woman member of the Legion and holds the rank of Brigadier Chef. Marraine is not permitted to wear a Kepi. There is also a Miss Kepi Blanc, which is held every year.

X Sorry nothing listed under X.

Y Yugoslavia Legion Website: [Click here](#)

Z Sorry nothing listed under Z.

Officers

All Officers of the Legion are graduates of St-Cyr, which is the equivalent of the British Sandhurst. The rank of Officer starts at Major.

The first Commanding Officer of the Legion was: Stoffel, Colonel, 4th May 1831

The database holds information on all Commanding Officers of the Legion from 1831 to 1999, please use our information request page for further details.

Pay ("Lu Paye")

In the first few months of service a recruit will receive a little less than 2000 francs a month. Depending on which regiment and posting his pay will differ from regiment to regiment. A 2nd class Legionnaires average pay is about £550.00 a month (Fr 5,541.00, \$827.00), after completing training. A Corporal salary is Fr6056 a month, and a Corporal Chef is Fr6235. After fifteen years service a Legionnaire will receive a small pension, and after twenty years even higher.

During basic training ("L'Instruction") all pay is paid into a CNE account, who's banker is the Section head ("L'Adjudant de Section"). Whilst under taking the basic training every item is provided by the Legion, from combs, to soap.

The pay during the five-year contract can vary from F500 a month to thousands of Francs per month. Depending upon which Regiment a Legionnaire is posted to and

where it is situated in the world at the time. Length of service and rank will have a strong bearing on the amount of pay.

The first three weeks at Aubagne a new recruit will be paid about 500 Francs per week. During basic training a Legionnaire will receive about F1500 per month. At this stage the pay is the same for everyone regardless of age and military experience.

After the first 5-year contract, a Legionnaire can continue with successive contracts of 6 months, 1 year, or 3 years. A Foreign Legionnaire may ask for French nationality after 3 years of duty and if he owns the Military Certificate. He will also be able to obtain a Resident's card to stay for 10 years in France after 3 years of service.

A Legionnaire in his first year of service would be ranked as a 2eme Classe Legionnaire, being stationed at one of the regiments based in France will pay an average F5, 541.00 per month. On completion of one years service, a Legionnaire 2nd Classe automatically becomes a Legionnaire 1ere Classe Legionnaire. There was a time when the advance in rank was only given to those who had been seen to have progressed in all areas of soldiering, language and attitude. Today it is an automatic advance after one year's service

Should a Legionnaire's first regiment be in Metropole France then the pay would be less than what would be earned at an overseas regiment.

The pay will increase if the Regiment is to be posted overseas for even a few months. And more again if the period extends over six months. The 2eme REP's pay is higher than of those regiments in Metropole France because a parachutist will receive "Jump Pay".

The Legionnaires of the 13th DBLE based in Djibouti, Africa are the highest paid of the Legion. A Legionnaire 2eme Classe in Djibouti will take home about F8000 a month.

During a Legionnaires time in the Legion he will purchase a proportion of his kit. Once the kit has been issued, it is then up to him to maintain or replace it. The kit is bought from the Foyer or from tailor (Maitre Tailor). During the first year of service in particular, when the pay is at its lowest, it can make things very tight.

In addition to this the Legion holds back a proportion of a Legionnaire's pay in an account held by the Legion itself. This account is known throughout the Legion as the CNE. Even during your first four months of basic training there is an amount of pay which is held back from the monthly wage. It is not critical at this stage of training to have money and there rarely, if ever, is the opportunity to spend it. The pay is held back for a good reason however. The money is kept aside for a Legionnaire when he leaves for his first Regiment. Here, he will be expected to buy a pair of trainers in accordance with those worn by that regiment. (Each Regiment tends to wear a different type of trainers to the other). There will be other items of equipment and kit, which

must be purchased; badges, a spare Kepi, etc. This money will be hand back before arriving at his Regiment to which he is posted.

Once at the Regiment a small amount is kept back. When on leave (Permission), some of the money is kept back as to support him, should he return from permission having spent everything. From time to time, a proportion of this money can be taken out of the CNE, with the approval of the "Capitaine du Compagnie".

Prison ("La Vie En Tolle")

The Legion operates a Prison like any other Armed Force. What is known a "Tolle" or Tole", there are many reasons as to why a Legionnaire may be sent to prison, the most common are: - Disciplinary actions against a senior, AWOL, or even deserters, which the time spent in prison on any offence is added to the time to be served.

If a Legionnaire decides to desert, for the first two days he is "Absent". After seven days of being absence a Legionnaire would be declared a "Deserteur". There is a standard sentence of 40 days. (Assuming a Legionnaire has not deserted whilst at war or on the brink of war, then a Legionnaire could face up to two years in a French civilian jail after serving the forty days in the Legion prison). Should a Legionnaire desert with a weapon, a search will be taken up with the national police being brought in to assist, which will not be pleasant, should the deserter be caught.

The statutory period for a minor offence is a ten days, for more serious offences, the period of time becomes longer, up to a maximum period of forty days. It is the Chef Du Corps, who decides whether or not a Legionnaire should be sent to prison.

The Chef Du Corps may decide that a period of "Consignes" is more of an appropriate form of punishment, which is normally between three and ten days, when extra work ("corvet") duties are allocated after normal working hours, a Legionnaire will be confined to the quartier.

Should the Chef Du Corps decide that a Legionnaire will be send to prison, all personal belongs including the equipment issued by the Legion will be held by the Military Police until the end of the prison term.

During the period in prison, an offender is issued with overalls including a day glow orange waistcoat, along with a forage cap. This identifies a prisoner to everyone on and around the Quartier. All laces from shoes or boots are removed (to prevent an injury).

Every morning there is some form of physical training which may include a five kilometre run with rucksack "Sac a Dos". Most of a prison term is spent undertaking

general maintenance repairs such as gardening, sweeping leaves.

A Legion prison tradition which, is still in-force today is that a Legionnaire's medals are pinned to the door of his cell. Whatever medals a Legionnaire has been awarded during his service, the inspecting officer must also have been awarded to the same medals. An example if the medal is for valour such as the "Legion D'Honneur" then the inspecting officer must also hold that medal. A prisoner's day commences at 5.00am and finishes at 8.00pm and whilst serving his prison term a Legionnaire will work very hard. Prisoners are not permitted to smoke.

French Army	British Army	US Army
Marechal de France	Field Marshal	General of the Army
General d'Armee	General	General
General De Corps d'Armee	Lieutenant General	Lieutenant General
General de Division	Major General	Major General
General de Brigade	Brigadier	Brigadier General
Colonel	Colonel	Colonel
Lieutenant-Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel
Commandant	Major	Major
Capitaine	Captain	Captain
Lieutenant	Lieutenant	First Lieutenant
Sous-Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant
Aspirant	-	-
Major	-	-
Adjudant-Chef	Warrant Officer I	Chief Warrant Officer
Adjudant	Warrant Officer II	Warrant Officer Junior Grade
Sergent-Major (Obsolete)	-	First Sergeant
Sergent-Chef	Staff Sergeant	Master sergeant
-	-	Sergeant First Class
Sergent	Sergeant	Sergeant
Caporal-Chef*	-	-
Cavalry=Brigadier Chef		
Caporal	Corporal	Corporal

Legionnaire de 1re Classe after one years service	Lance Corporal	Private First Class
Legionnaire de 2em Classe after presentation of the Kepi Blanc)	Private	Private
Engage Volontaire	Recruit	Recruit

* Caporal Chef, is a rank that is particular to the French Forces. It is a unique rank where as the soldier can progress no further in the rank structure once he has reached the position of Caporal Chef. Many Legionnaires wish to proceed in this direction, however some prefer to wait until they are deemed ready for the Sergeants course. If a Caporal Chef later decides that he wishes to progress further then he will revert back to the lower rank of Caporal and then re continue. The rank of Caporal Chef is only achieved with at least eight to ten years' service.

(All Officers of the Legion are graduates of St-Cyr).

The Legion's Service Number is known as the "Matricule", and has 6 digits.

Originally the "Matricule number was 3 digits and then around 1935 became four digits, and was changed to 6 digits in the late 1940's.

Regiment Formation

The Regimental formation below details the structure of a Legion Regiment; we have used the most popular regiment (2eme REP) as an example:

A typical Legion regiment would consist of Six Companies 2eme REP.

- One Compagnie de Commandement et des services (CCS)
- One Compagnie d'eclairage et d'appuis(CEA)
- Four Compagnies de Combat Known as the 1st (Premiere), 2nd (Deuxieme), 3rd (Troisieme) and 4th (Quatrieme) Compagnies de Combat, of which each compagnie consists of four "Sections" of approximately forty to forty six men divided into four "Groupes" of ten or more Legionnaires.
 - 1er Compagnie: The Premiere Compagnie specialises in anti tank roles, fighting at night, in built up areas and combating snipers.
 - 2eme Compagnie: The Deuxieme Compagnie specialises in mountain and arctic warfare and in crossing obstacles and clearance problems.
 - 3eme Compagnie: The Troisieme Compagnie works in the area of amphibious ops and all the techniques employed in that area of

soldiering.

- 4eme Compagnie: The Quatrieme Compagnie concerns itself with clandestine type operations such as explosives, demolition and sniping.

These specialisations are not rigid but move with today's military environment, with the introduction of new equipment and tactics learnt through experience on the ground and in combat.

- La Compagnie De Commandement et des services. (CCS)

Supplies the Chef du Corps with the means of regimental command, administration, the running of the regiments services such as the Foyer and the mess and acts as rear party to the camp when the regiment is away.

- La Compagnie d'Eclairage et d'Appui. (CEA)

Comprises of two sections of Milan anti-tank, one section of 20-mm anti-aircraft guns, one section of 81mm and 120mm mortar and a recon section working from Jeeps. Each Legionnaire will under go specialist training in combat tactics at the highest level.

There also exists within the 2eme REP - "Le Groupe de Commandos Parachutistes) formally "Les C.R.A.P ("Les commandos de Recherche et D'action dans le Profondeur").

- Para- Commandos
("Le Groupe de Commando Parachutistes")

These Legionnaires take a prestigious place in the heart of the 2eme REP. They are the elite of the French Foreign Legion and are specialised in all aspects of combat training from amphibious ops to mountain warfare to HALO parachuting (High altitude Low Opening parachuting where oxygen is required to facilitate the jump). An extremely high standard of fitness is a pre-requisite for a position within this unit. (Their title incidentally is due to be changed in the near future).

Company Colour ("Le Foulard") a piece of cloth which, is on the left shoulder. Its colour identifies each Legionnaire as to the company he belongs to. The colours remain the same throughout all of the Legion Regiments and are as follows:

- 1ere Compagnie - Blue.
- 2eme Compagnie - Red.
- 3eme Compagnie - Yellow.
- 4eme Compagnie - Green.

Le Compagnie de Commandement et des Services (CCS) is Grey. Le Compagnie

d'Eclavage et d'Appui (CEA) is Black.

The Regimental Lanyard "La Fourragere", This is a lanyard that is worn on the left shoulder with the "Tenue de Garde", "Tenue de Sortie" and "Tenue de Parade". A different colour represents each different Regiment and with each regimental lanyard is indicates the number of citations won by that particular regiment.

Strength of the Legion

There are no official records of the strength of the Legion available, however since 1831 this has varied between 2700 and 45,000. With a complement of regular solders of about 5000 until 1875, in 1932 there were 33,000 and by 1940 45,000, in total until December 1999 there have been some 670,000 Legionnaires.

Since 1831 the break down of nationalities is as follows:

10,000 Plus	Italy, France, Spain, Poland, Switzerland, Germany.
5000 to 10,000	Russia, Hungary, Greece, Austria, Czech Republic.
1000 to 5000	Great Britain, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Romania, Holland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Portugal.
100 to 1000	USA, Finland, Bulgaria, Algeria, Vietnam, Morocco, Sweden, Tunisia, Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Canada, Lithuania, Norway, Egypt.
20 to 100	85 Counties or more.

Today the spread is:

53.5%	French speaking of which 47% are French.
12.5%	Latin.
11%	German.
75	Anglo-Saxon.
5	Salvac.
11	Others.

Officially there are no Frenchmen in the Legion.

Total Estimated Strength Today = 8,500 Officers, Sous-Officers, NCO's, Legionnaires.

Training

Once the recruit has passed all the appropriate checks at Aubagne where the recruit will receive his kit, the recruit will be transferred to the 4th Regiment Etrangere, Quartier Capitaine Danjou (4th RE - Les Cheminieres). Which was inaugurated on the 15th of November 1986 stationed just outside a town called Castelnaudary.

(The 4th RE was formally at Quartier Lapasset in Castelnaudary, which is still used for NCO training, the Legion has been present at Castelnaudary since 1st September 1977). There are about 350 Recruits at the 4th RE at anyone given time, which make up the four companies. The recruit will also spend some time at what is known as the "farm".

Castelnaudary is known to all Legionnaires as "Castel".

The basic training course, which can last 17 weeks depending on the time of year, and culminates a 60 mile two day hike, fitness tests (pull ups, push ups, rope climbing) marksmanship, learning French, the Legion's history, the Legion's songs, hygiene, kit inspections, running, drill, discipline, firearm's training.

The recruit will be required to run from seven to twenty-one kilometers, a night run of twenty-five kilometers carrying a 33pound backpack, be on guard duty for about 190 hours.

There is very little privacy during training, you can be woken up at anytime, you might be lucky to receive 10 hours sleep in 5 days, the Officer or NCO, will give you things to do that are most unusual, like put all of your fellow recruits kit in a pile, and then give you 10 minutes to have it ready for inspection, unless you have experienced this, then its very difficult to explain.

On arrival at Castelnaudary railway station, where all new Legionnaires are escorted by a Caporaux or Sergent Legion transport will take the new recruits to the barracks (Quartier Capitaine Danjou). Having unloaded all the Green bags (Sacs Moraines) in to the corridor, there is a short briefing given by one of the Caporals.

Basic training is not aimed at producing elite soldiers. It is aimed at bringing the military way of thinking and to start installing some form of military discipline.

The instructors who will train a Legionnaire will consist of four Caporaux's, four Sergeants, a Sergent Chef and a Lieutenant.

Assault Course "La Pits De Combat".

Located eight miles from Castelnaudry. Noted to be one of the most difficult assault courses in the world with a total length of five hundred metres, an internal circuit followed by an external circuit.

Bel Air, The Farm- Bel Air "La ferme"

All recruits at the 4th Regiment whilst at Castelnaudry will attend with their respective sections a three week training period at Bel Air know as "La Ferme", which is situated about 8 miles from Castelnaudry. The purpose is to gain a basic knowledge of compass reading using the stars, field craft (setting up bivouacs, camouflage and concealment, target indication, first aid, fire control orders, patrolling, ambushes), weapons training, physical fitness, French language, singing, drill and marching.

The day commences at about 5am, during the period of training at Bel Air, the recruit will under go a rucksack march "Sac a Dos" covering fifty kilometre's with weapon. The March is covered over three days.

Raid March "Le Raid".

Le Raid is held during the last week of basic training, which commences at Perpignan. This is known as the CTE/00 test. It is a march of 150 kms in three days. A Legionnaire will be tested on voice procedure using a radio known as "Le PPII", fieldcraft, weapon handling, first aid.

This is the longest march undertaken in the Legion today. Should a Legionnaire wish to join 2nd Regiment Etranger du Parachutistes (2REP), which also has a march once a year, crossing the island of Corsica covering a distance of two hundred kilometres.

Near to the end of the training period the now called Legionnaire will have under taken some training on the Pyrenees near a small village called Camurac.

I did it

The Chef De Corps assembles all of those who have completed the training at "La Place D'Arme"; wishing good luck to the successful ones, then its back to Aubagne for regimental selection.

Vehicles

The Legion operates a wide range of vehicles from the Peugeot 305 car used by the

Chef de Corps through small Citroen Mehari liaison vehicles to the 16 ton AMX-10RC armored fighting vehicles which are equipped with 105mm cannon and are totally amphibious. They can travel at fifty miles per hour on the roads and twenty five to thirty two miles per hour on rough terrain.

A large number of general purpose transport vehicles are in use, but the Legion's general purpose vehicle for combat is the Advanced Armored Vehicle (VAB), which is amphibious and is used in numerous versions, all of which are capable of travelling for 625 miles without refueling. Built by Saviem, the troop transport infantry version, for instance, carries a combat group of eleven Legionnaires made up of a crew chief, driver, machine gunner, LRAC gunner, radio operator, sniper and five grenadiers. Standard carried armament is five FAMAS assault rifles, one automatic pistol, one LRAC, an AA52 7.62mm machine gun and an FRF.1 sniper's rifle.

The 1st REC uses the VAB in a version equipped with HOT anti-tank missiles. Specialist vehicles used by other Regiments are jeeps for towing Milan anti-tank rockets and small LOHR tractor units for towing 120mm mortars.

For Reconnaissance the Legion uses VLRs light reconnaissance vehicles, and another important item of equipment used in all theatres is the AML (light machine gun) armored car. Training on the VLR and AML is given by the 1st REC.

Weapons ("Les Armes de la Legion")

Every Legionnaire under goes weapons training at the 4th Regiment. At the end of the training a Legionnaire will be capable of loading and unloading along with making safe the weapon, also being able to dismantle the weapon, clear any stoppages ("Incident de tir"), clean the weapon along with drill movements for use of the weapon on ceremonial duties.

5.56mm. FAMAS Automatic rifle (see also FA MAS)

The FA MAS is a personal general issue arm capable of single, three or continuous shots. Capable of firing live, or blank cartridges. It also fires 500 gram anti tank rounds at 65m. /sec and anti tank grenades direct or indirect. Made of plastic and fiberglass. (Fusil D'Assault, Manufacture de St.Etienne).

Caliber:	5.56mm.
Weight:	4Kg.
Length:	750mm
Overall width:	5.74mm.
Length in case:	45.5mm.
Weight of cartridge:	11.7gr.
Weight of bullet:	3.6gr.
Diameter of bullet:	5.69mm.
Diameter of case at base:	9.90mm.
Velocity at 100m:	860m. /sec.
Velocity at 300m:	648m. /sec.
Initial energy:	174 kgm.
Energy at 100m:	132 kgm.
Energy at 300m:	76 kgm.

7.5mm. Light Machine Gun, Model 1952

A Continuous firing light machine-gun. It has bipod and crutch support.

Caliber:	7.5mm.
Weight:	9.75kg.
Rate of Fire:	780 rounds/minute
Practical firing rate:	200 rounds/minute
Maximum Range:	3200m.
Practical Range:	800m.
Battle Sight:	600m.
Sight	Graduated from 200m. To 2000m.
Magazine Capacity	50 rounds joined together.

LRAC 89mm. (Lance Rocket Anti-Char)

89mm - Lance Rocket Anti-Char (Medium Anti Tank Weapon) the LRAC 89. Accurate up to 400m and can fire up to 130 rockets through its barrel before a replacement is required.

RAC 112mm. (Rocket Anti-Char)

A larger weapon for these same application is the RAC 112mm (Rocket Anti-Char), devastatingly effective up to 500 metres, can only be used once before being

discarded.

Milan Maw

This is a computer controlled wire guided missile system giving a ninety five per cent chance of a direct hit up to 3000 metres.

Le AA52 - "Le Ciquante-Deux".

A belt fed 7.5mm machine gun normally issued one per groupe. It is a fairly inaccurate weapon but is still used in the Legion today. Because of the inaccuracy of the Weapon, it can pepper-spread a large area to the front a useful application in certain scenarios. The weapon Weighs 9.75kgs; it is simple and sturdy in construction, stripping and assembly is not a problem but the weapon is Antiquated. It is supplied with a bipod and sling for carrying.

FRF2

This is the 7.5mm sniper rifle assigned to the Legion. A Bolt action weapon, which is capable of impressive results in the right pair of hands. Fitted with a bipod and different Size butt plates a killing range of 600 metres can be achieved with accuracy. There is normally one Tireur D'elite per groupe. This is not officially a sniper but still a trained sharp shooter. The weapon is fitted with Telescopic sights for daylight use and a night sight may be fitted for use in darkness.

20mm CANON - "Le Canon Vingt".

A heavy machine gun normally mounted on light transport Vehicles that can be used to bring down aircraft. Ammunition comes in the form of armour piercing, Explosive or standard ball. The firer sits in a seat and can change direction by rotating the whole assembly in any Direction at speed by means of a powered motor.

HOT ANTI-CHAK

An optically guided tubular missile system which can be fitted to vehicles. This will penetrate 800 mm of armour and will be effective at ranges up to 4 kms away.

12.7MM BRO G - "Le Douz Sept". (.50 CAL BROWIVHVG)

An automatic machine gun normally mounted on the top of the VAB's capolla. Due to the size of the rounds, great stopping power is available to lie down on an advancing Enemy. This weapon was used considerably during the Gulf war.

