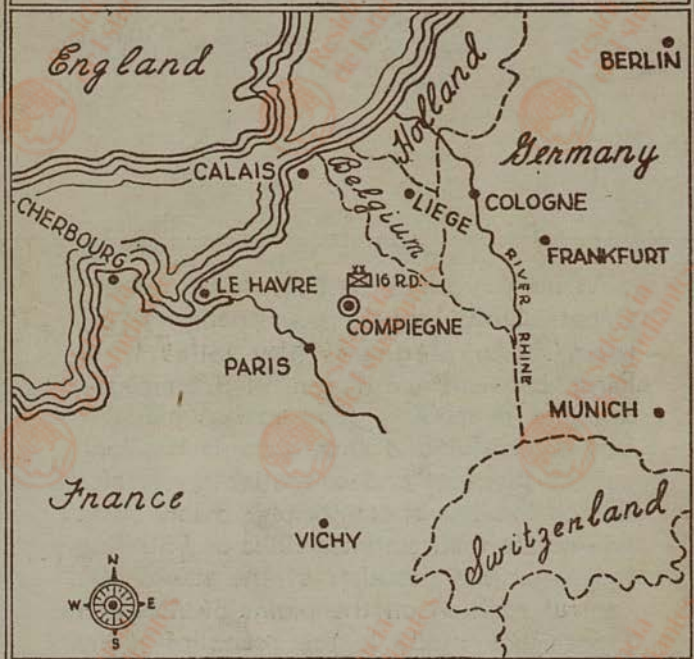


16TH REINFORCEMENT DEPOT COMPIEGNE, FRANCE



INFORMATION & ORIENTATION



While you are in the 16th Reinforcement Depot, Compiègne is your nearest "big town". Compiègne is fifty miles from Paris, between the Forest of Compiègne and the river Oise. Nature has made it both beautiful and strategic. It has long been a pleasant and convenient resort for French families of comfortable means ; you will notice their summer villas and hunting lodges on the outskirts of the town. Its central position on the plains of northern France has made it the scene of many events notable in history. Every period has left a mark on Compiègne, from the Romans to Hitler. As you explore Compiègne and its surroundings, keep an eye open for beautiful and historic things. This leaflet is to help you recognize some of the more important of them.

The people of Compiègne remember proudly that Joan of Arc loved their town. In her time the Kings of England, assisted by a group of French noblemen, were trying to make good a claim to the crown of France ; and Compiègne, always loyal to the King, was the site of several hot battles ; a ruined tower, called today the Tower of Joan of Arc, remains from fortifications in her time. Joan passed through on her way to the coronation of the Dauphin at Reims in 1429 ; a year later she fought her last battle and was captured just across the river, where the town of Margny-les-Compiègne is today. You will see stained glass windows to her in two fine churches, Saint Jacques (which was built and rebuilt during the 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries), where she once took communion, and Saint Antoine (completed in the 16th century, a good example of a late Gothic church) ; as well as her statue opposite the Hôtel de Ville. On its base is recorded her saying, cherished by Compiégnais for generations, "I shall go to see my friends of Compiègne".

Kings of France have been attracted by the town's beauty. They gave generous endowments for buildings like the medieval Abbey of Saint Corneille (its ruins can be seen near the market place ; there is now an air raid shelter, "abri", in the old

crypts and cellars) and the handsome Renaissance town hall, the Hôtel de Ville, built in 1510. Its belfry has an early fourteenth-century bell, said to be the oldest in France ; if you happen to be in the Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville when the hour strikes, you can watch three antique figures kick the bell to strike the hour. Inside the Hôtel de Ville, the Musée Vivienel, a town museum, contains a collection of various "objets d'art", including thirty thousand lead soldiers illustrating different kinds of uniforms; and the Council Chamber has paintings of episodes in the history of the town.

There has been a royal palace in Compiègne since the 17th century. It was redecorated by Louis XV in 1745 for Madame Pompadour and in 1773 for Madame Du Barry. For a short time during the French Revolution the palace was used as a boys' school. Napoleon I overhauled it



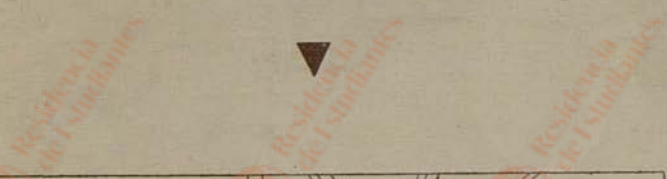
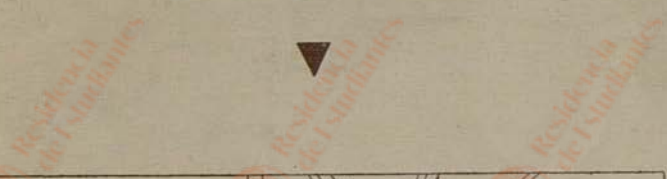
KEY TO MAP OF COMPIEGNE

1. Headquarters, 16th R.D.
2. Post Exchange, 16th R.D.
3. To Royallieu.
4. Race Track.
5. Ruins of Abbey.
6. Hôtel de Ville.
7. Palace.
8. Palace Gardens.
9. Saint Jacques.
10. Saint Antoine.
11. Tower of Joan of Arc.
12. To Place de l'Armistice.
13. Cinema Nouveau.
14. Cinema Pinson.
15. To Vieux-Moulin and Pierrefonds.
16. Protestant Chapel.
17. To Champlieu.
18. A.R.C. Club, Rue de Paris.
19. Depot Chaplain's Office.
20. Catholic Chapel.
21. Railway Station.
22. A.R.C. Club, Rond Royal.

GI RECREATION IN COMPIEGNE

There are two GI movies in Compiègne, the Cinema Nouveau and the Cinema Pinson, which you can find on the map opposite. There are three American Red Cross Clubs for coffee and doughnuts, reading and writing rooms, sightseeing tours, and other recreational activities. One is on the Rue des Domeliers (which is the Rue de Paris, Number 18 on the map; it is closed temporarily); another is on the Rond Royal (Number 22 on the map); and the third is in the suburb of Royallieu at the 96th Battalion (see Number 3 on the map).

Residencia de
los Estudiantes





in 1810 to receive his second bride, Marie Louise. He had the lovely formal gardens designed and planted in the short space of forty days. Marie Louise was an Austrian princess ; tunnels of flowers were constructed and a long avenue was cut through the forest to remind her of views in the gardens of the palace at Schoenbrunn. Most of the mural paintings and furniture you see in the palace date from Napoleon I's time. Under the Third French Republic the palace became a national museum. It saw service as a military headquarters during World War I, when the front was not far from Compiègne and Pétain sat at Napoleon's desk. The treasures that were removed for safety from the Germans in 1940 are being replaced.

Compiègne is famous in recent history. The Armistice of 1918 was signed in a

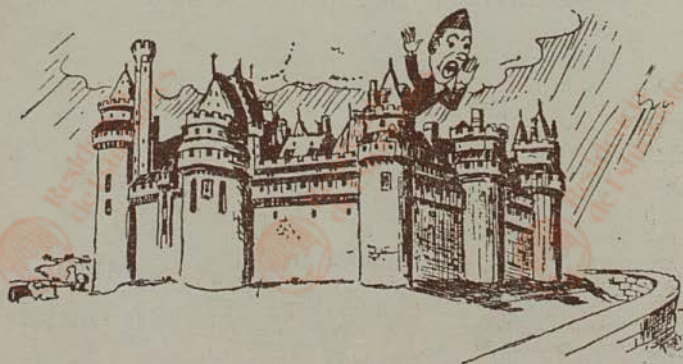
railway car on a siding near the town ; the place later became a French national shrine. In 1940 Hitler forced the French to capitulate on the same spot and in the same car. The Germans obliterated all trace of the little park there, except a statue of Foch, whose military genius they respected. The railway car was taken to Berlin.

The Forest of Compiègne is France's second largest forest, covering more than twenty-eight thousand acres ; there are at least three hundred roads and paths through it. The little villages of Saint-Jean-aux-Bois (3 miles west of Pierrefonds) and Vieux-Moulin (4 miles from Compiègne) are like islands in a green sea. When you go through an ancient archway across a drawbridge to see the 13th-century abbey at Saint-Jean-aux-Bois, you walk back into the Middle Ages. For rustic beauty it's hard to beat the road between Vieux-Moulin and Pierrefonds, a favorite drive of the Empress Eugénie.

At Pierrefonds (8 miles from Compiègne), you can visit one of France's splendid châteaux. It was built in the latter 14th century by Louis, Duke of Orleans, a brother of King Charles VI. Insurgents against royal authority made good use of it as a strong point, until it was demolished in 1617 by command of Cardinal Richelieu,

Louis XIII's powerful minister. It remained in ruins until 1857, when Napoleon III and the Empress Eugénie had it rebuilt as a summer residence. The architect outdid himself to make Pierrefonds the most up-to-date medieval castle in Europe ; Cecil B. DeMille couldn't have done better.

On the forest's southern edge, at Champlieu (6 miles southwest of Pierrefonds), there are Roman ruins (a theater, a bath, and a temple) and a catacomb, where Christians in Roman times held services and buried their dead. At Morienvall (5 miles southwest of Pierrefonds), an 11th-century Romanesque church, almost hidden in a hollow, has pointed arches in the apse ; they are probably the oldest examples in France of the transition to Gothic architecture.



RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN COMPIEGNE

Services

Catholic :

Sunday : 96th Battalion Area at 0900
Race Track at 1100
Carmel Chapel at 1100
Saint Jacques Church at 0700,
0800, 0900, 1000, 1115, Sol-
diers' Mass at 1600

Jewish :

Friday : St. Andrew's Protestant Chapel
at 1930

Sunday : St. Andrew's Protestant Chapel
at 0900

Protestant :

Sunday : St. Andrew's Chapel :
at 1000, Worship
at 1100, Holy Communion
at 1400, Latter Day Saints
at 1500, Christian Science
Service
at 1930, Evening Worship
96th Battalion Area at 1000
and 1900
Race Track at 1000

Chaplains

Catholic : Chaplain Welsh, Chaplain Dug-
gan.

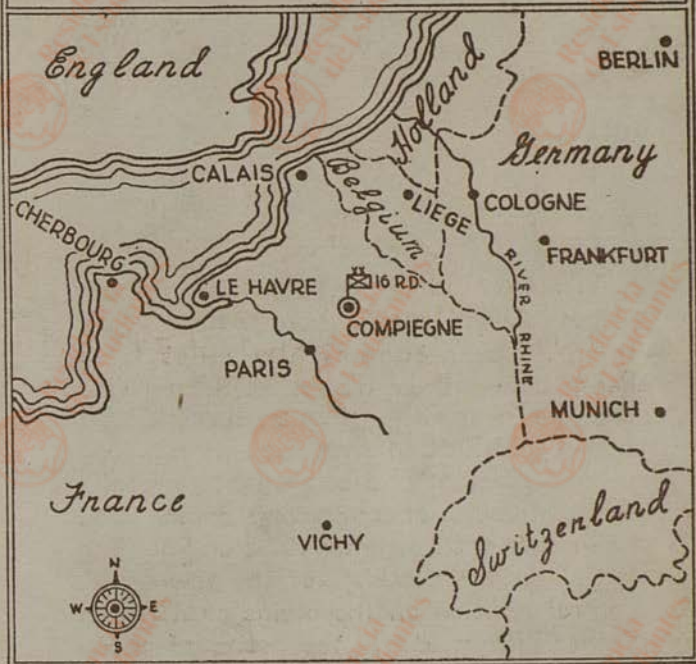
Jewish : Chaplain Decter.

Protestant : Chaplain Powers, Chaplain
Swartz, Chaplain Jones, Chaplain
Grim

Lay Readers : Major Hotaling (Christian
Science)

Sergeant Mitchell (Latter
Day Saints)

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