

Francomania

French Department
Mayo College, Ajmer



CONTENTS

1. Teacher's Desk
2. DELF International Examination
3. Importance of French Language
4. World Famous Brands of France
5. French Speaking Countries
6. French Quiz
7. Former French Establishments in India
8. Indian Soldiers' Contribution for France during First World War
9. 100th year Ceremony of WW I in France attended by Students of Mayo College
10. Le Concours de la Francophonie 2018
11. Apollinaire: The Poet of a New World and Poem
12. Charles Aznavour, the Eternal Singer
13. May 1968 : The Phase Changer
14. Letters written during WWI

French Society



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 BHAVYA SHEORAN SECRETARY	KUBBER BANSAL WEB MASTER SHREYAS JAIN LOGISTICS HEAD HARVEER SINGH LOGISTICS HEAD

CREDITS

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Kunal Kumar

EDITORS:

Mr. Gaurav Kumar

Ms. Priya Wadhwa

ILLUSTRATORS:

Swayam Sahni

Rahul Choudhary

SPECIAL EFFORTS:

Swayam Sahni

Karan Sundararaman

Rahul Choudhary

Kartikey Jandial

SPECIAL THANKS:

Lt Gen Surendra Kulkarni (Retd)

Mr. P K Ranwaka

Col Alankar Bharadwaj (Retd)

Mr. Sanjay Khati

Mr. Léonide Aslanoff

Teacher's Desk



As the Head of French Department I'm very happy to present to you the first ever magazine *Francomania* from French Department. *Francomania* makes an attempt to make everyone aware of the happenings in France and across the globe. It relates facts pertaining to France and Francophone countries. It includes language, history, tourism, culture, fashion, technology, food, linguistic exchanges, and famous personalities (writer, poet, singer etc.)

As a French Language teacher, I connect more with the boys during the outdoor activities, such as Le Concours de la Francophonie, Exchanges and Prize Giving activities which gives me an opportunity to work with my boys from morning to night (and sometime till morning!), this way we create a bond for the life time.

I really appreciate France and French citizen as they never forget the sacrifices rendered by the soldiers during the World War. "Le Devoir de Mémoire" is extremely important and I really salute them for remembering their past and history till date.

I was fortunate enough to attend and witness the Centenary of Commemoration of World War I at Arras in France along with my students. The Centenary is celebrated in various town halls in France. They also remembered the Indian soldiers' contribution during the First World War. A student of Mayo College represented India during the ceremony and even put up the wreath at the memorial.

I always dreamt for a magazine from the French Department, And here, you hold the very first edition in your hands. I would like to dedicate this First Edition of Magazine to all the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the World War and to my brother, Late Devendra Kumar Gupta who was also a French student at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and who guided me to pursue French Language course. I would like to sincerely thank our director, Lt Gen Surendra Kulkarni for his constant guidance and support which has helped putting the French Department flag high. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr Léonide Aslanoff for extending his help to me and to all the French students as well.

Mr Kunal Kumar
Head of Department

Teacher's Desk



On behalf of all the French students and Mr Kunal, I am happy to present this magazine, that I am sure will please everyone in Mayo College who is interested in French language and culture. The purpose of this magazine is to show the diverse aspects of the French culture and language.

A centenary ago, 11th November 1918, the First World War ended and this magazine celebrates that event, showcasing diverse aspects of the war. A group of boys from Mayo went to France in the beginning of November to attend a commemoration of the end of the war, as a tribute to the men, French and Indians, who sacrificed their lives during this war. We decided to write about the contribution of Indian soldiers in the conflict in particular, as it is a fact that is relatively unknown to the mainstream audience in India, as well as in France. In France, 2018 was also the 50th year of the May 1968 Paris riots, therefore, we decided to share some information about this event as well.

As this magazine is dedicated to the French language, we decided to give an important place to this subject itself. The presence of the French language in the world, the countries where it is spoken and its importance as a whole. You can not speak about French language without mentioning its culture in itself. We decided to pay tribute to the songwriter and singer Charles Aznavour who passed away this October and to the poet Apollinaire who fought during WWI and passed away, two days before the end of the war. Other articles also deal with French culture on a broader basis, like the French brands that became famous all around the world.

October 2018 marked a historic visit by the French Ambassador in India, Mr Alexandre Ziegler, who graced Le Concours de la Francophonie event, organized at Mayo College. The magazine showcases few amazing pictures of this success story.

It was a real pleasure to work together with the boys who were so enthusiastic to work for the magazine and to exhibit their passion for the French language, culture and history. I hope you will enjoy the result of this teamwork!

Léonide Aslanoff
French Teacher

DEL F INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATION

The Diplôme d'études en langue française or Diploma in French Studies, commonly known as DELF, is a certification of French-language abilities for non-native speakers of French, administered by France's Ministry of Education. It comprises of four diploma levels, namely A1, A2, B1 and B2. A1 is for the beginners while A2 is for intermediates. B1 and B2 are comparatively for advanced French learners. Each exam includes 4 parts: Writing, Reading, Speaking and Listening. This system of levels is corresponding to the first four levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

DELF is a widely accepted diploma and earns you a credit in almost all the universities around the world. While, it may help you to seek for nationalities of certain francophones (French-Speaking Countries), clearing the B2 level certifies you to be a teacher of French anywhere in the world, including France. As a matter of fact, it is a very prized certification throughout the Globe.

At Mayo College, French students have been actively taking DELF Exams and have performed remarkably well over the years. Currently, Class X French Section has completed A1 level and around 11 boys have also achieved the DELF A2 level with many of them opting for B1 during the summer holidays. Classes IX and VIII are catching up with continuous improvement. All boys, during the French lessons, practice for DELF exams by taking occasional verbal tests and by participating in listening activities apart from reading and writing regularly. To conclude, there is no doubt that within two years, the school will set such a standard that Class IX will be taking A1 and A2 and Class X will finish with B1 with exceptional students opting for B2 level as well.

“ **Donnez le désir d'apprendre et toute méthode sera bonne.** ”

(Give the wish to learn and every method will be the good one)

By Jean-Jacques Rousseau

“ **Je pense donc je suis.** ”

(I think therefore I am)

-By René Descartes

IMPORTANCE OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

French is one of the most wide spoken languages in the world. Here are ten reasons why you should learn French

1. You might need it for your career

About 29 countries in the world speak French. Whatever is your occupation, French can help you communicate with clients, vendors, and employees in other countries. If you work in international business or politics, French is extremely useful. France has renowned International Schools too.



2. If you speak English, it's not that difficult

French and English have shared a big part of their History and still share a big part of their vocabulary. Though French grammar is tricky and the pronunciation is really different than English, proper attention can help you grasp the nuances of the language if you already understand a lot of words of English.

3. It can improve your English

The opposite is also true, if you understand French, you will be able to understand many terms in English, especially some difficult or elegant terms, as those are often taken from French.

4. French is more than just France

Though it would take a lifetime to see everything in France as it is full of natural wonders like les Alpes, les Pyrénées, Mont Blanc, la Seine, etc. There is even more. "Le Monde Francophone" consists of 29 countries including Belgium, Luxembourg, Canada etc.



These French speaking countries are popular tourist destinations and learning French can help you enjoy them to the fullest. French is also spoken in Africa in places like Madagascar, Morocco, Tunisia and Seychelles.

5. Learning French is a stepping stone to other languages

An interesting fact about French is, how many languages it's connected to. If you manage to learn French (which won't be that difficult), you will find it easy to learn many other languages like Portuguese, Spanish and Italian.

6. It's a beautiful language to speak

You may find the accent difficult, which indeed is. Consonants towards the end of words have a tendency to disappear. But by learning it, you would have mastered the language of beauty. As many people around the world consider French to be simply the most beautiful language to speak!

7. It may be the language of the future

A study suggests that approximately 750 million people will speak French by 2050 and it may become the widest spoken language in the world, even ahead of English and Mandarin.

8. You can learn it everywhere

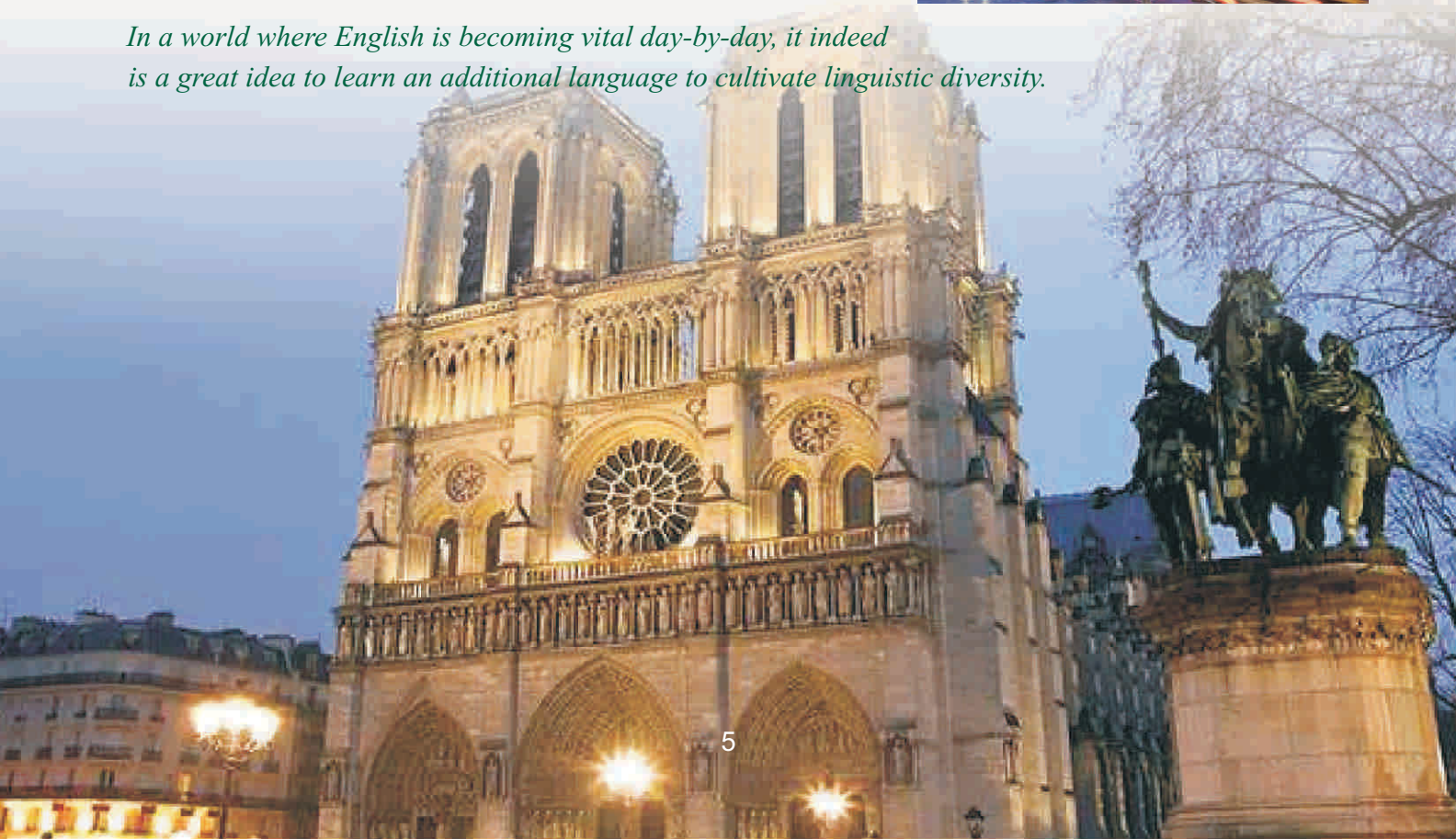
French is taught in the 5 continents across the world! The association "Alliance française" which is promoting French language all around the world is present in 136 countries.

9. It is a language of culture

French language not only gives access to all French Literature, one of the most important in Europe that had a strong impact on world literature, but also to other aspects of the French culture : cinema, songs, comics... There is much to discover.

10. Simply to learn another language!

In a world where English is becoming vital day-by-day, it indeed is a great idea to learn an additional language to cultivate linguistic diversity.



World Famous Brands of France



CHANEL S.A.

Chanel S.A. is a French brand, privately held company owned by Alain Wertheimer and Gérard Wertheimer, grandsons of Pierre Wertheimer, who was an early business partner of the couturier . Chanel S.A. is a high fashion house that specializes only in women's haute couture and ready-to-wear clothes, luxury goods, and fashion.



YVES SAINT LAURENT

also known as Saint Laurent is a French luxury fashion house founded by Yves Saint Laurent and his partner, Pierre Bergé. Founded in 1961, it has been considered one of the world's most prominent fashion houses and is known for its modern and iconic pieces, such as its tuxedo jackets for women.



Hermès International S.A.

Hermès International S.A. or simply Hermès is a French high fashion luxury goods manufacturer established in 1837. It specializes in leather, lifestyle accessories, home furnishings, perfumery, jewelry, watch, etc.



Louis Vuitton Muleteer

Louis Vuitton or shortened to LV, is a French Fashion House and luxury Retail Company founded in 1854 by Louis Vuitton . The label's LV monogram appears on most of its products, ranging from luxury trunks to leather goods.

LACOSTE



Lacoste is a French company, founded in 1933 by tennis player René Lacoste and André Gillier. It sells clothing, footwear, eyewear, leather goods, perfume, towels and watches. The company can be recognized by its green crocodile logo. René Lacoste the company's founder, was nicknamed "the Crocodile" by fans because of his tenacity on the tennis court

AUTOMOBILES ETTORE BUGATTI

Bugatti was a French car manufacturer of high-performance automobiles, founded in 1909 in the then German city of Molsheim, Alsace, by the Italian-born industrial designer Ettore Bugatti. The cars were known for their design, beauty and for their many race victories. Famous Bugattis include the Type 35 Grand Prix cars, the Type 41 "Royale", the Type 57 "Atlantic" and the Type 55 sports car.

The death of Ettore Bugatti in 1947 proved to be the end for the marque, and the death of his son Jean Bugatti in 1939 ensured there was not a successor to lead the factory. No more than about 8,000 cars were made. The company struggled financially, and released one last model in the 1950s, before eventually being purchased for its airplane parts business in 1963. In the 1990s, an Italian entrepreneur revived it as a builder of limited production exclusive sports cars. Today, the name is owned by the Volkswagen Group.



PEUGEOT

Peugeot is a French automotive manufacturer. The family business that preceded the current Peugeot Company was founded in 1810, and manufactured coffee mills and bicycles. On 20 November 1858, Émile Peugeot applied for the lion trademark. Armand Peugeot built the company's first car, an unreliable steam tricycle, in collaboration with Léon Serpollet in 1889; this was followed in 1890 by an internal combustion car with a Panhard-Daimler engine. Due to family discord, Armand Peugeot founded the Société des Automobiles Peugeot, in 1896.



CITROËN

Citroën is a French automobile manufacturer, part of the PSA Peugeot Citroën group since 1976, founded in 1919 by French industrialist André-Gustave Citroën (1878-1935). In 1934, the firm established its reputation for innovative technology with the Traction Avant. This car was the world's first mass-produced front wheel drive car and also one of the first to feature a unitary type body, with no chassis, holding the mechanical components.



Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité



FRENCH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

French has originated from France, and it is of course the language of French culture but it has also become an International language spoken in all the continents. There are around 300 million people able to speak French all over the world (including 66 million in France), it is the fifth most spoken language in the world and one of the official languages of the United Nations. Outside Europe, most of the French speaking countries or regions were former French colonies that have kept the language alive either because they were originally French people like in Quebec for example, or because it was used as a communication language between people speaking different languages and was still used for education after the independence, like in many African countries. A special organisation, called Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, is promoting the use and learning of French all around the world.

BELGIUM



Belgium is known for its Renaissance architecture and as headquarters of the European Union. The country has distinctive regions including Dutch-speaking Flanders to the north, French-speaking Wallonia to the south and a German-speaking community to the east. The capital, Brussels, has ornate guildhalls at Grand-Place and elegant art-nouveau buildings.

CAMEROON



Cameroon is a country of varied terrain and wildlife. Its capital Yaoundé and its biggest city the seaport Douala, are transit points to ecotourism sites as well as Beach resorts like Kirby - near the Chutes de la Lobe waterfalls, which plunge directly into the sea - and Limbe, where the Limbe Wildlife Centre houses rescued primates.

QUEBEC (CANADA)



Québec is a predominantly French-speaking province in eastern Canada with 2 vibrant cities in its south, connected by the Chemin du Roy highway along the Saint Lawrence River. The metropolis Montréal is named after Mt. Royal, the triple-peaked hill at its heart. Dating to 1608, Québec City retains its old colonial core, Place Royale, and historic harbor, Vieux Port, now known for nightlife.

FRANCE



France encompasses medieval cities, alpine villages and Mediterranean beaches. Paris, its capital, is famed for its fashion houses, classical art museums including the Louvre and monuments like the Eiffel Tower. The country is also renowned for its wines and sophisticated cuisine. Lascaux's ancient cave drawings, Lyon's Roman theater and the vast Palace of Versailles attest to its rich history.

HAITI



Haiti is on the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic to its east. Though it's still recovering from a 2010 earthquake, many of Haiti's landmarks dating to the early 19th century remain intact. These include Citadelle la Ferrière, a mountaintop fortress, and the nearby ruins of Sans-Souci Palace, the baroque former royal home of King Henry I.

IVORY COAST



Côte d'Ivoire is an African country with rainforests and a French-colonial legacy. Abidjan on the Atlantic coast, is the country's major urban center. Its modern landmarks include zigguratlike, concrete La Pyramide and St. Paul's Cathedral, a swooping structure tethered to a massive cross. North of the central business district, Banco National Park is a rainforest preserve with hiking trails.

MADAGASCAR



Madagascar is an island nation off the southeast coast of Africa. It's home to thousands of animal species, such as lemurs, found nowhere else, plus rainforests, beaches and reefs. Near the busy capital, Antananarivo, is Ambohimanga, a hillside complex of royal palaces and burial grounds, as well as the "Avenue of the Baobabs," a dirt road lined by massive centuries-old trees.

MALI



Mali, officially the Republic of Mali, is a landlocked country in West Africa, a region geologically identified with the West African Craton. Mali is the eighth-largest country in Africa, with an area of just over 1,240,000 square kilometres. The population of Mali is 18 million. Its capital is Bamako.

SENEGAL



Senegal is a country on Africa's west coast with a rich French colonial heritage and many natural attractions. Dakar, the capital, features the ancient Médina district and esteemed Musée Théodore Monod, displaying African art. Dakar is also known for its nightlife, centered on native mbalax music. Saint-Louis, formerly the capital of French West Africa, has an old town with colonial architecture.

SWITZERLAND



Switzerland is a mountainous Central European country, home to numerous lakes, villages and the high peaks of the Alps. Its cities contain medieval quarters, with landmarks like capital Bern's Zytglogge clock tower and Lucerne's wooden chapel bridge. The country is also known for its ski resorts and hiking trails. Banking and finance are key industries, and Swiss watches and chocolate are world renowned.

TUNISIA



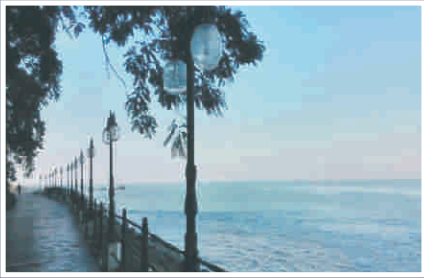
Tunisia is a African country bordering the Mediterranean Sea and Sahara Desert. In the capital, Tunis, the Bardo Museum has archaeological exhibits from Roman mosaics to Islamic art. The city's medina quarter encompasses the massive Al-Zaytuna Mosque and a thriving souk. To the east, the site of ancient Carthage features the Antonine Baths and other ruins, plus artifacts at the Carthage National Museum.

Quiz

1. How do we say "HELLO" in French?
 - a) Bonjour
 - b) Merci
 - c) Buenos dias
 - d) Hallo
2. The Eiffel Tower is located in.....
 - a) Paris
 - b) Germany
 - c) United Kingdom
 - d) Lyon
3. In which continent is Senegal located?
 - a) Asia
 - b) Europe
 - c) Africa
 - d) United States
4. Who is the current President of France?
 - a) Nicolas Sarkozy
 - b) Donald Trump
 - c) Marine Le Pen
 - d) Emmanuel Macron
5. Which of the following is not a color of the French flag?
 - a) Red
 - b) Gold
 - c) Blue
 - d) White
6. In which year was the Eiffel Tower completed?
 - a) 1763
 - b) 1824
 - c) 1889
 - d) 1904
7. Which French King built the Palace of Versailles?
 - a) Louis XIX
 - b) Louis XIV
 - c) Napoleon Bonaparte
 - d) John Elkhoury
8. Who is Astérix le Gaulois?
 - a) A famous French general
 - b) A famous French author
 - c) A famous French wine producer
 - d) A famous French comic book character
9. France has a large car market with several brands. Which brand of cars did not originate from France?
 - a) Dacia
 - b) Peugeot
 - c) Citroën
 - d) Renault
10. What do we call the famous cycle race in France?
 - a) Tour de Eiffel
 - b) Tour de France
 - c) Course cycliste
 - d) Tour de Paris

Answers : 1(A), 2(A), 3(C), 4(D), 5(B), 6(C), 7(A), 8(D), 9(A), 10(A).

FORMER FRENCH ESTABLISHMENTS IN INDIA



MAHE

Mahe, a charming tiny hamlet situated on the Western Coast of India, showcases the influences of the French as well as the culture of Kerala.



PUDUCHERRY

The city is situated in Puducherry district of the union territory, and is surrounded by the state of Tamil Nadu to which it shares most of its culture. It is affectionately known as Pondy



YANAM, PUDUCHERRY

The place is a peaceful beach side escapade which welcomes you with seesawing coconut trees, gushing waves, mall streets which are filled with multi-hued houses, rivers, mangroves, temples and people who greet each other in French.



KARAIKAL, PUDUCHERRY

Karaikal is a major port town of east coast of India and a municipality in Karaikal. Karaikal is a small coastal enclave which was formerly part of French India.



CHANDANNAGAR, WEST BENGAL

The town is an example of how the French influence mixes itself with the local traditions and they together form a beautiful image like the rest of the state.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN SOLDIERS TO FRANCE IN WORLD WAR I

Around 90,000 Indian soldiers were sent to France and Belgium in 1914 to defend the borders of France. They were originally supposed to go to Egypt but their destination was changed when there were not enough troops in France and they called upon Britain for help. So, Britain sent the Indian troops which were least expected by the Europeans - The Indian Corps, was the official name of the Indian troops, who were sent to France. There were two divisions of infantry and two divisions of cavalry. The Infantry divisions consisted of the 3rd Lahore division and the 7th Meerut division, which were ultimately sent to fight in the Middle-East in 1915. The two divisions of cavalry stayed till 1918 and many of them helped till the end. However, they barely fought, as most of the fights took place in the trenches. Then there were the Indian Labor Corps - the Indian workers who volunteered to help the army for payment, as much as rupees 20 per month. These 48,000 volunteers were mostly from North-India. The Indians faced many problems in France. They were sent to fight without modern



weapons and warm clothes. Due to this, their commander sent some soldiers to fight the Turkish in Baghdad. Out of the 90,000 soldiers sent, 8,500 died and 50,000 were wounded. The composition of the Indian Corps was 40% Muslims, 30% Hindus, 19% Sikhs, 10% Gurkhas and 1% others. 50% of the entire Indian corps were from Punjab and the rest were from North-India (Pathans, Rajputs, Garhwalis) and Nepal (Gurkhas). Indians often wrote back to their families. However, most Indians were illiterate and took the help of some literate officer. About 10,000-20,000 letters went to India every week and each letter was checked to avoid leakage of information. The Indians used to stay in farms in the north of France. Since the men had gone to war, the Indians were taken care of, by the French women. The Indians found the women to be quite hardworking, because they also did the work that was done by the men back in India (actually it was because the Frenchmen were at war) Some soldiers also married the French women. The religious Indians were shocked by the fact that the French ate pork. On the other hand, they were impressed by the fertility of their soil. Many memorials and cemeteries have been built to reminisce the sacrifice of these Indians in France, in Neuve-Chapelle, La Chapelette etc. These Indians came and left a mark in this world, which is why even 100 years later, we still remember them and what they did.

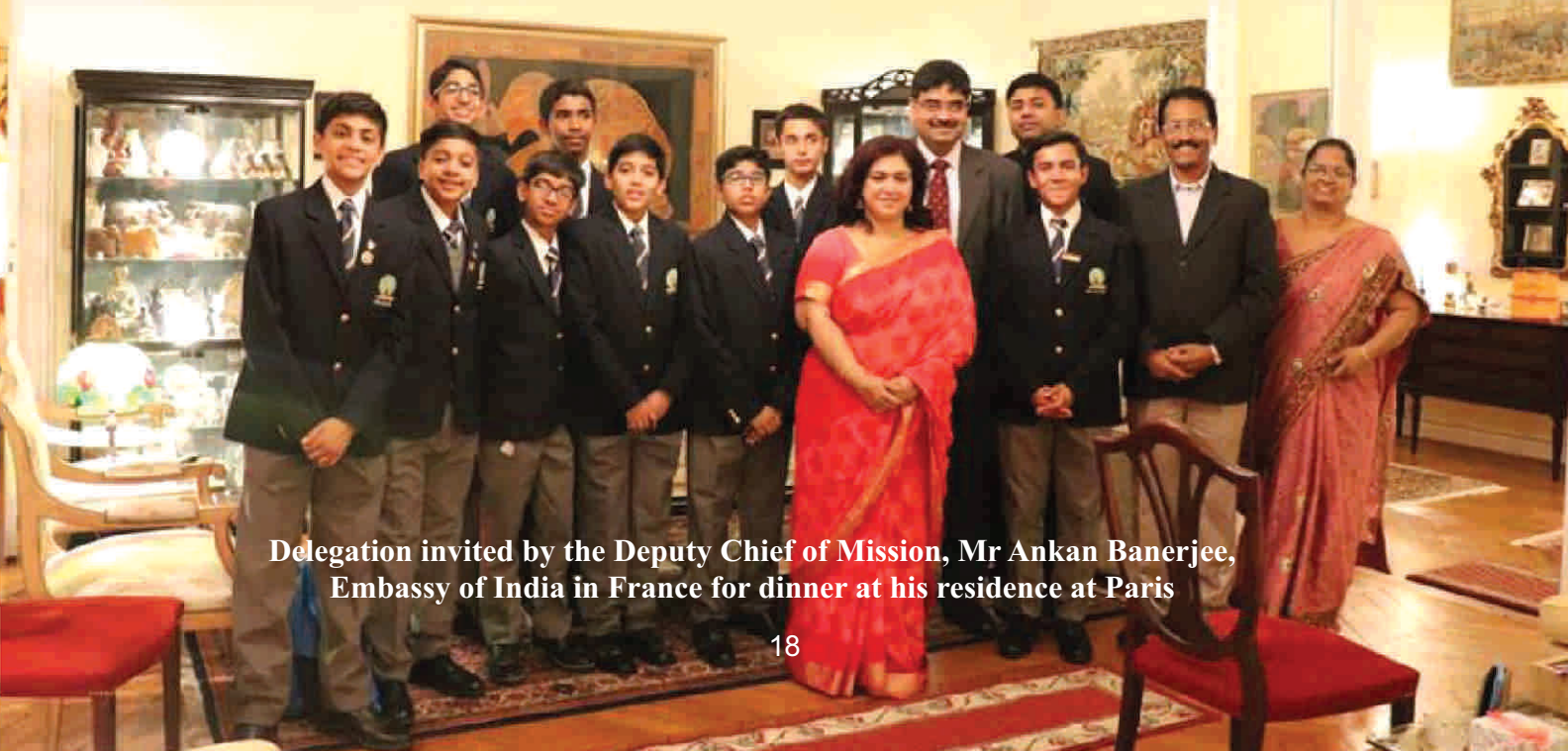


100th YEARS COMMEMORATION CEREMONY OF WWI IN ARRAS, FRANCE ATTENDED BY THE STUDENTS OF MAYO COLLEGE, AJMER

The students went for the World War I commemoration ceremony for the Indian soldiers on 11th November, 2018. They all wore traditional safas and the school uniform to the ceremony and were welcomed by the mayor of Arras, M. Frédéric Leturque, at the ceremony. The ceremony was also attended by M. Fabien Sudry, the Prefect of Pas-de-Calais (the name of the district where the ceremony took place), the Delegational Department of Pas-De-Calais, La Rectrice (Head of the education and universities for the northern region of France), the Canadian Director for veteran affairs in Europe and a few more people. Patriotic songs were played at the ceremony, including India's National Anthem. During the final moments of the ceremony, one of the delegates also went to put a wreath for the soldiers to give tribute to them. This ceremony was attended by the delegates with their correspondents. The ceremony was also commemorated three days before in the school where the exchange took place: Lycée Guy Mollet. About 500-600 students had gathered in the school on 8th Nov



100th Years Commemoration Ceremony of WWI attended by students at British Memorial at Arras, France



Delegation invited by the Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr Ankan Banerjee, Embassy of India in France for dinner at his residence at Paris

2018 from 5 different countries : France, India, New Zealand, Canada and Germany. Others who attended the ceremony included a French survivor from a Nazi extermination camp in WW2, officials from Canada, Education Inspectors from Northern France and the regional Council (Northern Government of France). On this day, people from different nationalities spoke poems, quotes etc. in remembrance of the martyrs of World War 1. The event on 8th (in the school) was covered by 'Radio France' and the event on 11th November, by TF1, BFMTV, France Télévisions (TV Channels), Radio France and newspapers.

Arras Le message de paix de jeunes Indiens lors de la commémoration de l'Armistice

La cérémonie du 11 Novembre s'est déroulée en plusieurs temps, ce dimanche matin. Avec la participation de lycéens venus du Rajasthan aux côtés de leurs homologues français du lycée Guy-Mollet.

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Dix jeunes Indiens du lycée Mayo d'Ajmer, dans le nord du Rajasthan, passent une semaine à Arras chez leurs correspondants du lycée Guy-Mollet. Venu spécialement célébrer le centenaire de la fin de la Grande Guerre, ils ont participé jeudi à une journée de la Paix et déposé une gerbe au mémorial indien de Richebourg.

Ce dimanche, avec leurs homologues du lycée Guy-Mollet, Thierry Larivière, professeur d'anglais, et leur encadrant indien, M. Kumar, ils se sont fait remarquer à la cérémonie arragénoise du 11 Novembre. Au cimetière militaire britannique du Faubourg-d'Amiens, les adolescents ont interprété en français, en hindi, en bengali et en anglais la chanson *Where Have All the Flowers Gone* ? (« Que sont devenues, nos fleurs ? ») parmi d'autres messages de paix devant les autorités françaises, britanniques et canadiennes, les anciens combattants et des dizaines d'écouliers.

Les cérémonies se sont poursuivies au monument aux morts, place Floch, et au pied de la stèle des Héros, devant le beffroi. Un lâcher de pigeons à eu lieu place des Héros devant une colombe de la Paix réalisée par les élèves du lycée Le Caron.



Paying homage to the soldiers

L'Observateur de l'Arrageois

L'Observateur de l'arrageois du 15 novembre 2018

Snippets of French Newspapers

Centenaire : hommage aux soldats de toutes les nationalités

11 NOVEMBRE

Le lycée Guy-Mollet d'Arras a organisé ce jeudi 8 novembre à 17h, un rassemblement commémoratif. 500 élèves et étudiants, de la seconde au bac+3, se sont rassemblés avec une délégation de collégiens indiens du lycée Mayo d'Ajmer (Rajasthan) ainsi que des jeunes canadiens et néo-zélandais. Par ce geste, les élèves voulaient rendre hommage aux soldats de toutes nationalités morts lors du conflit mondial. La cérémonie a débuté par la lecture de témoignages, lettres, articles et poèmes de soldats. Puis le Northern Men Pipe

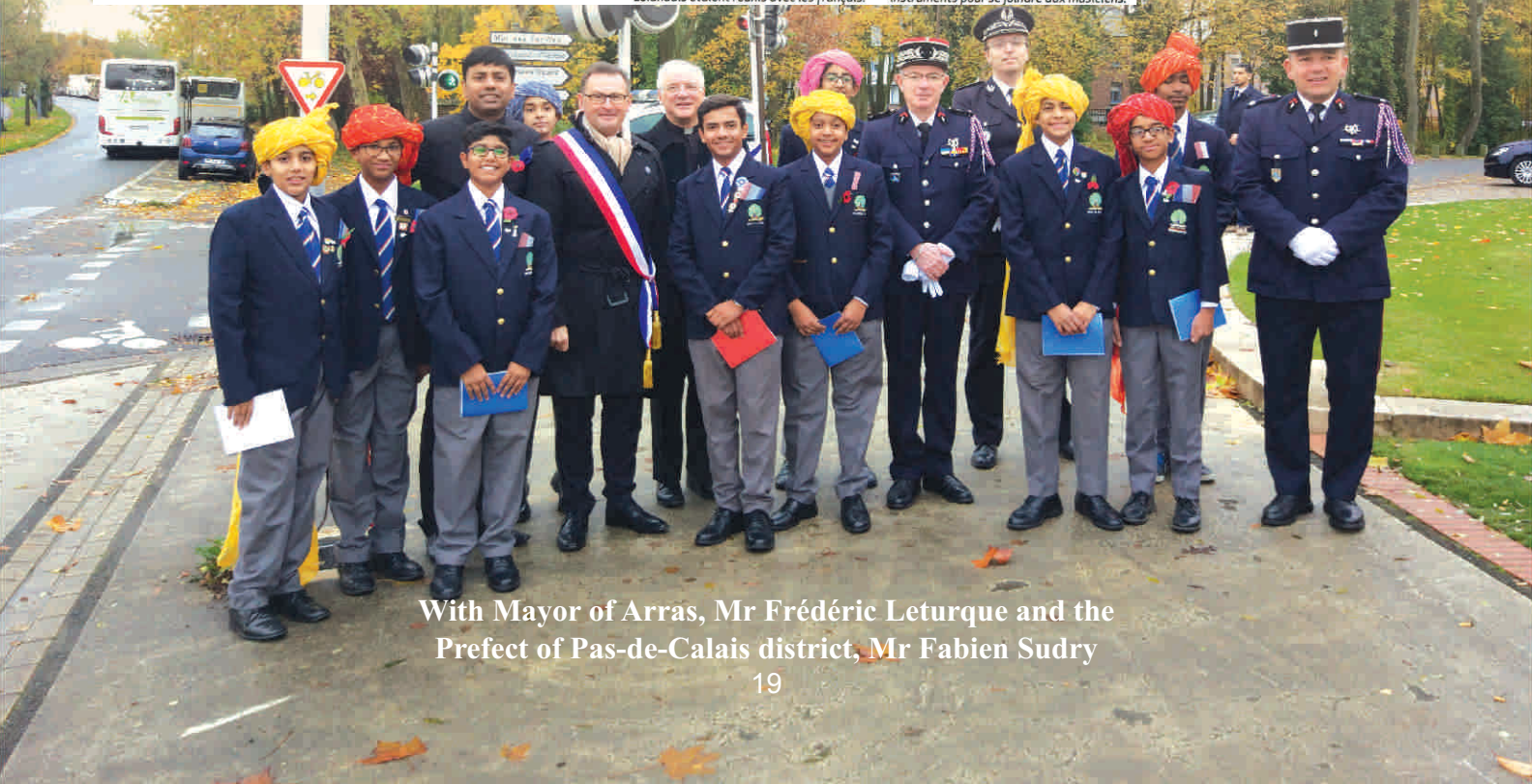
Band a interprété « Amazing Grace ». Aux représentants des associations patriotiques, ont été remises des lettres imaginaires sur papier vieilli, de soldats anglophones, composées par des élèves du lycée, relatant la vie dans les tranchées. Puis la cérémonie s'est poursuivie par la lecture de deux lettres de soldats indiens en français, en anglais et en hindi. Une chanson contre la guerre, rendue célèbre par Marlene Dietrich a ensuite été interprétée en 10 langues par les élèves. La cérémonie s'est terminée par « The Last Post » (sonnerie aux Morts anglaise), deux minutes de silence et « La Marseillaise ».



Des collégiens indiens, canadiens et néo-zélandais étaient réunis avec les français.



Les lycéens et professeurs ont sorti leurs instruments pour se joindre aux musiciens.



With Mayor of Arras, Mr Frédéric Leturque and the Prefect of Pas-de-Calais district, Mr Fabien Sudry

THE 5TH CONCOURS DE LA FRANCOPHONIE 2018

21st & 22nd October 2018

Le Concours de la Francophonie (Competition of the Francophonie), was held from 21st to 22nd October, 2018 at Mayo College, Ajmer. The occasion was graced by His Excellency Alexandre Ziegler, the Ambassador of France to India. The grand success of the event was an outcome of the exuberant participation from the talented students of different schools.

Le Concours de la Francophonie 2018 began on 21st with a Declamation and Reading Competition where the participants brilliantly showcased their fluent French diction and pronunciation. This tone and hue pervaded the French festivities in the evening program at the amazingly decorated Kangra Amphitheatre. His Excellency Mr. Alexandre Ziegler, the Chief Guest, lavishly commended the superb entertainment fillers presented by the students of Mayo College Girls' School and Mayo College and expressed his desire to intensify the exchanges between the Indian and the French Schools. The audience was enthralled and spellbound by the competitive events of Poetry recitation and Solo Songs. The Mayo College Director, Lieutenant General Surendra Kulkarni, thanked the Ambassador as well as the participants.



The concluding day of Le Concours de la Francophonie included the Spelling Bee and the Quiz competitions where the Judges were impressed by the expertise and knowledge of the participants and many tie breakers had to be played. The closing ceremony took place in the evening and was presided over by the Chief Guest Mr. Olivier Michel, journalist with Le Figaro Magazine.

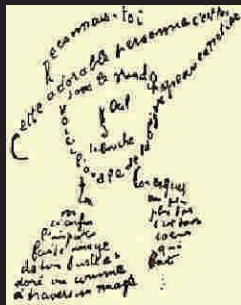
The evening was replete with the different schools presenting their superbly directed short films, effectively capturing stories, characters and emotions on celluloid. The screening of these films added an emotional aura to the atmosphere. Huge applause reverberated the air as the winners from various schools proudly marched up on the stage to receive their prizes. The overall winner of the competition was The Mother's International School, New Delhi. Being the host School, Mayo College as runner up, passed on the trophy to Birla High School, Calcutta, which had ranked third in the two day competitive events.



Apollinaire: the poet of a new world

Almost exactly one century ago, the French poet Guillaume Apollinaire passed away. He died at the age of 38, and his works have changed the poetry of his time. Right from the beginning, his life was like a novel. His mother was a young Polish girl and his father was an Italian officer who did not recognize him as his child, his real name was Guillaume Apollinaris de Kostrowitzky. During his childhood and youth he had traveled a lot and had lived in Germany. He started to write poetry at the age of 19 with not much success. In the beginning of the 20th century, he wrote articles on Art in Paris and was a friend to some really famous artists of the time, such as Picasso. He was fond of the new orientations taken by the painters of his time, especially cubism that went away from the exact depiction of the reality and space that, according to them, was obsolete after the invention of photography. In 1911, he was put in jail because one of his friends has committed a theft in the Musée du Louvre. Though he stayed in jail only one week, this experience had a strong impact on him. When the First World War broke out in 1914, he was willing to fight for France although he was born a Russian citizen like his mother (Poland was part of Russia at that time). He finally went to the front and obtained French Nationality. In 1916 he was wounded in the head and had to leave the front. He died in Paris, on November, 9th 1918 of Spanish flu, only two days before the end of the war that marked the entry into a new world.

His poetry was highly influenced by his passion for this new world that he felt was coming. He often used the free verse (poetry without rhyme or meter), to express this feeling of movement, of speed, characterizing modern life. One of his poems "Zone" (1913) contains an oneiric depiction of the new Paris, with the Eiffel tower and shows his fascination for airplanes. During the war, he created the "Calligrammes" a form of visual poetry where the verses form pictures adding new dimension to the text. He is thought to have coined both the terms "cubism" and "surrealism": names of two major artistic courants of the 20th century in Europe.



One of Apollinaire's "calligrammes"



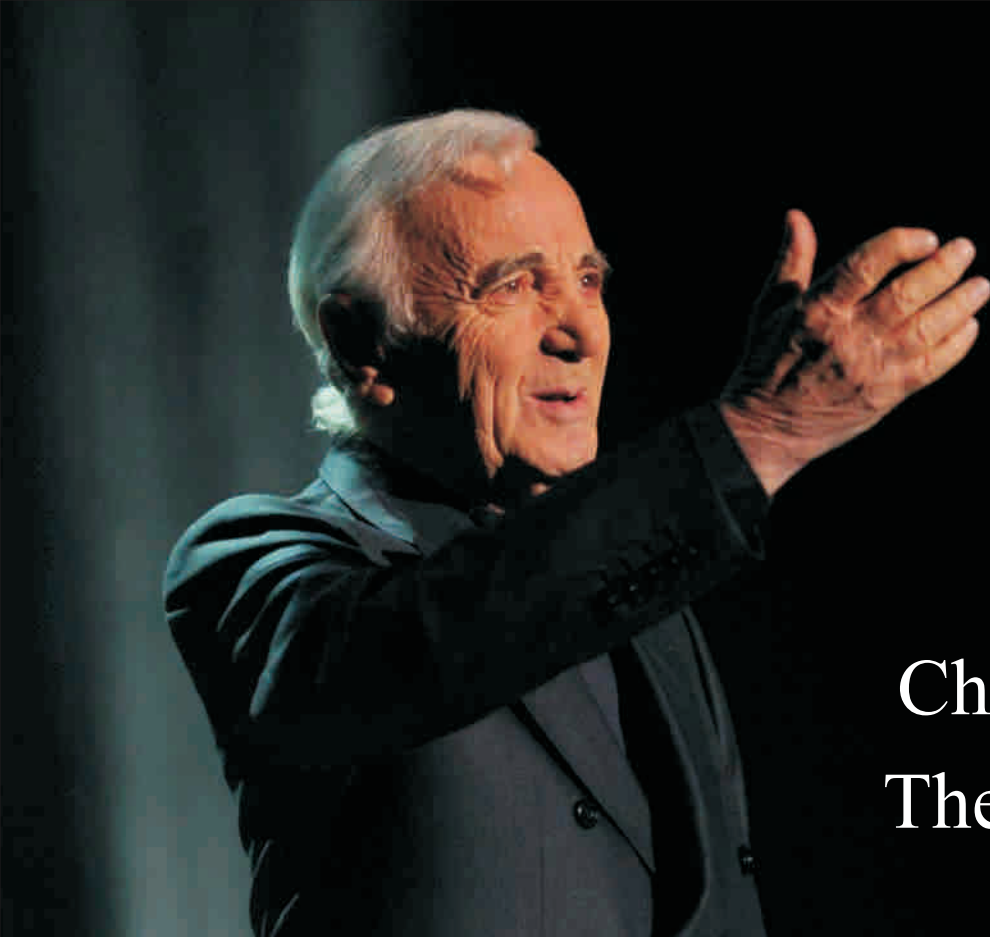
Apollinaire during the war after he received a shrapnel in the head

Ombre (1916) from Calligrammes: Poems of Peace and War (1913-1916)

Vous voilà de nouveau près de moi
Souvenirs de mes compagnons morts à la guerre
L'olive du temps
Souvenirs qui n'en faites plus qu'un
Comme cent fourrures ne font qu'un manteau
Comme ces milliers de blessures ne font qu'un
article de journal
Apparence impalpable et sombre qui avez pris
La forme changeante de mon ombre
Un Indien à l'affût pendant l'éternité
Ombre vous rampez près de moi
Mais vous ne m'entendez plus
Vous ne connaîtrez plus les poèmes divins que je
chante
Tandis que moi je vous entends je vous vois encore
Destinées
Ombre multiple que le soleil vous garde
Vous qui m'aimez assez pour ne jamais me quitter
Et qui dansez au soleil sans faire de poussière
Ombre encre du soleil
Ecriture de ma lumière
Caisson de regrets
Un dieu qui s'humilie

Shadow (1916) Guillaume Apollinaire (1880-1918)

Here you are near me once more
Memories of my comrades in battle
Olive of time
Memories composing now a single memory
As a hundred furs make only one coat
As those thousands of wounds make only one
newspaper article
Impalpable dark appearance you have assumed
The changing form of my shadow
An Indian hiding in wait throughout eternity
Shadow you creep near me
But you no longer hear me
You will no longer know the divine poems I sing
But I hear you I see you still
Destinies
Multiple shadow may the sun watch over you
You who love me so much you will never leave me
You who dance in the sun without stirring the dust
Shadow solar ink
Handwriting of my light
Caisson of regrets
A God humbling himself



Charles Aznavour

The Eternal Singer

This year France has lost one of her most famous singers, Mr Charles Aznavour. He was 94 years old when he passed away on the first of October, one of the last artists of his generation. He was born in Paris, his parents were of Armenian origin, all his life he considered himself both French and Armenian. Just like both his parents, he became an artist. At the beginning of his career, he worked as an actor in theatre but he was neither rich nor famous. During the Second World War, he started to write some songs and sing in the cabarets. In 1946, he met Edith Piaf, perhaps the most famous French Singer at the time in the entire world. She thought that he had some talent and helped him in his career, asking him to work on his voice. For eight years, he worked with her, writing some songs or playing instruments. He wrote a lot of songs for other famous artists during the 1950s, but when he started to sing himself, either performing on stage in first parts of concerts or singing on records, his performances were usually not appreciated. Until one day in 1957, when, in the Alhambra of Paris, a theatre, while he was expecting the usual indifference from the audience, the latter gave him a standing ovation after he finished his song "Je m'voyais déjà", in which he ironically portrays a non-successful artist!

After this first real success as a singer, at the age of 33, he quickly became one of the most popular artists of the country with his voice, which is easy to recognize and his powerful texts, while he continued to write for other artists. He also started to play in movies. In 1963, against all odds, his first concert in the United-States was also a success. He never ceased to be popular and performed in many countries including Russia and Japan. He was one of the few French artists to be popular at an international level, even singing his songs in English and other foreign languages. Throughout his 60 years of career, he has made songs that French people still remember and sing like "La Bohème", "Emmenez-moi" and "Les comédiens". He has sung about love, nostalgia, in a very poetic yet simple way, sometimes in a cheerful, joyful tone, sometimes in a more sad and tragic one. Being a hard worker, he never stopped performing on stage, his last concert was in Japan, twelve days before his passing and he was supposed to make another tour in Europe this winter. He will be remembered as a great songwriter and performer in France, Armenia and everywhere, where his songs have touched the hearts of people.

May 1968: The Phase Changer

May 03, 2018 was a very important day in the history of France because major protests happened. These protests transformed France: Many mass protests, street battles and nation wide strikes shocked the country. This wasn't a political revolt like the other ones, this one was just a social and cultural one, which in a stunningly short period of time changed the French society completely.

"It was a remarkable day in the history of France because it was truly a mass event that not only influenced Paris but also the concerned provinces, concerned intellectuals and manual workers as well," said Bruno Queysanne, who, at that time was an assistant instructor at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, one of the country's most prestigious art and architecture schools. Each person that engaged, engaged himself all the way, he said. "That was how France could stop running, without there being a feeling of injustice or sabotage." The whole world was in agreement that they should pause and reflect on the conditions of existence. Seeing the condition of the world today, it is hard to imagine a Western country completely engulfed by a social upheaval, but that is what happened in May 1968 in France. Most of the people imagined the mass strikes and protests as shattering and painful events which offended social norms. Whereas the father of the nation, the leader of the country thought it as a part of modernization for the country. Universities across the country shut down as students, often joined by their professors, occupied the classrooms and courtyards. In



Paris and other major French cities; workers, students, intellectuals and anyone else who was interested thronged into the street for mass rallies. Blunting the sense of exhilaration were the daily confrontations with the police. As early as May 3, police charged into the Sorbonne and ousted the students; in the ensuing melee, some 600 were arrested, according to Agence France-Presse. The students dug up paving stones from the Paris streets to heave at the police.

The students returned and quickly set up barricades to stop the police from entering the areas where they were massing. The two factions faced off night and day: The

police were wearing helmets and were armed whereas the university students, sometimes still wearing the ties and jackets mandated at that time by the university administration.

May 6th was particularly violent because 600 people were wounded and 422 were detained. That night was known as the night of barricades, which people still talk about.

When students returned to classes, they could now ask questions in class and dispute ideas - a revolution in the French Educational System. Bosses had to treat their workers better. But that heady atmosphere of social foment, excitement and a sense of deep camaraderie that cut across class and education, that touched factory workers, students, intellectuals and farmers alike had passed.

The interesting fact was that just six weeks ago the country's most famous newspaper "Le Monde" published that the country was too bored to participate in the "GENERAL YOUTH FEST"

There would be other moments of social protests, but none that were quite the same as those that occurred in the Paris spring of 1968.



Dear Mama,

30 September 1918

I am writing this letter to show you life in the trenches. The front line is horrid, there are shots and shells. In the no man's land we see corpses, wounded and shell holes. We sleep in trenches where we are not sure of waking alive. In the evening the goal is to go into the enemy camp and to kill soldiers. I love you Mama.

John
H

Very dear Mom,
Today on Thursday October 13th 1914, in 4 hours it will be 4pm when I leave I do not know where. I am sure that the trip by train is going to last for a long time. But you for the parcel which you sent me the soap, soap and the shavers are very useful. I hope everything goes well. Hello to all the family.

Company Kitchen
5 Army.

Capitain Adams
H

20 Decembre 1917

Dear Parents,

It's cold, there's mud you see nothing it's dark. I'm numb because I have to stay in the same position all the time. I'm anxious to find you and find my life before. Give my love to my big brother. I kiss you tenderly. I love you

Andrew
H

15/04/1917

My dear one, my fair one, my handsome one, my beloved.

I shall tell you that I am returned to Magzac and we leave for Paris next Thursday to go on the border of Germany. I shall tell you that since Monday I did not eat for two money of food when at the moment I have 50000 thousand ideas in the head but in any event I am not sick. I shall tell you that we stopped a German spy and you guaranteed that he is not at the end of his troubles.

Your beloved
xxx
H

William

my family,
1917

Monday, October 14 1917

Dear family

Today, I want to know how you are. I am in the trench I am writing to you in a shelter or I see many of my friends are killed or wounded there each day is a night of light. Friends get killed by the enemies we can not sleep with the sound of the bombs bursting. We can smell horrible stench is full of mud dirty. I would like everything to stop and to go home.

William
H

Hello my dear,

We are in the barracks and will be going to the front line in a very short time. We are hungry, very thirsty, we are going to face the German empire, we will put an end to this miserable war and soon. I will return home soon. I promise.

John, xxx
H

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