

Chapter 1 : The Modern Reality Of The French Foreign Legion | Here & Now

"Inside the Foreign Legion" by John Parker is the most balanced book on the Foreign Legion I've read. While Douglas Porch's seminal work still stands as the most thorough and well-documented book on the French Foreign Legion yet produced, it is very difficult to read.

This put the French on the losing side, forcing them to withdraw completely, leaving an opening the United States chose to fill. My only source for this is G. If it is, maybe it is worth mentioning. As the insurrection escalated, the French needed more and more troops. French conscripts were to be kept out of the conflict. As a result, Legion manpower needed to be increased sharply and they opened their doors to virtually all fit volunteers. Though the French held on after Dien Bien Phu and even had some success, it was the writing on the wall for French control of their colony and the French government had to come to a deal arrangement to split Indochina into communist North and democratic South Vietnam. The other former Indochinese colonies of Laos and Cambodia were already given independence by France. The Americans oversaw the transition and were eager to invest time and men in the new South Vietnam and as France moved out forever, the USA moved in. The USA had been interested in SE Asia since the end of WW2 and had as its post-war goal the end of colonial rule by Western powers and establishing new national democratic governments - such as ending colonial British rule in India and Malaya, ending Dutch colonial rule in the East Indies and ending French colonial rule in Indo-China. The British already had its agenda for Indian independence, which was granted in 1947. The Dutch and French however, had no immediate plans for giving up their colonies and local guerrilla wars resulted, often communist-inspired. When the Chinese civil war ended in a communist victory in 1949, the climate in the whole region changed. The British delayed their plans for Malayan independence when a communist uprising started there too. Soon Korea was at war with itself. The USA developed its "Domino Theory", which expounded that if one country fell to communism, the next would follow, then the next until SE Asia was completely communist. US forces went to Korea. British forces were already fighting communists in Malaya. Though the USA had previously put severe pressure on the Netherlands to leave the East Indies, this had occurred before the big communist upsurge. The new Indonesia, whilst not officially communist, had communist leanings and its government was soon inviting Russian advisors and engineers into the country to modernise it. The USA was excluded. As far as I know, German legionnaires were employed in Indochina until the Legion and the French moved out. So they acted like a real soldier would react: They joined another promising cause and if there is one thing you can say about the SS, is that they were scary motherfuckers, in those days for sure! I am convinced that the strict lifestyle of most legionnaires still has a lot to do with the after war in and the occupation and of course old habits that start to integrate in the ranks of most legionnaires, and start to be a part of their lifestyle! Loads of ex SS songs are sung till the day of today!! Words are integrated in the sentences ex: Achtung or kamerad or if they drunk they say: To come out in tact you need few screws loose already in my eyes Anyway a better training program still needs to be invented i think take the knowledge and know how to, or not to. Patrick Derere former legionnaire That war happenend in Indochine. Unlike other military units around Europe, it accepts various people ignoring race, religion, social origin or background of the recruits. Boasted for its discipline, fidelity and honor, French Foreign Legion, nonetheless, draws in many romantics and refugees. The multi-lingual Legion appeals to recruits with a paycheck of Euros, a month , an enormous sum by some standarts, and an opportunity for French citizenship. The Wikipedia article about French Foreign legion is both brief and informative. Then the narrator switches to the composition, membership and current deployments of the Legion. Finally, the author lists the famous members of the Legion, and discusses the influence of the Legion on the popular culture. In general, the article provides basic encyclopedic information about the French Foreign Legion. The writer does not particularly persuade a reader with a specific viewpoint, rather relying on the second hand sources of factual information about the military unit. It is clear that the author of the article has not been a participant of the Legion. The writer does make several strong and unsupported assumptions about the Legion. For example, he claims that desertion is a large problem in the legion. As contemporary sources suggest, desertion used to be a large

problem in the Legion but it is significantly reduced today. That statement is not confirmed by primary sources. Indeed, this issue remains a very controversial topic, discussed by many military historians. Even though the author provides a second opinion by journalist Bernard D. The account of the partaking in warfare is not chronological. The middle section of the article discusses composition and current deployments of the Legion. The last part of the article talks about notable members of the Legion and influence of the Legion on popular culture. Does the Legion really advertise that kind of publicity, with ten percent of famous members being wanted for genocide? In addition, the popular culture section seems somewhat out of place. It lists an appearance of Legionnaire cartoon characters and popular TV shows, creating an unusual contrast with a bloody French Legion history just a few paragraphs earlier. The author did not list any primary sources. It appears that the author used second hand sources like books and popular articles. The only thing that reminds a bibliography is the list of external links that can lead the reader to either the official recruiting website or memoirs of ancien retired legionnaire. Even though the length of external links consists of 16 web addresses, most of them provide only basic information about the Legion. It is somewhat disappointing because there are dozens of books and hundreds of articles on the subject. It seems that the author neglected to do in-depth research. Overall, the author provides clear, concise, step-by-step organized information. It is good for basic information reference or to a person who is not familiar with French Foreign Legion. The article, however, is useless for people looking for detailed information. Consecutively, the preliminary reading of the article can provide convincing evidence. The further research into the subject, however, shows that the article is somewhat shallow and does not cover some very important aspects. Several things can be done to improve this particular article. First of all, the article needs to be expanded and saturated with primary sources references which there are plenty of. Second, the life and training of the legion sections need to be added. There are several interesting books on the subject and readers would be interested to find out about the unusual daily life and training of the Legionnaire. Moreover, the Popular Culture section needs to be significantly reduced. When commenting on Wikipedia articles, it is inappropriate to speak of "the narrator", "the author". Almost every article eventually has several editors, each of whom may have made only a small contribution. We thank you for pointing out that several poorly-supported or heavily-biased statements were in the article, and in due time such errors may be corrected if they have not been already. Certainly any article will have some errors, and in this case some of them are errors that Wikipedia cites from verifiable sources, but Wikipedia editors can never be certain that those sources are indeed correct. Wikipedia editors are increasingly concerned with using good sources , and with giving readers direct references to them, but no editor is refused, and many times we make do with what is available. Thus your bringing specific errors to the table and contrasting or improved sources is always appreciated. As for the popular culture section, that exists because Wikipedia, as an encyclopedia, acts as a cross-reference between various topics. There are many popular culture references to the Legion that may have articles and it is always appropriate to note them in the primary article, even if it seems to have little direct importance to the topic. That said, much of that section is overly detailed. Although if you increase your timeline enough, then yes every article has multiple editors, but then you run into other issues. Like Wikipedia ceasing to exist, for example. Those who join are mainly from eastern europe and the former soviet countrys. Because these people see the legion, as a opportunity for a new life, instead of that life they lived in these countrys. French citizens may be Officers in the legion. The members of the FFL are openly homophobic just like every other fighting force on the planet. Also consider the Legion used to run a thoroughly heterosexual bordello in South America until recently. Now go troll elsewhere. It sounds like a load of crap. Why should it be? Women would be, and are, just as competent as men when it comes to war. Tactical mobility or superiority is probably the most important aspect in an engagement; all women have to do is learn how to stand in formation, shoot here and there, and move forward obviously with the added complications of modern warfare. Nothing impossible there, and certainly nothing that requires you being a specific gender. Woman make a military formation weak eh? Or the woman who act in most western militaries now in any non combat role. Or the use of Woman as nurses and doctors going back to the Crimean War , And then of course are the myriad of ancient examples from the Amazon warriors to female Samurai to barbarian woman fighting in formation alongside men. Your personal views on the nature of men and woman

and military structure have no place here. In the past 9. An 18 year old male has to do a minimum of 50 push ups. A female of the same age does In field exercises women were often sent to the rear area usually the medical centre on base to get a shower after a few days for "Hygiene reasons".

Chapter 2 : Inside The Legion - National Geographic Channel - Asia

Inside The Foreign Legion has 29 ratings and 0 reviews. The thought of escaping from the pressures of life leads many anguished young men towards the For.

First impressions 1 Camerone, Mexico 3 Arctic bound 12 Indo-China, the final ignominy 14 Algeria grows restless 15 Algerian rebellion 16 Punishments, legion style 17 Algerian independence 18 Goodbye Algeria 19 s: Kolwezi incident, Zaire 21 Changing times 22 Bad days in Chad; The hard times persist 25 The Gulf War; Republic of Congo Appendix: Although documentary research provides the basis for the story of the French Foreign Legion in its early years, the author was fortunate to have the benefit of much previously unpublished material provided by Mr Jim Worden, an accredited historian of the Foreign Legion, who was for many years secretaire of the Association Amicale des Anciens Combattants de la Legion Btrangere de Grande-Bretagne the Foreign Legion Association of Great Britain and who very kindly made available his own archives, notes and accounts written and collated over the last thirty years. Otherwise, principle sources were men who have served between five and twenty-one years in the Legion, and, as will be evident from the text, personal recall was relied upon for the running narrative for the last sixty years of its history, beginning with John Yeowell who joined in through to those whose service ended in . The anonymity that the Foreign Legion affords all its volunteers is respected here, and some contributors remain unidentified or have been given fictitious names for the purpose of this account. Hunter-Choat, OBE In a speech made in , at the 100th anniversary of the formation of the French Foreign Legion, the speaker remarked that it took the Legion to create Algeria, but it took Algeria to create the Legion. It goes further than that. Legionnaires for the past years have been formed and indelibly marked by their experiences in the Legion, while the Legion has gained its strength and strength of character from the disparate wealth of its individual members. The Legion is, and has always been, unique. Not simply because it is an officially recognized and employed mercenary force, but because of the marvellous and skillful balance of national and individual characteristics, blended together to produce Monsieur Legionnaire. This forging and developing is a never-ending process, and the Legion changes with changing times. Their reactions are usually total disdain! And achieve it he does, admirably. Their stories are fascinating, fun and revealing. They reveal that since its formation in , although the Legion has changed and developed, the essential character of the legionnaire remains unchanged. The physical changes to the Legion have been enormous; the size has fluctuated from as high as 34, in Indo-China, to 26, in Algeria to 8, today; from four or five nationalities at the beginning to today. And what do these answers tell the reader? Has the Legion changed in essence? All the factors that have given the Legion its strength and made it the fighting force par excellence it undoubtedly is, are still there in abundance. And the factor which has the greatest influence on the character of the Legion is the character of each and every legionnaire.

Chapter 3 : Inside: The Legion - National Geographic

Inside the Foreign Legion - Free ebook download as PDF File .pdf), Text File .txt) or read book online for free. Scribd is the world's largest social reading and publishing site. Search Search.

And yet being a professional soldier, like any career, has its positives and negatives. A member of the French Foreign Legion should serve as a good example of the former; a security contractor of a private military company, such as Blackwater Worldwide, should serve as an example of the latter. In its early days, the French Foreign Legion tended to recruit down-and-out individuals. Many existed on the fringes of society or were criminals who saw the Legion as a last resort. Today, this can still apply to some recruits, but the majority are upstanding citizens. Some have even served as soldiers in traditional armies. **Getty Images** Are you a Francophile with a dodgy past? Why not join the French Foreign Legion? There are no recruiting offices located outside of France, so interested citizens from other countries must travel to one of several Legion information centers in mainland France. They make this trip at their own risk, because there are no guarantees that the Legion will accept them. The approximately 8,000 Legionnaires hail from countries, including France itself [source: French Foreign Legion]. After receiving some basic information, all recruits report to a Legion recruitment center for preselection. The preselection process includes an initial medical checkup and a "confirmation of motivation" to ensure recruits are serious about joining. Recruits who are preselected proceed to Aubagne, France, for formal selection. In Aubagne, recruits receive a more thorough medical examination and additional motivation questions. They must also complete a series of logic, sports and personality tests to determine their strengths and skills. Those who are selected must sign a five-year contract of service. Basic training lasts 15 weeks and takes place in Castelnaudary, a country town located in southern France. Training is meant to introduce new Legionnaires to military life, to their comrades and to the French language. After basic training, new soldiers split off into 11 regiments. These regiments are located throughout France and in other countries, such as Afghanistan , Chad and the Ivory Coast. Legionnaires may work side by side with regular French military forces, with French police and with soldiers of other nations. For example, they were deployed with U.S. forces in Afghanistan. These soldiers are clearing a village of explosives. Legionnaires train with the standard weapons and equipment of the French infantry, including grenades, 9 mm automatic pistols and rocket launchers. The primary weapon is the Famas automatic assault rifle. Legionnaires have carried this weapon into numerous battles over the years, and many have died in combat. Since 1963, more than 35,000 Legionnaires have been killed in battle or during service to the organization [source:

Chapter 4 : Legionnaire - Simon Murray - Inside the French Foreign Legion - Elite Military Forces

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Recruits included soldiers from the recently disbanded Swiss and German foreign regiments of the Bourbon monarchy. Conquest of Algeria [edit] Main articles: Origins of the French Foreign Legion , 2nd Foreign Legion 2LE , 1st Foreign Regiment , and 2nd Foreign Infantry Regiment Created to fight "outside mainland France ", the Foreign Legion was stationed in Algeria , where it took part in the pacification and development of the colony, notably by drying the marshes in the region of Algiers. The early years in Algeria were hard on the legion because it was often sent to the worst postings and received the worst assignments, and its members were generally uninterested in the new colony of the French. Carlist War [edit] Main articles: On 28 June , the unit was handed over to the Spanish government. The Foreign Legion landed via sea at Tarragona on 17 August with around 1, who were quickly dubbed Los Algerinos the Algerians by locals because of their previous posting. Later, he also created three squadrons of lancers and an artillery battery from the existing force to increase independence and flexibility. The Foreign Legion was dissolved on 8 December , when it had dropped to only men. The survivors returned to France, many reenlisting in the new Foreign Legion along with many of their former Carlist enemies. A further battalion was stationed at Gallipoli as brigade depot. Reinforcements by sea brought the Legion contingent up to brigade strength. As the "Foreign Brigade", it served in the Siege of Sevastopol , during the winter of [edit] The lack of equipment was particularly challenging and cholera hit the Allied expeditionary force. Nevertheless, the "leather bellies" the nickname given to the legionnaires by the Russians because of the large cartridge pouches that they wore attached to their waist-belts , performed well. On 8 September the final assault was launched on Sevastopol. Two days later, the Second Foreign Regiment with flags and band playing ahead, marched through the streets of Sevastopol. Although initial reservations had been expressed about whether the Legion should be used outside Africa, [18] the Crimean experience established its suitability for service in European warfare, as well as making a cohesive single entity of what had previously been two separate foreign regiments. Italian Campaign [edit] Main article: The Foreign Legion acquitted itself particularly well against the Austrians at the battle of Magenta 4 June and at the Battle of Solferino 24 June. In gratitude, the city of Milan awarded, in , the "commemorative medal of deliverance", which still adorns the regimental flags of the Second Regiment. Small cavalry and artillery units were raised from legionnaires serving in Mexico. The original intention was that Foreign Legion units should remain in Mexico for up to six years to provide a core for the Imperial Mexican Army. It was in Mexico on 30 April that the Legion earned its legendary status. A company led by Captain Jean Danjou , numbering 62 Legionnaires and 3 Legion officers, was escorting a convoy to the besieged city of Puebla when it was attacked and besieged by three thousand Mexican loyalists, [22] organised in two battalions of infantry and cavalry, numbering 2, and respectively. When only six survivors remained, out of ammunition, a bayonet assault was launched in which three of the six were killed. The remaining three wounded men were brought before the Mexican commander Colonel Milan, who allowed them to return to the French lines as an honor guard for the body of Captain Danjou. The captain had a wooden hand, which was later returned to the Legion and is now kept in a case in the Legion Museum at Aubagne, and paraded annually on Camerone Day. During the Mexican Campaign, 6, French died. Of these, 1, were from a single regiment of the Legion. The new Third Republic was desperately short of trained soldiers following Sedan, so the Foreign Legion was ordered to provide a contingent. On 11 October two provisional battalions disembarked via sea at Toulon , the first time the Foreign Legion had been deployed in France itself. It attempted to lift the Siege of Paris by breaking through the German lines. In January , France capitulated but civil war soon broke out, which led to revolution and the short-lived Paris Commune. The Foreign Legion participated in the suppression of the Commune, [26] which was crushed with great bloodshed. Simultaneously, the Legion took part to the pacification of Algeria , plagued by various tribal rebellions and razzias. Second Franco-Dahomean War [edit] Main article: A battalion, led by commandant Faurax, was formed from two companies of the

First Foreign Regiment and two others from the second regiment. From Cotonou , the legionnaires marched to seize Abomey , the capital of the Kingdom of Dahomey. Two and a half months were needed to reach the city, at the cost of repeated battles against the Dahomean warriors, especially the Amazons of the King. King Behanzin surrendered and was captured by the legionnaires in January Second Madagascar Expedition [edit] Main article: Second Madagascar expedition In , a battalion, formed by the First and Second Foreign Regiments, was sent to the Kingdom of Madagascar , as part of an expeditionary force whose mission was to conquer the island. The foreign battalion formed the backbone of the column launched on Antananarivo , the capital of Madagascar. Others, like much of the expeditionary force, died from tropical diseases. Mandingo Wars From until his capture, Samori Ture , ruler of the Wassoulou Empire , fought the French colonial army, defeating them on several occasions, including a notable victory at Woyowayanko 2 April , in the face of French heavy artillery. Nonetheless, Samori was forced to sign several treaties ceding territory to the French between and A battalion of two companies from the 2nd Foreign Regiment was created in early to pacify the Niger.

Chapter 5 : Escape to the Legion (TV Series ") - IMDb

- *The Sensational Expose of the World's Toughest Army.*

Chapter 6 : Inside the Foreign Legion - [PDF Document]

Jean-Baptiste Gallot followed these elite soldiers who have come from all over the world to serve France. For "Droit de Savoir" he filmed these Foreign Legion new recruits during the different.

Chapter 7 : Life of a Mercenary: Soldier in the French Foreign Legion | HowStuffWorks

The French Foreign Legion, founded in , is shrouded in mystery. The brutality of its training regime has been described by deserters, but a different picture emerges from those who stayed and progressed beyond the beatings and the Legion's demands.

Chapter 8 : List of Foreign Legionnaires - Wikipedia

The French Foreign Legion was created by Louis Philippe, the King of the French, on 10 March from the foreign regiments of the Kingdom of calendrierdelascience.comts included soldiers from the recently disbanded Swiss and German foreign regiments of the Bourbon monarchy.

Chapter 9 : Talk:French Foreign Legion - Wikipedia

The word "foreign" in the name French Foreign Legion does not refer to faraway battlegrounds. It refers to the Legion itself, which is a branch of the French Army commanded by French officers.