



St George's Day Picnic a Success Again

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Time for the Bastille Day
Celebration!

Reservation form

Once again the members of the Bedford International Alliance celebrated St George's Day with a picnic at Liberty Lake Park in Bedford.

This traditional English holiday has become a way for us to learn more about the area the BIA is twinned with. Around 50 members enjoyed the evening and lots of food.

The next social event will be the annual Bastille Day picnic



Decorating before the picnic - balloons, banner and flags.

in July (see the details on page 7). We encourage you to join us!



Over 50 members gathered for fun-filled evening featuring lots of great food.

Bedford International
Alliance, Inc.
P.O. Box 951
Bedford, Virginia 24523

Visit our website to see
the latest updates:

www.bedfordva.gov/alliance

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

January 11

BIA Annual Meeting
Membership Dues for 2006
payable

January - May

Fund raising activities begin to
support Student Exchange
program and activities

April 5

Board of Directors Meeting –
Planning for St. George's Day
event; continue planning for
Student Exchange activities for
student visit to England and
France

April 22

St. George's Day Celebration
for all BIA members.
Liberty Lake Park, Bedford

June 6

62nd Anniversary of D-Day at
the National D-Day Memorial

June 14

Board of Directors Meeting –
Planning for Bastille Day picnic
at Liberty Lake Park, Bedford;
Bedford students prepare for
trip

July 15

6th Annual Bastille Day Picnic
for members
Liberty Lake Park

September 20

Board of Directors Meeting –
Planning for Nov/Dec. final
Social Event for 2006

October 13-22

BIA Rhine River Cruise trip

November 1

Board of Directors Meeting –
2007 planning and plans for
Member final Social Event for
2006

November - December

2006 BIA Member Social Event
(date to be determined by
Board)

Note: BIA committees will determine
meeting dates.

CHRISTMAS 1944

by Bertrand Le Jemtél

Autumn has been extremely cloudy, windy, and rainy. On the roads, the mud was a true obstacle for the traffic, and the Jeeps, as well as the trucks, were in great difficulty. The Omaha Beach harbour was busy, and the "ducks" were floating and running, transporting goods for the troopers. About the end of the year the traffic began to slow down. We were feeling that the GIs will begin to leave. This was not of a good prospective for us, the kids. Since June, we were so happy to be the kids of the soldiers: they were giving us so many sweets, chocolate, chewing gum and others.

Their departure will mean the end of an era.

In December, we were all expecting to have our first Christmas tree. We've got it thanks to Fred. We planted it in January 1945; 61 years passed; the tree is now about 65' high. It has been heaven as the Christmas tree was full of toys, sweets, gifts for our family, and candles because there was no electricity. We were forgetting the war time and the surroundings. A true dream! Because it was an exceptional event, our Grand Father offered to Captain Fred Kulick and some other officers, glasses of "calvados" dated 1914. The war was not over but we were no longer hearing this specific noise of the weapons and the shells.

Among the others, my brother has been exceptionally lucky as he has been offered a kit of base ball from St Louis Missouri. In the village, we've been considered by the other kids, as "masters" when we began to show how to play base ball.

Christmas 1944: we will never forget it!

Then Fred left with the regiment. After a while, somebody told us that he was in Germany, safe and in good health.

For years and years we've been in touch. He came back for several celebrations.

It's now our turn to be Grand Fathers,
but Fred is still our Santa Klaus.

This is all what I remember
from this period of the year 1944.

*Bertrand Le Jemtél,
President of Omaha
Beach / Bedford VA*



A surprise meeting in Bedford

by Brian Scown

During our wonderful stay in Bedford my good friend Gloria Gross, knowing how much I like exploring new territory, suggested a walk in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Trying hard not to go into the details of that lavish scenery, I unreservedly said yes please. Having finished the walk and rested at one of the best restaurants set into mountain scenery I had ever seen, Gloria suggested we go to the Visitors Centre to pick up

maps and pictures to show Caroline when I returned home.

I was soon chatting to the staff and the ranger was interested as to my home location and what we were doing there. As our explanation unfolded the ranger, a lady called Jamie Harlow Parker, told me she was the granddaughter of William Parker who had died climbing the terribly dangerous Point de Hoc.

Having had no real explanation of the events, the family had given up all hope that they would know. Given up until one day just two years ago when a package was delivered to Jamie's mother. Inside were her granddad's medals and dog tags along with a letter. The letter said:

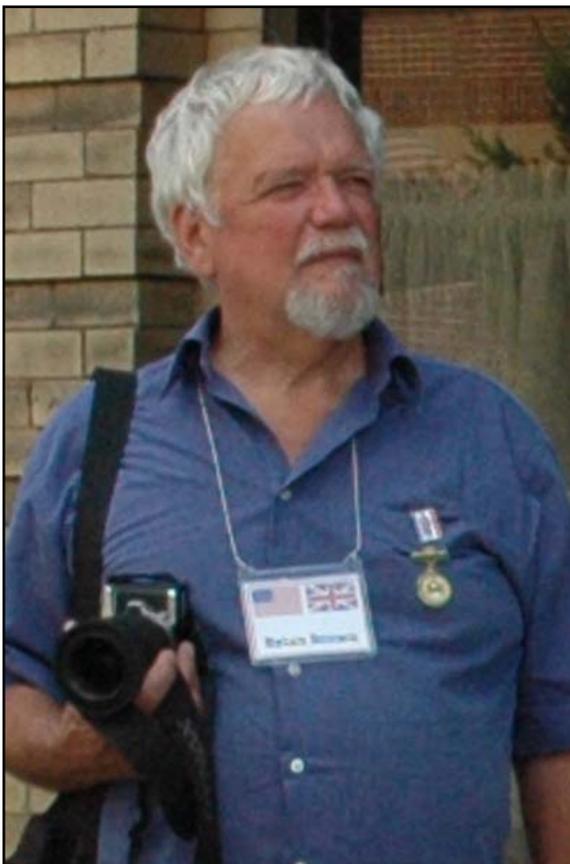
"I was your granddad's best friend and was right alongside him when his climbing rope was cut and he fell back to the beach from an impossible height to the rugged rock foreshore below him.

As soon as I could I went back and arranged his body to be collected. We had always promised each other to collect personal things to return to our nearest and dearest so I collected the things I enclose. Strange to Say, I couldn't bring myself to send them to you, as I always wanted to remember that day.

However as I am now reaching the age to organize my affairs, I enclose these things and ask you to accept how much his friendship meant to me."

Earl Parker and Joseph Parker where also to die in the onslaught of that beach. Until then I had only read a brief piece about the Parker family in "The Bedford Boys." This story, as told to me by Jamie, showed that today's world remembers their relatives and the heroism of those who fought so valiantly that day to ensure we have the freedom we take for granted today.

The memory of my visit to these hills with Gloria will always remind me of the Parker family and those who died with them. I wonder if Gloria realized that would be the case when she suggested we go for a walk along the Blue Ridge?



Brian Scown, during his visit to Bedford in 2005.

Shots from the St George's Picnic



The evening cleared up to provide a view of the D-Day Memorial in the distance.



The members spent the first hour talking, catching up on events since their last meeting.



The decorators took a few minutes rest before the members arrived.



Chairman Bob Bashore welcomed everyone before the meal.



It was a family affair....

...for all ages.



Learn more –

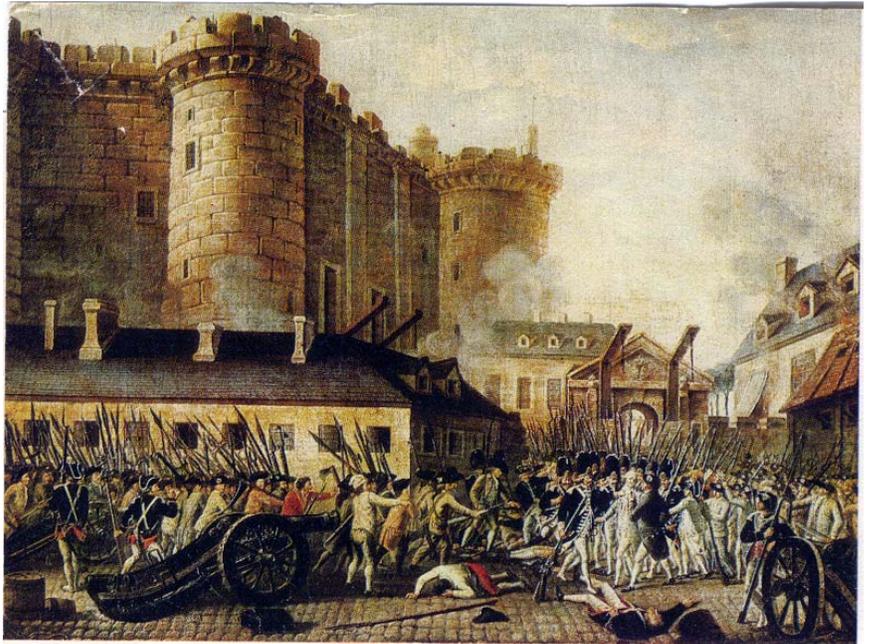
About Bastille Day

Bastille Day, the French national holiday, commemorates the storming of the Bastille, which took place on 14 July 1789 and marked the beginning of the French Revolution. It was a deadly serious time in France's history and was followed by hideous executions, thousands of dead people and, eventually, Napoleon.

The Bastille was a prison and a symbol of the absolute and arbitrary power of King Louis XVI's regime. By capturing this symbol, the people signaled that the king's power was no longer absolute. They believed power should be based on the Nation and be limited by a separation of powers.

Although the Bastille only held seven prisoners at the time of its capture, the storming of the prison was a symbol of liberty and the fight against oppression for all French citizens. It marked the end of absolute monarchy, the birth of the sovereign Nation, and, eventually, the creation of the (First) Republic, in 1792.

The French Tricolore flag, carried by the people, symbolized the Republic's three ideals: Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity for all French citizens.



Bastille Day was declared the French national holiday on 6 July 1880, on Benjamin Raspail's recommendation, when the new Republic was firmly entrenched. Bastille Day has such a strong signification for the French because the holiday symbolizes the birth of the Republic.

As in the US, where the signing of the Declaration of Independence signaled the start of the American Revolution, in France the storming of the Bastille began the Great Revolution. In both countries, the national holiday thus symbolizes the beginning of a new form of government.

On the one-year anniversary of the fall of the Bastille, delegates from every region of France proclaimed their allegiance to a single

national community during the Fête de la Fédération in Paris - the first time in history that a people had claimed their right to self-determination.

The French Revolution

The French Revolution had numerous causes which are greatly simplified and summarized here:

- Parliament wanted the king to share his absolute powers with an oligarchic parliament.
- Priests and other low-level religious figures wanted more money.
- Nobles wanted to share some of the king's power.
- The middle class wanted the right to own land and to vote.

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Bastille Day

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- The lower class were hostile toward everyone and farmers were angry about tithes and feudal rights.
- Additionally, some historians claim that the revolutionaries were opposed to the Catholic church more than to the king or the upper class.

The French recognize Bastille Day as the end of the monarchy and beginning of the modern republic. The lasting significance of the event was in its recognition that power could be held by ordinary citizens, not in the King or in God.

Today, the French celebrate this national holiday with a parades, colorful arts festivals, and raucous parties marking the holiday. Uncork a bottle of wine, wear a beret, eat lots of cheese and other rich French cuisine, and join the celebration!

Etymology - Bastille

Bastille is an alternate spelling of *bastide*: fortification.

Bastide comes from the Provençal word *bastida*: built.

There is also a verb *embastiller*: to establish troops in a prison.

The French National Anthem

La Marseillaise was written in 1792 and declared the French national anthem in 1795. There are seven stanzas to the song and a refrain which is sung between each. Today, most people are accustomed to hearing and singing just the first stanza and refrain.

La Marseillaise

Allons enfants de la patrie,
Le jour de gloire est arrivé!
Contre nous de la tyrannie
L'étendard sanglant est levé! (bis)
Entendez-vous dans les campagnes,
Mugir ces féroces soldats?
Ils viennent jusque dans nos bras
Égorger nos fils, nos compagnes!

Refrain

Aux armes, citoyens!
Formez vos bataillons!
Marchons! Marchons!
Qu'un sang impur
Abreuve nos sillons!

La Marseillaise - English lyrics

Arise children of the fatherland,
The day of glory has arrived!
Against us tyranny's
Bloody standard is raised
In the countryside, do you hear
The roaring of these fierce soldiers?
They come right to our arms
To slit the throats of our sons, our friends!

To arms, citizens!
Form your battalions!
Let us march! Let us march!
May impure blood
Water our fields!

Time for the Bastille Day Celebration!

Join us for the Sixth Annual Bastille Day Picnic at Liberty Lake Park on Saturday, July 15.

Make your plans now to get to the large pavilion at 6:00 p.m. The meal will start at 7:00 p.m.

What to Bring

If your last names begins with:

A through H bring a salad,

I through P bring a dessert,

Q through Z bring a quiche or a vegetable.

This year's entree will be croissants with ham and cheese. We'll have tea and lemonade to drink, but if you prefer, you can bring your own wine or beer.

See you at the picnic!



Please RSVP!

If you would like to join your friends at the Bastille Day celebration at Liberty Lake Park, please RSVP to Charlotte or Janice by July 7. For your convenience, mail the form on the following page, or you can phone or email to the number or address below:

Charlotte Vincent
1811 Oakwood Street
Bedford, VA 24523
540-586-0219
CVIN99@aol.com

Janice Humphrey
9732 Goodwill Road
Goodview, VA 24095-3045
540-297-6085
HJanice611@aol.com

**Remember, RSVP by
July 7, 2006**

Let's try a French recipe

Bastille Day is the perfect time to try a French recipe. Consider bringing a French dish to the Celebration at Liberty Lake Park in July.

Don't have any French recipes? They are easy to find in cookbooks, on TV, and online. And don't worry, not all French dishes are rich, loaded with unusual ingredients, or are hard to cook. While staying in Vierville Sur Mer in 2004, our host's family served simple, hearty dishes you could find in a farm house in America - everything was fresh, flavorful, and homemade. The simple salad served after the entree, the cheese plate before dessert, and the ending drink of Calvados said "French cuisine" in the best kind of way.

Go online to Google, type in "French recipes" and get ready to check out the more than 427,000 hits you get. A few of my favorites are:

<http://www.frenchselections.com/recipes/index.htm>

<http://www.epicurious.com/recipes/find/browse/results?type=browse&att=10>

<http://www.gourmet.gr/french-recipes/?gid=1&nodeid=11>



Bastille Day Celebration

Yes, I want to celebrate Bastille Day with my friends in the Bedford International Alliance.

Yes, I (we) will be there! _____

Address _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

RSVP by July 7, 2006, to either of the following:

Charlotte Vincent
1811 Oakwood Street
Bedford, VA 24523
540-586-0219
CVIN99@aol.com

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