

Association for the Memory of Free French Cadets

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Press release

The Official Journal of the French Republic on 27 December 2014 has registered the founding of the Association for the Memory of Free French Cadets.

The Association's purpose will be to "perpetuate the memory of those young men who, animated by the principles of independence and justice, answered the call of General de Gaulle and joined Free France from June 1940, greatly risking their lives for the honour of their country. They were admitted to the Military School of Cadets, as officer cadets and instructors of the classes "Liberation", "Bir Hakeim", "Fezzan and Tunisia", "Corsica and Savoy" and "18 June".

This School in England (1941-1944) was first situated in Malvern and then in Ribbesford, and was assimilated to the Special Military School of Saint-Cyr in 1954 and a class of Saint-Cyr has been given the name of "Free French Cadets" (1987).

The cadets paid a heavy price: a quarter of them gave their lives defending France.

Three former cadets, Etienne LAURENT, René MARBOT and Claude VOILLERY, who previously supervised the Association of Cadets, which no longer exists, **and three sons of cadets and of an instructor of the cadets** (Hugues LAVOIX, Patrick LEMOINE and Pierre MOULIE), have taken the initiative of preserving the memory and story of these 300 cadets who participated in the liberation of France.

The association, which will be working alongside the Charles de Gaulle Foundation and the Free France Foundation, will notably constitute a "historical committee" which will make an inventory of the documents and archives which relate to the history of the cadets and make them available for historians and researchers specialised on the Second World War.

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