

**CHARTER OF GOOD CONDUCT
FOR
CONTRIBUTORS INVOLVED IN HISTORICAL COLLECTION AND REENACTMENT**

PREAMBLE

Along with the traditional means of transmission of the history of the D-Day battles and the Battle of Normandy, associations of collectors and historical reenactors contribute, to a certain extent, to the conservation and exhibition of historical military heritage, to maintaining and transmitting the memory of the Second World War, to the expression of gratitude to the liberators and to the tribute paid to the victims of this major event.

In the interest of the public taking part in these activities and of the numerous collectors and reenactors intervening in the Normandy region during the celebrations linked to the events of June 6, 1944 and of the Battle of Normandy, whether independently or as members of an association, it seems necessary to recall in a single text and in addition to the existing legislation, certain rules of behavior and conduct, whose compliance will guarantee the smooth running of this type of initiative.

Article 1 - Purpose

The purpose of this charter is to help respect the spirit of the place and the memory of the soldiers who came to liberate Europe, but also to specify the precautions that all collector and reenactors must endeavor to exercise as part of the historical activities or displays in which they participate.

In addition to the existing legal provisions, collectors and reenactors, whether independent or part of an association, must respect the present charter and any instructions or rules pertaining to the venue of the event or exhibit in question, when this is open to the public.

The organizers of the activities linked to the memory of these events, whether independent persons or leaders of associations, signatories of the charter, must ensure that said charter is enforced as part of the event for which they are responsible.

All signatories of the present charter are individually responsible for the proper application of its provisions, as part of the implementation of reenactment and exhibition activities for which they are responsible.

Article 2 - Respect for "The Spirit of the Place"

The Normandy region is the symbol of the sacrifice made by the Allied Forces, of young soldiers who came by air and sea to liberate the region from the Nazi yoke and restore humanist values and democratic principles in France and in Europe. Those involved in collection and reenactment activities contribute to the remembrance of these events.

All contributors should endeavor to act in the utmost respect of history, the soldiers and the victims and adopt an attitude in keeping with the occasion.

The celebration of these historic events is by no means a glorification of war. It is unimaginable that military deeds alone would be the symbol of the historical activities or exhibits. Respect for remembrance is a vector of humanism. It conveys a message of peace, of friendship between peoples, of democracy and freedom, on behalf of the civilian and military victims who paid the price of these values with their lives.

Article 3 - Declaration of Historical Activities and Exhibits

Heads of associations and/or organizers of reenactments are required to contact the town hall (mairie) where the events are being held, to notify them of their presence. Organizers must also provide these town halls with a signed copy of the present charter, certifying their commitment to observing all its provisions. The prefecture of the department concerned and the D-Day Commemoration Committee (Comité du Débarquement) will be informed of the event.

When making their declaration, the heads of associations or independent contributors must have in their possession an explicit authorization by the owner of the venue where the reenactment will be held.

The conditions for organizing the event, namely:

- the type of event;
- the units represented;
- the dates and times authorized;
- the venue where the event is taking place;
- the number of participants;

must be defined in agreement with the town hall concerned and drafted in a written document. The latter must be presented to the police authority whenever requested.

The reenactment of battle scenes is subject to a prior declaration to the prefecture or sub-prefecture concerned and must under no circumstances take place near monuments to the Fallen, memorials or military cemeteries.

With the exception of the aforementioned events, participants will not be tolerated walking around in uniform and bearing weapons. Any violations observed may lead to proceedings by the judicial authority according to the provisions set out in the criminal code.

Article 4 - Behavior

All historical reenactors are requested to have dignified and exemplary behavior at all times. They may at no time behave or act in a manner that would disturb the local population.

Any type of action, discourse, written act or behavior that does not respect the spirit of the place and the events organized could lead to administrative sanctions or judicial proceedings.

The reenactors must be proud to represent the liberators that they embody. They must have a dignified and respectful attitude during the commemorative ceremonies in which they may be involved, at the request of the town halls concerned or the organizers.

It is strictly forbidden to salute during the national or military anthems or during the official ceremonies.

Save in exceptional cases, the position of standing at attention is required, either in a group or individually, in the strictest silence as required during ceremonies, with no handling of the weapons carried.

With the exception of the aforementioned events, participants will not be tolerated walking around in uniform and bearing weapons. Any violations observed may lead to proceedings by the judicial authority according to the provisions set out in the criminal code.

Supervision of the reenactment group must be constant and the chair of the association or the head of the group identified as such to the public authorities is

responsible for the correct behavior of its members and in ensuring that the performance delivered complies with the prior declaration described in aforementioned Article 3 of the present text.

Article 5 - Attire

The attention of all collectors and reenactors is drawn to the fact that the wearing of military attire implies that wearers must ensure to honor the uniform worn and behave with respect and humility in all circumstances.

The event organizer is in charge of checking each outfit in the interest of compliance and historical accuracy.

The wearing of historical military attire is authorized only during the periods (days and times) defined with the public authority.

Given that the wearing of uniforms and equipment in the presence of the public may cause a risk of disturbance of law and order due to the historical events that they may recall, this is generally prohibited. However, by way of derogation, whenever this is authorized by the town halls or organizations concerned during a specific event (reenactment of a historical scene, for example), it is imperative to ensure that the wearing of uniforms is strictly limited to the venue and duration of the event in question. At the end of the performance, the reenactors concerned are required to don their civilian clothing immediately.

It is recalled that the unlawful wearing of official decorations is forbidden in compliance with the criminal code. The same applies to foreign decorations.

Article 6 - Weapons

It is recalled that the weapons presented as part of historical exhibits and reenactments must comply with existing French legislation relative to the possession and use of weapons and to the type of weapon issued under regulatory provision at the period in question.

Each exhibitor or participant must be in a position to present the neutralization certificate for the weapons and material in their possession, at all times.

Article 7 - Vehicles

The appearance of the collector military vehicles presented to the public as part of a static exhibit, a parade or a reenactment scene, must take historical reality into consideration, be as close as possible to vehicles from the period in question and comply with existing legislation.

All persons in charge of supervising the event may refuse access to the site for any collector vehicle that clearly deviates from this historical imperative and that has not met the specific requirements determined by the organizer.

The movement of convoys of collector military vehicles on roads must comply with the rules of the road and be declared beforehand to the prefect.

Any unauthorized convoy may be stopped or diverted to a minor road by the law enforcement agencies.

The movement of tracked vehicles on the road is subject to the use of protective equipment.

Article 8 – Signature of the Charter

Signating the charter does not exempt contributors from declaration formalities or requesting authorization from the administrative authorities.

Broadly speaking, by signing the present charter, the signing party (association, group of collectors or independent reenactors) is bound to respect all the values mentioned in the text.

More specifically, for each public event falling within the scope of this document, the charter must be signed by the organizing association, thereby acknowledging their will to comply with all of its requirements and recommendations.

Once signed, the charter will be transmitted to the D-Day Commemoration Committee for safe keeping.

The Prefect of Calvados

signed

Thierry MOSIMANN

The President of the Regional Council of
Normandy

signed

Hervé MORIN

The Prefect of La Manche

signed

Frédéric PERRISAT

The Chair of the D-Day Commemoration
Committee

signed

Jean QUÉTIER

ANNEX 1: Act of engagement to be submitted to the town hall where the event is being organized.

I the undersigned.....
Head or member of the association
.....hereby

- certify to have declared or requested authorization from the services of the prefecture, whenever this is laid down by the law;
- certify to have read the rules mentioned or recalled in the present charter, declare to adhere to all the provisions laid down and commit to implementing them;
- certify that all the documents pertaining to my collector vehicle(s) are in order in compliance with current legislation;
- certify that the regulated weapons and materials carried comply, in every respect, with current legislation.

At, on/...../.....

Signature preceded by the handwritten words "Lu et approuvé" [read and approved]

Space reserved for the host town hall:

Valid for the event from/...../..... to/...../.....

Specify the place(s) where the stationary or touring events will take place:

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Done at on...../...../.....

Signature and stamp of the town hall: