

PREPARED BY
SPECIAL & INFORMATION SERVICES
USRRA

YOUR GUIDE TO THE RIVIERA



THE OFFICER'S CLUB, AMERICAN RED CROSS

INTRODUCTION

The Commanding Officer, Director and Staff of the Riviera Recreational Area extend to the officers and men coming to this Area on leave or furlough a cordial welcome.

We are set up to make your stay here as pleasant as possible, to subject you during this period to a minimum of regulations and in general to give you the chance to relax and rest.

On your part we ask of you one thing: that you so conduct yourself as to reflect credit on the service to which we belong. The facilities placed at your disposal have been put into first class condition for your use and occupancy. There are others to follow you. Therefore your care and consideration will make it better for them if you do your share to help keep these facilities in good condition and restrain from any action of a destructive nature.

This booklet outlines the recreational and amusement facilities that are available to you and tells you something of this section of France. It also gives the few simple regulations which have been set up to insure the greatest good out of the

Area. Familiarize yourself with its contents and you will get the greatest enjoyment out of your leave.

May you have a pleasant week.

CHARLES L. Mc MACKIN WARREN E. PUGH
Lt.Col. Infantry Colonel, Infantry
Director, USRRA Commanding



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WELCOME TO THE RIVIERA!

The United States Riviera Recreational Area welcomes you to the Riviera!

With scenery as lavish and picturesque as a Hollywood set, a mild curative climate and an abundance of facilities for rest and recreation, the Riviera has for centuries been the leading vacationland and play-

ground area of the Continent.

Here, before the hounds of war bayed across the face of Europe, came the famous folk of the world. In the gaming casinos and along the promenades you would have glimpsed the faces of the fabulously wealthy of the world as well as a glittering array of Hollywood celebrities here for the season.

Protected by the coastal mountains, the Riviera enjoys a unique protection from the cold mistral which blows its frigid breath on the other portions of France, with the result that the average temperature here is much higher while the nights are cooled by the Mediterranean breezes.

Before the war there was an almost unbroken succession of festivals along the coast — the flower battles at the carnivals of Nice and Cannes, colorful parades and floats, racing and regattas and musical fetes.

Perhaps not quite as elaborately gay these days, but as beautiful as ever with the exception of a few battle scars, the Riviera carries on and you will find your stay here a memorable one.

Make the most of your visit here.

CANNES

Cannes, with its beautiful harbor and white sandy beach is one of the oldest and most aristocratic resorts along the Riviera. For over a century is has been the stamping ground of Europe's wealthiest vacationists. Internationally known as a city of luxury, pleasure and entertainment, it has built its reputation on its excellent facilities for entertaining those who have flocked to it for rest and recreation. Today, under the operation of USRRA, the majority of these facilities are available to you.

The history of Cannes can be traced back as far as 400 B.C. when it was known as Aighitna, the capital of the Oxhibians, later becoming a pleasure resort for patrician families. Like other towns along the coast, it was looted by the Lombards and Saracens and became involved in the sanguinary religious wars of the 15th

century. Later occupied by the Spanish, Cannes was returned to France by Cardinal Richelieu.

There is an interesting historical sidelight in the fact that on the 2nd of March, 1815, Napoleon, having escaped from the island of Elba, camped with his handful of troops in Cannes at the spot now marked by the Rue Bivouac-Napoleon.

Cannes, real "discoverer" was Lord Brougham of England, who on his way to Nice was refused permission to cross the frontier because of a small outbreak of cholera. Deciding to wait at Cannes, he fell in love with its natural beauty, built a villa for himself and began to publicize the spot to the English aristocracy. In appreciation of his efforts, the people of Cannes erected a statue to his memory in the Allee de la Liberté — probably the first monument ever erected to a publicity man!

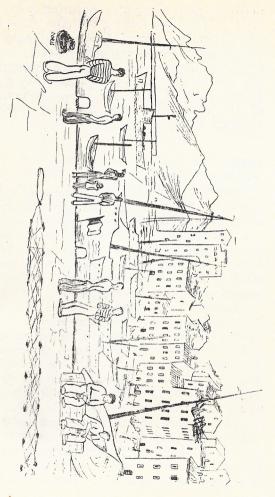
Rivalled only by the famous Promenade des Anglais in Nice, Cannes' Promenade de la Croisette, lined with tropical palms and luxury hotels, curves gracefully along the beach. In the quiet peace of the harbor the sea gulls wheel against the blue sky and fishermen mend and dry their nets or doze in the warm sun.

Like all the other cities of the Area, Cannes has its Old Town, built on Mont Chevalier. Clinging to the steep hillsides the houses sometimes appear to be built almost on top of one another. You can take the picturesque Rue Saint-Antoine leading to the Place de la Castre where there still remain ruins of a 16th century fortification. Here, too, is the church of Notre-Dame de l'Espérance whose ancient gate bears the inscription 1521. Inside the church are some wood sculptures dating back as far as the 15th century. South of the church is the Mont Chevalier Tower, an old watch tower built in 1070, and next to it is the Lycklama Museum with an excellent collection of oriental antiquities.

Less than a mile out from the Jetée Albert-Edouard are the islands of Sainte-Marguerite and Saint-Honorat. On Sainte-Marguerite is the historic fort built by Richelieu where you can still see the bare cell in which the "Man in the Iron Mask" was held for 11 years by Louis XIV. The identity of the mysterious prisoner has never been established, but it is known that the "iron" mask was really made of silk or velvet.

Saint-Honorat, the smaller of the two islands, has a convent founded in 410 by Saint Honoratus, and legend would have us believe that one of his earlier monks was Saint Patrick who won fame by driving the snakes from Ireland.

From Cannes you may take the funi-



cular to Super-Cannes, a beautiful suburb built on a hill overlooking the city. Lovely villas nestle among luxurious gardens exotic with Mediterranean flowers, and from the Observatory there is a magnificent view of the whole area from the Esterel to Nice with the snowy summits of the Alpes-Maritimes towering in the distance.

NICE

Before the war this gleaming city nestled in the arm of the sea was the scene of some of the gayest festivals along the coast, its most famous being the carnival held during the 12 days preceeding Lent when the whole city became one pleasure-mad riot of celebration, and fun, fantasy and frolic ran rampant.

Nice has not always been a city of song and laughter. Founded in 350 B.C. by the Greeks, its history is full of storm and turbulence. The tiny town prospered in its beginnings and its maritime strength grew to a point where it caused the Barbary pirates to discontinue their attacks

on all Mediterranean shipping.

The fortunes of Nice changed in the 16th century and the pages of those bitter years are filled with darkness and misery. Preyed upon by predatory tribes, it was later tossed back and forth from owner to

owner until the Treaty of Turin returned it to the French.

In 1940 refugees flooded the city to escape the Nazis only to find that Italy had declared war and that Nice lay in the Italian zone of occupation. With the Allied occupation of Africa, the Germans greatly strengthened the defenses of Nice, and once again the people knew fear and oppression.

With the arrival of American troops on the 28th of August, 1944, the people of Nice were free again and began to rediscover happiness and gaiety.

The Old Town, probably the most interesting part of the city, lies at the foot of a big rock called the Chateau, which may be reached by steps from the road, at the eastern end of town. Forming a striking contrast to the modern part of the city, you will find streets here so narrow that neighbors can lean out of their windows and shake hands from one flat to the other. Scattered through these old quarters are many of the relics of the days when Nice was only a fishing port and trading center for the peasants of the mountains.

Also at the eastern end of Nice is the section known as Cimiez, which during the 3rd century was the capital of the province of the Alps-Maritime. Replacing the ancient houses of the Romans are luxurious villas and colorful gardens, but

you will also find traces of the old civilization in the remains of the old Roman arena, near which are ruins of Roman aqueducts and the stones of an ancient temple.

On the Rue Sincaire stands the church where Martin Luther preached in 1514 before leaving the Catholic Church.

The favorite strolling place of visitors is easily the Promenade des Anglais, one of the most beautiful in France, which curves along the waterfront for four and a half miles, with a beautiful view of the sea and the hills.

ANTIBES

Conveniently located about halfway between Nice and Cannes is the smaller city of Antibes whose history reaches back into the dim corridors of the past for over 2000 years. Less expensive than the larger cities, it has become a favorite resort for writers and artists who find plenty of material for their pens and brushes in its quaintly picturesque streets.

Perched on a solitary rock on the approach to Antibes is ancient Fort Carré, built at the end of the 16th century. A fortified pier 620 yards long, dug out and fortified in the 17th century, protects the harbor. On the Boulevard Notre-Dame is La Garoupe, a 246-foot hill with an old

chapel and lighthouse famous for its view.

The Grimaldi Castle on the boulevard along the waterfront dates from the 16th century and contains souvenirs of Gallic and Roman days.

GRASSE

Situated high in the hills with a breathtaking panorama of natural beauty at her feet sits the sweet-scented city of Grasse. The birthplace of Jean-Honoré Fragonard, 18th century painter, Grasse is known today for its perfume industry. Over 62,000 acres of the countryside are devoted to the cultivation of violets, tuberoses, mignonettes, jonquils, jasmine, roses and carnation. Each year the flower fields produce over 3,000,000 pounds of roses and 4,440,000 pounds of orange blossoms. You will no doubt visit some of the perfumeries where you can see for yourself how many flowers it takes to make a drop of perfume for the girl back home. Mrs. Molotov, as a leading technician of the Soviet perfume industry, studied the manufacture of perfume in Grasse.

Special tours have been arranged so that officers may see the entire area under USRRA including Nice, Cannes, Antibes and Grasse. Full details are available at the Information Booths.

TE ANCIENT FORT ON MONT CHEVALIER

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

We don't want to spoil your fun with red tape and restrictions — and we won't — but there are some things that you should know about the setup here at USRRA.

In general, officers will be quartered in Cannes, while enlisted personnel will be stationed in the Nice area.

As you get off the trains you will be assembled in groups and conducted to your hotels. There you will register and be assigned a room. From then on you will be on your own to enjoy your leave as you wish.

Your leave starts on your arrival at Cannes and lasts for seven days. On the evening of the sixth day you will receive a briefing on the arrangements for your departure.

You will find M.P.'s on duty in the Area. The main objectives of the Military Police are to prevent trouble, assist you in every possible way and to make arrests only when any other solution is impossible. If there is anything you want to know, don't hesitate to ask an M.P. — he knows the answers. If you are in trouble he is trained to help you. When he warns you against an establishment or certain contacts, remember that you are in a strange community where there are many

enemy agents and questionable characters. The M.P. knows the community and the warning is for your protection. Respect him in the performance of his duties.

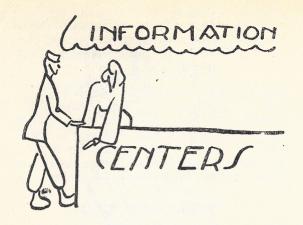
Letters can be left in a box provided for them at the hotel desk, and packages may be mailed from the Army Post Office. The Red Cross will wrap your packages for you.

Your mess ticket indicates the hour at which your meals will be served. If you are on time, eat leisurely, and make room for the next man there need be no waiting lines.

The only food and water which is safe is that obtained from U.S. Army operated or controlled installations.

Wear your dog tags at all times.





If there are questions about the Area that you don't find answered in this Guide Book — and there probably will be — you will find plenty of conveniently located USRRA Information Booths, equipped with maps of the city and English-speaking personnel. The attendants are familiar with the town and can help you with all your questions from handbags to haircuts. They can tell you where to shop, advise you on available services and direct you to local points of interest. They will issue games and athletic equipment if you wish, and roller skates and swimming trunks are available at all booths. There is a USRRA Information Booth in every hotel occupied by officers as well as at the following locations :

SIESTA ON THE CROISETTE

Headquarters Information Center, Hotel Miramar.

Red Cross Information Center, Officer's Club. Hotel Miramar.

NIGHT CLUBS

USRRA has established some of the finest night clubs in the Area for the exclusive use of officers and their guests. There is topnotch talent to entertain you in the floorshows and some of the smoothest orchestras in France to play for your dancing. And there is no cover charge!

CLUB NORMANDIE

Located on Rue Normandie, just off the Promenade de la Crosiette, the Club Normandie is a spot with a real night club atmosphere that will remind you of the gay night spots of merry Manhattan. Open daily from 2130 to 0300, it offers everything you can ask for in a night club, with swing and sway music to dance to and a floor show packed with talent and entertainment.

CLUB MIRAMAR

If you like large spacious clubs, the Club Miramar, housed in the Hotel Miramar, is just what you are looking for. There's inviting music, there's dancing, and there's a floor show nightly that you won't want to miss. The Club Miramar is open every evening from 2200 to 0200.

THE LERINA CLUB

The Lerina Club, on the Promenade de la Croisette just west of the Hotel Miramar, is a small intimate club offering a sparkling program of dancing and entertainment. There is a beautiful outdoor terrace with a bar and a dance floor where you can dance under the stars when the weather permits. The Club is open from 1000 to 0200 daily and you may enjoy service on the sunny terrace every morning and afternoon.

DINNER DANCING

The Hotels Carlton, Miramar, Martinez and Californie, operated by USRRA, offer dinner dancing to the strains of sweet music doily from 1830 to 2000.

MOVIES

The Olympia Theater, 67 Rue d'Antibes, shows films twice daily and Sundays. Matinees are at 1600 and evening showings at 2030. At present, only Allied military personnel can be permitted to attend. The title of the current film is displayed on the hotel bulletin boards and the admission is free.

APO

The Army Post Office is located on Rue d'Antibes near Boulevard Alsace.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross operates two clubs in Cannes, both offering snacks, dancing and music, games, picnics and exercise classes. They will wrap your packages for you and mend your clothes. Shopping guides are available to help you with your souvenir hunting, and the attendants at the Information Booths will help you to find the answers to your questions.

The Officer's Club and Snack Bar, Hotel Miramar, is open from 1000 to 2300 daily. Chocolate, cakes, coca cola and coffee are available at the Snack Bar to take care of that empty feeling between meals. There is a chamber music concert daily at 1600, and a tea dance every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 1700 to 2000. Dancing partners

will be provided.

The Malmaison — and if you don't find out what the English translation is you're missing something! — is located on the Promenade de la Croisette where it caters to enlisted men and women between the hours of 1000 and 2300.

SIGHTSEEING TOURS

Motor Tours, free to officers, will leave from the A.R.C. Officer's Club daily at 1000 & 1500 for one of the most beautiful scenic tours in the Area. Along the coastline to Nice for refreshments with

a drive along the high spots of the city, the trip will swing up through the hills to Grasse where lunch will be served at the Park Palace Hotel and a visit made to a famous perfumery. The return route to Cannes takes you down the winding hill roads with their breathtaking vistas of the picturesque coast and the sea. Reservations for tours may be made at the Information Booth.

BOATING CRUISES

Motor launches will leave the USRRA anchorage at Pavillon d'Escale daily from 0830 to 1200 and 1400 to 1800 for cruises along the famously beautiful Riviera coast. Trips are also made to the island of Saint-Honorat with its ancient monastery, and there will be other special trips as announced on the bulletin boards. If you want a fast, thrilling ride, Chris-craft are available for speed boat trips. You can get complete information on the various tours and obtain your tickets at the Information Booth in the lobby of the Hotel Miramar.

FISHING TRIPS

Izaak Walton's who would like to try their hand at deep sea fishing will find that provision has been made for them to drop a line in the briny deep. Fishing boats leave from the USRRA anchorage from 0900 to 1230 daily, and fishing tackle and all necessary equipment will be



AN OLD TOWER ON MONT CHEVALIER

supplied to the anglers. Reservations may be made and information obtained at the Hotel Miramar Information Booth.

SWIMMING

Practically all beaches in the Riviera Area are off limits for swimming because of mines and/or pollution. Beaches where swimming is authorized are so posted and swimming trunks are available at the USRRA Information Booths. Sun-bathers should take it easy as the sun here is much stronger than most of us are accustomed to. Be careful of sudden, prolonged exposure. A bad sunburn can be serious and spoil your whole leave.

TENNIS

Cannes offers excellent courts to officers who want to swat a tennis ball around. Professionals are available at the courts for coaching, instruction or games, and you can also draw your necessary equipment there. The courts are at the following locations:

Carlton Court Club, next to the Carl-

ton Hotel.

Cannes Lawn Tennis Club, Rue Lacour, two blocks north of the Martinez Hotel.

Hotel Californie Tennis Courts, Hotel

Californie.

BADMINTON

The are badminton courts adjacent to all USRRA operated hotels and on the

beaches. Equipment may be drawn at the Information Booths.

VOLLEY BALL

Volley ball courts are located along the beach, and equipment is issued at the Information Booths.

PX

There are two PX's in Cannes, the larger one located across the street from the Casino Municipal on the Promenade de la Croisette. This PX carries a stock of officer's clothing. Clothing purchases may be made only upon presentation of a unit clothing ration coupon, no coupons being issued at Cannes. The smaller PX on the Croisette between the Miramar and Martinez Hotels, has a fine Gift Shop well-stocked with souvenir items. Both are open from 1000 to 1700.

LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING

There is a three-day service on laundry and dry cleaning at the Carlton Hotel. Inquire at the Information Booth for details.

DISPENSARY

There is a Dispensary located in Room 101 of the Carlton Hotel. Emergency medical service is available at all times, and routine sick call for restees is at 0900.

PRO STATIONS

Pro Stations operating 24 hours a day are located at the Carlton Hotel Dispensary and at 7 Rue Notre-Dame. Mechanical and chemical prophylactics are available without charge at all U. S. Army hotels, Pro Stations and the Dispensary. The V.D. rate is extremely high in this area.

CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS

"Personnel on Temporary Duty at the Riviera District Rest Camp are permitted to mention (in their personal correspondence) that they are visiting Cannes or Nice."

LAUNDRY AND DRY CIFABILLIC

VEATMENT ARY

Extract Letter Base Censor Office Nº 8, dated 13th Feb. 1945, M.I.S. ETOUSA, APO 772-U.S. Army.

USRRA PROGRAM OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

PROTESTANT: Holy Trinity Church, Rue de Canada, one block north of the Hotel Carlton. Services Sunday at 1140. Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 1030.

CATHOLIC: Notre-Dame des Pins, Boulevard Alexandria III. Sunday Mass at 1130.

Confessions at the Hotel Gray et d'Albion, 52 Rue d'Antibes, on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 1930.

JEWISH: Jewish services conducted by local clergy are held in Room 231 of the Carlton Hotel every Friday at 1930.



