



NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Media are invited to attend the opening of a new exhibit at Washington D.C.'s National Museum of the U.S. Navy highlighting the 'Twin Destinies' of France and America. The event, to be attended by a number of American and French Navy dignitaries, is Monday, June 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. The below media advisory has more information as well as links to high resolution photos of elements of the exhibit.

Media interested in attending will meet at the Washington Navy Yard's Visitors Center at 11th and O Street at 6 p.m. If you would like to attend or if you have additional questions please contact Paul Taylor with the Naval History and Heritage Command's Communication and Outreach Division at 202-433-7880 or via email at william.p.taylor@navy.mil.

National Museum of the U.S. Navy to Open New Exhibit Highlighting the 'Twin Destinies' of France and America

*By Alexis Cutler, Intern, Naval History and Heritage Command
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WASHINGTON – As the French tall-ship replica, L'Hermione, makes her way up the East Coast, the [National Museum of the United States Navy](#) will open an exhibit June 8 that showcases the special relationship the United States has with France: [*Twin Destinies: The U.S. and French Navies*](#).

Edward Furgol, Ph.D., the museum's curator, said the exhibit "mirrors the two nation's cooperation from the beginning. The Twin Destinies exhibit shows their parallel histories in the artifacts and artwork on display."

The exhibit breaks down the Franco-American relationship by eras – 1770s-1820; 1860s-1920s, and 1940s to present. The exhibit features artifacts from the American Revolution and the Quasi-War, including a French musket of the type supplied to the Continental Navy, and weapons of the Quasi-War, as well as an officer's sword and dirk that could have been on board the frigate USS Brandywine that returned Lafayette to France in 1825.

In addition to the Twin Destinies exhibit, the museum has even more to display the partnership between French and U.S. Navies. "The museum has artifacts and stories that link the two navies literally from the front of the museum to the back," said Furgol. "As a secondary part of the

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exhibit, we have created a scavenger hunt for visitors to see all the French and American connections from the 1770's, onward."

There will be models of a variety of ships from the era, including L'Hermione, the French frigate that brought the Marquis de Lafayette back to Boston on April 28, 1780 with the news King Louis XVI would provide additional troops and ships to America's fight for freedom.

Among the "somethings old" will be something uniquely new: A photomural of Tom Freeman's painting Destinies of Honor that form part of the exhibit title. The mural shows Marquis de Lafayette landing in Boston, where he was greeted with great fanfare.

The exhibit, however, goes beyond the time when the fledgling America and France worked together because of a shared distrust of Great Britain. It even brings up the Quasi-War, a perfect mashup of a Franco-American word to describe that 3-year hiccup in the relationship. In 1886, France showed her love to the United States with the Statue of Liberty, which symbolized both countries' dedication to freedom and democracy.

During World War I, six American fliers who wished to help France fight Germany joined the French Foreign Legion and then the French flying corps in 1915. Calling themselves the Lafayette Escadrille to honor the Marquis de Lafayette, it is rumored their mangled French for "m'aidez" (help me), turned into mayday, which is still used today. And when U.S. Army Gen. John J. Pershing's expeditionary troops marched into Paris in June 1917, he saluted the tomb of the Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, where he (or his aide) is credited with stating: "Lafayette, we are here," another nod to that critical Franco-American relationship from the Revolutionary War.

Giving a nod to World War II is sand from Normandy, the site of the D-Day invasion. A large-scale model of the destroyer escort USS Dealey (DE 1006) is prominent in the exhibit, among the class of ships the U.S. gave France to rebuild its navy following World War II.

Most recently, the French Navy has often had ships sailing with the U.S. Navy in coalition task forces against terrorism and piracy. The U.S. Navy operates out of a base in the French colony of Djibouti, Africa, which has been crucial in controlling piracy in the area. The two countries often train together, with French aviators catapulting off U.S. Navy carriers, and participate in training exercises with other partner nations.

The exhibit will open on June 8 and close Oct. 14, 2015. The tall ship will be in Yorktown, Va., June 5-7 and travel up the East Coast with stops Virginia at Mount Vernon (June 9) and Alexandria (June 10-12); Annapolis (June 16-17) and Baltimore (June 19-21) in Maryland; Philadelphia , Pa. (June 25-28); New York City (July 1-4) and Greenport (July 6-7) in New York; Newport, R.I.(July 8-9); Boston, Mass., (July 11-12); Castine, Maine (July 14-15) and Lunenburg, Nova Scotia (July 18), before sailing back to France on July 18.

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Officer's Dirk - 150601-N-TH437-005

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxb21AqV1wmCY2JPTEdEUK1YbGM/view?usp=sharing>

An officer's dirk on display at the National Museum for the U.S. Navy. Dirks were originally weapons, but as this example shows, they evolved into a ceremonial shipboard badge of rank, meeting the uniform requirement for an officer to always carry a sword.

US Navy pistol - 150601-N-TH437-004

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxb21AqV1wmCZG5sZkZIUTFrbs/view?usp=sharing>

An early 19th century-era U.S. Navy pistol on display at the National Museum for the U.S. Navy. In 1813, Simon North of Middletown, Conn., made 1,000 pistols for the Navy. Navy inspector Captain Edward Trenchard's 'ET' approval stamp is visible on the stock. The .69 caliber pistols were in the armory on board the frigate Brandywine.

USS Dealey - 150601-N-TH437-008

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxb21AqV1wmCS3JVU2NSV1VSd3c/view?usp=sharing>

A model of destroyer escort Dealey on display at the National Museum for the U.S. Navy. Dealey was the lead ship of a class of destroyer escorts built in the 1950's. During that decade, both the U.S. and Great

Britain worked to restore the diminished French navy as part of the Mutual Defense Assistance Program and Dealey was the class of ship gifted to France by the U.S. Navy.

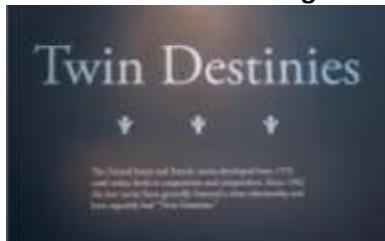
L'Hermione - 150601-N-TH437-003

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxb21AqV1wmCa21QWWtMS0pTd2s/view?usp=sharing>



A model of frigate L'Hermione on display at the National Museum for the U.S. Navy. L'Hermione was built in Rochefort, France, in 1779 as part of the Concorde-class of frigates, which were designed for speed and maneuverability. In 1780, L'Hermione embarked on a voyage from Rochefort to Boston with an important passenger, the Marquis de Lafayette. He carried News that the French had decided to send military support to aid the American colonists in their struggle for independence against the British.

Twin Destinies Exhibit Sign - 150601-N-TH437-002



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxb21AqV1wmCbmFJRjAtek5JcDg/view?usp=sharing>

The Twin Destinies exhibit walks museum visitors through the United States and French Navy's relationship from 1775 until today. Artifacts are on display that demonstrated a relationship built on both cooperation and competition. Those wishing to further their knowledge can follow a scavenger hunt throughout the museum by following the symbols in the photo.

Partial Model of USS Brandywine - 150601-N-TH437-006



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxb21AqV1wmCSIJ6ZDlfdzVXVEU/view?usp=sharing>

USS Brandywine was the ship that brought Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roche Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette and his son, Georges Washington Lafayette, back to France after their grand tour of the 1824-1825 upcoming 50th celebration of United States' independence that Lafayette was instrumental in achieving. The ship was named after the battle where Lafayette's was wounded while fighting for American independence.