The Price of Discretion: Prostitution, Venereal Disease, and the American Military in France, 1944–1946

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*The American Historical Review*, Volume 115, Issue 4, 1 October 2010, Pages 1002–1030, [https://doi.org/10.1086/ahr.115.4.1002](https://doi.org/10.1086/ahr.115.4.1002)

**Published:** 01 October 2010
In September 1944, while leading the 29th Infantry Division across Brittany to liberate France, the American general Charles Gerhardt decided that his boys needed sex. So he instructed his chief of staff to start a house of prostitution. The task went to the St. Renan office of Civil Affairs, the military section assigned to address the needs of the liberated civilian population. Asa Gardiner, the local civil affairs officer, called upon his contacts in the French police force, who produced a pimp named Morot. The pimp, in turn, recommended four prostitutes currently refugeed nearby. Gardiner and Morot rode an army jeep to interview them, and on the way back Gardiner asked Morot to manage the business. For the actual brothel, they billeted a house outside St. Renan that had recently been vacated by the Germans.
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