

# Forty and Eight French

By JOSEPH PETRON, Voiture 518

*Voyageurs of La Societe make no claim to speaking or writing French as it is done in La Belle France. In fact, their version of the French language would probably surprise and amaze any Frenchman, if he could understand it at all. It is really remarkable how much the French language has been improved and simplified by Voyageurs who never have taken a French lesson in their lives.*

*But some of the newer Voyageurs, not to mention many of the older ones, may be a bit confused by the various*

*French terms used in the activities and ceremonies of La Societe. Therefore, we are grateful to Voyageur Joseph Petron for the following compilation of Forty and Eight French.*

*Voyageur Petron is well qualified as an authority, not only by his French name but by the fact that he is an original and charter member of Voiture 1, Philadelphia, and served as Garde-Frein des Etat Unis in 1920.*

French	Definition and Equivalent	Phonetic Pronunciation
La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux	The Society of the Forty Men and Eight Horses	Lah So-see-i-tay day Care-aunt ohm za weet Shev-oh
Attention	Be Careful	At-ten-see-on
Aidez-moi	Aid me, Assist me, Help me	Ay-dah mwah
(Le) Aumonier	Chaplain	Oh-mohn-yea
(Le) Avocat	Lawyer, Legal Aid Officer	Ah-voh-kah
(Le) Camp	Camp, field	Cam
(Le) Chapeau	Hat, Cap	Shah-poh or Sha-po
(Les) Chapeaux	Hats, Caps	
(Le) Chateau	Castle	Shah-too or Shah-toh
(Les) Chevaux	Horses	Sher-voh or Shev-oh
(Le) Chef	Chief, Leader, Equiv. to Commander	Shef
(Le) Chef de Gare	Chief of Station or Depot Station Master-President Equiv. to Post Commander	Shef deh gar (or Shef der gahr)
(Le) Chef de Chemin de Fer	Railroad President, National Commander	Shef deh Shur-man deh fare
(Le) Chef de Train	Train Master, Vice-President Equiv. to Post Vice Commander	Shef deh Tran (to rhyme with bran but with shorten "n")
(Le) Chemin de Fer	Road of Iron, Railroad, Railway	Shuh-man deh fare or She-man der ferr
(Le) Cheminot	Railway or Railroad Worker Member of Exec. Committee	Shem-ee-no
(Le) Cheminot Local (Sing.)	Equiv. to Post Exec. Comm.	Shem-ee-no Lo-kal
(Les) Cheminots Locaux (Plural)	Local Voiture-Exec. Comm.	Shem-ee-no Lo-koh
(Les) Cheminots Nationaux	National Voiture-Exec. Comm.	Shem-ee-no Na-sion-oh
Comment-Allezvous	How are you (Literally How go you)	Komm-ahng-tal-lay voo
(Le) Commis	Clerk—Shopman	Kom-mee
(Le) Commissaire Intendant	Treasurer or Finance Officer	Caim-ee-sair-ahn-tahn-dahnt or kom-mee-sair-ahn-tahn-dahnt
(Le) Commis Voyageur	Property Man, Commercial Traveller	Kom-mee Vwa-yahj-ur
(Le) Conducteur	Master of Ceremonies	Kon-duc-tur or Kon-duyc-terr
(Le) Correspondant	Secretary or Adjutant	Ker-ee-spahn-dahnt
(Le) Department	Department, State	Day-part-mahng
(La) Drapeau	Flag	Drah-po or drah-poh
De (used in the singular)	of	Deh or Der
Des (used in the plural)	(of) the	Day
Des Etats-Unis d'Amerique	(of) The United States of America	Day zay-tah-zou-nee dah-meh-reek
Et	and	eh
Excuse Moi	Excuse me	Ex-kuz-ay-mwah
Fer	Iron	Ferr, fair, fare
(Le) Fourragere	Cord, Decoration	Foo-ra-zhar
Garde-Frein	Brakeman	Garrd-Fran
Gard a vous	On Guard, Attention	Guard-ah-voo or Garrd-ah-voo
(La) Garde	Guard	Garrd or Guard
(Les) Gardes des Chevaux	Guards of Horses	Guard day shev-oh or Garra-day Sher-voh
(La) Garde de la Porte	Door Guard (Sergeant at Arms) (Inside Guard)	Guard deh lah Porte (or der)
(La) Garde des Prisonniers (m)	Prisoners Guard	Guard or Garrd day-pree-zon-yair
(La) Gare	Station (R. R. Depot)	Gahr-r-gar
(Le) Gendarme	Policeman or Patrolman	Hjaun-derm
Grand (with masculine noun)	Large, tall, great, big	Grahnd
Grande (with feminine noun)		
Grands (with mas. plural)		

French	Definition and Equivalent	Phonetic Pronunciation
Grandes (with fem. plural) (Le) Grand Chef de Gare	Chief-Station Master President or (Equiv. to Dept. or State Commander) State R. R. Worker (Dist. Commander) Dept. or State Committeeman Depts. or State Committeemen Color Bearer—Big Flag War Dept. or State Organization (Big Car) Eight Historian	Grahnd-Shef deh gar (or gahr) (gar to rhyme with tar) Grahnd-Shem-ec-no  Grahnd-Drah-po Gerr Gra-hnd-Vwa-ture  weet, wit, wheet is-to-ri-en
(Le) Grand Cheminot (Singular)		
(Les) Grands Cheminots (Plural)		
(Le) Grand Drapeau		
(La) Guerre		
(La) Grande Voiture (Sing.)		
(Les) Grandes Voitures (Plural)		
Huit		
(Le) Historien		
(h is not pronounced)		
(Le) Homme	man	ohn or omm
(Les) Hommes	men	
(La) (before a Feminine Singulare Noun)	The	Lah (ah pronounced very short)
(Le) (before a Masculine Singular Noun)	The	Ler or Luh
(Le) Lampiste	Lampman or Lamp Tender (outside Guard)	Lom-peest
Les (before a plural noun)	The	Lay
Local (M. Sing.) Locaux (M. Plural)	Local or Locals	Lo-kal—Lo-koh
Locale (F. Sing.) Locales (F. Plural)	Local or Locals	Lo-kal
Je ne peux pas	I can not	Jzuh-nuh-puh-pah
(Le) Medicin	Doctor or Physician	May-de-san or Med-ee-san (to rhyme with tan)
(Le) Militaire	Military	Mil-ee-tair
(Le) Monsieur	Mister, Sir, Gentleman	Mus-year or Mer-se-er
National (m) (Singular)	National	Na-sion-al (al as in Al. Smith)
Nationale (f) (Singular)	National	
Nationales (f) (Plural)	National	Na-sion-oh
Nationaux (m) (Plural)	National	Na-sion-oh
Non	No, Non	Nong, Naung or Non
Oui	Yes, Yea	we, wee, wui or oo'e
Pas	No, Not, Not Any	Pah
Passé	Past, Last	Pas-say, Pa-sey, Pah-say
(Le) Publiciste	Publisher, Editor, Journalist, Writer	Pub-li-sist
(La) Porte	Door, Gate	Port
(Le) Premier	First	Prer-me-eh
(Le) Prisonnier	Prisoner	Pree-son-nee-ay or Pree-zon-yair
(Le) Prisonnier de Guerre (P. G.—Poor Goof)	Prisoner of War	Pree-zon-yair deh gare (to rhyme with dare)
(Les) Prisonniers de Guerre	Prisoners of War	
(La) Promenade	Meeting	Prom-nod
Promenade Nationale	National Meeting	Prom-nod Na-sion-al
Quarante	Forty	Care-aunt, Car-rant or Kah-rahngt
Reste	Rest, At Ease	Rest
Train (Le)	Train	Tran or Train
(Le) Train Militarie	Military Train—Troop Train	Tran-Mil-ee-taire
(Le) Train des Voyageurs	Travellers' Train	Tran-day Vwa-yahs-ur
(La) Societe	Society	(Lah) So-see-i-tay
Salute	Salute, greeting	Salute (Sa-luy)
Sous	Vice, Assistant, Under, Below, Beneath	Soo
(Le) Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer	National Vice Commander	Soo Shef deh Shuh-man deh fare
(Le) Sous Chef de Gare	Asst. Station Master (Equiv. to Vice Commander)	Soo-Shef deh-gar
(Le) Sous Grand Cheminot	Asst. Dept. or State Exec. Committee- man-Deputy Dist. Comm.	Soo-Grahnd-Shem-ee-no
(La) Voiture (f) (Singular)	Car, Cart, Coach, Carriage, Equiv. to Post	Vwa-ture (not Voy-ture) Vwa-teur or Vu-ah-teer
(Les) Voitures (Plural)	Cars, Carts, Coaches, Carriages, Equiv. to Posts	(Lay) Vwa-ture
(La) (Grande) Voiture (Sing.)	Dept. or State Organization	Gra-hnd Vwa-ture
(Les) (Grandes) Voitures (Plural)	(Big Car)	
(La) Voiture Locale (Sing.)	Local Organizations	Vwa-ture Lo-kal
	Equiv. to Post	
(Les) Voitures Locales (Plural)	Equiv. to Posts	
(La) Voiture Nationale	National Organization (National Car)	Vwa-ture Na-sion-al
(Le) Voyageur	Traveller or Passenger	Vwa-yahj-ur
(Le) Voyageur Militaire	Military Traveller or Military Passenger	Vwa-yahj-ur Mil-ee-tair All titles accented on final syllable.