

# The 12TH BIENNIAL CHAMBLEY AIR BASE REUNION NEWSLETTER

Up, up and away for world record



Chambley AB - Mondell Hot Air Balloon Festival - 3 August 2013  
SET WORLD RECORD WITH 407 LAUNCHES SIMULTANEOUS

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# 12<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CHAMBLEY AIR BASE, FRANCE REUNION AND SILVER ANNIVERSARY EDITION NEWSLETTER - Part 1 - March 2014

## IT'S REUNION TIME ONCE AGAIN, THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER THROUGH 5 OCTOBER 2014

Get out your dusty travel bags in the closet, put on a new coat of varnish on your favorite walking cane and let us enjoy one more fellowship and shindig of our Chambley experiences.

### .....MISSION STATEMENT.....

*Chambley AB Reunion is a group of Cold War veterans, civilian and family members who unselfishly served our nation and were stationed at Chambley Air Base, France during the periods 1953-1967. We are a not-for-profit social organization dedicated to sustaining relationships and lasting memories, and continuing ties with French organizations dedicated to future development of the base. This newsletter is published once or twice each year in print form and on the organization's website: [www.ChambleyAB.com](http://www.ChambleyAB.com).*

Your Leadership Team welcomes each of you and your spouse or guest in joining us 2 through 5 October 2014 in Tampa, Florida for our 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Reunion (24<sup>th</sup> year) at the Embassy Hotel & Suites - Tampa, Florida! Your participation with your fellow alumni will make this a memorable event. We have an excellent program designed just for you. Once again, this is an opportunity to meet and reminisce with fellow warriors and spouses who served at Chambley defending our nation during the Cold War years 1953-1967. Our reunion will not be successful without you!

Be sure to make your reservation at the Tampa Embassy Suites by calling 1-800-1555x1805 before 17 September 2014. Reunion hotel rate is \$109.00 daily and go up to \$149.00 after the 17<sup>th</sup>. Reunion coordinators are Leonard Black, T: 813-949-6192, E: [lblack1927@aol.com](mailto:lblack1927@aol.com) and for the ladies Joanie Morris, T: 352-558-0475, E: [morris42@aol.com](mailto:morris42@aol.com). Director, Bob Sisk, T: 903-473-2272 - E: [sisk.judge.ret@verizon.net](mailto:sisk.judge.ret@verizon.net). For full details and pre-registration information go to pages 9 and 10 of the newsletter. If you desire to order Chambley golf shirts and hats go to: <http://www.chambleyab.com/images/Shirts/Chambley%20Alumni%20Shirts.htm>.

Reunion-out-of-pocket-expenses have been reduced from \$225.00 to \$180.00. Also, annual dues have been reduced from \$35.00 a year to \$15.00 a year or \$30.00 for two years payable in odd years. Reunion cost: \$8,921.00.

**SPECIAL INVITATION: ASTRONAUT-GENERAL MICHAEL COLLINS 72<sup>nd</sup> FBS AND FAMILY**, aka Lieutenant Michael Collins when he was an earthling . It has been many years since you last attended one of our reunions and we extend a very special invitation to you and your family for this year's get-to-gather. Your presence would highlight the Chambley experience. Incidentally, the Gorze Hotel, is now closed. I visited Chambley in 2001 and stayed at the hotel. Enjoyed a great fish dinner with fine wine. When the management realized I was one of the original Chambley veterans (Dec 54), they immediately pointed me to a framed letter written to them by you, posted behind the check-in desk. They were very proud of the letter and your return stay there. The Chambley membership will be richer by your attendance. Remember, unlike Texas, Tampa is just a duck's walk away from your home.

**SPECIAL INVITATION FOR PHILIPPE AND ALINE**: You are extended a special invitation to this year's events at our expense. We hope your busy schedules will allow your attendance. It is always a pleasure to see your smiling faces at our reunions.

**1960-1967 ALUMNI VETERANS WE HAVE MISSED**: We encourage the veterans of 1960-67 to attend this years combined reunion and enjoy the comradery of the Chambley experience and receive an update of the ongoing changes/events that have occurred at Chambley. Mark your calender.

**SPECIAL INVITATIONS TO HISTORIANS INTERESTED PARTIES, WIVES, SISTERS, BROTHERS, SONS, DAUGHTERS OF CHAMBLEY VETERANS**. Special invitations are extended to the French Air Attache to USCENTOMAC> Dr. David Bullock, 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing Historian, Mr. Bob Door, Military Historian> Lief Carlson, 72<sup>nd</sup> F86 Pilot c/s "Socks"> CMSGT John Brane, (follow-on unit); Jacquelyn Smith, daughter of George Washington> Douglas/Estelle Hasert; Terry Leo, son of Col Leo; Fabrice Loubette, French Historian> Jerome McAuliffe, Author> Dan McAllister, 21<sup>st</sup> Wing Logos> Peter Yates ATC Mobile- 1954> and Rhoda Philby, sister of TSGT Luther E. Singleton, Jr. See photo, page 8. SEE PAGES 9 & 10 FOR PRE-REGISTRATION DETAILS.

1. **THE ARRIVAL**: Arminian Don Barshmian, an original veteran, from L.A., California and I attended last year's Chambley festivities from 26 July through 3 August. In fact, I celebrated my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July with a (not so surprised) birthday cake courtesy of Philippe and Aline. We arrived at Charles de Gaul airport, Paris on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July and caught the high speed rail to Metz.

2. **NOW FOR THE UGLY, THE BAD AND THE GOOD:** First the “**UGLY**” and shocker, i.e., Money exchange from dollars to Euros - The exchange rate - a \$100.00 bill was only worth 60 Euros, a 40 percent loss at the airport...Banks had a better rate - only a 32 percent loss. The “**BAD**” - Getting to the right train platform with bags in tow. Remember the trains pull out on time, they wait for no one - in and out in 15 minutes. It rained for three days and was just as muddy as our early days at Chambley. Remember, the deep freeze of Dec-Jan-Feb 1954-55 that covered Europe with snow and ice; vehicles froze up as well as heat in the barracks and facilities. AND THEN, AND THEN when the snow and ice melted - - nothing but mud. The “**GOOD**” - - We arrived in Metz from Paris in one hour and fifteen minutes on France’s high-speed super rail, a distance of 297 Ks. Speed - 215 Miles’ per-hour - no time to count the telephone poles. **NOW** the **GOOD-GOOD** news. There were friendly faces at the station waiting for us with transportation and hotel accommodations compliments of Philippe and Aline. If anyone plans to travel to Europe, you need to know that ATM’s will not accept your ATM card unless you have activated your card with your local bank and two - if you are driving, gas stations are boarded up - no attendants - no cash transactions - only credit card transactions at the pumps. Oh yes, my international Master Card did not work - NO GAS. I will save the rest of the story for the reunion. I also visited Greece; my home for 15 years working for Mutual of Omaha; military life insurance. NOTE: Money exchanges and banks would not accept American Express Travelers Checks.

3. **FOR THE ALUMNI:** The base footprint has changed. All that remains of the old base structures are the three fighter squadrons hangers, the newly renovated Control Tower (with an elevator to top side) and Base Chapel. I did not realize it when we were stationed at Chambley but the Chapel sits on a small knoll. It is painted white and isolated from the main base activities - a serene and picturesque site that can be seen from all compass points. I attended services there in 2001 with 28 other Chambley members who made the nostalgic trip to Chambley. The main gate to the base has been changed to the 531<sup>st</sup> hanger area.

4. **BASE UP GRADES** have not changed the greetings and hospitality one receives from Philippe, Aline and their staff. They make you feel right at home. Don and I were provided a car, hotel and dinners. As Aline so eloquently stated “social drinks” at the hotel were at your own expense - she did not realize that those days are long gone.

5. **THE LEGACY:** We, members of the Chambley Alumni, are indeed fortunate to have Philippe, Aline and their organizational support. They are keeping the Chambley experience and our memories alive. An aerospace museum is one of the center base attractions that houses the history of air ballooning and the history of the U.S. Air Force at Chambley. Support such as this will keep our presence in northern France alive and in good standing long after we are dead and gone. Does anyone know of any U.S. military organization stationed in France from 1945 to 1967 that has been so honored with space in an aerospace museum that honors the U.S. military presence in France? Chambley veterans have received such an honor and we are forever grateful and indebted to the Lorraine organizers of the new and improved Chambley complex. **Narrative Pages are 2-3-5 & 17.**

6. **THE MUSEUM:** The museum is approximately 2,000 square feet that includes the Michael Collins auditorium (capacity 100). Fifty percent of the museum is dedicated to the history of air ballooning. The other fifty percent houses artifacts of Air Force units stationed at Chambley. Display cases abound including a prestigious glass trophy case that is home to the Colonel George Stokes’ model aircraft collection of aircraft that were assigned to Chambley from 1954-1967. Colonel Stokes donated his private collection to the museum in 2013. **Artifacts and memorabilia donations to the Chambley Museum are a way of keeping memories alive for future tourists and generations of French citizens. If you don’t need your souvenirs, mail your historic artifacts to: ALINE DUFOUR, Pilatre de Rozier Organization, Chambley AB, France - P.O. Box: BP-80018 - Lorraine, F-54801 - Jarney Cedex, France - F54801.**

7. **REUNION FINANCES:** As of this date we have \$3,708.00 in the bank; minus this newsletter mail out. During the past year we have had only four members bring their dues up to date - the need for some new dues policy is required. As of 1 January 2014, membership dues are REDUCED from \$35 to \$15.00 a year in hopes of keeping more Chambley veterans apprised of our activities. We are requesting dues be paid two years at a time, i.e., EFFECTIVE on the first of Jan 2013-2015-2017. That represents \$30.00 every two years. Payment in January of odd years will generate sufficient funds for reunion planning in even years and support the cost of newsletter preparation, reproduction, postage and binding. Hopefully, this new policy change will meet with your support and approval. This change in the dues’ policy should generate enough revenue to keep us afloat. For the past five or six years it has been the generosity of an alumnus member that has allowed for the financial stability of our reunion AND we are grateful for that financial support, but it is time for the reunion membership and organization to take on that financial responsibility. **The due’s policy applies to everyone who desires a copy of the newsletter.** I hope each of you will participate and support the new dues policy change. Thanks - Bob

8. **TWO BASIC GOALS:** Your dues provide two basic goals. 1) help defray reunion expenses and 2) keep the membership informed through newsletters of Chambley activities. While the web and e-mails are great tools, many of our members do not have computers. In the past, all members who are on the alumnus’ roster have received newsletters regardless of dues paid. As our membership shrinks, finance shrinks. It is THE COMMITTEES goal to continue providing one or two newsletters a year depending on news worthy items that justify the expense. Those members who support our dues policy will receive newsletter updates. Currently, the cost of publishing a twelve page newsletter plus postage (depending on the number of color/black and white pages) cost approximately \$500.00 to \$625.00 for 300 copies. Without adequate funding, some recipients will lose their connection with the past; we would not like to see that happen ---so please don’t lose contact with us and the Chambley experience. As indicated, our commitment is to continue publishing newsletters as long as we have the financial resources to do so. I do not believe \$30.00 every two years is too much to ask from our membership for financial stability. We appreciate your assistance.



DIVING CHAMPION - DUKE - UNIVERSITY ALL - AMERICAN  
 CHISM-NATO-BELGIUM-MIL.OLYMPICS-CHAMBLEY 1956  
 AT AGE 78 - INTERNATIONAL SENIOR CHAMPION

72nd Fighter Bomber Squadron  
 Sierra-Hotel Pilots



Capt. Louie Braun  
 2nd Lt. Mike Josephs  
 2nd Lt. Mike Collins  
 2nd Lt. John Gunner



Capt. Leif Carlson  
 Basketball Coach

## New Home Of The T-33's

The month of October saw the flight line in front of the 21st Base Flight Section take on a new look. People who remember the Training Command would swear that Randolph Field or Williams AFB had initiated a new annex at Chambley.

It was during October that the 21st Instrument School was officially opened, and with its birth came the acquisition of seven new T-33's, assigned to Headquarters Squadron 21st Air Base Group. The aircraft were acquired from bases all over Europe and the United States. The school is operating on a 5 1/2 day work week, with Captain C. L. McCauley in charge of the training program. The total strength of the "T-Bird" Flight will be boosted to nine, with the acquisition of two more aircraft sometime this month.

On 25 October Base Flight received fourteen airmen from the three Fighter Squadrons on the base. From the 331st came: S/5pt Robert L. McDonald, A/TC Robert Marker, A/2C Raymond L. Flannigan, A/2C Billy L. Knowles, and A/3C Willard W. Walters; from the 416th came: A/TC William O. Goudoy, A/1C Daniel G. Holmes, A/1C Daniel E. Gilbert, A/3C Roy Rollins, and A/3C Eugene D. White; while S/5pt William E. Rauch, A/1C Willard G. Forsy, A/2C Theodore L. Browne, and A/2C Charles R. Swanson all came from the 72nd.



DESEPT RATS IN MADRID



## Rats Given Goat By Italian Cage Team at Tourney

The Chambley Desert Rats journeyed into foreign waters for the third time this year to play foreign cage squads. This is the third International Tournament for the Rats in the past two years.

In the opening game of the tournament the Italians beat the Rats 75-55. However in the second contest the Rats bounced back to beat the French team 49-43. The fans always on the look out for a good play were highly impressed with the play of the Rat's Leif Carlson and Jim Fields. It is felt that the Chambley squad has played a big part in Franco-American relations. Lets keep up the good work men, and get that winning average higher.

The Rats at present are battling at a 500 average in international play. The 12th Annual Montbrison International tournament held at Montbrison near Lyon France was a huge success. In pre-game ceremonies the Italian team presented a goat to the Rats as a souvenir which was presented to Colonel Baker as a Wing mascot. The goat's name incidentally, is Chester.

9. **THE CHAMBLEY HISTORICAL BOOK** titled "Chambley Air Base , France (1954 - 1967 - - The Best and the Worst Place we Ever Lived" by Chuck Timms is available for purchase: The original history of Chambley compiled by Chuck Timms, reunion founder and director, was published in 1992 has been reproduced. It is available for \$45.00 plus \$12.00 postage; total price \$57.00. In addition to the hard copy, a disk is also available for \$20.00. For those of you that do not have this historical document, now is the time to purchase one for you, and if nothing else, a copy for your children and/or grandchildren as a gift. Most siblings have no idea what daddy/mother or grand daddy/mother experienced in their military careers. Your children will appreciate this historical source document that covers a short period of our military service to America. Give your children, and your childrens children an idea of what daddy and momma experienced in Europe during the cold war years.

10. **A SECOND HISTORICAL DOCUMENT** was published by Chuck Timms in 2001. Thirty-Two Chambley veterans and wives returned to Chambley for a nostalgic tour. The reunion was made possible thanks to Philippe and Aline of the Pilatre de Rozier Association, Maryse Marion, General Counsel of Canton, Roger Gaspard (base translator) Tammy Steele and a host of VIPs and staff. Receptions were held in Jarney and Metz that also included a visit to "The Inn" Saint-Julien-les-Gorze. The book is a must for your historical collection.

11. **NATIONAL ARCHIVES:** The national archives, Washington D.C., are encouraging veterans to record their military experiences. Therefore, check with your local VFW, American Legion, Disabled Vets Associations and most importantly "The Sons and Daughters of the Revolution" for details on this very important issue. Don't keep your history to yourself - share those experiences with the National Archives your children and grandchildren. Military missions are well documented, but the individual airman, sailor and soldier, the ones who carried out the mission(s); their stories/your stories and tales of woe (and there are thousands of them) never get told. Share your background and experiences. You are a part of history.

12. **NEWSPAPER & TV:** Don and I had lunch with French TV and news reporters, balloon pilots and the organizational staff on 28 July. At that time, and on behalf of the Chambley Alumni, I presented Philippe and Aline a plaque thanking them for keeping our "memories" of Chambley alive. We were consistently asked what it was like to live at Chambley 63 years ago. The answer was simple, especially after three days of rain on our arrival, it was just like today - muddy has hell. We had a great lunch and was given the VIP treatment. A very memorable occasion.

13. **METZ AND SURROUNDING FARM COMMUNITIES:** Central Metz, the Moselle river and central park have not changed much - still beautiful. Driving is a problem for tourists not familiar with the area; narrow and one-way streets. The restaurant at the train station has lost its ambiance from our days. The ABC and Bristol restaurant across from the train station are still there. As the story goes, there was a lady of the night that hung out at the Bristol. Her name, I have been told, was "Seal Beams"-she wore thick glasses and was cross-eyed. It was reported that she was so cross-eyed that she could stand in the middle of the week and see both Sundays. The Charlemagne pub at the Globe International Hotel, a favorite watering hole for Canadian and American pilots, has long been closed. The surrounding farm communities are neat and well manicured. No stacks of Charlie Sierra by the barns waiting for spring planting. The countryside is truly beautiful from the air.

14. **A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHAMBLEY AIR BASE:** The U.S. and French governments signed a Civil Affairs Agreement that permitted the deployment of U.S. forces in France on 16 February 1948. In February 1952, the French government approved a U.S. request to build eight bases and support facilities. Thus, Chambley became a reality. The "THE SABRE" (Base Paper) is on the web.

15. **ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> FIGHTER BOMBER WING:** The 21<sup>st</sup> was first activated 21 April 1944 at Wheeler Field, Hawaii, as the 21<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group. Flying the famed P-51 Mustang, the Group deployed to Iwo Jima in March 1945 and soon won the Distinguished Unit Citation on 7 April 1945. Following WWII, the 21<sup>st</sup> passed through several periods of inactivation and reactivation, flying the P-51 Mustangs, F86F Sabre and F-100 Super Sabre jets. The 21<sup>st</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing was redesignated 15 Nov 1952 and activated on 1 Jan 1953 at George AFB, California.

16. **WHILE AT GEORGE** the wing went through extensive training deployments from Florida to Washington State with Arctic maneuvers in Alaska. Project "Willtour": The purpose was to conduct a USAF good will tour and training exercise to Central and South America. On 10 April 1954, the 21<sup>st</sup> commenced what was to be its final major operational training deployment within the United states. Code name "Operation Boxkite". The purpose of the unit deployment was to test the capability for moving, on short notice, an entire tactical fighter wing to a forward operational base and sustain operations from that base for thirty days. AGE, maintenance crews and support personnel packed-up and departed for North Field, North, South Carolina by C-124s. The only facilities at North Field was the runway - but it did not take long for tent city to rise up and operations to begin.

17. **FINALLY,** May arrived, and we were on our way back to the comforts of home at George. And then, the wing began preparing for the move to France. The pilots, maintenance crews and planes began an 8,000 journey to France. Nineteen hundred members of the 21<sup>st</sup> boarded a troop train at George AFB that was the first leg of our trip to France. A stop was required in Phoenix, AZ to pick-up the main body of the 388<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing stationed at Luke AFB bound for Etain. Three thousand plus souls arrived at the Houston port

See Page 17



Colonel R. Baker, Wing Commander



HQ FBG Picnic



AF Magement Tng



O'CLUB SERIOUS BUS.NESS NO DRINKS



S/Sgt Tom Turner & A/2C Bob Hoggard - 1270th AACS



Captain George Stokes  
Advance Party 1953-1955



Colonel George Stokes  
Chambley AB Aircraft  
1953-1967 Collection



ENTRANCE TO THE AEROSPACE MUSEUM



Chambley Desert Rats  
French Basketball Champions 1956  
2nd Place All Air Force Europe  
58-60 at the Buzzer



Individual Artifacts & Memorabilia



*"Plaque presented to Philippe & Aline  
at the TV & News Media Luncheon"*

Plaque in English and French



### CHAMBLEY AIR BASE, FRANCE -1953 to 1967

Citoyens (To the citizens) of Chambley, Gorze, Jarney, Metz,  
surrounding communities,

(Philippe and Aline of the Pilatre de Rozier Organisation from the 1990's),

Les veterans militaires Americains, les employes du Department  
de Defense des U.S.A., leur familles et enfants stationnes a Chambley  
durant les anees de la "Cold War Annees" desirent communiquer  
a chacun un simple message.

#### "MERCI POUR LES SOUVENIRS"

*The American military veterans, U.S. Department of Defense  
employees, their families and children assigned to Chambley during  
the "Cold War Years" desire to convey to each of you a simple message.*

#### "THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES"

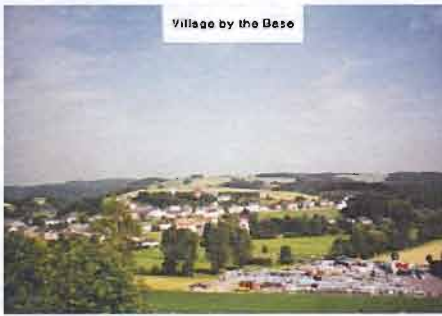
*Avoir vecu entre vous, faisant de nouveaux amis, partager un verre  
de vin etait une experience magnifique, et les souvenirs languissent.*

*Living among you, making new friends, sharing a glass of wine was  
a great experience and the memories linger on.*

Bob Sisk, le Directeur de la Reunion de las Base de Chambley  
Robert M. (Bob) Sisk--December 1954 to March 1958  
Senior Master Sergeant, USAF, Retired  
Director, Chambley AB Reunion Alumni

**Vive La France -- Vive La America**





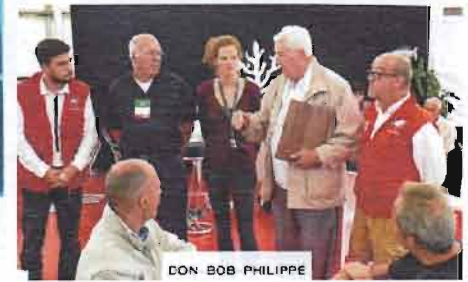
Village by the Base



The Lift-Off!



BOB-A-LINE-DON



DON BOB PHILIPPE



FRENCH BALLOON PILOTS



T/Sgt Luther Singleton



DON & STAFF



Remodeled Control Tower



CONTROL TOWER

Base Ops - Fire Station

AIC Luther Singleton was a member of the Chambley's advance party and a tent city resident 1953-55 in communications. In 1962 TSGT Singleton, a member of the White House Honor Guard, was selected to represent the Air Force as one of the military pall-bearers for President Kennedy's funeral.



THE OLD HANG-OUT

1/26/2013 3:01



DON-BOB PARIS



All 12 Reunion Coffee Cups





# Chambley Air Base France Alumni 2014 REUNION

## Pre-Registration Form

2-5 October 2014 (See itinerary and costs on page 2)

Rank (if applicable) and Name:

Mailing Address:

Home & Cell Telephone Number:

( ) [Cell] ( )

E-mail address:

**Data for Reunion Name Tags:** Name tags will be prepared for all those attending the Reunion. Your first name, or if you prefer, a nickname, and your family name will be centered on the name tag. Immediately below your name will be the city and state in which you are currently living. Please indicate how you would like your name tag(s) prepared.

First Name or Nickname:

Spouse or Guest's First name or Nickname:

Family Name:

Spouse or Guest's Family Name:

City/State:

City/State:

### COMPUTATION OF COSTS (PLEASE INCLUDE CHECK FOR THE FULL AMOUNT)

*Registration Fee:	QTY	COST	
Chambley Attendees: <u>by 08/15/14 NLT 09/01/14</u>	___	X... \$180.00	\$ _____
(This includes Spouses)			\$ _____
Membership dues for 2013/2014	___	X \$ 30.00	
Spouse/Guest(s) (Must be registered to attend functions)			\$ _____
50% pre registration with balance due at registration	___	X \$ 90.00	
(per person)	QTY	COST	

Friday Night – Welcome Barbeque Buffet (included in \$180 Registration fee) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Night – Chambley Guest 2014 Reunion Banquet only X \$50.00

(Banquet is included in \$180 Registration fee for Reunion Attendees) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Tour - Tampa - Luncheon** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fees included in registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Shopping on your own Transportation provided by Hotel X FREE

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### TOTAL AMOUNT DUE WITH REGISTRATION

(Note: If, due to financial circumstances, you are unable to pay the full amount up front, submit your pre-registration form with 50% now and the remainder on the first day of the Reunion). \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To reserve a room at the Embassy Suites, please call Tampa Embassy Suites Reservations at 1-813-875-1555 x1805 or email allyson.bush@hilton.com. Ask for the \$109 rate for the "Chambley Alumni 2014 Reunion". If you encounter a problem, ask for Allyson Bush Manager of Sales. **Information only:** Do you intend to make a reservation at the Embassy Suites? Please check one of the boxes. YES  NO

NOTE: Please send a personal check or money order payable to "Chambley AB Reunion" (please annotate "2014 Reunion" under "Memo" on your check), along with this completed Registration Form. Mail to: Director, Chambley Air Base Reunion, Bob Sisk, PO Box 193; Emory, TX 75440 – T:903-473-2272; E-Mail sisk.judge.ret@verizon.net. Deadline for Hotel Registration is SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

We request that you please list any names to be added to our names of Chambley Alumni who have passed away since the 2012 Reunion on the back of this form or on an extra sheet. (Or email to Leonard Black at: lblack1927@aol.com. Also Non-Military Please add SSN or Passport # to enable entrance to USAF base.

# Chambley Air Base France Alumni 2014 REUNION Itinerary

2 - 5 October 2014

Date	Time	Activity	Activity Cost per Person	Remarks
<b>2 Oct/ Thursday*</b> Note: Hospitality Room opens 1300 Thurs until 2200; thereafter, 0900-2200	All-Day	Arrival and Welcoming Enjoy swimming pool and nearby shopping		Registration table in Lobby – Get your welcome packet, name tags, etc. – Pay for your tours, meals, and update your dues
	1700 - 2200	Hospitality Room open	Free Refreshments	1st Floor, Hospitality Room
	1800	Dinner on your own or w/ fellow Alumni	<b>\$180.00</b>	Restaurants available & free transportation to local areas.
<b>3 Oct / Friday*</b>	1000 - 1600	Tampa Tour And Lunch	Included in Registration Fee	Buses depart 1000 from hotel front door.  Rest up for Welcome BBQ
	1800 – 2100	Welcome Barbeque Buffet	Included	Welcome, Awards, Dinner In the Banquet Room
	0900-1000	1 <sup>st</sup> Business Meeting		Hospitality Room
<b>4 Oct / Saturday*</b>	1000 – 1730	Open Time		
	1730 - 2200	Chambley AB Reunion Banquet	Included	MacDill AFB Officers Club Cocktails at 1730; Dinner at 1800 Buses depart from hotel @ 1700 Recommended attire: Men: Coat & tie – Ladies: Cocktail dress
<b>5 Oct / Sunday*</b>	0900 - 1000	Worship and Memorial Service		HOSPITALITY Room
	1000 - 1100	2 <sup>nd</sup> Business Meeting		HOSPITALITY Room 2016 Reunion Discussion
	1130 - 1300	Lunch on your own or w/fellow Alumni		
	1300 – 1700	Tampa Local Shopping –	FREE	Shuttles available
	1700	Reunion Ends		Fond farewell to our friends and colleagues
<b>TOTAL Cost</b>			<b>\$180.00</b>	

\* Breakfast included with your lodging

**IN ORDER TO GET THRU BASE GATE FOR THE BANQUET, WE WILL NEED YOUR SSN OR PASSPORT NUMBER. Military/spouse ID card holds are not required to produce SSN or a passport number.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SSN/PASSPORT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SSN/PASSPORT \_\_\_\_\_



2004 Virginia Reunion



Carolyn Timms & Calomino Twins

**1956 CHAMBLEY DESERT RATS  
FRENCH CHAMPIONS  
2ND PLACE ALL AIR FORCE EUROPE  
60-58 at the Buzzer  
Chambley's American Ambassadors**

**OTHER TOURNAMENTS:  
Paris, Lyon, Dijon, Montbrison, Rome, Madrid, Barcelona, and Luxembourg**

From Left to Right: Jimmy Fields, Bob Sisk, Lief Carlson, Ed Washington,  
Colonel H. C. Hartwig (Coach), Earl Redman, Cecil Yoils, Jerry Kincheloe, and Ron Woods

**BASE AERIENNE 133 DE NANCY**

**Visite de vétérans américains**

28 Alumni Veterans Make a Nostalgic Visit to Chambley-31 May 2001



## "Cowboy Harris"

I'm Gonna Ride that Cloud when I Rope It. Major Lee Harris a.k.a. Lieutenant "Cowboy Harris" 72nd Fighter Bomber Squadron, Chambley AB, France. T/Sgt. Bill Davenport bet Cowboy a case of beer that he wouldn't boom the base with his F86F. He not only did it once but "TWICE."

Fighter Group Headquarters, Colonel R.C. Franklin, Commander "Shouts Out"- Airman Sisk call the Squadron and have that Lieutenant report to me immediately. After paying off his bet, Davenport asked Cowboy "Why did you do it twice, you only had to boom it one time." Cowboy's response was "I wanted to make sue you heard it." It was reported, Colonel Donovan, Squadron Commander, suspended him from flying jets.

The Bucket



WW II Veterans- 2004 Reunion



72nd Beer Stein



**AFTER 58 YEARS THE BUCKET IS GOING HOME:** This silver champagne bucket was presented by members of the 416FBS to "The Beamers from the 416th Fighter Bomber Squadron, Chambley, France" on their PCS departure from Chambley in 1956. Some where along the way, the bucket was lost. Mrs. Patty Kerrey of Coronado, CA found the bucket at a storage sale in Las Vegas, NV. She located our web page and contacted Joe McClain; in turn I called her and she has forwarded the bucket to me. The bucket will be presented to Philippe and Aline for display in the museum.



Basketball CAB Fans 1957  
Desert Rats vs NBA Champions  
l to r: Metz and Chambley Queens  
Major General Lee, Commander 12AF  
Colonel Baker, Commander, 21st FBW  
Stella Hartwig-Wife  
Colonel Hartwig, Commander M & S  
Desert Rats Coach 1956



Twenty Eight Alumni members made a nostalgic trip to Chambley in 2001. Sisk arrived a week early on an invitation by the Commander, American Legion Post #1, Paris to act as the International Honor Guard Commander for Memorial Day services in Paris. The photo is a local newspaper release.

**JUDGE BOB SISK** led an international honor guard during Memorial Day remembrance ceremonies in Paris France, on Sunday, May 27, 2001. Ceremonies included representatives of the American Embassy, British organizations and officials of the French government, as well as members of the American Legion. Wreaths were laid at the Arc de Triomphe, tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the American Mausoleum, the American and Lafayette ceremonies with Sunday services at the American Cathedral. American Legion Commander Johnson laid a wreath at the "Arc." Judge Sisk also laid a wreath at the "Arc" as a member and representing the American Legion, Post #1, Paris France. Commander Johnson then rekindled the eternal flame. Another highlight of the day was a motorcycle police escort through Paris. Napoleon or de Gaulle could not have reached their destination in a more timely manner. Sisk's trip also included a reunion with members of the 21st Fighter Bomber Wing who were stationed at Chambley AB, France, from 1954 to 1958. Warm receptions with radio, newspaper and TV coverage were held in Jarney and Metz, France. The tour also included a visit to a French Air Force Base in Nancy. Sisk completed his holiday by visiting friends at Ramstein AB, Germany, and Lucern, Switzerland.

Chambley Air Base Elementary School  
(circa, 1955 or 56)  
Top L-R: 1. Stephen ? 2. Jimmy Logan 3. ? 4. Bobby Baker. 4. Teacher  
Bottom L-R: 1. Randy Bauer, 2. Thomas Fowle, 3. Yvonne Peachey  
4. ? 5. Linda Carter 6. Margaret Cummings, 7. Sandra ? 8. Jackie  
Peachey 9. Cheryl Schoner, 10. Linda McKay, 11. Becky Urbanich,  
12. Jamie Stapleton ? 13. Robert Cummings, 14. ?  
(Can you correct and/or fill in the blanks?)



The picture speaks for itself. Do you recognize any of the students? Our own Joyce Watkins was a DOD teacher at Chambley and married T/Sgt. Watkins, Hqs, 21st Fighter Bomber Group Intel.

" The following article was printed in the Air Force "Print News Today" on 10/18/2010 by Monica Mendoze, 21st Space Wing Public Affairs staff writer.  
<http://afspc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=1232267834...>

### "A BASE, AND A LEGACY, BUILT ON THE "SHOULDERS OF GIANTS"

*Bob Ferguson was in grade school (age 7) when his family moved to Chambley AB, France in 1956. He didn't really know the significance of the 21st Fighter Bomber Wing, but as his family, and others, built the base in an open (farm) field in eastern France, the Airmen of the 21st Fighter Bomber Wing were building a legacy.*

*It was 1951, and the Cold War threat with the former Soviet Union was real. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) had taken over the Chambley-Bussieres airfield in France and the U.S. Air Force began construction (in 1952-53) to establish its base there.*

*At the time, the 21st was the only nuclear capable fighter wing, said retired Colonel Ferguson, whose father was an air traffic controller at Chambley from 1956 to 1958. If pilots got orders to pick-up nuclear weapons (dispersed at forward bases), they knew they were headed east.*

*"All of the pilots will tell you, they knew if they got that order, they were not coming back, Colonel Ferguson said. "So for them, this was an important, very serious mission they were doing." The 21st Space Wing traces its lineage to its oldest direct ancestor, the 21st Fighter Bomber Wing, which activated in 1953 and the 21st Heavy Group of WWII, Iwo Jima 1943."*

*A comment from the Director: As many of you may recall, the Russians had close to a million armed forces across the Germany border in East Germany. U.S. and allied forces were not equipped to meet a surprise attack from such a formidable force. The 21st with its tactical nuclear capabilities, was the corner stone of check-mate diplomacy in order to provide time for NATO to build up forces to meet the challenge.*

## OPERATION BOXKITE, NORTH FIELD, NORTH SOUTH CAROLINA

### **Mud 101 Training for overseas**



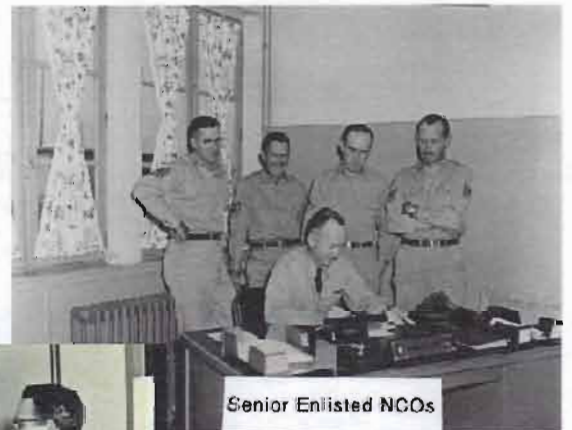
**Deployment to France**

**ENLISTED HUMOR:** Enlisted members of the Headquarters, 21st Fighter Bomber Group set their tent city in a beautiful cove surrounded by green vegetation, tall trees with a gentle breeze blowing thru the tree tops.

RHIP so the officers decided that they should have the cove for their 30 day residency.

The enlisted move their tents to the high ground above the officer's tent city. The knoll. had little vegetation, a few trees, lots of sun and wind. No free time when operations began.

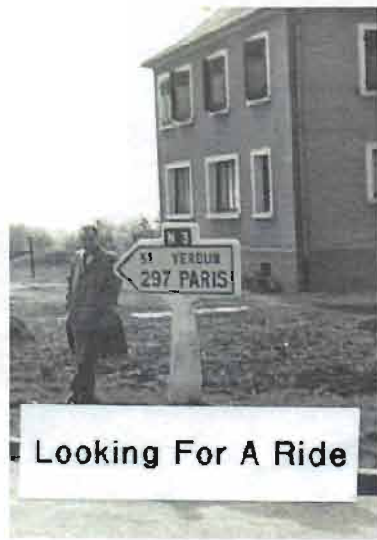
As predicted, it began to rain. By then, we were content with our location for we were high and dry. Naturally, we felt sorry for the plight of our senior leadership officers as they waded through the mud and slush in tent city down by the cove.



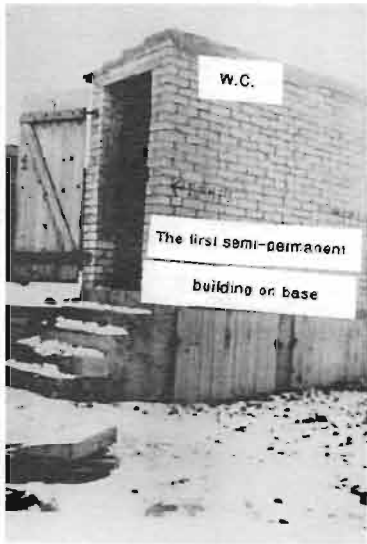


Metz-A  
pleasure to

gas-up here



Looking For A Ride



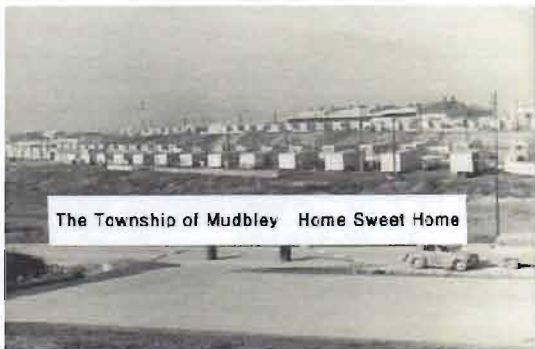
W.C.

The first semi-permanent  
building on base



THE GENERAL

The ship was  
as cold looking as  
Chmbley in Dec-Jan 54/55



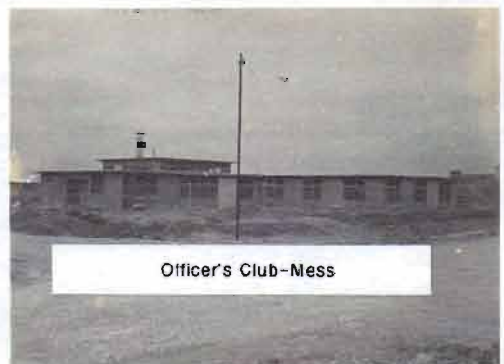
The Township of Muddley Home Sweet Home



Barracks 2001



NCO Club - The "Q" Hut



Officer's Club-Mess



of debarkation and boarded the troop ship "The General Le-Roy-L-Tinge" bound for Le Havre, France and Chambley. The WWII troop ship came out of moth balls for this cargo haul. The route took as around Florida, the Carolinas across the north sea during the winter of December 1954. There were limited facilities on board, i.e., day rooms tables and chairs. Sleeping quarters - stacked bunks six high. Lots of seasick airman on that trip. Top side and the cold winds was a fresh relief to the smelly (sick) quarters below. Those of us that worked in the ship's store room found tarps that protected us from our seasick buddies sleeping above us. The ship cracked a leak in the hull and soaked some whole-baggage. Crossing took two weeks. Finally, the harbor lights of LeHaver, France came in sight. Yes, we were excited about seeing and being in France. Surprise - Surprise.....The first sign we saw from miles off shore was not French, but American. The sign, in large and bright red letters, read "AMERICAN BAR". After debarkation, we boarded a French troop train with a 10 cent bottle of wine from our French host and departed for the village of Chambley and a cold-cold base. .

**18. WHILE AT CHAMBLEY**, besides normal operations and training, two sufficient international events occurred. 1) The Hungarian revolution in 1956 and exodus of its citizens to France and surrounding countries fleeing from Russian tanks and domination. 2) The immigration (that no one paid any attention to during that period of time) of thousands of Muslim Turkish workers to Germany to do the work Germans refused to do and assist in German's WWII recovery. They, the Turks, stayed on with their religion and have become an integral part of European society. **Reminds me of American immigration - the problems of 40 years ago are still with us.** When the door opens.....

**19. THE 21<sup>ST</sup> FIGHTER BOMBER WING WAS DEACTIVATED** at Chambley on 8 February 1958. Four months later on 1 July 1958, the 21<sup>st</sup> was reactivated as the 21<sup>st</sup> Tactical Wing at Misawa AB, Japan. The 416<sup>th</sup> and 531<sup>st</sup> Fighter Bomber Squadrons flew combat missions in Viet Nam. After 27 years plus and several deactivations and reactivations, the 21<sup>st</sup> (due to its low unit identifier (21<sup>st</sup>) and WWII combat record was redesignated the 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado in the 1990s. Currently, the 21st has a worldwide and space mission. Members of the 21<sup>st</sup> should be proud of their heritage.

**20. PUBLICATION COST OVERRUNS:** This Silver Anniversary Edition has exceeded our initial budget projection's by \$400.00. I am requesting a \$25 donation to replenish our funds.. This could very well be the last of an extended newsletter. Also, as a last reminder, don't forget the 2013 and 2014 dues. It is your financial support that make this newsletter and the reunions possible. Thanks again. Any donation will be appreciated. Oh, by the way, I had planned on paying for the overrun but my checkbook is out of **STIMULUS FUNDS**. Will pick up future tabs when the Fed's provide new fund injections.

**21. FOLLOW-ON-UNITS 1960 TO 1967 UNITS** was the 122<sup>ND</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing and the 25<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing. The wings were reorganized on 16 October 1966 and designated the 7367 Tactical Group. President de Gaul and the French government closed all American bases and facilities, including SHAPE Headquarters Paris, on 1 April 1967. Brief histories of the 122<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> to follow in the next newsletter.

**22. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:** First let us remember Chuck Timms and his wife Carolyn, first director and reunion organizer, Colonel George Stokes, a dedicated advisor and financial supporter, Colonel Bob Ferguson, Director from 2008-2012, USAF AIC and Army CWO4 Joe McClain our superb Web Master who has put us on the map, reunion organizers CMSGT Leonard Black, Joanie Morris, Jim Kirkpatrick, Colonel Paul Bell and Any Waxman who maintained our alumni rosters/labels and a host of reunion workers. It is the alumni association who financially support this organization with dues AND a unit es-prit-de-corp that makes our reunions a success. Without the membership, we do not exist..... Thanks to all involved.

**23. ABOUT YOUR REUNION DIRECTOR** ROBERT M. (Bob) Sisk, SMSGT, USAF, Retired - - Master Missile (Titan II) and Aircraft (nuclear/conventional) Controller. Military tours: France, Bermuda, TSN Viet Nam, Italy NATO w/Italian AF; Thailand, Superintendent, 7<sup>th</sup> Airborne Battlefield Command and Control Center (ABCCC) and Hillsboro orbit controller with 93 missions and 1,237 combat hours - Laos. Retired 1 April 1974, Superintendent, Command and Control Division, 7<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, Carswell AFB, Texas. Duty controller at the Air Force Emergency Operations Center (AFEOC) co-located with the Alternate National Underground Military Control Center (ANMCC), Ft Ritchie Maryland. Duties: Execution of the nuclear alert force on receipt of a valid and authentic DEFCON/launch order from National Authority. NCOIC of Operations, 303<sup>rd</sup> ARS Bermuda during the Cuban crisis. On duty at Hqs 2AF during the Pablo capture. Civilian Life: Life Insurance Agent, Mutual/United of Omaha - five years in Texas, one year in Italy/Germany, fifteen years in Athens (Glyfada) Greece, five years at Incirlick AB, Turkey. Rains County Judge (Texas) 1999 to 2002 and County Commissioner 2007 to 2010. Military Housing Officer, (Civil Service) Hellikon, AB Greece 1980-1981.

***IN CLOSING:*** *The Chambley AB Reunion Executive Committee trust you and your families had a joyous 2013 Christmas as we wish each of your and your family good health and a prosperous 2014 New Year. We trust that our Lord and Savior will always be with you. Sincerely yours, Bob Sisk - Director*

# CHAMBLEY AIR BASE

FRANCE

(1954 - 1967)

*"The Best And The Worst Place We Ever Lived."*

By Charles R. Timms

In Memory of  
Chuck Timms  
Director & Founder  
1992-2004

Bob Sisk  
Current Director  
2004-2008  
2012-Present



21FBWg Commanders, Colonels R.Roland & R.Baker

F86FSabre

Kill Ratio Korea 10-1



Dec/Jan 54 - Remember



1992 Margaret Hamfeldt, wife of OSI CMDR,  
N. Hamfeldt writes "Fun In the Mud of  
Chambley" - A Fond Memory



Despite the trying living conditions endured at Chambley, we still have fond memories of the place. Will anyone ever forget the rain, the mud and those narrow, little wooden bridges built over the ditches for pedestrians? Yes, we have fond memories of Chambley.

# Chambley REUNION

## OCTOBER 2 to 5, 2014

### Tampa Bay, Florida

# See You There!