

Seasons Greetings

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 21 CHAMBLEY SABRE DECEMBER 21, 1956

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Photography (unless otherwise credited) ... The Chambley Sabre is an official Air Force newspaper published bi-weekly by and for the personnel of the 21st Fighter Bomber Wing and its attached units, APO 247, United States Air Force.

Fair 'n Foul

Ramblin' Around Chambley

with Tee J. Eff

Do you have parking problems? Does your gas gauge read zero? Is that a traffic ticket on your windshield? Do you wake up nights going down one way streets in your dreams? Is your auto blue, green, or mud-brown? If all these things are true—don't worry; don't fret—it just proves you are at Chambley.

WHAT'S HAPPENING to Chambley Gray Ladies? Not too long ago we noted a membership of 50 or more. However, at the recent awarding of service stripes only 15 ladies attended. Doctors, nurses and patients have only praise for the efforts of you women. Don't let snide remarks and ill founded criticism deter a work so needed and appreciated.

THE MAN OF THE HOUR THIS WEEK—the driver of the Bit-burg courier, well loaded with directions, maps, instructions, gas, oil—he didn't forget a thing—except his cargo.

Squadron level basketball is going great guns. Deserves more attention, better publicity and better attendance. Several strong teams in each of the two leagues, and surprisingly good, clean ball.

Want to go ice skating? Almost any day now you will be able to—in the mess hall parking lot. A quick freeze will do wonders to that small river running thru the lot.

For lack of a light bulb, the NCO Club now sports a sign advertising "CO" Club. No drop-off in attendance tho.

SEQUEL—last week the NCO Club used rolls of napkins. This week—well the situation is reversed. Such is life.

The grade school soccer team wasn't disappointed in losing to their French opponents. They expected to — "But," wailed one sixth grader, "they didn't have to beat us so bad using their third

New Year's Dance

Base personnel are cordially invited to attend a New Year's Dance, at the Hotel de la Gare in Chambley, on the evening of January 1. Dancing will be from 9 pm until 2 am.

and fourth graders." R.I.P.—Sgt Boga has found there is nothing, but absolutely nothing sacred anymore. For weeks he fed his doughnut scraps to a "wee mouse" in his office, only to have some big-game hunter remove the pest with a well-aimed shoe. CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY, with all the girls they work on base and all the girls they know—why so few attend the dances at the Service Club, the NCO Club and the mess hall. Is it transportation ... fear of competition ... lack of proper facilities? I'd like to know.

At long last Chambley came of age. Like wearing its first pair of long pants—a Name Band was featured on base. It may sound trite to say It's About Time! But it is. There are more hands on the way. If properly supported, they can all be booked.

With the arrival of a golf pro, S Sgt Francis Sparks, the newest athletic unit is well under way. Still plenty of time to sign-up as a charter member. See Sgts McRae, Craven, or Furgeson, or Capt Auger, and put cash on the line. Every day of nice weather puts the course nearer to reality.

Message de Noël

Mes chers Amis,

Plus que jamais, en cette période internationale troublée, il convient de souhaiter pour Noël une Paix sûre qui tienne compte des aspirations de tous les peuples. C'est par une union plus étroite que nous parviendrons à cette Paix.

A vous qui êtes associés de très près à notre effort, j'adresse, avec mes remerciements pour votre aide précieuse et fidèle, mes meilleurs Vœux de Noël et de Nouvel An pour vous et pour vos familles.

Robert N. Baker Colonel, USAF Commander, 21st Ftr Bmr Wing

It Could Have Been Prevented

Death of an Airman



...As if giant hands had torn it asunder. (USAF Photo by Rosenblum)

Fate Doesn't Cause Highway Accidents

Smashed, bloody, pulpy body — it was sprawled grotesquely on the rubber sheet, mouth agape. Was it the chilled air that caused me to have uncontrollable spasms of shivering?

The policeman's flashlight sprayed an unmerciful beam in the darkness of the early morning. I looked again at the twisted hulk of the automobile. It was crushed and ripped apart as if giants hands had torn it asunder.

It would seem that all the wrathful forces of nature had exploded and violently taken this boy's life. A young life, I thought, quickly spewed into eternity through short, agonized raspings — and then the starkness of death and the night was all that remained. I looked more closely at the body. My spasms of shivering stopped and were replaced by a feeling of deep coldness.

I remember the Air Police Sergeant reading the boy's identification card: "...Doe, John J., Airman, United States Air Force, age..."

I heard a bystander mutter in the darkness, "Well, that's fate for you; a young guy like that. He had his whole life ahead of him."

Fate! Good lord, it wasn't fate that caused the accident. It could have been prevented! I know! There have been many times when I have wanted to stop every motorist and plead with him to drive with care; to stay within safe speed limits; to pull off the road when fatigued; to know his limitations and, for God's sake, to drive sensibly and defensively. These accidents can be prevented. Death on the highway is needless.

But I can't do this, of course.

Installations Sq Expresses Thanks

by Richard L. Scammacca

Two years have elapsed since the men of AIO stepped off the troop train in Chambley with the rest of the personnel of the 21st. Each unit has its own story of progress and accomplishments and the men of the Instl Sq feel as if they also have contributed their share to the overall picture at Chambley.

First major project on the agenda was prefab row, which began early in March '55. With the help of many men on the base, who were supplied from the squadrons for AIO detail, the job was finished by the end of the year.

A group of Army engineers from Germany received some assistance from AIO while they were building the base trailer park. The project, which was (Cont. on page 7)

President's Message

To the men and women of the Armed Forces, I send my Christmas greetings.

In this season, as we think of peace, the Nation does not forget the efforts and sacrifices of those who protect our country from its enemies. May the blessings of health, in body and spirit, be with you throughout the new year.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Peace, we renew and fortify our hope and efforts for a better world for all men.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Luna Composes Christmas Design



Service Club Staff Artist, A/2C Jess Luna, spent many hours of his spare time preparing the special Christmas design that appears on page one of this issue.

(USAF Photo by Rosenblum)

Service Club Artist Plans Art Career

The Christmas design appearing on page one of this issue was drawn by Service Club staff artist, A/2C Jess Luna.

Jess, who has drawn many cartoons for the Sabre, in cooperation with A/2C Joel N. Reber, began his art career in high school. He has been developing his talent ever since.

Upon completing high school, he attended the Chaunard Art

Institute in Los Angeles. During his two years at Chaunard, he studied in the commercial art field.

Jess' service career will terminate in January 1959, when he plans to return to art school to study all phases of his chosen career. The Sabre staff extends a sincere thanks to Jess for his kind contribution to this special Christmas edition.



Service Leaders Send Christmas Greetings



Colonel Robert N. Baker, Commander of the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing. (USAF Photo by Capley)

Col Baker Voices Hopes for Successful Holiday Season

To all personnel of the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing at Chambley Air Base, their families and dependents, I extend my very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a joyful and successful New Year.

The message of Christmas is "Peace on earth to men of good will." Peace is hoped for by all peoples of the earth.

As members of the United States Air Force, we have a very personal interest in lasting peace, freedom and good will among all peoples and all nations.

We may take comfort and pride from the fact that through devotion to daily duties, and with sincere belief in the true spirit of Christmas, we

will continue to earn the respect and confidence of freedom loving men everywhere.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your cooperation during these months since I have assumed command of the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing.

It is my fervent hope that our successes in the coming year will surpass and be even more rewarding than those of the year just completed. May God bless all of us and guide our efforts in the coming year.

Robert N. Baker, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing

1956 'Tops in Blue' Variety Show Scheduled for Base Service Club

Nearing the end of a 35,000 mile tour of 155 U.S. air bases around the world, the USAF's fourth annual "Tops in Blue" production will present an hour and a half show at 8:30 pm in the Base Service Club on Sunday, January 6.

Early this month, the 1956 "Tops in Blues" troupe, representing the best talent in the Air Force, departed from the States to tour bases in Europe, North Africa and the Near East.

The members of this year's production were selected from various stages of the Air Force World Wide Talent Contest. The show features acts ranging from rhythmic dances to smooth songs to hilarious comedy, and colloquial hillbilly routines.

Many of the cast, which consists of 23 airmen and three WAF's, have had experience in other military shows, as well as in radio, theater, television and night club work in civilian life. Last August the '56 "Tops in Blue" troupe appeared on the Ed Sullivan coast-to-coast television show.

The versatility and experience of the 26 performers, two of which are veterans from last

year's "Tops in Blue" presentation, add up to a timely evening of entertainment, presented in the most professional manner.

The show has been touring 3rd Air Force bases since December 4, and will make the rounds of 12th Air Force bases between December 22 and January 22.

Three Sheets

We are three ghosts, as you can see.
All we can do is haunt.
We'll never have another chance To do the things we want.
We'd like to become humans, but
(Perhaps you'll think we're nuts) If you lift up our sheets you'll see
We haven't got the guts.
We've reasons. And if you'll read on
You'll see without a fuss
It seems a cocktail party
Came to be the death of us.
We drank Manhattans, gin and Scotch;
We even sipped some beer.
Why are we ghosts? Read on, my friend,
The moral will be clear.
* * *

Congratulations...

...Are in store for Maj Sherman C. Cooke, of Hq 21st Air Base Gp, who recently received notification of his promotion to lieutenant colonel. The effective date of rank (and cigars) is December 27.

We all decided we'd drive home—
Of course we all were ginned—
And that is how you see us now;
Just three sheets in the wind.
(Reprinted from the Stars and Stripes).

MPs May Apprehend Air Force Offenders

It often occurs that an Airman, drunk and disorderly, in a tavern in Metz is approached by a military policeman and cautioned against further disturbance and is asked to accompany the MP who will see that the airman is returned to his unit. This action is taken to protect the individual, his unit and branch of service.

There are many of us in the Air Force that have a tendency to question the authority of the MP. As members of the US Military, we are subject to both military and civilian police authorities. An agreement between the three branches, has established the responsibility for off base patrol as the responsibility of the service having the (Cont. on page 6)

Group Commanders Express Best Wishes to Base Personnel for a Happy Yuletide

Fighter Group

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you on Chambley Air Base a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, especially to the members of the 21st Fighter-Bomber Group.

The Yuletide season, by its very nature, has knack of bringing out the best in a person.

Annual Christmas Party

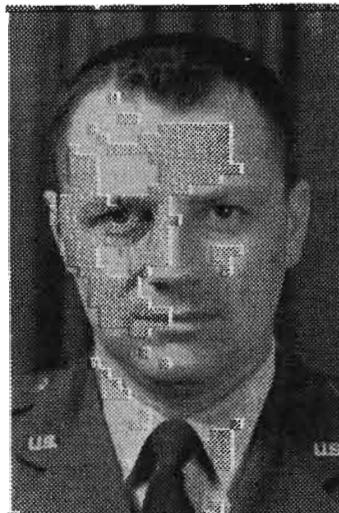
The annual Christmas Party for children of Chambley Air Base will be held at the Base Service Club on Saturday afternoon, the 22nd. The program will start at 2 pm with the showing of a Kiddie Movie. Santa Claus will arrive at 2:30 pm with a gift for all the children between the ages of six months and 14 years.

Whatever your position in life may be, you still enjoy the greatest privilege available to any mortal — that of freedom.

In this present time of uncertainties, there are millions who do not have any sort of freedom — personal or otherwise. As leaders of the free peoples, it is up to us to follow through with renewed emphasis on the constant Christian Crusade for an everlasting Peace on Earth.

Let us benefit from our past mistakes, both collective and individual, and resolve to make 1957 at least one step closer to this greatest of all mans' achievements.

Donavon F. Smith,
Colonel, USAF
Commander, 21st Ftr Bmr Gp



Col Donavon F. Smith

M&S Group



Col Ernest C. Pruett

This is the season of the year which we look forward to with great expectations. It is the time when we count our blessings and join together in the observance of the birth of Christ, nearly 2,000 years ago.

It is the time of the year when children's voices ring with new and gay laughter as they prepare their gifts and decorate the tree. It is the time when "old folks" and adults join in celebrations to renew friendships and to enjoy the warmth of home, office and shop.

Some believe it is a time to make resolutions, whereby errors and faults of the past may be corrected. I believe all of this and even more.

To all the members of the 21st Maintenance and Supply Group, as

well as everyone within the 21st Wing, I extend my sincerest and heartiest wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.

While enjoying this Christmas season, be sure to drive carefully, lest someone dear to you should not enjoy your presence — actually or in absentia — around the Christmas and New Year's table.

Ernest C. Pruett
Colonel, USAF
Commander, 21st M&S Gp

Air Base Group



Col Donald H. Lynch

I wish to extend Holiday Greetings to all members of the 21st Air Base Group. May you have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Donald H. Lynch
Colonel, USAF
Commander, 21st Air Base Gp

Hospital Commander Extends Holiday Message

Christmastide is a most happy and treasured holiday time which we welcome and look forward to, year after year. It is a time when we relax a little from our labors, and our thoughts turn outward, toward the many who are less fortunate, that we may share our joy and peace of mind with all our neighbors, and with mankind everywhere.

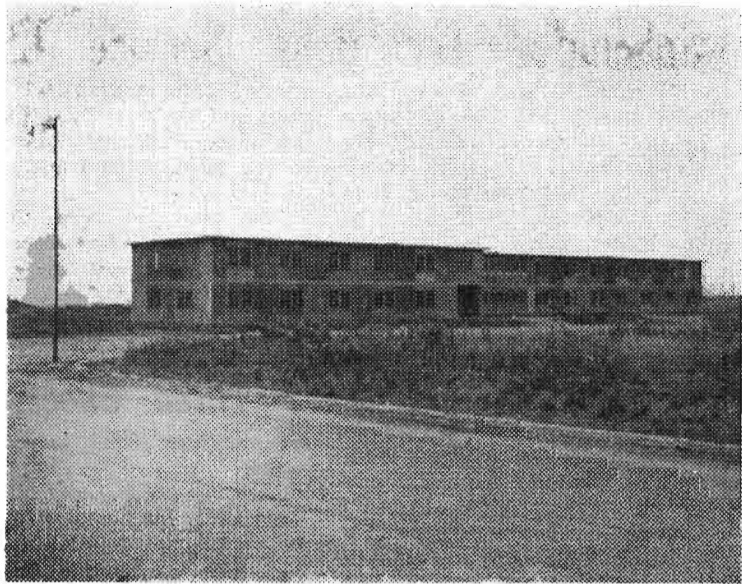
We, in our service jobs, can enjoy a special pride at this time that we have been so intimately

concerned with, maintaining the peace of the world, and that we have made such good progress toward our ultimate goal throughout this past year.

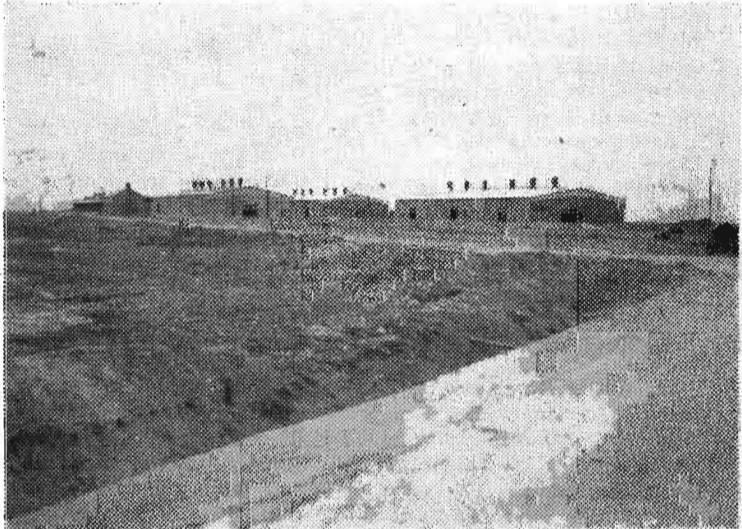
As this joyful holiday begins, I should like to express my warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a most Happy and prosperous New Year which lies ahead.

Herbert T. Clough Jr.
Commander, 21st TAC Hospital
Lt Colonel, USAF

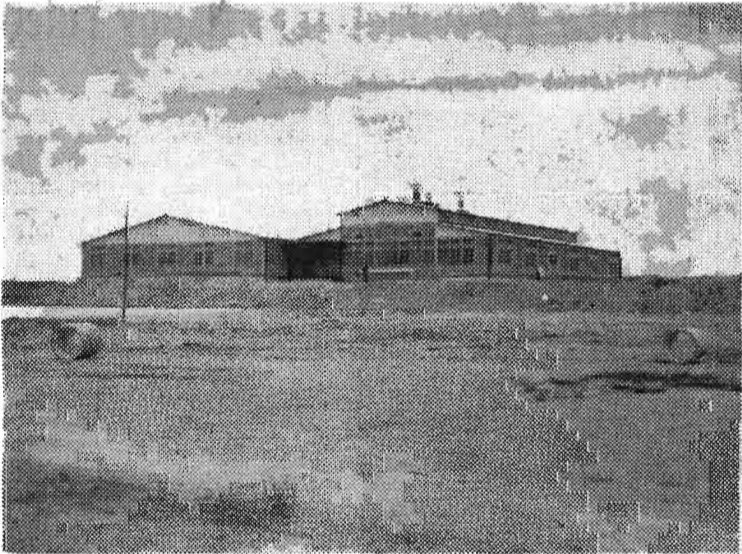
1954 B. C. (Being Constructed)



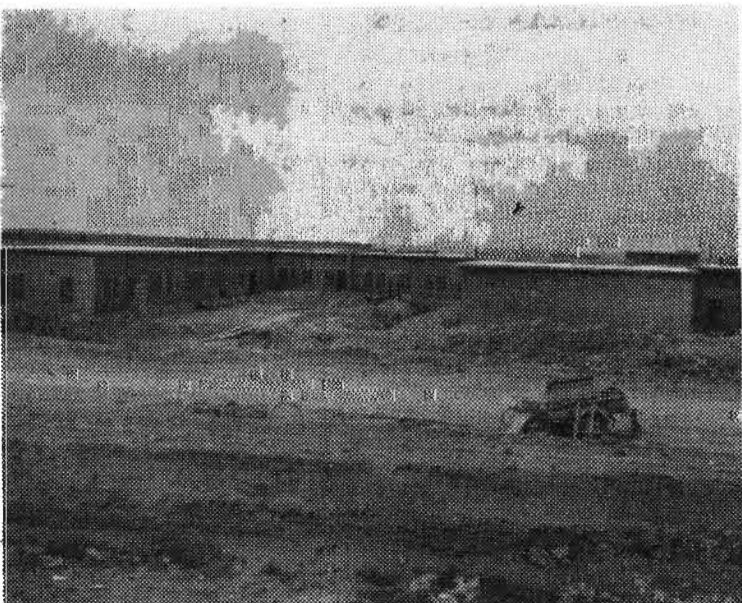
21st Wing Headquarters (December '54) — sans paint, sans parade grounds, sans flagpoles — but *beaucoup* mud.



Base trailers were a dream of the future in the fall of 1954 (above), prior to the 21st Wing's arrival at Chambley.



Graphic view of chow number one (November 1954).



Chambley's Base Hospital presented a depressing sight 24 months ago, compared to the ultra-modern building of today.

1954 — 21st Wing Personnel Look Back with Pride upon Past 2 Years of Pioneering Marks 21st Wing's 2nd Anniversary in Europe

Christmas 1956 at Chambley Air Base invokes numerous memories, some of which are bleak and dreary and others that seem more pleasant and bright. Primarily though, this December marks the second anniversary of the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing's arrival at Chambley.

The events, accomplishments and landmarks that have been realized during these past 24 months have been many and noteworthy. It is with a sense of pride and satisfaction that we look back and briefly summarize the 21st's successful two years as an integral part of the 12th Air Force.

Welcomed by Gen Gross

Late on the afternoon of December 12, 1954 the USNS General LeRoy Eltinge, loaded with the main contingent of the 21st and 388th Fighter-Bomber Wings, docked at the port of La Pallice, just outside of La Rochelle.

This was the final stage of a tedious jaunt across the Atlantic. It was an event that had been looked forward to with great anticipation by the near 3,000 officers and airman participating in the movement. Brig Gen William M. Gross, Deputy Commander of 12th Air Force, greeted the members of the two wings upon their arrival at La Pallice.

In his welcoming address Gen Gross explained to the men how their assignment in Europe would help to provide 12th Air Force with the "highest capabilities of any air force in the world." The welcome was acknowledged by Col Herbert C. Hartwig, former Commander of the 21st M&S Group.

On the following morning personnel bade a final farewell to the General Eltinge, as they boarded waiting trains to begin the cross-country trek from La Pallice to Chambley.

Hot Chow

It was a cold, rainy night when the first train of the long convoy arrived in the village of Chambley. The troops were transported by trucks and buses to their new home, where they were treated to a hot, midnight meal, prepared by members of the advance echelon, who had arrived at Chambley one month earlier. About 3 am the following morning, the final train arrived at the Chambley depot.

Thanks to the "chambermaids" of the advance party, each of the travel-weary airmen found a bunk ready and waiting for them. A hot meal and a warm "sack" were exceedingly welcomed, after 18 days of constant travelling.

The troops had arrived in the dark of night, thereby holding off the initial shock until the following morning. Everyone awoke to find a few drab and incomplete buildings and hangars, depressingly situated in a vast sea of mud.

The contrast that Chambley Air Base and its environs presented in comparison with the 21st's former home in Southern California was definitely grim.

Nevertheless, after a brief readjustment period, the men of the wing became completely aware of their responsibilities, despite the unavoidable circumstances that had been thrust upon them. Realizing this, they began with an earnestness to convert the area of mud and non-descript buildings into a liveable base. It promised to be a job that would require not a little effort.

Conditions Below Par

Prior to leaving California, Maj Edmund Glavey, who at that time was assigned to another base in France, conducted a series of orientation conferences for the men of the 21st. He explained, through pictures and lectures, how living conditions at Chambley were not quite up to par. But even the most unfavorable

Chapel under Construction



... "Air-Conditioned" Chapel

concepts of the base failed to equal the inadequate conditions found by the men upon their arrival.

The housing problem on the base was actually no problem at all because there was no housing. Since there was no adequate landing strip, there were no aircraft. The hangars, therefore, were utilized for such things as Air Police Operations, Motor Pool Office, orderly rooms, M&S Group Headquarters and many other functions.

The Chambley Air Base commercial and entertainment district was located entirely in what is now the Installations Squadron barracks. Therein could be found a base exchange, with a limited stock of only the barest necessities; the chapel; the barber shop and the service club.

This same building also housed the post office, library, AFEX cleaners, class VI store and finally the base cinema. (The latter facility, located in one bay of the barracks, was commonly referred to as the "sweat-box." After a two hour session in the "sweat-box," one usually didn't return to the movies for quite some time.)

Probably the only enjoyable factor of the whole situation was the fact that the service club was only 27 steps from the PX; the theater just 11 steps from the service club; the post office, six steps from the theater; while the library was located just at the head of the stairs.

Uphill Struggle

Due to the incomplete stages of construction on the runway, the personnel and aircraft of the three tactical squadrons were temporarily assigned to other 12th Air Force bases in France. The 416th and 531st Squadrons were deployed to Toul-Rosieres Air Base, while the 72nd took up residence at Chateauroux.

Although the 21st was being looked upon as a fledgling and inexperienced outfit by their American contemporaries based in Europe, the men of the wing continued their uphill struggle during the first year in France.

Following a cold and icy winter, work was begun on the much needed base trailer park. The Army's 862nd Engr Aviation Bn, from Germany, began the job on May 1, 1955. The engineers worked up to 18 hours a day to meet their target date on October 31, 1955. Today plans are underway to enlarge the trailer park, which presently accommodates between 150 and 200 base families.

Morale Jumps

What could probably be considered as the highlight of the first year was the 21st's record at the USAFE bombing and gunnery meet at Wheelus Field, Tripoli. After annexing first place honors at Wheelus, the 21st Wing team went to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada for the gigantic all-USAF competition.

At Nellis they represented USAFE in the all-important special weapons phase, and missed first place by only half a bomb. Team members returned from this worldwide competition with six trophies.

In the early part of June, morale around Chambley increased by several percentage points when the 416th and 531st Fighter Bomber Squadrons

came home to stay. One month later the 72nd Squadron reported for the first time in more than 12 months, the 21st Wing was a compact organization — organized from one central location.

With the entire Wing at Chambley projects long neglected began to take form. The NCO and airman were moved from the construction "civic center," in the Installations Squadron barracks, to their present quarters along prefabricated rows.

Ambitious personnel began to form clubs of diversified interests. The 21st Wing Rod and Gun Club of the first clubs to be formed at Chambley, built a pistol range near the base open storage area.

Rod and Gun Club members also built a clubhouse in the rear of the PO where a large stock of hunting and fishing equipment was available to outdoor enthusiasts. Other groups cropping up were the Officers and NCO Wives' Club, the 21st Wing teams and a motorcycle club.

In the closing months of 1954, the men and the dog of the 21st could look back upon their accomplishments in the early stages of the "pioneer days" at Chambley. The work, however, had just begun.

Hospital Completed

Daily sickcall was held at the "civic center" during the first nine months of 1955. In the fall of 1955, the new section of the Base Hospital opened, and on December 31, 1955, the hospital admitted its first patient.

Gone but Not Forgotten



... At Every Door — a Foot-bath

day the Chambley Hospital was considered one of the finest in Europe. The opening of the Hospital, or less, brought a close to the 21st Wing's first year in Europe.

With the dawning of a new year, the problems that had been encountered in 1954, come, during the year gone by, were mainly proved to be valuable experiences for the men of the Wing. They could look forward, with a clearer conscience, to the problems that would require solutions in 1955.

Experience and planning are completely useless, however, without the foresight to prevent unforeseen problems from cropping up. In February of this year the 21st Wing faced with a problem such as that.

During the first week of February, Central Europe, Chambley Air Base and especially the Chambley trailer park were caught in the grip of Europe's coldest cold in the 20th century. Trailers from the 21st Wing and other units were slowed to a standstill.

Changing Scene

Along with the spring the Chambley scene began to change quite radically. By mid-April the inhabitants were enjoying the convenience of a comparatively new theater and snack bar. A monument to the permanent Base Service Center was dedicated at grand opening ceremonies.

It was Friday, April 13, when Wing Commander, Col Robert R. ... presided at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of our present theater. Earlier the same day, Col

1st Wing Personnel Look Back with Pride upon Past Two Years of Progress at Chambley — 1956

Pioneering Wing's 2nd in Europe

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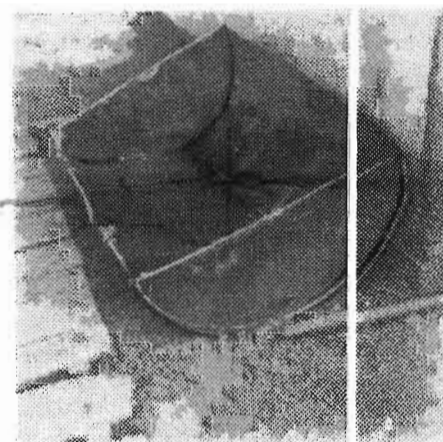
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Experience and planning are completely useless, however, when certain unforeseen problems crop up. And in February of this year the 21st was faced with a problem such as this.

During the first week of February, Central Europe, Chambley Air Base and especially the Chambley base trailer park were caught in the icy grip of Europe's coldest cold-wave of the 20th century. Trailers froze, heating systems failed and normal base functions were slowed to a near standstill.

Changing Scene

Along with the spring thaws, the Chambley scene began to change quite radically. By mid-April base inhabitants were enjoying the convenience of a comparatively modern theater and snack bar. A month later, the permanent Base Service Club was dedicated at grand opening ceremonies.

It was Friday, April 13, when former Wing Commander, Col Robert R. Rowland presided at the ribbon cutting ceremonies for the opening of our present base theater. Earlier the same day, Col Rowland

First Base Snack Bar



... Gastronomic Paradise

also cut the ribbon at the main entrance of the snack bar. And after 18 months, Chambley's consolidated "civic center" ceased to exist.

Prior to the establishment of the present snack bar, hamburgers and milk shakes were a scarcity at Chambley. The first base snack bar was operated by the Rod and Gun Club, and was located in a large squad tent where the base theater now stands. Later a cold-sandwich snack bar was opened by AFEX in the Installations barracks. AFEX also provided snack bar services from a mobile snack wagon parked in the chow hall parking lot.

The base theater, with its Cinema-Scope screen and its theater type seats proved to be one of the most welcomed additions to the changing scene. At any rate, it was a pleasant contrast to the heretofore attended "sweat box."

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Change of Command

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On June 12, prominent military personalities from all branches of NATO and from every part of Western Europe, attended ceremonies for the formal dedication of the base. Air Marshal T. N. McEvoy (RAF), Chief-of-Staff at Hq AIRCENT, was guest speaker for the dedication.

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Chambley's sports program has grown and progressed, during the past two years, equally as rapid as the base itself. In December 1954, most U.S. Military sports fans in Europe had never heard of Chambley or the Desert Rats. Today, the 21st Wing's various athletic teams have blazed a path of glory throughout France District and USAFE level competition.

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The improved capability of the 21st has been illustrated in its consistent successes, both on the ground and in the air. The fruitful results of these past months of toil will certainly be remembered and appreciated by members of the 21st — old and new — in the years to come.

In Past Two Years of Progress at Chambley — 1956

One month later reported-in. Now, more than six years ago was again a — operating station. ing at Chambley, and began to take airmen's club the consolidated the Installations present quarters

l began organiz- ed interests. The Gun Club, one be formed at pistol and rifle ben storage area. mbers also opened of the POL prefab, unting and fishing e to outdoor en- cropping up were ives' Clubs, bowl- cycle club.

ths of 1955, the the dependents back with pride shments during the "pioneering The work, how-

ompleted held at the "civic st nine months. 5, the sickcall e Hospital was mber 3 the Hos- st patient. To-

Forgotten



a Foot-bath

Hospital is con- inest in France. e Hospital, more ose to the 21st Europe.

a new year, pro- ountered and over- one by, would cert- ible experience for They could now clearer concept of l require solving.

lanning are com- ever, when cer- ms crop up. And ear the 21st was n such as this. eek of February, mbley Air Base Chambley base aught in the icy est cold-wave of ilers froze, heat- nd normal base wed to a near

Scene

pring thaws, the gan to change mid-April base joying the con- ratively modern r. A month later, Service Club was opening cere-

13, when former Robert R. Rowland cutting ceremonies present base thea- day, Col Rowland

First Base Snack Bar



... Gastronomic Paradise

also cut the ribbon at the main entrance of the snack bar. And after 18 months, Chambley's consolidated "civic center" ceased to exist.

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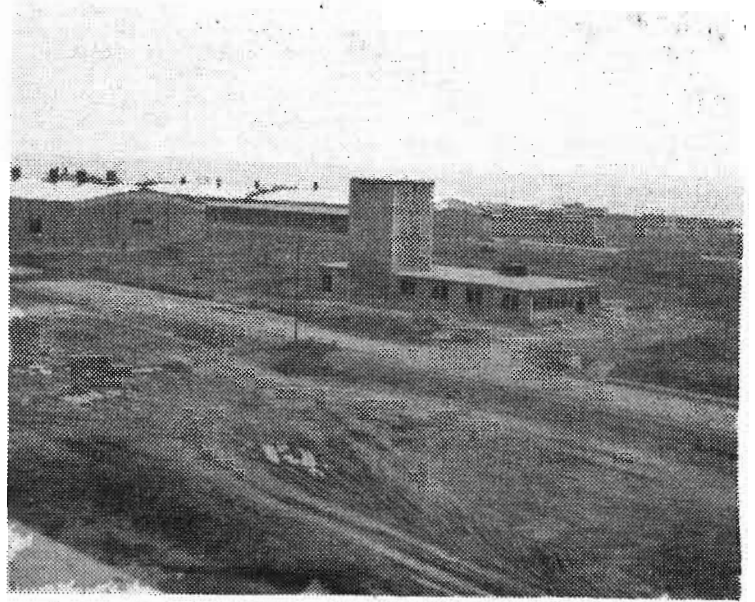
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There Have Been Some Changes Made



The building which now houses Base Operations and the Fire Department, stood deserted, in the winter of 1954, while construction was being completed.



Before construction of the Base Supply prefabs and the trailer park, Chambley's parachute shop was located in the wide open spaces.



For many months, the 21st Food Service Sq donated the use of their facilities for the Service Club's weekly game night, in chow hall number one.

Chaplain's Corner

Holiday Religious Services Schedule

Catholic		Protestant	
24 Dec	— Midnight Mass, 12 pm	24 Dec	— 5 pm Communion Service
25 Dec	— Masses, 9 am and 10 am	25 Dec	— Worship Service, 11 am Children's Service, 4 pm
1 Jan	— Masses, 9 am and 10 am Confessions:	31 Dec	— Watch Night Service, 9 pm to 12:15 am
24 Dec	— 2pm to 3 pm and 7 pm to 9 pm	1 Jan	— Worship Service, 11 am
Joseph E. Davy Chaplain (Capt) USAF Base Chaplain		Curtis M. Bean Chaplain (Capt) USAF	

A Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year to all.

GI Scrooge's Christmas Story

(With apologies to Charles Dickens)

by Paul S. Strencejewski

Meticulously at 1700, as required by regulations, GI Scrooge placed the lock upon his counting house (in the Finance Office) and mumbled to himself: "That's all for today. Now my time is my own; NCO club, here I come."

It wasn't that Scrooge didn't like other people. He did. But above all he was miserly about his free time. This was his. No one was entitled to demand any of that hard-earned rest. No, not even for his own self-improvement would he relinquish one second of that time.

Two hours and eight beers later Scrooge looked into the foam of the ninth glass and saw in it the reflection of a face he had seen when he first entered the base. He recognized the face as that of "that airman" at the Education Center who had said: "Just give us some of your time and we will see that you get recognition for your high school education."

This fellow had, had a glib tongue, thought Airman Scrooge, but did he have to sit hour after hour counting green and scrip and francs? He worked at the Education Center, boy; that man had it soft—no worries, no responsibilities!

But what was this; the foam's face was talking now.

"Yes, Scrooge, time's awasting. You have wasted one whole year of your tour in France. What have you accomplished for yourself? Do you have your high school level GED tests? Have you enrolled in a University of Maryland course? Are you any closer to security for the future than when you came in?"

"I will leave you now, Scrooge, think it over!"

Slowly the face in the foam vanished, but its place was taken by another; this time the face of a woman, who whispered: "Come on Scrooge, I can help you write that letter to your school. Your past schooling is still there. Make it work for you."

Again the face faded, but another appeared, again a woman, and said: "Now, Scrooge, just five tests; do it now; don't delay; do this today. High school is important. You can't go through life without a high school education. Just think of those

four points at promotion time. Just give me 10 hours of your time. On-duty time, that is."

The last few words almost vanished to a whisper, but its fading away made the next voice come out all the stronger as a third ghost took shape in the foaming brew.

This time a man with a receding hairline. Boomingly he reprimanded: "Scrooge, oh, Scrooge, you will have a wife and children when you complete your 20 with the Air Force. Will you be able to feed them by sweeping floors; stoking furnaces; or ushering at a theater? Don't forget, even the policeman on the beat, the fireman, the carpenter or the mechanic has to have the know-how attained through education.

"What's in store for your future? Don't you care? Couldn't you spend your free-time more profitably than slipping quarters through the ticket window at the movies or spending seven nights a week in the club?"

By jove, Scrooge, let's cut the evenings in company with the foamy brew down to five and spend two nights a week getting "ye olde sheepskin." Just two nights a week will do it, just two nights a week, don't forget, just two nights a week."

Again the face faded, but not in Scrooge's mind. He got up from his stool, and with a wild howl he trampled through the NCO club: "1957 is it! Mrs. Edwards, write that letter for me to my high school and get me that transcript, Mrs. Oberding. May I come in next Tuesday for those GED's, Mr. de Kanter; can I enroll into the University of Maryland even before I get my equivalency certificate?"

"This is it, high school in 1957, and a start toward college! What a Christmas this will be for Mom. Wait'll she hears about this!"

Childrens' Choir Entertains at Officers Wives Luncheon



Youngsters of the Chambley Chapel Choir presented a number of selections for the Officers Wives Club, at the Wives' December luncheon. (USAF Photo by Copley)

Military Police

Cont. from page 3

greatest number of personnel within a given area. This agreement does not come before the authority of the local civilian law agencies, but rather aids them.

In this area, the US Army has the responsibility to apprehend military offenders. Air Police are assigned to town patrol with the MPs. An Air Force person, however, may be apprehended or corrected by any service policeman.

This is a good point to bear in mind and also that French authorities have the right to arrest or detain Air Force personnel if the offense warrants it.

It behoves us, as members of the Air Force, to realize that we are unofficial ambassadors of our country, and should conduct ourselves accordingly. The primary function of all military police forces is to protect and aid the man in uniform. Let's, through our cooperation, and appreciation of a sometimes distasteful task, give military police the respect they deserve.

M&S Group Hostesses Use Christmas Theme At Officers Wives Club December Luncheon

by Helen L. Bell

The snow House... the Santa Sleigh... the miseltie and holly... the decorated gift packets... the Christmas Carollers... all of these at the December meeting gave us a grand start for the Holiday Season of 1956.

June Pruett and her committee from M&S Gp deserve holly wreaths for their fine job at the luncheon.

Through the efforts of our program chairman, we were delighted to have Mr. Colligon, the Principal of the Chambley School, bring his choral group, which presented a selection of French, Canadian and Brittany ballads. They, along with the members of the OWC, thoroughly enjoyed the program sung by the young members of the Chambley chapel choir, directed by Mrs. Oberdeen. Dressed in choir robes, their fresh voices and appearance lent an added charm to age-old favorite carols.

Our business meeting was highlighted with the announcement by Rose Drage of the slate of nominees for the coming election at the January luncheon. Space does not permit their publication here, but you'll find them posted on the bulletin board in the Power Room. (And take a look at the P.R.... you'll surely notice Laura Kearney's professional touch evident.)

The girls on the slate consist of some we all know, and some newcomers, so come out and vote on January 10.

Lorene Bean, our Welfare Chairman, gave us the names of our adopted families in Hageville. The accumulated funds from the committee made possible a generous gift to each of the families to celebrate Noel.

There are 13 children, collectively, in the two families. Anyone caring to help out by "adopting" one of the children for her stay at Chambley, as some members have done, would do a great service not only for the family, but for our base and OWC as well. Good works travel a long way. Contact Lorene if you are interested.

Good works do travel... and don't you know that the smiles on the faces of 240 French infants that went home with toys, stuffed stockings and tummies from yesterday's Christmas Party furthered even more Franco-American relations.

Our thank-yous are due to Betty Baker and her committee for their overwhelming, excellent job.

Air Base Group sponsors the luncheon on January 10. Sign the lists if you are not on the permanent one, and if circumstances prevent your attending at the last minute, call the club at 196.

Merry Christmas... Happy New Year to all of you from all of us in the OWC.

NCO Wives Will Treat Husbands to Steak Dinner on December 22

by Anne Fowle

steaks "au gratuit" will be the business at hand.

Bonnie Niehoff and her interior decorators lifted the shopworn face of the entire club. Bells, balls and Santas are passing out Christmas spirit from all the posts and corners. The decorating parties are becoming more and more fun and all ideas and help are appreciated.

Christmas spirit has stretched out from the Welfare Committee, to make a French family in Chambley happier. Jane Burlingham has made all arrangements for a bang-up homewarming, complete with Santa, candy, clothes and toys for the babies.

Highlights of the last meeting were talks by Miss Corrine Otto and Major James W. Logan. Miss Otto, of the Metz American Red Cross, explained the operation of the newly

opened Red Cross Center in Metz. It is a recreation center for all American and Canadian service personnel, their families and friends. Major Logan "shook up" the group with interpretations of the customs and resale laws. These laws effect transactions between Americans and French.

Laura Davenport, Ella Craven and Jane Burlingham were hostesses at the refreshment table. Refreshments consisted of a surprise chili lunch. It was as good as it was unexpected. Congrats girls.

Don't forget your reservations for the children at the nursery, if your going to the New Year's Eve Ball. Mrs. Fern Koch is looking for another spot on the heater to hang a Christmas stocking, baby boy born December 13.

21st Food Service Squadron Realizes Many Improvements during Past Year

by CWO Charles H. Culpepper

This month marks the second anniversary of the 21st Food Service Squadron's arrival in France. This second year of our tour at Chambley has seen many changes take place in both accommodations and personnel.

Several improvements have been made in the three dining halls. Foremost among these were: the tiling of all dining hall floors, the construction of concrete garbage and trash racks and the landscaping of the area around dining hall number one.

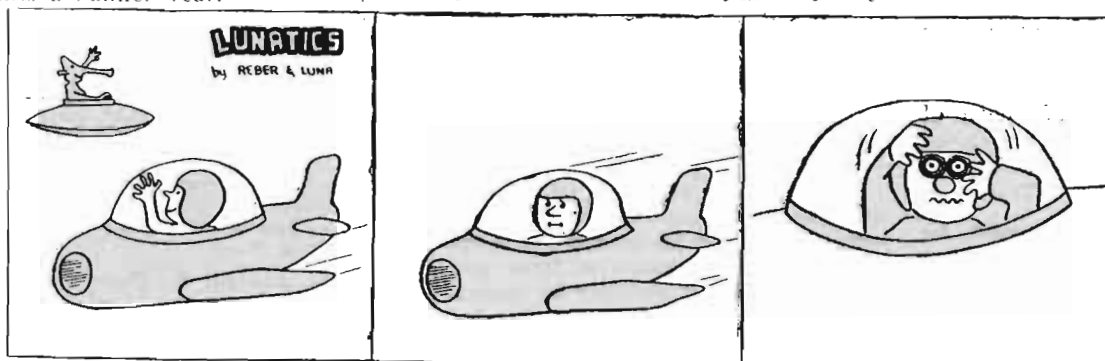
During this past year, the squadron has lost, via rotations, most of the personnel who accompanied the Wing from California. Out of the original 57 airmen and officers, only 11 remain.

Another major achievement of the past 12 months saw several members of the squadron participate in many field exercises. These have greatly

benefited the men of the organization.

Some of our future plans for the months ahead include a complete renovation of the dining room area in dining hall number one, and the segregation of NCO'S from the airmen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of my Food Service Squadron who helped make this a banner year.



Baby Sitter Wants Work

Mrs. W.P. Stewart, of 68 Rue de Commerce in Gorze, presently employs an Italian lady, age 49, who desires work as a baby sitter. She is willing to work day or night. Contact Mrs. Stewart in Gorze, or call base extention 233.

531st Remains Combat Ready

by Robert E. Edge

In the two years since the 21st Wing left George AFB, California, to become a part of NATO's air arm, the 531st has undergone considerable changes. Probably the greatest change has been in personnel—particularly in the key positions.

Lt Col Charles J. Bowers, who led the squadron overseas, remained as squadron commander until January of this year, when he was replaced by Lt Col Alan C. Edmunds.

The squadron has been fortunate in retaining most of the NCO's, however, and the 531st is justly proud of the fine record each section has maintained in inspections by higher headquarters.

A facet of the Air Force's present concept of tactical warfare, which has been developed in our two years overseas, has been that of mobility. After two years of preparing mobility plans and being deployed to various 12th Air Force bases, the 531st is literally "ready to go at the drop of a hat."

The result of all this is a smooth running, highly complex and technical organization which' likened to a World War II fighter unit, is similar to a comparison between a horse drawn buggy and a Cadillac.

Christmas DON'TS

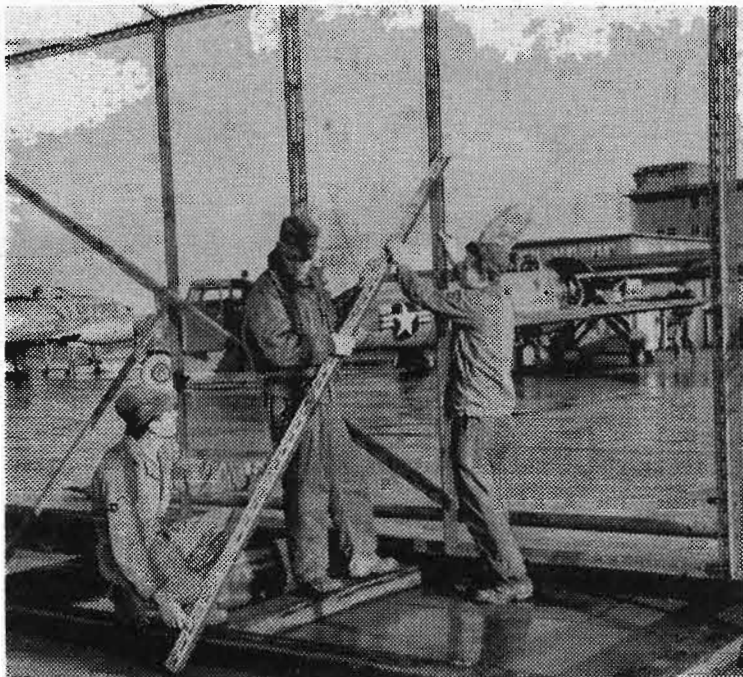
Don't use old electric cords and lights on your tree. Test them before using.

Don't fail to dispose of all wrappings as soon as you open your gifts. Put them in a container outside your trailer or house.

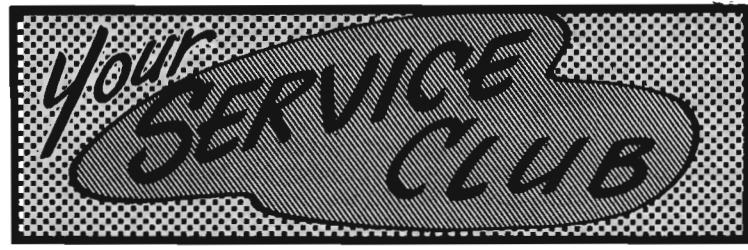
Don't fail to remove your tree from the trailer as soon as possible after Christmas. Don't place it near the trailer, a fence or the lean-to.

Don't forget to follow these simple rules and your Merry Christmas will be followed by a Happy New Year. (AFPS).

Base Flight Ingenuity



Under the supervision of Maintenance Officer, 1st Lt Creighton R. Dunn, men of the 21st Base Flight section have begun work on an aircraft maintenance shelter (above) for T-33 jets. Upon completion of the shelter, the first of its kind for T-birds, Base Flight mechanics will be able to perform their maintenance tasks during any kind of weather. Working on the construction of the shelter are — left to right: A/2C Nelson R. Estrada; S Sgt Jay F. Smith, NCOIC; and A/2C Joe A. Harris. (USAF Photo by Rosenblum)



by Claire, Patt and Rhoda

There's music in the air, the greens have been hung and the trees decorated as we at the Service Club welcome in another Yuletide season. The very first one in our new building.

All of you who will be celebrating Christmas and New Years at Chambley are cordially invited to attend the holiday festivities at your Service Club.

Tonight's Christmas Ball will start the week of activities. There will be dancing from 8:30 pm until midnight, to the music of Rene and his band. There will also be girls to dance and chat with and even a visit from Santa Claus.

This Sunday afternoon will be Open House to all our French friends. At 3 pm on Sunday a group of singers from Briey will present a

Christmas concert. Sunday night will be game night, with prizes and fun for everyone.

Christmas Eve will be one to remember if you come along with the carolling group that is going to serenade around the base and in French communities from a hayrack. Yes, it will be a combined hayride and carolling session, beginning at the club at 7 pm. After the hayride, we'll return to the club for a buffet. The group will then listen to the reading of the age-old Christmas Story. The club will stay open until time to depart for Midnight Mass.

We'll open at 9 am on Christmas morning for a special breakfast. There will be a gift for everyone, so be on hand to see what St. Nick left for you and your buddy.

On the afternoon of Christmas Day you will have a chance to play "Dad for a Day" to some 50 French children who are coming to the club for a Christmas party. If you would like to sponsor a child for the day, come to the club and select a child from the pictures posted on the bulletin board.

To sponsor a child means to be at the party to take the child around; bring candy or a toy; and enjoy a wonderful afternoon of fun. Make a Merry Christmas for a child and you will find it is Merry for yourself.

New Year's Day at the club will start with a "Hangover Breakfast." (Tomato juice and APC's guaranteed).

In order to remember all the events that are going on at the Service Club during the holidays, pick up our special Christmas program at the club, or clip this schedule and post it where you can see it.

A Merry Christmas to All of You from All of Us.

Installations

Cont. from page 2

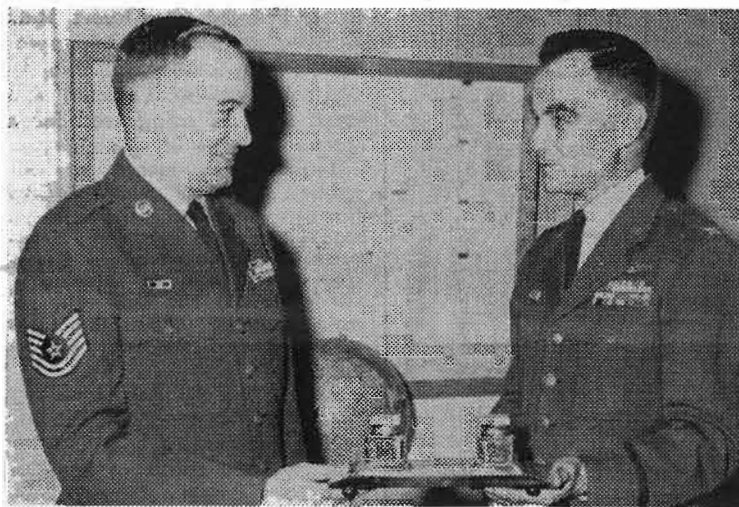
begun in May '55, was completed the following October.

Next job to be undertaken was the long awaited base theater. Also at this time improvements were made on prefab row. Latest task scheduled is the base hobby shops; completion is tentatively planned for early in '57.

Thanks are extended from AIO to the personnel of other units who helped accomplish the various undertakings during the past two years. Another group deserving a note of thanks is the French Maintenance Contractors, who on numerous occasions, worked around the clock in the heating, water and sewage plants.

To all the personnel and their families on Chambley, AIO extends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Outstanding NCO of the Quarter



Base Commander, Col Robert N. Baker (right), recently presented an engraved desk set and a certificate of commendation to T Sgt Watson W. Smith, in recognition of the sergeant's selection as the Outstanding NCO of the Quarter. Sgt Smith, of the 21st Instl Sq, was awarded the "Outstanding" honor for the third quarter of 1956.

21st Places Sixth in 12th AF Commanders' Reenlistment Contest

Twelfth Air Force announced recently that Chambley Air Base finished sixth in the 12th Air Force Commanders' Reenlistment Contest, conducted during the month of November. The \$100 prize for having the highest percentage of reenlistments was won by the 21st Food Service Sq. Those taking a "short" and reenlisting during the month of November

- er were:
- WING HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON: A/2C James L. Miller.
- 72ND FIGHTER-BOMBER SQUADRON: T Sgt Lonnie C. Sherouse, A/1C C. J. Jackson and A/2C Bernard Berry.
- 416TH FIGHTER-BOMBER SQUADRON: A/2C Clarence Prince Jr. and A/3C Hunter B. Childs.
- 531ST FIGHTER-BOMBER SQUADRON: S Sgt Donald H. Shumaker, A/1C Leonad P. Byrd and A/2C Leon F. Rogers.
- MAINTENANCE SQUADRON: S Sgt Robert T. Bryant Jr. and A/2C Nathaniel Clark.
- SUPPLY SQUADRON: S Sgt Henry F. Shelton and A/1C's Billy Gilbert and Harry L. Bowser.
- TRANSPORTATION SQUADRON: A/2C Franklin Drinkwine and A/3C Carol Pools.
- 21ST TAC HOSPITAL: A/2C Phillip E. Hale.
- 7002ND USAF HOSPITAL: S Sgt Doyle P. Patterson.
- HEADQUARTERS AIR BASE GROUP: A/2C Peter F. Guadagin.
- AIR POLICE SQUADRON: A/2C Oscar B. Carnahan.
- COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON: A/2C Harold G. Spence.
- FOOD SERVICE SQUADRON: S Sgt's Huchiale Sherrod and Peter Larson and A/1C Joseph A. Ballard.
- INSTALLATIONS SQUADRON: A/2C William R. Jarrett and A/3C's Billy P. Treece, John C. Best, Joseph B. Gagne and John B. Murphy.

The following men reenlisted upon completion of their normal tours of service: S Sgt's Harold D. Day, 531st

Christmas Greetings

We, on behalf of the Pakistan Air Force, wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the personnel of Chambley Air Base.

We are much impressed by the hospitality and feelings shown us by every individual.

It makes us proud to work shoulder to shoulder with a nation like yours, to help bring an everlasting peace and happiness to the free world.

Pakistani Airmen

Hospital Opens New Dental Clinic



It is said that sweets cause tooth decay, but Dental Surgeon, Maj John J. Tarsitano (center), isn't trying to drum-up business. The tooth of the matter is — the major is presiding at cake cutting ceremonies to celebrate the grand opening of Chambley's spacious, new Dental Clinic on December 7. Watching the cake operation are Col Robert N. Baker, (left), Base Commander, and Hospital Commander, Lt Col Herbert T. Clough Jr.

(USAF Photo by Capley)

Cont. on page 8.

Dec 21	8:30 pm	Christmas Dance
Dec 22	2 pm	Christmas Party for Base Children
	8:30 pm	Special Christmas Music Program
Dec 23	9 am	Coffee Call
	3 pm	Christmas Song Concert
	8:30 pm	Christmas Tree Game Night
Dec 24	7 pm	Caroller's Hayride
	10 pm	Buffet
	11 pm	Reading of Christmas Story
	12 pm	Midnight Mass
Dec 25	9 am	Christmas Breakfast
	2 pm	Dad for a Day Christmas Party
	8:30 pm	Tales of Christmas
Dec 31	8:30 pm	Last Chance Game Night
Jan 1	9 am	Hangover Breakfast
	8:30 pm	California Stage Show

Toul Tigers Upset Chambley Cagemen; Rats Slaughter Etain in Twin Bill

Chambley's Desert Rat quintet, defending champions of the France Basketball District and runners-up in last year's USAFE championship finals, were the victims of an upset defeat at the hands of the Toul Tigers on December 14. Chambley defeated the Tigers, 48-43, one day earlier in the first game of a twin bill. The Tigers, however, bounced back in the second contest to deal the Rats a devastating, 74-51, setback.

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, the Rats got back into their winning ways with a twin killing over Etain's Pioneers, in a pair of district games played in the 416th hangar. Chambley romped, 99-57, in the opening game, and closed the two game series with an 83-57 win on Wednesday.

Jim Fields, playing his usual fine game, led the rats with 34 tallies in the first game at Toul. Bob Sisk accounted for 10 points, and Earl Redman pushed through eight.

Toul gained its revenge in the encore battle, as four Tigers hit the hoops in the double-digit brackets. Fields was again high scorer of the game, with 17, but after trailing, 27-23, at halftime, Chambley found themselves 23 points behind when the final gun sounded.

Leif Carlson's men had little difficulty with the Etainmen last Tuesday night. The Rats led, 50-22, at halftime and missed the century mark by only a single point, as they walked over the Pioneers with 49 more counters in the second period.

Redman captured the scoring laurels with 22. Carlson pumped

through 14, Fields accounted for 12, Willie Ford had 11 and Sisk registered 10.

In the Wednesday tilt, Fields netted 26 for individual honors, while Jim Barton hit for 17. Etain's Al Northington potted 18 for the losers.

Rangers Drop Two

Two weeks ago, on December 6 and 7, the Laon Rangers visited the 416th Rat Trap, as the 1956-'57 season got underway. It was Fields again, in the opener, as the Rangers fell, 78-56. Little Jim burned the nets with 37 tallies.

Chambley's second win of the district season didn't come too



Roger Nettles

easily, although the Rats managed to topple the Rangers by a 66-59 score. Sisk pushed through 18 bingos, for high man, with four field goals and 10 charity tosses.

Roger Nettles nabbed runner-up scoring honors with 16. In the first half of the game, Nettles put on a one-man show as he hit six quick shots from the floor for 12 markers to his credit at halftime.

The Rats double win over Etain this week left their season record, for district competition, at five wins and one loss.

Looking Back

One Year Ago

(The following news items appeared in the Chambley Sabre of December 23, 1955).

...Base Hospital admits first patient.

...Base hosts 42 orphan boys at Christmas party.

...NCO Club plans to open new kitchen before New Year's Day.

...Service Club hopes to be "well established" in new quarters when the 21st celebrates its second anniversary in Europe.

...Cage Rats dump Chateauroux and Orly to remain undefeated in six conference contests.



"Ignore him—maybe he'll go 'way."

Sports Car Fans Line-up for Rally



Members of the Chambley Sports Touring Club line-up in front of the 21st Wing Headquarters building for the club's second rally, held on December 2. (USAF Photo by Barnes)

Mowle, Conant Capture Sports Car Rally in Porsche 1600

Chambley's Sports Touring Club, which was inaugurated in September, sponsored its second sports car rally on Sunday, December 2. First place honors were grabbed by the team of Ed Mowle, driver and Norm Conant, navigator, who traversed the course in a Porsche 1600.

Second best laurels were

taken by the team of Billy Weir, driver and Cliff Siess, navigator, driving a Porsche 1500. Mowle and Conant hit each check point by a matter of seconds, while the second placers missed by a few minutes.

There was a slight improvement in participation at this recent rally, in comparison to the last rally held. Sunday's affair showed 13 entries while the previous rally had 10. The course which extended through the surrounding locale was 50 miles in length.

Starting point for the rally was at Wing Hq. Prior to starting out on the 50 mile run the drivers were given instruction sheets. Rules set down on this sheet must be

strictly abided by or the entrant is disqualified. The race terminated at the Chez Thiery Restaurant in Corny.

A dinner was held for participants in the rally at the restaurant. Also at the restaurant, Club President, Richard B. D'Elosua, presented the first place winners with an engraved lighter. Second slot winners received an engraved plaque.

Novel Sports Light Displayed at Wg Hq

After splitting a doubleheader with two French squads at an invitational cage tournament at Lyon, France, the Desert Rats received a momento of appreciation from tournament officials. The momento, in the form of a small light, is being used for a unique purpose at Chambley.

Leif Carlson, mentor of this season's Chambley quintet devised the idea of placing the light in the trophy case at Wing Headquarters, and whenever any Chambley sports team is enjoying a winning streak, the light will remain burning. When the team loses, however, the light will be turned off.

This novel symbol of victory has been dubbed the "Winning Light." Presently it is burning brightly as a result of the Desert Rats recent victories over the Etain cagemen.

21st Places 6th In Re-up Contest

Cont. from page 7

Fighter-Bomber Sq; Thomas W. Young, 21st Supply Sq; Johnny F. Oxner, 21st Comm Sq and A/IC Clifford J. Friend, 21st Transportation Sq.

The grand total of reenlistments during the month of November was 37. Air Base Group had 11 that took a "short," thereby having the greatest number for any group on the base. M&S Gp finished second with 10, while Fighter-Bomber Gp had eight.

Four Teams Battle for Top Positions As Intramural Cage Activity Begins

Intramural cage activity at Chambley is well underway, and the standings reflect hot battles for the number one spot in both the American and National Leagues.

Art Caldwell, Intramural League Director, released the respective league standings (computed as of December 13) early this week, which show four teams still hold unblemished records in the young season.

Wing Hq and the 72nd were knotted for first place in the American Loop, both with 3-0 won and lost records. In the

National Circuit, Air Base Gp and the 416th, also with 3-0 records, were tied for first place.

The 416th, incidently, was the winner of last season's intramural league championship. The team represented Chambley at the Franco District Intramural Basketball Tourney at Chateauroux.

High point-maker in the American League is Louie Knipp, of the Wing squad, with 67 markers. Tom Wilks, of Air Base Gp, holds high individual scoring honors in the National League, with 51.

American League

	Won	Lost
Wing Hq	3	0
72nd Sq	3	0
Comm Sq	2	1
AP Sq	1	2
Maint Sq	1	3
531st Sq	0	3
Food Sv Sq	0	3

National League

	Won	Lost
AB Gp Hq	3	0
416th Sq	3	0
Trans Sq	2	1
AP Sq	1	2
TAC Hosp	1	2
Supply Sq	0	3
AACS Sq	0	3

Individual High Scorers

American League			
Team	Games	Pts	
Knipp Wing	3	67	
Alexander Comm	3	46	
Watkins AP's	3	39	
Massaroni AP's	3	32	
Wellington Comm	3	29	

National League			
Team	Games	Pts	
Wilks AB Gp	3	51	
Caldwell AB Gp	3	45	
Morris 416th	3	40	
Hunt Supply	3	31	
Kellerman AB Gp	3	29	

An Editorial

The Sabre staff was recently informed of an unfortunate situation that has been caused partly through our own fault. In the edition of September 14, 1956, the Sabre interviewed Mrs. Simon Lejal, proprietress of a Chambley hardware store, to ask her impressions of Americans and the American way of life.

This week we learned that certain remarks, accredited to Mrs. Lejal at that time, have not only caused a slump in her American clientele, but she has also been told directly by American dependent wives that they were offended by her remarks.

These dependent ladies seemed to interpret the article to say that Mrs. Lejal considered American women as being careless or even lazy in their housework.

This was not the case, and we want to set things straight.

The people interviewed during September were picked at random. In the case of Mrs. Lejal, it was necessary to probe, with very precise questions, before she was able to note a single difference between French and American habits.

It's a fact that our customs are different than those of the French. In France, the noon meal is the biggest meal of the day. When Mrs. Lejal stated that French wives start dinner early in the morning, she was not discrediting the American wife who starts her dinner much later.

Let's remember, most French wives don't have the modern conveniences (such as refrigerators, pressure cookers and the like) that American women enjoy. French wives, like Mrs. Lejal, cannot help looking with envy at these advantages that we take so much for granted.

To sum it up, there was nothing in Mrs. Lejal's remark that could be considered derogatory toward her American friends. Let's try to understand the meaning of what she said, and stop turning against her. Otherwise, it will not be possible to conduct such public opinion interviews in the future — which is just the opposite of our original intention.