

1957



VAPOR TRAILS

PREFACE

We, the students in the USAFE schools, find ourselves in the unique position of being American students in what we once thought of as foreign lands. Now these lands are our homes in six different countries and on three continents. Not only are we students but also we are ambassadors of good will and representatives of democracy.

However, in our schools we live and learn as nearly like our Stateside counterparts as is possible in a foreign country. This yearbook presents the story of our lives in twenty senior and junior high schools located in Europe, Asia Minor, and North Africa. We have recorded our accomplishments and our activities and have emphasized the distinctive setting of our schools.

Like students in the United States we have studied algebra and biology, we have planned junior-senior proms, we have cheered for our teams, and we have earned money to finance class activities.

Records of all these projects are found in this book, but here the similarities between us and the Stateside students end. Our class trips have been to such exciting and interesting places as Casablanca, Paris, London, and Rome. We have seen the cathedral of Notre Dame, the Watch on the Rhine, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and the

mosques and minarets of North Africa. We have visited a Parisian cafe and waltzed in Vienna. These scenes, all as familiar to us as the Empire State Building to a New Yorker, will remain in our memories forever. We will never forget the friendly blue eyes of our English neighbors, nor the shy smiles of little Italian boys.

But beyond all this, we know the devastation wrought by war and have witnessed the fierce determination and pride which drive a nation to rebuild. Although this book is a story of our student life rather than an account of the rebirth of war-torn nations, the two are closely related. The experience of living in foreign countries has given us new insight and understanding; it has made better informed and more understanding young people of all of us.

It is our sincere hope that this book will impart to you, the reader, a portion of this understanding and insight which we have gained, and a picture of our school life.

May our fellow students who turn the pages of this book, now and in later years, find many memories of fun and laughter, studies and work, and faithful friends.



To the Members of the Graduating Class:

It gives me great pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the members of the 1957 USAFE High Schools graduating classes upon successfully completing this important phase of your formal studies. From now on you will be considered young adults rather than school children. This transition from school to adult life offers many advantages, but these advantages go hand in hand with the duties and responsibilities of adult citizenship in the American Republic.

To be an American citizen today demands a far greater knowledge of the world and its people than was required of your parents or mine. Swift means of communication and transportation which are commonplace in 1957 did not exist when your fathers and mothers stood on the threshold of adult life. The recent around-the-world flight in less than two days by jet aircraft of the Air Force's Strategic Air Command is a dynamic example of the dramatic changes being made in our relationship with the other nations of the world; a world that is now one-fortieth the size—in terms of time and distance—that it was when "Around the World in 80 Days" was considered an interesting but improbable theme for Jules Verne's story.

To discharge successfully your duties as modern American citizens your knowledge of the countries, peoples and cultures of the world must be more accurate, more complete, more thorough than that of your parents. This is because you are going to live much more closely with these peoples in a smaller and smaller world than Americans ever have before.

You have been fortunate in your high school years to attend Air Force schools in foreign lands. By having a personal knowledge of Europe, North Africa or the Middle East, in getting to know first hand the diverse languages, customs and cultures of the peoples of these lands, you have gained a sizeable advantage over your contemporaries in the United States. It is my hope that you will not lose this deeper insight into these peoples and their cultures because they have a great and growing effect on our country's course in international affairs.

Certainly you have knowledge today which will be needed by America's leaders of tomorrow, for you are among the relatively few Americans who have had the opportunity to develop the fresh perspective which comes from seeing the United States from the outside during a part of your formative years. And, as young American Ambassadors, you have made a unique contribution to the understanding of America and its young men and women by the peoples of the countries where you have been living.

I wish each of you every success in your personal life and in your individual contribution to the peace, security and prosperity of our country.

WILLIAM N. TUNNER
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander in Chief



To the 1957 USAFE High School Graduates:

It is with pleasure that I congratulate you, the members of the graduating class of 1957, upon the successful completion of one phase of your education.

You have had the singular privilege of combining an American education with a foreign background. You have had the opportunity of being guests of the English people, to whom we Americans owe much of our heritage; of the French and German people whose music, art and educational systems have influenced our own and of the Libyan, the Moroccan and Turkish people whose distinctive cultures you have come to understand and appreciate.

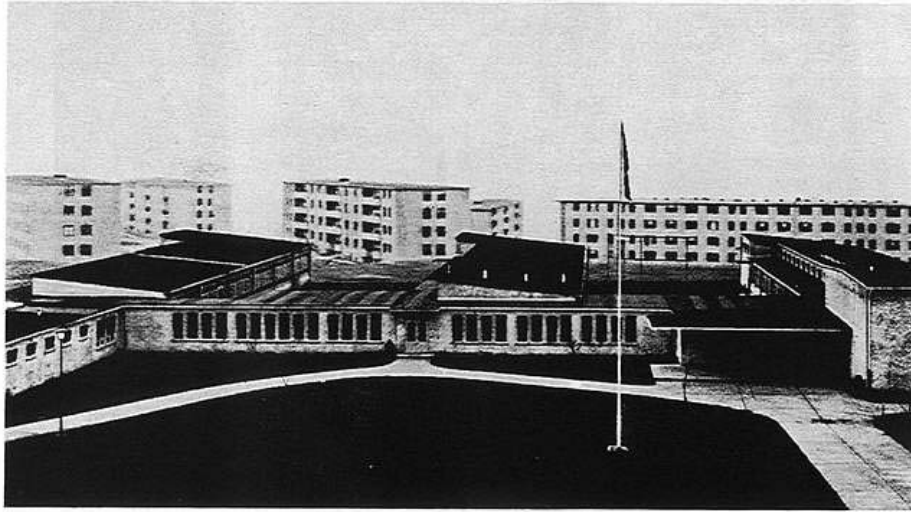
As you have learned, such an experience is not only an advantage but also a responsibility. It has been your task as American youth, to exemplify the American way of life and its democratic ideals. Your success in achieving the goal of friendship and understanding with your neighbors has played a great part in the accomplishment of our essential mission.

But your responsibility does not end here. As future adult leaders, with your knowledge and understanding of the people, the culture and the customs of many lands, you have the truly challenging opportunity to contribute materially to the goal of the free world—world unity.

To the students whose education is continuing in the USAFE high schools I extend greetings and delegate to you the responsibility of continuing the cordial relations with the people who are your hosts. I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn the history, traditions and language of your host nation that you may grow in understanding and thus be ready to assume your full share in working toward a free world.

Joseph A. Bulger

JOSEPH A. BULGER
Brigadier General, USAF
Deputy Chief of Staff,
Personnel



Bitburg American School

SCHOOL HISTORY

In September, 1953, the building that now houses the Bitburg American High School and the Elementary School was erected. However, not until September of 1954 were there enough ninth graders to form a class; from this basis our high school developed.

When our student population was supplemented by pupils from Spangdahlem and Prum in 1955, we had a sufficient enrollment for a full, four-

year high school. In June the school graduated its first senior class, consisting of seven members. This year of 1956—1957 has found the population of Bitburg American High School just doubled. An inevitable problem was the lack of space, but this was quickly remedied by holding classes in an adjoining pre-fabricated building. It is with pride that we recall the achievements of the year as recorded in this annual.

husband girl will be — Best Wishes to W. Longing
Benny for Bill.
M.C. Lang.



ADMINISTRATION
AND
FACULTY



COLONEL
L. F. DOWNING
Base Commander



CAPTAIN
A. R. MIDDELSTADT
School Officer



MR.
STANFORD C. RAMSEY
Supervising Principal
State College, Missouri
B.S.
University of Missouri
M.A.
Missouri



MR.
DONALD L. GRANT
Principal, High School
Pepperdine College, B.S.
University of
Southern California, M.A.
California



MR.
ERNEST M. MORGAN
Principal, Elementary
School
Southern Missionary
College, B.S.
North Carolina



MR.
HELMUT STEFAN
BOOTZ
German, Latin
University of Mainz
Germany



MISS
NANCY J. BRET
Home Economics, Science
Louisiana Polytechnic
Institute, B.S.
Louisiana



MISS
PIA BRÜGGEMAN
German
Kings College, London
University of Edinburgh
Switzerland



MISS
ELAINE DANGERS
Mathematics
Sophomore Class Sponsor
College of Saint Theresa, B.A.
University of Minnesota
Minnesota

MR.
ERNESTO C. ISPANO
French, German
Strassbourg, Paris
University of London
France



MR.
CEDRIC G. HANNON
Mathematics
Sophomore Class Sponsor
Linfield College, B.A.
Teacher's College
Columbia University, M.M.
Washington



MISS
RUTH HERDEN
Office Secretary
Germany

MR. JOHN K. LAY JR.
History, Government
Freshman Class Sponsor
Student Council Sponsor
Ottawa University, B.A.
Fort Hays Kansas
State College, M.S.
Hope, Kansas
(499)



MISS
HELENE LICHTER
German
Freiburg i. Br.
School of English, London
Germany

Helene Lichter



MISS
PATRICIA M.
McSWEENEY
English, Social Studies
Emmanuel College, B.A.
Massachusetts



MISS
MILDRED C. CARNEY
R. N.
School Nurse
Texas



MR.
EDMUND J. MUSTEIKIS
Science, Counselor
Senior Class Sponsor
University of Maine, B.A.
Connecticut University M.A.
Maine



MISS
V. LILLIAN POLITELLA
English, French
Junior Class Sponsor
University of Massachusetts
B. A.
Massachusetts



MISS
RUTH PRESCOTT
SHIPLER
Physical Education
G. A. Sponsor
Senior Class Sponsor
University of Oregon
B. S. and M. S.
Oregon



MISS
MAURENE STUCKEY
English
Junior Red Cross Sponsor
Southwestern State
Teacher's College, B. A.
University of Oklahoma
M. Ed.
Oklahoma



MISS
ROSEMARY THIEDE
Commercial
Freshman Class Sponsor
Western Michigan College
of Education, B. S.
Michigan



MR.
ANDREW B.
THOMPSON
Social Studies
Annual Sponsor
Saint Anselm's College, B. A.
Boston University
New Hampshire

MR.
DEAN W. UHLENHOPP
Vocal and Instrumental
Music
University of Dubuque, B. A.
University of Iowa, M. A.
Iowa



MR.
H. EUGENE WAGNER
Mathematics, Science
Chess Club Sponsor
Junior High Sponsor
Slippery Rock
State Teachers College, B. S.
University of the
Philippines, M. A.
Pennsylvania



MISS
NANCY WALSH
Librarian
University of Minnesota
B. S. and M. A.
Minnesota



MISS
ALVA D. WILLIAMS
Arts and Crafts
Brown University, B. B.
Columbia University, M. M.
Connecticut



MR.
JOHN REGINALD
WILLIS
Physical Education
Mathematics
Troy State Teacher's
College, B. A.
Florida State University
Florida



CLASSES

SENIORS



SENIOR CLASS HISTORY

At last! Yes, we have reached the untouchable realm of the "mighty seniors!" Our senior class, consisting of eighteen members, was the second graduating class from Bitburg High School.

In September we began our final year with an enrollment of fifteen students. During the first semester Sue Cline, Ishmael Lyon, and Joy Schoenen joined our ranks.

Our time, in addition to our school work, was spent establishing the usual and unusual traditions. "Baby Day" was sponsored by the seniors to initiate the incoming freshmen. Our members served as a jury in an assembly presented at the end of the day to "defend" the undefendable freshmen.

In November we were proud of two of our members, Ginger Grant and Pat O'Leary, who were selected to take a scholarship qualifying examination.

At Christmastime our class sponsored the "Christmas Fantasy" formal dance. A combo furnished the music for the couples who danced in a nightclub atmosphere.

An evening of television was the theme of the comical assembly we presented in February for the student body.

The Junior-Senior Prom at which the junior class honored us was enjoyed by all. At this gathering the Senior Class Will and Prophecy were read.

Now we leave our traditions, our books, and our good wishes for the up-and-coming senior class as we go on to face the new world open to us.



PATRICIA MARY PRELLER
 Class President 4
 Newspaper 1; Dramatics 1
 Jr. Red Cross 2, 3
 G. A. A. 4, Secretary
 Annual Art Editor 4
*Ambition: To marry someone
 wealthy
 Texas*

*Bill, if you work
 hard someday
 you'll be lucky to
 be and graduate
 with
 Dorothy*



DOROTHY MARIE WHELAN
 Class Secretary 4
 Confraternity Christian Doctrine 1
 Jr. Red Cross 4; Glee Club 1, 2, 3, 4
 Office Assistant 3, 4; First Aid 3
 Girls' Chorus 1; Student Council 3
 Prom Committee 3
*Ambition: To become a nurse
 Pennsylvania*

MAXIE ANN CONGDON
 Class Treasurer 4
 Office Assistant 2, 4
 Annual 1, 2, 4, Layout Editor 4
 G. A. A. 1, 2, 4; Ski Club 3
 Student Council 1, 2
 Model Club 2; Pep Club 1, 2, 3
 Class Secretary 3; Chorus 1, 2, 3, 4
 Homecoming Attendant 1
 BAB Fire Queen 4
*Ambition: To travel to the Far
 East
 Texas*



RICHARD SMITH
 Class Vice-President 4
*Ambition: To join the Air Force
 New York*



*Job Bond
 Rick*



GEORGINA LOUISE CAMERON

Y-Teens, Treasurer 1
Talent Incorporated 1
Chorus 1, 2, 3, 4, Junior Director 2
Scribblers 1; Dramatics 1, 3
Girls' Baseball 2; Newspaper 2, 3
Pep Club 2, 3, Secretary 3
Annual 2, 4, Assistant Editor 4
Student Council 2 GAA 4
Prom Committee 3, 4
Office Assistant 2, 4
Interim Student Council,
Secretary 3; Tri Sigma
*Ambition: To marry a West Pointer
Texas*



EDITH GARCIA
Commercial 1
Girls' Glee Club 1
Girls' Chorus 3
G. A. A. 4

*Ambition: To live a good life
California*



VIRGINIA RAE GRANT

Student Council, President 4
Secretary-Treasurer 3
Fractions 1, 2; Y-Teens 1
Newspaper 2, 3, News Editor 2
J. R. C.; Newspaper Editor 3
Class President 3; G. A. A. 4
Junior Red Cross President 3, 4
Prom Committee 3
Annual Literary Editor 4
*Ambition: To study law
Nebraska*



MARY SUE CLINE

Glee Club 1, 2, 4
Future Nurses' Club 2, 3
Secretary-Treasurer 2
Rainbow Girls 2, 3
Color Station Religion 2
*Ambition: To marry
Florida*



*Bill,
May all your
high school days
come to a happy
close. They're filled with
the happiness and joy
which we'll never
forget. Remember only
with love and
gratitude.
Make the best of
your smile. Live. It can't
be lost. Good luck. Making
with your personality what
will meet success.
God bless especially you
George*





BETTIANNE CAROL MARY HELMAN
 G. A. A. 1, 4; Ski Club 1
 Spanish Club 2, 3; F. H. A. 1
 A Capella Choir 3; Drama 3
 Pepsters 2, 3; Library Assistant 2
 Cheerleader 4
*Ambition: To become a singer
 California*



ROBERTA A. KEENE
 F. H. A. 1, 2; G. A. A. 1, 2, 3, 4
 Girls' League 1, 2
 Dramatics 3; Chorus 1, 2, 3, 4
 Newspaper Editor 3
 Annual 3, 4, Business Manager 4
 Junior Red Cross 4
 Nurses Aid 2, 3
 Prom Committee 3, 4
*Ambition: To succeed in every
 undertaking
 Oregon*

ISHMAEL K. LYON
 Student Council 1, 2
 Chess Club 1
 Football 3
*Ambition: To join the Air Force
 Virginia*



GERALD McCUE
*Ambition: To graduate
 Pennsylvania*



Best of Luck
 to you
 "Gee"
 -1-

"Best of Luck
 you'll need it!
 George"



Good Luck
Senior English
Pat O'Leary



PATRICK O'LEARY
Student Council, Secretary-Treasurer 4
Junior Red Cross Council 3, 4
Library Club 1, 2, 3; Baseball 3
Hobby Club, President 1
Projectionist Club, President 4
Photography Club, Treasurer 2
Speech Club 1, 2, 3, Vice-President 4
Spanish Club 2, 3; Newspaper 3
Drama Club 3; Prom Committee 3
Mixed Chorus 2; Office Assistant 4
Boosters Club 3; Annual Editor 4
Ambition: To become a lawyer Oklahoma



LARRY W. TAYLOR
Rhythm and Blues Track; R.O.T.C.
Movie Projectionist
Ambition: To become a minister Missouri

Best of luck
Larry



JOHN C. WILLS
Ambition: To fly California

ELISABETH THERESIA SHANNON
Dance Club 1, 2; Jazz Club 1, 2, 3
Track 1, 2; Tumbling 1, 2
Art Club 1, 2, 3; German Club 3
G.A.A., Sports Director 4
Office Assistant 4
Annual Layout Editor 4
Ambition: To be happy Germany



Hi Bill!
SUNG WAS A NICE YEAR
IN BITBURG! HOPE YOU
HAVE FUN IN YOUR SENIOR YEAR.
I SURE DID!
YES GUTE!
SEIBER!
Liz



SHIRLEY YEAGER
 Office Assistant 4
 G. A. A. 4
*Ambition: To go to college
 Oregon*

*She is very nice
 person of real service
 and she is very
 my mother's receipt
 Betty's mother's
 11/2/52*

JOY SCHOENEN
 Job's Daughters
*Ambition: To become an Airline
 hostess
 Washington*



WERNER GERHARDT
 Postgraduate
 California

