

## WE PRESENT . . .

the sixth edition of VAPOR TRAILS, compiled by the yearbook staffs of ten United States Air Force high schools overseas, staffs collected from the entire 50 states of our Union. This book is our storehouse of memories—memories that are the Old World's legacy to the New!

Once these two worlds were separated by months of dangerous travel in old sailing-ships; today they are joined in a matter of hours by flame-tipped silver jets that streak far above the highest clouds. Once their dreams and ideals were so different that no natural kindness could bridge the gap; today the Carolinas chat informally with Chateauroux, Nouasseur has old friends in Nevada, and Ankara hears the twang of Arkansas. Old England, like New England, has juke-boxes. Ccca-cola is served in many a Weisbaden beergarden. Shish kebab has made a hit with the Ladies' Aid Society of Dodge City, Kansas. Picasso is as pertinent to Peoria as he is to Paris.

Our counterparts at home learn just what we learn in school. Our lunch-room serves chili con carne, hamburgers, and cole slaw just as theirs do. We tell the same Manhattanborn joke that is told in Dallas and on the same day! Our clothes are their clothes and their slang is our slang. When they talk of "Hands across the sea," however, they must depend on their imaginations to sympathize and understand. It is easy for the stay-at-home to believe that the "French are a gay people, fond of dancing and light wines," that "English people are rather inclined to be cold and snobbish," that Germans are harsh to their women and incapable of real democracy," that "Turks must be sort of mysterious and sinister." We have met dour Frenchmen, intense Frenchmen, and cold Frenchmen—we have even met beer-drinking Frenchmen. We have met warm-hearted Englishmen and friendly Englishmen and chattering Englishmen. We have met Germans who are under their sweethearts' thumbs and German voters who study the lists of their candidates with shrewd intelligence. We know Turks as routine-minded as bank clerks and honest as Quakers.

There is wonderful variety to the world just outside our school doors—this world we greet with gay familiarity! We watch good sauerkraut being made, a potter turning his wheel, a painter mixing his colors beside the Seine. We know what cheese should be eaten before a chestnut souffle, how to light a hookah, and why our favorite pub is called "Goat and Compasses." (Its original name was "God Encompasseth Us."

Our friends at home read the history of great kings and barons in their castles—we have seen pictures of these same kings and barons painted from life; we have walked in the courtyards of these same castles. History—to us—is a part of the world we are visiting. Sociology is what the beggar said, what the char told us, the worries of the concierge, and the story of a refugee from East Germany.

We learn and we try to teach. To those who persist in believing that all Americans are rich, we confide the shameful secret of our slim allowances. To those who believe America can never grasp their problems, we listen and try to understand. Young ambassadors without portfolios, we try to make friends for America wherever we go, knowing quite well that the only way to make a friend is to be a friend.

We have tried hard to learn our lessons and to be worthy of our great opportunities. Each of us will find it easier in days to come, to remember the principles we have been taught, and those we have learned for ourselves by looking through the exciting pages of this copy of



To the Members of the Graduating Class, 1962

It is a pleasure to give you my congratulations for having successfully completed this phase of your formal education.

As graduates of the USAFE high schools, you have had the opportunity to share in advantages not available to your contemporaries in the States. You have been able to observe the people of these historic and colorful countries, thus learning of their habits and culture. You can have learned that the problems which sometimes grow out of differing ethnic backgrounds begin to dissolve as people meet, rub shoulders, compete on the athletic field, and enjoy the same social functions.

With this experience you can undertake the next phase of your education with a broader and more human understanding of the international problems which face us. Thus, you should be prepared better than many to assume full responsibilities as leaders, when that day comes. My best wishes to each of you.

TRUMAN H. LANDON General, USAF

Commander-in-Chief



To the Members of the Graduating Class, 1962

I wish to extend to you the graduating class of 1962 of the USAFE High Schools, best wishes for a successful future.

With the background afforded you by your experience abroad, and the excellent educational opportunities which you have had at your disposal, you are prepared to meet the existing difficulties of adulthood which today can only be met by further educational endeavour and perseverance.

Looking therefore to this future, I am sure, that you, with the heritage you have been endowed, will succeed and prosper not only for yourselves as is your reward, but also for humanity, which is its right to expect of you in view of the endowment you have received from it.

Your heritage is a free one; to you safeguard it, and reward it to years to come.

ROYAL HATCH Brigadier General, USAF Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel





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