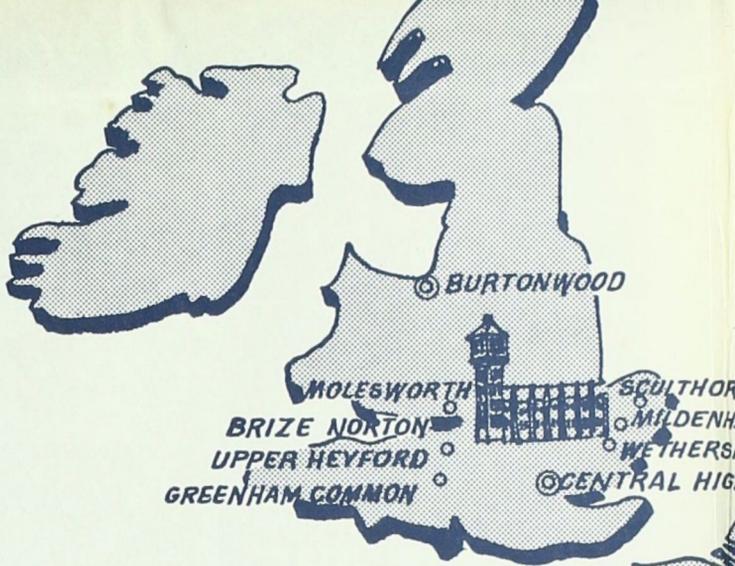


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VAPOR TRAILS

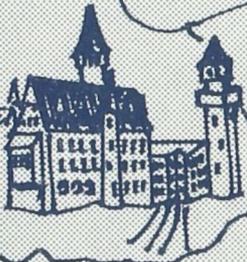


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◎ BITBURG  
WIESBADEN  
RAHN



◎ IZMIR



◎ WHEELUS





*Rose & Wally Threlkeld*

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VAPOR TRAILS

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PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS

USAFE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

LIBYA  
WHEELUS

TURKEY  
IZMIR

MOROCCO  
NOUASSEUR

GERMANY  
BITBURG · WIESBADEN

FRANCE  
CHATEAUROUX

ENGLAND  
BURTONWOOD · BUSHY PARK

AND

USAFE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

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ENGLAND  
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## DEDICATION

*VAPOR TRAILS* is dedicated to the high ideals and aspirations for which America was founded. May we, representing our country and its ideals overseas, demonstrate to the people of the world the meaning of America.

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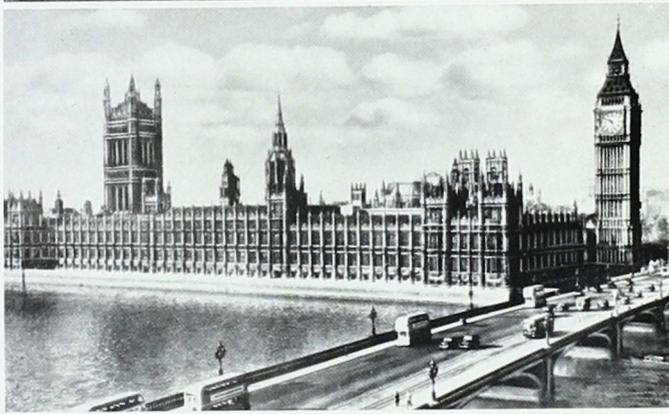
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1957

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## 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*

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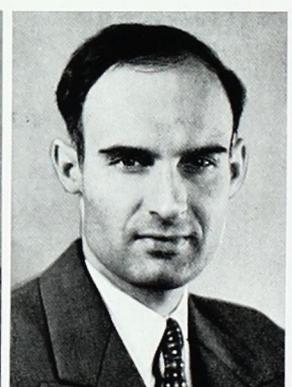
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