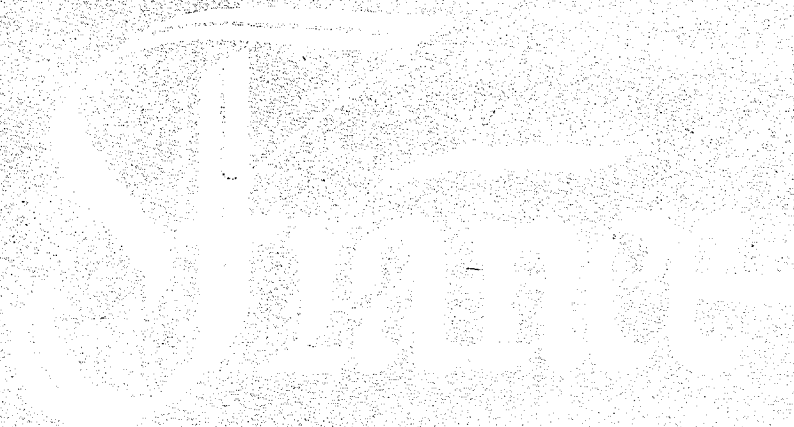


Rich 5'

INFORMATION ON



FOR AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES

AIR FORCE PAMPHLET
No. 34-8-5

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Washington, 1 January 1960

FOREWORD

This pamphlet is furnished for the use of Air Force personnel and their families assigned to duty in France. Its purpose is to assist these individuals in establishing a residence and developing and maintaining good community relations during their stay.

Contents include information on living conditions, family requirements, and the French people. Revisions will be made when important changes occur.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

OFFICIAL:

J. L. TARR

Colonel, USAF

Director of Administrative Services

THOMAS D. WHITE

Chief of Staff

OPI: AFPMP

DISTRIBUTION:

S

This Pamphlet supersedes AFP 34-8-5, 15 June 1955.

contents

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
Government	1
Geography	1
Climate	2
Industries and Economics	2
The People—Their Customs and Traditions	2
Language	4
YOU ARE AN UNOFFICIAL AMBASSADOR	4
You Are Subject to French Courts	4
Responsibilities of an Unofficial Ambassador	4
GOVERNMENT LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS	6
Bachelor Housing	6
Family Housing	6
CIVILIAN LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS	7
Hotel Accommodations	7
FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS	8
Shipment of Household Goods	8
HOUSEHOLD SERVICES	8
Electricity	8
Gas Appliances	8
Domestic Employees	8
TRANSPORTATION	8
Private Automobiles	8
Resale of Cars	10
CLOTHING	10
Shoes	10
Uniforms	10
Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Facilities	11

FOOD	11
Civilian Sources	11
EDUCATION AND LIBRARY FACILITIES	11
Service-Operated Schools	11
Service-Contract Schools	12
Education Costs	12
French Schools	12
Adult Educational Facilities	13
Libraries	13
PERSONAL FACILITIES	13
Medical	13
Dental	13
Pharmacies	14
Religious Activities	14
Recreational and Entertainment Facilities	15
Currency	15
MISCELLANEOUS	15
Type Dependent Travel Authorized	15
Length of Tour	15
Station Per Diem Allowance	15
Postal Service	16
Tipping Customs	16
Pets	16
Good French Buys	16
Additional Dependents' Assistance	16

introduction

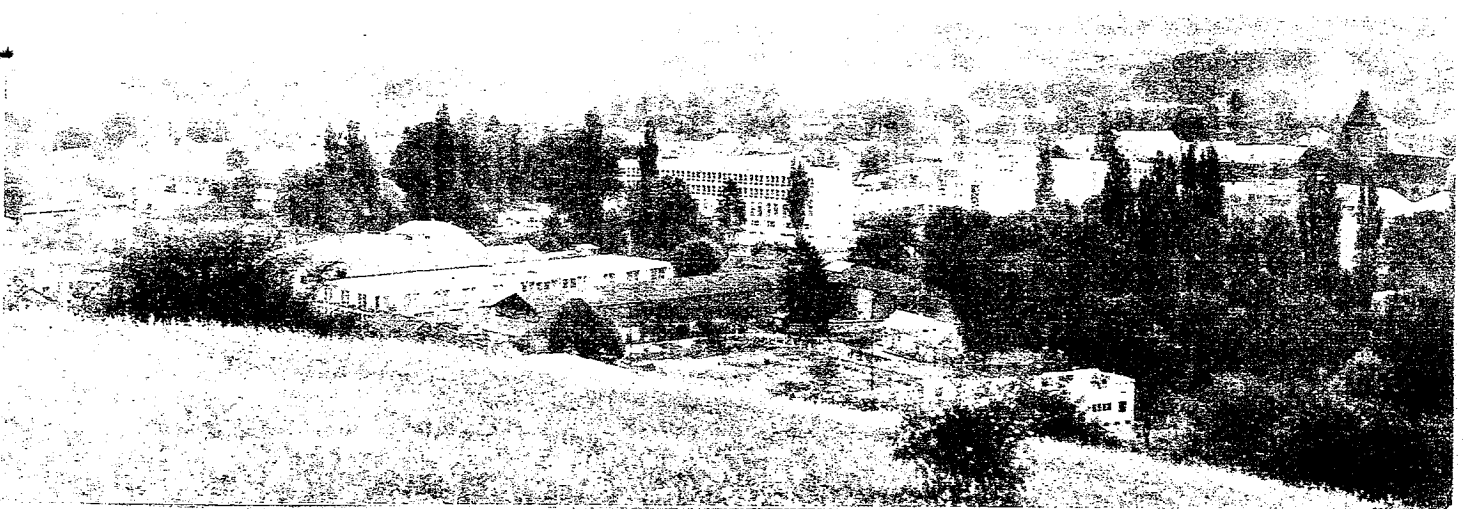
Three times a battlefield in the past 90 years, France has emerged from World War II weary and scarred but ready to resume her place among the free nations of the world. For the past 900 years French civilization has been one of the world's greatest.

GOVERNMENT. Today France is a republic with a national assembly selected by all voting citizens of France. A representative form of government exists within the Fifth Republic, operating in much the same way as our own; however, France has many more political parties and twice as many political subdivisions. It has 90 Departments as compared with our 50 States. Each Department is administered by a Prefect and each town by a Mayor. A very stable body of civil servants and local officials provide French society with a solid foundation seldom shaken by the shifting fortunes of national politics.

GEOGRAPHY. France is about four-fifths the size of Texas. Its population can be compared to that of our New England States plus that of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The French terrain presents the same contrast as does ours—mountains, plains, rivers, seacoasts with busy metropolitan areas, and open farmlands. Mountains almost encircle the southern and eastern borders. The Pyrenees on the Spanish border stretch toward the Mediterranean Sea. The Alps, bordering Italy, extend northward into the Jura Mountains on the Swiss border. The Vosges are located 100 miles directly east of Paris. Within the encircling mountains in the south lies the Central Plateau. North from the plateau the country slopes off in rolling hills and plains which reach to the Atlantic Ocean and the English Channel.

Brittany is that finger of France that points out into the Atlantic across from the south of England. Its people, called Bretons, are a fishing folk. Their sons make up a large portion of the personnel of the French Navy. Schooners from Brittany sail to

City of Evreux



Newfoundland Banks each year to fish for cod. Sardines are caught in the waters off the Brittany coast. Large crops of potatoes, a basic food in the French diet, are raised by the Bretons.

Normandy lies farther north on the English Channel. Here some of France's richest farms are found. Normandy will remind you of Ohio, and is famed for its apple blossom time. Lush pastures are used for grazing cattle. Dairy products include butter, eggs, and cheese. Here also is found the wheat district serving as the bread basket of France.

The most important industrial regions of France are in the north along the English Channel and in the northeast adjacent to Germany. The shipping ports of Calais, Dunkirk and Dieppe are used by steamers traveling between England and France. Le Havre, at the mouth of the Seine above Paris, and Cherbourg, further west, are the principal transatlantic ports.

Bourbonnais, the site of many health centers, is north of the Central Plateau and is almost in the center of France. The town of Vichy (seat of the French Government during the Nazi occupation) is the most famous health resort.

The French Riviera, the vacation resort for all of Europe, extends along the southern coastal area from the Italian border westward toward Marseilles. The landscape and climate can be compared to that of southern California. Jasmine flowers and roses are grown for perfumes in the hill town of Grasse. Farmers grow olive trees and some vegetables; however, the soil and terrain conspire against basic food items. There are no potatoes or grain crops, nor are cattle raised. The principal cities are ancient Nice and modern Cannes; both have large hotels, casinos and beautiful beaches.

Marseilles, the largest seaport in France, lies west of the Riviera. The people of Marseilles have always been moved by a strong spirit of freedom and the French National Anthem, "The Marseillaise," was once a revolutionary hymn honoring their violent love of liberty.

Paris, the capital of France, is midway between Germany on the east and the Atlantic on the west. Here you find the core of French life, culturally, politically, and industrially. Paris is one of the most

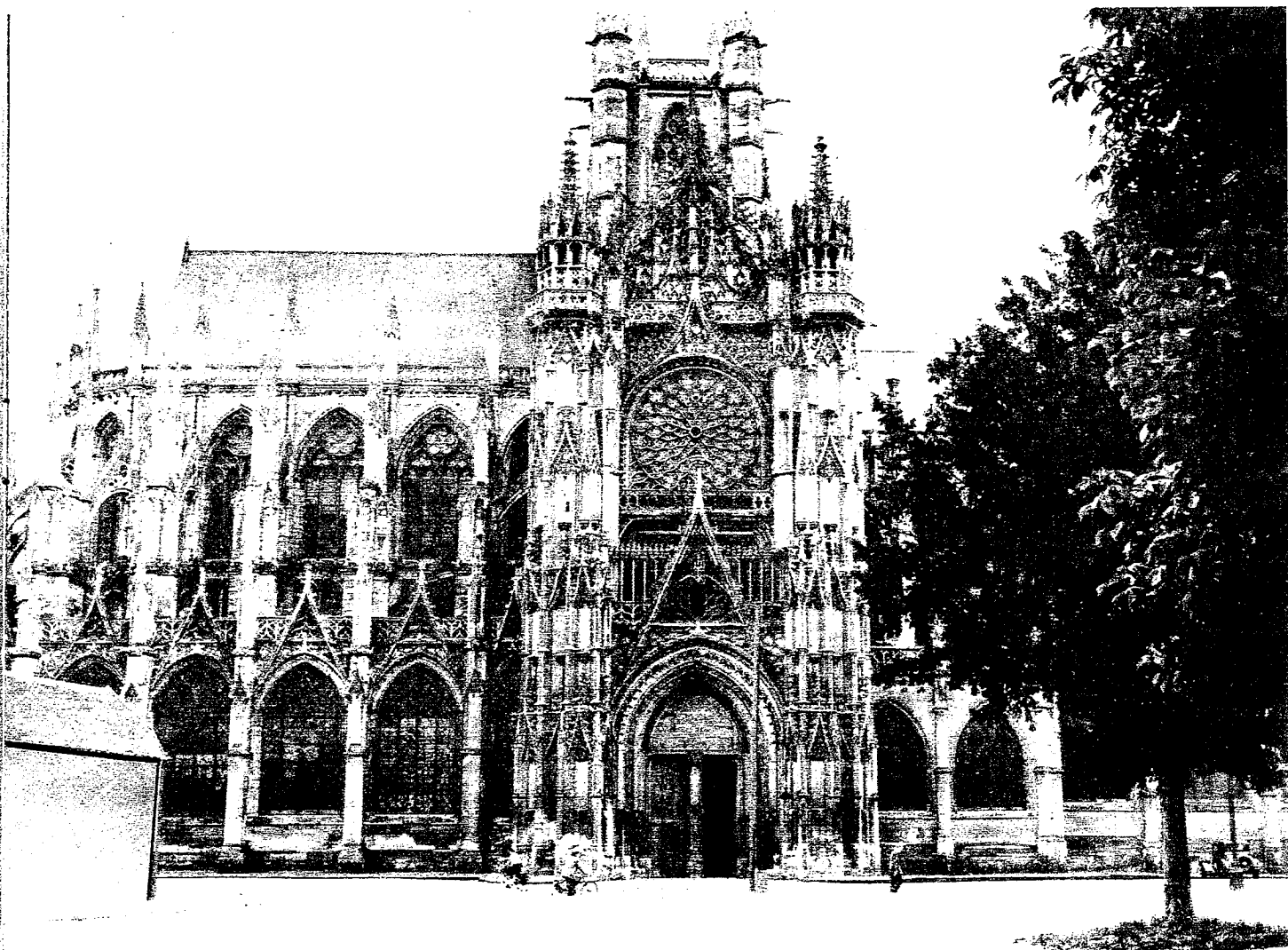
beautiful and interesting cities in the world and is loved by every Frenchman.

CLIMATE. Situated within the same latitude as Newfoundland and the snow-laden forests of Labrador, the climate of France is influenced by the warm waters of the Gulf Stream and the Mediterranean. During the long spring and fall seasons the weather is moderate and usually pleasant. In winter the temperature drops as low as freezing, but the weather is not severe. Snowfall is light; winter sunshine is rare; and raw, foggy days are frequent. Summers can be quite pleasant, particularly when the season is dry. Real summer weather begins the latter part of June and lasts through mid-September. Rains are never torrential; the annual rainfall averages 25 inches and is divided evenly among the seasons.

INDUSTRIES AND ECONOMICS. Agriculture, the basis of French economy, makes the country normally self-sufficient in basic foodstuffs. Principal crops are wheat, rye, oats, barley, potatoes and sugar beets. Dairy products are important export items. Other exports include chemical products, iron, steel, and wines. France is the world's foremost wine producer. Fisheries and oyster culture produce a large part of the income of the coastal population. The State maintains manufacturing monopolies on tobacco and matches. First among her industries is textile manufacture. The automobile manufacturing industry is gaining prominence. Thousands of French-made small cars are exported each year to the United States.

THE PEOPLE—THEIR CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS. Due to its geographic location, France has always been the stopping-point for migratory groups of people. These diverse groups have welded into a French people who are closely united by one language, one culture and a common allegiance to their country. The ethnic groups—the Bretons, Normans, and Alsations—differ from each other somewhat in their ways of acting and thinking, but they share the common pride of being Frenchmen.

While the people are predominantly Roman Catholic, there are a million Protestants in France.



Cathedral de Notre Dame D'Evreux

Complete religious freedom is maintained. Whatever his religion, the average Frenchman is seriously devout.

The French people are almost unequalled in "rugged individualism." The average Frenchman is unusually tenacious, holding to his independent ideas rather than conforming to those of others. This national characteristic is extremely obvious in French politics and is evidenced in every phase of French life. Some have rebelled against mass production in the belief it destroys independent habits and lowers the quality of the finished product. France is a great industrial nation, yet its industry

is composed of many small shops, small factories and small farms. Whether they are rich or poor, the people are thrifty in their habits. They are practical thinkers. They place much value on the details involved in social customs. The social structure is formed around a close-knit family relationship which is the core of their social life and the center of their economic planning. French parents are dedicated to working and saving for their children's future. There are few divorces. They pay great respect to the aged and to women. With the growth of the French legislative system there has been an increasing recognition of women.

More and more French women are assuming important roles in public life and almost every profession is open to them. The French have had an uphill fight to regain a national economy since World War II.

LANGUAGE. French is spoken in each province, but with a slightly different dialect. You will find that many shopkeepers and most hotel, night club and restaurant employees speak English. Most Frenchmen in the villages speak only French.

you are an unofficial ambassador

Your presence in France automatically places you in a role of unofficial ambassador of our country. You will thus have the opportunity to strengthen the bond of human understanding in accordance with the "People to People Program" initiated by the President of the United States. You are encouraged to learn about this program through Personnel Services or Information Services and to participate.

The French have seen a great many Americans, not only military personnel and their families but tourists as well. They have already formed many different impressions of us and of our way of life. Those of us who were good ambassadors of the United States in the past helped to build a bond of common understanding and respect with the French people; those who were not, served to break down the elements of friendly approach.

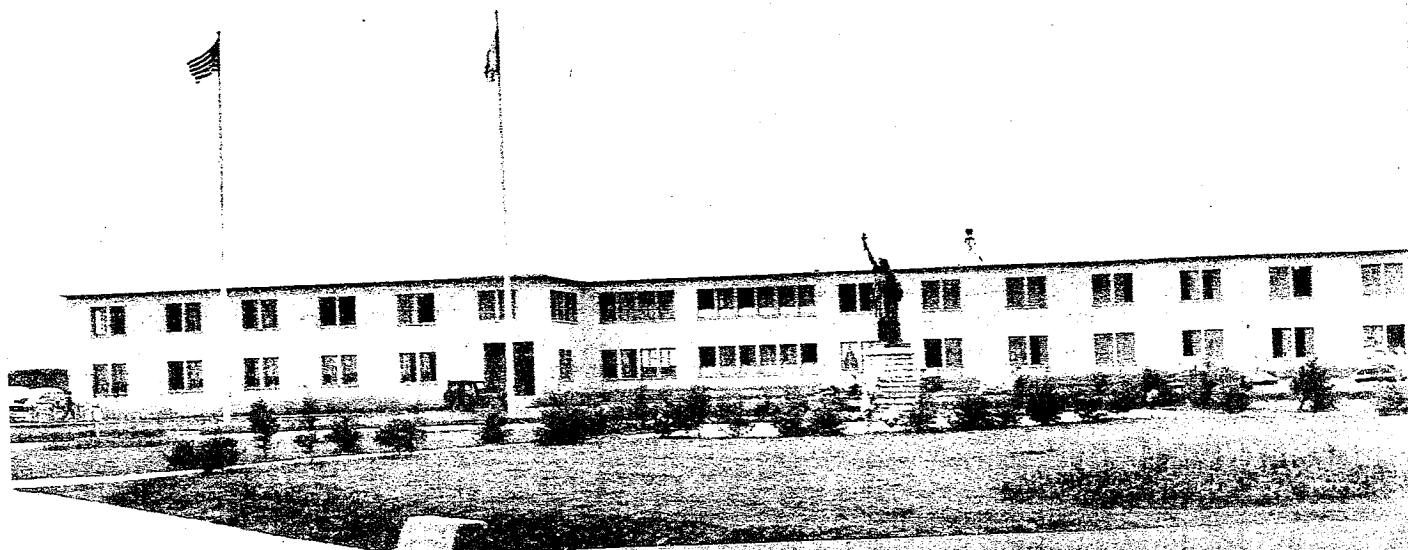
During your stay in France, consider your posi-

tion to be that of guest of the host Government. One of the many obligations of a guest is to be agreeable to your hosts by showing courtesy, kindness, and consideration at all times. The majority of you will be living in a French community and not in U.S. Government housing on base. Every gesture you make, every statement spoken, even your manner of dress will be of local interest. Your attitude, which is reflected in your conduct and appearance, will play an important part in the development of opinion and attitude toward the Air Force and the United States.

YOU ARE SUBJECT TO FRENCH COURTS. The terms of the NATO Agreement provide that military personnel of the United States assigned in—and their dependents residing in—France are subject to the jurisdiction of the civil and criminal courts of that country. You are advised that it is your duty to respect the laws of France and to abstain from any activity inconsistent with French laws. It is recommended that you obtain detailed information in this regard from the Legal Officer at the base of permanent assignment in France.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN UNOFFICIAL AMBASSADOR. You may not always understand French customs and methods; but remember—your habits and customs may be just as hard for the average Frenchman to understand. To insure that your presence brings only credit to yourself and the United States, here are some of the responsibilities of the unofficial ambassador in France.

Chaumont Air Base



1. *Respect French Rules of Conduct.* You would expect French Nationals, living in the United States, to conduct themselves in general as we do, and to respect the things we respect. *Do the same for the French.* It is customary for the French people to make the first overture of hospitality to foreign national guests. Such invitations are given in a spirit of warmth and friendliness. Invitations extended to you should be readily acknowledged and social obligations should be repaid in every instance.

2. *Show Sincere Interest.* Show sincere interest in the people among whom you will be living. Never be patronizing or condescending in your dealings with shopkeepers or in your association with your French neighbors. Make the effort to discover the aspects of the country and the people that you can sincerely like and can openly admire.

3. *Let Good Taste Guide Your Speech.* Always think of the consequences of what you are about to say before you say it. Don't indulge in the American's "at home" privilege of griping. Don't join the chorus of others who, unable to adjust to new and different modes of living, set off a blast of complaints. Concentrate on the things that are new, interesting, and thoroughly enjoyable.

4. *Good Taste Forbids Gossip.* Gossip and loose talk have a way of boomeranging right at the moment you think your confidential talk is privileged. Molehill differences between dependents can, and do, grow into mountainous feuds involving their sponsors. Unreliable information, such as gossip and petty differences, may seem important to you but, by the time the details are passed around locally and eventually reach the outside areas, they serve only to make you look ridiculous.

5. *Don't Isolate Yourself.* Be careful about isolating yourself in a small clique of Air Force friends. There is a natural tendency for Americans overseas to associate largely with only one another. Broadening your group of friends to include the French will result in rewarding experiences.

6. *Learn the French Language.* Learning the French language will pay many dividends to you personally and will further the good relations between the United States and France. You will be welcomed into any language classes conducted on

Air Force installations. While many Frenchmen speak English, they feel complimented by your efforts to learn their language.

7. *Don't Brag.* The American "superiority complex" should be studiously avoided. Your hosts are apt to think you unbelievably selfish if you find "intolerable" standards of living different from those you've become accustomed to elsewhere. A braggart's conversation will be negatively received. Complaints or boasting by Americans can do much harm to our community relations in France.

8. *Loud and Boisterous Conduct.* Away from the influence of home and the community of neighbors of long standing, some of us are prone to cast aside certain refinements in our standard of personal conduct. When tempted to conduct yourself in an unbecoming fashion, consider how your family and your neighbors at home would react. You can be sure the French will react in the same manner. Conduct yourself in France just as you would in your hometown, U.S.A.

9. *French Children.* Some American children are given many more liberties than the average French child. Understanding the French tradition of close parental control will help you in governing your children's association with French boys and girls.

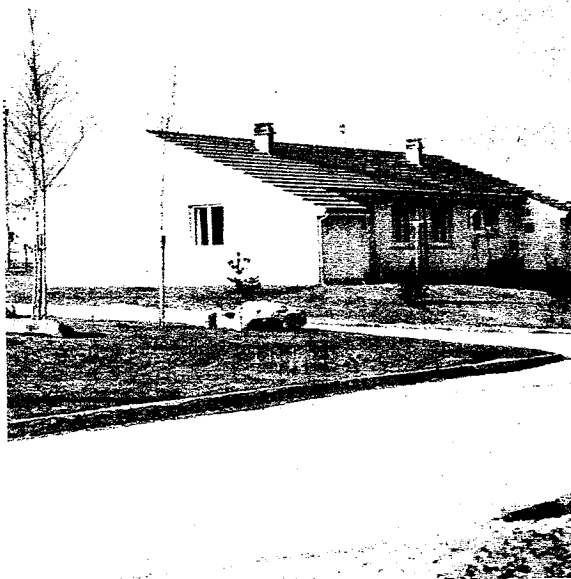
10. *Americans and Their Money.* Many foreign nations believe the United States to be a land of millionaires. For this misconception we, as Americans, have only ourselves to blame. As a rule our Armed Forces military personnel receive greater pay and allowances than their foreign-national counterparts. As a result our spending habits may appear extravagant. Perhaps you will desire to give gratuities in the spirit of generosity. Such action may very well humiliate or embarrass the person concerned; it could be interpreted as vulgar exhibition of superior wealth. Follow the guidance given in this pamphlet on tipping customs. Don't flash a roll of francs. If necessary, keep a separate wallet with a minimum amount of money to be used in making transactions.

11. *Your Manner of Dress Is Important.* The French love of color and flair for design has made the country famous as a fashion center. Ladies give particular care to the appearance they make in

public. Even the poorest paid woman is ingenious in creating attractive clothing from ordinary materials. They look askance at ladies who wear shorts and slacks on the streets or in public places except at resorts. Any state of disheveled appearance (such as hair curlers under a scarf) can discredit a lady in the minds of the onlookers. Sport clothes are not usually worn in cities.

12. *Mind Your Own Political Affairs.* Just as a good house guest does not become involved with the host's business affairs, you will take care that you are not concerned with the internal and political affairs of France.

Rental Guaranty Housing, Laon Air Base



government living accommodations

BACHELOR HOUSING. Bachelor quarters are available for officers and airmen at all installations.

FAMILY HOUSING. The number of available United States Government-controlled family housing units is extremely limited. They are of three types:

1. *Rental Guaranty:* These projects, similar to Wherry Housing Projects in the Zone of Interior, are controlled by the military under contracts negotiated with the civilian owners, and rents are paid by tenants to the civilian owners. Rental Guaranty Projects are located at Brienne, Chalons, Chateauroux, Chaumont, Chize, Dreux, Etain, Evreux, Laon, Paris, Phalsbourg and Toul-Rosiere. Units are unfurnished except for small electric ranges, an electric water heater and refrigerator. Buildings are equipped with an oil burning central heating unit. Both three-story apartment type and one-story ranch house styles exist. All have two and three bedrooms with prices ranging from \$100 to \$120 a month, depending on the size and number of bedrooms. Utilities are extra. Cost of fuel generally averages \$25 a month and electricity about \$20.

2. *Family Trailers:* These Government-owned trailer units generally will sleep two adults and as many as four children, and are furnished with stove, refrigerator, modern beds, chairs, tables, closet space and bathroom. They are normally located on permanent sites in base "trailer farms" and are supplied with necessary utilities. A limited number of family trailers are available at Chateauroux, Chaumont, Dreux, Etain, Evreux, Laon, Phalsbourg and Toul-Rosiere.

3. *Surplus Commodity:* Additional family housing financed through the U.S. Surplus Commodity Program is being constructed at Chateauroux, Chaumont, Etain, Evreux and Toul-Rosiere. These units will be one-story, ranch-type dwellings. When this type housing is occupied, the member's quarters allowances are automatically deducted from his pay.

While the number of available family units existing or being constructed under current Government-sponsored programs continues to grow, there is still a critical shortage of family housing at most bases in France. Government temporary family quarters are practically nonexistent in France.



Trailer Housing, Toul Rosieres Air Base

civilian living accommodations

The availability, cost, standard and distance from military installation of private housing is dependent upon the area in which you are to be assigned. Current and specific information regarding private rentals in the area in which you are to be located is contained in AFP 34-9-1, "Forecast on Movement of Dependents and Housing Report," and may be obtained from the Personal Affairs Officer at the Air Force base nearest your home. As housing is critically short in some areas, you are advised to consult your Personal Affairs Officer prior to making final plans for your overseas movement.

Private housing in France often will require extensive repairs and improvements such as installation of plumbing and heating facilities. Usually the cost of such repairs and improvements is borne by the tenant; however, in some cases it may be deducted from the rent. A few units have modern bath facilities and/or running hot water, but many do not. Often it will be necessary to share a facility with other tenants.

The majority of private rentals in France are furnished; however, the furnishings are not up to U.S. standards. In Paris and its suburbs, where furnishings are considered to be fair and little or no repair or improvement to housing is required, rents range from \$100 to \$250 per month plus utilities.

In other areas, furnished rentals range from \$50 to \$200 per month plus utilities. Utilities costs are relatively high.

Unfurnished housing is almost nonexistent in Bordeaux, Paris, Phalsbourg and Fontainebleau areas. When obtainable in these or other areas in France, rents range from \$100 to \$300 per month plus utilities.

If private housing is obtained through a rental agent, it is customary to pay a commission. In the Paris area, the equivalent of one month's rent is considered a fair commission.

In most cases leases are required and are on a semiannual or annual basis. Leases may have special conditions such as proprietor reserving a room for storage or personal use, sharing of bath facilities, and tenant's responsibilities regarding building maintenance and insurance. Usually, advance rent of 3 months is required; however, this may vary from 1 to 6 months. Deposits on damage to house or furnishings are usually required and are in addition to advance rent.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS. Adequate hotel accommodations are available in metropolitan areas. However, during the tourist season (May through October) availability becomes critically short and reservations must be made well in advance and confirmed. Rates range upward from \$3 a day, single occupancy, without meals, to \$10 to \$12 per day.

At the more exclusive hotels in Paris, such as the Ritz, Crillon, George V and Royal Monceau, a single room may cost \$12 or more a day (with bath, but without meals). Certain luxury hotels of this type, such as the Prince de Galles, offer military personnel special reduced rates during off-tourist seasons.

furniture and furnishings

SHIPMENT OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS. Authorized weight allowances of household goods to be shipped at Government expense may be obtained from the Transportation or Personal Affairs Officers at the nearest Air Force base. The type quarters you will occupy should be explicitly confirmed before a decision is made as to items of furniture to be shipped. While furniture and furnishings are available on the local market, it is recommended that you ship all household furniture and furnishings from the United States if you will be occupying civilian quarters whether they are described as furnished or unfurnished. Items to be shipped should include refrigerator, small electrical appliances, nonautomatic or semi-automatic washing machine, and all equipment for children. Cost of such items on the local market is high. Resale of household goods prior to departure from France is subject to the French customs tariff.

If Government family trailers or housing units constructed under the *Surplus Commodity* Program are to be occupied upon arrival, it will be necessary to ship only such items as silverware, chinaware, glassware, linens, bedding, wall pictures, draperies, etc., as basic items of furniture are provided by the Government. On the other hand, *Rental Guarantee* type housing will be equipped only with refrigerator, water heater and small electric range.

household services

ELECTRICITY. Few French dwellings are equipped with current of 220 volts, the voltage required to operate American electric stoves and hot water heaters. Installation cost for a 220 volt system is approximately \$150. Appliances using 110 volts at

5 to 8 amps may be used but those designed for optimum efficiency at 60 cycles are usually inefficient on the erratic 50 cycle French current. Electric clocks and record players of American manufacture normally operate at very low speeds and motors will burn out. The cost of electricity is approximately three times that charged in the average American community.

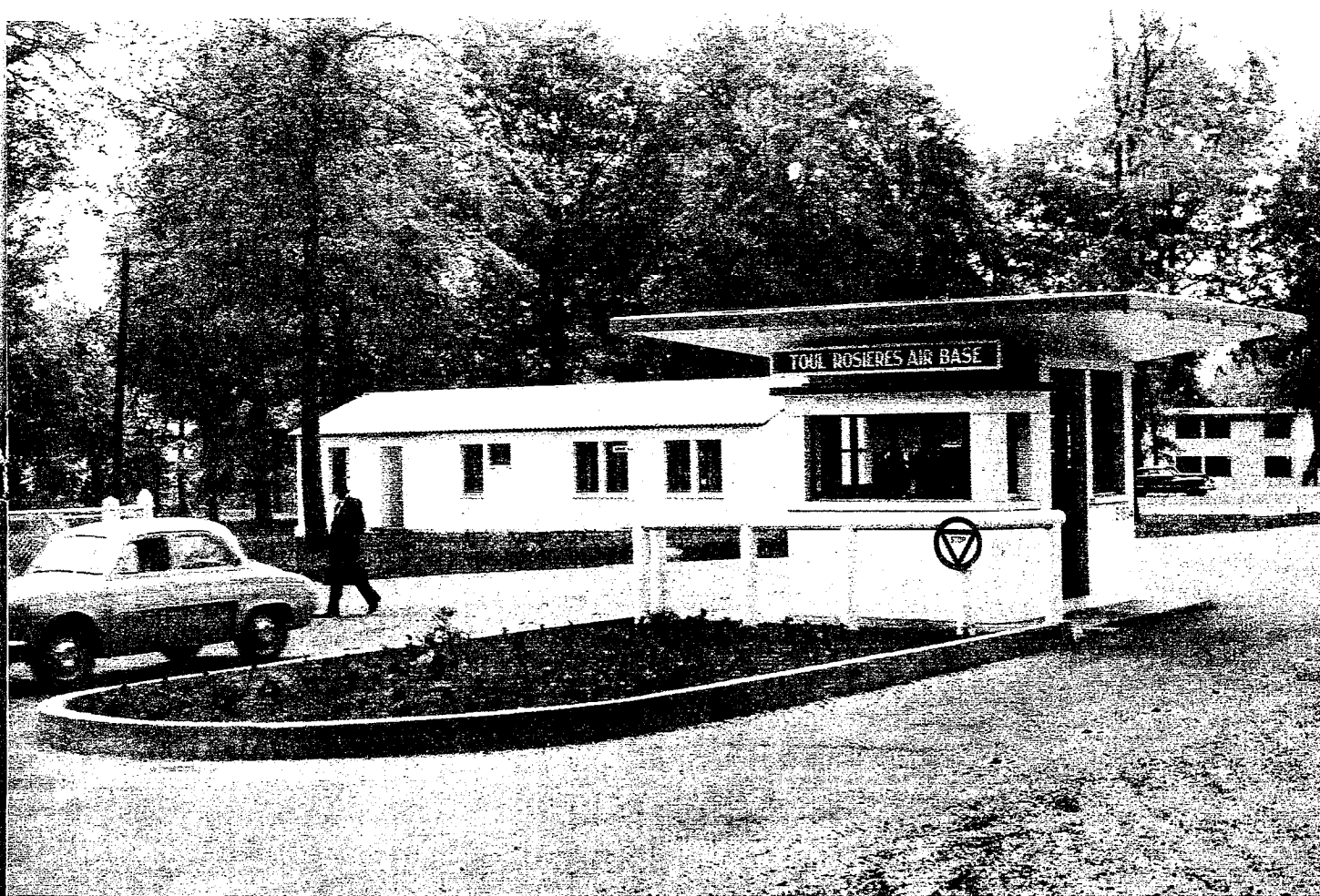
GAS APPLIANCES. It is impracticable to take American-type gas appliances to France. Butane gas tanks and appliances may be purchased locally. Available appliances consist of two or three burner stoves, with or without small ovens, operating from city and/or butane gas.

DOMESTIC EMPLOYEES. Servants are available at reasonable wages but in most instances will require strict supervision. They are usually hired and paid on a monthly, live-in-basis, although they can be obtained by the day. In addition to salaries, which are paid in francs, they receive meals and wines. The average monthly wage ranges from \$40 to \$60. French social security taxes of approximately \$8 a month for each person are paid by the employer, even though French law requires employee to pay one-half of the amount. The tax is based upon the age and sex of the employee, and is further conditioned by the type of pay period.

transportation

Excellent rail and air travel is scheduled from Paris to other principal cities of Europe, to the United States, and to other continents. Also, there is an extensive rail network between Paris and all other parts of France. In Paris, the Metro (subway) gives excellent service, but is extremely crowded during rush hours. Buses give satisfactory service. There are no street cars in the city. Taxis are somewhat difficult to obtain during rush hours. Rates are moderate and increase at night and on holidays. In other areas of France, public transportation facilities are not as satisfactory. In many instances, installations located some distance from cities are not served.

PRIVATE AUTOMOBILES. General information on shipment of privately owned vehicles is contained



Toul Rosieres Air Base

in AFP 75-1-1. It is desirable to have a car in France. Yellow bulbed headlights are required by French law; however, sealed beam units with yellow filters are permissible. Direction signals are desirable but not mandatory.

Registration plates are necessary before a car may be operated in France. Registration fees for license and plates total approximately \$10. Vehicle owners must also possess a "Carnet de Passage en Douanes" (Customs Document) which is used for border crossings.

Repair service and automobile parts for all popular makes of American cars are available through the exchange services of both the U.S. Air Force and Army. It is advisable to be sure that your vehicle is in excellent condition prior to shipment.

Gasoline (approximately 25 cents a gallon) and oil are sold through the coupon system at certain designated French civilian service stations and base

exchange gas stations located in France. American automobiles are of sufficient horsepower to be allowed 100 gallons of gasoline each month. The coupon book will cost approximately \$10.80 for 50 gallons. Oil is not rationed and may be purchased from the exchange service station. Supplemental issues of gasoline can be obtained for leave, TDY and other purposes. The price of gasoline on the French economy is approximately \$1 per gallon. Automobile insurance is compulsory and must be in effect before a car can be registered. Minimum coverage required is \$10,000 for liability arising because of bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident; \$20,000 because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident and \$5,000 because of damage or destruction of property of other persons in any one accident. Insurance can be taken out in the United States or it can be obtained from reliable local firms



St. Michel Housing Project, Evreux

in Europe or from the American Express Company. It is also advisable to purchase the "Green Card" for international boundaries which indicates that the vehicle is properly insured; thus purchase of a term policy required for passage through certain countries will not be necessary.

RESALE OF CARS. Privately owned cars, brought into France via Government carrier, are exempt from French customs duties. Resale of American automobiles is subject to the French customs tax on automobiles. If you plan on selling your car, additional information should be obtained from your base Legal Officer in France.

clothing

It is recommended that you take with you a basic wardrobe which will be adequate during your stay. Heating facilities are not always adequate in France and it is advisable to have warm clothing to wear indoors.

Clothing required by the French climate is similar to that required along the northeastern seaboard of the United States and should be suitable for short but hot summers. Clothing that is easily laundered is much preferred over that needing repeated dry cleaning. Suits, warm jackets and sweaters are mandatory for all the family. Warm skirts, fur coats and wool stoles will be welcome items in your wardrobe. While nylon clothing is available for purchase on the local market, you may

prefer the quality you are used to and desire to take with you sufficient quantity to care for your needs. Complete rain apparel for each member of the family is absolutely necessary; include galoshes, winter footwear and umbrellas. Warm sleeping and under garments are necessary for winter use. Items of summer cotton or linen clothing will be needed for the hot summer months. Your dinner and formal clothing should be warm; gowns with sleeves or jackets are particularly useful.

Children's ready-to-wear clothing is available for purchase on the local market; however, it can be more advantageously purchased in the United States. Women's clothes in the well-known houses such as Dior, Heim or Schiaparelli are quite expensive, but there are many small houses where excellent clothes can be made for a third to half of the cost of the more famous houses. Paris is famed for its ladies' hats. Material is plentiful and of very good quality and variety. Prices for women's suits, custom-made, range up to \$300 and require about 3 to 6 weeks for delivery. Men's suits, custom-made, average \$100.

SHOES. It is recommended that dependents take with them a wardrobe of shoes, particularly dress pumps and sandals to last throughout their stay. American women prefer American shoes for fit and style. Base exchanges offer shoe repair service.

UNIFORMS. Military personnel wear the prescribed uniform at most places of duty during duty hours. The date for seasonal change-over is determined by the local commander. Uniform sup-

plies are adequate. Military personnel are encouraged to wear appropriate civilian clothing while off duty.

LAUNDRY AND DRY-CLEANING FACILITIES. Government laundry and dry cleaning facilities (AF, Army or Exchange) are available at all locations. Services are generally good and prices are slightly below U.S. levels. These services, including shoe repairs, are also available from the local economy at prices slightly higher than in the United States. Generally, service and quality from commercial facilities are not up to standards of American facilities.

Rod and Gun Club, Dreux Air Base



food

Commissary facilities on Air Force installations are made available to the greatest extent possible and offer a selection comparable to stateside facilities.

CIVILIAN SOURCES. The self-service, streamlined super-markets to which you may be accustomed in the United States do not exist in France. You go to the fruiterer, the boucherie, the patisserie, and the boulanger, in turn. Food purchased on the local market is at the purchaser's own risk. Greens and vegetables are available in season, but are not considered safe for consumption until treated with a food disinfectant. The commissary and base exchanges will normally provide free packets of disinfectant. Meat shops in France are inspected periodically by French Government inspectors, and the local veterinarian inspects all meat butchered locally.

education and library facilities

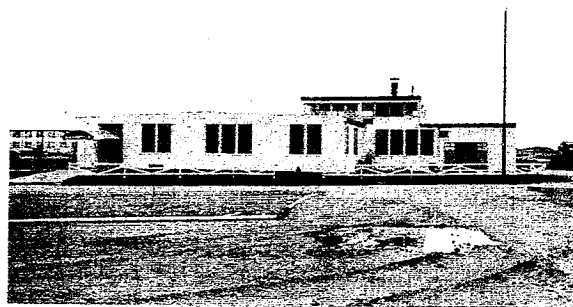
The Department of Defense provides elementary and secondary education opportunities to dependent school-age children of military personnel stationed in France. Air Force dependents, in order to be eligible for appropriated fund support, must attend available service-operated schools, including service-operated boarding schools, whenever undue hardship is not experienced.

Accredited high schools, with dormitory facilities, are operated by the U.S. Army at Poitiers, Paris, and Verdun. Cost of room and board is reasonable.

SERVICE-OPERATED SCHOOLS. In areas where the number of eligible dependent school-age children warrants the establishment of service-operated schools, such schools are established. They are staffed with American administrators and teachers, and offer a normal American, public school type of curriculum. These schools may be under either Army or Air Force supervision. Because academic standards in such schools are comparable to public schools in the United States, transfer of your child from one school to another will not affect his grade status.

SERVICE-CONTRACT SCHOOLS. In those areas where adequate service-operated schools are not available, contractual agreements may be made between the U.S. Air Force and local school authorities to provide instruction for the education of dependent school-age children. However, should you enroll your child in a private school prior to

Officers Club, Dreux Air Base



contract having been made, the cost of such schooling will be at your expense. Sponsors who choose to send their dependents to private schools at their own expense may do so.

In those areas where use of either service-operated or service-contract schools is impractical, the services of one of the following approved correspondence schools may be used:

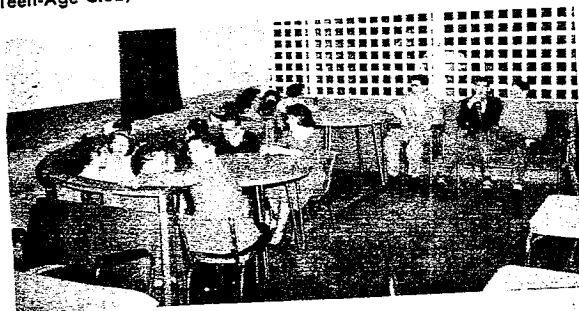
1. The Calvert School, Tuscany Road, Baltimore 10, Md. (1st through 9th grade).
2. The Extension Division, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr. (9th through 12th grade).
3. Other accredited correspondence schools.

EDUCATION COSTS. Parents may be required to pay a portion of the cost of education when the fund limitations imposed by the Congress would be exceeded were the Air Force to meet the entire cost of educating your child. In any event, enrollment of your child in any of the types of schools listed above should be effected only upon approval of the appropriate Dependents' Schools Officer. In no instance should your child be enrolled in a nonservice-operated school or correspondence school without the approval of the Dependents' Schools Officer, nor should personal funds be expended to pay the costs of educating your child. Reimbursement of personal funds expended for dependents' education is not permitted, even though expended inadvertently by the sponsor or parent of the dependent concerned. Use of Air Force appropriated funds is not permitted in any case to defray costs of quarters, subsistence, travel or clothing for the education of eligible dependents. All other costs incident to the education of eligible dependents may be paid from appropriated funds, provided congressional limitations are not exceeded.

FRENCH SCHOOLS. Public schools are available to dependent children at French Government expense, subject to local charges which are nominal. English is a required subject in some French schools. Schools are coeducational; they begin with the "Jardin d'Enfants" and continue through the "Lycee" to the University. The school system may seem austere to foreigners. In Paris the learning process begins early—age four. Classes are held 5 days a week, with Thursdays and Sundays being

holidays. Recitation is from 9 a.m. until noon, with a 10-minute break in mid-morning. The luncheon period is rather long. The balance of the afternoon until five (and for the upper classes, until six), is for further recitation and study. Characteristic of the French school system is the "Cahier," a thick notebook with ruled pages or graph paper for arithmetic, or plain for drawing. Cahiers must be written in ink and no erasures are permitted. At the beginning of each class session, the cahiers are collected and carefully corrected and graded. These grades are recorded for the "Cahier des Notes" (report card) which the children bring home every fortnight.

Teen-Age Club, Dreux Air Base



ADULT EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES. Educational opportunities are available for adults through the Air Force Education Services Program. The United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) testing service and individual registration in USAFI correspondence courses are provided for military personnel. Air University Extension Course Institute (ECI) offers approximately 100 correspondence courses that provide military personnel and civilian personnel working for the Air Force an opportunity to improve their job knowledge and job proficiency. A wide variety of group study classes utilizing USAFI and ECI materials are conducted by base education centers. Most of the subjects taught are on the high school and technical level. In addition to the group study classes, there is an Adult Evening High School Program which is free of charge. Dependents may take advantage of the wide variety of off-duty education programs on a space-available basis.

Classes on the university level are available through the University of Maryland. These courses are regular residence courses and tuition is charged at the rate of \$10 per semester hour; credits accumulated may be applied toward a degree from the University of Maryland, or transferred to other stateside universities or colleges. A part of the tuition cost for courses offered by the University of Maryland is paid by the Air Force for military personnel who enroll in these classes.

Respect for the liberty of intellectual life has made Paris the center of international learning. There is no place where it is easier to be a student. Contact one of the following organizations for further information:

1. Office National Des Universities et Ecoles Francaises, 96 Boulevard Raspail, metro: Rennes. (Information on summer courses is available.)

2. Bureau Des Renseignements Universitaires, 47 rue des Eccles, metro: Saint-Michel. (Information on year-round courses is available.)

LIBRARIES. Library facilities are available to all personnel, with special collections for young people and children. Field and traveling libraries, including reference service, are provided for personnel at remote and isolated areas.

Monthly cloth and paperbound book kits containing the latest titles provide current reading materials. Popular and technical magazines are received regularly. Up-to-date technical, research and reference collections are maintained to meet Air Force mission study and professional development requirements.

NCO Club, Dreux Air Base



personal facilities

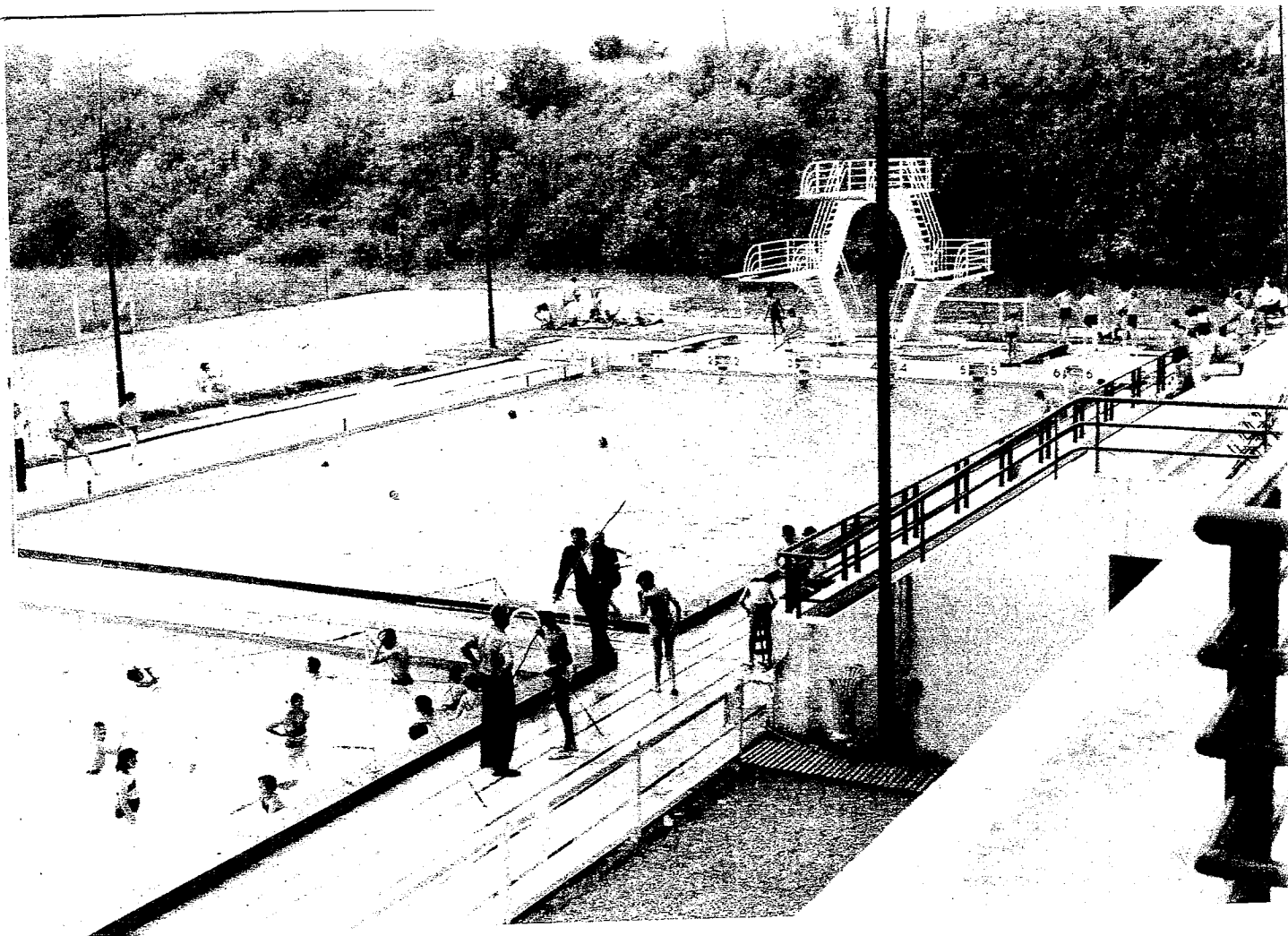
MEDICAL. Medical care for dependents is available at Armed Forces medical facilities. Emergency ambulance and air evacuation service is available in all accessible areas. Air Force medical facilities in France are staffed to provide the commonly required medical care and treatment. If the required care is of a specialized nature and not available at your local Air Force medical facility, arrangements will be made to move you by ambulance or air evacuation aircraft to the nearest hospital capable of providing the required care. Hospitalization in civilian hospitals with the cost payable under medicare is somewhat more limited than in the United States. Individuals should check with local commanders or medical personnel before committing themselves to such treatment. In bona fide emergencies, use of civilian medical facilities under the same conditions as provided in the United States is authorized.

Temperature ranges in central and northern France compare to those found in the northern United States. During the winter months, there may be an increase in the number of respiratory ailments among those unaccustomed to the lower room temperatures that result from different heating standards. The usual outbreaks of communicable diseases among children compare to those in the United States with respect to measles, mumps, whooping cough, scarlet fever, etc. Outbreaks of diarrhea, typhoid, and hepatitis may be more frequent in rural areas, requiring more caution in selection of restaurants while traveling in those areas. Up-to-date information on outbreaks of communicable diseases may be obtained from the base surgeon in any area.

Water supplied from nonmilitary sources should not be assumed to be safe until tested and determined as such by military medical authorities.

DENTAL. It is highly recommended that all necessary dental work be accomplished prior to departure for overseas since facilities for dependent dental care are extremely limited.

PHARMACIES. Medicines available through Armed Forces medical facilities are provided free of charge to the dependent when prescribed in treat-



Municipal Swimming Pool, Evreux, France

ment of a patient. The usual drug store items for the convenience and comfort of the individual may be purchased locally; however, if American-made brands are preferred, it may be advisable to bring a supply with you.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES. A religious program is provided by Air Force chaplains at each Air Force installation in France. It includes supplemental as well as regularly scheduled religious services. Although France is predominantly Catholic, almost all faiths are represented by civilian churches and missions.

RECREATIONAL AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES. The Personnel Services Program affords military and dependent personnel a variety of opportunities to participate in wholesome recreational activities. Some of the on-base activities include participant

and spectator sports, entertainment, reading, arts and crafts. Facilities include gymnasiums, bowling alleys, golf courses or driving ranges, tennis courts, youth centers, libraries, theaters and outdoor recreational areas. In addition, all personnel are authorized and encouraged to utilize two recreation areas operated by the United States Armed Forces at Berchtesgaden and Garmisch, Germany. Dependents should contact the Personnel Services Officer for further information concerning the Recreation Program.

The French are greatly interested in sports. The major summer sports are swimming, sailing, canoeing, hiking, mountain climbing, golf, tennis, bicycling, and hunting. Fishing is very popular near Biarritz, Cannes, and Corsica. If you are a tuna fisherman, you might like to try your luck at Tre-

beurdan. The biggest fish are there in September and October. Before hunting or fishing, be sure to check with the Special Services Officer regarding the areas where such activities are permitted, for information concerning latest fish and game laws, and procedure for applying for a license. The biggest winter recreation is skiing. Two types of winter resorts are available—the international centers, similar to our Sun Valley, and the simple centers with just inns and snowfields. Horse racing takes place the year round. Bull fights may be seen at Arles, Montpellier, and Bayonne.

Innumerable cinema houses are available, showing American as well as European films. The Comedie Francaise, one of the most famous theaters in the world, is open all year except in July and August. Grand Opera may be heard all year. Along the Riviera and at Deauville, the casinos are famous. Night clubs and cabarets are in abundance. Sightseeing is a favorite American pastime. Art galleries and museums offer brilliant collections.

CURRENCY. U.S. currency is used on all military installations in France. Military personnel and civilian employees under military jurisdiction and their dependents are paid in U.S. dollars.

Personal checks on Zone of Interior banks may be cashed through the American Express Co., Chase National Bank or Bank of America, depending upon which bank is located at the military installation. Checking accounts may be opened with any of the aforesaid banking facilities. It is not necessary to maintain checking accounts in banks located within the Zone of Interior as checks issued on these three banks are negotiable in the United States. No limit is placed on the amount of funds which you may bring into France. It is required that all foreign cash, traveler's checks or letters of credit be exchanged at authorized banks or agencies thereof.

The current official rate of exchange is 493.7 francs for 1 U.S. dollar. However, the new "heavy" franc made its debut on the French economy 15 July 1959. The new franc is worth 100 of the old francs. (Rate of exchange approximately 4.9 francs to 1 U.S. dollar.) The first form of the new franc was simply the old style franc notes overprinted with their corresponding new value.

miscellaneous

TYPE DEPENDENT TRAVEL AUTHORIZED. Advance application for concurrent travel of dependents to France is authorized. Additional information on dependent travel, forecasts on dependent movement, and latest report on housing conditions may be secured from the Personal Affairs or Transportation Officer at the nearest Air Force base.

LENGTH OF TOUR. When assigned duty in France, military members accompanied or joined by their dependents, normally serve 36 months, if not accompanied or joined by dependents, the tour is usually 24 months. Other personnel normally serve 36 months.

STATION PER DIEM ALLOWANCE. Information on rates of Station Per Diem Allowance, when payable to military personnel assigned in France, may be secured from the Finance or Personal Affairs Officer at the nearest Air Force base.

POSTAL FACILITIES. Your mail in France is received and dispatched through Air Post Offices (APO's). Here you may obtain U.S. postage stamps, money orders, and other service normally provided by civilian post offices in the United States. We recommend that all valuable mail be registered or insured.

Dependents are authorized the full use of APO facilities; however, mail destined for dependents must be addressed in care of their sponsor.

Example: Mrs. Mary B. Jones

c/o Capt John D. Jones, AO 000 000

(Enter proper unit designation)

APO ———, New York, N.Y.

In order to avoid unnecessary confusion or delay in the receipt of your mail, remember to:

1. Notify all correspondents and publishers of your change of address prior to departure from the United States. Change of address cards may be obtained from any post office.

2. Use your sponsor's full military address in all correspondence and be sure that it is written legibly. Usually a correspondent will use the return address shown on your correspondence; consequently, if that address is incomplete or illegible, your mail may be delayed or returned to sender.

The civil postal service of France may be used if desired; however, you will find that postage rates are higher. Also, mail transmitted through international postal channels is subject to custom regulations and duties.

TIPPING CUSTOMS. Some hotels add a 10 to 15 percent service charge to your bill, dividing it among those giving personal service. When a service charge is not added, it is customary to tip 10 to 15 percent in hotels and restaurants. In all cases, porters, bellboys, doormen, theater ushers, and cab drivers are tipped; cab drivers are given a little more if they have given extra service or the trip is made late at night. *Tip when it is the custom, but don't overtip.*

PETS. General information on shipment of pets is contained in AFP 75-1-1. Transportation of pets can be authorized to France. The owner must possess a certificate from a veterinarian attesting to the general health of the pet, which has been issued

within 3 days prior to departure of the animal. Further, a certification that the pet has been inoculated against rabies more than 1 month but no longer than 6 months prior to entry into France is required. No quarantine period is imposed at time of entry. Veterinarian services and kennels are available.

GOOD FRENCH BUYS. Perfumes are amazingly inexpensive. Umbrellas are beautiful and reasonable. Laces, china, Lalique glass, cognac and champagne are all cheaper than at home. Also, for men, there are excellent hand-rolled handkerchiefs, lisle socks, and wallets.

ADDITIONAL DEPENDENTS' ASSISTANCE. You may obtain additional assistance from the Personal Affairs Officer at the nearest Air Force base. Further, he can furnish the most current information on delay in obtaining housing and cost of living on the civilian economy (AFP 34-9-1).

