

# VAPOR TRAILS

VOL I NO. I

Kentucky Air National Guard

MAY 1957

This is the first issue of this trial newspaper and we hope that it will be the beginning of a monthly base newspaper. Quite a few Air National Guard units thru-out the United States have their own base newspaper in which personnel find items of interest about their units and also are able to express their own views..

This paper cannot be a success without your support. It cannot continue with out items of interest from you. It is urged that you send each and all items to the Ground Training Office for future publications.

"One of the most useful exercises is to attempt something you have never done and think you can't do. To do it you have to amend, enlarge, extend yourself, and if you do that it may be a bigger thing than to accomplish what you undertook. For to amend ourselves, enlarge and extend ourselves and become more than we began, is precisely what we are in this world for. We are started in life with the admonition to make the most of our talents. Education and all influences supposed to be beneficial are directed to induce us to let out a tuck and try to amount to something. But most of us hate to do it. We hate to think; we hate exertion; we hate discipline and self denial; we hate innovation."

(Edward Sandford Martin, "Our Convalescent World, 1920)

## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL ARDERY

CONGRATULATIONS to all of those whose efforts produced "VAPOR TRAILS". As a short communication each month I know it will provide an easy effective means of getting out the word. I hereby pledge my complete support.

## ONE FOR THE MONEY, TWO FOR THE SHOW TRY THIS QUIZ AND SEE WHAT YOU KNOW

1. When was the 123d FIW originally activated?
2. Who was the commander?
3. Where was the 123d sent overseas in 1951?
4. What is the total assigned strength?
5. What aircraft are now assigned to the wing?
6. Where is the 156th FIS located?
7. Where is the 167th FIS located?
8. Where is the 8165th Rep Tng Sq located?
9. What is the mission of the 123d?
10. What's your question?

(Answers on Page 4)

## VAPOR TRAILS

VAPOR TRAILS is an official ANG newspaper published monthly by the Information Office for the personnel of the 123d Fighter Interceptor Wing, Standiford Field, Louisville, Kentucky. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the ANG or the Air Force.

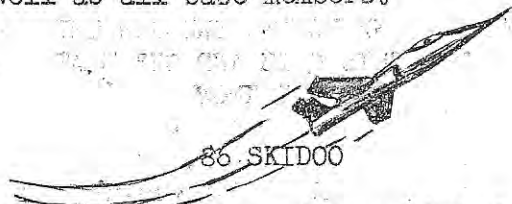
## COMMANDER

PHILIP P. ARDERY, BRIGADIER GENERAL

Editor --- 1st Lt. Stanley A. Worsham  
Asst Editor -- A/2C Frederick Porzig  
Reporter --- A/B Thomas F. Manby

## PERSONAL COLUMNS BY COMMANDERS

We would like to extend this invitation to all commanders of this Wing to regularly send us items of interest and current problems of his outfit. This is a good channel of communication to his men as well as all base members.



The F-86 was first used in combat during the Korean Conflict. There it earned the record of a 9 to 1 kill ratio over the Russian Mig's. A version of this plane is used by all four services.

North American built it and a General Electric J-47 turbo jet engine powers it.

It is equipped with six 50 caliber machine guns but also has the adaptability of dropping bombs and firing rockets.

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THANKS to S/Sgt Frank J. Maloney, 165th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, for designing masthead for the newspaper.

## REQUIEM

It just didnt seem quite right to Captain Jean deConstant, 123d Fighter Interceptor Group, that the F-51D should go on its way without offering some manner of tribute for the valiant service it rendered, and so he submitted this poem.

I'm only a lowly Mustang,  
There are many virtues I lack;  
I don't have the grace of an "80",  
And my wings are not swept back.

My Merlin heart will clatter,  
Its guts will clank and pound.  
400 knots will bend my wings,  
My roar is a deafening sound.

Plugs get fouled, mags run rough,  
I usually fly in a skid.  
Impossible by day, and frightening at  
night,  
My gages are damned well hid!

Coolant pours from my every seam,  
My gear may not retract;  
Oil will ooze all over my sides,  
Hard landings break my back.

My torque will tie you up in knots,  
My C.G. won't stay still;  
You cannot keep me filled with fuel,  
Each flight is a brand new thrill.

I first leaped off during World War II,  
My fame spread far and wide;  
At the wrath of my rattling six guns,  
The Luftwaffe cracked and died.

Leather jacketed youngsters  
Blazed to fame on my wings;  
High in the blue they rode to glory,  
Apart from all earthly things.

(Continued on Page 3)





REQUIEM

I was away from home in Korea,  
A misplaced bird at best;  
According to all the jet boys,  
My bolts should have been laid to rest.

"The jets are the hope of the future",  
The newspaper headlines cried;  
Hardly a notice met the eye  
When a Mustang pilot died.

But I never understood the clamor  
That roared over Korea-Land  
When enemy tanks were sighted,  
Or the Commies made a stand.

I never heard the word "Sabre"  
Or "Shooting Star" called in the hue;  
It was always the same old story,  
"Get those Mustangs into the blue".

Now tired and weary, my days are up,  
The battles have all been won.  
They say I'm fit for naught but scrap;  
Fine thanks for a job well done.

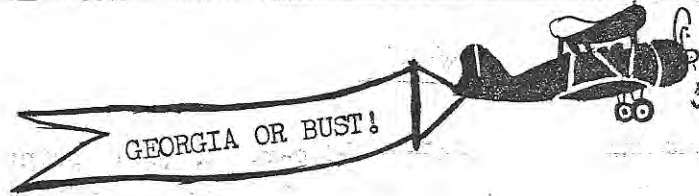
Jets are fast, they go like hell,  
But there their joys cease  
You'll sweat your fuel and burn your  
brakes;  
Your wives will know no peace.

Your tips won't feed, your trim runs away  
You eject at the slightest cause;  
Red lights flash all over the beast,  
It's at odds with all natural laws.

Your guts are left ten miles behind;  
Every flight is a panicky mess;  
Two miles of runway you need to land,  
It just won't stop on less.

Jasu, oxygen, and J-P-4  
Without these you don't go.  
On a good hot day the result is zilch,  
You just squat, and pucker, and blow!

(Continued on Page 4)



The 123d Fighter Interceptor Wing with all its elements joined together for a successful tour of training in June 1956. Total attendance was approximately 90 % of assigned strength.

Field Training this year will again be at Travis Field, Savannah, Georgia, from 8 - 22 June 1957.

Lets all pitch in and try to make this one of the best tours yet.....

86 SKIDOO

(Continued from Page 2)

Facts you might like to know about the Sabre Jet.

Service Ceiling:	40,000 feet
Maximum Speed:	600 MPH
Dimensions:	
Wing Span	37.1 feet
Length	37.5 feet
Height	14.7 feet
Weight	16,000 pounds

CLASSIFIED AD

WANTED: Men and women possessing faith, hope and charity for life-time work building better world. Applicants must furnish own tools, including Golden Rule. For further details apply at your nearest church.

(From the SUNDAY DENVER POST)

## HANGAR BUZZzzzzzzzz

A woman is like a used car. A good paint job conceals the years but the lines tell the story.

When a man visits the old historical things in town, it's usually because all the young ones are out with the Air National Guardsmen.

When they're out with the girls, some men find a place to park almost immediately while others never seem to know where to stop.

## WHICH MARKS DO YOU MEAN?

I guess most everyone is aware that television is not the only place that you can see the Marks Brothers in action. For instance, how many of you have been confronted with the statement to go get one of the Marks on drill day. So you immediately reply, "Hey, Joe, which one of the Marks do you mean?"----- For there is Tom, then there is Willy, and then Paul, not to forget Benny and if that isn't enough of a mess of confusion there is "Jute". Yes, there are five Marks Brothers in the 123rd Fighter Interceptor Wing. Quite a selling feature wouldn't you say? Tom, Willy, and Paul are all M/Sgt's, with Benny being a S/Sgt and "Jute" just enlisting several months ago is now an A/3C.

All are sold on the Air National Guard and all are planning on those retirement benefits.

## REQUIEM

(Continued from Page 3)

No more flights to odd-ball fields,  
The pickins' are gonna be slim.  
Six hours planning for a one hour flight,  
You can't crank off on a whim.

So remember me, lads, when you're IFR,  
Flamed out and with no boost;  
Panic buttons won't save you tonite,  
What goes up must come down to roost.

So - rotten and rusted tho I may grow,  
The last laugh will be mine.  
My spirit will rise from this shattered  
hulk,  
And transcend the chains of time.

I'll roam the skies from end to end,  
There I'll find my eternal haunt;  
The melodious Merlin will lull the night  
As I go on my timeless jaunt.

So, don't pity me, I'll feel no pain,  
Ghosting my way thru the sky!  
Tis you who'll miss the joys we knew,  
Tis you who'll suffer - not I!

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## ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 1

1. 1947
2. Colonel Philip P. Ardery
3. Manston RAF Station, England
4. Approximately 900
5. T-33, T-28, F-86A
6. Charlotte, North Carolina
7. Martinsburg, West Virginia
8. Standiford Field, Louisville, Kentucky
9. Air Defense of the United States
10. Send to Editor, Ground Training Office