

Watching the Skies of Central Europe . . .

Aircraft Control

They are tagged with odd names . . . like "scope dope."

They live in sparsely populated, remote regions of Central Europe.

They spend their days and nights watching and waiting, watching and waiting.

They seldom have the luxuries of fancy base exchanges, well-stocked commissaries, large theaters, community centers, clubs, gymnasiums, bowling alleys and other facilities

taken for granted by their brother airmen assigned to most locations in Europe.

They are the personnel who man the aircraft control and warning element of 86th Air Division (Defense). The radar net they operate provides surveillance of the skies of Central Europe every minute of every day.

Their radar stations are widely separated, at places with names most

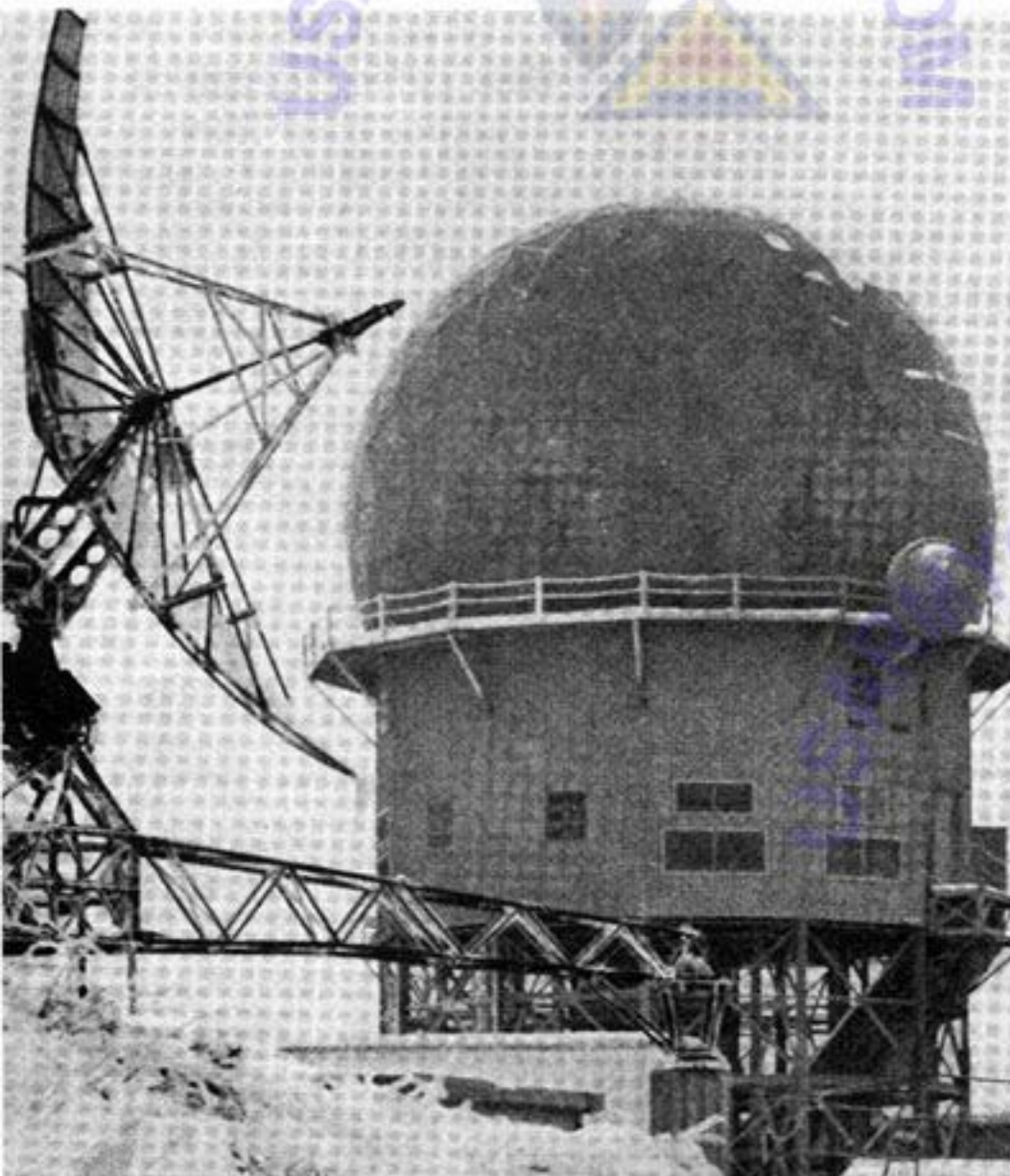
people never heard of. They are called Langerkopf, Giebelstadt, Freising, Doebraberg, Birkenfeld, Wasserkuppe and Pruem. The names of these places — even their numerical unit designations — may have little meaning, but the long range and high precision ground radar equipment they operate is indispensable to the air defense mission.

Surveillance of the Central European skies for unknown aircraft is the primary responsibility of this network of radar stations. In addition the system provides a controlled environment for the operation of all military aircraft and also exercises control over the southern air corridor to Berlin.

The commander of Allied Sector 3 (Sector Operations Center) at Langerkopf is the key director of the complex task of correlating air traffic data. The SOC is not only the nerve center of 86th Air Division, but also of NATO air defense in the Division's area of responsibility. To perform the NATO air defense function, the SOC is staffed with Air Force personnel of the United States and national components of 4th Allied Tactical Air Force.

In addition to his manned interceptor force, the sector controller also has under his tactical control the complementary surface-to-air missile force of the 32d Artillery Brigade, U.S. Army. With Nike and Hawk missiles the 32d contributes an unmanned missile force to the already potent intercept capability of Allied Sector 3.

Although the methods used to



and Warning

conduct a mission vary due to weather, availability of interceptors, location and speed of target and the international situation, the following hypothetical intercept mission is relatively typical.

The Allied Sector 3 commander

receives a report from one of the radar stations, of an unknown aircraft crossing the border in a westerly direction. All known flight plans are checked. The sector commander is unable to identify the aircraft through flight plans or elec-

tronic interrogation. Visual identity must be made.

To identify the unknown aircraft visually, the sector commander may divert an aircraft on a routine training mission or he may "scramble"

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ALLIED SECTOR 3/SOC. — Col. Winton W. Marshall, commander of Allied Sector 3/Division SOC at Langerkopf, is a command pilot with more than 7,000 flying hours. He served in Panama during World War II and commanded the 335th Fighter Sq. in Korea, where he flew 100 F-86 missions, destroying six and one half Communist aircraft and damaging seven. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star, Silver Star, Purple Heart and the Chungmoo Medal with Gold Star. Colonel and Mrs. Marshall, the former Mildred Taylor of North Carolina, have two children, Jeffrey and Patricia Ann.



LT. COL. EDWARD P. LANGEBARTEL — The Birkenfeld Air Station, home of the 615th ACW Sq., is commanded by Colonel Langebartel. His first military assignment was with the U.S. Army Engineers in 1942. He entered pilot training the same year and was commissioned in 1943. He spent World War II in the Pacific Theater and took part in the occupation of Japan. Subsequent assignments were at Stewart AFB, N.Y.; the Philippines; Maxwell AFB, Ala.; and Morocco. He has a degree in Political Science and is a graduate of the Command and Staff School. Since 1961 he has commanded the 615th, first at Pruem and after the move to Birkenfeld. Colonel Langebartel's decorations include the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; he has over 6,200 flying hours. He is married and has four children.



LT. COL. DENIS R. ROSE — Command of the 602d ACW Sq. at Giebelstadt was assumed by Colonel Rose in November last year, following an assignment at McClellan AFB, Calif. During World War II he was stationed in India and flew missions over the "hump" in C-54s. Subsequent assignments were in Greenland; Kelly AFB, Tex.; Tyndall AFB, Fla.; Haneda AB in Japan, where he participated in air evacuation of Korean wounded; Grenier AFB, N.H.; McGuire AFB, N.J.; and Saigon, South Vietnam, with the Military Advisory Assistance Group. Colonel Rose has over 8,000 flying hours and is a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College. He is married to the former Doreen Marie Audet of Manchester, N.H., and they have two daughters, Erin and Donna.

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a flight of the Division's F-102s to make the inspection. The F-102s stay on 24-hour alert, ready for instant takeoff. When the klaxon sounds they are quickly airborne.

One of the Division's radar stations guides the F-102s to the unknown aircraft. Once within range the interceptor's internal radar system acquires the unknown as a target and makes a visual identification pass. After the unknown aircraft has been identified any further action is at the discretion of the sector commander.

In time of war, where positive identification of a hostile aircraft is certain, the radar and missile capability of the F-102 permits the pilot to track, fire on and destroy

his target without actually seeing his adversary.

Flight technology is a rapidly evolving business and the Division strives constantly to update equipment and procedures. A program is now underway to install a semi-automatic ground environment system, similar to the SAGE system in the United States. When the system is completed NATO units in the Central Europe area will be tied together in a modern, flexible, computerized air defense net which will shave precious seconds from reaction time. In establishing the new automatic system the 86th is working in close harmony with the German Air Force and the other national forces of 4th ATAF.

In this all-important part of NATO Europe air defense must be kept abreast of the changing times.

Air defense is the Division's primary mission, but there are also important secondary missions. By providing a controlled environment for the operation of military aircraft, the combined efforts of the radar net and the all-weather F-102s have been credited with many aircraft "saves" in the past few years. A "save" is declared when a pilot states he would have abandoned his aircraft if he had not received assistance.

Another of the Division's secondary missions is control of the southern air corridor to Berlin. Controllers at Wasserkuppe guide both military and civilian aircraft through Eastern Germany, providing the only friendly voice in an otherwise hostile land.

The aircraft control and warning element of the 86th stems from the



LT. COL THOMAS W. BLACKBURN JR. - Langerkopf, southeast of Kaiserslautern, is the home station for both the Allied Sector 3/Division Sector Operations Center and the 603d ACW Sq. The 603d is commanded by Colonel Blackburn. For the past 13 years he has been assigned to USAF air control and warning duties. Colonel Blackburn was born at Selfridge Field, Mich., the son of a U.S. Army officer who is now a retired brigadier general. He is married and has four children.



LT. COL JAMES P. HOWARD - The 604th ACW Sq. at Freising is commanded by Colonel Howard, who is on his third overseas tour in Germany. Before enlisting in the Army Air Corps in 1942 he attended the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Polytechnical Institute and Arkansas Law College. He was commissioned as a pilot in 1942. Colonel Howard participated in the Berlin Air Lift, served a tour at Athenai Airport in Greece, was assigned to several staff positions at Hq. USAF and has commanded a number of aircraft control and warning squadrons prior to his present assignment at the 604th.



LT. COL JAMES R. GEARY JR. - Colonel Geary assumed command of the 616th ACW Sq. at Wasserkuppe in August 1962. He came to Wasserkuppe from an assignment as the Air Defense Command representative to the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) project, with duty stations in New York City and at Hanscom Field, Mass. Colonel Geary is a command pilot and his home town is Nyack, N.Y. He and Mrs. Geary have two children.

501st Tactical Control Wing. In November 1961 the 501st and the 86th Fighter Interceptor Wing were combined to form the present Division organization. The units can trace their early history back to July 5, 1942, when a group of specialists from the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. were formed into the 555th Signal Aircraft Warning Battalion.

During World War II companies A, B, C and D of the 555th spread through France and Belgium. Some members earned Combat Infantryman Badges during the Battle of the Bulge.

The following units perform the aircraft control and warning mission of today's 86th Air Division (Defense): Allied Sector 3 and the 603d ACW Sq. at Langerkopf and the

615th ACW Sq. at Birkenfeld, all in the general area of Ramstein AB; the 602d ACW Sq. at Giebelstadt, near Wuerzburg; the 604th ACW Sq. at Freising, near Munich; the 606th ACW Sq. at Doebraberg, near Hof;

the 616th ACW Sq. at Wasserkuppe, near the East German border in the vicinity of Fulda; Det. 0600, 603d ACW Sq., at Pruem on the Belgian border; and Det. 0001, 603d ACW Sq. at Drachenbronn, France.

DEFINITIONS

aircraft control and warning: a service or activity in which aircraft are detected and tracked in flight and reported, followed by evaluation and plotting of the information obtained, which information is then used in a warning network and in the control of fighter aircraft, antiaircraft artillery, and other combative forces.

aircraft controller: a person who controls, or is responsible for controlling, the movements of aircraft, including guided missiles, by means of radio communication or electronic devices.



LT. COL. JAMES E. HERNDON — The commander of the 606th ACW Sq. at Doebraberg is a native of Stockton, Calif. Colonel Herndon began his Air Force career as a sergeant, assigned as an aerial gunner, in World War II. He was commissioned as a bombardier in 1944, became a regular officer in 1947 and completed pilot training in 1950. He has completed the Squadron Officers Course, Ballistic Missile Course and Command and Staff School by participating in the Air University non-resident program. Colonel Herndon and his wife, Foya, have two daughters and one son.



LT. COL. FRED C. FAUPEL JR. — The Pruem radar station, officially designated as Det. 0600 603d ACW Sq., is commanded by Colonel Faupel. He previously served a tour of duty on the Dewline in the remote Canadian Western Territory and is on his third tour in Germany. Colonel Faupel is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. and majored in business administration at the University of Alabama. He was commissioned as a pilot in late 1944 and spent the latter part of World War II with glider pilot operations in New Guinea. Other assignments were at Washington Air Defense Sector and Hq. USAF with the Directorate of Personnel. Colonel Faupel and his wife, Gloria Jude, have one daughter.



MAJ. CHARLES L. FISK — As commander of Hq. Sq., 86th Air Division (Defense), Major Fisk is charged with the administration of personnel assigned both to Division Headquarters and to Det. 0003, 615th ACW Sq. (ADOC) at Kindsbach. Prior to his assignment at Ramstein AB he was Senior Air Force Advisor for the 8379th Air Force Reserve Recovery Group, Second Air Force Reserve Region (CONAC), at South Charleston, W. Va. During World War II he flew B-25s in the Southwest Pacific. Major Fisk and his wife, the former Harriet Worton, are both from Elkland, Pa. They have four children, three boys and one girl.