

Message from a Texan who has not forgotten the BCM

We acknowledge receipt of a letter written from Texas by a participant of the 12th Easter Tournament in 1957, almost 50 years ago. The letter is signed Bob Sisk, a pilot, who, at the time, was an American player evolving with the "Desert Rats Chambley" team.

What a surprise for the heads of the BCM, and especially the former members of the club, to receive a letter from Texas written by Robert (Bob) Sisk, who participated in the 12th Easter Tournament in 1957.

He played with the American team stationed on the air base of Chambley (Lorraine). The name of the team was the "Desert Rats Chambley". The letter, mailed in January 2006 from Texas, took more than three months to cross the Atlantic.

With Josette

Almost 50 years have passed since I was in Montbrison during the 12th Easter Tournament on April 20 and 21, 1957. While filing some papers, I came across the event's program. I have wonderful memories of the three years I spent on the base in Chambley and of our games of basketball. I thank you for the times spent in Montbrison. I had my picture taken with a delightful hostess.

The picture accompanying this article shows Josette Coudol, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jean Coudol, the owners of the Hôtel du Lion D'Or, where the American team stayed..

"Unfortunately, most of my co-players are deceased. We all enjoyed your tournament, your hospitality, your city, as well as your fans. The base closed in 1958, but every other year for the past 16 years, officers, pilots and their families have gathered in Chambley to recollect the good and bad times of that era.."

"We are projecting the creation of a park in Chambley, with hotel and museum concerning our Company."

The BCM in the museum

I will send the program of your tournament to the museum so that it be displayed in a prominent place. I am enclosing several documents on Montbrison, which should also be on display . . ."

Signed Bob Sisk

Here is the translation of the letter. Written in American, it was translated, with speed and emotion, by former members of the club.

Jean-François Roche