



**Captain George N. Stokes, Sr.**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Air Base Group**  
**Chambley AB, France**  
**June 1953 to Jun 1955**

Four days after December 7, 1941 George became 21 and eligible for the draft. He decided that rather than be assigned to the infantry he should enlist in the Army Air Corps. So he enlisted at Fort Benjamin Harrison. His enlistment was sworn on January 1, 1942, but the record is dated January 2nd. Fort Benjamin Harrison sent George to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri for Basic training. He was then sent to Scott Field at Bellville, Illinois to the radio operator and mechanics school. After completing that course he was sent to Boca Raton, Florida to the radar operator and mechanic course. While there he applied for pilot training, but was not accepted. He then applied for Signal Corps and Munitions training. He was accepted to attend the Officers training at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. He was graduated March 6, 1943 and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Department, with the specialty of an Aviation Ordnance Officer.

His first duty assignment was at Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii, where he served as the Base Ordnance Officer. From Barking Sands he went to the Phoenix Island group with the assignment of destroying out of date and deteriorating munitions. The remainder of the stock was shipped to bases closer to the battle lines. When this assignment was completed he was assigned to Hickam Field on the Island of Oahu. While there President Roosevelt visited and he was assigned, along with others to be armed and stand along the street as the President drove by. He was then assigned to the 363rd Air Service Group as the Ordnance Officer. The group was located at Wheeler Field on Oahu, Hawaii. The Group went to Iwo Jima arriving one day before the Island Commander declared the Island to be secure. However the Group was not allowed to

debark, so they remained on their ship during an air raid. The following morning they learned that the 21st Fighter Group had been attacked by the Japanese during the night. The 363rd was the support Group for the 21st Fighters. George applied for a leave of absence and at first was denied and later approved, allowing him to return to the United States. While on Leave the Japanese surrendered and George was released from active duty. He began his civilian career and joined a Reserve unit located at Middletown, Pennsylvania. In 1951 that unit was recalled to active duty and sent to Chateauroux, France. His duties there were with the 73rd Air Depot Wing as the Inspection and Research Office in the Supply Division. While in this position he was called upon to present the Air Force Supply system to the then President of Yugoslavia. He was then assigned to a remote prepositioned War Reserve Material Storage unit as the Detachment Commander. That operation was closed and George was assigned to Chambley Air Base, France as the Base Accountable Supply Officer, and Detachment Commander. As the construction of Chambley completed the 21st Fighter Bomber Wing arrived. George was reassigned to the 444th Fighter Interceptor Squadron located at Charleston Air Force Base as the Squadron Supply Officer where he served until assigned to the Dahrahn, Saudi Arabia Base where the United States was operating a School to train Saudi Pilots to fly our Fighter Airplanes. He served there for one year isolated from his family. After the Saudi assignment he was assigned to Supply school at Amarillo, Texas as a student. When the education was over he was then assigned to a Strategic Air command Base at Wurtsmith, Michigan where he was the Base Accountable Supply officer. He was moved to K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, near Marquette, Michigan as the Base Supply Officer. From K. I. Sawyer he was assigned to the 432nd Reconnaissance Wing as the Chief of Supply and Supply Squadron Commander. This assignment was also a remote, or unaccompanied tour for one year. He was then assigned to the Inspector General Department of Air Force Logistics Command located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base located at Dayton, Ohio. This was the final assignment as he retired March 1970.

George's military career was an adventure. It was also an education. The most satisfying assignments were those in France.

Highlights were seeing the King and Princes of Saudi, Arabia. The presentation of Supply information to the President of Yugoslavia. Guarding President Roosevelt, Seeing Emperor Haille Salasie of Ethiopia, and Dinner with Jimmy Stewart, but the best was always returning to the family.

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George left Dayton Ohio on 1 April 1970 and went to Austin, Texas where he was first employed with United States Steel Company, in their Homes Division, which no longer exists, as the Branch Accountant. When the Steel division folded Georgia-Pacific Corporation as the Branch Credit Manager hired George. Georgia-Pacific was a building supply provider and manufacturer. George's activities did not stop at Credit, because he also answered telephones and sold lumber, plywood gypsum wallboard and other builders supply items.

George retired from Georgia-Pacific Corporation in 1989. Since that time he and his family have enjoyed traveling and attending the Military reunions of the 444th Fighter Interceptor Squadron and the Chambley Air Base Association.

At the time of the 2008 Chambley Air Base France Reunion in Dayton, Ohio George was settled in Austin, Texas.

