



A/1C Stanley B. Hodgdon  
21<sup>st</sup> Installation Squadron.  
Chambley Air Base France  
November 1954 to November 1956

Airman First Class Stanley B. Hodgdon was born on November 5<sup>th</sup> 1933 in Lincoln, Illinois. Lincoln, Illinois is sometimes mixed up with Lincoln, Nebraska however it has quite a historical history. Lincoln, Illinois is a small city in Logan County, Illinois. It is the only town in the United States named after Abraham Lincoln. Before Lincoln became president he practiced law there from 1847 to 1859. Although Stanley is not a direct relative of Lincoln he felt his patriotism calling him and joined the Air Force in the early 1950's. Shortly after completing Electrician Tech School Stanley was shipped to the Mohave Desert to George Air Force Base in Victorville California and assigned to the 21<sup>st</sup> Installation Squadron of the 21<sup>st</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing.

In November 1954 Stanley boarded the troop train with about 1200 other Airman for a 3 day trip to the Port of Houston where they boarded the General Le Roy Eltinge Troop Ship for the two week trip across the Atlantic to France. Upon their arrival the Installation Squadrons barracks were not ready so they stacked military cots four high in the Electric Shop in order to accommodate living quarters for the men.



Stanley left France in 1956 and headed for New York City where he received his Honorable Discharge at Manhattan Air Station. He was home sick for his home town of Lincoln so he headed home as quickly

as he could travel. Although discharged from the Air Force he still was required to serve an additional four years as an inactive reservist.

Those first few years out of the Air Force Stanley was self employed as an electrician. In about 1958 Stanley went to work for the utility company who at the time was Central Electric Gas Company. Central Electric Gas Company was bought out by Common Wealth Edison who eventually was procured by Amermen Corporation out of St Louis, Illinois.

Stanley retired from Amermen as an Inspector and Investigator on November 31<sup>st</sup>, 1995 with 37 years of service.

Stanley married his 1<sup>st</sup> wife Carol Ann and had 3 daughters by her, Gayle, Jane and Marya. They were divorced and in 1989 Stanley married his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Netta in 1989. Netta has two sons Jeffery and Jerry. Between Netta and Stanley they have 10 grandchildren.

Stanley's always wanted to come to the Chambley reunions one reason or the other was not able to attend. The 2008 Reunion in Dayton, Ohio was a perfect location and at a good time of the year. They enjoyed the reunion immensely and intend to go to the 2010 reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Stanley and his family still reside in the place of his birth, the historical city of Lincoln, Illinois.

