

Commanders & Stations of the 36th Fighter Group during WWII

36th Pursuit Group, 1 Feb 1940

Lt Col Ned Schramm, 1 Feb 1940
Maj Charles A. Harrington, 15 Jul 1941
Lt Col Glenn O. Barcus, 1 Nov 1941
Maj Richard P. Klocko, 20 Feb 1942

36th Fighter Group, 15 May 1942

Maj James B. League Jr., 18 Jul 1942
Lt Col William L. Curry, 1 Sep 1942
Maj Earl H. Dunham, 1 Oct 1942
Lt Col William L. Curry, 14 Jan 1943
Lt Col Van H. Slayden, 12 Jan 1944
Lt Col Paul P. Douglas Jr., 5 Apr 1945
Lt Col John L. Wright, 30 Jun 1945
Maj Arthur W. Holderness Jr., 25 Sep 1945
Lt Col William T. McBride, 9 Nov 1945
Col Henry R. Spicer, 15 Oct 1946

Langley Field, VA, 1 Feb 1940
Losey Field, Puerto Rico, 6 Jan 1941
Morrison Field, FL, 1 Jun 1943
Mitchel Field, NY, 4 Jun 1943
Charleston AAB, SC, 22 Jun 1943
Alamagordo AAB, NM, 17 Sep 1943
Scribner AAB, NE, 26 Nov 1943
Camp Shanks, NY, 13-23 Mar 1944
Kingsnorth, England, 4 Apr 1944
Brucheville, France, 4 Jul 1944
Le Mans, France, 25 Aug 1944
Athis, France, c. Sep 1944
Juvincourt, France, c. 1 Oct 1944
Le Culot, Belgium, 27 Oct 1944
Aachen, Germany, 26 Mar 1945
Niedermendig, Germany, c. 8 Apr 1945
Kassel/Rothwesten, Germany, 21 Apr 1945
Bolling Field, DC, 15 Feb-9 Sep 1946
Howard Field, Canal Zone, 15 Oct 1946

Fürstenfeldbruck AB, Ger. 1948 -53

36th Fighter Wing, 2 Jul 1948

Col Henry R. Spicer, 2 Jul 1948
Col Malcolm N. Stewart, 13 Aug 1948
Col John C. Crosthwaite, 16 Sep 1948
Col Hubert Zemke, 2 Nov 1949
Col Thomas K. Hampton, 10 Nov 1949
Col Richard A. Legg, 3 Dec 1949

36th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 20 Jan 1950

Col Robert L. Scott Jr., 1 Mar 1951

Bitburg AB, Germany, 1953-1960

Col Thomas B. Whitehouse, 30 May 1953
Col William H. Dick, 5 Jun 1954
36th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 9 Aug 1954
Col Roy R. Brischetto, 17 Aug 1954
Col William H. Dick, 11 Jan 1955
Col John A. Brooks III, 7 Feb 1955
Brig Gen Walter B. Putnam, 21 Jul 1956
36th Tactical Fighter Wing, 8 Jul 1958
Col James D. Berry, 10 Jun 1960

Bitburg AB, Germany, 1960—1994

Brig Gen Robert L. Delashaw, 18 Jul 1960
Col John H. Buckner, c. 11 Jun 1963
Brig Gen Gordon F. Blood, 11 Jul 1963
Col James F. Hackler, Jr., 22 Aug 1964
Col Benjamin B. Cassidy Jr., 6 Aug 1966
Col Charles C. Pattillo, 12 May 1967
Col Joseph C. Secino, 26 Mar 1968
Col Richard G. Cross Jr., 15 May 1968
Col Forrest L. Rauscher, 15 Jun 1969
Brig Gen Edwin W. Robertson II, 19 Nov 69
Col Billy F. Rogers, 8 Oct 1971
Brig Gen Don H. Payne, 25 May 1972
Brig Gen Frederick C. Kyler, 31 Jul 1974
Col Perry M. Smith, 31 May 1978
Col Harold N. Campbell, 28 Feb 1979
Col Marcus A. Anderson, 15 Jan 1981
Col Richard L. Craft, 12 Jul 1982
Brig Gen Larry R. Keith, 26 Mar 1984
Col Peter D. Robinson, 25 Jan 1985
Col John A. Warden III, 19 Aug 1987
Col Jeffrey G. Cliver, 22 Jan 1988
Col John A. Judd, 4 Oct 1989
Col Ronald E. Keys, 11 Jul 1991

Andersen AFB, Guam, 1994 -

36th Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 1994

Col Dennis R. Larsen, 1 Oct 1994
Col John M. Deloney, 7 Aug 1995
Col William H. Hodges, 21 Feb 1997
Col Mark J.D. Gehri, 4 Feb 1999
Col Bernie H. Fullenkamp, 9 Jun 2000
Col Joseph F. Mudd, Jr., 7 Jun 2002
Col Paul K. White, 15 Jan 2004

36th Wing, 15 Mar 2006

Col Michael R. Boera, 30 Jun 2005
Brig Gen Douglas H. Owens, 25 Oct 2006
Brig Gen Philip M. Ruhlman, 2 Sept 2008
Brig Gen John W. Doucette, 25 Jun 2010
Brig Gen Steven D. Garland, 26 Jun 2012
Brig Gen Andrew J. Toth, 19 Jun 2014
Brig Gen Douglas A. Cox, 06 May 2016
Brig Gen Gentry W. Boswell, 08 Jun 2018

*Any questions concerning this Heritage Pamphlet please call:
36th Wing Public Affairs Office at 366-2228.*

36TH WING HERITAGE PAMPHLET 1940-1994



80th Anniversary Issue

Six decades chronological history from one of the
most historic wings of the United States Air Force

(Prior to the 36th's assignment to Andersen AFB, Guam)

Compiled and written by Jeffrey Meyer, 36th Wing Historian, Apr 2019

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36th Wing Emblem



Description: An arrowhead point upward gules, in a chief, azure, a demi wing argent

Significance: The shield is blue and gold, the colors for the Air Force. The arrowhead is a deadly swift weapon of offensive. The silver wing in the upper part of the shield is emblematic of aerial protection and vigilance.

Motto: Prepared to Prevail (Approved 14 August 1979)

Approved: 19 June 1940 for 36th Group and 17 June 1952 for 36th Wing

36th Wing Honors

Campaign Streamers. Southwest Asia: Defense of Saudi Arabia; Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Decorations. AF Outstanding Unit Awards: [1] May 56- May 58; [2] 1 Jan- 31 Dec 68; [3] 1 Dec 73 - 30 Apr 75; [4] 1 Jul 75 - 30 Jun 77; [5] 1 Jul 77 - 30 Jun 79; [6] 1 Jul 86 - 30 Jun 88; [7] 1 Jul 88 - 30 Jun 90; [8] 1 Sep 90 - 31 Jul 91; [9] 30 Jun 92 - 1 Jul 94; [10] 1 Oct 94 - 30 Sep 96; [11] 1 Oct 96 - 30 Sep 97; [13] 1 Oct 97 - 30 Sep 99; [14] 1 Sep 00 - 31 Aug 02; [15] 1 Oct 02 - 30 Sep 04; [16] 1 Oct 04 - 30 Sep 07; [17] 1 Oct 09 - 30 Sep 11.

Bestowed Honors. Authorized to display the following honors earned by the 36th Fighter Group prior to 2 Jul 48:

Campaign Streamers. WWII: Antisubmarine, American Theater; Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Air Combat, EAME Theater.

Decorations. Distinguished Unit Citations: France, 1 Sep 44; Germany, 12 Apr 45. Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army: 1 Oct - 17 Dec 44; 18 Dec 44 - 15 Jan 45. Belgian Fourragere. Luxembourg Croix de Guerre: [44] - 45.

WORLD WAR ERA



22 Dec 1939, the history of the 36th Wing started on paper when the Headquarters U.S. Army Air Corps (AAC) constituted the **36th Pursuit Group** (Interceptor).

1 Feb 1940, Headquarters U.S. Army Air Corps activated the **36th Pursuit Group** (36 PG) at Langley Field, VA, with three squadrons, 22 PS, 23 PS, and 32 PS. Initially, the unit was equipped with P-36 *Mohawks*.

1 Aug 1940, the original Wing emblem insignia was officially approved. It was drawn by, Captain later, Maj Gen Charles J. Bondley, Jr. (1910-1973) while he was assigned to the 36th.

29 Jul 1941, the 36th Pursuit Group participated heavily in a ceremony held for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's visit to Langley Field.

14 Jan 1941, the group personnel and aircraft arrived at Ponce Air Field (Later Losley Field), Puerto Rico with 17 P-36s, 2 AT-6 *Texans*, and one B-10B *Bolo* bomber where they flew anti-submarine patrols over the Caribbean.

c. May 1941, the 36th began receiving the newest pursuit planes in the Army Air Corps' inventory the P-39 *Airacobra* and the P-40 *Warhawk*.

20 Jun 1941, Army Air Corps became a part of the new expanded Army Air Forces (AAF).

7 Dec 1941, following the attack on Pearl Harbor the group was dispersed throughout the Caribbean and expanded its anti-submarine patrols to include the Panama Canal Zone.

15 May 1942, Headquarters U.S. Army Air Forces redesignated the 36th to the **36th Fighter Group** (Single Engine).

22 June 1943, the 36th Fighter Group (36 FG) arrived in Charleston, SC and received the new P-47 *Thunderbolts* and began training in bombing and aerial gunnery at many different locations throughout the U.S. The 32 FS stayed behind in the Caribbean.

22 June 1943, 53d Fighter Squadron joined the 36 FG and would remain part of the 36th for over 50 years.



The 36th Fighter Group, poses in Western France with bottles of Champagne, gifts from Lt Gen Patton after supporting him in Sep 1944.



36th Pursuit Group P-36 Mohawks at Langley Field c. 1940.

22 Mar 1944, After a brief stay in New York the 36 FG boarded the HMT *Stirling Castle* bound for the European Theatre of Operations (ETO).

4 Apr 1944, personnel and equipment arrived at Station 418, Kingsnorth, Kent, England after a brief stop in Liverpool.

8 May 1944, assigned to the 9th Air Force (9 AF), the 36 FG flew its first combat mission with a fighter sweep over the French coast with two P-47Cs and 37 P-47Ds. No

target was designated and none attacked. The goal of the P-47 units at the time was to hit specific targets such as bridges, heavy gun emplacements, railroad supplies, and destroy the flak guns.

13 May 1944, Capt Cortner made the 36th's first enemy kill - a Focke-Wulf 190, while escorting B-26 *Marauders* near Pontoise, France.

21 May 1944, 36th's suffered its first casualty when Maj Debler, 53 FS, didn't return from a sweep over France.

27 May 1944, 1Lt Frank A. Fazekas, a member of the 22 FS, 36 FG, was returning from a mission over northern France when his P-47 *Thunderbolt* came under enemy fire. The aircraft crashed in a field north of the French village of



SKYBLAZERS



In 1949, Maj Harry K Evans the leading pilot in a group of three, 36th Fighter Wing, F-80B *Shooting Stars* returning from Malta suggested the pilots try some aerobatics on the way back to the base. The identical twins Lieutenants C. A. "Bill" and Charles C. "Buck" Pattillo, right and left wingmen agreed. The idea for the aerial expedition team "Skyblazers" was born. (Pattillo twins were also the USAF "Thunderbirds" first right and left wingmen in 1953!)

During the Cold War, USAFE headquarters was looking for an aerobatic team in order to showcase the might of the Air Force to friends and potential foes in the European theatre. Pilot Lt Lawrence D. Damewood and spare pilot John P. "Obie" O'Brien joined the team and the "Skyblazers" were ready to fill their demand. Except for the years 1953-1956 (48 & 86 FWs), the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing "Skyblazers" remained constant appearance around Europe until Jan 1962.

Buysscheure; remains were not recovered and the U.S. Army reported him deceased. On 7 Aug 2017, 1Lt Fazekas' remains were accounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, 28 March 2018.

6 Jun 1944, during the famous D-Day landing at Normandy, the 36th provided convoy and beachheads "Utah" and "Omaha" fighter cover, bombed and strafed in support of ground troops, and provided visual reconnaissance reports.

13 Jun – Aug 1944, the Group endured German V-1 "Buzz Bomb" rocket attacks destined for London, but fell short at Kingsnorth Airfield.

4 Jul 1944, some of the 36th's squadrons and Airmen began to transfer material, equipment, and aircraft to Site A-16, near Brucheville, Normandy, France.

25–31 Jul 1944, 36th Fighter Group's P-47s supported the First Army Corps during their breakout of Saint-Lô after they were ensnared in the hedgerows of Normandy.

Aug – c. Nov 1944, the 36 FG kept pace with Lt Gen George S. Patton's fast-moving Third Army throughout his advance deep into enemy territory. The group's efficiency and endurance earned it the nickname, the "Fightin' 36th".

25 Aug 1944, the 36th moved again to Site A-35, near Le Mans, Sarthe, France.

1–2 Sep 1944, awarded its first Distinguished Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty when elements of the retreating German Army were caught near Poitiers, France, with 311 motor transports, 97 tanks, and other armor vehicles destroyed.

30 Sep 1944, the 36th transferred again its air operations to Site A-68, Juvincourt, Reims, France.

1 Oct 1944, the 36th received the Citation in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army.

22 Oct 1944, the 36th spent the winter of 1944–45 at their new landing strip at Site A-89, Le Coulet, Belgium.

During the month of **Nov 1944**, the 36th flew 978 sorties in 19 days in support of the Ninth Army. The "Fightin' 36th" destroyed 36 locomotives, 46 railcars, 38 motor transports, 53 buildings, 22 gun emplacements, two ammo dumps, and a hangar.

16–25 Dec 1944, the 36th participated in the Battle of the



Republic P-47Ds of the 22 FS, 36 FG, at RAF Kingsnorth, England. Later, S/N 44-19864 (Bottom Left) was lost to flank during the Battle of the Bulge with pilot 1Lt Charles Loring who became a POW. (USAAF via Wikipedia)



52 TFW activated there. The 52 TFW's activation at Spangdahlem AB, left the 36th with only three squadrons, the 22d, 53d, and 525 TFSs.

1 Oct 1969, the 525 FIS redesignated as a Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFW).

30 Sep 1973, all three flying squadrons completed the transition to the F-4E *Phantom II* fighter.

27 April 1977, arrival of the first F-15 *Eagle* squadron made the 36th the first wing outside the continental US to fly this fighter. The 525 TFS was the first squadron to bring F-15s to Europe.



5 May 1985, President Ronald Reagan during his controversial visit to Bitburg Cemetery. The 36th supported this visit with many of the base's Airmen. Photo: President and First Lady boarding AIR FORCE ONE on Bitburg AB's ramp.

Fighter Wing for a second time.

30 Sep 1994, 36th Fighter Wing inactivated at Bitburg AB, Germany.



GULF WAR—Dec 1990–Jul 1991, the 36th deployed the 53d Fighter Squadron (FS), additional pilots and aircraft from the 22 and 525 FSSs, plus support personnel to Southwest Asia, to assist in UN operations to liberate Kuwait. Wing pilots were credited with seventeen enemy combat aircraft destroyed, 14 air to air victories. Photo: The 36th was represented in this famous photograph of oil wells burning in Iraq. The 53 TFS's flagship is the 2nd aircraft from the top. (USAF)



Maintenance personnel worked long hours preparing these F-15s for a mass launch at Bitburg AB, Germany. (36 TFW History)

Oct 80 –Dec 1981, the 36th transitioned to the F-15C to D model *Eagles*.

In 1981, the 36th became the first USAFE unit to deploy to Nellis AFB, NV, to participate in Exercise RED FLAG.

1 Sep 1986, the 36th assumed control and responsibility for the operation of the old French Caserne located next to the base and renamed it the Bitburg Caserne. Construction began on Survivable Collective Personnel Shelters (SCPS).

13 Sep 1987, construction began outside of the Trier Gate on a multi-million dollar complex to house the *Patriot* missile system.

1 Oct 1991, 36 TFW redesignated to the 36th

29 Sep 1956; The Skyblazers were transferred back in the sponsorship of the 36 FDW. The team was lead by future General, Capt Wilbur L. Cheech.

c. 1956 - 1958, Two future NASA astronauts were assigned to the 36th. The 22d FDS's Flight Commander Col Edwin Buzz Aldrin, famously the second man to walk on the moon, 20 Jul 69. Lt Col Edward H. White, II, who was the first American to walk in space on 3 Jun 65. Sadly, he was killed in the Apollo 1 accident at Cape Canaveral, 27 Jan 67.

12 Feb 1957, The 525th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron (525 FIS) arrived as a tenant unit, began flying operations at Bitburg originally equipped with the F-86H's and converted to the F-102A Delta Dagger in 1959.



36th's F-4Ds flying over a German Castle c. Early 1970s.

Skyblazers by the naming the Bitburg Recreation Center "Skyblazer" and the base newspaper was named the "Skyblazer" c. 1950—1994.

20 Mar 1966, the F-4D *Phantom II* fighter began to replace the *Thunderchiefs*.

Jul-Nov 1968, the 36th moved all flying operations to nearby Spangdahlem AB during Operation GULLY JUMP.

1 Nov 1968, the 525 FIS, still flying F-102s, were assigned to the 36th instead of being a tenant command at Bitburg.



F-4E Phantom II, 36th Tactical Fighter Wing celebrated America's Bicentennial. (Photo Courtesy of Gary Schulz)

Maintenance Officer in the USAF while assigned to the 36th. She would go on to make many firsts for women in the USAF including becoming the first Black Female General.

c. Jul 1969, the 49 TFW transferred to Holloman AFB, NM, from Spangdahlem AB, leaving the 36th in control of Spangdahlem as well as Bitburg. The 36th would retain control until 31 December 1971 when the



Skyblazer Emblem c. 1956-62

8 Jul 1958, Redesignation as the **36th Tactical Fighter Wing** (36 TFW).

1 Aug 1958, The 461 TFS inactivated at Landstuhl AB, West Germany.

15 Nov 1959, The 36th was assigned to the 17 AF.

13 May 1961, The first F-105 *Thunderchiefs* in Europe are assigned to the 36th.

12 Jan 1962, The Skyblazers disbanded as USAFE's aerial demonstration team for the final time. The 36th remembered



Maj Gen Marcelite Harris was the first woman Maintenance Officer in the USAF while assigned to the 36th. (USAF)

1 Apr 1969, A shift in the capabilities of the 36th occurred when the 39th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (39 TEWS) was activated.

30 Apr 1969, The 71st Tactical Missile Squadron deactivated with its MCM-13 *Mace* Missiles marking the end of missile operations at Bitburg AB.

c. May 1969 - Sep 1970, Maj Gen Marcelite Harris, then Capt Harris became the first woman



Bulge and played a major role in the defense of Bastogne, Belgium. Maj Charles Joseph Loring a pilot from the 22d Fighter Squadron was shot down on 24 Dec 44, and became a POW in Germany until 6 May 45.

During the Korean War, Maj Loring was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor after he deliberately crashed his F-80 Shooting Star into an enemy artillery position on 22 Nov 1952 saving many U.N. troops. Former B-52 base at Loring AFB, Maine, was named after him.

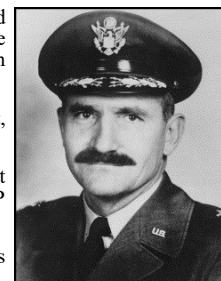
10 Mar 1945, P-47N from the Fightin' 36th landed in Aachen, Germany (Site Y-46); Maj LaRoque piloted the first U.S. aircraft to voluntarily land in Germany since c. 1940. Sadly, Maj LaRoque would be killed 10 days later.

30 Mar 1945, the 36th moved again 20 days later, Site Y-62n, near Koblenz, Germany.

12 April 1945, the Fightin' 36th was awarded its second Distinguished Unit Citation for extra-ordinary heroism in action against the enemy when their P-47s destroyed 73 aircraft and damaged 19 on the ground near Leipzig.

30 Apr 1945, arrived at Site R-12, Rothwessen, Kassel, Germany. This signified the final transfer for the Fightin' 36th during WWII.

8 May 1945, V-E Day, WWII was over in Europe exactly one year after the 36th's first combat mission. In that time the group flew 1,060 missions, 6,947 sorties, and moved airfields eight times. The Fightin' 36 also suffered 85 casualties: 48 missing in action (MIA), 25 killed in action (KIA), and 12 prisoners of war (POW). In addition, the 36th laid claim to a great deal of battle damage including: 42 aircraft destroyed in the air, 250 aircraft destroyed on the ground, 262 armored vehicles, 420 locomotives, 2,868 railcars, 4,882 motor transports, 848 buildings, 309 gun emplacements, and 129 vessels.



Col Henry Spicer, the first 36th Wing Commander

Let not forget the sacrifices of the Airmen of our past.

MEMBERS OF THE 36th FIGHTER GROUP KILLED IN ACTION DURING WORLD WAR TWO

22nd SQUADRON

Bell, Joseph X.
Bergeron, George O.
Browne, Cyril G. Jr.
Church, John M.
Conner, J. H.
Davis, Newton B., Jr.
Fazekas, F.
Gallo, John
Holland, William D.
Horrigan, Richard W.
Jarrell, Robert S.
Keim, Othniel A.
Nibley, Emmett D.
Rolland, Paul O.
Scherer, Fred M.
Sonsini, Frank P.
Vollenweider, Tom
Wright, L., Jr.

Loring, Charles J.
Killed in Korea

23rd SQUADRON

Arie Nic O.
Boyle, J. J.
Cavanaugh, Thornton J.
Cole, James (Mose)
Cole, Samuel P.
Chauffy, Paul
Cracknell, Christian W.
Dixon James W.
Bogle, Ivan R.
Dolson, Donn W.
Drew, Richard
Eastman, Ralph T., Jr.
Fring, Leo
Heiden, Marvin
Klein, Robert
Mann, Ralph C.
Miles, Albert E.
Nicols, James E.
Pierce, Warren F.
Robinson, Frank M.
Smollen, John L.
Teegarden, John M.
Walker, Ernes L.
Wyand, John R.
Williamson, Herbert A.
Zieske, Vernon E.

53rd SQUADRON

Bathurst, Verlan E.
Beltran, W.
Brannen, Shelton
Bretana, Manual
Brunner
Carr, Herbert M., Jr.
Carr, Robert S.
Combs
Copeland
Davison, Denver B.
Deabler, Richard T.
Dewey, William B.
Dimmocks, Charles A.
England, George T. L.
Filippo, Guido
Galor
Gaston, Ernest B.
Gilbert, S. H.
Groh
Haley
Hamlin, Gilbert S.
Heimes, John W.
Juggan
Kerrigan
Kind
Lane, Roger T.
LaRoque, Richard W.
Layden
Lee, Samuel C.
Lewis
McVane
Metayer, Robert A.
Mulholland, Daniel E.
Padgett, Walter F.
Reiner, Herbert H.
Robinson, Glulick, Jr.
Skeels, Frederick D.
Smith, Leonard R.
Spicer
Utrich, Chester G.
Wavra, Joseph W.
Woodside, L. P.



Mar 1944, 53d FS's pilots, 30% of the 33 Airmen in this photo would be KIA, MIA, or POW by war's end. (American Air Museum, Britain)

COLD WAR



Three squadrons of the 36 FW F-80 Shooting Stars over Germany circa 1948-49.

Feb 1946, the 36 FG, less personnel and equipment, departed Europe and moved to Bolling Field, Washington, D.C.

21 Mar 1946, the 36th moved again to Peterson Field, CO. less personnel and equipment.

9 Sep 1946, the group once again had personnel and equipment reassigned to Howard Field, Canal Zone, Panama.

13 Oct 1947, conversion began from the P-47 to F-80 *Shooting Star*.

2 Jul 1948, increased tensions in Europe caused by the Soviet Berlin blockade and subsequent Berlin Airlift, the **36th Fighter Wing** (36 FW) was activated at Howard Field, Panama under the command of Col Henry Spicer who was the 36 FG commander at the time. (The later Maj Gen Spicer's P-51 *Mustang* was shot down during WWII and became well known for his legendary leadership in a German POW Camp.)

15 Jul 1948, the 36th assembled aboard the USS Sicily on transfer notification to USAF's 12th Air Force to return to Europe.

7 Aug 1948, all of the aircraft, pilots, and most of the maintenance personnel and equipment arrived in Glasgow, Scotland. The aircraft were towed from the docks to RAF Renfrew where they were readied for the trip to the 36th new home at Fürstenfeldbruck (Fursty), West Germany.

13 Aug 1948, ferry flights began and all 82 F-80s were in place at "Fursty" by 20 August. The wing became the first US jet fighter-equipped unit stationed in Europe.



Skyblazer original emblem c. 1950-52

9 Jun 1949, the first official trans-Atlantic jet ferry flight concluded when 11 F-80s and four T-33s arrived at Fursty.

1 Oct 1949, while at Fürstenfeldbruck AB, the 22d Fighter Squadron formed the "**Skyblazers**" USAF's aerial demonstration team, and conducted their first official show at Gutersloh Royal Air Base. Their first unofficial aerial show was on the one year Anniversary of the USAF, 17 Sep 48. The Pattillo Twins (Left & Right Wingmen) would go on to help form the "**Thunderbirds**" in 1953. Additionally, Lt Gen Charles C. "Buck" Pattillo, would later return to the 36th as its commander 12 May 67– 26 Mar 68 and finished his career as the PACAF Vice Commander 1975–1979.

20 Jan 1950, the 36th was redesignated the **Fighter-Bomber Wing** (36 FBW) and received the new F-84 *Thunderjets*. The first in Europe.

1 Mar 1951, Brig Gen Robert Lee Scott, Jr. became the 36 FBW/CC. A pilot for the WWII famous 23d Fighter Group "Flying Tigers" in China and wrote the book "God is My Co-Pilot."



F-84 Thunderjets arrived at the 36th in 1950, the first in Europe. (USAF)



53d Fighter Day Squadron's F-86F Sabrejet

11 Aug 1951, the group provided 44 aircraft for a static display and a Skyblazer demonstration to future president Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower.

21 May 1952, Capt John P. O'Brien, a member of the Skyblazer team died in an aircraft accident near London.

24 Jul 1952, the 53d Fighter-Bomber Squadron (53 FBS) began flying operations at the newly constructed Bitburg, Air Base, West Germany the future home of the 36th.

30 Aug 1952, the original Skyblazer team disbanded after performing its final show at the International Aviation Exposition in Detroit, Michigan. From 1952–1956 the Skyblazer team continued to perform while assigned to the 48th and 86th Fighter-Day Squadrons.

17 Nov 1952, the 36th completed their move Bitburg AB where it would stay until 1994.

10 Mar 1953, 36th's international incident; two 53 FBS's F-84Gs were scrambled from Fursty to intercept two unidentified aircraft near the Czechoslovakian border. One of the Czechoslovakian MiG-15s opened fire damaging one of the F-84s enough for the pilot to bail out and the aircraft crashed.



"Eifel Parrot" the 36 TFW/CC's F-100C #999 in the 22 TFS area at Bitburg, circa 1958. The 22nd maintained this aircraft for the 36 TFW. (Photo Courtesy of Gary Schulz)

8 Aug 1954, the 36th was redesignated a **Fighter-Day Wing** (36 FDW) comprised of the 22nd, 23rd, and 53d Fighter-Day Squadrons,

11 Jan 1955, the 36 FDW Commander, Col Roy R. Brischetto was killed while piloting his F-86 that crashed on takeoff from Bitburg AB.

8 Sep 1955, the 32d Fighter-Day Squadron at Landstuhl AB, West Germany, was assigned to the 36th.

8 Feb 1956, the 461st Fighter-Day Squadron at Landstuhl AB, West Germany, was assigned to the 36th which meant five fighter squadrons assigned.

13 Mar 1956, newly equipped with F-100 *Supersabres*, the 36th became the first wing in USAF outfitted with the supersonic jet aircraft.



Members of the 22 FDS's 1957 Gunnery Team included pilots Capt Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. and 1st Lt Edward H. White, from left to right standing. (36 TFW History)

8 May 1953, dedication ceremonies officially open Bitburg AB

1 Aug 1953, the F-86 *Sabrejet* arrived at Bitburg to replace the F-84s. The first in Europe.

20 Mar 1954, first ever overseas USAF missile deployment was the 1st Pilotless Bomber Squadron (1 PBS) equipped with the BM-1 *Matador* missile at 36th Fighter-Bomber Wing. The MCM-13 *Mace* Missile, followed the *Matador* at Bitburg AB, W. Germany, 1962-69.



F-105 Thunderchief takes off from Bitburg c. 1961-1966. (USAF)