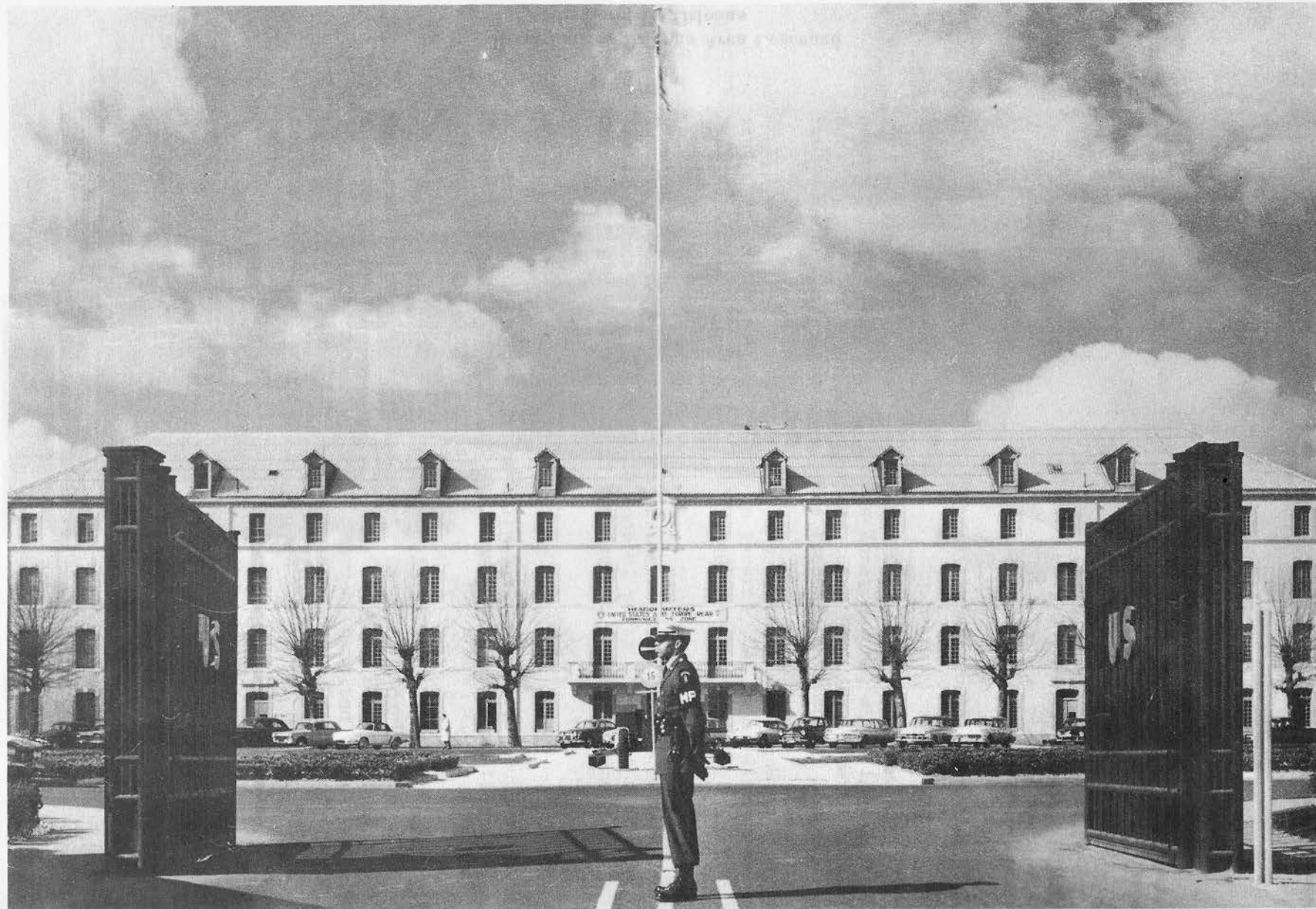


Vic
Memories!

Welcome to Orleans



ORLEANS AREA COMMAND



Headquarters
United States Army Communications Zone, Europe
Orleans, France



Headquarters Orleans Area Command
Fort De Orleans

I INTRODUCTION

Orleans Area Command is one of four major sub-commands of the U.S. Army Communications Zone, Europe.

OAC headquarters is located at Foret d'Orleans, approximately five miles from the city of Orleans.

Normal duty hours are from 0800 to 1700, Monday through Friday.

A full-time duty officer is available during the day or night.

He may be reached by calling Civilian 87.16.11, Extension 7001 (Adjutant).

Beginning as a small detachment with the establishment of Headquarters, U.S. Army Communications Zone, Europe, at Coligny Caserne, November 1950, Orleans Area Command today includes elements located in twelve geographic areas within the French department of Loiret.

The mission of OAC is to support military units and activities stationed in the Orleans area. In general, OAC is similar to a post headquarters in the continental United States.

The command houses Headquarters, U.S. Army Communications Zone, Europe, which directs operation of the vast network of depots and installations from the Atlantic coastal ports of France into West Germany, for the support of US Army combat forces in Europe.

History of Orleans

Orleans is located on the Loire River, 70 miles south of Paris. It has a population of 80,000 and a metropolitan population of 115,000 (including its adjacent villages).

Few French cities equal Orleans in historical significance. It was captured and burned by Julius Caesar in 52 B.C. during the Gallic Wars and rebuilt by the Emperor Aurelian, from whom it derives its name. In 450 A.D., Attila, the Hun, and his hordes assaulted the city, to be driven back by Saint Aignan, Bishop of Orleans. In the middle of the 6th century, Orleans flourished as a trading center, next in importance to Paris.

Joan of Arc's deliverance of the city in 1429 marked the turning point of the Hundred Years' War, celebrated locally on the seventh and eighth of May, each year. The event draws pilgrims from every corner of France, wearing provincial costumes and participating in colorful parades and pageants.

Orleans became part of the Protestant movement during the 16th century Wars of Religion. Occupied by both Huguenots and the Catholic League, it was finally conquered by Henry IV of Navarre. John Calvin studied at the city's law school which flourished until quite recently.

Coligny Caserne, which houses the headquarters of U.S. Army Communications Zone, Europe, owes its name to Admiral Coligny, the great Huguenot leader.

Occupied by the Prussians in 1815, after Napoleon's Waterloo, Orleans was re-taken by the Germans in 1870-71. June 1940 marked the beginning of the bombardment by Axis powers, destroying the entire center of the city. Allied bombing in 1943 devastated some of the surrounding areas, particularly in the vicinity of the railroad station at Les Aubrais. The famous city, however, is progressively rebuilding itself.

The oldest part of Orleans is surrounded by boulevards built on the sites of ancient fortifications. Many of the houses, of white porous stone, are built above the quarries from which the building material was taken. Some of these buildings boast as many as seven levels of cellars, used mainly for storing wine.

In the district called Les Carmes, three levels of wine cellars were transformed by monks into lengthy underground passages terminating at the river.

The Cathedral of Sainte-Croix dominates the city. Built originally during the 13th and 14th centuries, it was destroyed by the Huguenots and restored by order of Henry IV, the great French king who laid the cornerstone in 1601.

The Hotel de Ville, north of the cathedral, was built during the Renaissance, between 1549 and 1583. Its center arch leads into a formal garden, illuminated on summer nights, as are the cathedral and the Hotel de Ville.

France has myriad attractions which can entice the most demanding sightseer. Every American installation in France is surrounded by, or near, picturesque beauty and interest.

Paris, the capital of France, has a well known wealth of attractions such as the Arch of Triumph; the Louvre, the largest art museum in the world; the soaring Eiffel Tower; historical Notre Dame and the renowned Avenue des Champs Elysees. Paris is a world-famed amusement city of restaurants and night clubs; it is also a city of beauty and serenity.

A few kilometers from Paris is Versailles; the majestic palace of Louis XIV, with marble fountains and lovely gardens. Fontainebleau, located southeast of Paris, is a chateau that has served, among other things, as a winter hunting resort for French kings.

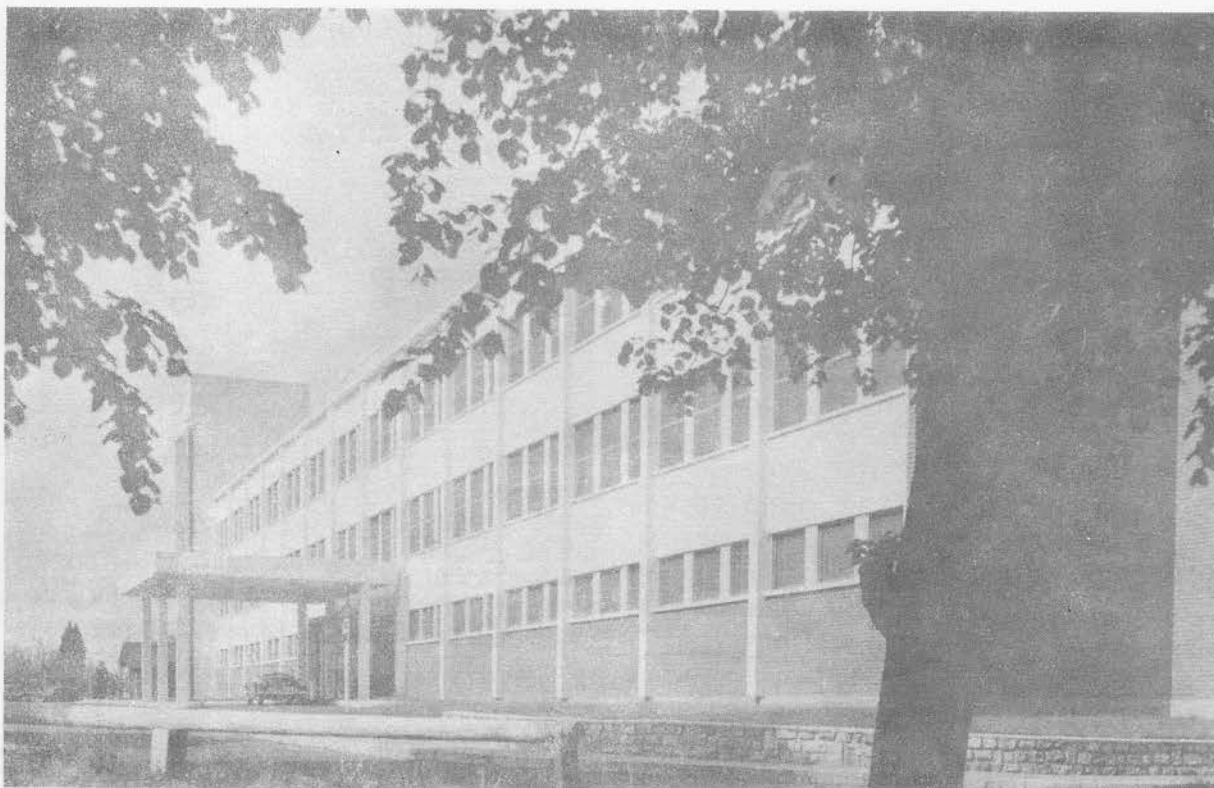
The Loire Valley, which stretches from Nantes to Orleans, is land rich in beauty and historical background. It was there that Saint Joan of Arc was proclaimed "Maid of Orleans" for rallying her people and driving the British out of Orleans, the first large French city to be liberated in the Hundred Years War. Castles and chateaux, along the banks of the river Loire and in the surrounding country, stand as eloquent witnesses to the greatness of old France.

The forests of Ardennes; the hills of Picardy; the drained marshes of Flanders; the vineyards of Champagne; Verdun, scene of many battles in many wars and the fulcrum of World War I - these and many other places are found in the northeast section of France.

Somewhat more distant from most COM Z installations but still within visiting distance is the Riviera on the Mediterranean coast of France where swimming, sunbathing and deep sea fishing can be enjoyed. The different French mountain ranges offer the winter sports enthusiast skiing, ice skating and breathtaking scenery. In the northwest is the province of Normandy, lush and green, where rusty skeletons of ships that stirred the English Channel on D-Day, still stand open to the sky. Not far away may be found the strangely beautiful Mont Saint Michel, and Rouen, the ancient city where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake.

Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, England and other interesting countries are readily accessible without expensive transportation costs or traveling great distances.

Keep in mind always that although your main reason for coming to COM Z is national defense, you are also given a magnificent opportunity to see, to visit and live in places that most Americans have read about and longed to know. Yours for the taking is travel beyond the dreams of most Americans. You can explore large and fascinating areas at leisure, enjoying rich and meaningful contact with peoples who have provided our own land with much of its finest heritage.



**34th General Hospital
La Chapelle**



**Orleans American School
Foret D' Orleans**



**Officers' and Civilians Open Mess
Chateau La Motte**



**US Army Commissary
Caserne Colligny**

a. Contribution Mobiliere. General revenue tax for the benefit of municipalities and departments levied upon the occupants of a dwelling as of 1 January each year.

b. Taxe d'Habitation. Tax imposed on occupants of premises and is in addition to the contribution mobiliere.

c. Taxe des Presentations ou Taxe de Voirie. Alternative taxes to cover maintenance of local roads.

d. Taxe d'Enlevement des Ordures Menageres. Local garbage disposal tax imposed on property owners for services rendered. However, in the absence of an agreement to the contrary, the owner is legally entitled to be reimbursed by the tenant for payment of this tax.

e. Tax de Deversement a L'Egout. Sewage services tax imposed on the property owner. In an absence of an agreement to the contrary, the owner is legally entitled to be reimbursed by the tenant for payment of the tax.

f. Taxe de Balayage. Road sweeping tax imposed on the owner of real estate property bordering a road. In the absence of an agreement to the contrary, the owner is entitled to be reimbursed by the tenant for payment of the tax.

g. Radio and Television Tax. Imposed annually upon individuals who possess radio or television sets. A separate tax is imposed on each automobile radio.

US personnel are exempt from the following taxes:

a. Automobile tax. This tax is not applicable to CF-registered vehicles.

b. Taxe sur les Chiens. Dog Tax.

Detailed information on payment of French taxes by US Forces personnel is contained in Command directives and other publications.

Hiring of Domestic Help

Domestics may be employed by US Forces personnel in France. The employer is responsible for compliance with the laws of France regarding domestic employment, including payment of social security and family allowances taxes. All prospective employers of domestic help should first familiarize themselves with the provisions of pertinent Command directives.

Tips on Traveling in France

In France, you will be in Europe's leading tourist country. A few special hints may make your tours more enjoyable and make you a better guest.

Few servicemen in the world are as well paid as the American soldier. During World War II, when Americans were serving in the British Isles, English soldiers frequently spoke of our servicemen as "overpaid, overfed and over here". The remark, although in jest, conveyed a grain of normal resentment that a man feels on seeing another get greater pay for the same job. It should be remembered, therefore, that a well-filled wallet, prominently displayed, can make enemies as well as friends. In the interests of good taste and good manners you should refrain from boasting about pay or any other matter to your French or any other European neighbor.

Be sensible about money, and spend it in such a manner as not to attract unfavorable attention or comment. In a group of Allied soldiers, spend money on a par with them. Refrain from spending sprees, remembering that handling money disdainfully creates contempt, and that thoughtless spending sends prices skyrocketing.

Railroads

French railroads may not compare with some of the American types. Trains, however, are run very efficiently and promptly and have modern conveniences including dining and sleeping cars.

Of the two classes of French rail travel, first class compares favorably with United States extra-fare trains. Second class is favorable compared with American parlor cars. Inquire about tourist or excursion railroad rates, since reduced vacation rates are common in most European countries.

Floor Plans
 St Jean de la Ruelle Guarantee Housing Area

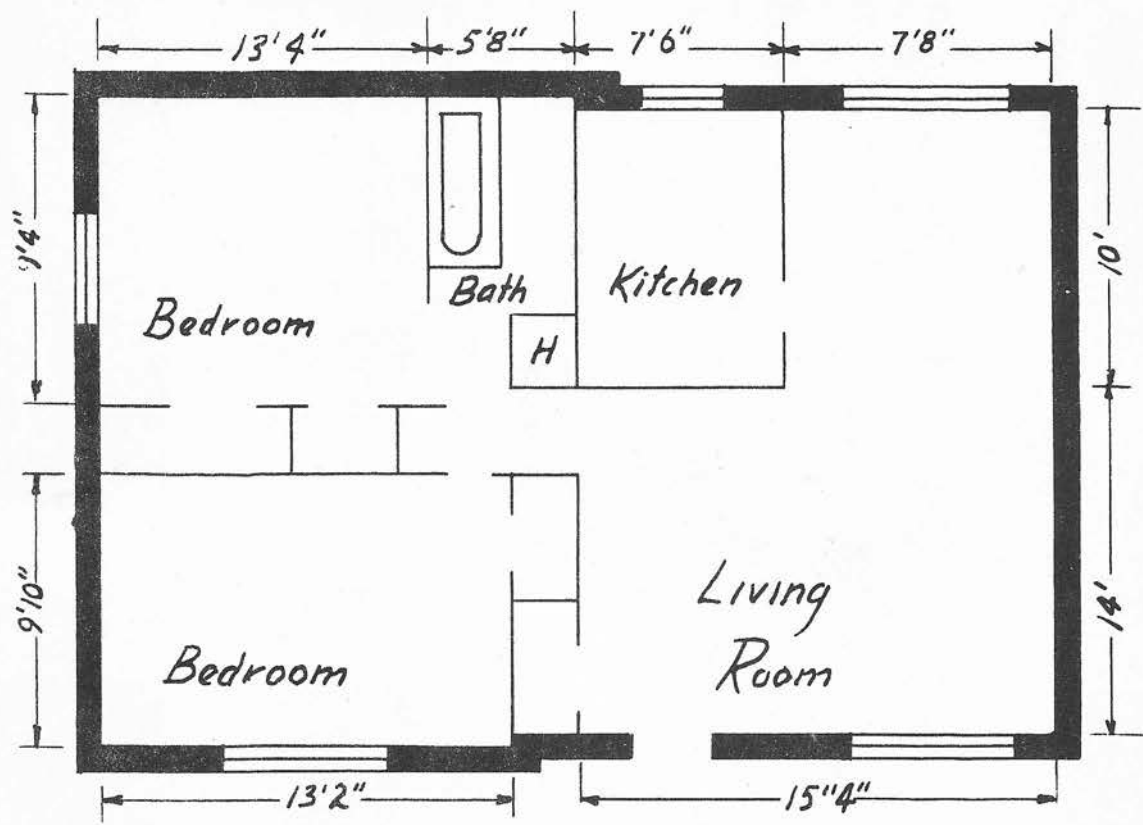


Figure 3-2 Bedroom Unit

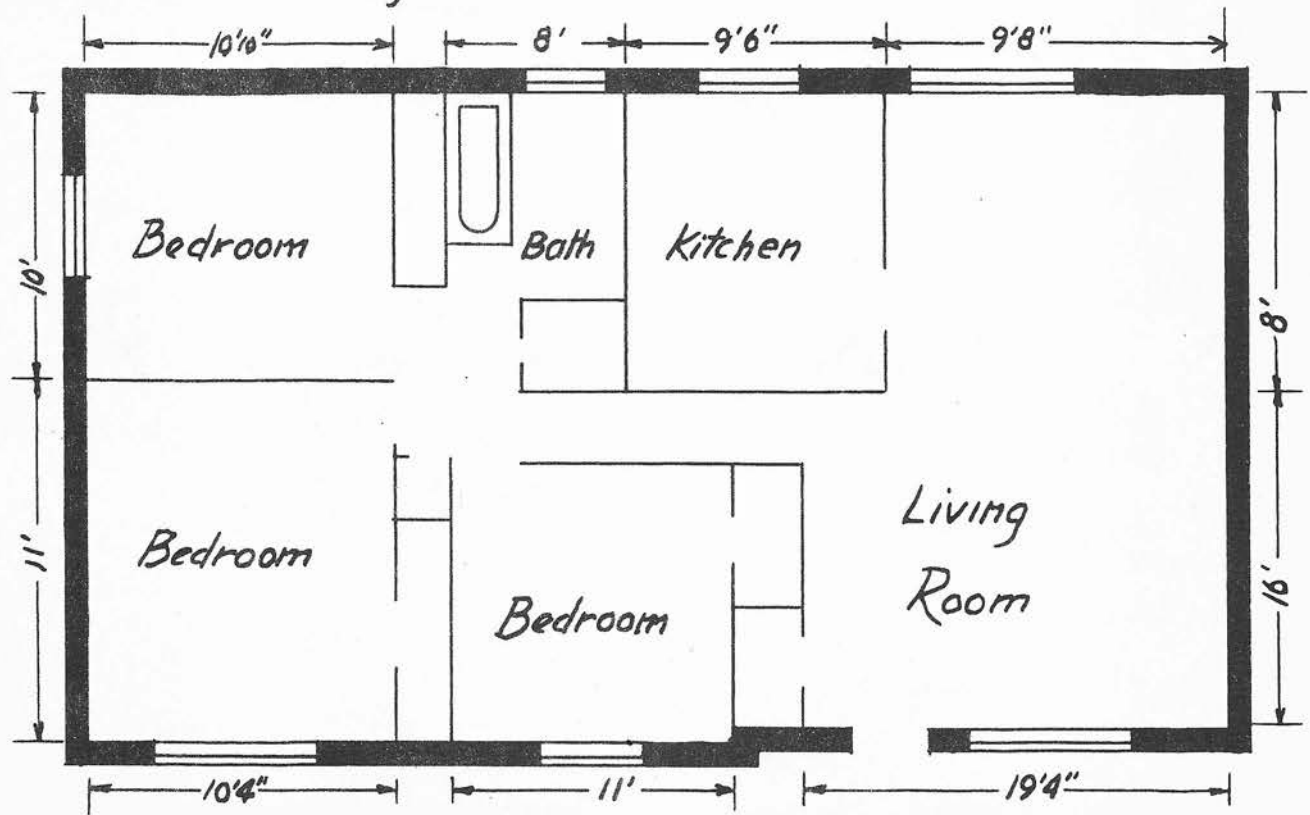
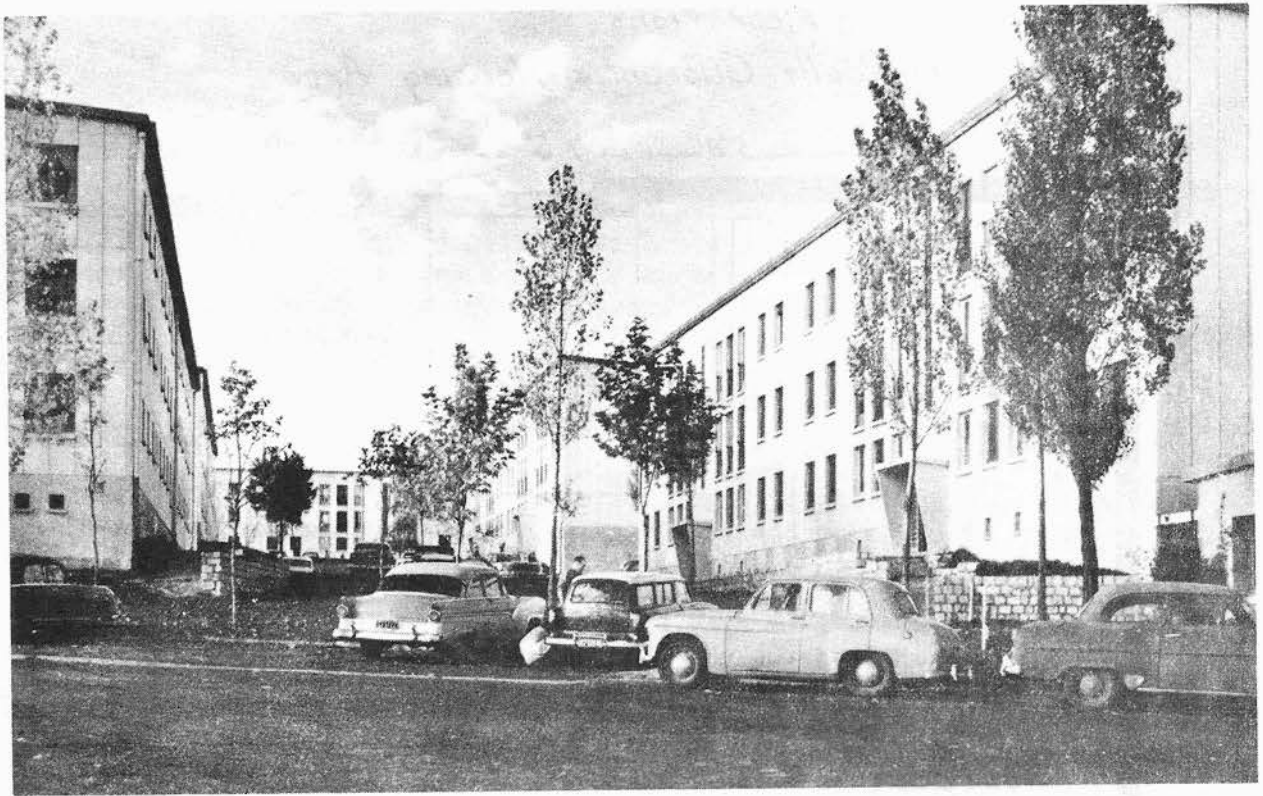


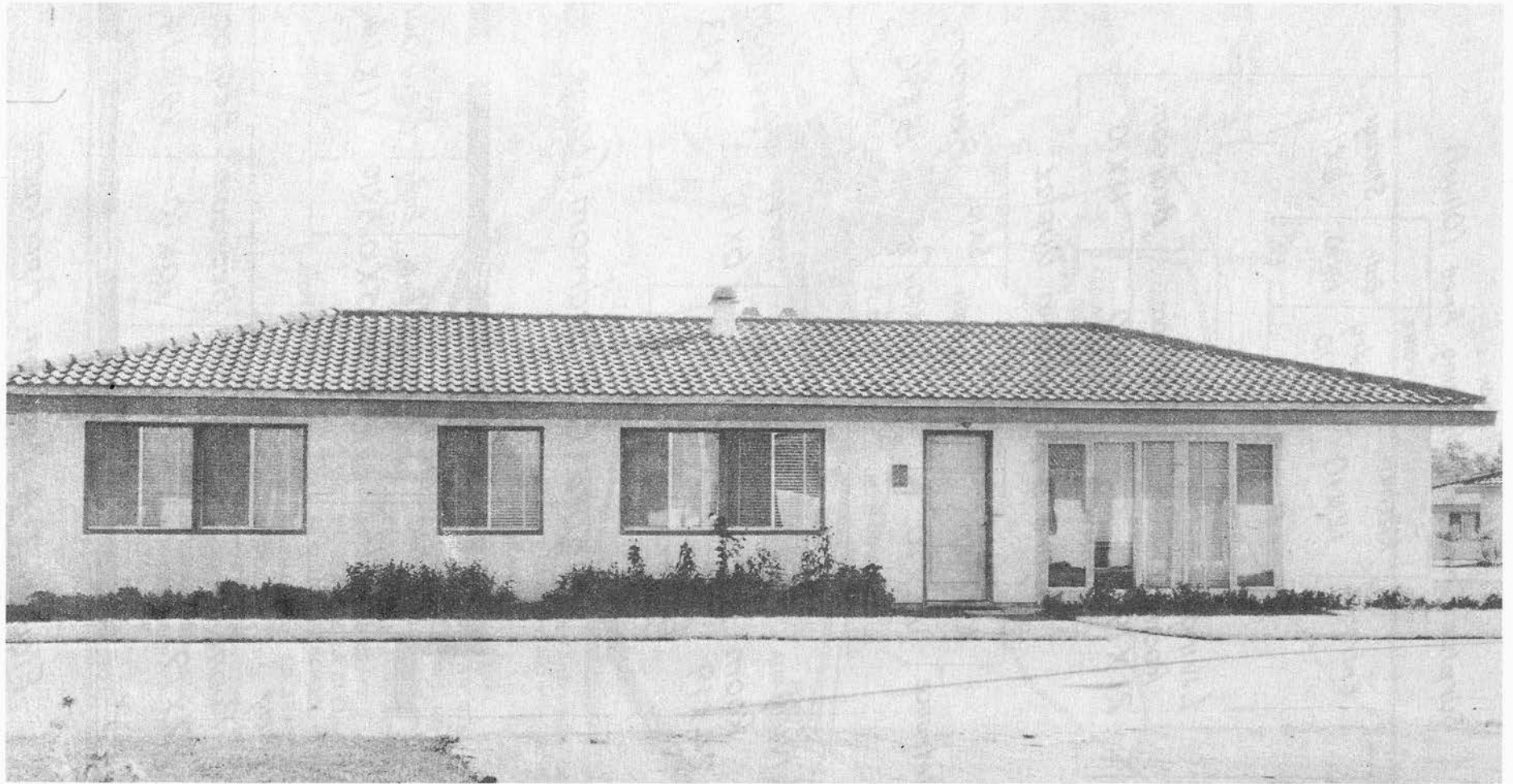
Figure 4-3 Bedroom Unit



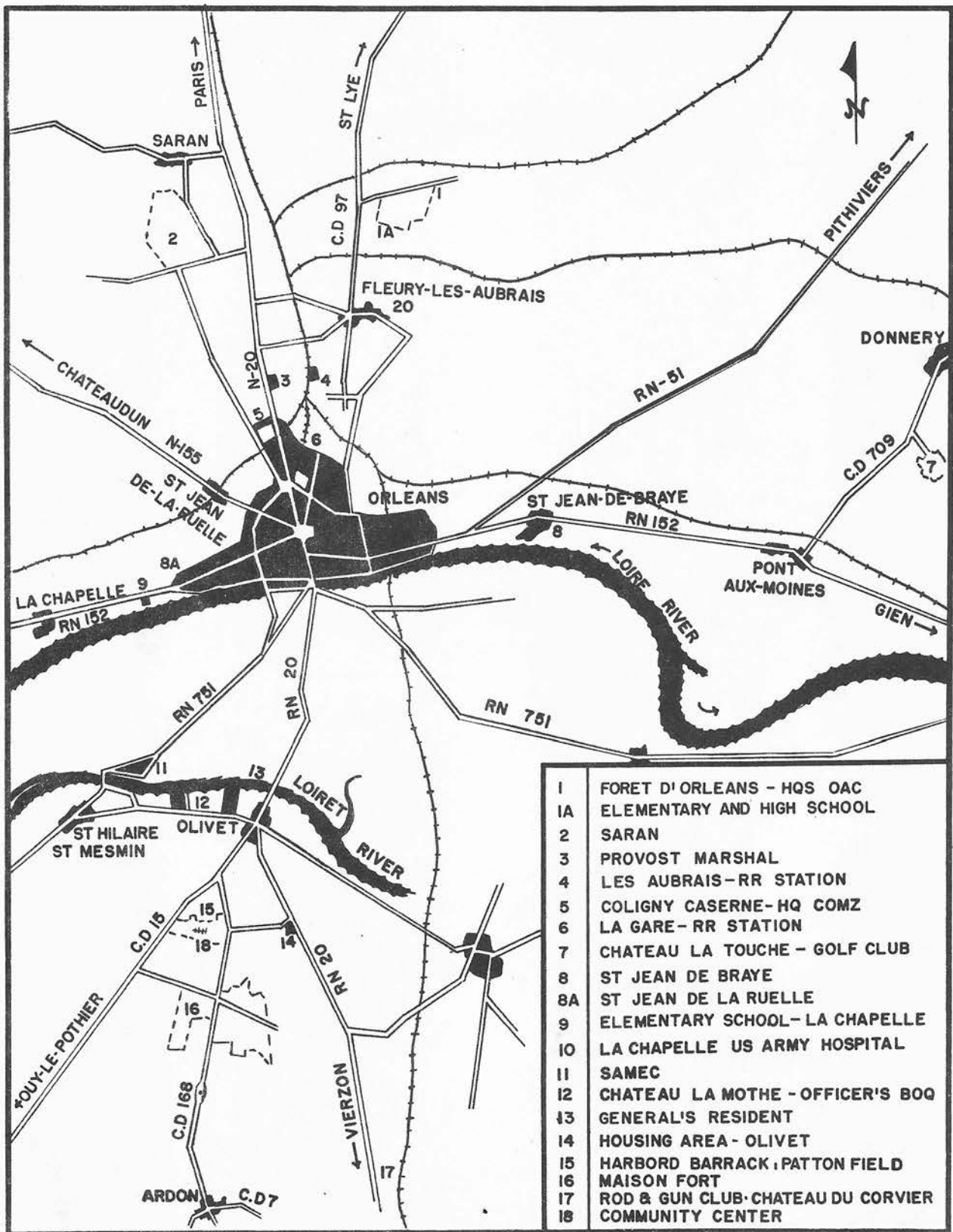
Guarantee Rental Housing
St Jean De Braye



Guarantee Rental Housing
St Jean De La Ruelle



Surplus Commodity Housing
Cite Marchal Foch



- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | FORET D'ORLEANS - HQS OAC |
| IA | ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL |
| 2 | SARAN |
| 3 | PROVOST MARSHAL |
| 4 | LES AUBRAIS-RR STATION |
| 5 | COLIGNY CASERNE-HQ COMZ |
| 6 | LA GARE-RR STATION |
| 7 | CHATEAU LA TOUCHE - GOLF CLUB |
| 8 | ST JEAN DE BRAYE |
| 8A | ST JEAN DE LA RUELE |
| 9 | ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-LA CHAPELLE |
| 10 | LA CHAPELLE US ARMY HOSPITAL |
| 11 | SAMEC |
| 12 | CHATEAU LA MOTHE - OFFICER'S BOG |
| 13 | GENERAL'S RESIDENT |
| 14 | HOUSING AREA - OLIVET |
| 15 | HARBORD BARRACK, PATTON FIELD |
| 16 | MAISON FORT |
| 17 | ROD & GUN CLUB-CHATEAU DU CORVIER |
| 18 | COMMUNITY CENTER |



Chapel
34th General Hospital
La Chapelle

Other Normandy impressions

NORMANDY, France — This world and all the people in it are so diverse that it's as if we were not one world at all. When I'm in another country, I always get to thinking if we could just take the best attributes of every culture and put them all together, we'd have one wonderful world. I often get to dreaming philosophical thoughts like this that are beyond my ability to think through when I'm lying in bed far away from home.)



It would make a good game to list the good things you'd take from each country.

France is the place that makes you think of that. There may not be another civilized country that does so many things so superbly well and so many other things so badly. The French have several all-star attributes.

THE FRENCH are more relaxed than we are. They take time out to enjoy life quietly. For example, in this Norman countryside where so many of us came to attend the D-Day anniversary ceremonies, the local merchants in the dozens of small towns are delighted with our business. They've never had it this good this early in the summer before.

The little restaurants and small shops are a pleasure for Americans who are used to the cold efficiency of supermarkets. But don't try to buy anything between 1 o'clock and 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and don't try to get lunch or even a loaf of bread and cheese after 2 o'clock in the afternoon. As much as they need the money and as pleased as they are to have us spend it there, the French close up shop and go home for a major meal in the middle of every day.

French food is so good and their interest in it so consuming that I don't know why there aren't more fat Frenchmen. I look over at the tables near me in the restaurants. The French are all consuming two bottles of wine for four people. They also have an appetizer, a main course, cheese and a rich pastry for dessert. If I ate like that, which I often do, I'd weigh 200 pounds, which I do. How come they don't?

THE FACT IS that money isn't the only standard by which the French judge success. The average citizen takes more satisfaction from small pleasures than most Americans. The French are less driven to be rich than we are. They don't all want to be president. They want a good life. Eating is not something the French do to sustain life; it is something they do at leisure to enjoy life.

The French men and women on the street have an interest in art and culture that we don't. In France, those things are part of their lives, not something they go to see in a museum. So what's wrong? Why isn't France a civilized paradise?

There are some French statistics I'd like to see. I'm curious about the statistics on death in France from such causes as automobile accidents, cigarette smoking and accidents involving public facilities.

Both the French and the British consume many more cigarettes than we do. Word doesn't seem to have reached

them. If the French aren't afraid of lung cancer, you'd think their appreciation of good food would inhibit them from ruining their sense of taste with tobacco.

In automobiles the French are fearless, foolish demons. I'm not what you'd call a driver who pokes along, but I've been driving a car a week here and I have yet to pass anyone. I have, on the other hand, been passed by 10,000 French drivers who honked their horns at me as though I were Old Mother Hubbard in a Model T.

I suspect a lot of Frenchmen don't live to die of cirrhosis of the liver from all the wine they drink, or of lung cancer from all the cigarettes they smoke, because they die first on the road at a young age in automobile accidents.

A lot of Americans are of the opinion that our government has gone too far with laws designed to protect us from ourselves. The French don't seem to be burdened with anything like them.

The two hotels I stayed in were pleasant and charming but had features about them that would cause authorities in the United States to close them down in 10 minutes. In one hotel, my bedroom on the third floor was 15 minutes through a maze of corridors to an exit.

When I make my perfect world by choosing the best from each country in it, I'm going to select French bread, French appreciation for the arts and the great French *joie de vivre*. For plumbing, toilet paper, driving techniques and hotel rooms, I'll look somewhere else.

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