



LIBRE RESISTANCE

Numéro 41

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Bulletin d'information et de liaison

Anciens des réseaux de la Section F du S.O.E. (*Special Operations Executive*)

Réseaux Buckmaster



Un drapeau pour *Libre Résistance*

crédit photographique : Gérard Lyon

Après 73 ans d'existence, le temps est venu pour *Libre Résistance* de disposer de son propre drapeau. Après consultation du conseil et des membres, nous avons approché David Hawkins, qui avait dessiné notre nouveau logo, pour concevoir ce drapeau. La consigne principale était de garder une parité anglais-français dans le dessin. Le résultat final a vu le jour en septembre dernier. Le drapeau a été confectionné dans le Nord du Yorkshire par *Flying Colours*, le fabricant des drapeaux pour la *Royal British Legion*. Le drapeau de *Libre Résistance* a été baptisé lors de notre cérémonie au Mémorial de la France combattante au mont Valérien en septembre 2018 (photo ci-dessus).

Special Duties
Lysander at
Tangmere Museum

Cérémonie SOE-
de Valençay
mai 2018

Cérémonie SOE
au Mont Valérien
Sept 2018

Second Lieutenant
Maurice Albert
LEPAGE

Cérémonie SOE
de Valençay
07 mai 2019

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Le mot du président / President's address

Trois événements majeurs ont marqué les derniers mois de notre association.

D'abord le colloque organisé le 26 janvier 2018 à l'École Militaire consacré à : «

Bob MALOUBIER, héros de guerre et légende des services secrets ».

L'historien François Kersaudy, Jacques Gautier, Maire de la Ville de Garches (92), ancien Sénateur et des proches surent avec talent, spontanéité et émotion évoquer la mémoire de « Bob ».

Puis traditionnellement, le 6 mai, nous nous réunissions à Valençay aux côtés de nos amis britanniques - dont le représentant de leur ambassade à Paris -, des autorités civiles et militaires de notre pays, de nos amis et camarades des Amicales des Anciens de la Résistance et à ceux de la Fédération Nationale Libre Résistance.

Cette année, nous eûmes le grand plaisir d'accueillir une délégation de la Royal Air Force afin de célébrer tant le centenaire de sa création que son large concours apporté au SOE section F pendant la Seconde Guerre Mondiale.

Enfin, le samedi 29 septembre 2018, sur invitation de la Ville de Suresnes (92) et de l'ONAC VG des Hauts de Seine, nous commémorons, au Mémorial de la France Combattante - Mont Valérien, le rôle du Special Operations Executive (SOE) dans la résistance en France pendant la Seconde Guerre Mondiale.

Ce fut un très grand honneur, pour notre Association et le Spécial Forces Club, que d'avoir été conviés à une telle cérémonie en ce Haut Lieu de la Mémoire Nationale.

Comme les numéros précédents, cette nouvelle publication continue d'entretenir la mémoire des agents du SOE et nous apporte une meilleure compréhension et un enrichissement quant aux événements relatifs à l'histoire de ce service.

Enfin, nous sommes heureux de vous inviter à notre cérémonie de Valençay rituelle, qui se tiendra exceptionnellement le mardi 07 mai 2019 cette année et qui sera rehaussée par la présence de Son Altesse Royale La Princesse Anne.

Bonne lecture !

Lionel Southgate



Our Association has witnessed three major events recently.

First of all we held a very successful conference on the 26th January 2018 at the Ecole Militaire in Paris dedicated to the memory of Bob MALOUBIER, war hero and secret service legend.

The renowned historian François Kersaudy, and Jacques Gautier, Maire of Garches (92), and former Senator as well as relatives were able to present very poignant accounts of the various stages of Bob's life and war-time heroics. We had a record turnout with over 160 members and guests, who also enjoyed a dinner afterwards in the Officers Mess.

Then on the 6th May 2018 we held our traditional ceremony at the memorial to the agents of F-Section SOE in Valençay, together with our British friends, including the representative of the British Embassy and French authorities, civilian and military as well as our friends and comrades of the Amicales des Anciens de la Résistance and from Libre Résistance.

This year coincided with the centenary of the creation of the Royal Air Force, and we had the great pleasure of welcoming a delegation from the Royal Air Force in order to celebrate the huge contribution they made on behalf of SOE in the Second World War.

Lastly, on the 29th September 2018, we were invited by ONAC VG des Hauts de Seine and the City of Suresnes (92) to hold a ceremony at the Mémorial de la France Combattante at Mont Valérien near Paris. We were duly honoured to be able to hold the first ceremony that has been organised by a non-French association, commemorating the role of F-Section of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) in the French Resistance in WWII.

This was a magnificent ceremony attended by the ambassadors of 4 commonwealth countries involved in F Section SOE as well as representative of the Spécial Forces Club, at this hallowed and important French memorial.

As with the previous editions of the bulletin, this new publication continues to honour the memory of the agents of F-Section SOE and brings a better understanding of the history of their service.

Finally, we are pleased to invite you to our annual ceremony at Valençay which this year will very special as

we will be joined by the Princess Royal.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Lionel SOUTHGATE

QU'ETAIT LA SECTION F DU SOE ?

La *Section F* du *Special Operations Executive* (SOE) expédia environ 430 agents en France. Selon les cas, ils furent parachutés, posés au sol par des avions Lysander ou Hudson ou déposés sur la côte par bateau ou sous-marin. Ceux qui devaient retourner en Angleterre, ils étaient récupérés par avion (Lysander, Hudson,...) ou par bateau. Certains ont dû entreprendre à pied le trajet, long, difficile et risqué, à travers les Pyrénées.

Les agents étaient groupés en réseaux (en anglais "circuits") qui furent répartis à travers la France entière, tant en Zone Occupée qu'en Zone dite Non-Occupée. Les réseaux variaient énormément en dimension et structure. La composition typique pour un réseau de la *Section F* consistait en un chef ("organiser"), un opérateur de radio pour assurer les communications avec Londres et un courrier chargé de distribuer les messages à l'intérieur du Réseau. Quand le réseau prenait de l'ampleur, il pouvait recevoir un responsable pour l'organisation des parachutages et la réception des matériels et des agents. Après la formation des maquis, des instructeurs d'armes et autres furent envoyés.



Colonel Maurice Buckmaster
Chef de la Section-F
1941 - 1945

THE NEW LIBRE RESISTANCE STANDARD

Libre Résistance is an Association that honours all the members of *F- Section SOE* and their role in the Second World War. Agents in SOE came from over 10 countries including Canada, Mauritius, Poland, the USA and Switzerland. However the biggest contingents were from France and the United Kingdom. *Libre Résistance* has not previously had its own standard and in ceremonies over the last 25 years, the only ones present have tended to be exclusively French. It was suggested that *Libre Résistance* should commission its own standard and that this should reflect the bi-partisan nature of *F-Section SOE*. The board therefore asked David Hawkins, who had designed the *Libre Résistance* logo in 2016, to advise on a design that would provide parity between the UK and French national flags. The result is set out below – a simple design that incorporates the logo of the Association together with the Tricolour adjusted to include the Union Jack. There is simple lettering and the usual gold tassels and braiding.

We have been greatly honored to be sponsored by the *Holdsworth Trust* who have financed the creation and supply of the Standard, together with the accompanying equipment, flagpole, leather holder and leather bag. We are most grateful to the Trust as well as its Chairman, Duncan Stuart for their generous support.



crédit photographique : Fabrice Dury



ASSEMBLEE GENERALE 2018 / ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Nous avons tenu notre assemblée générale le 27 janvier 2018 à Paris dans le 10ème arrondissement.

Nous avons constaté une bonne participation d'environ de 25 adhérents venus de toute la France et de l'étranger, ce dont nous les remercions.

Les statuts actualisés ont été approuvés et sont sur le point d'être déposés à la Sous-Préfecture de Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

La réunion qui s'est terminée par l'élection du nouveau conseil d'administration, a été suivie par un grand déjeuner amical au restaurant I Cugini.

COLLOQUE ET ASSEMBLEE GENERALE 29 et 30 novembre 2019 CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 29 & 30th November 2019

Nous préparons notre 7ème colloque sur le SOE en automne qui se tiendra le vendredi 29 novembre à l'*Ecole Militaire*. Le colloque se tiendra ans l'après-midi selon notre format habituel, qui sera suivi par un cocktail et un dîner amical. Le colloque, le cocktail et le dîner seront ouverts à tous nos membres ainsi qu'à nos invités et tous ceux qui s'intéressent à notre sujet.

L'Assemblée Générale de 2019, se tiendra le samedi matin 30 novembre dans un lieu à définir à Paris.



PIN'S LIBRE RESISTANCE

Nous avons fait réaliser un pin's *Libre Résistance* très figuratif. Nos membres en ont reçu lors de l'envoi du bulletin 40. Il nous en reste encore quelques-uns. Si vous êtes intéressés de vous procurer d'autres exemplaires, veuillez contacter Patrick Gautier-Lynham notre trésorier qui vous demandera une contribution de 2,5 € pièce.

TANGMERE MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM



 *Tangmere Military Aviation Museum* was born when a group of like-minded enthusiasts met to discuss ways of keeping the memory of RAF Tangmere alive.

In 1981, *West Sussex County Council* donated a large SECO hut to the group and in June 1982, following much hard endeavour, the embryo Museum opened its doors to visitors. We have grown considerably since then to exhibit a vast number of artefacts.

Staffed entirely by volunteers, our mission statement can be described thus:

The Museum exists to promote awareness of the United Kingdom's military aviation heritage and to educate present and future generations in military aviation by:

- Exhibiting the history of aircraft and personnel involved in military aviation with particular reference to RAF Tangmere and its unique place in that history.
- Serving as a memorial to those allied airmen and airwomen who gave their lives in the service of this country.

Address : Gamecock Terrace, Tangmere, Chichester PO20 2ES, UK - Phone: +44 1243 790090

The *Tangmere Military Aviation Museum* is a museum located on the former site of RAF Tangmere, West Sussex. The museum was opened in June 1982. Many aerospace exhibits covering the First World War to the Cold War are on display including fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters and aircraft engines

SPECIAL DUTIES LYSANDER AT TANGMERE

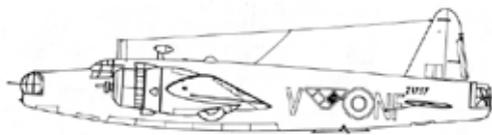


In 2017 Martyn Cox the co-founder of the Charity *The Secret WW2 Learning Network* (and also board member of *Libre Résistance*) contacted the aviation broker handling the sale of the full-size replica Lysander specially built for the Hollywood film “Allied” starring Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard.

This led to its successful purchase by the *Tangmere Military Aviation Museum*, which was made possible by a contribution from the museum’s Society of Friends.

What had become known as «the Allied Lysander» finally arrived at the *Tangmere Military Aviation Museum* in July 2018 ‘in “kit form” by road. The museum team worked hard and with great dedication to ensure the Lysander would be assembled and positioned in time for the weekend’s opening of its SOE exhibition, on 21 July 2018.

This is a replica aircraft: it does not fly and does not lend itself to being dismantled and transported to outside ceremonies. However the Lysander is now on display and can be viewed by visitors to the Museum.



The Secret WW2 Learning Network

The Secret WW2 Learning Network is an educational charity established in 2014 with the aim of creating greater public awareness of the contributions and experiences of the men and women who took part during the Second World War in Allied special operations, intelligence gathering and resistance - principally, but not exclusively, in Britain and France.

The charity has established a unique partner network of specialist historians, researchers, writers, teachers, veterans’ descendants and associations, museums, local communities, and media outlets who work proactively with the charity’s Trustees and volunteers to instigate learning initiatives and special commemorative events.

Access to a unique archive of filmed personal testimony from more than a hundred British ‘secret warriors’ and French resisters provides a key resource, and the charity’s innovative approach regularly brings recognition to these remarkable wartime exploits and also to the cross-channel links that were forged.

The ultimate aim of *The Secret WW2 Learning Network* is to ensure that the wartime contributions and sacrifices of the ‘secret warriors’ will become their lasting legacy in both countries by continuing to engage, inform and inspire people of all ages.



It is 75 years since



- **18 February 1943** - Captain Edward Zeff, W/T operator was arrested. He survived Mauthausen.
 - **18/19th April 1943** - Drop of SCULLION I coup de main party (six men of French Section) against the synthetic petrol plant at Les Thélots, some 5 kilometres to the north of Autun (71) and 85 kilometres south-west of Dijon. Mining the Autun oil shale field that extended some 30 kilometres, the factory was extracting several thousand tons of oil each year – essential to the enemy's war effort – and putting it out of commission was considered vital. Mission aborted after arrival, all evaded back to England.
 - **14/15 May 1943** - Arrival in France of the INVENTOR circuit team members. Led by Captain Sydney Jones (INVENTOR) with a courier and a W/T operator, these being, respectively, Ensign Vera Leigh (ALMONER/Simone) and Lieutenant Marcel Clech (GROOM/Bastien) respectively.
- The three agents left England on the night of 14/15 May 1943 in a double Lysander operation, and were received by Henri Déricourt (FARRIER/Gilbert) at the GRIPPE field 1.5 km east-north-east of Azay-sur-Cher (37). The aircraft were flown by Squadron Leader Verity and Flying Officer Rymills from RAF Tangmere and a fourth passenger was another French Section agent, Julienne Aisner (COMPOSITOR/Claire), returning to France after training in England in order to serve as courier for Déricourt's organisation. Leigh arrested 30th October 1943; Clech arrested 19 November 1943; Jones arrested 21st November 1943.
- **5th June 1943** - Captain Teddy Wilkinson was arrested in Paris on 5th June 1943.
 - **31st July 1943** - Arrest of Lieutenant Roland Dowlen, W/T operator to the CHESTNUT circuit.
 - **2nd August 1943** - Captain William Grover-Williams, CHESTNUT circuit leader was arrested.
 - **16/17 August 1943** - The drop of main party of SCULLION II with same target (of the six-man team, only two from SCULLION I) – Dormer and Demand, Demand went first on 12/13 August, followed by other five on 16/17. Sabotage carried out, but only two members of the party (Dorman and Birch) successfully evaded back to UK. Lieutenant Demand, Lieutenant Amphlett, Lieutenant Sibree, Sergeant Graham and a seconded American OSS officer, Lieutenant Victor Soskice, were all arrested (later all executed in 1944).
 - **7th September 1943** - German raid on 61 Rue de la Condamine, Paris, and arrested Fox, Bouguennec and Rousset at lunch, together with their hostess, Madame Lucile Blanchard and her sister-in-law, Adrienne Blanchard.
 - **15 September 1943** - The arrest of Cicely Lefort in Montélimar.
 - **23rd September 1943** - Captain Teddy Wilkinson's PRIVET circuit reported several targets for bombing: the Châtean Bougon airfield was heavily bombed on 4 July 1943 (a raid that also destroyed three quarters of the neighbouring aircraft factory) and on 23 September, and the Nantes docks and quays were heavily hit in two air attacks of 16 and 23 September 1943. The latter resulted in the sinking of the Ermland and was noted for the fact that one of the crew of a participating B-17 bomber of the USAAF was Captain Clark Gable, the Hollywood actor. The Ermland was a large 11,232 tonnes oil tanker and supply ship of the German Kriegsmarine, moored at the Quai St Louis in the Nantes docks, strongly protected by netting against mines and by anti-aircraft guns. She had hit a mine the previous year after being involved since 1941 in abortive re-supply operations for the Bismarck, Gneisenau and Scharnhorst. Although still not fully repaired, the Ermland would undoubtedly have played an important role in the re-supply of U-boats.
 - **2nd October 1943** - The arrest of Lieutenant Comte Jacques Arthur Marc de Montalembert in Le Mans.
 - **26 November 1943** - Lieutenants Eugène Levene, André Maugenet, Paul Pardi and Captain James Menzies (formerly Jean Mennesson) were arrested in Paris.

David Harrison / Paul McCue

NOUVEAU MEMBRES

Nous sommes très heureux d'avoir accueilli plus de 25 nouveaux membres qui nous ont rejoint au cours des douze derniers mois. Nous continuons à rechercher d'autres candidats qui seraient intéressés à nous rejoindre. N'hésitez pas à nous présenter ceux qui seront intéressés, qui peuvent contacter notre trésorier pour un bulletin d'adhésion, ou le télécharger sur notre site internet :

www.libreresistance.com

LE CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

Le conseil d'Administration se compose de 11 membres qui sont engagés pour l'avancement des intentions décrites par les membres et pour la transmission à la prochaine génération de la mémoire des héros de la *Section F du SOE*.

Lionel SOUTHGATE

Président
Président de la commission historique / bulletin et site internet.



Willie BEAUCLERK

Vice Président
Membre de la commission historique / bulletin et site internet.



Patrick GAUTIER-LYN-HAM

Trésorier



Titania REDON

Secrétaire Générale



Fabrice DURY

Membre de la commission historique / bulletin et site internet.



Alexandra MARTENS

Liaison avec le Special Forces Club



Martyn COX

Membre de la commission historique / bulletin et site internet.



Noreen RIOLS



Christelle ZUCCOLOTTO

Liaison Education



Gérard LYON

Membre de la commission historique / bulletin et site internet.



Nick FOX, OBE

Membre de la commission historique / bulletin et site internet.



CRASHED LYSANDER

Can any of our readers help identify the date and place for this dramatic photograph of a crashed Lysander aircraft, believed to be somewhere in France during the war?



autres / other associations SOE

Nous consacrerons une section du bulletin à la présentation d'autres associations, organisations, clubs qui ont un lien avec le SOE Section F.



SPECIAL FORCES CLUB LONDRES



Le *Special Forces Club* est un club privé situé à Londres qui a été créé en 1945 par d'anciens membres de toutes les sections du SOE. Aujourd'hui les membres incluent ceux qui ont servi dans des organisations et des unités qui sont liées aux forces spéciales et aux services secrets.

Le club est à la recherche de nouveaux adhérents notamment en provenance de France et plus particulièrement des membres des Forces Spéciales françaises. Exceptionnellement et sur avis du « *Membership Committee* », des membres des familles d'anciens agents du SOE pourraient être admis au SFC. Actuellement, au sein de *Libre Résistance*, une dizaine de personnes sont déjà membres du SFC, ils sont prêts à parrainer des membres de *Libre Résistance* qui seraient éligibles.

A private members club located in London. The *Special Forces Club* (SFC) was formed in 1945 by and for people who had served in SOE and was open to members of the resistance organisations of formerly occupied countries, the wartime SAS, SBS and FANYs and those of other organisations and services who had operated clandestinely behind enemy lines. Membership now includes those who serve, or have served, in organisations and units closely associated with special forces, special operations and the intelligence community.

The club is looking to recruit members from France, in particular from the French *Special Forces*. In addition families of SOE agents may be admitted in exceptional circumstances. Please contact Willie Beauclerk if you would be interested in joining.

SITE INTERNET

Découvrez notre site internet en anglais ou français sur les liens suivants :

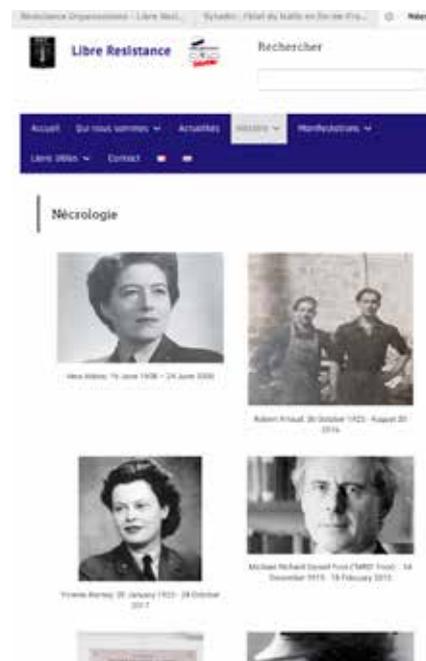
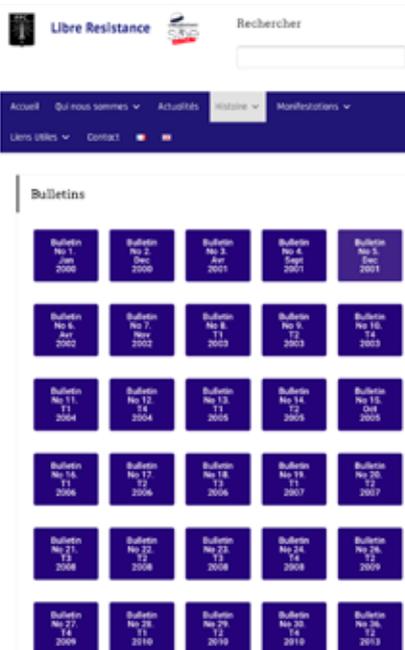
INTERNET SITE

Please visit our web site in english or french by typing any of the following in your browser :

www.libresistance.com



www.soe-france.com



vie de l'association / events SOE

2018 CEREMONIE DU MEMORIAL DU SOE SECTION F



2018



SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE
MEMORIAL DE LA SECTION F



Le 6 mai dernier, notre cérémonie traditionnelle nous a rassemblés au pied du Mémorial de Valençay pour l'hommage commun à la mémoire de tous nos camarades disparus et, plus particulièrement, à la mémoire des 104 agents de la section F qui sont tombés en opération ou sont morts dans les camps de concentration nazis. Nous avons célébré le 76e anniversaire du parachutage de Georges Bégué, et le 26e anniversaire de l'inauguration par sa Majesté Reine mère, du mémorial à la mémoire des agents de la *Section F du Special Operations Executive*.

Quelques photographies de personnalités présentes à la cérémonie



Lecture des noms - Noreen Riols, avec Patrick Gautier-Lynham, et Jacques Gautier, Maire de Garches.



Ligne des dignitaires



La pose des gerbes



Le cocktail à la Salle des Fêtes: Lionel Southgare, Titania Redon, Nicolas Forissier, Député de l'Indre et Lt Colonel Mark Pugh-Cook



RAF Personnel from *Joint Forces Intelligence Group* lay a wreath commemorating the agents who did not return.



Le déjeuner à l'Orangerie du Château de Valençay



The Mayor of Valençay, M. Claude Doucet and RAF personnel from *Joint Forces Intelligence Group*, with bottles of Arkell's « Moonlight » Beer.

crédit photograph : Titania Redon, Nick Fox, Martyn Cox

Notre cérémonie a été honorée par la présence d'un grand nombre d'élus, d'historiens et de descendants des résistants, tels que Paul McCue, historien, Gilles Groussin, auteur de livres sur la Résistance dans la région de Valençay, le correspondant de L'Echo-la Marseillaise du Berry, d'Isabelle Bruneau, députée de l'Indre, de Bruno Taillandier, maire de Luçay-le-Mâle, des journalistes Jean-François Minot, directeur de La Nouvelle République-Indre, et de personnalités telles que Daniel Hymans, fils de Max Hymans, Lois Watson, une vétérane des FANYS de la 2ème guerre mondiale et Sybil Beaton, fille de Maurice Buckmaster, présidente d'honneur de Libre Résistance.



PRESENTATION A L'HOTEL RELAIS DU MOULIN

La veille, Martyn Cox a projeté *Robert et les Ombres* au Relais du Moulin. Ce documentaire, réalisé par Jean-Marie Barrère évoque le rôle de son grand-père dans le maquis. On y voit Yvonne Burney, Marcel Jaurant Singer et David Harrison. Ce film fut particulièrement apprécié par l'assistance.

On Friday 5th May Martyn Cox showed *Robert et les Ombres* at Le Relais du Moulin.



COMMÉMORATION DE L'ACTION DU SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE SAMEDI 29 SEPTEMBRE 2018 À 16H AU MÉMORIAL DU MONT-VALÉRIEN



British Embassy
Paris

Le samedi 29 septembre à 16 h s'est déroulée la première cérémonie rendant hommage à l'action du *Special Operations Executive* au Mémorial du Mont-Valérien. En présence de personnalités diplomatiques dont Sir Edward Llewellyn, ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni en France, de l'ambassadeur d'Australie et du monde associatif, ce temps d'hommage a eu pour but de mettre à l'honneur l'histoire peu connue et peu reconnue qu'a été celle du soutien du SOE à la Résistance Française sous l'occupation allemande. Cette cérémonie était à la mémoire de ces centaines d'hommes et femmes, britanniques ou d'origines diverses qui ont participé à la libération du pays. Elle a été marquée par un temps d'hommage solennel qui s'est tenu dans la clairière où plus de 1008 hommes furent fusillés, parmi lesquels André Bloch, résistant membre du SOE, exécuté le 11 février 1942. La réalisation d'une telle commémoration au Mont-Valérien, principal lieu d'exécution par l'armée allemande de résistants et d'otages en France pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, face au *Mémorial de la France Combattante*, était porteuse d'une symbolique particulièrement forte. Cette cérémonie. était réalisée en partenariat avec l'Office national des anciens combattants et victimes de guerre, le Mémorial du Mont-Valérien et la Ville de Suresnes. L'organisation était à l'initiative de Libre Résistance et du *Special Forces Club* de Londres. Quelques photographies de personnalités présentes à la cérémonie :





Arrivée sur l'Esplanade du Mémorial



Discours de Mike Sixsmith, Lionel Southgate et Lord Ed Llewellyn



Cérémonie SOE - Libre Résistance au Mémorial de la France combattante

Recueillement dans la clairière des fusillés / dépose de gerbe.



Cocktail au Vignobles de Suresnes à l'invitation du Maire de Suresnes.
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COMMEMORATION OF THE ROLE OF SOE IN THE FRENCH RESISTANCE – MONT VALERIEN, SATURDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2018

Libre Résistance members and supporters were recently invited to be among some 200 attendees (from France, Britain and the USA) at a ceremony at Fort Mont-Valérien in the Suresnes suburb of Paris on Saturday 29th September 2018. The first French Section SOE agent to be executed, Lieutenant André Bloch, was shot at Mont-Valérien on 11th February 1942. The ceremony and visit, led by Jean-Baptiste Romain and Antoine Grande of the French Government's *Office National des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre* (ONAC VG), took place at the sombre Mémorial de la France Combattante. Prayers, and the RBL exhortation, were delivered by Father Aidan Troy and David Bean, Catholic Chaplain and Chairman, respectively, of the Royal British Legion's Paris branch and were followed by the placing of wreaths and speeches from: Lionel Southgate, President of Libre Résistance (and son of Squadron Leader Maurice Southgate, a senior agent of *French Section, SOE*); a partner organisation from London; and His Excellency Lord Ed Llewellyn, the UK's Ambassador to France. After the ceremony, a vin d'honneur was kindly hosted by the Ville de Suresnes in (appropriately) the only vineyard in Paris, on a hillside looking out towards the Eiffel Tower. The day was rounded off by a Bateau Mouche trip and meal on the Seine.



VISIT OF SOE PARISIAN SITES, SUNDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2018

The following day, Sunday, consisted of a guided coach tour around Paris, to sites with a French Section SOE resonance. Paul McCue and Nick Fox were the guides and had produced a 56-page booklet of notes. Sites visited included: 75 boulevard Lannes – where Major Gilbert Norman and Lieutenant Andrée Borrel of the PROSPER/PHYSICIAN circuit were arrested in June 1943; 3 (and 4) place des Etats-Unis; 84 avenue Foch; and 11 rue des Saussaies. The latter three stops were locations used by the German intelligence and secret police forces and at the rue des Saussaies (currently a police headquarters of the French Ministry of the Interior), a guided tour had been arranged of the (preserved) holding cells for Gestapo and Abwehr prisoners. Among the walls' graffiti is an inscription by Wing Commander Forrest Yeo-Thomas, the famous 'White Rabbit' agent of RF Section.



84, avenue Foch, Sicherheitsdienst, Counter intelligence branch of SS

Topics covered in the booklet produced by Nick and Paul, and covered in the in-tour presentations, included: Noor Inayat-Khan (with a talk on her early life by Humera Afridi who had joined the tour from New York); The Birth of SOE; SOE in France – Origins and Allied Strategy; German Secret Services in France; SOE's PROSPER/PHYSICIAN circuit disaster of 1943; André Bloch, French Section, executed at Mont-Valérien; Major Henri Frager of French Section; the 'French Gestapo' – the Bonny-Lafont Gang; 18 rue Mazagran and the arrest of Major Francis Suttill (PROSPER/PHYSICIAN) of French Section.



Presentation by Nick Fox



11, rue des Saussaies, Ministry of the Interior / Former Gestapo Headquarters



Presentation by Paul McCue in the Cours des Saussaies



La Gestapo de Paris dans la cour des Saussaies en 1943 - Collection Jacques Delarue

Tania Szabo devant la plaque à la mémoire des héros torturés par la Gestapo



The weekend had been organised by *Libre Résistance*, supported by the *Special Forces Club*. The *SWW2LN* supporters, who attended as members or invitees of *Libre Résistance* or other organisations, included Paul McCue and Nick Fox (both of whom were the tour guides on the Sunday), Carol Browne, Ann Palmer, Debby Clitheroe, Yvette Pitt, Ray Windmill and Guy Audibert. Lord Ed Llewellyn, the UK's Ambassador to France. After the ceremony, a vin d'honneur was kindly hosted by the Ville de Suresnes in (appropriately) the only vineyard in Paris, on a hillside looking out towards the Eiffel Tower. The day was rounded off by a Bateau Mouche trip and meal on the Seine.



crédit photographs : Nick Fox, Willie Beauclerk, Paul McCue, Robert Healey

VISITE PAR DES ELEVES DU LYCEE BICHAT DE NANTUA

AU SPECIAL FORCES CLUB, LONDRES

Nous sommes très heureux de soutenir un *Lycée français* pour son projet d'histoire. Il s'agit du Lycée Bichat de Nantua dans l'Ain près de Genève. Alain Perriolat, professeur d'histoire qui a coordonné le projet intitulé «l'aide des alliés à la résistance française pendant la deuxième guerre mondiale». 46 élèves de première (16 et 17 ans d'âge) se sont investis dans ce projet. Ils ont participé à deux séances de travail au musée de la résistance de Nantua. En mars 2018 ils se sont rendus d'abord sur les plages du débarquement en Normandie, puis à Londres où ils ont visité l'aile «Secret War» de l'*Imperial War Museum* pour voir les équipements dont disposait le SOE lors des opérations de parachutage. Sur une suggestion de notre ami, Jean-Louis Perquin, nous avons pu organiser une visite du *Special Forces Club*, où les élèves ont été accueillis par le Chairman, John Andrews et par Mike Sixsmith. Après une visite du club et de sa collection des photographies de membres du SOE, ils ont été invités à un thé dans le salon, où cette photographie a été prise.

Les élèves au Special Forces Club

Visite à l'Imperial War Museum de Londres et son exposition sur le SOE.



crédit photographique : Alain Perriolat

MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR SECTION OFFICER DIANA ROWDEN, 6 July 2018

On 6th July 2018 at the site of former *Natzweiler-Struthof Concentration Camp* there was a memorial service for Diana Rowden, one of four female SOE agents executed by lethal injection and cremated there on 6th July 1944. 

Diana Hope Rowden, WAAF, had been deployed into occupied France in 1943 and had been working as a courier in the Jura when she was captured (having been quite possibly betrayed). She, along with Andree Borrel, Sonia Olschanesky and Vera Leigh, were transported from Karlsruhe to Natzweiler in July 1944 and were held in the camp for less than 24 hours prior to their execution. All women were injected with Phenol under the pretence of being inoculated against Typhus prior to being cremated. Accounts at the time suggest that at least one of the women was still alive (and attempted to fight back) when they were pushed into the crematorium oven.

Among those attending were relatives of Diana from the Boyle, Chetwynd-Staplyton and Lloyd families, and members of the Juif, Poly and Janier-Dubry families who had owned a sawmill and sheltered Diana in Jura between missions. Two of the family present had been alive when Diana was sheltering with them, and Bernard Juif remembered hiding under the kitchen table when the Germans burst in and detained Diana and members of the family. He spoke very movingly about the fact that the family fully expected Diana to return to them for two years after the war ended, and it was only after that period of time that they – and Diana's mother – learned of her awful fate. He also spoke of his visit to the camp in the late forties, prior to the majority of the huts being pulled down, and the horrors and depravity of the camp that were very much visible even then.

Museum staff provided a comprehensive tour of the museum and camp before a simple and moving service held in front of the Ash Pit – the "Ossa Humiliata", which served as the camp refuse dump for both human waste and the ashes of cremated prisoners during the lifetime of the camp. Finally, Claude Janier-Dubry presented the museum with two cigarette holders Diana had owned and given to her French friends and protectors prior to her capture. These will be available for viewing in one of the huts in the museum.

We were extremely fortunate to be able to meet and forge a friendship with the Juifs/Janier-Dubrys, whose families had also suffered as a consequence of protecting SOE agents.



View of Natzweiler-Struthof today



Jamie Boyle, cousin of Diana Rowden



Gabrielle McDonald-Rothwell



Pascal Juif, representing the Juif/Janier-Dubry families (who organised the entire event)



Judy Lambert, cousin of Diana Rowden



View of the crematorium oven containing a photograph of Diana Rowden.

Gabrielle McDonald-Rothwell, author of «Her finest hour» about Diana Rowden

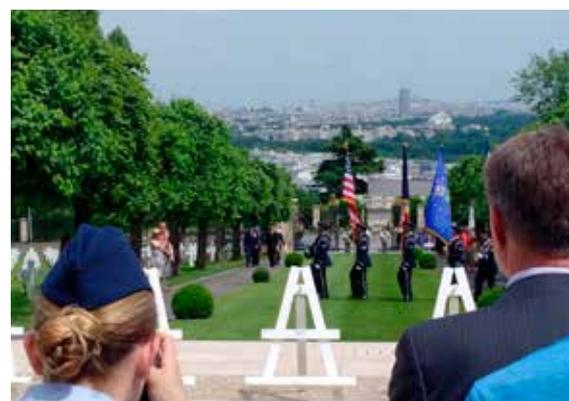
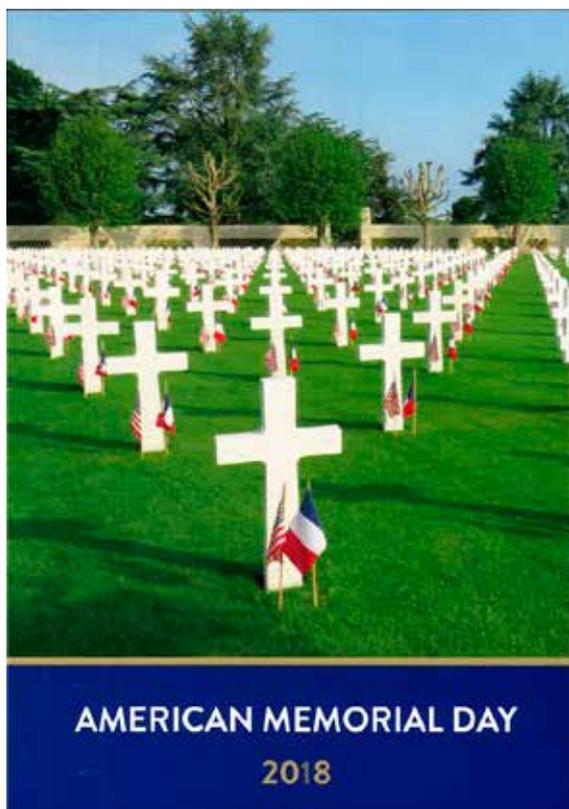


AMERICAN MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY 27th MAY 2018



Libre Résistance were invited to assist at the American Memorial Day ceremony organised by the *American Battle Monuments Commission* (ABMC) at the American cemetery of Suresnes. The ABMC oversees graves of 30,974 American war dead from World War I, and 93,218 from World War II which includes several members of OSS who were linked to the SOE in 1944. It also commemorates a further 83,000 American servicemen and women who went missing in action or were lost or buried at sea in the two wars.

We were hosted by Mathew P. Brown, the superintendent of the American Cemetery as well as representatives of the American Embassy to France, and Mr. Christian Dupuy, the Maire of Suresnes.



crédit photographes : ABMC

INAUGURATION D'UNE STELE A HERRÉ, LANDES – Dimanche 22 avril 2018

Une imposante cérémonie a eu lieu le 22 avril 2018, organisée par l'Association du réseau Hilaire-Buckmaster, par le Maire de Herré, par Dominique Hennerick, vice-président de l'*Union Nationale des Parachutistes*, par la Région 9 Aquitaine de l'*Association Bagheera*, pour inaugurer une stèle en honneur du parachutage d'Yvonne Baseden (opérateur de radio du réseau Scholar) et Gonzague de Saint-Généès (chef du réseau Scholar). Le saut eut lieu dans la nuit du 18/19 mars 1944 à Herré dans les Landes. Une première cérémonie eut lieu à la stèle existante à Lapeyrade qui honore ces

Le Stele de Lapeyrade, Landes



deux membres du SOE ainsi que quatre membres du réseau Wheelwright, Yvonne Cormeau (opérateur radio), Anne-Marie Walters (courier), Denise Parsons (Opérateur-Radio) et Claude Arnaud (Instructeur-Saboteur), et Maurice Southgate (chef du réseau Stationer). Une deuxième cérémonie eut lieu une heure plus tard dans le village d'Herré à 2 km, où une nouvelle stèle a été inaugurée. Une audience de plus de 250 personnes a entendu un discours du préfet des Landes, un discours préparé par Marcel-Jaurant Singer, prononcé par Mme Josianne Raboutet, et un discours de M. Simon Bailey, fils d'Yvonne Baseden. Le tout s'est terminé par un vin d'honneur et un déjeuner à Herré.



Région 9 - Aquitaine
Délégation Colonel Jérôme Bertrand
Grand Officier de la Légion d'honneur 1924 - 2016

En coopération avec Madame le Maire de Herré,
Brigitte Appolinaire, et l'Association du réseau Hilaire-Buckmaster, Wheelwright,
vous invite à l'inauguration de la stèle dédiée au

Capitaine Yvonne Baseden RAF

et à

Gonzague de Saint-Généès SOE Croix de guerre 1939-1945

Chef du réseau Scholar

Dimanche 22 avril 2018 à 12h30 à Herré Landes
sur le lieu de leur parachutage (18/19 mars 1944)



Discours de Dominique Hennerick



Simon Bailey, fils d'Yvonne Baseden



Le Préfet des Landes



Brigitte Appolinaire, le Maire de Herré

crédit photographique : Geoff Cooper, Willie Beauclerk

PROGRAMME A LA BBC 2 : SECRET AGENT SELECTION WW2

Wall to Wall Films a été missionné par la BBC pour préparer une série en 5 épisodes d'une heure sur une expérience réelle vécue par 14 volontaires, qui a consisté à suivre un entraînement commando identique à celui suivi par les agents SOE pendant la Seconde Guerre Mondiale. Les 14 volontaires ont suivi un programme intensif, avec des instructeurs de l'armée anglaise, dans un château en Ecosse. Le parcours a suivi au plus près ce que les agents avaient expérimenté en 1943-44.

Ce programme a été très bien reçu par les spectateurs de la télévision anglaise et figure maintenant dans la collection de Netflix. Quelques volontaires étaient choisis parmi les familles des anciens agents, dont Charlotte Beauclerk (assise à gauche), petite fille de Ralph Beauclerk (Casimir – radio dans le réseau Nestor-Digger).



Wall to wall films : BBC 2 - Secret Agent Selection : WW2

crédit photographique : Wall to wall films - BBC 2

50 YEARS AGO ...Francis Suttill, Historien et membre de Libre Résistance



On Sunday 2nd November 1947 a monument was unveiled to commemorate the sacrifice of Georges Darling and four residents of Neaufles-Saint-Martin in the Eure who had been members of the Prosper/PHYSICIAN reseau of Major Francis Suttill, DSO.



The 1947 photo shows Renée Guepin speaking at the inauguration. The photo was taken by Nicolas Laurent who had lodged his old school friend Gilbert Norman in Paris

Darling's father had been the steward of a stud farm in the commune and, although in 1943 he lived in Trie-Château in the Oise, he formed a reception committee for parachute supplies here. They attended five receptions of which two were successful. At the first in April they were surprised when, after receiving the five containers they were expecting, the aircraft returned and dropped another five. These had been meant for a DZ near Trie-Château and this is where the pilot reported that he had dropped them, but he had confused the two sets of DZ lights which were not that far apart.

group's activities being given to the Gestapo by Henri Déricourt, this was where the first wave of arrests took place after the arrests of Suttill, his wireless operator Gilbert Norman, (BUTCHER/Archambaud), and their Lieutenant and courier, Andrée Borrel, (WHITEBEAM/Denise).

Following orders from Suttill, Darling had been passing most of the material he received to communist groups from Paris. When what he thought was another such group arrived in Trie-Château on 26th June, he took them to a depot nearby. It was only after they had finished loading the material that he realised that their visitors were led by Germans. Darling tried to escape but was shot and died the next day, but a local baker, Adolphe Redelsperger, and the baker's boy, Joseph Fournier, were arrested. The Germans took the boy to the station hoping that he would identify Renée Guepin, Darling's adjointe and companion, when she came home. He saw her but gave no indication that he had done so to his captors. She realised what was happening and escaped. She joined the MUSICIAN/Tell reseau in Saint-Quentin which Darling had started for Suttill but which was handed over to Gustave Biéler when his original mission was aborted. She was arrested in January 1944 when that reseau collapsed and survived deportation to become the liquidatrice of the PHYSICIAN reseau and she was still working with the Fédération Nationale "Libre Resistance" in the mid-1950s.



Darling also had groups elsewhere from Bois-Jérôme-Saint-Ouen to the west, Méru to the east and Crèvecœur-le-Grand to the north. A plaque was later added to the memorial listing the members of these other groups who had died. When I visited in 2008, I noticed that there were two names missing from the plaque. With the help of Fabrice Dury, I asked the maire to consider adding these names, to correct some spelling mistakes and to recognise the SOE F Section circuit to which Darling belonged.

The plaque was subsequently replaced but sadly without any changes.



Francis J Suttill

MEETING WITH PIPPA DOYLE, SOE F-SECTION RADIO OPERATOR



Pippa DOYLE and Lola Beauclerk
Meeting in Auckland Jan 2018

In January 2018, Lola Makower, daughter of Ralph Beauclerk (Casimir – Radio operator in the DIGGER network in the Dordogne) travelled up from her home in Wellington, New Zealand, to visit 'Pippa' Doyle, who lives in the suburbs of Auckland. Philippa Latour, 98, is one of the two remaining former SOE radio operators alive today and is still an extremely active carer and animal welfare specialist who travels all over Auckland doing charity work.

The visit had been organised from London by Sumitra Tikaram. Pippa is a very modest and humble person who has spoken little of her war-time experiences. She was born on 8 April 1921 in South Africa. After moving to England she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force at the age of 20 and trained as a flight mechanic. She was recruited into SOE in 1943 and trained as an agent and radio operator. On 1 May 1944, aged just 23, she was parachuted into Normandy under the nom de guerre of "Genevieve" to join F Section's "SCIENTIST" network, alongside Lise de Baissac. She worked on many missions and sent over 135 messages to London. She remained in Normandy until October 1944, as the liberation of France reached its final phases. She showed great courage in the face of formidable danger in the heavily contested invasion zone. Her contributions were critical to the Normandy landings.

She was awarded the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by the French Ambassador in New Zealand in 2014, to add to her MBE and French Resistance Medal and Croix de Guerre.

crédit photographique : Lola Makower

histoire / history SOE

HISTOIRE

Nous invitons chaleureusement tous les lecteurs, et particulièrement les anciens combattants et leurs familles, à ajouter des commentaires ou des détails sur des articles historiques et à partager les récits de la famille sur les réseaux Buckmaster



HISTORICAL SECTION

In this section we wish to dedicate a section where we reproduce historical articles which may interest our members and which concern broadly the Buckmaster circuits.

To assist in this we have created a Historical Committee. We warmly welcome any former agents, their local co-workers and/or their relatives to add any comment or additional detail to these historic articles and to share with us any anecdotes of those who served in the Buckmaster circuit 'family'.

We would be pleased to receive any material from them which can add to the articles. This will allow us to correct or add further detail about F Section's activities, as well as encouraging former agents, former co-workers, relatives and historians to exchange with the Historical Committee.

The « British » Circuits in France, du Major Robert Bourne-Paterson

Nous poursuivons ici la publication de cet ouvrage, et nous continuerons dans les bulletins futurs.

Nous vous en souhaitons bonne lecture.

PART THREE OF BOURNE PATTERSON

THE OLD OCCUPIED ZONE THE PARIS REGION

Paragraph

The "Paris" Circuits	1-121
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APPENDIX A - Activities on and after D-Day of the British Circuits in the Paris Region.

APPENDIX B - Prosper Circuit Organisation, 1st June 1943.

APPENDIX C - Activities of Prosper Circuit.

APPENDIX D - Sabotage List of Donkeyman Circuit.

APPENDIX E - Contact Addresses

BRITISH CIRCUIT ACTIVITIES IN THE PARIS REGION

1. There are three easily distinguishable periods in the work of the British Circuits in the Paris region:-
2. The first dates from June 1941 when Baron Pierre de Vomecourt was parachuted to the field. This was the early period, when the Free French were not yet in the running, and a number of Frenchmen, who had been acting as liaison officers between the British and French armies, went to France to work with British Circuits. De Vomecourt returned to England in March 1942, returned to France again in April and was arrested in the same month.
3. A second major effort was made at the beginning of October 1942 with the sending to the Field of Major F.A. Suttill, who, in his turn, built up an extremely powerful organisation. All went well until June 1943, when the circuit, which had by this time become the major objective of the Gestapo, was penetrated and liquidated.
4. In October 1943 a pick-up operation brought back to this country a Frenchman, R. Dumont-Guillemet, who had already been working with a British organiser in the field, and so was eligible to work for F. Section and without the necessity of having to be passed over to the Fighting French. In February 1944 he returned to France to organise a circuit which successfully survived until the liberation of the region at the end of August. He was also instrumental in re-establishing contact with the Lille group.
5. Paris was also the Headquarters of a group specialising in pick-up operations by Lysander aircraft.
6. Finally, mention must be made of another British circuit under Major Frager (Louba) which, although its major activities were carried out far from Paris, had its Headquarters there, and exercised a great influence on the fortunes of the organisation as a whole.

Baron Pierre de Vomecourt's Organisation

Operational name of organisation : The Autogyro Circuit

Operational name of organiser : Etienne, and later Lucas and Sylvain.

Name by which known in the Field : The above, with the addition of Pierre.

7. Baron Pierre de Vomecourt is one of the most exceptional men ever to go to the field.





8. In the early days, as opposed to later on when missions became very precise, organisers were sent to France with the wide and potentially all-embracing mission of “organising-resistance.”

9. Pierre was especially well fitted for this task. Determined, efficient and very intelligent, he had a mass of contacts in France in all walks of life. So, when he was parachuted in May 1941 it was a first class organiser of whom much was expected. His “region” was the Occupied Zone.

10. And he did accomplish much, more, indeed, than would be thought possible, considering the difficulties under which he worked.

11. He very quickly observed that his work had two distinct sides, the formation of small completely dependent groups for sabotage and the large-scale organisation of an uprising to coincide with an Allied landing. For this latter purpose he foresaw an organisation upon a Departmental basis (sub-divided into cantons), and by February 1942 progress in its setting-up had been made in the Sarthe, Haute-Saone, Doubs, Vosges, Muethe et Moselle, Finistere and Eure-et-Loir Departments, and in their neighbourhoods of Rouen, Le Havre, Evreux and Tours.

12. This constituted his own group, but he also made contact with groups already existing, and had persuaded them to enter into a “fusion”, two conditions precedent of which were that all requests

for finance and material should pass through himself and that he should have complete control of all subversive work carried out by all or any of the organisations.

13. The following groups were reported as about to enter the “fusion”:-

Liberte.

Groupement Neo-Socialist.

Elements P.S.F.

Groupement Alsacien.

An unnamed association in the region of Rouen.

Liberation Nationale had not yet decided, but were reported to be favourable.

14. The strengths of the groups were as follows:-

Liberte,	not precisely known, but about 6,000.
Liberation Nationale,	between 2,000 – 3,000.
Groupement Neo-Socialist,	about 3,500.
Groupement Normandie,	about 2,000.
Groupement Alsacien,	about 2,000.
P.S.F.,	approximately 6,000.
Pierre’s own group,	about 2,000.

15. Pierre had also organised the elements of an Intelligence service, and in particular, had well placed contacts in the S.N.C.F. and the Controle Fluvial who were willing to work with him.

16. As to immediate sabotage, small mobile groups had been formed, but activity was hampered by lack of materials. One goods train had, however, been blown up and burnt, the turntable at Le Mans had been obstructed by overturning a large locomotive into it, shunting gradients had been tampered with and minor forms of sabotage such as hot-boxes, were being constantly applied.

17. On the organisational side, then, a great deal had been done. On the material side, unfortunately, Pierre had been dogged by difficulties of communications. Originally the only means of sending messages to London was through an operator in the Chateauroux district. This was obviously unsatisfactory since each message and its reply necessitated a long journey and two crossings of the Demarcation line. Ultimately this position was rectified by the sending of an operator to the Occupied Zone, but worse was to befall, since this operator was arrested soon after he had passed his first message, and the Chateauroux operator disappeared at about the same time.

18. In desperation, for lack of communications means lack of material and – worse still – of money. Pierre contacted a Polish organisation in touch with London. He soon found, however, that this group had been penetrated by the Gestapo and he was forced, therefore, to limit his messages to arrangements for his visit to England. The Germans connived at his departure with the object, on his return, of making a more complete haul of his collaborators.





19. In London the value of what he had set on foot and of the political contacts he had made were quickly realised and meetings were arranged for him on a very high level. More difficult was the question of deciding what to do next in the practical sphere, since it was evident that the Gestapo knew all about him and were just waiting to pick him up.

20. Finally Pierre's own view prevailed. He pointed out that his lieutenants were also in danger and that he must go back and warn them. Furthermore, that if he did not go back, British prestige would suffer an irremediable blow and the organisation which he had built up would disintegrate.

21. With many misgivings his point of view was accepted, and in April 1942 he was parachuted back to the Field. In the same month a courier from him was caught on the Demarcation line and his own arrest followed.

22. So ended our first large-scale effort to build up an organisation in the Occupied Zone. With Pierre were arrested, of the officers who had been sent from England, Albert, his second in command¹, Gaston, who had set up a small independent organisation in Caen², and Jean³. His radio operator⁴, as has been noted, had been arrested previously. The one survivor was Benoit⁵, who succeeded in making his way out through Spain and was later to fulfil three other missions to France with great distinction.

23. Pierre had also recruited his two brothers. One of them, Baron Jean de Vomecourt (Constantin) who lived in Eastern France, had already organised teams from among the railwaymen for the purpose of cutting all rail communications from Germany to France at the critical moment. The other, Baron Philippe de Vomecourt (Claude), operated in the Unoccupied Zone, where he was engaged in setting up the counterpart of Pierre's organisation. He escaped arrest (at this time), but Constantin was caught, taken to Germany and died there.

24. (Pierre himself returned to England after eighteen months spent in Fresnes and eighteen months on Oflag IVC. His full name and address figure in Appendix E, as do those of Benoit, who is also now in Paris.)

25. Meanwhile, Benoit had succeeded in making his way back to London. In spite of the fact that the Gestapo were known to have his description and that he had been closely involved in the Gestapo sponsored operation by which Pierre had returned to London, he was convinced that he could successfully return to the Field, although he realised that it would be suicide to remain more than a few days in Paris. It was therefore arranged that he and another officer should drop together in the Unoccupied Zone and make their way to Paris, where Benoit would introduce the new arrival⁶ to his contacts in the city.

26. This part of the plan was successfully carried out at the end of May and Alexandre was on a fair way to setting up a circuit. But on his way back from Lyon, whither he had gone to fetch a radio operator, he was arrested in Limoges on 15th August 1942, and imprisoned.

27. The same end-of-May operation, however, brought another fine officer to the Paris area⁷. A pre-war resident of Paris, a racing motorist, he was confident of building up a circuit by means of his own pre-war friends. In this he was successful, and when Benoit met him in July, his circuit was in being and ready, on receipt of materials, to take action against its targets. In this, however, he was also completely held up for lack of wireless communication with London, the position only being rectified by the despatch to him by Lysander aircraft of an operator⁸ in March 1943.

28. In July 1942 an assistant⁹ for Sebastien landed at Antibes, but unfortunately was arrested with Alexandre at Limoges.

1 Lieutenant R Cottin (also known as Cotton-Burnett).

2 Lieutenant N.F.R. Burdeyron (also known as Burley).

3 Lieutenant M. Fincken.

4 Lieutenant A.G. Bloch (also known as Boyd).

5 Major B.H. Cowburn.

6 Flying-Officer E.M. Wilkinson, known as Alexandre.

7 Captain Grover-Williams, known as Sebastien.

8 Lieutenant Dowlen, known as Achille.

9 Captain (later Lieutenant-Colonel) Heslop, known as Fabien and later as Xavier.



29. Meanwhile towards the end of April 1942 a radio operator I had left England for Paris, travelling via Gibraltar and Lyon. Hearing on the way of the arrest of Pierre and the break-up of his organisation, he was diverted to the region of Tours, where he made contact with an organiser² and established himself in August 1942.

30. On the 1st October a first-class organiser, Major Suttill (Prosper) was dropped blind near Vendome, accompanied by an assistant, Lieutenant Amps (Jean). He had been given three addresses in Paris to which he could go, and he was to meet there soon after his arrival Mlle. Borrel³ who was to act as courier to his circuit. She also had acquaintances in the Paris area. Jean having proved unsatisfactory, Monique took his place with distinction.

Suttill's Organisation

Operational name of circuit :	The Physician Circuit
Operational name of Organiser :	Prosper
Name by which known in the Field :	Prosper or Francois

31. Among the contacts which Major Suttill had been given was one supplied by the Carte organisation (see under Major Frager below) named Germaine Tambour. She proved an excellent person, and members of the Carte group proved a valuable milieu for Intelligence access to Ministries, safe Houses, false Papers, &c.; they also included an action group.

32. Apart from this Prosper created a similar organisation of his own, the word "organisation" being used in the sense that he himself was in contact with all the groups, while they themselves were not aware of each other's existence.

33. Communications with London in the early period were, as usual, extremely difficult. Some messages were passed through the Indre at Tours above mentioned, and on occasion use was made of an operator in the Bordeaux area, with whom Prosper was in periodic contact by courier.

34. On the 1st November a radio operator, Captain (later Major) Norman (Gilbert, Archambaud, Aubin), was parachuted to the Tours circuit already mentioned. By the middle of the month he had contacted Prosper and started working as his lieutenant : he had early troubles in making radio contact with London, but by March 1943 he was passing messages regularly.

35. Prosper showed himself an organiser of outstanding enterprise and ability, and once communication had been put on a satisfactory basis the circuit went ahead by leaps and bounds. So much so that, in spite of the ever-present scarcity, a second wireless operator was sent to him at the end of December 1942. This man continued to work for him until June 1943, when he returned to London.

36. By June 1943 the organisation of the circuit was as shown in Appendix A. It will be noted that it covered twelve departments, had thirty-three grounds ready for receipt of men and materials and by 1st June had received 254 containers of stores. In June 1943 it broke all records by receiving 190 more containers between 12th and 21st of the month.

37. This was, however, too good to last. Precisely what happened is not clear, since neither Prosper himself, nor Monique, nor Archambaud, his two lieutenants, has returned to tell the tale. We do know that the three heads of the circuit just mentioned all disappeared about the 24th June, that George Darling, carrying out a reception of stores near Triechateaux, was surrounded and killed and that Culioli and Suzanne (Mme. Ruddelat, a courier sent from England), also at a stores reception, were surrounded and wounded at the same period. It is known that the extent and activities of the Prosper circuit had for a considerable time been a matter of the utmost concern to the Gestapo – indeed, the Prosper circuit had officially become their "objective Number One."

THE START OF THE TINKER CIRCUIT, or HAVE A HOLIDAY ON A DZ !



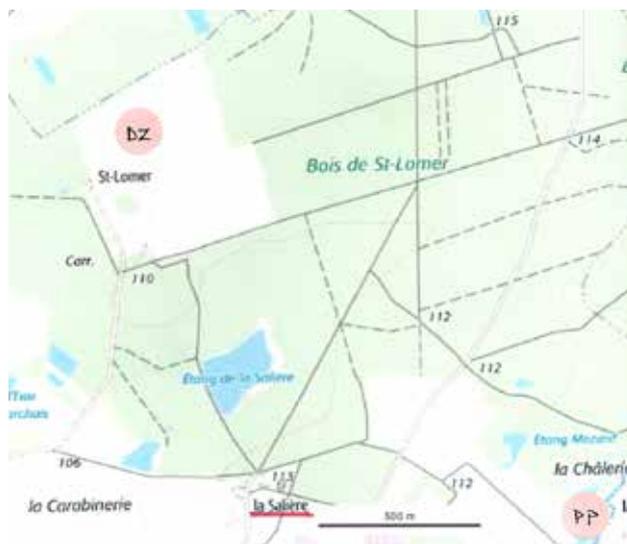
On the night of 11/12 April 1943, Ben Cowburn/TINKER and his wireless operator John Barrett/INNKEEPER together with five containers were dropped to a PHYSICIAN reception in the Bois de St Lomer, southwest of Blois in the Loir-et-Cher. The reception team was led by Pierre Culioli, assisted by Theo Bertin and Eugene Prevost. After rolling up his parachute, Cowburn records that he saw 'two dark figures coming to meet me. I caused them some alarm by dropping to the ground to see them against the skyline, quite a routine procedure. They hoarsely whispered – No don't shoot, we are friends. I got up and a few seconds later we were shaking hands'. He then helped to recover the containers and, once empty, they were thrown down a disused well outside a ruined farmhouse but two packages containing their personal luggage and two wireless sets had disappeared into the neighbouring trees. Bertin and Prevost were friends but of diametrically opposite political views and Cowburn was amused to hear them helping each other with the containers whilst at the same time gasping doctrinaire broadsides at each other. After a hearty breakfast at the Prevosts' farm, La Saliere, they went back to the woods and finally found the missing packages hanging in the trees. They and their luggage were then taken to Bertin's farm, Les Maisons Rouges, on the other side of Contres by Henri Chartier. Pierre Culioli was later arrested and survived deportation. The other three were never caught.



Cowburn was to take over and expand some groups already organised in the region of Troyes. Earlier in the year, Francis Suttill/PHYSICIAN had asked France Antelme/BRICKLAYER to help him by finding suitable people in some areas where he had not had time to investigate himself. One of these was around Troyes in the Aube and Antelme made contact there with Pierre Mulsant, a local industrialist, who formed two reception teams. PHYSICIAN Operations 9 and 23 were flown to each of these on two nights in April 1943 just before Cowburn reached the area. They were not successful as the reception teams did not turn out. Cowburn recruited a local courier, Yvonne Fontaine, and organised a third team which received a drop on 16/17 May and one of the other DZs received a drop on 17/18 June. This was Cowburn's third mission and it ended when he returned to London in September 1943.

Barrett, Mulsant and Fontaine followed him to the UK in November of that year and, after training, returned to France to set up the MINISTER circuit in March 1944. Barrett and Mulsant were arrested in July, but Fontaine avoided capture and survived the war. Ben Cowburn returned to France for a fourth time in July 1944 in a vain attempt to rescue Barrett and Mulsant. He was unsuccessful and the two were killed in Buchenwald. Ben Cowburn survived the war.

The ruined farmhouse of St Lomer has now been restored and is available as a gîte rural. Before anyone thinks that this might be a good place to recover some containers, they were recovered by a local farmer soon after the liberation!.



Second Lieutenant Maurice Albert LEPAGE



No photograph

Maurice Lepage was born 27 November 1912, in Sainte-Colombe, Seine-et-Marne (77), France, the son of Albert Eugène Lepage and Cecile Marguerite Noel Gage, and the stepson of Maurice Gage. Lepage had three brothers, two sisters and the family home was at Alfortville (94), Val-de-Marne, a suburb some eight kilometres south-east of the centre of Paris.

Lepage had a limited education, but gained a Certificat d'études from one year at High School and then took up the profession of cook. He had worked as such in France for over six years, including two years with the *Compagnie Générale Transatlantique* shipping line where Edmond Lesout (q.v.) had also worked. His service with CGT included working on the great trans-Atlantic liner, the *Normandie*. Lepage had undertaken his National Service in France from 1930 to 1932 and on the outbreak of war, saw active service in the French Army from 1939 to 1940. After the fall of France he had gone to the United States, arriving in New York after taking passage on a Portuguese ship, the *SS Guiné*, from Casablanca, Morocco in December 1941. He spoke perfect French and (American) English very well. Lepage's hobbies were listed as singing and sports and he settled in Scarsdale, Westchester County, New York where he married a French-born girl, Juliette Lepage (and therefore possibly a relative), who worked as a cook for a well-to-do family, the Goddards, resident in Roslyn Harbor, Long Island, New York State.

A year after his arrival in the United States, Lepage was drafted into the US Army and began his military career at the US Army Reception Center at Camp Upton, Long Island, on 16 December 1942. Given the army serial no. 32 685 908, he was then posted to the headquarters of 398th Infantry Regiment of the 100th Infantry Division, a newly-created formation based at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. On 17 May 1943, in the rank of Private First Class (PFC) he submitted his petition for naturalisation as a US citizen and swore his oath of renunciation and allegiance on 21 May 1943, just in time for his transfer, on 24 May 1943, to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) where he was then promoted to Technician 3rd Grade (Sergeant) on 20 July 1943. After his initial training in the Special Operations (SO) branch of the OSS, Lepage was posted to England, arriving at the beginning of November 1943.



The *Normandie* liner on which Lepage served as a crewman in the 1930s

Lepage's SOE file suggests that he was formally taken on strength and security-cleared by SOE in July 1943, over three months before he arrived in Britain. We know that upon arrival in Britain, OSS agents were normally first sent to a reception centre at Franklin House, Ruislip on the outskirts of London, where they continued physical training and learning the basics of field craft. Despite having undergone training in the USA, Lepage (and all other secondees from OSS) was obliged to take the normal route through SOE assessment and training. A contemporary of Lepage, Sergeant (later Major) Herbert Brucker, was to concede after the war that "SOE training was far superior...it made most of my OSS/SO stateside training seem amateurish" and somewhere around a third of those candidates sent to Britain were rejected.

Because of his remaining family in France, Lepage undertook his SOE training under the alias Maurice LANIS. He attended STS 7 (Students Assessment Board), Winterfold House, near Cranleigh, Surrey as a member of party 27AF where his SAB assessment, dated 10 November 1943, rated him as C+ (Above Average) and 'a very frank, honest and sincere man of pleasant personality'. He impressed his instructors with his urgency and purpose and inspired his fellow trainees when leading them on exercises. Despite the fact that Lepage was described as 'poorly educated' he was recognized as 'assured, self-possessed, energetic and vigorous'.

For his Group A Paramilitary training, Lepage was sent to STS 21 at Arisaig House, Arisaig, Inverness-shire, Scotland. No details remain of his performance on the course and neither is there any record of parachute training with SOE, yet he was to parachute into France. It is therefore probable he was jump-trained with OSS in the United States before coming to Britain.

Lepage then attended both STS 33 and STS 34, The House on the Shore and The Drokes, respectively, at Beaulieu in Hampshire for Finishing School training. The schools found him intelligent, but practical rather than academic, and a somewhat slow learner. He began his course on 12 December 1943, worked hard and remembered what he was taught. He remained popular with his fellow students and his report concluded on 28 December 1943 that he should be reliable and trustworthy. He continued on to STS 40, a Group C Operational School at Howbury Hall, near Bedford where he received

instruction on use of the S-phone, excelled in using Eureka and performed well in his reception committee work. On 29 January 1944 he was promoted to Second Lieutenant with a new US Army serial number of 02 044 990.

Lepage's SOE file contains no details of his mission to occupied France, but he was appointed as leader, with the field name Colin, of the new circuit LIONTAMER, supported by his fellow Franco-American OSS agent and friend, Second Lieutenant Edmond Lesout (LENDER/Tristan - q.v.), and a young British radio operator, 20-year-old Lieutenant David Finlayson (FRIAR/Guillaume). Lepage was expected to gain experience in the field by setting up his new circuit in the Valenciennes area in support of both the ARCHDEACON circuit, which had radioed arrangements for LIONTAMER's drop and reception, and the MUSICIAN circuit which was to provide the reception party. Lepage was then expected to return to Britain before again going to France after D-Day.



All that remains today of Franklin House, Ruislip, the reception centre for OSS agents arriving in England. The house burned down in 1984.

All three members of the LIONTAMER team were dropped by parachute near Saint-Quentin on the night of 2/3 March 1944 by a Halifax of 138 Squadron, (pilot Flight Lieutenant Downes) to a reception supposedly arranged by the MUSICIAN circuit of Gustave Biéler (MUSICIAN/Guy) and organised by Biéler's assistant, Paul Tessier (COMEDIAN/Théodore). Tragically, however, the LIONTAMER team were further casualties of the Germans' highly successful radio game, or *funkspiel*. Both Biéler and Tessier of MUSICIAN were already in captivity and the ARCHDEACON radio set that had arranged LIONTAMER's drop had been operated by the Germans with devastating effect since it had been captured, along with its Canadian operator, John Macalister (PLUMBER/Valentin), as long ago as June 1943. It was therefore the enemy who provided a reception committee and all three LIONTAMER agents were arrested immediately or soon after they landed.

In an attempted extension of their *funkspiel* activities, the Germans then used Finlayson's W/T set and messages were sent to England until the end of May 1944. Finlayson knew of this and while in Fresnes prison in March 1944 he tried to warn of it by tapping in morse code on the wall to the prisoner in the adjoining cell, a man called Pierre Balotti, who was later released. Balotti, however, did not report the contact until August 1945 when he was held and interrogated by the British military authorities in Hamburg. He was subsequently released by the British, but was believed to have worked for the Germans



Arisaig House – STS 21
Inverness-shire, Scotland

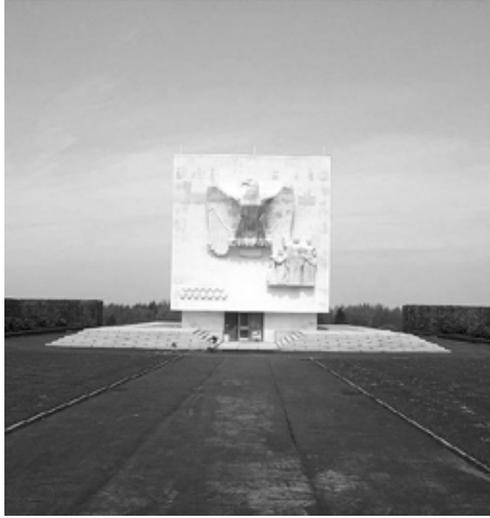
and he was therefore worried that he would be arrested again if he returned to the British Zone of occupation in Germany. As a result, Balotti was last heard of leaving for Italy in October 1945 with a group of Italian Displaced Persons and he was not able to be questioned further regarding his contact with Finlayson and the fate of imprisonment of the LIONTAMER team. SOE's attempts to follow up this line of enquiry therefore ceased in August 1946.

In fact, Finlayson had managed to alert London – not only to his capture with Lepage and Lesout and the enemy's use of his set, but also indirectly to the long-running *funkspiel* with ARCHDEACON's set. This came about by Finlayson either operating his own set and omitting his security check (the seventh word of his messages was to begin with H), or by the Germans attempting to operate the set themselves, without Finlayson having revealed his checks. Either way, when messages started to arrive in England from Finlayson's set, and likewise from the set of Sabourin (q.v.), without the correct checks, suspicions were at last raised. This led to Gerry Morel of French Section's headquarters staff flying over France, having arranged to speak to Macalister on the ground via an S-phone. The Germans failed in their efforts to have Macalister or any other captured agent co-operate in an attempt to deceive Morel and when the latter opened the contact, he immediately recognized a German accent over the S-phone, and ordered his aircraft to head for home. The ARCHDEACON radio traffic was thereby at last recognized to be enemy-controlled and no more agents were sent to certain capture by this route. The capture of the LIONTAMER team and the dedication of its radio operator Finlayson, though arrested before he could commence his work, had contributed materially to closing down one element of the deadly *funkspiel*.

No details are recorded on his SOE file, but if Lepage (and Lesout) remained with their radio operator, Finlayson, the latter's file suggests the usual process of imprisonment at Fresnes in Paris, with interrogation at the Avenue Foch before transportation to Germany. Lepage was probably first held in Ravitsch prison, and then taken to Gross-Rosen concentration camp, Germany (now Poland) with other French Section officers (including Finlayson) where he is believed to have been executed in the period

August–November 1944. His OSS file records a missing in action date of 12 June 1944 and a presumed date of death (solely for the purpose of re-classification of Lepage from 'missing' to 'presumed dead') of 12 November 1945. This was in response to the uncertainty still being faced by his Lepage's wife. When petitioning OSS headquarters for news in June 1945, she was living at Lepage's former address in Scarsdale, New York, but had only recently, in April 1945, been formally notified that her husband was missing in action.

In August 1948 a Field Investigation Section of the British Army's War Crimes Group looked into the Gross-Rosen murders of French Section agents. Finlayson was identified as having been among the agents executed by firing squad there in July, August or September of 1944, and the American Byerly was concluded to have also been killed there, but there is no mention in the British investigation of Lepage or Lesout, presumably as they were deemed OSS agents and the responsibility of the US government. Subject to his exact date of death, Lepage would have been 31 or 32 years old.



The American Military Cemetery at Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium where Lepage and Lesout are listed on the Tablets of the Missing.

The fate of both Lepage and Lesout remains unknown according to the US Department of Defense. They are therefore not included on the memorial to the 19 French Section agents at the site of Gross-Rosen concentration camp, near Rogoźnica, Poland, though their British radio operator, Finlayson, is listed there. Instead, Lepage and Lesout are officially commemorated on the Tablets of the Missing, *American Military Cemetery* of Neuville-en-Condroz, near Liège, Belgium. In addition to his listing at the French Section Memorial, at Valençay, Lepage's name is recorded in the OSS Book of Honor, CIA Headquarters, McLean, Virginia, USA. He was awarded a Purple Heart decoration by the US military authorities.

Sources: Lepage's SOE file is at TNA - HS9/914/7 and his OSS files at the United States' National Archives at College Park, Maryland: MLR number A1 224, ARC 2178799 and 2178800. His Petition for Naturalization was kindly supplied by Jon Clemente and advice on the draft process for the US Army came from George Kulstad.

nos disparus / obituaries SOE

JACQUES RIOLS



Notre camarade Jacques Riols, croix de guerre avec palme, légion d'honneur, est décédé le 5 mars 2018 à l'âge de 97 ans.

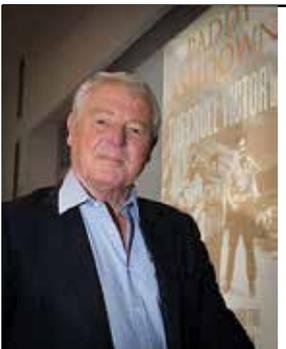
Jacques a servi dans la première armée Française sous les ordres de General de Lattre de Tassigny. Il a été décoré de la *croix de guerre* avec palme pendant la campagne qui l'a vu participer à la libération de l'est de France, puis aux combats en Autriche et en Allemagne.

Après la guerre, aux Etats-Unis, il a été traducteur pour les *Nations Unies*, à Lake Success. De retour en France, il a travaillé pour Esso et pour la *Compagnie Générale des Eaux* aux services extérieurs. Il était membre de Libre Résistance et a toujours soutenu notre conseil.

Il était marié avec Noreen Baxter 1959. Il laisse cinq enfants, neuf petits-enfants et quatorze arrière-petits-enfants. .



crédit photograph : Noreen Riols



PADDY ASHDOWN

Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon, GCMG, CH, KBE, PC

born 27 February 1941 - died 22 December 2018

We were greatly saddened to learn of the death at 77 of Lord Ashdown of Norton-Sub-Hamdon; and, on a day of tributes from so many big names in the political world, this homage is based simply on our shared passion for Second World War history.

Paddy Ashdown was perhaps the most unlikely leader the Liberal strand of British politics has ever had. A former captain in the Royal Marines, ex-diplomat and, it was rumoured, a spy, he became the first leader of the *Liberal Democrats* in 1988 and led them over the next 11 years to their best electoral results at that time for three-quarters of a century. Although he never quite achieved the parliamentary breakthrough he hoped for, still less a realignment of the parties of the left in coalition with Labour, the Lib Dems became a significant and influential third force in British politics. Following the war in Kosovo, he was appointed high representative of the International Community and EU special representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina for four years from 2002.



crédit photograph : Maryn Cox

Guiding a tour on the Plateau de Vercors

He was made a life peer in 2001 and turned to writing books: two volumes of diaries, his memoirs, and well-received histories of incidents in the second world war: the Royal Marines' disastrous attempt to destroy German shipping at Bordeaux in 1942 and the French resistance's battle on the Vercors plateau in 1944.

He is survived by Jane and their daughter, Kate, and son, Simon.

LES LIVRES / PUBLICATIONS

livres / books SOE

Dans cette rubrique, nous continuons à rendre compte des parutions susceptibles d'intéresser les membres de *Libre Résistance* du fait que les sujets traités sont en rapport plus ou moins direct avec les réseaux Buckmaster. Tous les lecteurs sont cordialement invités à faire connaître à la rédaction les parutions de cette nature dont ils auraient connaissance ou même dont ils seraient les auteurs, en n'hésitant pas au besoin à donner leur avis

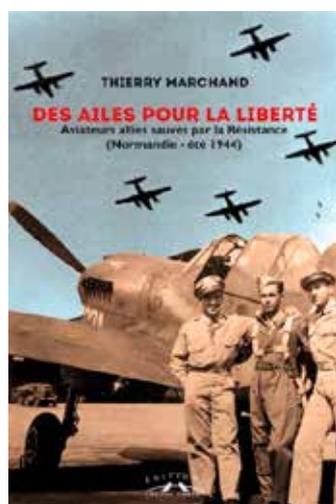
BIBLIOGRAPHY

In this section, we have collected details of a number of publications which we believe could interest the members of Libre Résistance. All our readers are invited to let us know if they are aware of other related publications, particularly if they are the author, and we would be pleased to receive their points of view.



Occasionally we have added notes to assist the reader in identifying which circuit is concerned, in which Département the narrative is concerning etc. In addition we may add in bold type key words which direct the reader to articles on the Wikipedia website that are related to the article in question.

In this edition we are pleased to announce two recent books of which we are particularly proud, since the authors are also members of our association



Des Ailes pour la liberté

Des aviateurs alliés sauvés par la Résistance
Thierry Marchand

Editions : Charles Corlet
ISBN : 978-2-84706-698-2
Prix indicatif : 23,5 euros.

Le major McLeod de l'USA Air Force décolle d'Angleterre le 10 juin

1944 à bord de son appareil P-47 pour bombarder une jonction de chemin de fer située en France. Mais, attaqué et gravement touché par une horde de Messerschmitt, il est forcé d'atterrir en catastrophe dans un champ près de Lisieux

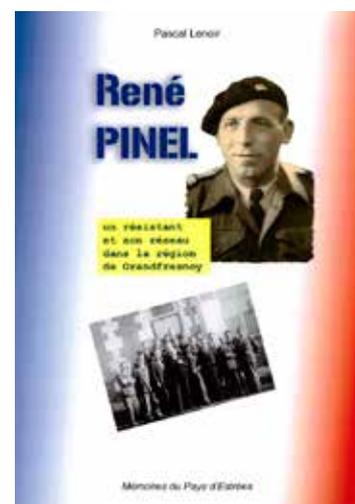
René Pinel

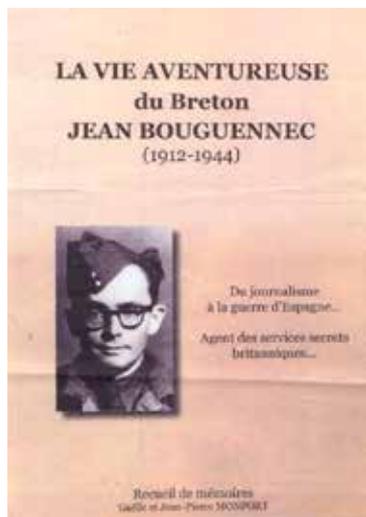
Un résistant et son réseau dans la région de Grandfresnoy, Oise..

Pascal Lenoir
Editions Self-publishing

Prix indicatif : _ euros.

Mémoires du Pays d'Estrées





La vie aventureuse du Breton « Jean Bouguennec

Jean-Pierre Montfort et Gaëlle Montfort
éditions du Sékoya, 2015,
ISBN : 978-2-84751-144-4
Prix indicatif : 17 euros.

Le livre que Jean-Pierre Montfort consacre à son cousin Jean Bouguennec, qui fut le chef du réseau Max-BUTLER dans la Sarthe, a nécessité seize ans de recherches en France et à l'étranger, avec l'aide de sa fille Gaëlle. Il plonge le lecteur dans la vie de la Bretagne d'alors (Jean Bouguennec est né à Saint-Eloy, Finistère), mais aussi du Sénégal, de la Martinique, Guyane, du Vénézuéla et de l'Espagne fasciste, dans la guerre, dans la Résistance... Il faut dire que Jean Bouguennec, journaliste et écrivain avant d'être recruté par le Special Operations Executive, était de toutes les causes et a participé à de grands faits marquants de l'histoire de cette époque et côtoyé des personnalités telles Stéphane Hessel, Raphaël Elizé... Le livre comporte énormément de témoignages,

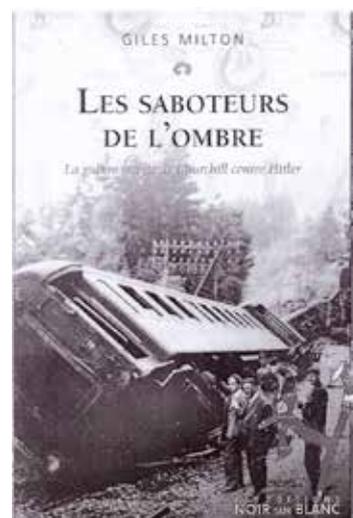
documents, courriers et photos qui illustrent cette période. Deux projets sont en cours d'étude : une bande dessinée et un film à partir du livre.

Les saboteurs de l'ombre

La guerre secrète de Churchill contre Hitler
Giles Milton
Editions Noir sur Blanc
ISBN : 978-2-88250-521-7
Prix indicatif : 24 euros.

La guérilla s'avéra aussi extraordinaire que les six gentlemen qui dirigèrent les opérations. Churchill les avait choisis pour leur créativité et leur mépris des convenances. L'un d'eux, Cecil Clarke, était un ingénieur fou qui avait passé les années 1930 à inventer des caravanes futuristes. Son talent fut employé dans un but bien plus dangereux : c'est lui qui construisit la bombe destinée à assassiner le favori d'Hitler, Reinard Heydrich. Un autre membre de l'organisation, William Fairbairn, était un retraité corpulent à la passion peu commune : il était le spécialiste mondial des techniques d'assassinat sans bruit. Sa mission consistait à entraîner les hommes parachutés derrière les lignes ennemies.

Dirigés par Colin Gubbins, un pimpant Écossais, les six hommes formaient un cercle secret qui planifia les sabotages les plus audacieux de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. Winston Churchill les appelait « son ministère de la Guerre sale ». Les six « ministres », assistés d'un groupe de femmes formidables, furent si efficaces qu'ils changèrent le cours de la guerre.



Vie d'un Homme d'hier, aujourd'hui et.... juste un peu plus

Christian de Monbrison

Editions l'Harmattan
ISBN : 978-2-343-00270-5
Prix indicatif : 35 euros.

Ce n'est même pas d'histoire d'une vie mais bien d'une épopée : un merveilleuse voyage à travers les continents, les cultures, les sociétés, et les professions dans notre monde des plus grands bouleversements. Christian de Monbrison échappa parfois de justesse à la mort, notamment durant l'occupation où sa mère juive, et ses quatre enfants, étaient sur la liste de Papon. L'auteur, né en 1929 à Paris, tient de ses ancêtres maternels, membres fondateurs de la communauté juive de Saint-Petersbourg, cette ouverture d'esprit cosmopolite propre aux familles juives, les Camondo, les Warschawsky et les Cahen d'Anvers ses grands-parents. Le Château de Champs-sur-Marne, leur demeure, fut donné à l'Etat en 1953. Il est ouvert au public depuis 2013.

SOE CONTRE GESTAPO

La véritable histoire du major Sutill et du réseau français de résistance Prosper

Francis J. Sutill

Traduction de Pierre Chambrin

Editions Metvox

ISBN : 978-10-94787-40-3

Prix indicatif : 24 euros.

L'histoire du réseau Prosper et de son chef, le major Francis Sutill, fascine à plusieurs titres.



Tout d'abord, pour la plupart des lecteurs français, l'existence même de réseaux britanniques en France sonne étrangement : après une longue période d'ignorance, cette existence commence à être connue. Et l'histoire de ces réseaux commence à être correctement intégrée dans celle de l'ensemble de la Résistance française. Jean-Louis Crémieux-Brilhac a fortement contribué à cet essor, notamment en soutenant l'édition française du livre de Michael R. D. Foot, *Des Anglais dans la Résistance*, en 2008 (après quarante ans d'interdiction !), et le film documentaire du même titre réalisé par Laurène L'Allinec en 2012. En particulier, le public commence à mieux comprendre que c'est aux réseaux britanniques qu'on doit l'essentiel de la fourniture d'armement à l'ensemble de la Résistance et à associer cette réalité aux actions spectaculaires les plus médiatisées telles que les sabotages d'usines et d'infrastructures, les attentats, la guérilla conduite par les maquisards, etc. Car pour toutes ces actions l'aide matérielle, et par contrecoup l'aide morale, apportée par les Britanniques fut essentielle.

Le service secret auquel se rattachait le réseau Prosper-PHYSICIAN, le Special Operations Executive, ou SOE, avait été institué par Winston Churchill dès juillet 1940, peu après la défaite française. Il avait reçu pour mission de soutenir la Résistance dans les pays occupés par les Allemands, en application de la célèbre consigne : « Mettez le feu à l'Europe ! ». Une section dédiée à la France, la section F, avait alors été formée, qui, dès l'année suivante, avait été en mesure d'établir en zone libre son premier réseau action, le réseau AUTOGIRO de Pierre de Vomécourt. Jusqu'à la Libération, une centaine de réseaux rattachés à la section F furent constitués dans la plupart des régions du pays, sous l'autorité du colonel Buckmaster, avec le recrutement de milliers de Résistants. Sur la centaine de réseaux de la section F en France, appelés familièrement réseaux « Buckmaster », dont une cinquantaine étaient actifs lors de la Libération. Depuis soixante-dix ans, c'est précisément à la perpétuation de leur mémoire que se consacre avec constance notre association Libre Résistance.

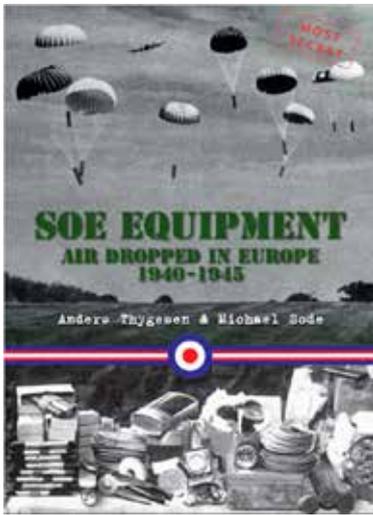
Ensuite, comme ce fut le cas des autres réseaux de la section F, mais dans des proportions bien supérieures, Prosper-PHYSICIAN, dont l'équipe de direction était basée à Paris, put former des groupes sur le terrain, recruter des centaines de Résistants et déclencher de nombreux parachutages d'armes dans plusieurs régions de la zone nord : Oise, Seine-et-Oise, Normandie, vallée de la Loire, Ardennes, etc. Cette action se développa d'octobre 1942 à juin 1943. Les difficultés de fonctionnement conduisirent malheureusement Prosper-PHYSICIAN à maintenir des liens étroits avec beaucoup d'autres réseaux au détriment de leur sécurité.

Enfin, le réseau fut finalement démantelé par la Gestapo en juin 1943, entraînant dans sa chute plusieurs autres réseaux, avec des centaines d'arrestations d'agents et de Résistants, de nombreuses déportations dans les camps de concentration se terminant le plus souvent par des exécutions sommaires.

Fils du chef du réseau Prosper, l'auteur Francis J. Sutill a entrepris un travail de mémoire dans les pas d'un père parti en mission alors qu'il n'avait que deux ans ! Nous lui devons un travail minutieux remarquable de recueil des informations, grâce aux témoignages et aux archives, en se rendant lui-même dans tous les lieux où l'action du réseau s'était développée et où les membres de l'équipe de direction du réseau étaient passés, ainsi qu'en Allemagne, dans les camps où beaucoup d'agents et de Résistants ont péri assassinés par les nazis.

Francis Sutill complète la réunion de cet ensemble de données factuelles par l'exposé de ses thèses sur les causes du démantèlement du réseau. Probablement, ce sujet restera controversé et ses mystères ne seront élucidés, s'ils doivent l'être un jour, qu'après l'ouverture totale des archives concernées. La mobilisation des historiens devrait y aider puissamment. D'ores et déjà, SOE contre Gestapo constitue une base factuelle solide pour les recherches qu'ils entreprendront sur les mystères qui continuent à entourer l'histoire hors norme du réseau Prosper-PHYSICIAN.

Grâce aux éditions Metvox, le livre de Francis J. Sutill, quatre ans après sa parution en Angleterre (*Shadows In The Fog*, 2014, réédition en cours), est enfin disponible en français !



SOE Equipment

Air Dropped in Europe 1940 - 1945

The objective of the *Special Operations Executive* (SOE) was to conduct sabotage and espionage operations behind enemy lines.

This book investigates the methods and ingenuity the SOE invested in the equipment supplied to secret agents and resistance networks in occupied Europe.

This hardcover book measures 25cmx18cm and the 256 pages are written in English.

ISBN: 978-87-90975-21-0

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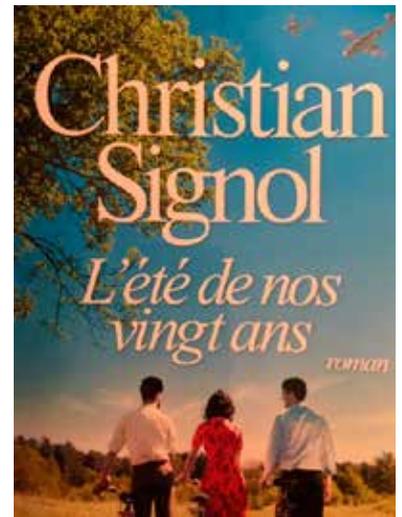
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L'été de nos vingt ans

Par Christian Signol

Les éléments historiques relatifs au fonctionnement du Special Operations Executive apparaissent dans divers ouvrages et notamment ceux de Joël Dicker, *Les Derniers Jours de nos pères* (Editions de Fallois, collection L'Âge d'Homme, 2010) et de Philip Vockers, *La Division Das Reich* (Editions Lucien Souny).

L'auteur les tient, pour sa part, essentiellement de son père, résistant des groupes Vény et d'un réseau Buckmaster sur les causses du Lot. Il a connu grâce à lui les agents anglais Cyril Watney et George Hiller, qui ont organisé les parachutages d'avant le débarquement du 6 juin 1944, entre Carennac et Miers. Il les a rencontrés à plusieurs reprises au domicile de ses parents au cours des années 1960, lorsqu'il était adolescent : ils rendaient régulièrement visite à leurs anciens compagnons de combat et, la guerre étant terminée depuis longtemps, ils répondaient volontiers aux questions relatives au SOE auquel ils avaient appartenu.



EXTRACT FROM NEW NOVEL BY ANNE PALMER

They were welcomed by their pilot, a Flight Lieutenant. Then Miss Atkins took them upstairs into a bedroom where they left their cases and coats. She led them downstairs into the operations room where some pilots were smoking, laughing and relaxing. And in the background a record of a French man singing a haunting, yet beautiful song, could be heard from the gramophone in the corner of the room. Shortly afterwards Miss Atkins and her agents joined the pilots for dinner in the lounge-come-dining room where Valérie enjoyed a crusty shepherd's pie and an apple crumble doused in smooth and rich custard. English dishes she might not savour for some time. Or maybe never. After the meal, they relaxed in the ops room where they could hear the same record being constantly played. Valérie looked across the room and noticed their pilot standing by the window, drawing heavily on his cigarette and lost in thoughts as the French singer continued singing his song. Snatches of 'Venez Donc Chez Moi – Come up to My Place' captivated Valérie's imagination, especially the words, 'Love must soon come to me because it's too painful high up here all alone.' He was living alone in a flat high up overlooking Paris. What was their pilot thinking about? Would he make it back to Tangmere? She drew in a deep breath. Or would he not return and die in the sky? She paused, feeling tears in her eyes. Would she survive her time in France?

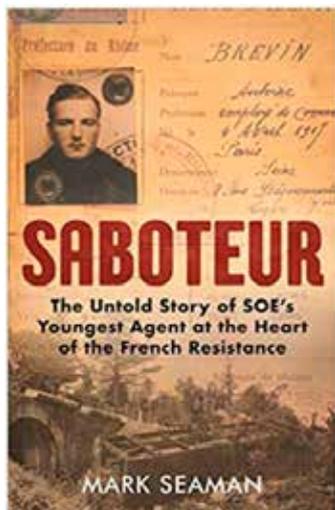
The novel extract deals with a particularly moving incident in the cottage at Tangmere where the Lysander pilots and agents met before flying to France. The background is true and will surprise you.



This scene shows Marie-Claire, an SOE courier preparing to leave Tangmere by Lysander for France at night. The source of info kindly comes from Ian Titman, a Lysander specialist. He was given the info by the late Murray Anderson's wife who wrote up his diary. The incident about the record will be entirely new to most people.

I have written the Paris article from the point of view of an English born person but with strong interests since my father was French Canadian. I never knew him and still don't know if he was killed in the war or survived. Thus my interest in all things to do with resistance and ordinary soldiers who gave their lives in the war.

Anne Palmer 2018 Oct 16



Saboteur: The Untold Story of SOE's Youngest Agent at the Heart of the French Resistance 2018

Tony Brooks was unique. He was barely out of school when recruited in 1941 by the Special Operations Executive (SOE), the wartime secret service established by Churchill to 'set Europe ablaze'. After extensive training he was parachuted into France in July 1942 - being among the first (and youngest) British agents sent to support the nascent French Resistance

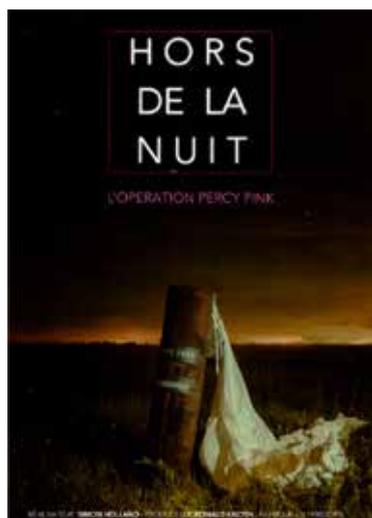


Brook's success was primarily due to his exceptional qualities as a secret agent, although he was aided by large and frequent slices of luck. Among much else, he survived brushes with a British traitor and a notorious double agent; the Gestapo's capture of his wireless operator and subsequent attempts to trap Brooks; brief incarceration in a Spanish concentration camp; injuries resulting from a parachute jump into France; and even capture and interrogation by the Gestapo - although his cover story held and he was

released.

In an age when we so often take our heroes from the worlds of sport, film, television, music, fashion, or just 'celebrity', it is perhaps salutary to be reminded of a young man who ended the war in command of a disparate force of some 10,000 armed resistance fighters, and decorated with two of this country's highest awards for gallantry, the DSO and MC. At the time, he was just twenty-three years old.

This remarkable, detailed and intimate account of a clandestine agent's dangerous wartime career combines the historian's expert eye with the narrative colour of remembered events. As a study in courage, it has few, if any, equals.



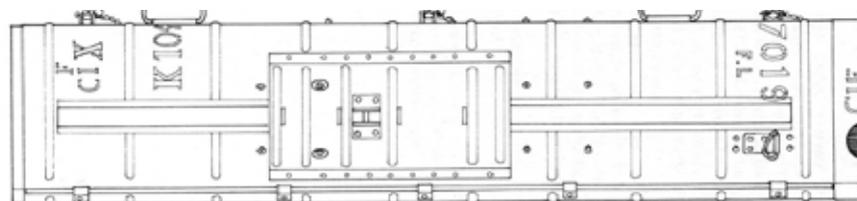
Hors de la nuit : L'Opération Percy Pink

Réalisateur : Simon Holland

Producteur : Ronald Knoth

Pour la première fois ce film raconte la coopération de la Résistance française et des Américains au cours de leur lutte contre les forces nazies. Ce film retrace l'histoire du commando « Percy Pink » et de leurs amis maquisards dans des opérations militaires dans le Sud Ouest. Un grand nombre de témoignages des anciens Résistants et de leurs descendants sont inclus dans ce film.

films SOE



Siège Social de Libre Résistance

Nous avons changé notre siège social.

Veuillez adresser vos courriers à l'adresse ci-dessous.

Willie BEAUCLERK
Vice-président,

302, avenue Georges Clémenceau,
78670 VILLENES SUR SEINE.

Tel. : +33 1 39 75 60 80,

E-mail : bill.beauclerk@wanadoo.fr

Registered address of Libre Resistance

We have just changed our registered address.

Henceforth, we would be grateful if you could address any mail destined to the association to its registered address

autres cérémonies / events SOE

Date	Evennement
<p>Jeudi 15 aout 2019</p>	<p>Commémoration «75ème anniversaire de la libération de Brive la Gaillarde», Organisateurs «La Ville de Brive la Gaillarde » Lieu : Brive-la-Gaillarde Brive-la-Gaillarde a été la première ville Française à être libéré par La Résistance Française, en Août 1944. Cet anniversaire sera un grand événement pour la ville. Le programme commencera à 08h00 avec un nombre de cérémonies autour de la ville pour se clôturer par un vin d'honneur dans la cour d'honneur de la Mairie</p>
<p>Weekend 13, 14 et 15 septembre 2019</p>	<p>Commémoration et randonnée du Réseau Comète au Pays Basque (Anglet-Sut ar à Jauriko-Borda, Espagne), sur les chemins empruntés par les passeurs et aviateurs alliés. Elles se dérouleront dans le cadre de deux événements mémoriels : - le 75ème anniversaire du dernier passage et le 20ème anniversaire de la création de notre association. Grâce au précieux concours des Municipalités, deux inaugurations se dérouleront le vendredi : - une plaque souvenir à la gare de Bayonne en hommage aux bayonnais du réseau, et une sculpture «In Memoriam» sur la place Lamothe, Anglet, pour un hommage à l'ensemble des membres du réseau Comète. Le samedi et le dimanche deux journées de marche sur le passage de la Bidassoa, de Saint Jean de Luz à Oiartzun, avec le dimanche, un grand repas de l'amitié dans une cidrerie espagnole. Lieu : Anglet & Bayonne. Pour tout renseignement : http://cometepaysbasque.blogspot.fr/2018/04/28-le-weekend-de-commemoration-du.html Inscription : Trésorier Hubert Kirschhoffer, 1bis avenue de Montbrun, 64600 Anglet .Tél : 05 59 42 08 16, e-mail : hubert.kirsch@wanadoo.fr</p>
<p>Samedi 04 mai 2019</p>	<p>Commémoration du 75ème anniversaire du crash d'un B24 américain – Mably (ROANNE 42). Cet avion avait pour mission de parachuter des armes et des munitions à un réseau de résistance. Les huit aviateurs américains sautèrent en parachute. Six d'entre eux échappèrent aux patrouilles allemandes. Avec la solidarité de certains habitants et grâce à la résistance locale, les six aviateurs rejoindront le maquis. Deux aviateurs, dont un blessé seront faits prisonniers par les allemands. Lieu : Roanne 42 Contact Guy Thevenet 04 77 68 35 54, Daniel Brunet, 04 77 67 57 92, 06 75 75 14 63</p>
<p>Samedi 6 juillet 2019</p>	<p>Cycle de conférences sur « LA RESISTANCE ET LES SERVICES SPECIAUX : SOE, BCRA ET OSS ». Lieu : Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation de l'Ain, Nantua - 15h30 Chaque conférence dure environ 1h. Selon les conférenciers, des séances de dédicaces pourront suivre.</p>

2019

Le Président, Lionel Southgate et le Bureau de la *Fédération Nationale de Libre Résistance* seraient heureux que vous assistiez à notre cérémonie rituelle, qui sera rehaussée par la présence de Son Altesse Royale La Princesse Anne.



crédit photograph : Martyn Cox, Fabrice Dury

Mai 2011 La princesse Anne, accompagnée par Bob Maloubier, a montré tout l'attachement de la couronne britannique à Valençay.

Notre cérémonie traditionnelle nous rassemblera au pied du Mémorial de Valençay pour l'hommage commun à la mémoire de tous nos camarades disparus et, plus particulièrement, à la mémoire des 104 agents de la section F qui sont tombés en opération ou sont morts dans les camps de concentration nazis.

Nous prévoyons une grande cérémonie cette année pour célébrer :

- le 78e anniversaire du parachutage de Georges Bégué,
- Le 75e anniversaire du débarquement en Normandie
- le 28e anniversaire de l'inauguration par sa Majesté Reine mère, du mémorial à la mémoire des agents de la *Section F du Special Operations Executive*.

Si vous pouvez y participer, nous vous demanderons de nous envoyer un courriel à

- Patrick Gautier-Lynham (bedbrook@hotmail.com)
- Willie Beauclerk (bill.beauclerk@wanadoo.fr)

En retour, au mois de mars nous vous enverrons un coupon d'inscription. Si vous voulez assister à la réception déjeuner-buffet au Château, nous vous demandons de le remplir et de le renvoyer en y joignant, le cas échéant (c'est-à-dire si vous souhaitez participer à la réception et au déjeuner-buffet), votre chèque, ou une copie de votre virement bancaire.

Vous recevrez en retour un (ou des) badge(s) individuel(s) d'accès au château numéroté(s) dont la présentation sera requise à l'entrée du château (se munir également d'une pièce d'identité).

L'inscription au préalable est donc indispensable et le nombre est limité.

1. Tenue de ville.
2. Nous vous rappelons que contrairement aux années passées, la cérémonie se déroulera à partir de 12h40. Arrivée prévue à 12h.
3. A notre grand regret, le nombre des invités à la réception qui suivra la cérémonie, au Château de Valençay est obligatoirement limité à «un ou une seul(e) accompagnant(e)». Les anciens de nos réseaux auront évidemment priorité, et nous ne pourrions rigoureusement pas satisfaire les retardataires.
4. **Inscription € 50** par personne pour le déjeuner-buffet.
5. Inscription et paiement doivent parvenir au trésorier avant le lundi 18 avril, au plus tard.

COLLOQUE ET ASSEMBLEE GENERALE - 29 novembre 2019

CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 29th Nov 2019



Nous préparons notre 7ème Colloque sur la SOE en Automne qui se tiendra dans l'amphithéâtre De Bourcet à l'*Ecole Militaire* le vendredi après-midi 29 novembre, selon notre format habituel.

Il sera suivi d'un cocktail et d'un dîner amical. Le colloque, le cocktail et le dîner seront ouverts à tous nos membres ainsi qu'aux invités et à tous ceux qui s'intéressent à notre sujet.

L'Assemblée Générale de 2019, qui se tiendra à Paris, est prévue pour le samedi matin 30 novembre, le lendemain de notre colloque.

NOTE ON « LIBRE RÉSISTANCE »



la version française est consultable dans le bulletin 40

Commemorating the networks of F Section F SOE, known as « *Réseaux Buckmaster* ».

Libre Résistance is an association that provides moral and material support to the members of the former Buckmaster networks in France. Its aims are to perpetuate the memory of those agents and their comrades who lost their lives on operations or in prison or the concentration camps, and, more generally, to remember the role played in the Resistance by the networks associated with F Section SOE. It ensures the commemoration of the most important acts during the war and, as required, contributes to the defence of the moral interests of its members and their successors. It works to present the history of the F-Section SOE networks in France to future generations. Membership is open to relations and descendants of all those involved in *F-Section SOE* and all those who are interested in SOE.

We have our own internet site (www.libre-resistance.com) and have several events a year:

- Every 6th may, we hold a ceremony in Valençay at the F Section Memorial, dedicated to the 104 men and women, members of the British Armed Forces, Canadian, American and French who lost their lives whilst working for F Section in occupied France and who lost their lives whilst working as agents for F Section in occupied France and who were arrested or died in combat.
- Every second year we hold a conference the *Ecole Militaire* in Paris on a different subject relating to SOE's role in France during the Second World War.
- Each year we hold our AGM, in Paris.

If you are interested in joining, please complete the attached form and send it with the annual subscription of £ 21 to the address below.

Please also feel free to approach other people who you think may be interested in joining us.

Patrick GAUTIER-LYNHAM,

Trésorier, Libre Résistance,
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78160 MARLY-LE-ROI

E-mail: bedbrook@hotmail.com

Tél. : +33 1 39 58 63 06

Mob. : +33 6 09 49 79 35

Alexandra MARTENS

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United Kingdom

Email: alexandra.martens@btinternet.com

Tel: +44 1403 751 640

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - £ 21 (€ 25)

Your annual subscription is now due for the year 2018. We would be very grateful if those members who have not already paid could make payment by cheque to the person below according to the currency you choose:

Bank transfer details in Euros only:

Account: Fédération Nationale de Libre Résistance,

BIC: CMCIFRPP

IBAN: FR76 3006 6102 4000 0202 6860 121

DONATIONS AND GIFTS

Libre Résistance is a charitable Association with no income other than the annual subscriptions. We would be most grateful to receive any financial support to help us in our work to preserve the memory of all those who were engaged in SOE Section F.

We would be most grateful to receive any financial support to help us in our work to preserve the memory of all those who were engaged in F Section SOE.

Important notice regarding the bulletin



We have prepared this bulletin which we have sent out in large numbers. We estimate the cost of production is approximately €4 to which postage must be added.

Members will notice that the total cost of the annual bulletins will exceed the annual subscription and so we need to economize as we have no other sources of income.

We would be very grateful if you could send an e-mail or letter to let us have your e-mail address and contact details so that we can add you to our electronic mailing list instead of posting a hard copy.

Thank you for making a special effort to let us have your e-mail details.

This newsletter is open to all our members and interested parties to assist us by suggesting articles and proposing corrections to any text we have published.

Les articles sont publiés sous la responsabilité de leurs auteurs et ne sauraient engager celle de l'éditeur.

PHOTOS SOUVENIRS



Valençay heroes 1997(L-R):
Pearl Witherington, Gaston Colin, Adher Watt , Bob Maloubier,
Henri Diacono, Marcel Jaurant-Singer, Jacques Poirier



HRH The Princess Royal with Valençay heroes May 2008



Noreen Riols, Jacques Gautier, Marie-Hélène France, Lionel Southgate, Colloque Ecole Militaire Jan 2018



Simon Bailey, Lapeyrade 2018

crédit photograph : Martyn Cox, Willie Beauclerk

Commission Histoire / bulletin / site internet

Président : Lionel Southgate,
Membres : Willie Beauclerk, Martyn Cox, Fabrice Dury,
Nick Fox et Gérard Lyon.

Directeur de la publication

Lionel Southgate, Président.
lionel_southgate@yahoo.fr

PHOTOS SOUVENIRS



Wing Commander Leonard Ratcliff DSO DFC with Tim Buckmaster 2011



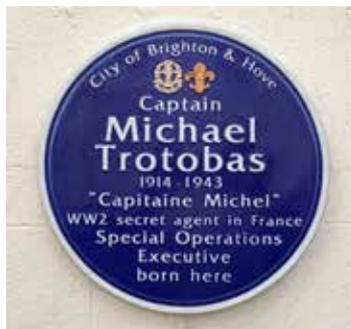
Pilot Len Ratcliff meets Bob Maloubier for the first time since he airlifted him, gravely wounded from a field near Rouen in 1943.



Valençay May 2011 : HRH Princess Royal with SOE F-section heroes & families



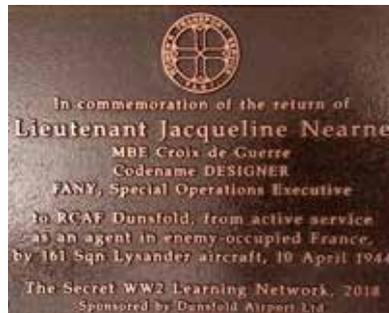
Brighton 2018 : Paul McCue and Louisa Russell assist an an unveiling ceremony of a plaque in honour of Michael Trotoabas



Libre Résistance AGM January 2018, Paris



RAF Personnel from Joint Forces Intelligence Group at the War Memorial of Romorantin-Lanthenay



Dunsfold Aerodrome - 5th August 2018
Unveiling of a plaque to Lieutenant Jacqueline Nearne



Debbie Clitheroe at the Memorial to Violette Szabo.



Valençay May 2018
Display of wreaths



Alain Perriolat, professeur d'histoire with students of the Lycée Bichat de Nantua in Trafalgar Square, London - March 2019