

ISSUE 121

# The Carpetbagger - Newsletter of the 801st/492nd BG Association, Incorporated.

SUMMER 2009

USAAF SPECIAL OPERATIONS



## In This Issue:

Contacts	2
Words	3
Plan Sussex	4
Obits	9
Collage	10
Odds & Ends	11
Cartoon	12

## Issue data density

Heavy!



## SUSSEX—THE UNHERALDED AGENTS

Ever since I started bringing to light the Operational aspects of the Carpetbaggers via the mission reports, a small number of them have been puzzlers. Unlike the majority of targets which have some connection to the circuits of the French Resistance, or the Jedburgh and OSSOG targets, these often had the names of automobiles, and had Joe insertions most commonly in pairs. With that initial but limited knowledge I occasionally made forays into the web in search of more details and possible operational connections, but, until last year, had practically no more data gathered. Then in 2008 a French site appeared that is dedicated to the Sussex agents, followed by the analysis work of Pierre Tillet, the descendant of a Sussex agent, and at the same time I began work on Roll 4 of the NARA OSS microfilm. What follows in our main article this month is the result of our mutual efforts. We hope you enjoy this long-overdue exposé of the agents and their connection as our “Joes”.



## New Website - High Definition Carpetbagger Photos only

It is an infrequent occurrence in computerland to get anything for free, so I am glad I was sitting down when Microsoft gifted me with 25 gigabytes of free website space. Yesterday, 21 May 2009, I started scanning all photos I have at 600dpi and uploading them to this new site. I have had my own collection and Si's now for quite a while and though I have thought about doing them up right, for posterity, something always got in the way; until this present showed up. This site is pictures-only and all available data for the people in the pictures will be entered by me, not changeable by anyone else, unless a letter or email shows up that either adds to the picture's data, or corrects an error in my data. If you appear in any of these pictures and something is wrong, please correct it, when I am finished with this project all scans will be filed at the Air Force Academy Special Operations Archives along with the completed Personnel Profile Project database, which will be finished sometime this year. This new site is unrestricted as far as access goes, no user id, no password required. Enjoy! Address on next page.

# **The 801st/492nd BG Association Newsletter**

## **A Quarterly Publication**

Sebastian Corriere, President  
4939 North 89th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53225  
Phone: (414) 464-8264  
Email: scorriere@wi.rr.com

Hewitt Gomez, Acting VP  
208 Meadow Lane  
Lafayette, LA 70506  
Phone: (337)984-4264  
Fax: (337)981-8555  
Email: hego1944@bellsouth.net

William Becker  
Treasurer & Reunion Director  
28490 Oasis View Circle  
Menifee, CA 92584  
Phone: (619) 992-6228  
Email: beebbs71@aol.com

Thomas L. Ensminger,  
Media Director  
2115 Polk Ave  
Ogden, UT 84401  
Email: thomasensminger@hotmail.com

### **Deceased Notification Procedure**

An email to any of the officers is the quickest way to alert Association members of your loss. If you can, a copy or scan of the obituary would be most helpful. If you are not PC-enabled, call or fax Sebastian, Hewitt, or Bill with the details. Scans received will be posted to the website as soon as possible so that other members and friends may offer their condolences. The obituaries page of the website is available from the main menu of the website.

### **Address Changes**

Please notify Bill Becker or Tom Ensminger of an address change as soon as possible. Each year we receive a number of newsletters returned with "no forwarding address"; at \$4 each to produce this hurts the Association's funding for future activities. Please include phone number if changed and email also if changed. We don't want you to miss an issue!

### **Data Site Information**

On or about 20 June 2009 the user id and password for the data site will change. Email Tom for them beforehand if you want to retain your access.

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### **Group Internet Sites**

**Web Site:** <http://home.comcast.net/~801492bg.historian/MainMenu.htm>

**Data Site:** <http://801492.doesntexist.org/> (User Id & password required)

### **High Definition Picture Site:**

<http://cid-a861c84a86ba0c18.skydrive.live.com/browse.aspx/BG%20600dpi?sa=789505265>

Size increases daily due to research activities by Tom, donations by Association members and their descendants, other researcher donations, and availability of an increasing amount of information found on the web, not to mention the huge task of scanning all of Si's photos. While the website increases by page at a slow pace, some additional information to existing pages occurs quite frequently. At present there are over 233 crews represented with several dozen yet to be added and a huge number of ground crew pictures to be catalogued and added in the future. The High Def site will have 5-10 pictures added per day, time permitting. Apologies for the ridiculously long address of the HD site, I have no control over it. Microsoft gave me 25g of free space to fill with anything I want, so here it is!

# *And Now A Word From Your Officers...*

Once again, the Postal Service has raised rates, and once again we have to absorb the cost in one way or another. You will notice that with this issue we have gone back to a black and white newsletter with no envelope. Also, we are once again asking those of you who have access to a PC to accept our electronic version, which does have color. We promise your email box will not be filled with junk mail, jokes or other unsolicited messages by our doing, just the newsletter. Dues are also important in keeping the newsletter flowing, so please do not wait for the reminder I send with your birthday card, just mark your calendar to pay them every December and you will always be up to date. As always, Bill has worked hard throughout the year to make our upcoming Washington, D.C. reunion as good or better than the last time we attended there. So come one, come all to our September reunion and we promise to keep our speeches as short as we can. **Sebastian, your Association President**



The 2009 Carpetbagger Reunion in Washington D.C. is nearing and should be a must. This is your opportunity to not only see the grandeur of the capitol buildings, but also to experience it with your long ago friends from the UK airfields. The educational tours and the exchange of stories will bring back fond memories. By the time you leave for home, you will feel as though you won the war single-handedly! Your most capable Reunion Director has planned several exciting tours, as you can see in your reunion package. Whether you are as agile as a teenager or somewhat handicapped, your tour guide will make it comfortable for you. This will be my third visit to D.C. in the last four years and I am just as excited about attending as I was for the first trip. The highlight of this year's Reunion will be the wreath laying ceremony at the Air Force Memorial. No matter what duty you performed as a Carpetbagger, you will experience pride in having played a large part in bringing this event to its prominence. In addition to the events and places the tours will bring you, a free day is provided, where you can schedule visits to places of personal interest. Regardless, do yourself a favor and make plans to be with your many friends come September 9th thru 13th. I am sure that you will be talking about it for years to come! **Hewitt Gomez, your acting Vice-President**



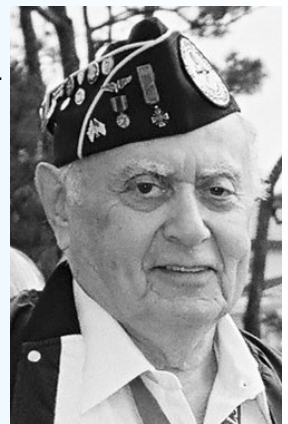
General Norton A. Schwartz, Air Force Chief of Staff and Mrs. Schwartz have accepted our invitation to attend our reunion banquet in Washington D.C. If interested in his Bio please click on the link.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norton\\_A\\_Schwartz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norton_A_Schwartz)

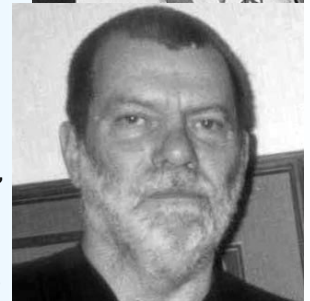
Let's make this reunion one to be remembered. Please make your reservations as soon as possible. Great Hotel, Great Events, Great Friends.

Hope to see you there,

**Bill Becker, your Reunion Director & Secretary-Treasurer**



We have many contributors to this issue and I'll use up a bit of space here to thank them. Pierre Tillet has generously contributed his help in solving the puzzle of the SUSSEX agents under control of the OSS and inserted by Carpetbagger crews. Pierre's father was first a PROUST agent, then a SUSSEX agent. More about the PROUST missions in a future issue, I'm still scanning the microfilm. The second big help with the SUSSEX agents was their website and museum (available as a link on our website). Since all the members were French, unlike many of the other operations under OSS, it's only natural that the French should honor these people who took great risks for their country's liberation. The website continues to grow, albeit ever so slowly - at present there are pages for 233 crews who flew out of Alconbury, Harrington, Leuchars and Metfield. With the resolution of the SUSSEX drops, more new pages for agents will soon be added. The data site grows everyday from a multitude of sources. The Personnel Profile Project is where I spend a few hours each day, and I am now about halfway through the database portion of that. Once the basic card for every person is developed, I will move on to matching up records with photos, crews with organizations and available records with known personnel. The job never ends, and I never tire of it!



**Tom Ensminger, your Media Director**



# Plan Sussex

Plan SUSSEX was initially proposed in 1942 but did not begin to take shape until the Spring of 1943. It was a plan belonging to the Secret Intelligence branch of OSS. In June of 1943 the Plan was outlined and contained the following elements:

- (1) A special unit of French nationals with knowledge of particular areas and localities.
- (2) Preferably composed of personnel who had some military training.
- (3) Members would be formed in pairs, one of whom would be the observer, the other to be the W/T operator.
- (4) The unit would be held 'under discipline' at a location outside of London.
- (5) Once (British & American) theaters in France were established, the pairs would be subdivided, one for strategic information (farther behind the lines) and one for tactical information, closer to the front.

Other conditions also applied but need not be mentioned here. In the plan submitted to the Commanding General of ETOUSA on 5 July 1943, it was proposed that the teams be inserted two moon periods before D-Day. Between that date and the first insertions, there were considerable details to be worked out for this tri-partite effort. Not the least was recruitment, which relied heavily on personnel from North Africa. Drungewick Manor, near Hersham, was the selected training post. The code for the school was "TS-7". The training period for the agents was to be ten weeks.

The joint British-American school to train the SUSSEX members opened at the manor on 13 November 1943, around the same time that future Carpetbagger crews and personnel were forming up at Alconbury. Also at this time, it was agreed that one-half of the teams were to be under the control of 21st British Army Group and the other half were to be controlled by First American Army Group.

SI had 30 teams at its disposal and intended to parachute 12 units in rear enemy areas 50-200 miles inland some weeks ahead of the invasion. Another 12 units were to be parachuted in forward (coastal) areas some weeks ahead of the invasion. Six units to be held in reserve.

For communications support a radio station (Victor) was established in the UK to communicate with the agents in the American sector and with the SI staff unit which would be in the field with mobile units as soon as possible after the invasion.

Originally, no receptions were to be expected for these insertions, but on the advice of many who had been in the field, this changed. It was decided as well, to insert 'Pathfinder' teams in advance of the SUSSEX agents. The first of these went in on 8 February 1944. But, for weather and training reasons, the first teams did not go in until 9 April 1944. The first drop inserted one American and one British team. The following night, two more American teams, and one more British team went in. Team destinations for the Americans were Le Mans, Chartres and Orleans. The purpose of the Pathfinder missions was to secure a drop zone, safe houses, and contacts in the field where the agents would be to help them along in their mission.

But it was not until May that American planes dropped SUSSEX teams. On the night of 7/8 May St. Clair and crew dropped Team Plutarque and on another field Fish dropped Team Evasion. Two nights later, Stapel and crew inserted Team Diane at the FIAT 6 DZ. Then there was a pause until the night of 28/29 May when John Kelly and crew dropped Team Charles on the AUSTIN 3 DZ.

June of 1944 employed the crews of Rabbitt, Merrill, Pike and McKee to insert SUSSEX Teams Vis, Madeleine, Cure, Cendrillon and Foudre, respectively.

Nearly a month passed until more teams were dropped. On the night of 3/4 July Merrill inserted two teams, Papier and Colere on the Ansaldo 1 DZ. On the same night and at the same DZ Heflin also dropped four agents; the teams of Salaud and Filan. Four nights later, Ben Mead made a successful drop of Team Colère at the Saint 2B DZ. One of Mead's passengers was Evelyn Clopet, who had missed being dropped by Merrill on 3/4 July because the committee turned off the lights on the last run.

July transitioned to August, when, on the fourth night of the month, Sanders and crew dropped Team Lapin on the Benz 1 DZ. Three weeks passed before another SUSSEX team was dropped - Team Diamont was taken to the BOB 277 DZ by the Byerley crew of the 857th BS on the night of 31Aug/01Sep 1944.

The following night Bales and crew transferred Team Velours to the BOB 279 DZ while Coleman dropped two teams, Or and Montre, at the same location.

The final SUSSEX team to be inserted by the Carpetbaggers occurred on the night of 4/5 September when Gwiazdon and crew dropped Team Outil on the BOB 335 DZ.

## **Communications:**

SUSSEX W/T operators were supplied with the American TR-1 set or the British Mark 7 radios, the choice was theirs. The agents were equipped with a double-transposition cipher with flash code. The flash code was a group of numbers each of which stood for a word or phrase, designed especially to transmit military intelligence, and was carried in a book.

## **Suspect Names and Addresses:**

Supplied by the X-2 branch, all names and addresses in the agents destination which were suspected of being in collaboration with the enemy.

In addition to the X-2 supplied information, the British counter-espionage agency also had built up extensive files on individual French towns on the basis of interrogation of individuals coming out of France. Presumably, the OSS file relates, these too were supplied the agents.

#### **SHAEF Objectives:**

In addition to general instructions on the type of information needed while on-mission, the agents were supplied with two kinds of instructions from SHAEF on material desired. These fell into two categories; general and specific. The general instructions were largely reiterations of principles learned in the SUSSEX training school.

The specific SHAEF instructions applied mostly to the area which the agents would be destined for. Examples are the specifics about a particular airfield, the confirmation of a munitions dump location, etc..

#### **Deployment:**

Recruitment in the early stages, and getting together the necessary teachers during the training period had caused delays in the progress of the program. Added to this was the disablement of the rail system in France, which had originally been planned as the method of deploying the teams to the point of observation. By May of 1944 double, triple and even quadruple drops were being considered and in fact, were begun. Additionally, there were problems with receptions, such as the rejections of drops thought to be too close to major flak installations, the inexperience of newly-organized committees, and other communication and liaison problems too numerous to be listed here.

#### **Final Stages:**

June, July and August of '44 proved to be the most difficult period of the SUSSEX missions. Rail traffic was at a standstill, any vehicles in serviceable condition were in danger of requisition by the enemy or of being machine-gunned as targets of opportunity by the Allied air forces. Increasing numbers of teams were being inserted, often quite a distance from their intended destinations. But eventually, forwarding stations were developed and agents were eventually installed in their intended posts.

#### **Equipment:**

Unlike most of the Jeds and OGs, these teams went in with civilian clothing and papers, and their equipment list was quite long as it had to get them over the period until they were installed as well as provide their means of operation and transmissions for an extended period. Communications alone were probably most of the weight of their pack. For examples the W/T operator had two radios, 2 batteries, 2 battery acid bottles, 1 generator and stand (bicycle type) and his/her W/T communications plan and codes. The Observer had an S-phone (called a Klaxon in the OSS reports),

2 batteries, 1 power pack, 2 battery acid bottles, as well as a generator and his/her communications plans and codes. Added to these loads, a long list of 'trading or personal use' items and another long list of weapons and special equipment items.

#### **Money:**

Each team, excepting the early ones, carried 200,000 francs going in. The original plan called for each agent to carry 25,000 francs on his person, and the other 150,000 to be packed with his/her equipment.

Early on it was learned that a substantial portion of the money with the equipment was confiscated or pilfered. To counter this, agents were given the choice of carrying all the money on their persons, even though this would greatly increase their personal risk if they were caught in a search with such a large amount.

#### **Final Briefing:**

Area O, otherwise known as Sunnyside manor, was the final briefing and holding area for the agents. They arrived with their complete set of clothing equipment, which was diligently checked to make sure it



**Above:** Sunnyside manor, picture courtesy of Clive Bassett.

had no compromising marks or holdings. Once cleared the clothing and all of the agent's equipment would be packed into containers to be dropped by parachute. The motto on the wall at Sunnyside was "In this game you can't take anything for granted" and was, it has been said, the result of a number of close calls and nerve-racking incidents in connection with dispatching the agents.

The later practice regarding 'special' equipment (crystals, codes and pistols) was to keep them at the airfield rather than issuing them at Area O. This saved the trouble of having to reissue from Area O if the mission was scrubbed.

Unlike the Jeds, the SUSSEX packing station was in the former garage of a modern building in Saville Row. Under the control of the British SIS agency, the station was only a short distance from Grosvenor Street, home of OSS.

#### **Holding House:**

An initial difficulty was locating a holding house, where agents could be put up before dispatch and after their return. On 15 March 1944



it was finally decided that Harrington would be the operating base and subsequently Grendon Hall in the village of Grendon, only 17 miles from the base, was selected as the holding house.



**Above:** Grendon Hall as it is today.

The hall could accommodate about thirty agents and was run by ten enlisted men. The first SUSSEX agents arrived as soon as their training was complete.

The OSS file records that agents were given parachute training and four or five jumps at a British school (probably Ringway) which also taught proper terrain for receptions, lighting arrangements, and disposal of equipment after the drop.

#### **Procedures:**

We get a small glimpse into the procedures behind a successful operation which are described in the OSS records.

On receptions - the Sussex pathfinders taught their reception committees a simplified system wherein two men fifty meters apart held a flashlight in each hand. Three of the lights were fixed, the fourth flashed the recognition letter. Agents were told not to use the following letters because of possible ambiguity; EISHTMO. The letter V was also discouraged as patriotic Frenchmen would frequently flash it to passing aircraft as a gesture of friendship.

#### **Paperwork:**

Air Dispatch sent one ATF#1 to the conference room, which incorporated the information into another form (ATF#6) and sent copies to 8th AF, Air Ministry, and the OSS Squadrons at Harrington and other agencies. The day before the operation was scheduled Air Dispatch made sure that agents and equipment were ready to go, the conference advised the airfield, and the operation was "laid on", weather permitting by the 801st/492nd BG the next morning. Any changes, such as the addition of a package containing material just requested, were incorporated into a supplement to ATF Form #1 which the conference room distributed in a supplementary form #6.

#### **Results:**

**Team Vitrail** at Chartres dispatched on 10 April was the first to send a message to Station Victor. Their outstanding piece of

Intelligence was the location of the Lehr Panzer division on which SHAEF commented that this message was worth the cost of the entire SUSSEX operation. Unfortunately, the observer was caught in a German sweep and was shot. The W/T operator linked up with another operation until overrun later in the summer.

**Team Jeanne** at Orleans was probably the outstanding team of them all. Also dispatched on 10 April, their intel messages amounted to 170, 127 of which contained useful intelligence. Their work was repeatedly commended by SHEAF. Operators at Station Victor said their messages were concise and the encipherment always perfect.

**Team Plainchant** at Le Mans, the first OSSEX team, dispatched on the night of 9/10 April, arrived without effective radio and had to rely on Klaxon (S-Phone) until new equipment arrived. However, on the night of 27 July the observer was caught by the enemy and deported to Germany.

**Team Plutarque** at Melun, dispatched on the night of 7/8 May by St. Clair and crew, sent in 107 messages with intel on AA emplacements, munitions dumps, airfields, V-1 launch ramps, and assembly points. This team was congratulated four times for its work.

**Team Evasion** at Romilly, inserted by Fish and crew, had transmission difficulties and did not send a message until 22 June. Their distance from Station Victor was a handicap in this regard. They were the first team to send in evidence of a V-1 installation.

**Team Diane** at Etampes, inserted by Stapel on the night of 9/10 May, had immense transmission problems and moved three times until it could establish communications with Station Victor. They sent in 34 messages with intel until being overrun by Allied forces.

**Team Charles** at Le Bourget, dropped by John Kelly and crew, lost their radio equipment shortly after landing. Thereafter they relied on an S-Phone connection with the special British B-25 squadron for messaging. Sixty such messages were sent in, and additionally, also managed to send in two pouches by air pickup, probably Lysander operations.

**Team Madeleine** at Vincennes, inserted by Merrill along with Team Cure, lost its equipment on the drop and the W/T operator broke a leg, but when supplied with new equipment became a steady and consistent sender of intelligence until overrun, covering the area east of Paris. Interestingly, 25 of their messages originated with a network set up by an agent of the Varlin Mission of the SI Labor division.

**Team Vis** at Blois, dispatched by Rabbitt and crew also had equipment difficulties and could not send in messages for a month. Still, their total of eighteen messages contained excellent information on troop movements, railway traffic, and the results of air raids on bridges and roads. Believing himself under Gestapo scrutiny the observer left Blois and moved to Roanne where he sent in messages through a resistance group there. The W/T operator remained in Blois, continuing to send in good intelligence.

**Team Cure** at Tours, dispatched by Merrill & crew, ended up as a total failure as they lost their equipment and were never able to send in any messages although attempts were made through Team Plainchant in Le Mans. The W/T Operator was later redispatched as a member of the Marquise mission.

**Team Cendrillon** at Vaires, dispatched by Pike and crew, had communications difficulties and as a result sent in only six messages.

**Team Foudre** at Juvisy, dispatched by McKee and crew, got it's first message through one week after being sent in. The team made an excellent record and were congratulated by SHEAF for their work.

**Team Papier**, hastily briefed for Rennes to replace team Justice which could not reach there, was dispatched on the night of 3/4 July by Merrill & crew to the wrong airfield. While they showed ingenuity and resourcefulness in reaching Rennes, they were overrun three days later by Patton's Army.

**Team Lapin** at Montargis, taken in by Sanders and crew, sent in valuable intelligence on troop movements, bombing results and bridges mined by the enemy.

**Team Diamant**, dropped by Byerley and crew, were to reach Strasbourg, but had unsuccessful efforts and ended up working with the Maquis, sent in only 2 W/T messages. However, they provided valuable tactical information to advancing American troops.

**Team Velours** was dispatched by Bales and crew to a Maquis group near Epinal. Both radio sets were destroyed on landing but the W/T operator managed to get to Hallainville where he borrowed a transformer from the Marquise Team Image. The team sent in six W/T messages, reported tactical information directly to US Army elements and participated in several actions.

**Teams Filan, Salaud and Colére**, destined for Dreux, Laval and Angers, were dropped on the night of 3/4 July, together with team Papier, on the wrong field by both Merrill and Heflin. These three teams set out toward the east in a German truck procured by a Resistance member. Unfortunately, the truck was stopped by the enemy and a suitcase containing a radio set fell open and they were arrested. As the Germans drove them off in the truck, the Filan observer made a break for it and escaped under fire. The others were executed by machine gun near Vendôme on 10 August 1944. The escaped Filan observer was later sent on a mission as part of Team Outil of the Marquise mission.

#### **Commendations:**

The general quality of OSSEX reports were commended by 1st Army, 3rd Army, 12th Army Group, and by Major Austen and Captain Ezra, G2-SHEAF. Major General Strong, G2-SHEAF wrote that the series of reports from the SUSSEX teams were "exceptionally

able and useful", especially those of Team Vitrail, which consisted of information on the Lehr Panzer Division at Chartres.

#### **Analysis:**

SUSSEX reports from 21 May to 23 August amounted to 436 useful mentions of the OSSEX (American) and 223 BRISSEX (British) reports.

#### **Example of Requested Intelligence:**

While the intelligence gathered by the teams was for the most part on their own initiative, on occasion the SI Field Detachments would receive, through the G-2s, specific information. The example given here is of note.

On 10 August 1944 a G-2 representative requested information on a factory behind the lines suspected of manufacturing chemical weapons. No coordinates of the factory, near Le Bouchet, or air photographs were available. An accurate description of the exact location and appearance of the factory was requested in order that Allied planes could avoid bombing it, since bombing would result in many French civilian deaths, as well as give the enemy the opportunity to claim that the Allies had started using chemical warfare.

Two OSSEX teams tackled the request one moving northeast and the other northwest, to converge on the factory. Both described the factory, gave its coordinates, and described the probable appearance from the air. G-2 expressed itself as very appreciative of these efforts, which was not an isolated instance but rather an example of many such intelligence requisitions which were fulfilled.

#### **Local Informants:**

Since a single observer could not effectively cover much territory, the Pathfinder teams had as a requirement of their mission to build up in advance a network of informants at each point where SUSSEX teams were intended to be placed. In most cases they were successful, establishing at least one contact for all of the teams. This effort did not obviate the necessity of the teams expanding these contacts to assist them in their observations. The example is given of Team Vitrail which recruited six assistants, two railway, one railroad engineer, an employ of the Prefecture, and two others employed at two airdromes.

#### **Casualties:**

Six OSSEX personnel were executed. Additionally, one was deported to Germany, fate unknown.

#### **Compensation:**

A cash payment of 50,000 francs was made to the family of each agent killed in action.

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I think this short condensation of the NARA Roll 4 OSS London War Diary speaks for itself and I hope all of you have enjoyed it. *TE, ret.*

# Carpetbagger Sussex Drops

From Pierre Tillet's 'History of In/Exfiltrations into/from France During WWII from 1941 to 1945'

Dates (1944)	Location	Members	Team Name	Crew & Target
7/8 May	5km E Souppes-sur-Loing	Andre Degorce Henri Schouler	Plutarque	St. Clair Plymouth 2
7/8 May	St Oulph - 30km E of Nogent/Seine	Guenard & Andreeu	Evasion	Fish - Ellis 3
10/11 May	Neaufles - 50km SW Evreux/Eure	De Perthuis & Dran	Diane	Stapel - Fiat 6
28/29 May	Nicorbin - near Voves/Eure & Loire	Ducasse & Veuve	Charles	Kelly - Austin 3
1/2 June	Savennières - Rochefort/Loire	Vaas & G. Souliere	Vis	Rabbitt - Cord 1
1/2 June	Savennières - Rochefort/Loire	Lefevre & Pomeranz Brochard & Pedro	Madeleine Cure	Merrill - Cord 1
7/8 June	48° 29'N 02° 22'E	Pissier & Tosy	Cendrillon	Pike - Donald 8B
7/8 June	48° 19'N 02° 38'E	Leroyer & Coulon	Foudre	McKee - Donald 5
3/4 July	Chateau L'Hermitage (Sartre)	De Beaucorps & Barre R. Fosset	Papier Colère	Merrill - Ansaldo 1
3/4 July	Chateau L'Hermitage (Sartre)	A. Crocq & M. Biscaino A. Noel & Rigot	Salaud Filan	Heflin - Ansaldo 1
8/9 July	Chateau L'Hermitage (Sartre)	Evelyn Clopet	Colère	B. Mead - Saint 2B
4/5 August	2km NW Lorrez-le-Bocage, (Seine & Marne)	Albert Bacquet Marceau Darques	Lapin	Sanders - Benz 1
31Aug/1Sep	48° 22'N 06° 01'E	Cambron & Moreau	Diamant	Byerley - Bob 277
1/2 Sep	48° 23'N 06° 30'E	Barthelemy & M. Faivre	Velours	Bales - Bob 279
1/2 Sep	10km N Mirecourt (Meurthe & Moselle)	De Beaucorps & Barre De Sorbier & Ravarre	Or Montre	Coleman - Bob 279
4/5 Sep	Lanques sur Rognon (Haute Marne)	Rigot & Pedro	Outil	Gwiazdon - Bob 335

Total - 38 agents of OSSEX insertions out of a total of 58 OSSEX agents dispatched. Some BRISSEX agents were dispatched by the Carpetbaggers, and some OSSEX Teams were dispatched by RAF crews. A number of attempts, not shown here, were unsuccessful. Regarding the Colère team, on the first drop (Merrill @ Ansaldo 1) Evelyn Clopet did not get to the Joe hole on time and on the final run, the DZ lights were out. She was inserted a week later by Ben Mead and crew at DZ Saint 2B. Unfortunately Clopet, a member of the French Army Auxiliary, was discovered by the Germans when her suitcase was opened by a Nazi patrol and a radio was found. She was tortured and later shot at Vendôme. (source Elizabeth MacDonald, "Undercover Girl", 1947).

The content of the OSS files on the SUSSEX Plan amounts to 261 pages, with more than 238 pages still held by the CIA or omitted from the NARA microfilm roll 4 of the OSS London War Diary. Should anyone living close enough to NARA wish to recover these pages and submit them to me for addition to the files I, and many others, would be most grateful. The PDF file of the SUSSEX plan is available 365.25/24/7 from the Data Site. The file is 144 Mega-bytes in size. If you haven't already, request a USER ID and Password from me before attempting to access it. As soon as possible, perhaps by the time you read this, I will add in the OSSEX efforts to the web site pages for Carpetbagger agents. *TE, ret.*



# Final Missions

**James J. Heddleson** - RO of the Ambrose crew and by almost any measure, the most famous of the Carpetbagger evaders. Jimmy and fellow crewmember George Henderson, survivors of the Ambrose crash on 28/29 April 1944, spent the better part of that summer in evasion in France. Returned to duty in August, he and other evaders were quickly shuffled off to the Z of I as were most evaders after they returned to the UK. Their odyssey filled quite a few pages of the group history and somewhat edited, in Ben Parnell's book as well.

**Ernest Rosenthal** - Navigator of the West crew, 858th BS.

**Harold H. Clausen, Jr.** - Engineer of the Akerhielm crew.

**Raymond J. Elliott** - Engineer of the Cunningham crew.

**Robert R. Ricketts** - Navigator of the Ken Driscoll and George Johnson crews.

**William T. Alford** - Pilot, 788th/859th BSs.

**Felix G. Price** - Pilot, 856th BS.

**Robert T. Byerley** - Pilot 850th/857th BSs.

**Arthur Bogusz** - Engineer, Rabbitt crew, 406th/858th BSs.

**Raymond G. Hawley** - Radar Mechanic, 36th/856th BSs.

**Coletta McGuire** - wife of Thomas McGuire, OSS OG.

**John A. Nutt** - Pilot, 406th Night Leaflet Squadron.

**Michael Hado** - Aircraft Mechanic, 406th/858th BSs.

**Right:** USF-128, an OWI leaflet distributed by the Carpetbaggers from 28/29 July 1944 through 16/17 August 1944.

From the Leo Ensminger collection



## Thanks...!

We would like to thank our new printer for a stellar job on this and our previous issue. And the printer is:

Corporate Graphics & Printing

5530 Tech Circle

Moorpark, CA 93021

Tel. 805-529-5333

Fax. 805-529-5335

## 25 Years Ago in The Carpetbagger

In the July 1984 issue Sebastian announced that a contract for a memorial plaque at the Air Force Academy had been signed, to be installed in 1984 and dedicated in 1985.

A query to members was made regarding the November 1945 issue of National Geographic, because it had an accounting of the crash of Lt. Hudson and crew in April of 1945. (This item is now on the data site, I found a copy in an antique store).

The 'erroneous plaque' at the USAF Museum was discussed and members were asked to petition the 8th AF Historical Society to correct the error (it showed the 801st BG as being at North Pickenham).

## The Maxwell Incident

Last month we heard from a Croatia researcher who has located the remnants of the Maxwell incident. On the afternoon of 9 February 1945, on their way to a target inside Yugoslavia, the plane exploded in mid-air, killing all aboard. The crew had served briefly at Harrington and was initially assigned to the 857th BS, later being transferred to the 859th BS and went DS to Italy in December 1944. **Below:** Radovan Zivanovich with A/C/ remnants.





This issues collage is all B24s. All of these planes have been identified by their crews, or by researchers in the field. A number of other nose-art planes are on the data site but were scanned at a lower resolution and could not be made a part of this essay.

#### Top Row, L-R:

B24 42-50291 Classy Chassis

B24 41-29587 Flying Boxcar

#### Middle Row,L-R:

B24 42-97304 Priority Gal

B24 42-52508 Libra

#### Lower Row,L-R:

B24 42-50294 Madame Shoo-Shoo

B24 42-94784 Snafuperman

B24 42-52693 Aries

A large portion of Carpetbagger aircraft have now been identified and cataloged thanks largely to research by many others than myself, they include Tom Brittan, Dan Stockton, Serge Blandin and the men of Carpetbagger crews, both flying and ground. For "flyover planes" of the 850th BS the photo collection of Red Monahan is without comparison and pictures of their planes are exceptional.

If you can recall or have in your records the last three letters of your favorite plane's serial number make a request and I will see what I have in the archives or ask favors of our knowlegdable researchers. If you have a picture of a plane you flew and you would like to have it in the archives send in a scan at 300dpi or better, or have your local photo shop make a copy and send it to your media director.



# Odds & Ends

Some time ago, John Moore sent me a sheet of stamps he had made up which had our logo aircraft on it. I used them for intermember letters (yes I do occasionally write letters), and gave some to other members, all of whom were impressed. A few weeks ago I looked up Zazzle.com and decided to give it a spin with my own design of stamps, decals and postcards:



The decal is 1.5in or 3in and is shown at left. Comes in sheets of six. The postcard is shown below and comes in ten packs; and the stamp is shown at bottom, comes in sheet of 20.



The strikeover on the 44 of the picture below is to prevent use of the scan as a stamp. If you are interested in any of these products follow this URL:

<http://www.zazzle.com/ensmingertom+gifts>

Hewitt says if there is enough interest he'll order some up and bring them to the reunion. I'm not going to be there, so if you don't want Hewitt to be short, send him a note. If you order them from Zazzle I get a small royalty, please don't send a request to me because I have none on hand, they'd just get lost in this office! *TE, ret.*

## Windfarm information

This note received from Tessa Helfet regarding the proposed windfarm near Harrington:

Dear Thomas

We now have the **planning application no. DA/2009/0168**. Any letters should be sent to the district council considering the application, noting the planning application no, as below :

The Planning Office  
Daventry District Council  
Lodge Road  
Daventry  
NN11 4FP

or by email to:

[planning@daventrydc.gov.uk](mailto:planning@daventrydc.gov.uk),

with the planning reference in the subject line. It would be so very helpful to receive a few letters/emails in support of our campaign against the Harrington Airfield windfarm ...

With all my thanks, as always

Tessa

## The Most Missions

My comments in the previous issue speculating on who among the flyboys might have the most combat missions out of Harrington caught the eye of Berton Werth, squadron bombardier of the 858th BS who wrote in to say:

"Joe Hartley and I went overseas the latter part of 1943 as a combat crew and flew our B-24 the southern route to England. I was the bombardier on Joe Hartley's crew for all of his combat missions on our first tour and also our second tour (60 total). We completed our first tour in July 1944 and returned to the states for R & R. Then Joe and I returned to Col. Boone's 858th Squadron and completed our second tour together. On *my* second tour I flew a total of 5 missions with pilots Jack Munn and Abner Pike, for a grand total of 65 missions."

Bert M. Werth"

## DB extracts 31 May 1945:

There will be a Swimming Party tonight. All those interested will meet at the Aero Club Card Room at 18:30 hours. Be sure and let Ruth or Charlotte know by noon today if you plan to go.

The movie today will be "Meet Me In St Louis" with Judy Garland and Margaret O'Brien. Three shows - 13:30, 18:15 and 20:30.



Excerpt from the Daily Bulletin, Station 179, dated 20 June 1944:

“Gas masks will be carried by all personnel from 0800 to 1200 hours and worn adjusted to the face from 1000 to 1030 hours each Wednesday”.

A remnant of WWI experiences and still a possible threat as the 3rd Reich began to collapse, it was the delight of many returning to the Zone of the Interior not to have to deal with gas masks after their overseas adventures. It was also the subject of a few cartoons as can be seen from our selection of this issue, from Yank's 22 November 1943 edition.

The data site contains 3.5 gigabytes of Yank issues, comprising 88 issues of the magazine with dates from 24 January 1943 to the last issue, dated 28 December 1945.



We have a much smaller collection of the venerable Stars and Stripes newspaper, occupying a mere 175 Megabytes of 33 issues, some of them only partials. Printed on very low quality paper, both publications are now toward the end of their lifetime. We scan surviving issues for free & return a CD.

**Thomas L. Ensminger**  
**801st/492nd BG Newsletter Editor**  
**2115 Polk Avenue**  
**Ogden, UT 84401**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

