

Dear Patron:

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DECLASSIFIED
WMD47589
AUTHORITY
BY L2 NARA DATE: 11/21

[REDACTED]

OSS ARCHIVES

DESENSITIZED

BOX 8 FOLDER 624

JOB 93-010682

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DECLASSIFIED
ND47589
AUTHORITY
BY L NARA DATE: 11/21

201-COTL, ROGER E.
11084219

DECLASSIFIED
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AUTHORITY
BY L NARA DATE 11/21

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|---|--------------|------|------|----------------------|----------|---------------------|-------|------|------|
| | | | | Date of Enl. or Ind. | | Yrs. | Comp. | Rank | Area |
| Cote, Roger E. 11084219 | | | | 9 Nov/42 | | 0 | AUS | T/S | KO |
| CI F | CI A Pay-Res | CI N | CI E | Rations | Quarters | Address | | | |
| | | 6.50 | | | | | | | |
| Remarks | | | | | | Maximum P/P \$40.00 | | | |
| Nov Due US CM Edw. Camp Edwards, Mass \$1.00. NOV 43 PAID | | | | | | | | | |
| Loss | | | | | | | | | |
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AUTHORITY
BY D NARA DATE: 11/21

| ENLISTED MAN | | OFFICER | | Cote, Roger E. | | 1st Sgt | | 11084219 | | MORNING REPORT | | HO & HO DET OSS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|---------|---|----------------|---|---------|---|----------|---|----------------|----|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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SYMBOLS: (X--On Duty) (A--Attached for Duty) (L--Leave) (S--Sick) (D--Detached Serv)
(W-AWOL) (AS--Absent Sick) (F-Furlough) (C-Confinement) (R-Relieved fr duty)

Asgd per par 39 SO 298 HQ Ft Monmouth, NJ 25 Oct 1943

Date of Rank Asgd or atchd to: Jedbergh ET Component

Inducted or enlisted 9 Nov 1942 Asgd & jd: 27 Oct 1943 (OVER)

or entered on A/D

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BY 15 NARA DATE 11/21

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| REMARKS: Trfd fr Hq Ft Monmouth NJ per | |
| par 39 SO 298 above hq dtd 25 Oct 1943 | |
| Reptd 27 Oct 1943. | |
| Duty to DS -London England Dec 9/43. | |
| Aptd Tec 4 per par 1 SO 22 dated 28 Jan 44; | |
| 28 Jan 44. | |
| Aptd Tec 3 per par 13 SO 23 HQ ETOUSA dtd | |
| 11 Mar 44; 22 Mar 44. | |
| Aptd T/Sgt per par 3 SO 68 Hq OSS ETOUSA dtd | |
| 1 Jun 44; 28 Jun 44. | |
| Aptd 1st Sgt per par 2 SO 118 Hq OSS ETOUSA dtd | |
| 11 Aug 44; 28 Aug 44. | |
| DS ETO killed in action in France on 30 Aug 44 | |
| in pay status at time of death per Ltr Hq & Hq | |
| Det this orgn dtd 20 Nov 44 SO ET; 23 Nov 44. | |
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BY: NARA DATE: 11/21

a short pause two more. It is probable that the three men had been executed. (Upon medical examination at the morgue of U.S. Military Cemetery at Champigneul the body of Major Bonsall was in a too far advanced stage of decomposition to permit determination of type of wound; the body of Sgt Cote showed a bullet hole through neck). The bodies of the three men were found by French civilians on Rue Haute, crossing the road and railroad at 0700 31 August 1944 at Barenton sur Serre co-ord vO-0828. The bodies were removed to the Barenton sur Serre community church and lay in state for 3 days, being buried 2 Sept 1944 by the French civilian population the same day the Germans left the area. The bodies were draped with the French flag, and many flowers were tendered, but as far as can be ascertained no military funeral was held. The pseudonym of each of the deceased was placed both on and in the individual caskets. Personal effects of the deceased were taken by Mr Robert Champeaux and the local police and later the effects of Capt Delwiche were turned over to the prefecture Laon, while the effects of Major Bonsall and Sgt Cote were turned over to Emile Fortier (Pseudonym Jean Pierre) of the French Resistance, whose home is at Arcy, St Restitue. It is believed that he turned the effects over to his Chief at Lille. (This mission was named "Mission Jean Pierre BOA Zone North A-5) BCA -Operations Aeriennes) The 2 American bodies were desinterred 9 December 1944 by men of the 605th QM Graves Reg Co and transported to US Military Cemetery at Champigneuls, where they were re-interred on 10 December 1944. S Kenneth J. Hellwig 1st Lt QMC 605 QM Graves Reg Co. Investigation Officer.

Awarded Distinguished Service Cross per GO 61, Hqs ETO dtd 12 Apr 45.

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------|----------|-----------------|---|-----------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| COTE | | ROGER | | E | M | American | Yes | | | 11084219 |
| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | INITIAL | SEX | NATIONALITY | | CITIZEN | S.S. STATUS | A.G.C.Y. | SERIAL NUMBER | |
| DATE OF BIRTH | 21 November 1922 | | PLACE | Manchester N.H. | | IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE | | | | |
| MARITAL STATUS: SINGLE | X | MARRIED | DIVORCED | WIDOW (ER) | | TO BE COMPLETED BY | | | | |
| DEPENDENTS: TOTAL | None | | PARTIAL | CHILDREN | | VACCINE | DUE | GIVEN | BY | |
| LOCATOR | | | | | | TYPHOID | 1 | | | |
| 1 HOME 203 Adams Street New ton Mass. | | | | | | 2 | | | | |
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WMD47589
AUTHORITY
BY 15 NARA DATE 11/21

ACTION

Asgd 27 Oct per Par 10, SO 246, Hq & Hq Det, OSS, 29 Oct

ospitalizations: ~~None~~ Hernia Operations Subj in the field 15 Aug 44 per Memo fr
eld Operations ETOUSA dtd 15 Aug 44.
Parachute Pay: Yes

Cable #87561 IN- 4989 dated 7 November 1944

Killed in action, KIA 30 August 1944. No operational security exists. Casualty report submitted this date.

Army Air Pouch 21-749 21 December 1944. from Graham to Eubank
Case No 13 information Received 19 Nov 1944

3 men were dropped by parachute 10 August 1944 at Sains, Richaumont, France: Major Bonsall presumably using forged identification name of Joseph Porteval; Captain Jean Delwiche French Army with the name Jean Derval and 1st Sgt Roger Cote presumably using forged identification papers with the name of Rene Chabaud.

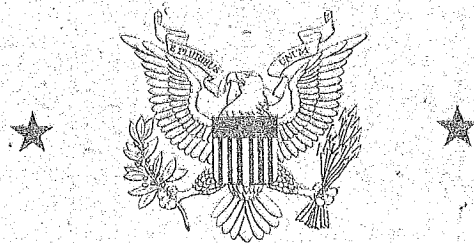
Sgt Cote was of the Catholic faith and spoke French fluently; Major Bonsall had a poor command of the language. These men had a Radio among their equipment, and were operating in civilian clothes. The name of their mission was "Mission Augustus BCRA London" After working through the area from here to St Quentin to Arcy, they were trapped by the Germans at Sains, Richaumont on 30 August 1944. The Mayor of Barenton sur Serre stated that at approximately 2245 hours 30 August 1944 five separate revolver shots were heard, and after

FORM OSS #1749

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| NAME Cote, Roger E. | | HOME ADDRESS 203 Adams Street New ton Mass. | |
| NEXT OF KIN Mrs Elzear L. Cote | REL. | ADDRESS same | TEL. |
| RECOMMENDED BY | | ADDRESS | TEL. |
| ORIGINATING OFFICER | | OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT | |
| IF "EWER" | | ORDERS Reg 23 Nov. dated 27 Nov. 1943. | |
| RELEVANT | | MOVEMENT | |
| APPROVALS | | A. G. O. | |
| S. S. O. REQUESTED | | PASSPORT | |
| APPROVED | | VISAS | |
| SECURITY REQUESTED | | PROCESSING COMPLETED | |
| APPROVED 13 Dec 43 | | HD. Q. CHECKLIST | |
| OVERSEAS REQUESTED | | T. O. CHECKLIST | |
| APPROVED 26 Feb 1944 | | CABLES TO THEATER COMMANDER | |
| TRANSFER REQUESTED | | | |
| EFFECTED 27 Oct 43 Asgd ETO 3 Jan 44 | | | |
| SCHOOLS & TRAINING | | | |
| F-27 Oct | | | |
| U. S. ASSIGNMENT | | FINAL CHECKLIST | |
| COMMISSION APPLIED FOR | | DEPARTURE DATE | MODE |
| MIL. PERS. BD. OSS | | EMBARKATION POINT | |
| SERVICE BOARD | | NOTIFICATION TO FIELD HD. Q. | ETO |
| O. P. S. | | NOTIFICATION OF SAFE ARRIVAL | |
| DATE GRANTED | | | |
| DATE ENLISTED 9 Nov 42. | PRESENT RANK | DATE OF RANK 11 March 44 | |
| NUMBER | NAME | | |
| | COTE, ROGER E. | | |
| | | | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 SEC TRNG IMM TRNS CHKL SA |

World War II

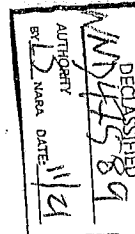
1st SGT. ROGER E. COTE

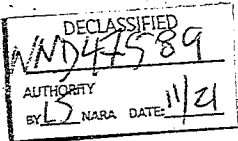


*Honorably Served
The United States of America
As A Member of
The Office of Strategic Services*

THE 1st DAY OF OCTOBER 1945

William J. Donovan
WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
MAJOR GENERAL, U.S.A.
DIRECTOR





OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

28 September 1945

TO FORMER MEMBERS OF OSS:

It is my pleasure to forward to you the enclosed certificate commemorating your service in World War II as a member of the Office of Strategic Services. This certificate exemplifies in a tangible way my feeling that some such recognition should be given to the personnel of OSS as evidence of the resourcefulness, courage and devotion to duty shown by the men and women of the Agency who provided our Nation with an unprecedented service which hastened the day of victory.

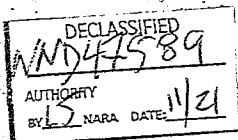
To provide identification of the members of the organization, a group of former OSS associates has arranged for the design and manufacture of insignia available to those who are receiving certificates. The insignia is a lapel emblem which has the letters "OSS" stamped in gold on a red enamel background. At the request of this group there is enclosed herewith a coupon for the use of those who wish to procure such emblems.

I also enclose the text of remarks made at a meeting of OSS personnel held on 28 September, and a copy of President Truman's letter to me. The credit for OSS accomplishments belongs to the superior personnel who made them possible. I am deeply grateful for your loyal and effective contribution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William J. Donovan".

William J. Donovan
Director



To former members of OSS:

A permanent OSS insignia has been designed and manufactured and is available to former personnel of the Agency, for use with civilian attire. The insignia is a half inch lapel emblem (or, in the alternative, a key*) with the letters "OSS" stamped in gold on a red enamel background. These insignia may be obtained by authorized personnel. If you desire an insignia forward the attached coupon, properly filled out, together with check or money order in amount of one dollar payable to Joseph Davidson, Trustee, to cover the cost of the emblem, handling charges and federal jewelry tax. If any surplus remains it will be turned over to the Army Relief Society.

Joseph Davidson, Trustee
1095 National Press Building
Washington, D. C.

Attached is check or money order drawn to your order in the amount of one dollar to cover cost, handling charges and federal jewelry tax on one OSS lapel pin or key*, as specified below, to be sent to me at the address indicated.

Please check one of the two choices. If no choice is indicated the lapel pin will be supplied.

Lapel Pin ☐

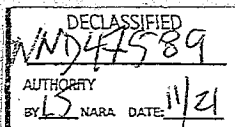
Key ☐

Name _____

Number and Street _____

City and State _____

* The key is a small key or dangle which may be worn on a fine watch chain, bracelet, etc.



REMARKS OF G. EDWARD BUXTON ON 28 SEPTEMBER 1945

AT FAREWELL GATHERING OF OSS EMPLOYEES

General Donovan and Fellow Members of OSS:

I have been asked to present to the General on behalf of his friends a gift which will serve as a remembrance of our war years under his leadership.

In matters which affect our sentiments so sincerely, it is hard to find adequate expression.

Let me say as simply as I can that we are very proud to have stood with him at Armageddon. At the outbreak of global war, he was given a fantastic assignment — to create and operate a secret intelligence agency after the enemy had erected his barbed wire and contrived every conceivable scheme to make himself impregnable. The General created the organization; he formulated the program, he devised the tactics; he penetrated the barriers. He personally attended the invasions.

History will know and record only in part the value of that service.

As the perilous years passed, he extemporized; he devised; he asked for the improbable and confidently achieved it. He capitalized his weaknesses and attacked. Inspired by his personality and his vision, thousands of devoted people took the uneven odds. People of all ages lived or died as duty demanded or circumstances permitted. They killed and were killed alone or in groups, in jungles, in cities, by sea or air. They organized resistance where there was no resistance. They helped it to grow where it was weak. They assaulted the enemy's mind as well as his body; they helped confuse his will and disrupt his plans.

And with it all, Donovan assembled the brains to evaluate and the competence to estimate the material that flowed back from a thousand vital sources dealing with the enemy capabilities and intentions and morale; military and civilian, and bottleneck targets, and the web of diplomatic intrigue. General Donovan, all of us, whatever our role, whatever our individual spot in the pattern of your unprecedented task, — we esteem it a very great privilege to have served our country under your banner.

You were a legend of gallant combat leadership in the First World War.

It would seem that a very full and honorable lifetime of unique experience and training had unconsciously prepared you for your role in World War II.

To the Director of OSS, whose duties are about to terminate, we, your associates, offer our Salute, and Hail and Farewell.

To Donovan, the Man, our Friend, we say — Au Revoir, Good Luck, and God go with you!

REMARKS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, USA, DIRECTOR
OF STRATEGIC SERVICES, AT FINAL GATHERING OF OSS EMPLOYEES

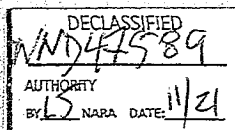
28 SEPTEMBER 1945

Men and Women of OSS:

We have come to the end of an unusual experiment. This experiment was to determine whether a group of Americans constituting a cross section of racial origins, of abilities, temperaments and talents could meet and risk an encounter with the long-established and well-trained enemy organizations.

How well that experiment has succeeded is measured by your accomplishments and by the recognition of your achievements. You should feel deeply gratified by President Truman's expression of the purpose of basing a coordinated intelligence service upon the techniques and resources that you have initiated and developed.

This could not have been done if you had not been willing to fuse yourselves into a team — a team that was made up not only of scholars and research experts and of the active units in operations and intelligence who engaged the



- 2 -

enemy in direct encounter, but also of the great numbers of our organization who drove our motor vehicles, carried our mail, kept our records and documents and performed those other innumerable duties of administrative services without which no organization can succeed and which, because well done with us, made our activities that much more effective.

When I speak of your achievements that does not mean we did not make mistakes. We were not afraid to make mistakes because we were not afraid to try things that had not been tried before. All of us would like to think that we could have done a better job, but all of you must know that, whatever the errors or failures, you have done an honest and self-respecting job. But more than that, because there existed in this organization a sense of solidarity, you must also have the conviction that this agency, in which each of you played a part, was an effective force.

Within a few days each one of us will be going to new tasks whether in civilian life or in governmental work. You can go with the assurance that you have made a beginning in showing the people of America that only by decisions of national policy based upon accurate information can we have the chance of a peace that will endure.

My dear General Donovan:

I appreciate very much the work which you and your staff undertook, beginning prior to the Japanese surrender, to liquidate those wartime activities of the Office of Strategic Services which will not be needed in time of peace.

Timely steps should also be taken to conserve those resources and skills developed within your organization which are vital to our peacetime purposes.

Accordingly, I have today directed, by Executive order, that the activities of the Research and Analysis Branch and the Presentation Branch of the Office of Strategic Services be transferred to the State Department. This transfer, which is effective as of October 1, 1945, represents the beginning of the development of a coordinated system of foreign intelligence within the permanent framework of the Government.

Consistent with the foregoing, the Executive order provides for the transfer of the remaining activities of the Office of Strategic Services to the War Department; for the abolition of the Office of Strategic Services; and for the continued orderly liquidation of some of the activities of the Office without interrupting other services of a military nature the need for which will continue for some time.

I want to take this occasion to thank you for the capable leadership you have brought to a vital wartime activity in your capacity as Director of Strategic Services. You may well find satisfaction in the achievements of the Office and take pride in your own contribution to them. These are in themselves large rewards. Great additional reward for your efforts should lie in the knowledge that the peacetime intelligence services of the Government are being erected on the foundation of the facilities and resources mobilized through the Office of Strategic Services during the war.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

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 AUTHORITY
 BY LS NARA DATE 11/21

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HQ & HQ DETACHMENT
 OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
 European Theater of Operations
 United States Army
 (MAIN)

61
 Cote

200.6-AMS

APD 413
 (Date) 16 May 1945

SUBJECT: Awards and Decorations.

TO : Deputy Director of Personnel, Office of Strategic Services,
 Washington 25, DC

Transmitted herewith, information concerning the award of the
Distinguished Service Cross to R. E. Cote 1st Sgt.
 (Name) (Rank)

SO Branch:

- The name and rank or title of the recipient.
1st. Sgt. R. E. Cote
- The specific award or awards, received.
Distinguished Service Cross
- Has any award been received more than once, i.e., an Oak Leaf Cluster or a Navy Gold Star?
No
- The date or dates of the actions cited. 15 Aug - 30 Aug 45
- Four (4) copies of the citation and four (4) copies of orders in which published are attached.
- The name and title of the Awarding Officer.
General Dwight D. Eisenhower
- The date of presentation (if presented) and by whom and with how much ceremony.
War Department presenting to family.
- Posthumous awards — Indicate if medal, etc. has been sent to next of kin.
Yes. (See "g" above)
- Any other information considered apropos of the circumstances.
None
- Identification of OSS unit under which the individual operated.
OSS/ETO - SO Branch

For the Commanding Officer:

Kenneth T. Karlson
 KENNETH T. KARLSON,
 1st Lt, CAC,
 Asst Adjutant.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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BY 15 NARA DATE 11/21

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY

GO 61

12 Apr 1945

| | | |
|--|-------|-----|
| Distinguished-Service Cross (Posthumous) | ----- | I |
| Silver Star | ----- | II |
| Legion of Merit | ----- | III |

I--DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS (POSTHUMOUS). By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded, posthumously, to:

Major John H. Bonsall (Army Serial No 0413060), Field Artillery, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, as a member of the Special Operations Branch, Office of Strategic Services, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, from 15 August 1944 to 30 August 1944. Major Bonsall, after having been parachuted into France, organized and armed resistance forces. He changed to civilian clothes, made his way through enemy-infested regions, and set up his headquarters. Major Bonsall established radio contact immediately with London, supplying valuable information regarding the arms requirements of the resistance forces in his area and the locations of enemy troops and installations. Receiving word of the approach of the allied armies, Major Bonsall went through the enemy lines to deliver intelligence to the advancing columns. His actions throughout this dangerous assignment reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from New Jersey.

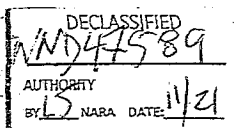
✓ First Sergeant Roger E. Cote (Army Serial No 11084219), Infantry, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, as a member of the Operational Groups, Special Operations Branch, Office of Strategic Services, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, from 15 August 1944 to 30 August 1944. Sergeant Cote parachuted into France as a radio operator, changed to civilian clothes, and made his way through enemy-infested regions to his headquarters. He immediately established radio contact with London, and supplied valuable information regarding the arms requirements of resistance forces and the disposition of enemy troops and installations. Receiving word of the approach of the allied armies, he went through the enemy lines to deliver intelligence to advancing columns. His actions throughout this hazardous assignment reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

II--SILVER STAR. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded to:

Second Lieutenant Rene J. Defourneaux (Army Serial No 0887913), Army of the United States, for gallantry in action as a member of the Special Operations Branch, Office of Strategic Services, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, from 8 August 1944 to 30 September 1944. Lieutenant Defourneaux was parachuted into France, in civilian clothes, as an organizer and director of French resistance forces. By exercising tact and diplomacy, he successfully organized resistance forces and led them in sabotage activities. Bridges across the Loire were destroyed and German convoys were harassed by a series of ambushes, forcing them to turn back or to change their routes. Lieutenant Defourneaux took an active part in the reception and distribution of arms and munitions with which to supply the resistance forces, and procured and delivered valuable intelligence information to the United States Army. Entered military service from New Jersey.

R E S T R I C T E D

- 1 -

R E S T R I C T E D

(GO 61, 12 Apr 1945, contd)

→ Captain William J. Morgan (Army Serial No 01003994), Army of the United States, for gallantry in action as a member of the Special Operations Branch, Office of Strategic Services, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, from 14 August 1944 to 28 September 1944. Captain Morgan, having been parachuted into France for the purpose of instructing resistance forces, successfully trained approximately one thousand maquis in sabotage and guerrilla warfare tactics, and led them in repeated attacks on enemy convoys and installations. He personally effected the sabotage of four bridges on secondary roads, thereby forcing the enemy to use the main highway, along which he had placed ambush parties in strategic positions. The untiring devotion to duty and courage displayed by Captain Morgan were an inspiration to all and reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from New York.

III--LEGION OF MERIT. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Legion of Merit is awarded, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services during the respective periods indicated, to:

Major General Leven C. Allen (Army Serial No 04760), General Staff Corps, United States Army -- 19 October 1943 to 1 August 1944.

Colonel George A. Bicher (Army Serial No 015583), Signal Corps, United States Army -- 1 August 1942 to 1 October 1944.

Lieutenant Colonel Everett W. Duvall (Army Serial No 0364849), Infantry, United States Army -- 15 August 1944 to 7 January 1945.

Technician Third Grade Leland G. Fogleman (Army Serial No 14100976), Signal Corps, United States Army -- 31 July 1944 to 10 February 1945.

Major Edmund P. Fowler, Jr (Army Serial No 0400230), Medical Corps, United States Army -- December, 1942, to December, 1944.

Technical Sergeant Harold A. Hutchinson (Army Serial No 35224273), Air Corps, United States Army -- 1 February 1944 to 1 March 1944.

Colonel Frank B. James (Army Serial No 022529), Air Corps, United States Army -- 3 February 1944 to 16 June 1944.

Sergeant Charles Jensky (Army Serial No 32296186), Air Corps, United States Army -- 7 November 1943 to 18 July 1944.

Colonel Albert Riani (Army Serial No 012093), Corps of Engineers, United States Army -- 25 February 1944 to 1 August 1944.

Technical Sergeant Vincent J. Senhouse (Army Serial No 32196488), Corps of Engineers, United States Army -- 1 August 1944 to 12 November 1944.


Captain Robert J. Sommer (then First Lieutenant) (Army Serial No 01635361), Signal Corps, United States Army -- 28 July 1944 to 28 October 1944.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL EISENHOWER:

T. B. LARKIN,

OFFICIAL:

Major General, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff.



R. B. LOVETT,
 Brigadier General, USA, Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION: D /R E S T R I C T E D

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HQ & HQ DETACHMENT
 Office of Strategic Services
 European Theater of Operations
 UNITED STATES ARMY
 (Forward)

APC 887

15 February 1945

200.6

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Posthumous Award of Distinguished Service Cross

TO : Commanding General, European Theater of Operations,
 United States Army, APC 887, US Army

1. a. It is recommended that First Sergeant ROGER E. COTE, 11084219, Army of the United States, Office of Strategic Services Detachment, European Theater of Operations, APC 887, United States Army, be awarded the **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS** posthumously.

b. Sergeant Cote was serving as radio operator and assistant organizer in a three man Jedburgh team at the time of the act or services for which this award is recommended.

c. Name and address of nearest relative: Mother: Mrs. Elzear L. Cote, 203 Adams Street, Newton, Massachusetts.

d. Entered military service from: Massachusetts.

e. Decorations previously awarded: None.

f. A similar recommendation for this individual has not been submitted.

2. a. The officer recommending this award has personal knowledge of the acts upon which this recommendation is based through official records and reports.

b. First Sergeant Roger E. Cote, 11084219, while serving as a member of the Operational Groups, Special Operations Branch, Office of Strategic Services, European Theater of Operations, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action in military operations against an armed enemy from 15 August 1944 to 30 August 1944.

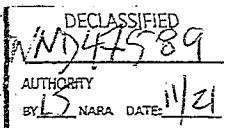
c. Detailed narrative of the services for which this award is recommended:

Sergeant Cote, on 3 January 1944, volunteered for the extremely hazardous duty of entering enemy occupied territory for the purpose of acting as radio operator in transmitting operational

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messages from enemy occupied territory and assisting in the organizing of Resistance Groups, arranging for the delivery and distribution of supplies, directing and personally conducting acts of sabotage which would hinder the war effort of the enemy, conducting guerrilla warfare to harass the enemy, and supplying information of military importance.

After extensive training for the type of work in which he was to engage, Sergeant Cote was parachuted into France on 15 August 1944, as a member of the three man Jedburgh team, "AUGUSTUS" where he was to act as radio operator in liaison between London and the Maquis of the Departments of Aisne and Nord and to assist in the organizing, equipping, and directing of the activities of the Maquis.

Landing northwest of Colcaufay in the Aisne Department, the team was directed by the Chief of the Resistance Forces in that region to proceed to Caudry in the Nord Department where the need for arms and organization was paramount.

Dressed in civilian clothes, the team made its way through a region infested with German troops and, in spite of being stopped on several occasions by the local police for questioning, arrived at its destination and set up headquarters near Caudry.

Sergeant Cote at once established radio contact with London Headquarters and transmitted messages regarding the arms requirements of the local Maquis; the location of German convoys on the roads and railways; and valuable information concerning the defenses of Margival.

Receiving word, on 28 August 1944, that the Allied Armies were approaching, Sergeant Cote with Major John M. Bonsall, the leader of the team, made his way through the enemy lines to deliver to the proper authorities all the military information they had assembled during their stay behind the lines.

On 30 August 1944, while attempting to return through the lines in a captured German vehicle for the purpose of obtaining further information, Sergeant Cote and Major Bonsall, still dressed in civilian clothing, were apprehended by three German tanks and instantly killed.

d. Proposed Citation:

"First Sergeant ROGER E. COTE, 11084219, Army of the United States, for extraordinary heroism in action in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in enemy occupied territory from 15 August 1944 to 30 August 1944. After having been parachuted into France northwest of Colcaufay in the Aisne Department

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for the purpose of serving as radio operator in liaison between London Headquarters and the Maquis of the Departments of Aisne and Nord, Sergeant Cote, changing to civilian clothes, made his way through the enemy infested region to Caudry in the Nord Department, where the team made its headquarters, immediately established radio contact with London, supplying valuable information regarding arms requirements of the Resistance Forces in the area and intelligence relative to disposition of enemy troops and installations. Receiving word of the approach of the allied armies, Sergeant Cote, with Major John H. Bonsall, the leader of the team, went through the enemy lines to deliver intelligence to the advancing columns. On 30 August 1944, while attempting to return through the lines in a captured German vehicle for the purpose of obtaining further information, Sergeant Cote, still dressed in civilian clothing, was apprehended by the enemy and instantly killed. The actions of Sergeant Cote throughout this hazardous assignment reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Massachusetts."

JAMES R. FORGAN,
 Colonel, GSC,
 Commanding.

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28 December 1944

TO: Lt Col van der Stricht

FROM: Lt de Roussy de Sales

Draft of Narrative for Granting of Posthumous Award to:

1st Sgt Roger E. Cote, AUS, 11084219.

Sergeant Cote parachuted into France on 15 August 1944 as radio operator for the Jedburgh Team AUGUSTUS, assigned to arm and organize RFI resistance groups in the Aisne and Nord Departments.

After an extremely dangerous and long trip through a region infested with German troops, the Team settled down for eight days of important work near Caudry. From here messages were exchanged with London regarding the arms requirements of the Maquis, the location of German convoys on the road and railways and important details concerning the defenses of Margival and of a port on the Channel.

On 28 August when the Allied Armies drew near, the Team at considerable risk went through the lines to give the advancing columns all the military information they had assembled during their stay behind the lines.

On 30 August while attempting to return through the lines, in a captured German vehicle to obtain further information the Team was ambushed by three German tanks and instantly killed.

IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES
CAUGHT

LT DE ROUSSY DE SALES

AWARD RECOMMENDED:

PAUL VAN DER STRICHT
LT COL AUS
CHIEF, WESTERN EUROPEAN SECTION

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21

T/SGT. R.E. COTE.

Killed in action, with rest of his team. Did very gallent work prior to being killed.


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OSS FORM 4001a

Date 2 December 1944

To: General William J. Donovan

1. Attached is a proposed letter of sympathy to Mr. Cote, father of First Sergeant Roger E. Cote, SO-ETO, who had gone into France with Major Bonsall and was killed in action.
2. The War Department has already sent out notification of his death.
3. The Secretariat has not yet received a full report on this casualty.


PETER F. PUGLIESE
1st Lieut., AUS

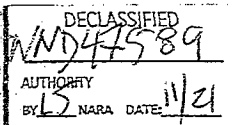
Office of the Secretariat

(9139)

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| BY LS | NARA DATE 11/21 |

Wm. H. Bassett

1st Sgt. Roger Cate



Cote,
1st Sgt. Roger E.

SECRETARIAT

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1944 DEC 26 PM 5 21

21 December 1944

OSS

Mr. Elzear L. Cote
203 Adams Street
Newton, Massachusetts

My dear Mr. Cote:

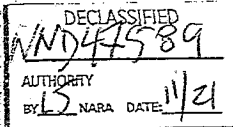
It was with deep regret that I learned that your son, First Sergeant Roger E. Cote, was killed in action overseas.

I realize how inadequate any expression of sympathy must be but I should like you to know that your son was deeply admired by his associates in this Agency for the courageous and brave manner in which he performed his hazardous duties. I know you will be proud to know that he took an active part in directly assisting the Resistance Groups in France. He served his country well.

With full appreciation of the extent of your loss and my sincerest respect, I am

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
Maj Gen, USA
Director



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HEADQUARTERS and HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
2324 F STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

201
Cote

SUBJECT: Casualties

20 November 1944

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C.
Attention: Lt George, Room 3048, Munitions Building.

1. It is requested that the following information be furnished this
headquarters on the following named men of this command.

| <u>NAME, RANK AND ASN</u> | <u>DATE NEXT OF KIN NOTIFIED</u> | <u>ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN</u> | <u>EXTRA PAY STATUS</u> | <u>OW REAS THEATER</u> | <u>DATE OF CASUALTY</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|

Captain Justin L. Greene
O-211311, AF
Major John E. Russell
O-413066, 7A
1st Lt James E. Cote
11443-219
1st Lt Lawrence E. Spunk
11443-219

SO ET 19 Nov

Father
Mr Elgear L
Cote 103 Adams St
Newton, Mass.

30
any
KIA

2. This information is required (in addition to its being the basis for
morning report entry) in order that the Director of the Office of Strategic Services
may write a personal letter to the next of kin for all personnel of this
organization who become casualties. The use of this form also insures that such
letters can not be written until official release is indicated by the War
Department.

For the Commanding Officer:

C. M. CROSBY,
1st Lt., AUS,
Asst. Adjutant

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