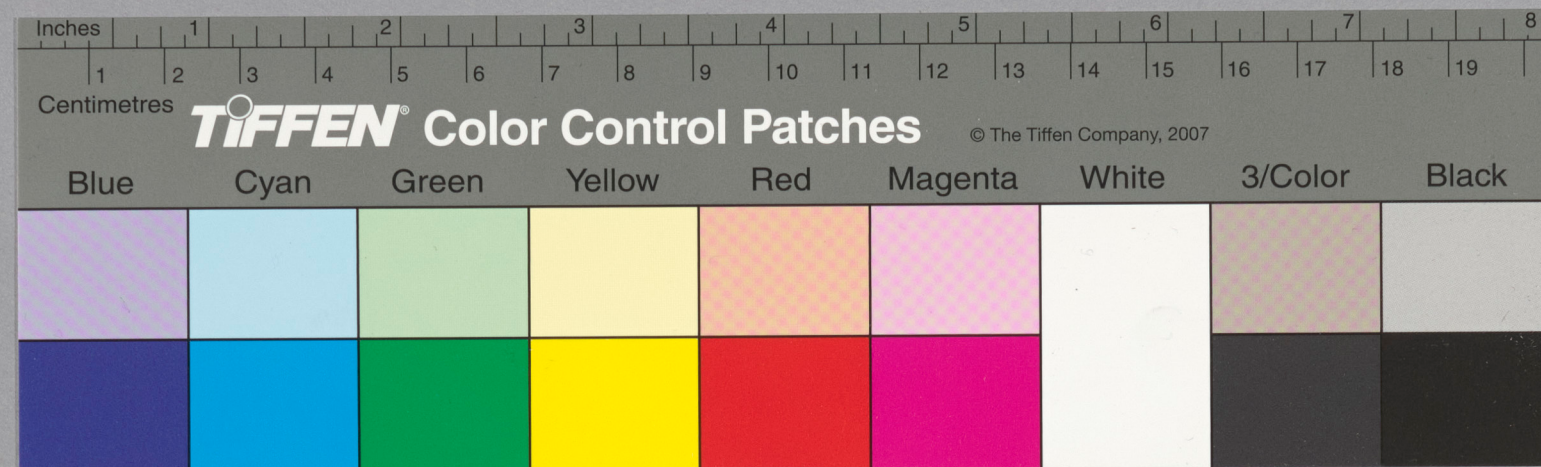




1.2

OSS MATERIALS

Numerical files
No. 31

Général Paul AUSSARESSES
74, boulevard du Montparnasse
75014 PARIS
Tél. : (1) 43.35.30.14

Paris, October 25, 1989

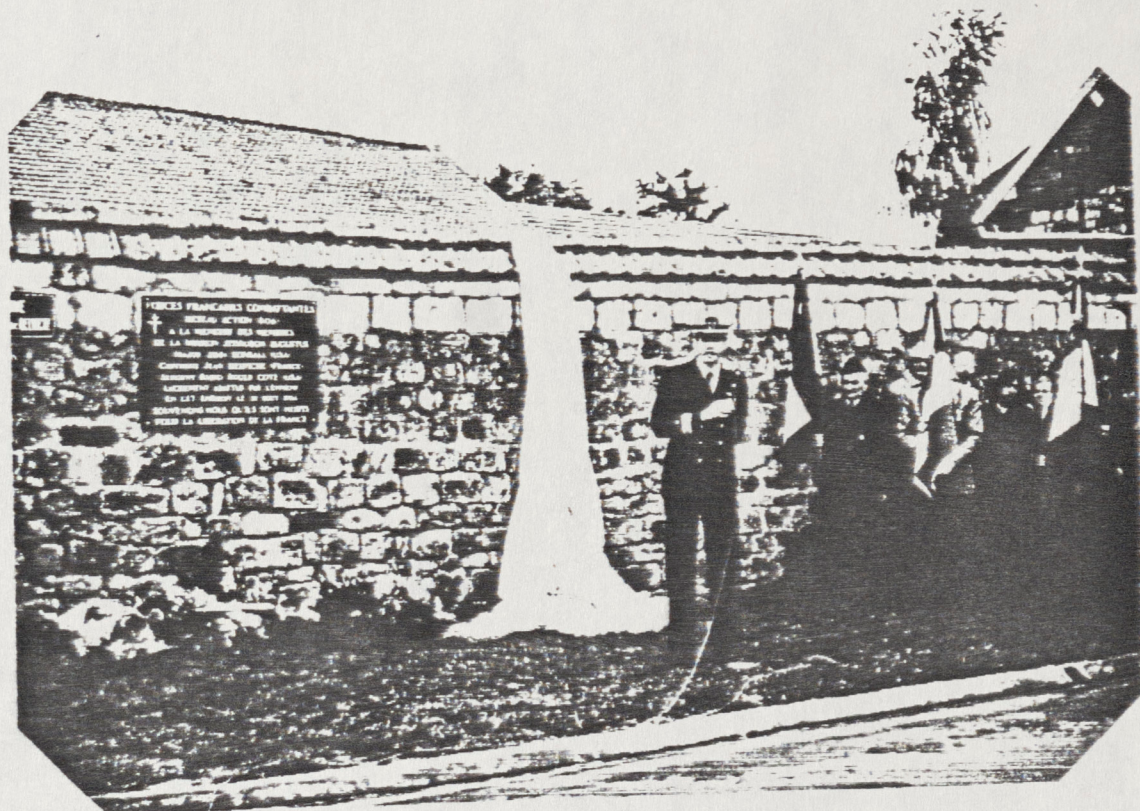
Dear Captain River,

I feel you may like that HUMAN
reference to Julius Caesar AUGUSTUS,
inspired from my talking with the veteran
who was, at sixteen, a witness of the
brave deeds of our fellows.

He still remembers them as very
courageous people.

Yours sincerely

Paul L. Aussares



Barenton me Terre 9.5.84

Commander Patrick Lewis,
US Navy, Pith, giving appropriate
talk (excellent)

Pith, took part to the aborted
raid in Iran.

25.10.89

Remembering Jedburgh team AUGUSTUS

Every year since 1944, at the end of August or the beginning of September, a service was held at the church of BARENTON SUR SEINNE, not far from LAON, FRANCE, in memory of the members of Jedburgh team AUGUSTUS, Major John BONSALL US Army, Captain Jean DELVICHÉ, French Army and Sergeant Roger COTE, Radio operator, US Army, killed in action there on the 30th of August, 1944.

On the 9th of September 1984 a plate wearing their names was affixed on a wall close to the place where they fell. A group of Jedburghs, including their honorary president, Jacques Robrat, joined there the authorities, including the US Naval Attache in Paris, and a crowd of local veterans. Some of them did remember our fellows - I had a talk with them, especially with Armand ROT, member of the "SOUVENIR FRANÇAIS" semi-official organization taking care of the war cemeteries. He gave me a detailed information about the mission and the end of team AUGUSTUS.

The attached short report and map summarize the activity of our fellows, which is in fact a typical example of the mission of Jedburghs =

gathering intelligence from local resistance and sending it to base in Great-Britain -

taking note of the needs of local resistance, making requests to base in G.B. for weapons

taking note of their needs in instruction - Organizing said instruction in agreement with resistance leaders organizing offensive action of guerilla

contacting approaching Allied forces - providing them with contact intelligence crossing the lines therefore -

such ^{last} activities were possibly not especially intended for Jedburghs but they felt them necessary in the course of the fulfillment of their mission -

To cross the lines they felt the most appropriate vehicle would be a horse-drawn peasant cart. They heard the Germans had requisitioned such a cart and a horse from a local farmer, old man MAGNIEN, one of the men they

Having spotted the horse and the cart, they went away with them. They were themselves clad as farmers -

I asked Armand Rot: Don't you think they were rather... temerary?

He said they were of an outstanding temerity -

What about their relationship with the local farmers?

Perfect. Everybody was eager to listen to them as instructors, and to help them, and follow them in combat.

Armand Rot gave me a very realistic description of their last night: a terrible weather, heavy rain, thunder, lightnings. They felt it was appropriate to cross the lines in their cart, not exactly aware of the accurate design of the lines - They did not know 3 "Tiger" tanks were ambushed at a cross road in BARENTON and they fell on them -

In the mean time, MAGNIEN and a group of armed farmers were waiting in the barn of his farmhouse -

you may suppose how anxious they were. Did the AUGUSTUS succeed in crossing the lines once more?

Suddenly, the door flung open. With a terrifying cry, a kind of monstrous head appeared, with enormous eyes - Really, Captain Irwin, if you would have been there, you would have felt, like everybody there, it was the devil. But the head reached to the old man, friendly then: it was the horse, who unwillingly had become collaborator to the Jerries, then assistant to the Jeddburghs and now was rushing back to his barn and to civilian life.

He still was towing the cart, empty.

The corpses of our fellows were found in the morning. Curiously enough, the Germans made no enquiry about a possible help they would have received from the village. They were buried in the local cemetery, with a French national flag laid on their graves.

Well, Captain Irwin, I think their M1 carbines and their colts 45 signalled them as military - and, probably, some papers and radio related things...

JEDBURGH TEAM AUGUSTUS.

-Captain Jean DELVICHE was born in VIVAISE small village 10 km. NORTH of LAON. (1)

-Team was dropped at COLONFAY hamlet 30 km. NORTH of VIVAISE, 15 km. SOUTH of GUISE night AUGUST 15-16. Area intensely patrolled by GERMANS. (2)

-Moved to local Resistance H.Q., LE NOUVION EN THIERACHE, 35 km. NORTH of D.Z. (3)

-Moved to safer place, farm near village CLARY 30 km. NORTH-WEST of there, afternoon 16. Took contact radio with base in G-B. Conference with Resistance leaders on 19. to determine program action. Agreed with Resistance to: ~~move SOUTH~~ to area SOISSONS where GERMANS were more active in organising defensive positions. More weapons and instruction urgently needed by Resistance. Remained till AUGUST 21. (4)

-AUGUST 21 moved SOUTH 100 km. farm small village RUGNY. 3000 GERMANS in close vicinity. Team very active in sending intelligence reports to G-B., discussing and organising guerilla with Resistance. Remained till 28. (5)

-Informed about AMERICAN advance moved NORTH on Monday 28. Crossed the lines NORTH of SOISSONS. Contacted AMERICAN tanks. Briefed U.S. Division H.Q. in SOISSONS. (6)

-AMERICANS interested in contact intelligence and detailed information about entrenched positions at military camp MARGIVAL. (7)

-AUGUST 30 front line was 10 km. NORTH of LAON. Starting from place close to VIVAISE area well known to Jean DELVICHE they decided to cross back the lines SOUTH of FROIDMONT. (8)

-Night AUGUST 30-31. fell in ambush BARENTON SUR SERRE. (9)

