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JEDBURGH

OPERATIONSTeam Hugh (106a)

Jedburgh team Hugh was the first Jedburgh team to be dispatched to France from the U.K.

Members of Team

The members of team Hugh were:

Captain L. Legrand, (French), code name: FRANC

Captain W. R. Crawshay (British), code name: CROWN

C.C. R. Mersiol (French), code name: YONNE

Area to Which Dispatched

Team Hugh was dispatched on the night of 5/6 June to the Chateauroux area in the Department of Indre, France.

Background of Resistance in Area

The team was dispatched with an SAS group known as Bullbasket and instructed to make contact with the organization under the direction of our agent Samuel, sent to the field in April 1943. Samuel acted for almost a year as W/T operator and later as personal secretary to Philippe, who had built up an extremely active and powerful organization covering an area from Vierzon to Perigeux with affiliations as far south as Tarbes. Recently this group has been in contact with a group of approximately 2,000 men spread generally over the Indre. Although not a military body, this group was prepared to take action on D-day. Its supply of arms was not good. However, Philippe rated the organization highly.

Philippe and the head of the Indre organization were arrested in early May but contact has been maintained with Samuel, who seemed to have the situation well in hand.

The arrest of their leader has not disrupted the

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organization as is evidenced by the fact that receiving grounds for operations had been received and the circuit organizing Lysander pick-ups in the Indre was functioning normally.

There was no information on organized groups of maquis available. However, the points suggested for dropping stores suggested that there might be some well armed groups up in the wooded region east and northeast of Leblanc.

The region was under the authority of a Delege Militaire Regional.

Purpose of Mission

The primary task of team Hugh was to help SAS in the establishment of their base, which was to be reinforced by other SAS troops and from which raids could be carried out on enemy lines of communication. The team was to arrange whatever assistance from resistance needed by SAS to establish the base.

The team was to report to SFHQ as to the state of resistance elements in the area in terms of personnel, leadership, arms and potentialities. No attempt was to be made to organize large groups in this area unless specifically instructed by SFHQ.

The mission was also to consult with the leader of the group to which it was assigned on the advantages of contacting other groups operating in the area such as the Delege Militaire Regional or the F.F.I. Chief.

Method of Dropping and Reception Committee

The team was to be dropped blind with an SAS group at a designated spot.

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The standard Jedburgh load (107) was dropped with the team.

Scale of Air Support Likely

The military situation would determine the amount of future aircraft deliveries. However, the team was instructed to accept assistance from resistance where needed, but no general recruiting requiring large amounts of supplies was to be undertaken unless otherwise instructed.

Communications

2 W/T sets were dropped with the team. Contact with the Home Station was to be established as soon as possible.

Should it become necessary for the team to identify itself to any group, arrangements were made for an agreed message to be broadcast over BBC.

Finance

Each of the officers took 100,000 French francs and 50 American dollars. The W/T operator took 50,000 French francs and 50 American dollars.

Relations with Other Allied Units

Special Airborne Services. The mission of the team was to act as the link between SAS and resistance groups. They were not to be under the command of SAS, but they would as far as possible see that the operations of any group they contacted conformed to the requirements of the SAS commander.

Other Jedburgh Parties. If contact with resistance proved successful, and if SFHQ instructed the team to organize group resistance, it would be possible to send further Jedburgh teams upon request. In this case, the team would arrange for reception of such additional teams.

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Allied Forces. If Overrun. If overrun by Allied Forces the team was instructed to report to the nearest Allied unit and ask for the intelligence officer. They were not to give him any details of the work but merely ask this officer to pass them to the nearest SF staff. This staff would identify the team and pass them back to SFRHQ.

Action

Upon Arrival in the Field. Upon arrival in the field the team was directed to proceed to a designated spot where they would be contacted by a person who would establish his identity by use of a pre-arranged message. Then they would carry out their mission and establish contact with resistance groups who could help them in establishing the SAS base. It was not the intention of the group to establish a base which would be held indefinitely for resistance, but rather one to be used for raiding enemy lines of communication. Consequently, choosing a suitable location was important.

If Withdrawal Should Become Necessary. If the team should have completed its mission, or if its return to the U.K. was desired, instructions for exfiltration would be sent through the team's normal radio channels.

If Captured. The team took no cover story with it to the field, so in event of being taken prisoner they would be taken as soldiers in uniform performing their ordinary military duties. Every established law of warfare would apply to them and they would give their name, rank, and number only.

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Operations, Team Hugh (Cont'd)Information Provided to Team

The following information was given to the team prior to its being dispatched:

- a. Enemy order of battle in the area.
- b. Location and defense of airdrome and factory.
- c. Police and Gestapo locations.
- d. Information regarding curfew and restrictions in the area.
- e. Topography of the area
- f. List and description of other Allied agents operating in the area:
  1. Ellipse, Delege Militaire of Region 5.
  2. Macon, Chef D'Operations.
  3. Croc, sabotage instructor.

First Word from Field

On 6 June Hugh reported his safe arrival in the following W/T message (108): "All arrived safely with all containers and equipment. One rucksack destroyed. Send another immediately."

Summary of W/T Messages Exchanged7 June From Hugh (109)

"Contact established with head of resistance Indre area. Already toured 100 kilometres without sight of enemy. Population enthusiastic. Whole area practically controlled by resistance group. Existing Maquis groups have doubled in 48 hours. Reports show enemy may be leaving Chateauroux. Can ensure permanent cut Toulouse railway by Maquis. Will require Jed teams soon. Send immediately by SAS 3 Jed set valves."

7 June SFHQ to Hugh (110)

"Your number one excellent work. Agree most important task permanent cutting Toulouse railway. Have earmarked Jed team but shall not dispatch until need confirmed by you. Sending valves from tonight. Greatest danger is that you may be flooded by Maquis candidates. Insist on rigorous vetting to keep out

(108) C-4064/106 6 Jun 44

(109) C-4081/12 7 Jun 44

(110) C-3031 7 Jun 44

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undesirables. You must keep numbers down as otherwise manoeuvrability suffers and supplies may be inadequate."

8 June From Hugh (111)

"Impossible to limit the numbers joining the resistance owing to spontaneous uprising. Urgently require Jedburgh teams, arms and material."

8 June SFHQ to Hugh (112)

"Two eureka's in Indre area held by F circuit. These should now be located as best suited for non moon supply all resistance your area. Second Jedburgh ready at call from you as from 11th June. Will be trained reception D.C. three."

8 June SFHQ to Hugh (113)

"Highest priority now Bordeaux railway. This SAS task but give them all help you can. FFI group 400 armed men in area LeBlanc also given this task and receiving stores tonight. Coordinate through FFI chief Indre. Subject to weather and possible priority changes we plan 50 sorties for resistance Indre area up to 11th July. You should not count on more than this which will have not only to equip new men but maintain in ammunition all those armed your area. When calling for ammunition state clearly types and quantities."

9 June SFHQ to Hugh (114)

"Give your proposals division of responsibility between yourself and next Jedburgh team. Also require report local command set up with view to eventual unification. State most urgent arms requirements for delivery with next Jedburgh team or whether they should bring standard Jedburgh containers."

10 June SFHQ to Hugh (115)

"Send soonest new pinpoint for Jedburgh party due leave tomorrow Sunday. Give also alternative point. We suggest this point should be same as yours. In future make your messages more comprehensible. Make use of word stop and avoid abbreviations."

10 June SFHQ to Hugh (116)

"Will send from Sunday Jedburgh party of three men 15 containers 8 packages. BBC message included in cable."

11 June From Hugh (117)

"Morale good but depends on rapidity of invasion. Can one count on eventual arrival of paratroops. Pro-

(111) C-4086/16 8 Jun 44

(112) C-3043 8 Jun 44

(113) C-3042 8 Jun 44

(114) C-3053 9 Jun 44

(115) C-3075 10 Jun 44

(116) C-5280 10 Jun 44

(117) C-4124/23 11 Jun 44

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pose organize area as arranged. Hugh remains with department chief FFI and organize reserve. 3 Jed teams in three sectors. Hugh could thus ensure control over local command and coordination of work in sectors and recce further. Can now guarantee permanent cutting of all railway lines. Will work up to efficient ambushes."

11 June SFHQ to Hugh (110)

"Reference paratroops our answer is no except SAS whose plans you can obtain. Reference proposed organization remember your briefing. Before any question of control by you is raised you must get agreement local FFI chief also that of Samuel to whom you are accredited and London headquarters."

12 June SFHQ to Hugh (115)

"Jedburgh party 3 men 15 containers 8 packages coming tonight 12th Belabre Xray 17. If they miss reception will rendezvous morning 13th Belabre Xray 14 cross roads of grande communication party 4 and nationale seven two seven at 5 o'clock local time."

13 June From Hugh (120)

"Increased enemy activity in this area. Germans dispersed Maquis west of Chateauroux on 11th June. On 9th June enemy repelled F.T.P. groups who attacked a train in Argenton - Q - 37 Station, 48 partisans and 70 civilians being killed."

13 June From Hugh (Confirming the arrival of Hamish) (121)

"All arrived. Operator hurt ankle. Further news later."

13 June SFHQ to Hugh (122)

"If region gets too hot you should endeavor to persuade resistance to retreat towards the Creuse where they may be supplied and finally to the Massif Central where they should be able to hold out indefinitely."

14 June From Hugh (123)

"Got your message 19. Answer is yes. We meet and plan at least once a day. Enemy attacking maquis in Chateauroux forest with shell fire."

15 June From Hugh (124)

"Thank you 35 containers arrived other night including 12 intended for us. Several packages lost. Did not receive plats, tobacco, boots, shorts, or petrol. Urgently require petrol. Eureka arrived safely. Operator twisted ankle. Hamish moving to La Chatre today."

(118) C-5821 11 Jun 44

(119) C-5828 12 Jun 44

(120) C-4175/28 13 Jun 44

(121) C-4176 13 Jun 44

(122) C-5829 13 Jun 44

(123) C-4198/30 14 Jun 44

(124) C-4234/31 15 Jun 44

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"Maquis in Ecuellie Buzancais area very active. If enemy activity does not increase may request team for there."

17 June SFHQ to Hugh (126)

"Das Reich Division believed moving northward by rail Coutras-Poitiers. Alert SAS and inform us if any of his teams can attack."

17 June From Hugh (127)

"SAS well established. Maquis in area only recently formed. Morale feeble. Would take three months to train. Please give directive."

17 June From Hugh (128)

"All Maquis warned to look out for 12 missing SAS."

18 June From Hugh (129)

"Two of missing SAS contacted by maquis."

19 June SFHQ to Hugh (130)

"Keep maquis groups small and give each group a specific target. Report progress and targets. Give information and progress SAS in your area."

21 June From Hugh (131)

"Hugh, Chief FFI and Delegeue Militaire have contacted Colonel ORA who will take military command and provide cadres. Area now under our control and organized as follows: (1) Static personnel consisting of men armed at home as well as small maquis. Will carry out sabotage. Harassing. Maintain resistance whole area. (2) Mobile elements consisting of better fighting elements will be formed in large zone south of Aigurade in contact with Creuse which region we are visiting shortly. Morale all maquis not poor but a hell of a lot to do and every step takes a lifetime to arrange. Reference Sad Athletic Sack - we are informed they are in Vienne though will have information shortly."

22 June SFHQ to Hugh (132)

"Organization Indre approved but caution against extending to Creuse which is in other hands."

22 June SFHQ to Hugh (133)

"Interfere with movement German infantry division moving northwards from Toulouse and report progress."

(125) C-4235/32 15 Jun 44  
 (126) C-5838 17 Jun 44  
 (127) C-4284/33 17 Jun 44  
 (128) C-4285/34 17 Jun 44  
 (129) C-4312/35 18 Jun 44

(130) C-5845 19 Jun 44  
 (131) C-4395/3 21 Jun 44  
 (132) C-5852 22 Jun 44  
 (133) C-5855 22 Jun 44



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"Request one plane on ground BARSAC, with petrol, piat mortar 2" with ammo. Pistols with ammo. Eureka, 8-phone, flashlights, candles, boots, trousers and equipment."

25 June SFHQ to Hugh (135)

"Sending one plane on BARSAC from night 25."

26 June From Hugh (136)

"Two day conference at our H.Q. with DMR representative has been successful. Plan of action decided. Training centre for cadres agreed. Pupils from F.F.I., F.T.P. arriving tomorrow. All keen on Jedburgh teams. F.T.P. rather sticky."

29 June From Hugh (137)

"Disappointed results of drop. Realize you may have supply difficulties, but did not receive half of what we requested. Require for this moon at O.P. maximum 10 planes. Ammunition of all types, petrol in bulk. Carbines, Hawkins grenades, anti-tank rifles, mortars, bazookas, Smith machine carbines not Stens."

29 June From Hugh (138)

"Are maintaining cut railway lines all Indre. No important Boche circulation. Have successfully carried out attacks on small convoys. Reliable in formation that Boche intend to use Toulouse - Orleans railway as soon as Port d'Orleans is repaired, and will guard very strongly."

(134) C-4463/40 24 Jun 44  
 (135) C-3419 25 Jun 44  
 (136) C-4526/42 26 Jun 44

(137) C-4573/45 29 Jun 44  
 (138) C-4581/46 29 Jun 44