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JEDBURGHs

Operations, Team RonaldTEAM RONALD

Jedburgh team Ronald was the nineteenth Jedburgh team to be dispatched to France from the United Kingdom.

Members of Team

The members of team Ronald were:

1st Lieutenant Shirley R Trumps, Inf (US) (1357), code name "Boursier"

Lieutenant J Dartigues (French), code name "Boutton"

Technical Sergeant Elmer B Esch, (US) (1358) code name "Pound"

Area to Which Dispatched

Team Ronald was dispatched on the night of 4/5 August to the Finistere area of France.

Purpose of Mission

Team Ronald was being dispatched to provide the liaison link between mission Aloes (1359) and the commander of the Finistere department.

Method of Dropping and Reception Committee

Team Ronald was to be dropped to a reception committee organized by the SAS base Dingson (1360).

Communications

The team was dropped with a Jedburgh W/T set and instructed to establish contact with the Home Station as soon as possible after arrival in the field.

Finance

Each officer of the team took 100,000 French francs to the field. The W/T operator took 50,000 French francs.

First Word from Field

Team Ronald announced its arrival in the field in the following W/T message dated 6 August (1361):

"Arrived well but dropped on Gilbert by mistake. Am going to make contact with Giles and Chief FFI."



Lt. Trumps, Lt. Dertigues, and Sgt Esch

FIGURE 37



Mission ALOES at dinner before departure

FIGURE 38

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FIGURE 39

Colonel Esno, Junior Commander Fox, ATS, before
departure of ALOES mission



Part of ALOES Mission

FIGURE 40

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Operations, Team Ronald (Cont'd)Summary of W/T Messages Exchanged7 August From SFHQ to Ronald (1362)

"Learn on good authority Huelgoat not controlled. Have advised Aloes and Giles. Please nominate responsible FFI in accord with Berthaud and Giles."

9 August From Ronald (1363)

"Contact impossible at Ecaloe. Have sent two messages blind. Still no contact with Giles."

11 August From SFHQ to Ronald (1364)

"Have just received message from Tapdance of SF Detachment stating they are in contact with Aloes and Gilbert. Confirm that they are also in contact with you, Francis and Berthaud."

18 August From Watermark to Yalelock (1365)

"Jed Ronald requests urgent bombing Fort of Le Cabellou, one km south Concarneau. Civilians evacuated. Incendiary bombs necessary."

21 August From SFHQ to Ronald (1366)

"For Trumps. Give details of wound and his condition. Bombardment of Cabellou cannot take place now. Trying to get it."

22 August From Ronald (1367)

"Consider Serbons more useful could undertake second mission elsewhere."

22 August From Ronald (1368)

"Trumps wounded when advancing on Var le Meuxaires. Boche at Concarneau."

28 August From Ronald (1369)

"Radio operator Dumas wounded the 16th in region of Dierne. A month in hospital is necessary."

2 September From SFHQ to Ronald (1370)

"Sea operation Benodet will take place Wednesday, 6 September around noon. The boat will carry munitions, 303 serum anti-Charbonneux and medical material. Warn Giles, Hilary and Lt Dumas to be ready with all radio equipment. We will send you instructions tomorrow for

(1362) B-1776 7 Aug 44
 (1364) B-1964 11 Aug 44
 (1366) B-2455 21 Aug 44
 (1368) B-4707/13 22 Aug 44
 (1370) B-2953 2 Sept 44

(1363) B-3466/11 9 Aug 44
 (1365) C-1743 - 1741 18 Aug 44
 (1367) B-4706/82 22 Aug 44
 (1369) B-190/10 28 Aug 44

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Gilbert and Francis. Give us a meeting place. Confirm that there are no mine or other obstacles in the sector. For Ronald - you will remain with Aloes until instructed otherwise and your radio will pass all his messages."

4 September From SFHQ to Ronald (1371)

"For Aloes - we learned from the American army that Hilary is going to return by their means. We have given consent for Gilbert and Horace to remain in Brittany for the moment. Then we suppose that you are going to send by Benodet Giles and Sergeant Dallow of Francis and Lieutenant Dumas."

4 September From SFHQ to Ronald (1372)

"Because of very bad weather the boat will not arrive at Benodet until Wednesday evening. Warn everybody to be ready then."

5 September From SFHQ to Ronald (1373)

"For Aloes. Received your two cables on the bombing of Telgrue. We passed it to the Air Force. We suppose you have warned the Americans directly. Because of bad weather the boat will not arrive at Benodet until Thursday evening."

7 September From Ronald (1374)

"Received your message. We are sending by Benodet Giles, Dallow of Francis, Lt Dumas."

8 September From Watermark to Yalelock (1375)

"Ronald reports 6 September urgent action by warships is required on very important target consisting of batteries on Cap de la Chevre. Neutralization of batteries will open the approach to Couarnenez bay."

9 September From Ronald (1376)

"Request that team Ronald excluding Lt Dartigues return to England. Our work here is completed. Cannot work under present circumstances."

10 September From SFHQ to Ronald (1377)

"You constitute our only means of communication with Mission Aloes. Essential therefore you remain for present. Give us details difficulties which make work impossible. Perhaps we can remedy them."

(1371) B-2375 4 Sept 44
(1373) B-2999 5 Sept 44
(1373) C-647 - 648 8 Sept 44
(1377) B-8700

(1372) B-8595 4 Sept 44
(1374) B-255/63 7 Sept 44
(1376) B-1056/10 9 Sept 44

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Operations. Team Ronald (Cont'd)13 September From SFHQ to Ronald (187)

"For Aloes. Everybody arrived safely on Benodet. We are mounting still another operation Benodet with material asked for by Captain Murray. The operation will take place in three parts. The first boat will arrive at noon the 15th. We want Ronald to return by the third boat and Gilbert to return by the second if his work is finished."

13 September From SFHQ to Ronald (187)

"To Ronald for Aloes. Because of the favorable turn of events in Brittany General Koenig requires you for another assignment and asks you to rejoin him as soon as possible. In this case you will no longer have need of team Ronald. Have them return by the sea operation which will take place next week at Benodet. Concerning team Gilbert inform us immediately if there is always work for them in Brittany."

15 September From SFHQ to Ronald (187)

"We understand from Captain Prevost from Paris that Lt Dartigues wishes to remain with Colonel Eono. We are willing. The rest of the team should return to London by way of the SF Detachments."

Report of Team Upon Return from the Field - 5 Aug to 15 Sept 44

Mission. Our primary mission was to contact Berteau, Chef of FFI in Finisterre and serve as liaison between him and the Aloes mission.

Our secondary mission was to furnish units with as much information about the enemy as possible and to help in the organization of Maquis.

Dropping. At the airport we added a French officer, Lieutenant Dumas, to our team. He was to be our radio operator for the purpose of contacting Aloes.

We departed from the airport on the night 4/5 August and at approximately three o'clock we jumped into France. Everyone arrived safely with all equipment.

I talked to the lieutenant in charge of the reception committee and found that they were not expecting us. We

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found out later that we had jumped in the wrong area and to a different Jed team.

We spent the night in the woods and the next day contacted Berteau in the vicinity of Quimper.

Radio Communication With Aloes. Unable to contact Aloes by radio. Tried for several days but never was successful. We solved that question by having motor liaison with them.

Seige of Quimper. The FFI had surrounded the town encircling 400 Germans who were garrisoned there.

We received word that the Germans in the town would surrender to the Americans so I decided to have a talk with the German commander. I wrote a letter telling him that I was in command of an advance guard of armored unit and that my forces were on the outskirts of the town ready to attack and that he should come to our headquarters to receive the terms of surrender. I gave the letter to a French policeman who brought it to the German headquarter. I had demanded that they send a reply within two hours.

After receiving the letter the Germans sent out patrols and found out that it was a bluff and sent back the reply that they would surrender only to the Americans when they arrive.

We joined up with the Maquis troops and were fighting in the streets of Quimper. After three days of street fighting the Germans attempted to leave the city and reach Brest. They were ambushed all along the road and very few reached their destination.

Rospordent. Captain Charron of Jed team Gilbert (1941) and I went to Rospordent to contact the officer in charge

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of the Maquis in that vicinity while we were in the town, which had been liberated the day before. We heard gun fire on the outskirts of the town. In a few minutes all the streets were deserted, Captain Charron and I climbed to the upper floor of a large house where we could cover the street. There were three trucks packed tight with Germans who were standing at attention and firing at everything within sight. At this time all hell broke loose. We began throwing grenades and firing like hell. The Maquis troops were all in positions in houses and I don't think one German escaped.

Battle of Concarneau. The French forces had bottled 300 Germans in the town but could not get them to surrender. An American task force came up and fired a couple of rounds hoping that this would make them surrender.

The Germans refused and the task force left. The next day Captain Blathwayt and I were asked by the French to talk to the Germans who had requested to speak with the Allies. Taking with us our radio operators we went to a designated house and had no sooner sat down when the Germans opened fire on us. I was hit in the forehead by mortar shrapnel and Technical Sergeant Esch, my operator, administered first aid on the spot and we were soon able to retreat to our own lines. I was taken to a hospital in Quimper and quickly patched up.

The following afternoon I returned to Concarneau and found out that the American task force had returned with reinforcements. I contacted the colonel in charge and with the help of a French agent, we gave him the exact positions of every gun in the town. The colonel explained that he had no infantry

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to protect his tanks. I told him that I could get some Maquis troops who would gladly do the work. I succeeded in getting the men and took thirty with me and went with the task force A on the right side of the town, thirty more going with Captain Blathwayt on the left. The tanks got into their firing position and I placed the men where they could best protect the flanks of same. The Germans put down a terrific fire. The tanks were ordered to take up alternative positions. After the tanks were in position, I told my men to retreat to the line of tanks. Several of the men were slightly wounded and we succeeded in getting them back to the first aid station.

A couple of hours later the American task force was told to proceed to another front still leaving Concarneau in the hands of the Germans.

Concarneau fell three nights later when an aircraft flew over the city and a French officer went all around the countryside firing flares. The Germans, thinking this was a big attack, boarded ships and took off for Lorient.

Information. Lieutenant Dartigues had organized a system of reconnaissance and information which was of great benefit. He had agents to go into occupied towns and report back all information to him. All was consolidated and all first hand information was there when needed. It was furnished to the Americans and French in the area and this system helped very much with the destruction of the enemy in this area.

Crozon Peninsula. I was sent to work with task force A under the command of General Ernest, serving as liaison between Colonel Eono (Aloes mission) and the Americans. I worked with G-2 helping to interpret and also obtaining

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as much information as I could from Frenchmen who came from behind the enemy lines.

Radio Communications. On our dropping, two of our receivers were broken. Technical Sergeant Esch through his own initiative found some German equipment and fixed his receivers. Although our frequencies were clouded with German traffic and the BBC, he was always successful in getting his messages as he could speak German. He also proved to be a very good soldier under enemy fire. On several occasions sent messages through while under enemy fire regardless of the danger.

Audienne. Lieutenant Dumas, taking with him several men, went on a patrol through the enemy lines. He was quite a distance in advance of his men when he was fired on by a German machine gun nest. He returned the fire immediately, doing away with some of the enemy. Looking around he found himself with only one man, the rest had left. Lieutenant Dumas continued firing until he was hit by a bullet which took two fingers off his left hand. When he realized he had been hit, he ordered the man to leave but he refused. The two succeeded in returning to their own lines where Lieutenant Dumas was taken to a hospital.

On 6 or 7 September Colonel Eono left for Paris and I with my operator, started on our return to England.

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Operations, Team Ronald (Cont'd)Financial Statement

Lieutenant Dartigues --- received ----- 100,000 Frs

Expenses

Food and lodging	- - - - -	30,000
Car maintenance	- - - - -	30,000
Clothing	- - - - -	10,000
Miscellaneous	- - - - -	<u>5,000</u>
Total	- - - - -	<u>75,000</u>
Returned	- - - - -	25,000

Lieutenant Trumps --- received ----- 100,000 Frs

Expenses

Food	- - - - -	25,000
Clothing	- - - - -	8,000
Other items	- - - - -	8,000
Lost	- - - - -	4,000
Gave to French	- - - - -	15,000
Lodging	- - - - -	<u>15,000</u>
Total	- - - - -	<u>75,000</u>
Returned	- - - - -	25,000

First Sergeant Esch --- received ----- 50,000 Frs

Expenses

Food and hotel bill	- - - - -	23,000
Clothes	- - - - -	2,000
Wages for two helpers	- - - - -	7,500
French radio repairs	- - - - -	370
Transportation	- - - - -	1,800
Maquis agent	- - - - -	6,000
Entertainment of Maquis officers	- - - - -	<u>9,000</u>
Total	- - - - -	<u>49,670</u>
Returned	- - - - -	330