

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGH

Operations, Team AlecTEAM ALEC

Jedburgh team Alec was the twenty-second Jedburgh team to be dispatched to France from the UK.

Members of Team

The members of team Alec were:

1st Lieutenant G. G. Thomson (US) (1465), code name "Cromarthy"

Lieutenant B. Allet (French), code name "Oxford"

Staff Sergeant John A. White (US) (1487), code name "Colorado"

Area to Which Dispatched

Team Alec was dispatched on the night of 9/10 August to the Loire et Cher area of France.

Team Alec was to be dispatched with a reconnaissance party of 8 men from 1 SAS Regiment whose mission it was to report on the possibilities of receiving up to half a squadron of 1 SAS Regiment to operate against the railway lines Vierzon-Tours-Vierzon-Orleans and report on enemy movement in the area. The team would work under the control of the organizer Antoine ( ), who headed an important Resistance organization in this area.

Purpose of the Mission

Team Alec was dispatched with an SAS party to provide a link between the SAS and the resistance groups and help Antoine in organizing and arming the FFI in the South Loire and Cher regions.

Communications

The team was dropped with one Jedburgh W/T set and one spare receiver with instructions to contact the Home Station

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGHs

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)

as soon as possible.

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

Operational Groups. Should the team encounter any OG parties they would assist them as far as possible but would remain under the command of SFHQ.

An Allied Mission. Should an Allied Mission be dispatched at a later date it was possible that the team would be placed under its command.

Scale of Air Support Likely

It was anticipated that there would be no difficulty in supplying the team's area with the arms and equipment they required.

Action

Upon Arrival in the Field

The team was to contact the organizer Antoine upon its arrival and arrange details of their mission with him.

If Withdrawal Should Become Necessary

If it became necessary for the team to withdraw, further instructions would be sent to them from SFHQ.

If Captured

The team took no cover story with it to the field. If captured 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, therefore, give their name, rank and serial number only.

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGHs

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

The following information was provided to the team prior to its dispatch to the field:

1. Enemy order of battle.
2. Topography of the area.
3. General outline of resistance organizations in the area.

First Word from Field

Team Alec announced its safe arrival in the field by the following W/T message dated 10 August: (1460)

"Arrived safely. Contacted Colon, chief of maquis Ducher. Hope to contact Antoine today or tomorrow. SAS recce party with us. Two rucksacks lost. Hope to get them today."

Summary of W/T Messages Exchanged11 August From Alec (1460)

"Have not yet managed to contact Antoine. Hope tomorrow. We are east of point Vierzon. Do you want us to move west."

12 August From Alec (1461)

"Will remain Colon Cher zone Nord. Germans moving east passing Loire, Tracy, Cosne, Ambusees tonight our area."

12 August From Alec (1462)

"Felix radio useless. Electric installations cut. Send urgently petrol, engine. Passing his message. What phrase for all out guerrilla activity Cher area."

12 August From Alec (1463)

"Contacted Antoine. Will stand Cher Zone Nord. Antoine wants Jed team area west Salbris Vierzon road. Ready to receive them as soon as possible on Nectarine."

13 August From Alec (1464)

"All arrangements complete receive 20 SAS Haggard on Scrooges. Will use Haggard eureka serial 1134. Antoine wants 2 troops SAS (1) area between following points - Tours, Orleans, Vierzon ready to receive on Loite (2) East Orleans Vierzon road to bend of Loire and south Bourges, the remainder of Haggard."

(1460) C-1415/12	10 Aug 44	(1460) C-1506/10	11 Aug 44
(1461) C-1537/89	12 Aug 44	(1461) C-1539/7	12 Aug 44
(1462) C-1551/88	12 Aug 44	(1462) C-1590/92	13 Aug 44

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGHs

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)

13 August From SFHQ to Alec (1465)

"Agree you stay Cher Zone Nord. Regret impossible send other Jedburgh team Antoine's area."

13 August From Alec (1466)

"From Antoine - Felix temporarily out of action. Albin has stores men arms. Have given instructions when I saw him having reconnoitred well. Intends withdraw on me same time as enemy. Will give operator to Le Blanc. Saw Jed team Chateaufumeillant. Little trouble with local men who want attack in force. Saw Corps too. Have fixed things."

13 August From Alec (1467)

"From Antoine - Felix temporarily out of action. Have contacted Jed team landed Mandarine. Will get on well, staff officers Colon in Cher and east road. 20 SAS Haggard received. Want urgently 40 more. Am dividing in 3 groups. Send on Banane. Will receive with head lamps. Send men only."

14 August From SFHQ to Alec (1468)

"For Antoine - to prevent wire crossing, please deal with all SAS matters through Haggard. Latter arranging reception SAS troops. What is wrong with Felix. Can he still take broadcast. Thanks news Albin. Agree his plans. Le Blanc is Pierre Charier who took over from Etienne. We are out of touch with him and fear he may have been arrested."

14 August From Alec (1469)

"Organization Cher. Chef Colon with 1 chef des maquis and 4 Lieutenants who command 4 areas. Nerondes - 250 armed, need arms 250 more. Vierzon - 200 armed, need arms 500 more. Bourges unarmed 150; Sancerre - 300 armed, need arms 200 more. Total armed 750, unarmed 1100. Maquis groups 15 men well organized."

17 August From Alec (1470)

"Enemy convoys passed here heading in direction of northerly direction. All roads damaged. Turning away men from joining maquis."

20 August From Alec (1471)

"Boche moving out Cher Zone Nord. Blowing up Bourges. Maquis on all outskirts Bourges waiting for moment to take city over. Enemy moving from north and west through city but situation indicates that they will pull out today or tomorrow. Can you give us up to date information armies movement with reference our position and whether we can go on with plan to enter Bourges."

(1466) C-1161 13 Aug 44  
(1467) C-1638/8 13 Aug 44  
(1468) C-1699/68 14 Aug 44  
(1471) C-2173/90 20 Aug 44

(1466) C-1637/71 13 Aug 44  
(1468) C-1271 14 Aug 44  
(1471) C-1965/19 17 Aug 44

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGHs

Operations. Team Alec (Cont'd)

21 August From Alec ( )

"Situation Bourges changed. Germans using city as escape route for troops coming from southwest and west. Maquis ambushing all routes around Bourges. Occupation city unfeasible at moment. Can you send arms and ammunition Scarabee urgently. Maquis doing enormous damage against Boche using escape route. Arms ammo shortage becoming acute here."

25 August From SFHQ to Alec ( )

"For Antoine - Your Loiret groups should take up positions close to Loire with priority concentrations Gien and Orleans. This to guard armies southern flank. Prevent infiltration small German groups. Give warning approach stronger forces. Army require destruction bridges at Gien."

26 August From Alec ( )

"6 men received safely. Plane with money had 12 Roman candles. All weapons destroyed. Disgusting waste. Need more arms to guard Army's south Flank."

26 August From Alec ( )

"Bridge destroyed Gien. Sancerre bridge only one still in use. Maquis holding it in force. FFI liberated area east Loire inclusive La Charite. Gien bridge blown by Germans week ago."

26 August From Alec ( )

"FFI vehicles shot up by our planes. Have ordered all vehicles painted tactical sign 5 pointed star in circle. Have air forces regard this."

27 August From Watermark to Yalelock ( )

"Jed Alec again reports FFI vehicles strafed by our planes. Has ordered all vehicles painted with five pointed star in circle. Asks please have Air Force regard this."

28 August From Alec ( )

"Situation is fluid. Bourges roads from south and west jammed transport. Have contacted local American 12 Corps established liaison. Received bazookas, petrol from Army. 20,000 Germans expelled Bourges today. Air support urgent. Bourges strategically important gap between armies south closing traffic this way."

28 August From Alec ( )

"Maquis groups operating in the area doing good work."

(147) C-2349/29 21 Aug 44  
(147) C-2843/11 26 Aug 44  
(147) C-2887/68 26 Aug 44  
(147) C-3073/31 28 Aug 44

(147) C-6325 25 Aug 44  
(147) C-2844/13 26 Aug 44  
(147) C-3217 27 Aug 44  
(147) C-3074/59 28 Aug 44

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGHs

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)29 August From Alec (140)

"Bourges not captured. FFI all around Bourges. Convoys still passing from Bourges to Nevers. 4 trains arrived at Bourges today. La Charite held in force by SS."

30 August From Alec (140)

"What remains 2 panzer divisions 9 and 11 passing Bourges-La Charite-Nevers. Railway Bourges-Nevers working off and on. Can RAF do it. Will mark with lights our number 35."

30 August From SFHQ to Alec (140)

"Please answer urgently the following question re the Loire bridges in your area. First, which bridges can you protect or destroy on order from us. Second, which bridges or temporary crossings erected by enemy are still intact."

31 August From Alec (140)

"Bridges actually in use are La Charite Sancerre bridge across Bourges-Nevers line. La Charite staunchly defended by SS. We can protect or destroy the Sancerre bridge - the Aulium bridge north Sancerre."

31 August From Alec (140)

"From Colonel Dupin in command 33 Half Brigade. Urgently require radio personnel fully equipped to liaise with RAF to obtain direct air support for intensive operations against Bourges Nevers road by Half Brigade."

1 September From Alec (140)

"Send 200 tins of condensed milk with medical supplies. Germans passing continually on foot from Bourges to Nerondes station to take train for Nevers. Germans concentrated at Osmoy."

1 September From SFHQ to Alec (140)

"Blow up Sancerre bridge preferably at night. Keep us informed results. Good luck."

2 September From SFHQ to Alec (140)

"Air Force report St Solange too small for landing Dakotas and Hudson. Will drop medical supplies via Antoine. Condensed milk quite impossible, sorry. It is now urgent that you prevent all German transport going east or northeast by increasing activities ambushes and rail and road blocks."

(140) C-3242/59 29 Aug 44  
(140) C-3909 30 Aug 44  
(140) C-3482/10 31 Aug 44  
(140) C-6427 1 Sept 44

(140) C-3292/15 30 Aug 44  
(140) C-3376/97 31 Aug 44  
(140) C-3584/2 1 Sept 44  
(140) C-4562 2 Sept 44

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGH

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)4 September From Alec (1458)

"Sancerre bridge blown night September 1. Enemy harassed day and night. Captured German officer with plans withdraw 16 Division south Orleans area. Have delivered it to 3rd Army."

5 September From Alec (1459)

"Battle yesterday Lessaixdangillon. 40 Boche killed, prisoners or wounded. Oxford badly wounded. Operated on today - doing well - in good hands. Other two scared but safe."

7 September From Alec (1460)

"Bourges liberated by FFI today 0900 hours."

8 September From Alec (1461)

"No need for further parachute operations. War over here. Bourges airdrome damaged slightly will be repaired ready for use Saturday 9 August. Dimensions 1500 meters by 500 meters. Lighting system prepared for night runway. Prepared to receive administrative officers here as from Saturday."

8 September From Alec (1462)

"Airfield at Bourges attacked, ready to begin tomorrow Allied administrative mission required urgently. Can I do anything to help in meantime. Medical services being organized. Need equipment by air. Sending list tonight."

9 September From Alec (1463)

"Bourges liberated by FFI. Have contacted Jed Ivor today. Needs arms area south Bourges. Many Boche near Essodin and Dun. Send Dakotas Bourges Drome during daylight. Am handling arms for Ivor."

11 September From Alec (1464)

"Dakotas, 9 Lightnings landed Bourges last night. Airfield okay for all planes. Night landings, fires flanking runways - green light landing - end red light. 20,000 Boches south of Bourges have surrendered to America General in command at Tours. Cher Zone North and South, now clear."

12 September From Alec (1465)

"Have many wounded. Send surgical supplies for 50 bed hospital. Can take as many Dakotas as you can send. 20,000 Germans surrendering beginning tomorrow marching north through Cher to Orleans Beaugency Meron Loire. Will

(1458) C-3795/6 4 Sept 44  
(1459) C-4090/101 7 Sept 44  
(1460) C-4184/8 8 Sept 44  
(1461) C-4460/2 11 Sept 44

(1458) C-3918/76 5 Sept 44  
(1459) C-4173/74 8 Sept 44  
(1460) C-4327/18 9 Sept 44  
(1461) C-4553/20 12 Sept 44

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGHES

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)

be met there by Americans laying down arms there. This means marching through territory liberated by FFI. Arrange by American General at Tours. Consequences may be dangerous. Difficult for people to see Germans surrendered with arms."

12 September From Alec (1490)

"Bomb Group AAF on Zone 7. Landed safely Bourges. Minor repairs to ship. Expect return 13th or 14th. If not will advise."

17 September From SFHQ to Alec (1490)

"Consider that your mission is now completed and your team should return England earliest bringing with them a list of addresses of Jed chief helpers where they can be contacted later. Get in touch with DMR to take over your forces. Put all W/T equipment in safe place for later collection and for passage home contact Major Alastair Hamilton, Hotel Cecil, Paris, who will make arrangements. Advise us date of departure your circuit."

18 September From Alec (1490)

"Leaving for Paris 20th. Awaiting operation Oxford. Antoine wants me stay with him for operations east. Please send Dakota promised. Badly needed."

21 September From Alec (1490)

"Send Dakota with medical supplies to Dr Pierre Malgras at Bourges during daylight. Malgras rendered great service to us and others do this as great favor. Closing down tonight - going Paris tomorrow. Leaving Oxford under care of Malgras."

25 September From Yalelock to Watermark (1490)

"Following personnel Hendon 1600 hours 25 September flight. Captain Thompson or Jed Alec."

Report of Team Upon Return from the Field

Mission: To accompany a reconnaissance party of SAS to Loire et Cher; to provide the link between SAS and resistance groups contacting Ventriloquist (Antoine).

Arrived Cher Zone Nord night of 8/9 August. Met by chief of FFI. Dropped 60 miles east of area intended in briefing.

Met Antoine 12 August 1944. Decided to remain in present

(1490) C-4593/91 12 Sept 44  
(1490) C-166/19 18 Sept 44  
(1500) C-737/50 25 Sept 44

(1490) C-2047 17 Sept 44  
(1490) C-470/26 21 Sept 44



VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGHs

Operations. Team Alec (Cont'd)

area to help arm and organize the FFI in that district.

Night of 12 August. First action with Germans moving east looking for crossings on River Loire. All roads leading to Loire as far south as Nevers blocked.

Results 13 August. 10 vehicles and 50 Germans destroyed.

15 August: Accompanied column on reconnaissance of Maquis groups. Approximately 1,200 men armed, divided into 600 Maquis and 600 civilian FFI living in small towns in area. Found it possible to arm another 3,000 and sent messages each day asking for parachute drops.

From 14 August to 21 September, received arms for another 800 men bringing the total armed to 2,000.

14 August: Whole bend of Loire occupied in force by Germans. Many different types of units which seemed to have lost contact with the bulk of the German army evacuating eastwards. These units were looking for crossings on the Loire to go east. Position of American army to the north apparently not known by the Germans. These troops were not well armed and travelling in every type of conveyance including bicycles and horse drawn vehicles. The Germans here came from the south through Bourges, Bierzon Chateauroux, and Portiers from the south and southwest of France. This movement on their part resulted in one thing - Germans were cornered in the bend of the Loire. FFI in Cher ambushed every road with good results, especially on roads leading north from Bourges.

Morning of 18 August bulk of German troops, 16,000, realized their situation and began moving south to cross the

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGH3

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)

Loire at La Charite and Nevers. Principal routes used Argent, Bourges, La Charite and Nevers and all small routes moving south through Cher to the routes leading to crossings La Charite and Nevers. Every road in area blocked and extremely good work done though exact figures are not available.

Night of 19th area cleared as far south as Bourges and we were able to cast aside the clandestine and come into the open. The same night the Germans began destroying all installations of military importance in Bourges. Commandant Colomb, Chief of FFI decided to move into Bourges on morning of 21st. I advised against it and turned out to be right.

At 1200 hours on the 21st the situation in Bourges had changed. There were some 5,000 Germans billeted in the city forming a temporary defensive strong point. It became evident that the Germans were holding Bourges as the center of an escape corridor to the crossings of the Loire. Several prisoners were taken at this time and units identified. It was evident from the information that the great bulk of Germans in western and southwestern France were planning to use this corridor.

21 August: We regrouped our forces on all roads approaching Bourges. Made liaison with Colonel Benoit (Bertrand) commanding the 1st Regiment of France in the Cher Zone Sud where Jed team Ivor (1000) was located. Colonel Bertrand undertook to block the two roads leading south from Bourges to Dun, Bourges to Levet and Bourges Saucouins.

22 August: Germans began to protect convoys with a few armored cars and light cannon. This was to no avail and maquis on routes did excellent work killing and capturing an average of 50 Germans a day.

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGH8

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)

23 August: Movement of enemy convoys on roads continues. Bourges, commanded by a Lieutenant-General and defense plan organized to keep roads open to the river crossings on Loire.

24 August: Armored German train of seven cars running on line Bourges, Nevers, shooting up farms and killing peasants in the fields. Road cut by SAS and maquis under command of Oxford. Train immobilized for 3 days. Asked for RAF to come and bomb it. No answer received. Train now somewhere east of River Loire.

25 August: Northern area of Cher filled again with the Germans who had moved east from Orleans, Tours, Vierzon and Triende. Our forces surrounding Bourges hurried out and sent north to deal with this situation.

26 August: Cromarty (Thomson) went across Loire River by port at Ouzeur Sur Loire and contacted 35th American Division. While there he met Major General Eddy. Gave the G-2 at Corps information of southern flank of 3rd Army. In return I was given 17 bazookas and 500 bombs, medical supplies and 1,000 gallons of gasoline. Returned across river on the 27th with the supplies which we ran through the Germans in northern area all without any enemy interruption.

28 August: Returned again to continue liaison with 3rd Army. The German evacuation continued and the whole area filled. The enemy appeared lost. At this time General Patton became worried about this great mass south of the Loire and ordered all bridges to be blown on the Rivers Loire and Allier. The night of 28 August we blew up the bridge at Soucerre. I stayed there for the night as I was unable to return to our headquarters at Menetou Salon by car due to the enemy strength. On the 29 August the position was the

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGH8

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)

same and I finally returned on bicycle to Menetou. During these three days some 200 or 300 prisoners had been taken and a number of enemy killed.

30 August: The German withdrawal continues. The morning of the 30th one of the lieutenants of the Maquis, Lieutenant Jacques Bourlier of Bourges attacked the leading vehicle a German convoy. He took the car and the occupants, drove down the length of the German convoy in order to bring the information to our headquarters. It was the car of the convoy commander, a German Major. This Major had all the plans of the withdrawal of the German 16th Division from our area to Germany, giving all check points, billeting areas and final rendezvous. This information was passed immediately to G-2 3rd Army. I don't believe the 16th Division ever got back to Germany. The night of the 30th Lieutenant Bourlier was taken prisoner and three days later shot by the Germans in Bourges. For this great act and for the useful information to the United States Army, I strongly ask for a decoration for this man. He has a wife and children in Bourges and to them it would be the difference between light and dark.

31 August: German withdrawal continues:

1 - 3 September: Continual harassing of German troops on all roads with the help of allied fighters who did great work on the roads.

4 September: The culmination of our activities against the Germans took place in a village called Les Aix Augillon. At 1500 hours in the afternoon we assembled our forces outside the town. The forces consisted of 20 maquis and 4 jeeps of the French 4th Battalion parachutists under command of Captain

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGH8

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)

Larral. We sent two German prisoners in with a white flag to tell the 150 Germans in the town that their position was hopeless as all the roads were blocked. Shortly after the two prisoners returned with the answer. The German Commander was not prepared to surrender. Captain Larral ordered his jeeps into the town and the two sections of maquis infiltrated into the town on the right and left flanks. We were with the right section. The town was cleared in one hour with few casualties to the maquis. The number of Germans killed was 40 and 18 prisoners were taken. After the town had been cleared the force went north to try and clean up the small pockets which had run out of the town. Captain Allot was with the right section and I went with the left. What went on after was a complete mess. No one knew where anyone else was. The maquis are not trained for this type of warfare lacking completely in systems of signal and runners. The remaining Germans scattered themselves all over the countryside and we attempted to seek them out but with small success. Captain Allot walked into a group of Germans, was seriously wounded and given first aid. That night we occupied the town and made an all round defense system. At 2300 hours the scattered groups of Germans sent up flares to try and locate one another. Over the next three days they surrendered in small groups. As a result of this we were able to occupy the city of Bourges on 6 September.

6 September: Entered Bourges at 1100 hours. The city went mad and continued so for 5 days. That afternoon I went to the aerodrome which had been badly bombed and the main runway which had been repaired after the bombing had been

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGHs

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)

blown up by the Germans. The morning of the 7th had 2,000 workmen on the cement runway, and by the morning of the 9th the runway was completely repaired and ready to receive planes. The morning of the 10th 4 Lightnings arrived out of gas. As I had found 10,000 gallons of aeroplane spirit at a large airfield, Avord, I was able to load them up and send them on their way. One Lightning had crashed a few miles away, the pilot was safe and the plane slightly damaged. On the 11th we received a Fortress badly damaged from flak over the Rhine. Repaired in 36 hours and filled with gas it went back to England with the salvageable parts of the Lightning. After this parade of aircraft, the RAF still questioned the suitability of the field for Dakota operation.

9 September: Moved our forces south where there were still 20,000 Germans. Many scraps with our Group and Group of Jed Team Ivor.

12 September: We were suddenly told that the 20,000 Germans had surrendered to General Macon, Commanding 83rd Division of the 9th Army, and that the Germans would march north with their arms to surrender to the Allied Army at Orleans, Beaugeury and Mer sur Loire. The principal routes and the largest amount of Germans were in my area and Jed Team Ivors area. Neither French Commander had been warned or liased with. The American General had dealt with a Colonel Martel in an area where there were no Germans. His jurisdiction ended with the Indre and these Germans were in the Cher. Fortunately after contacting the Germans and the Americans we got a postponement of movement for 24 hours in order to warn the maquis in the area. Had this not been done, I am

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGH

Operations, Team Aleg (Cont'd)

sure there would have been many serious incidents. As a result of their postponement, the march passed off with but few difficulties, though in three occasions the Germans did their nice trick of booby trapping our dead.

There seems first of all to have been a complete lack of liaison and a complete lack of knowledge of the situation in France. I was told by one American Colonel that civilians meaning the French, were not allowed to have arms, and the carrying of arms was illegal. I had to enlighten him on the fact that General Eisenhower had recognized the FFI as combatant troops and that for some 10 months we had been arming these people with American and British arms. However, the Germans surrendered and the whole show passed off. This movement ended on the 17th.

17 - 21 September: Awaited Dakota operation with surgical supplies which came on the 23rd. Left for Paris on the 22nd.

Summary

The first 10 days was clandestine and from then on over most of the area, we were able to open up and use automobiles. After the taking of Montargis by the American swift advance - the Germans began to evacuate from the area, first the gestapo and millice and then the troops. Local troops had left by 20 August.

The 2nd phase - Area once again filled with troops, all of whom were retreating from the west and south west of France. These, on the whole, were disorganized and mixed with few officers. They lacked information of the bridges on the Loire most of which had been blown.

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGHES

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)

3rd phase. It became evident that Bourges was the center of the escape corridor for the Germans coming from south and west, being able to cross the Loire at La Chante and Nevers. The defense of the city was organized by a corps commander.

4th phase 6 September, the Germans abandoned the protection of the Bourges corridor and ran for home. This seems to have been the plan of the 16th Divisional Commander. That was the only unit we saw that was well organized. We captured the plans for its withdrawal into Germany. This was immediately dispatched to 3rd Army.

5th phase. Bourges cleared and Germans in west, south and southwest abandoned. On 12 September, 18,000 Germans surrendered, having given up all hope of return to Germany. This Group had come from the Pyrenees, presumably the last troops in the general evacuation.

Unfortunately my mission was a month too late. The area, though organized, had much room for improvement. Much depended on the choice of under officers, which in my estimate were bad. Had we been there a month or two earlier they could have been regulated, for these were men who with a little training could have made good officers. It was really too late to start cadres when we got there. But all the mission was not a failure for we were able to get arms and supplies for the advancing armies.

Contact with Headquarters

Communications: Excellent throughout.

Reactions from Home HQ. Slow and incomplete. Shortly after my arrival it became evident that we were not going to receive much assistance from London. Messages were not answered and often when answered were 4 or 5 days late. Fortunately



VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGH8

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)

my mission was able to make contact with 3rd Army north of the Loire. The first contact made was on the night of 23 August with 35th Division which had advanced units at Ouzuer sur Loire. Then fortunately I met General Manton S. Eddy, Commanding 12th Corps, whom I knew. In return for information concerning 3rd Army's southern flank I was given offer of material for our forces south of the Loire. 3rd Army gave me 17 bazookas the first in the area, and 500 bombs, medical supplies - first in the area and badly needed and gasoline to keep the mobility needed for ambushing the Germans on the roads. The Bazookas proved their usefulness the next day and continued good work until the last German was cleared from the area.

Once liaison had been established it was kept up and any information concerning the enemy posted to them rather than London. This was especially true of air targets of which there were many as the roads were continually jammed with German traffic moving east. The air cooperation worked successfully.

In all there seemed to be a lack of interest on the staff at this end, a machinery too small for the large job undertaken or a lack of trained personnel handling the various circuits. We realized the situation and felt that the only remedy would have been to get teams in earlier nearer D-day even though supplies were not forthcoming. This would have given time to complete organization and form cadres to train the maquis for war. Coming so quickly with so many teams at once overwhelmed an organization that was used to handling a very few teams. If this is tried again in another theater, I feel these points

VOL. 4 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1944

JEDBURGHs

Operations, Team Alec (Cont'd)

will be valuable. With or without arms, the Jeds were and could have been a great success had they been put in earlier and spread over a longer space. A strategic role rather than a tactical role was their real purpose and use.

The air forces did a good job on the whole - though I had one Liberator with 12 containers, none of whose parachutes had opened. The parachutes remained in their bags. Apparently the crew had forgotten to attach the static lines, resulting in all arms and ammunition in 12 containers being completely destroyed.

Financial Statement

Lieutenant Thomson and Staff Sergeant White

Personal use -----	250,000 Frs
Left with Captain Allet in hospital at Bourges -----	100,000
Spent for food, lodging and travel during our stay of 2 months in field -----	45,000
Returned -----	105,000

## Additional Report

For Antoine -----	1,500,000 Frs
For team use -----	500,000
Gave FFI -----	350,000
Stolen from car on 25 August -----	100,000
Returned -----	50,000 Frs