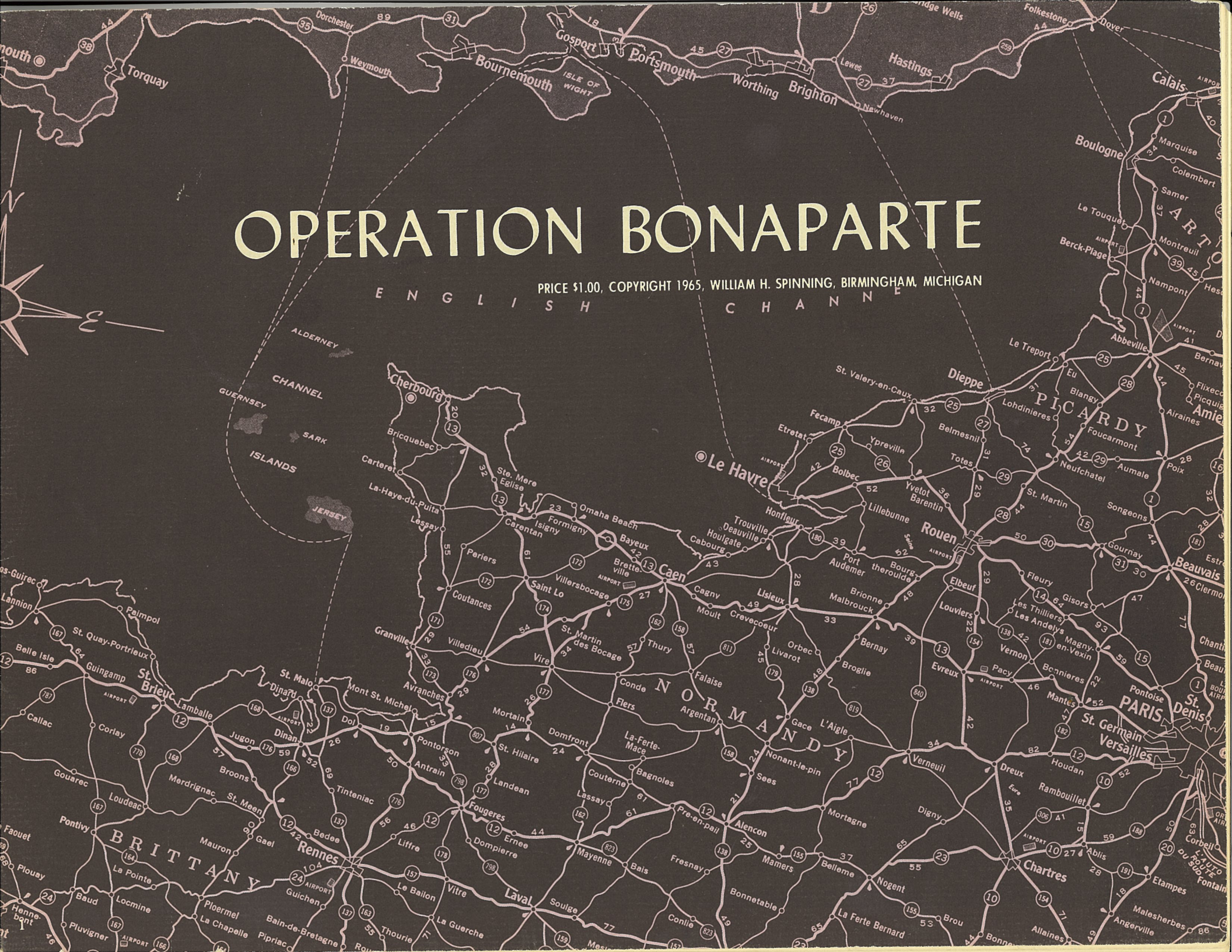


# OPERATION BONAPARTE

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E N G L I S H C H A N N E L





1 — Panorama of the rugged Brittany coast, our point of embarkation is in the extreme left center of the picture.



## The Miracle of Shelburn

It was in 1943 that two Canadian Army volunteers, Captain Lucien Dumais and Lt. Ray LaBrosse were slipped into occupied France to set up an organization to help Allied airmen escape from occupied Europe. They named this organization "Shelburn" after a country in Canada.

With the help of patriotic Frenchmen from all over France they organized and executed "Operation Bonaparte", one of the most daring and successful escape operations of World War II. Downed Allied fliers were gathered from all over France and systematically sent to the towns of Guingamp and Plouha in the Province of Cotes du Nord in the Brittany section of France. From here they were transported by small truck and on foot to the beach for their rendezvous with the British Motor Gun Boat 503.

"Operation Bonaparte" was responsible for the safe return of 135 Allied agents and fliers, 94 of whom were U.S. Air Force personnel.

The leader of the French resistance group in the Guingamp area was Mathurin Branchoux, he was assisted by Francois Kerambrun, Andre Chareton, Georges Lecun, Jean Ter-griet, and many others. The Plouha leader was Francois LeCornec, aided by Marie Therese LeCalvez, Rene Dagorne, Francois Baudet, and many others from small towns surrounding Plouha. Jean Jicquel was the owner of "La maison d' Alphonse" the house that was used as a rendezvous point before going to the beach. Joseph Menguy served as the naval technician of the operation, and was responsible for getting us thru the minefield onto the beach. Clement Huet worked with Menguy as a demining expert. In Paris Marcel Cola, assisted by Anita Lemonnier worked with the "reseau" to identify, then provide shelter and identity papers to those of us who got into the Paris area.

After the war General Eisenhower presented the Freedom Medal to these brave people for their courageous work.



2 — Dec. 20, 1943. Another load of high explosives goes down on German installations in Bremen, Germany - this time a Nazi fighter base, from Flying Fortresses of US 8th Air Force Bomber Command. Flak bursts above and below the nearest Fortress, sending shrapnel flying through the air.







3 — Ludwigshafen. Dec. 30, 1943. Heavy concentration of high explosives bursts as 8th Air Force heavies attack huge chemical and synthetic oil works across the river from Mannheim, Germany.

5 — Bordeaux-Mérignac. Jan. 5, 1944. B 17s of the 8th Air Force drop high explosives on German held air field East of Bordeaux.



7 — "AIN'T IT GRUESOME", RENAMED "KENTUCKY BABE" Lead Ship of the 351st Group, 509th Squadron First airplane to complete 25 missions in any war theater without aborting. "Kentucky Babe" subsequently added twenty-one more records before she was destroyed on the Frankfurt, Germany mission February 11, 1944.

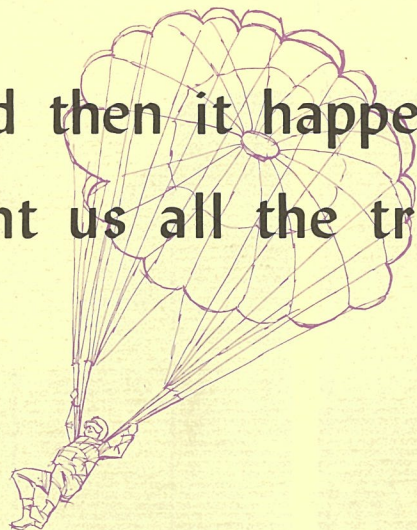
4 — Dec. 24, 1943. 94th Bomb Group, Normandy, France. First mission flown by the 8th Air Force against the Buzz Bomb launching sites.

6 — December 13, 1943. Kiel, Germany. B 17s. Medium opposition was encountered here. Smoke pots in left center of picture designed to obscure the target were never a serious obstacle.

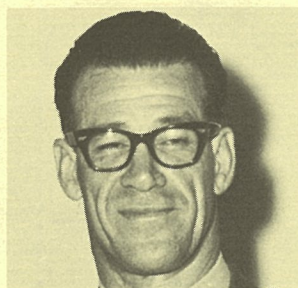




. . .and then it happened. We met some wonderful new people who taught us all the true meaning of "Courage and Patriotism."



Lucien Dumais,  
Commanding Officer,  
Operation Bonaparte.



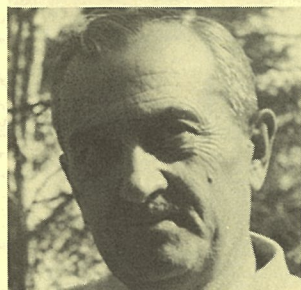
Ray LaBrosse,  
Deputy Commanding Officer,  
Operation Bonaparte.



Anita Lemonnier (Hartman)  
Special Interrogator, Paris division.



Mathurin Branchoux,  
Leader. French Resistance, Province,  
Cotes du Nord, Guingamp.



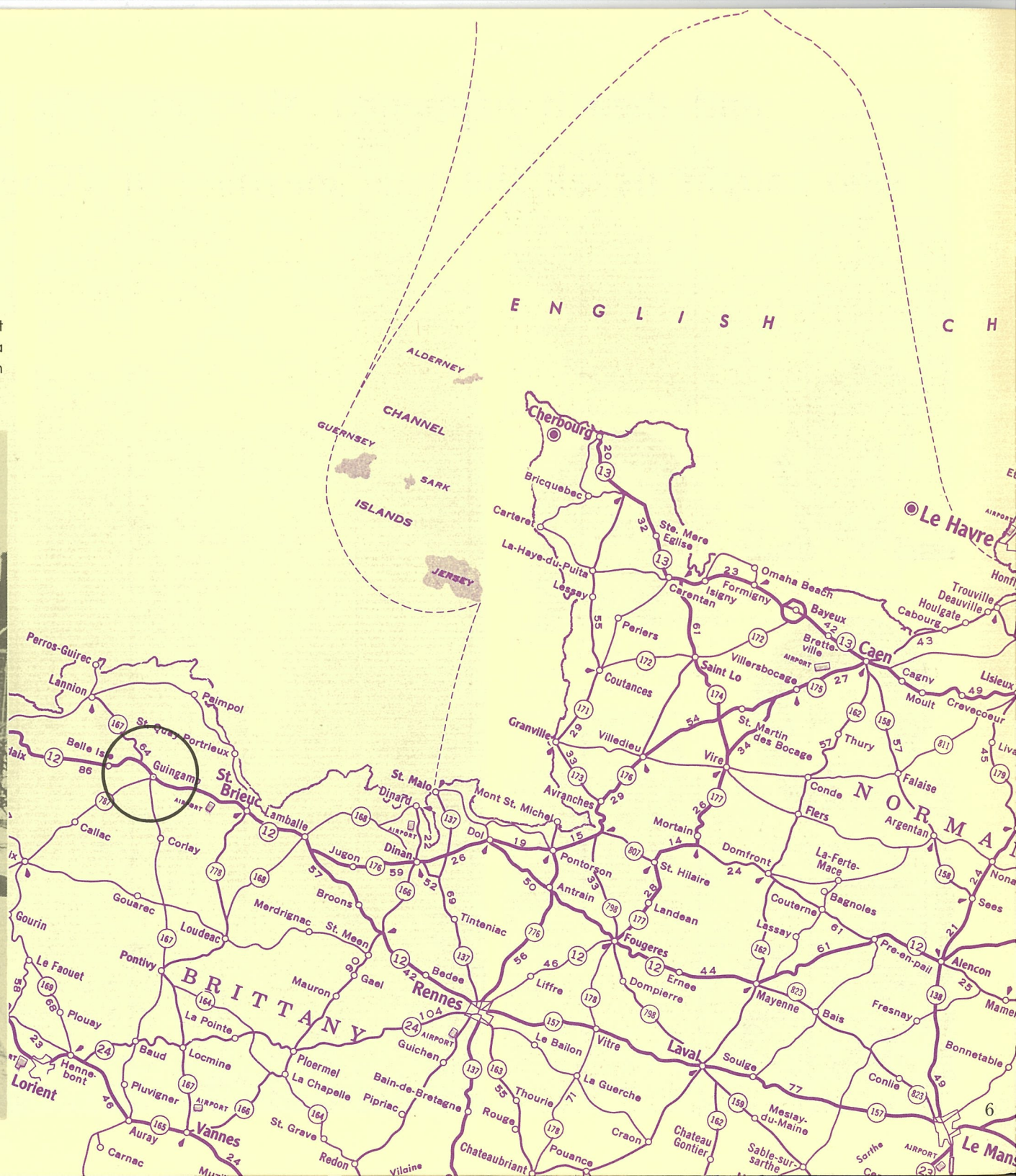
Marcel Cola,  
Director of Paris division.

8 — Members of the resistance group in the town of Guingamp: GEORGES LECUN, FRANCOIS KER-AMBRUN, FERNAND TROCHET and ANDRE CHARLETON.

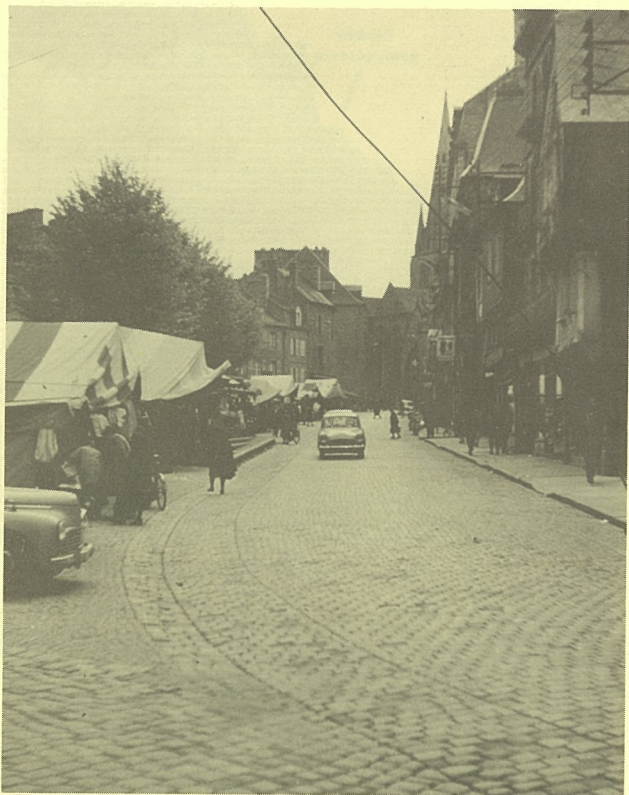




9 — The railroad station in the town of Guingamp. Most of us who traveled by train came to this station, spent a night or two in town, then were transported to the beach by truck, a distance of approximately 25 miles.





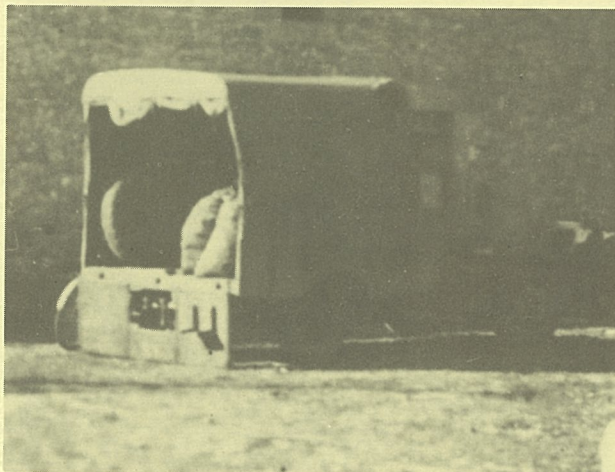


10 — The main street in the town of Guingamp.

12 — This is all that remains of the truck that was so important to our escape. In the driver's seat is the owner and driver Francois Kerambrun. Photo taken in April, 1961. ↓



11 — The home of M. & Mme. Desire Laurant, Rue de l'Etang due Prieur, Guingamp. Over 30 were hidden here at various times. Mme. Laurant died in 1954, and M. Laurant died in 1960.



← 13 — This is the only known photograph of the legendary "commionette" of M. Francois Kerambrun. This small truck was used during the day to carry supplies for the Germans, and at night to ferry us to the beach.



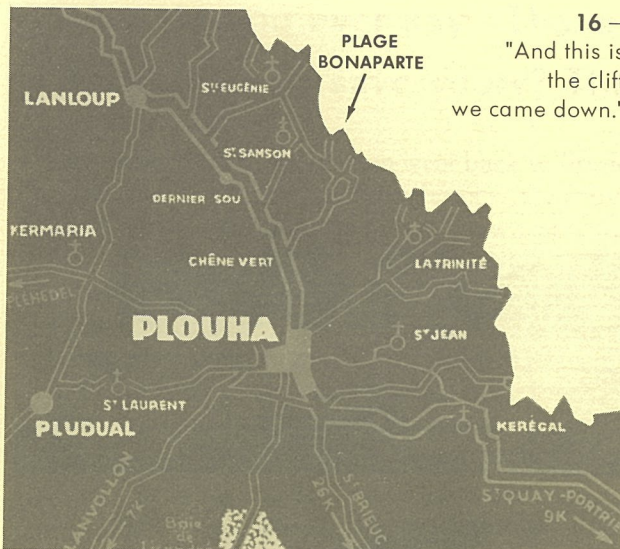
**14** — "La maison d'Alphonse" The rendezvous house before going to the beach. Owned by M. Jean Jicquel. Burned down by the Germans in July, 1944.



**15** — The path outside the house of Alphonse; the route to the beach approximately 2 miles away.



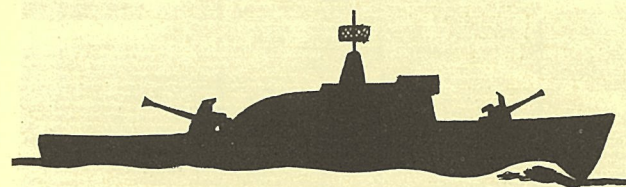




16 -

"And this is  
the cliff  
we came down."

Most of us were picked up from the beach by small rowboats from the M.G.B. 503. The 503 boat was one of three identical boats operating at various parts of the coast; she normally carried out "Operation Bonaparte" missions. Boat 503 was about 120 feet long, and carried a crew of 36. Powered by three high speed diesel engines, she normally cruised at 33 knots but could go faster. Although never obliged to fight, she was well enough armed to have given a good account of herself. A 6 pdr. aft, twin turrets on either side and aft of the bridge, and a 2 pdr. forward. The 503 boat was under the command of Lt. Cdr. Mike Marshall D.S.O. during "Bonaparte" missions. He was lost with all hands immediately following V.E. day after hitting a mine in the North Sea. *IN THE 502 boat*







17 — The beach area at low tide, looking toward the cliff, and the cove where we awaited the boats.

18 — A view from the rocks on which we sat during our long wait for the rowboats from the M.G.B. 503.



19 — Plaque fastened to the rocks high above the beach.

COVE COCHAT                      BONAPART BEACH  
During the occupation the French evasion network "Shelburn" here embarked for London 135 Allied airmen and agents on eight separate missions.

Plouha June 23, 1948

IN MEMORY  
OF THE 25 MEMBERS OF "SHELburn" WHO  
DIED FOR FRANCE  
AND OF THE CREW  
OF THE CORVETTE BRITANNIQUE 503  
LOST AT SEA

Monument on the hill overlooking "Plage Bonapart" erected by the French resistance fighters in August, 1954.

20 — To the glory of all the networks of evasion.

The French Network

Alsace

Vaudevire

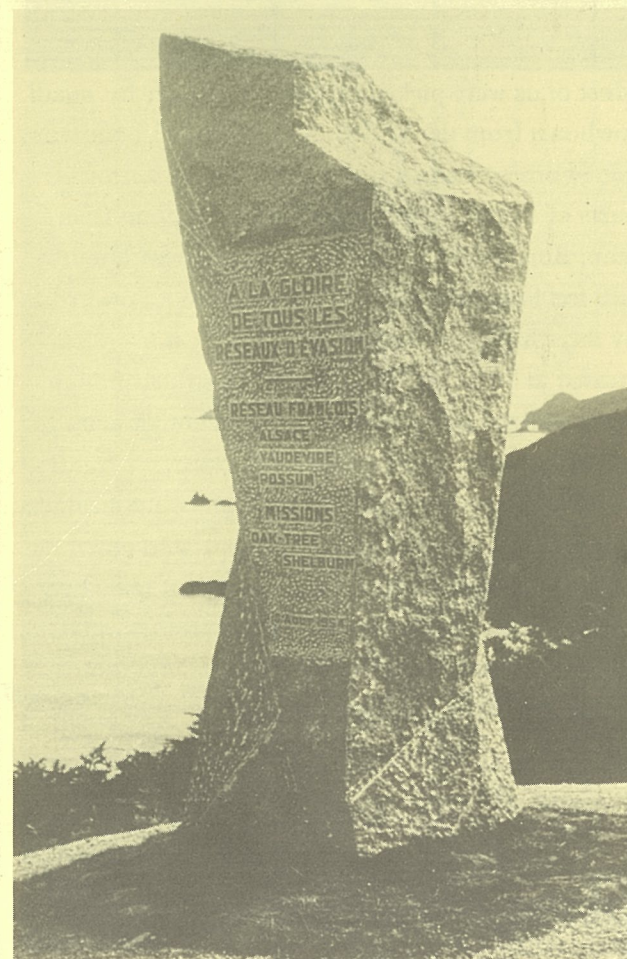
Possum

Operations

Oak-Tree

Shelburn

8 August 1954





## How do you ever say "Thank You" to those who risked their lives to save yours? This is how it started:

In early 1961 Ralph Patton went back to France and followed his escape route to Guingamp. There he met Mathurin Branchoux — the province underground leader. Branchoux fortunately had a list of the names and last known permanent address of all the American men who escaped by way of "Operation Bonaparte."

After returning home from his trip Ralph contacted the two other men from Buffalo on the list — John Amery and Fred Schmitt. After a quick get-together these three men got the ball rolling for a reunion of all the evadees to honor those who saved our lives.

For nearly two years prior to the reunion, Patton, Schmitt, and Amery talked to politicians and wrote letters to all the important brass from the President on down in order to obtain transportation for our friends from France, all to no avail. It was always . . . "a wonderful thing you are doing and the best of luck, but . . ."

Perhaps the American politicians have forgotten these people who saved so many lives, but our British friends certainly have not. In 1960 the R.A.F. flew over one hundred members of the resistance to England for a ten day visit. Each year an organization known as the Royal Air Force Escaping Society flies a group of resistance people to England for visits with those they helped during the war. This is with the cooperation of the British government and the R.A.F.

Despite the multitude of set-backs, Amery, Patton, and Schmitt decided that the reunion should be held to honor our benefactors. So free enterprise took over — their personal wallets. Letters were sent out to all Operation Bonaparte participants, and encouraging letters were received from evadees all over the country — "What can we do to help honor these people?"

The reunion was scheduled for May 15th and 16th, 1964, at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Buffalo, New York. Branchoux would be there from France, Anita Lemonnier Hartman from New York City, and Dumais and LaBrosse from Montreal, Canada.

As word of the reunion got around, crew members who were P.O.W.'s. and those who escaped over the Pyrenees decided that this would be a great opportunity for their first get-together in 20 years. Newspapers, radio, television, and national magazines picked up the story and the ball began to roll. Here's how it went . . .

Friday the 15th — bull session, then cocktails and dinner at the hotel followed by detailed explanations from our guests as to the part they played in "Operation Bonaparte." Questions and answers kept them going till after midnight.

Saturday — A trip to the Niagara Falls Air Force Base to see the latest jets — plus air show. Lunch at the base then a tour of Niagara Falls. Back to the Statler-Hilton at 5 P.M. We returned to the Air Base at 6:30 where we were the guests of Irving Air Chute for dinner. Following dinner we held our presentation ceremonies.

Those of us who were present enjoyed one of the most fulfilling weekends of our lives. All agreed on another reunion in five years. Location? Pittsburgh or perhaps Paris.

On behalf of all who attended "Thank You" Ralph, John, and Fred for your untiring efforts in organizing this reunion.

### Escaped 29 January 1944

James A. King  
Fred T. Schmitt  
John L. Sullivan, Jr.  
Andrew F. Hathaway  
Donald J. Heshett  
Walter J. Sentkoski  
Richard M. Smith  
William H. Booher  
Alphonse M. Mele  
Jerry Eshius  
Morton B. Shapiro  
Walter E. Dickerman  
Sidney Casden

### Escaped 27 February 1944

Louis Feingold  
W. C. Tarkington  
Harry L. Minor  
John Semach  
Milton L. Church  
Kenneth Blye  
Ernest H. Hugonnet  
Donald D. McLeod  
Marion A. Hall  
Harold O. Gilley  
Robert A. Schwartzburg  
Robert C. Southers  
Mike Olynik  
James A. Schneider  
James N. Quinn  
Lee C. Gordon

### Escaped 17 March 1944

Manuel M. Rogoff  
Shirley D. Berry  
Harold R. Wines  
Russell L. Paquin  
Philip A. Capo  
Edward J. Donaldson  
Neelan B. Parker  
Robert K. Fruth  
Everett E. Stump  
Carlyle A. VanSelus  
Carl W. Mielke  
William C. Lessig  
Dean W. Tate  
Charles B. Winkelman  
John T. Amery  
Charles W. Cregger  
Joseph A. Birdwell  
Kenneth P. Christian

William T. Campbell  
Frank J. Moast  
Jack McGough  
Ralph Patton  
William H. Spinning  
Earl J. Wolf, Jr.  
Leonard F. Bergeron  
Robert O. Lorenzi  
Robert L. Costello  
Paul R. Packer  
Edward J. Sweeney  
Glenn B. Johnson  
Norman R. King  
Isadore C. Viola  
Francis P. Hennessy  
Clyde C. Richardson  
Elmer D. Risch  
Richard F. Schafer  
Paul F. Dicken  
William J. Scanlon  
John A. McGlynn

### Escaped 23 March 1944

Thomas J. Glennan  
Abe A. Helfgott  
Rudolph Cutino  
Richard C. Hamilton  
Milton V. Schevchik  
James M. Thomson  
Francis C. Wall  
William A. Hoffman, III  
William B. Lock  
Charlie H. Mullins  
Robert J. Rujawitz  
Robert H. Sweatt  
Keith W. Sutor  
John F. Bernier  
David G. Helsel  
George P. Buckner  
David Warner  
Shirley V. Casey

### Escaped 13 July 1944

Richard J. Gordon  
Frank L. Lee, Jr.  
William C. Hawkins  
Joseph A. Lilly

### Escaped 24 July 1944

William A. Jones  
Milton L. Rosenblatt  
Robert V. Laux  
Phelmon T. Wright





## Our Honored Guests

21 — Ray LaBrosse, Deputy Commanding Officer, Operation Bonaparte. Anita Lemonnier (Hartman), Special Interrogator, Paris division. Lucien Dumais, Commanding Officer, Operation Bonaparte. Mathurin Branchoux, Leader, French Resistance, Province, Cotes du Nord, Guingamp.



**22** — Ralph Hall, Miami, Fla., Ken Blye, Rochester, N. Y., Mrs. Ken Blye, Mrs. Ralph Hall. This Friday nite meeting was the first time these men had seen each other since bailing out of their tailless B-17 on January 5, 1944 over the Brest peninsula of France.



**23** — Mr. John Semach - Youngstown, Ohio, Mr. & Mrs. Dave Helsel, Parker, Pa. await the start of Friday nite's activities.



**24** — Bob Sweatt, Burton, Texas and David Helsel, Parker, Pa. discuss photos of the truck in which many of us rode.



**25** — Mr. & Mrs. Ed Burley, Jr. - Buffalo, N.Y. discuss souvenir photos with M. & Mme. Mathurin Branchoux.



**26** — Representing Pittsburgh Pa. Mike Olynik, Don McLeod, Mathurin Branchoux, Ray LaBrosse, Ralph Patton, Lucien Dumais, Robert Laux, Manuel Rogoff.



**27** — Representing Buffalo, N.Y. Mathurin Branchoux, John Amery, Ray LaBrosse, Lucien Dumais, Fred Schmitt, Ralph Patton.



**28** — Mathurin Branchoux, Ray LaBrosse, Mme. Branchoux, Lucien Dumais.



**29** — The Texas Delegation Robert H. Sweatt, Augusta Rogers, Mrs. Jack Mc Gough, Mr. Jack Mc Gough, Cathy Ann Mc Gough, Phelman T. Wright, Dumais, LaBrosse, Branchoux.



**30** — Florida contingent Ralph Hall, Alphonse E. Mele, Mrs. Hall, Dumais, LaBrosse, Branchoux.



**31** — Kenneth O. Blye, LaBrosse, Dumais, Mrs. Blye, Branchoux, Ralph Patton.



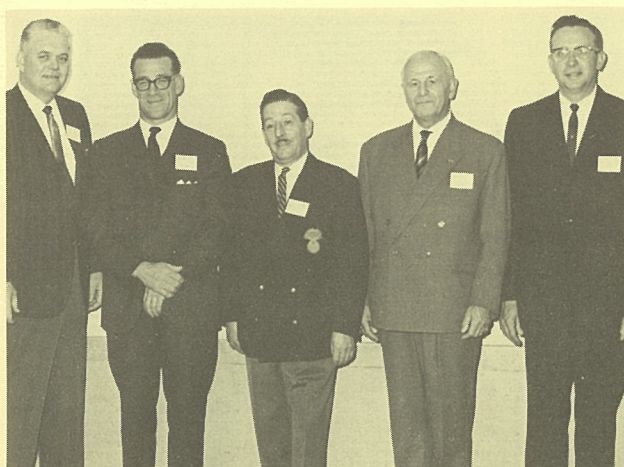
**32** — LaBrosse, Bette Patton, Dumais, Hartman, Branchoux, Patton.



**33** — LaBrosse, Hartman, Dumais, Billy Spinning, Mary Spinning, Branchoux, Carol Spinning, Bill Spinning, Katy Spinning.



34 — Francis P. Hennessy, LaBrosse, Dumais, Branchoux, Richard F. Schafer.



35 — Don Mc Cleod, Norm King, Clyde Richardson.



36 — Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Richardson, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Fruth, Manny Rogoff and 2 children.



37 — Mr. & Mrs. Charles Roof, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Burley and the young Spinning's.



38 — Center: Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Richardson. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fruth, Manual Rogoff, Son, Daughter. Center - Back to camera: Mr. & Mrs. Maron Hall, Mrs. John Semach. Facing left: Mr. John Semach, Francis Hennessy.



39 — Facing camera: L. to R. Dick Schaefer, Francis Hennessy, John Semach, Mrs. Semach, Mrs. Hall, Marion Hall. Back to camera: Norman King, Don Mc Cleod.



40 — R. to L. Mr. & Mrs. Spinning, Mrs. & Mr. Ken Blye.



41 — Ralph Patton starts the Friday night's activities.



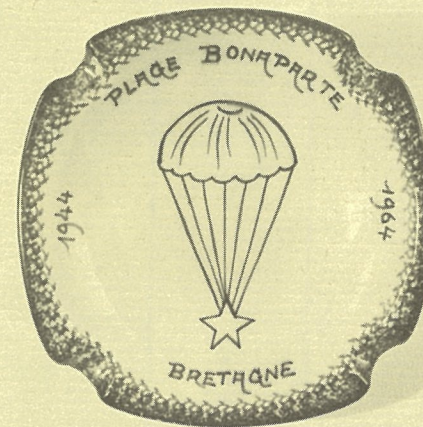
42 — Henri Geneste de Besme, French Consular Agent in Buffalo, addresses the Friday night meeting.



43 — Mr. Charles Light, Ex. V. P. Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce, presents a special welcome brochure to Lucien Dumais.



44 — Mr. Charles Light, Ex. V. P. Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes everyone to Buffalo.



45 — Branchoux, at his own expense, had these ash trays made up special for this reunion. Our names are on the back. A priceless souvenir.



Photo 46 Taken at the Air Base.



**Front Row:** BILL SPINNING, Birmingham, Mich.; ERNIE HUGONNET, New York, N.Y.; NORM KING, Arlington, Va.; MANNY ROGOFF, Pittsburgh, Pa.; BOB LAUX, Pittsburgh, Pa.; RALPH PATTON, Rochester, N.Y.; MIKE OLYNIK, Pittsburgh, Pa.; JERRY ESHIUS, Ferndale, Wash.; LUCIEN DUMAIS, Montreal, Canada; DEAN TATE, Trout Dale, Ore.; DICK SCHAEFER, Alliance, Neb.; BOB FRUTH, Defiance, Ohio; P. T. WRIGHT, Floresville, Texas; **Back Row:** MARION HALL, Baltimore, Md.; DON MC CLEOD, Pittsburgh, Pa.; FRED SCHMITT, Buffalo, N.Y.; JACK MC GOUGH, Marshall, Texas; RAY LABROSSE, Montreal, Canada; DOUG COX, Montreal, Can-

ada; GEORGE BUCKNER, Cleveland, Ohio; DICK SMITH, Campbell, Minn.; MAT BRANCHOUX, Guingamp, France; BILL BOOHER, Morristown, N.J.; DAVE WARNER, Melrose, Mass.; AL MELE, Lake Worth, Fla.; RALPH HALL, Miami, Fla.; JOHN SEMACH, Youngstown, Ohio; CLYDE RICHARDSON, Portage, Pa.; DAVE HELSEL, Parker, Pa.; JOHN AMERY, Salisbury, Md.; BOB SWEATT, Burton, Texas; **Missing From Picture:** KEN BLYE, Rochester, New York; SIDNEY CASDEN, Woodmere, N. J.; FRANCIS HENNESSY, Fargo, N.D.; ED BURLEY, Buffalo, N.Y.; CHAS. ROOF, Dundee, N.Y.



**47** — Ray LaBrosse, Chas. Roof, Ed Burley and Doug. Cox of the Pyrenees Group.



**48** — Marion Hall, Don McCleod, Norman King and Ernie Hugonnet 94th BOMB Group, 332nd Squadron, shot down Jan. 5, 1944.



**49** — Ralph Patton, Ken Blye, Jack McGough and Ralph Hall of Crew 38, 94th Bomb Group, 331st Squadron, shot down Jan. 5, 1944, meet for the first time since being shot down.



**50** — Major Ray LaBrosse.



**51** — Lt. Col. Walter Lamb and Major Ray LaBrosse, Saturday evening, Officer's Club, Niagara Falls A.F.B.



**52** — L. to R. Anita Lemonnier Hartman, Mrs. Lucien Dumais, Lucien Dumais, Mme. Mathurin Branchoux, Mathurin Branchoux, Major Ray LaBrosse, Ralph Patton, Lt. Col. Walter Lamb, Mrs. Andrew Hathaway.



Air Force Chaplain addressing the Underground leaders.

"... words mean a lot but give me a man who lives up to the ideals. You could never have accomplished anything unless you had ideals — these were the best weapons you had ... you have something to cherish ... to embellish.

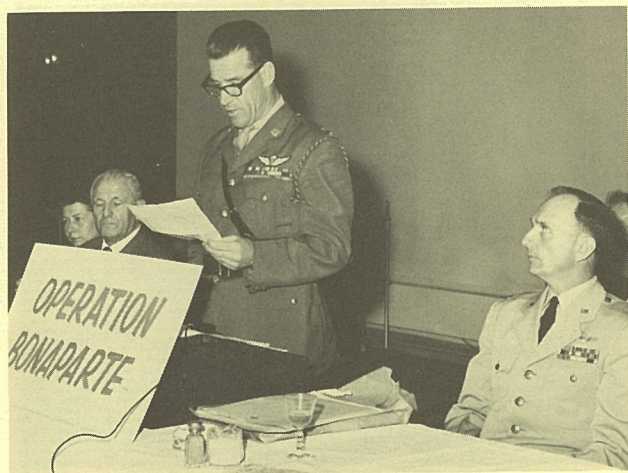
You are not angels, you are men ... you accomplished something that opened up a vista of what this world is about. We need men who work by principles. You have secured a victory gentlemen ... you have done it."

Father Fleming  
Lt. Col. U.S. Air Force Chaplain

53 — Father Fleming, Lt. Col. U. S. Air Force Chaplain.



54 — Lt. Col. Walter H. Lamb speaking for Col. James Livingston, C.O., welcomes us to the base.



55 — Ray LaBrosse translates a letter received Saturday, May 16, from Andre Charetan of Guingamp, France.



56 — A souvenir program is presented to Mrs. Hathaway for her husband, who was unable to make the trip due to serious illness.



57 — Ralph Patton thanks Capt. Geo. Rollison P.R.O. Niagara Falls A.F.B., for the help that was given to us by the Air Force.



**58** — Commander Erie County V.F.W. pins Freedom Medal on Mathurin Branchoux. This is the highest medal the V.F.W. can give.



**59** — Erie County Commander V.F.W. pins the V.F.W. Freedom Medal on Lucien Dumais.



**60** — Erie County Commander V.F.W. pins V.F.W. Freedom Medal on Major Ray LaBrosse.



**61** — Commander Erie County V.F.W. pins Freedom Medal on Anita Lemonnier Hartman.



**62** — Bill Spinning reading the "Certificate of Appreciation". The names of our guests were imprinted on each, and there were souvenir certificates with all the guests' names for everyone who attended.



**63** — Ralph Patton presents our "thank you" certificate to Lucien Dumais.



**64** — Appreciation certificate being presented to Ray LaBrosse.



**65** — L. to R. Mike Olynik, Bob Laux, Lucien, Ray, Mathurin Branchoux, Mrs. Mathurin Branchoux, P.T. Wright. Fellow crewmen meet with Resistance.



**66** — Geoff, Beverly and Betty Patton, Lucien Dumais, Ralph Patton, Ray LaBrosse, Mrs. and Mr. Mathurin Branchoux.



**67** — Front, L. to R. Mrs. Branchoux, Anita Lemonnier Hartman. Rear, L. to R. Major Ray LaBrosse, Lucien Dumais, Commander H. G. Achtziger, Mathurin Branchoux.



**68** — Western N.Y. Delegation. Front, L. to R. Ralph Patton, John Amery. Rear, L. to R. Fred Schmitt, Tony Onisi, Ed Burley, Chas. Roof.



**69** — A young fan awaits Lucien Dumais' autograph as Mrs. Dumais looks on.



70 — Autographs mean pleasant memories.



71 — Old friends meet - Branchoux and LaBrosse.



72 — Mr. & Mrs. M. Branchoux, Mrs. Andrew Hathaway.



73 — Mr. & Mrs. Branchoux, Ralph Patton with certificate.



74 — Ernie Hugonnet says, "Thank You, Ralph." What a terrific job Patton did in organizing this reunion!



75 — How pleased can you be?



Letters of praise for our benefactors were received from people all over the country, including mayors, congressmen, Senators, etc. Here are but two.



In this space, imprinted in large type, were the names:  
RAY LA BROSSÉ, LUCIEN A. DUMAIS, DESIRE LECREN, RENE LECREN,  
M. BRANCHOUX, ANITA LEMONNIER (HARTMAN), MARCEL COLA.

**NAMES AND DATE OF ESCAPE  
OF U. S. AIR FORCE PERSONNEL:**

**Escaped 29 January 1944**

James A. King  
Paul T. Schmidt  
John L. Sullivan, Jr.  
Andrew F. Harkness  
Donald J. Harkness  
Walter J. Santolucchi  
Richard M. Smith  
William H. Becher  
Alphonse M. Hale  
Jerry Eshel  
Horton B. Shapiro  
Walter E. Dickerman  
Sidney Gordon

**Escaped 27 February 1944**

Irvin Farnfeld  
W. C. Terkington  
Harry L. Miner  
John Samosh  
Milton L. Church  
Kenneth Rye  
Ernest H. Hugganet  
Donald D. McLeod  
Marion A. Hall  
Harold O. Gilley  
Robert A. Schwartzburg  
Robert C. Southers  
Mike Olynik  
James M. Schneider  
James H. Quinn  
Lee C. Gordon

**Escaped 17 March 1944**

Manuel M. Russell  
Shirley D. Berry  
Harold B. Wines  
Ronald L. Piquin  
Philip A. Cress  
Edward J. Donahoe  
Healen B. Parker  
Robert E. Smith  
Everett E. Shump  
Carlyle A. VanSledright  
Carl W. Mehl  
William C. Lewis  
Dean W. Tate  
Charles B. Walshman  
John T. Amery  
Charles W. Cragger  
Joseph A. Brinkhoff  
Kenneth P. Christian

William T. Campbell  
Frank J. Hoot  
Jack McDough  
Ralph Patton  
William H. Spinning  
Earl J. Wolf, Jr.  
Leonard F. Bergeron  
Robert O. Lovett  
Robert L. Costello  
Paul E. Foster  
Edward J. Gurney  
Glenn B. Johnson  
Herman R. King  
Indre C. Viala  
Francis P. Hennessey  
Clyde C. Richardson  
Elmer D. Bush  
Richard F. Schuler  
Paul F. Dikun  
William J. Scanlon  
John A. McDynn

**Escaped 23 March 1944**

Thomas J. Glavin  
Alva A. Halgott  
Rudolph Cetina  
Richard C. Hamilton  
Alison V. Scherovick  
James M. Thomas  
Francis C. Wall  
William A. Leck  
Charles W. Hallis  
Robert J. Rojewitz  
Robert H. Swett  
Shirley D. Berry  
John F. Bernier  
David G. Habel  
George P. Bunker  
David Warner  
Shirley V. Casey

**Escaped 17 July 1944**

Richard J. Gordon  
Frank L. Lee, Jr.  
William C. Hawkins  
Joseph A. Lilly

**Escaped 24 July 1944**

William A. Jones  
Milton L. Rosenblum  
Robert V. Luce  
Phelan T. Wright

"It takes little imagination to understand the sublime quality of the courage that, during Hitler's occupation of France, dedicated French citizens displayed in undertaking to rescue Allied fliers downed over France. They undertook the work deliberately and with the certain knowledge that they were risking not only their own lives but those of all they held dear. This they did far from the excitement and frenzy of the battlefield; their inspiration was their patriotism, the determination to see their beloved country freed from the domination of the hated Nazis and by their ideals of liberty and justice that they shared with the Allied fliers who were risking their own lives each time they made a sortie into Europe."

The loss of every Allied plane that was shot down over Europe was a tragedy—every member of a crew that was found and saved and sent back to us throughout "Operation Bonaparte" brought joy to all his comrades. To every Frenchman who joined in this great work and to each member of his family and to all who shared, in those days, his risks and dangers I send assurances of my deep and lasting gratitude."

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*  
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

**OPERATION BONAPARTE**

In the Fall of 1943 two Canadians, Captain Lucian A. Dumas and Lt. Ray La Brosse were slipped into German-occupied France to organize one of the most daring rescue operations of World War II. With the French Underground and the aid of the British Navy, Allied fighting men were smuggled through the heavily fortified Nazi invasion wall to the rugged coast of Brittany. There, under the cover of darkness, Gunboat #503 made eight trips over a period of six months to bring out 307 men. 94 were members of the U. S. Air Force. Against staggering odds and at the risk of death to themselves and their families, the Underground accomplished a near impossible assignment.

Military records call this effort "Operation Bonaparte". After the war, these Underground leaders were commended by General Eisenhower and awarded the Freedom Medal.

We of America can never repay these noble people. Nothing can ever balance the score, and nothing will ever dull the glory. In greatest humility we say, "We'll never forget. God bless you."

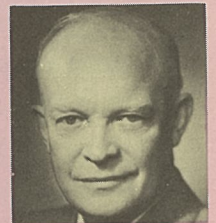
"It is impossible for me to be with those of you who are meeting to express their public gratitude to the courageous Frenchmen who saved the lives of so many American fliers shot down over that country. Although I regret very much circumstances that prevent me from being present, I am sending this note to express my personal thanks for the gallant wartime service of these devoted people."

"It takes little imagination to understand the sublime quality of the courage that, during Hitler's occupation of France, dedicated French citizens displayed in undertaking to rescue Allied fliers downed over France. They undertook the work deliberately and with the certain knowledge that they were risking not only their own lives but those of all they held dear. This they did far from the excitement and frenzy of the battlefield; their inspiration was their patriotism, the determination to see their beloved country freed from the domination of the hated Nazis and by their ideals of liberty and justice that they shared with the Allied fliers who were risking their own lives each time they made a sortie into Europe."

"The loss of every Allied plane that was shot down over Europe was a tragedy -- every member of a crew that was found and saved and sent back to us throughout "Operation Bonaparte" brought joy to all his comrades. To every Frenchman who joined in this great work and to each member of his family and to all who shared, in those days, his risks and dangers I send assurances of my deep and lasting gratitude."

Sincerely,

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*  
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



... it is heartening to note that you are publicly recognizing those gallant and courageous people of Canada and France who assisted so many of our own dedicated military men to return and fight after fulfilling pre-invasion missions on and over enemy-held territory.

Our nation is forever grateful to all, regardless of national affiliation, who served to attain the exceptionally high military, social and political objectives of the Allied Powers in World War II. This service was rendered at great sacrifice, but with intelligence, bravery and dedication to the ideals of freedom and free men.

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*  
President of the United States





BRANCHOUX



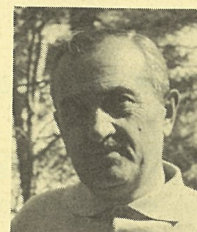
DUMAIS



LABROSSE



HARTMAN



COLA



LECUN



KERAMBRUN



TROCHET



CHARETON

## We'll Never Forget

We gathered at Buffalo to pay tribute to that gallant section of the Underground which was responsible for the "Miracle of Shelburn." Records show that Shelburn's "Operation Bonaparte" effected the escape of 135 Allied fighting men from German-occupied France in the Spring of 1944.

Shelburn is not well remembered by the statisticians. It was not the turning point for military tacticians. It was, instead, a blazing beacon of the absolute limits of man's courage — of man's willingness to gamble his own life and the lives of those dearest to him in order to save strangers who believed in the same ideals of liberty and personal dignity.

Theirs were calculated feats of audacious, rash fearlessness — carried out under the very eyes of the German occupational forces. By day and by night the men, the women, and even the little children held their own lives cheap to effect the ingenious escapes, one by one and in groups, of Allied fliers. Many of those they helped were difficult to manage because of serious wounds or traumatic shock.

The odds against success were staggering. The penalties for failure were almost incalculable. To hazard your own life is a trivial thing when compared to risking the soul of your sister, daughter, mother and all the men in your group.

We of America can never repay these noble people. Nothing can ever balance the score, and nothing will ever dull the glory. In greatest humility we say, "We'll never forget. God bless you."

### NAMES & ADDRESSES OF ALL WHO ATTENDED "OPERATION BONAPARTE"

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| AMERY, John T.           | 614 Penna Ave., Salisbury, Md.                      |
| BLYE, Kenneth O.         | 147 Caroline St., Rochester, N.Y.                   |
| BOOHER, William H.       | 36 Spring Brook Rd., Morristown, N.J.               |
| BUCKNER, George P.       | 939 Clinton, Cleveland 21, Ohio                     |
| CASDEN, Sidney           | 538 Howard Ave., Woodmere, N.J.                     |
| ESHUIS, Jerry            | Box 188, Ferndale, Wash.                            |
| FRUTH, Robert K.         | Rt. 4, Defiance, Ohio 43512                         |
| HALL, Marion A.          | 1526 Leslie Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21222              |
| HELSEL, David G.         | Route #1, Parker, Pa.                               |
| HENNESSY, Francis P.     | 1449 8th St., S., Fargo, N. Dakota                  |
| HUGONNET, Ernest H.      | 280 1st Ave., New York 9, New York                  |
| KING, Norman R.          | 2778 N. Wakefield St., Arlington 7, Va.             |
| LAUX, Robert V.          | 360 Orin St., Pittsburgh 35, Pa.                    |
| McGOUGH, Jack            | 1102 Jasper Dr., Marshall, Texas                    |
| McLEOD, Donald D.        | 1210 Colfax St., Pittsburgh 12, Pa.                 |
| MELE, Alphonse M.        | 1830 North D. St., Lake Worth, Fla.                 |
| OLYNIK, Mike             | 3907 Fairfield Ave., Munhall, Pa. 15121             |
| PATTON, Ralph K.         | 265 Dunrovin Lane, Rochester, New York 14618        |
| RICHARDSON, Clyde C.     | 901 Oak St., Portage, Pa.                           |
| ROGOFF, Manuel M.        | 1056 Lyndhurst Dr., Pittsburgh, Pa.                 |
| SCHAFER, Richard F.      | 816 Toluca, Alliance, Neb. 69301                    |
| SCHMITT, Fred T.         | 17 Wing Court, Buffalo 25, N.Y.                     |
| SEMACH, John             | 223 Nesbit Dr., Youngstown, Ohio                    |
| SMITH, Richard M.        | Campbell, Minn.                                     |
| SPINNING, William H.     | 4725 N. Woodward, Royal Oak, Mich.                  |
| SWEATT, Robert H.        | Rt. 1, Burton, Texas                                |
| TATE, Dean W.            | 1200 N. E. 201st, Troutdale, Ore.                   |
| WARNER, David            | 8 Birch Hill Rd., Melrose 76, Mass.                 |
| WRIGHT, Phelmon T.       | Box 537, Floresville, Texas                         |
| <b>PYRENEES MEN</b>      |   |
| COX, Douglas             | 650 Raymond St., St. Jean, P.Q. Canada              |
| BURLEY, Edward R., Jr.   | 95 Fairways Blvd., Buffalo 21, N.Y.                 |
| HALL, Ralph              | 6436 S. W. 10th Terrace, Miami, Fla.                |
| ROOF, Charles W.         | Dundee, New York                                    |
| BRANCHOUX, Mathurin      | Kergoz, Guingamp C. du N. France                    |
| DUMAIS, Lucien A.        | 389 Beaconsfield Blvd., Beaconsfield, P.Q. - Canada |
| HARTMAN, Anita Lemonnier | 7 Peter Cooper Rd., New York, N.Y. 10010            |
| LABROSSE, Raymond A.     | 12 Parc Laurier, Saint Jean P.Q. - Canada           |