

**Report of  
6808th  
Allied Information Service  
Field Consolidation Team (Prov)**



**Psychological Warfare Division  
Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force**

*Report of 6808th Allied Information Service, Field Consolidation Team (Prov)*  
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## **Table of contents**

Foreword	1
General Report	4
Military Mission	13
Field Survey and Reconnaissance	16
Zone of Operations Map	19
Intelligence	25
Press Section	30
Other Information Services	34
Administrative Section	39
Personnel	41

## Foreword

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The purpose of this report is to record the operations of the Third Field Consolidation Team, PWD SHAEF, for whatever guidance it may offer to similar operations in the future. An understanding of the nature of the mission, the problems encountered, and the procedure employed to meet those problems, is necessary for an analysis of the undertaking.

The PWD/SHAEF directive called for the formation, training and equipping of a team capable of carrying out the objectives outlined by the Psychological Warfare Division for field consolidation teams in France. The operational staff was to include American and British military and civilian personnel.

Allowing for the fact that because of the swift advance of our armies and the rapid recovery of the French themselves in all newly liberated areas, the time required to complete our mission was much shorter than had been anticipated. Most of the planning and policies which were laid down proved their worth in practice. This is a factual account of three months of operations in an endeavor aimed at following not

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only in letter but in spirit, the directives of the Psychological Warfare Division of Supreme Headquarters.

On the basis of the practical experience developed out of the actual field work of the Third Team in France, two general suggestions are offered for the consideration of those responsible for future operations. First, that such field organizations should be strictly military, using civilian technical specialists where the necessary personnel cannot be drawn from Army ranks. Secondly, that the operating teams in the field should retain their identity as far as their basic responsible personnel is concerned, with a view toward eliminating confusion and lack of responsibility arising from the division of authority. It is felt that one of the most difficult problems of a Field Consolidation Team lay in reconciling two different viewpoints with regard to procedure, the military and civilian. That this was achieved harmoniously is a tribute to the good faith and loyal devotion to duty on the part of the entire personnel of the organization.

The report that follows was prepared by Pvt. Boris Shub who served with the Press and News Section of the Team.

*Harold F. Volk*

CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

*Charles B. Strome*

MAJOR, AIR CORPS  
MILITARY COMMANDER



## General Report

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On August 23, 1944, the 6808th Allied Information Service Consolidation Team, with Mr. Harold F. Volk as Chief of Operations and Major Charles B. Strome as Military Commander, landed in France to commence operations as the Third Psychological Warfare Consolidation Team. These operations, begun at Cherbourg and continued from Headquarters in Rennes, lasted from August 23 to October 8 when the Allied Information Service Consolidation Teams for France completed their mission in the field. Starting with an area covering the Cherbourg Peninsula, the operative zone of the Psychological Warfare Third Team eventually expanded to encompass all of France west and south of Paris, including most of the Atlantic Coast, and extending down to the Spanish Border and to the Mediterranean as far as Marseilles (see map).

During the time that the Third Team was in the field, it accomplished much along the lines indicated in the SHAEF directives; namely, it helped to rehabilitate essential information services, and furnished important intelligence regarding the political, economic, and social picture inside liberated territory. In a number of localities, notably in areas of Normandy and Brittany, the Third Team's operations furnished isolated and war-ravaged localities with accurate news from the moment of their liberation, thereby dispelling the atmosphere of rumor and uncertainty and deceitful propaganda which for four years had provided grist to the enemy's propaganda machinery. The Third Team

made this possible in the areas indicated by investigating and reporting on critical needs in newsprint and other equipment for the publication of newspapers; by publishing a daily news bulletin; by servicing radio and cinema facilities; by sending mobile cinema and public address units into the field. Through its canvassing of the needs of specific localities, it insured the prompt and effective marshalling of all resources in cooperation with other military as well as French civilian bodies.

Over and above these functions, the frequent reconnaissance trips made by team officers served to provide SHAEF with first-hand information on the military and political situation in areas bordering continued pockets of enemy resistance (Brest, Lorient, St. Nazaire, La Rochelle and Bordeaux) where German units were still operating and where the internal status of the various French Military and Civil Authorities was still confused and undetermined. In this connection, the field officers of the Third Team rendered direct assistance to Psychological Warfare Combat Teams in the actual fighting zones, and investigated recently committed German war crimes on the scene, to obtain physical as well as documentary evidence of atrocities against the civilian population. Both the Chief of Operations and the Military Commander were mindful at all times that in working toward the restoration of normal channels of information, and in engendering good will between France and the Allies, the immediate practical result to be obtained was the furtherance of the French contribution to the common war effort.

It was for this reason, that so much emphasis was placed upon spot intelligence investigation into situations which might promote internal disturbance. For

this reason, too, every opportunity was utilized to promote good will and an understanding of the problems which the Allies had to meet together. In areas which had never before seen Anglo-American troops, the reconnaissance parties of the Third Team were particularly useful in this respect.

### *PREPARATION*

The landing in France came after an extensive period of preliminary screening and training personnel and of welding a mixed group of officers, civilians, and enlisted men into a self-contained, disciplined team ready to move into the field in the fulfillment of its mission. In the latter part of May, 1944, Mr. Volk was directed by the Chief of the Psychological Warfare Division, SHAEF, to organize a Psychological Warfare Consolidation Team. Experts were recruited on the basis of special experience and qualifications. Most of these men were supplied by United States and British Government Agencies, such as the American Office of Strategic Services, and Office of War Information, and the British Ministry of Information. In the course of screening, special consideration was given to linguistic skill, intimate knowledge of conditions in the area of operation, special OSS and Intelligence training and aptitude, and professional experience in the technical branches of consolidation team activities. It was felt that the success of the team would depend not only upon the choice of competent experts, but upon the military efficiency and cohesiveness of the organization in the field. For this reason, considerable care went into the choice of the military commander.

The military organization began on July 8, 1944, when Major Charles B. Strome, Air Corps, was assigned

to the team as its Military Commander. From that time and until the team left for France, the Chief of Operations and the Military Commander coordinated their representative functions in screening and slotting the officers, civilians of assimilated rank, and enlisted men, who finally constituted the Third Team.

A period of training followed for the civilians, officers, and the enlisted men. In Brondesbury and Rushton, England, officers and civilians attended classes both in psychological warfare and military matters. Lectures by political experts as well as refresher courses in basic weapons helped fuse the Officer-Civilian corps into a unified team. Meanwhile in Hurst Park, the enlisted men were given military instruction and assigned to positions for which they were qualified.

When orders came through to move out of England, the basic job of organization and supply had been accomplished, and the Third Team was able to proceed as a well-organized unit, each man knowing his task and with equipment in first-class shape. The team disembarked at Utah Beach, on August 23, 1944, and drove to the Cherbourg Area where it reported ready for duty the same evening.

## *MISSION IN FRANCE*

### I. CHERBOURG HEADQUARTERS.

The Third Team relieved the Second Team on August 23, 1944, and functioned with Cherbourg as Headquarters between the 23rd and the 31st of August. In this brief period the following was accomplished:

1. A press section was set up at Villedieu to furnish news by means of a wall-bulletin, entitled NOUVELLES DE LA GUERRE, to a large part of the Normandy penin-



sula, including among its major points the cities of St. Lo, Coutances, and Granville. This area was not reached by the newspaper, LA PRESSE CHERBOURGEOISE or the OUEST-FRANCE. In all, this news run covered more than 30 towns and some 150 communes. Functioning from August 27th to September 20th, the operation brought the first authentic war news to some of the most sorely stricken towns of France. The wall newspaper, prepared at Villedieu by enlisted men with French civilian assistance, was distributed six days a week by two jeeps covering two separate routes.

2. Press and Radio activities were continued at Cherbourg, and other services, such as the distribution of hand bills and radio announcements for Civil Affairs in furtherance of the campaign to recruit French labor, and proclaiming the restoration of French postal service, were also carried out.

3. A detachment composed of Major Le Chene, Mr. Carr, Mr. Broadbent, and Mr. Sandborn was sent into the PW territory of the 21st Army Group at Caen.

4. Accounts were settled and bills paid for the previous teams as well as for all expenses incurred by the Third Team, and all French civilians previously employed by the Second Team were taken over by this organization.

The Cherbourg Headquarters were closed down as of August 31st, but the Warehousing and Shipping services, Radio Cherbourg, and the Villedieu news service operation were continued. Thereafter the Cherbourg office continued principally as a transport and supply depot, communications clearance point, and service depot for AIS personnel arriving from England. Lt. (jg) Fred M. Thrower, Jr. remained in Cherbourg as Deputy Chief of Operations, responsible to Third Team headquarters in Rennes.

## II. RENNES.

### 1. FIRST PHASE.

Team headquarters were established in Rennes on September 1st, 1944 after an advance party had gone ahead to inspect general conditions and billeting accommodations. The Third Team was now assigned all the territory of the previous two teams, as well as the Brest peninsula, considerable sectors of which were still in German hands. With the Second Team now in Le Mans and the First Team in Paris, a courier service was established linking Cherbourg-Rennes-Le Mans-Paris. During the first phase of Rennes operations, the following concrete results were achieved :

a. An intelligence section headquarters was established in Rennes with Captain Williams as the C.I.O. The intelligence operations for the area were blueprinted with a view toward accomplishing a dual aim: namely, to reconnoitre the field of operations for the various sections of the Third Team, and at the same time to obtain pertinent data on the military, political, economic, and social situation in the area for the benefit of G-2, G-5 and the PWD Combat Teams in Brittany.

In the course of establishing the intelligence machinery and of assigning officers to specific missions in the field, the Chief of Operations and Captain Williams visited the Brest peninsula fighting zone. These reconnaissance expeditions uncovered much information on the practical problems confronting the PWD combat teams; on the results obtained from leaflet operations behind the German lines; on the press needs of the peninsula; the role played by the F.F.I.; the need for expert investigation and documentation of recent atrocities against the civilian population; and

on the thorny problem of the French attitude toward our treatment of German prisoners. One practical achievement of this reconnaissance was to help the Morlaix newspaper commence publication, thereby making news available to the population of the Brest area as of the very day that the fighting terminated. In the course of their investigations Mr. Volk and Captain Williams questioned a number of witnesses and victims of German atrocities. The matter was presented to AIS headquarters in Paris which approved the suggestion that Mr. Cecil Howard and P/O Edmund d'Auriol be assigned to the territory to document the known cases. The fruits of their labors were later to be combined as part of a much broader inquiry into German atrocities throughout France.

*b.* The newspaper OUEST-FRANCE with a circulation of 250,000 readers was saved from a shut-down by the prompt action of supplying newsprint.

*c.* Radio and Cinema facilities previously established were serviced; a mobile cinema unit was furnished to areas without electric power; and a public address system went into the field to provide news and public announcements to areas which otherwise could not be reached.

## 2. SECOND PHASE.

*a.* Following a series of conferences held in Paris on September 10th-12th, 1944, the operating zone of the Third Team was extended to include the Le Mans Area, the vast territory south of the Loire, and in effect all of France west and south of Paris. Additional personnel, including a number of new intelligence officers, were assigned to meet the expanded needs of the team. At the same time, however, it was indicated that all

work had to be accomplished within a very short period, because the situation had been developing with such rapidity that the time was drawing near when all consolidation team activities in France would be terminated. Back in Rennes, reconnaissance missions were dispatched south of the Loire to Nantes and Angers and to the Lorient zone as well. A Third Team press office was established in Le Mans to complete the work begun by the Second Team.

*b.* During the second phase of operations from Rennes headquarters, extensive intelligence work was done in the city of Rennes itself, on the Brittany peninsula, and finally through most of southern France. Between September 27 and October 4, a party consisting of Mr. Volk, Major Strome, Captain Williams, Lt. Joseph, Lt. McLane, Mr. Hasbrouck, and Mr. Ries carried out a reconnaissance mission of the area south of the Loire including the cities of Saintes, Fontenay, Niort, Cognac, Angoulême and Bordeaux. This territory had never seen American or British troops; it had been recently liberated by the French Forces of the Interior, but still contained important enclaves of German resistance and the internal political situation was still unsettled. The investigation touched upon a number of complex military and political situations which in due course were brought to the attention of the proper authorities.

*c.* Completion of the Bordeaux mission coincided to all intents with the termination of Allied Information Service Consolidation Team activities in France. On October 4, 1944, instructions were issued by headquarters, AIS/PWD/SHAEF to wind up Consolidation Team work as of October 8, 1944.



## **Military Mission**

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The military mission of the 6808th Allied Information Service Consolidation Team (Prov) began on 8 July 1944 when Major Charles B. Strome, Air Corps, was assigned on orders to the team. At this time what later was to become Group Headquarters and the 6806th and 6807th teams had already left for France, taking with them but a small increment of their authorized strength in personnel and but a fraction of the equipment to which they were entitled. This situation presented the Third Team with a two-fold problem: (a) forming its own unit and seeing that it was properly supplied and, (b) procuring for the teams that had departed the personnel and supplies that were needed to meet their requirements.

The enlisted personnel, some 106 of the total of 195 authorized for the three teams, were assembled and bivouaced at Hurst Park, Hampton Court, England, twenty-five miles from London, and here over a period of five weeks, carefully trained in close order drill, firing on the range, interior guard, air raid warnings, security of information and documents, setting-up exercises, military courtesy, sanitation, personal hygiene and first aid, security in bivouac, work area and in convoy, including prevention of theft and pilferage of government property, first, second and third echelon maintenance on motor vehicles, instruction to drivers, road discipline, administration and allied subjects, and generally in uniform standing

operating procedures for organizations of this kind. In accomodating this training to the needs of the organization, appropriate plans and effective procedures were developed for the various sections of the command. Inspection of the unit was held periodically and a general inspection of personnel and equipment was conducted prior to departure for Mr. Hamilton K. Smith, Chief of Consolidation, and his assistants.

The unit, composed of members of the 6808th A.I.S. Team and replacements for Group Headquarters and the First and Second Teams already in the field, to the number of 32 officers and civilians with assimilated rank, and 89 enlisted men, was alerted at 1800 hours 17 August 1944 and departed from Hurst Park 1300 hours 19 August 1944.

When the Team reached Rennes, its operational base, the unit strength was still unimpaired, although there had been some reduction in materiel and equipment due to the needs of other units. It may be said that it functioned well and that its headquarters and billets were well ordered and substantially maintained. Fluid as was the personnel that were part of the command, they conducted themselves with military propriety. From the first beginnings of the unit at Hurst Park to the final rendezvous at Rambouillet there is not recorded a single case involving summary punishment or disciplinary action.

In carrying out the plans and purposes of the Team, the military were conscious of the fact that they were not an operating agency but an instrument created to render effective service to the various units of the command in the performance of their mission.

No recording of the achievement of the command, would be complete that did not pay tribute to the pains-

taking devotion to duty, at all times, of the junior officers of the unit, 1st Lt. William B. James, Signal Corps, Supply and Transportation Officer and 1st Lt. Robert W. Boyle, Air Corps, Adjutant.

In closing the military chapter of these annals may slight allusion be made to the vital part played by coordinating authorities in establishing human relationships that made for concord. To the ability of both operational, as well as the military personnel to reconcile their differences of opinion and to devote their efforts to the common task at hand, may be ascribed whatever degree of success that may have been attained.



## **Field Survey and Reconnaissance**

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Third Team operations were conducted on the basis of reconnaissance in the field regarding the immediate needs of each particular area. During the time that Rennes served as Team Headquarters (September 1 - October 7, 1944) three major field survey missions were carried out, in addition to many spot investigations by individual intelligence officers. The latter will be dealt with separately. This section will concern itself with the two surveys in the Brest area, and the mission to the region south of the River Loire.

The battle for Brest began about the time the Third Team moved into Rennes and the need for an investigation of the area was acute. The PWD combat team of the 12th Army Group, then operating out of Landivisiau, was encountering certain practical difficulties: the political picture was obscure; reports had come through of German atrocities in nearby towns and villages; and little was known regarding the general state of communications and news. Consequently, on September 4th a party set out for the Brest peninsula. Three days were spent in this region, and the towns of Morlaix, Landivisiau, St. Briec, Quimper and Quimperle were visited.

In Morlaix the party was received by Captain (later Lt. Col.) Rene Cadalen, Commandant of the French Forces of the Interior for the region. Captain Cadalen provided considerable information on the general political and military picture and outlined the nature

of the AIS services which could be rendered. He then accompanied the party to the PWD combat team headquarters at Landivisiau, where conferences were held with Lt. Glenn, the commanding officer, Mr. William Locke, the press officer, and the team's intelligence officer. It was discovered that the operations of the combat team were handicapped by lack of effective communications with London, and that a situation had arisen where effective psychological warfare could be waged in a pin-pointed sector held by Russian troops impressed into Wehrmacht service, provided facilities were obtained for a leaflet drop among these soldiers. Both matters were taken up at the first opportunity with the proper authorities.

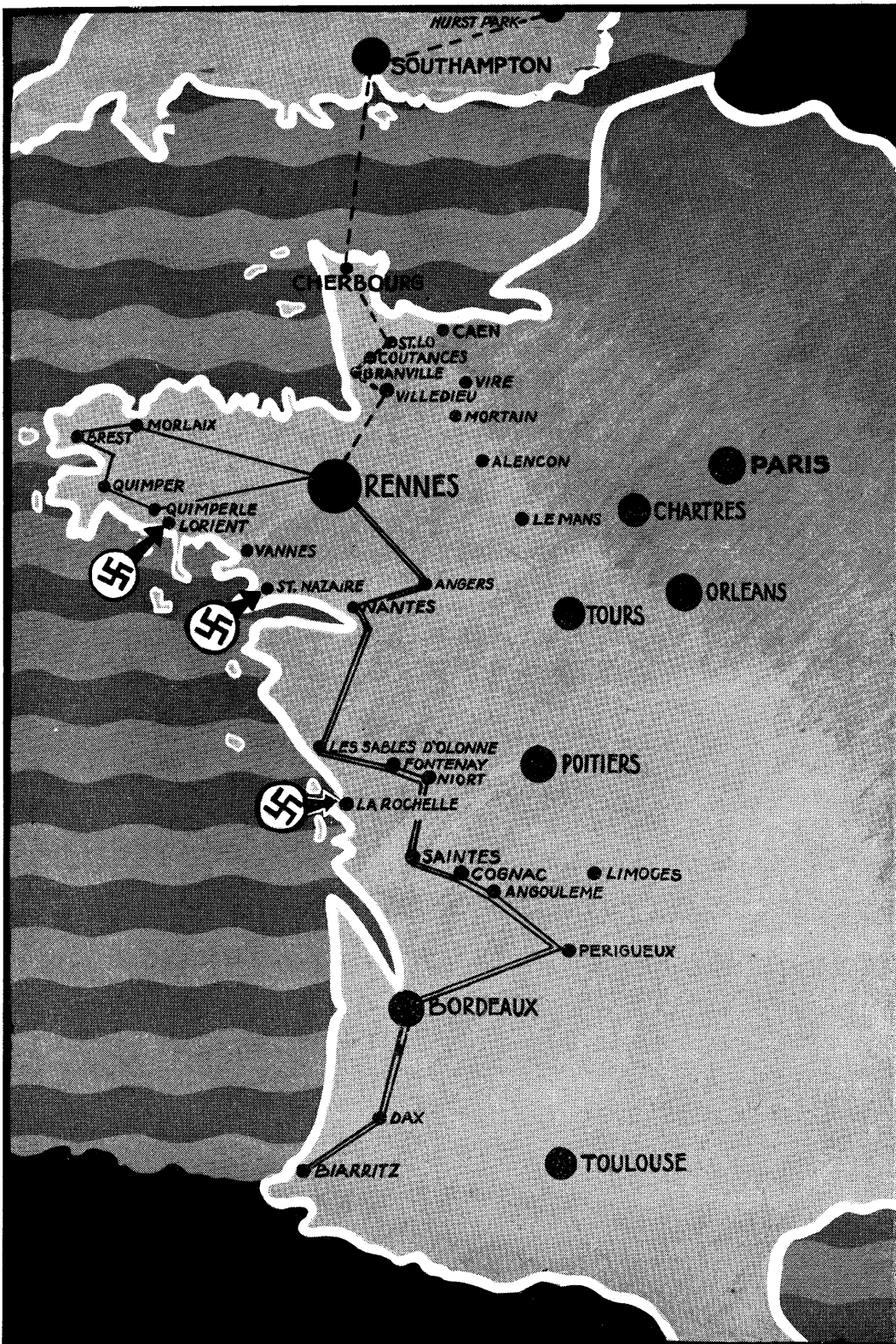
Landivisiau itself was found to be crowded with refugees, whom F.F.I. officials quartered in every vacant house and hotel room. There was no electric power, coal or means of transportation, but the food supply was adequate. The political situation throughout the Department of Finistere was fairly stable, because the F.F.I. commander and his troops were first-rate and their morale was keyed to a high pitch as a result of the important part they had played in liberating the peninsula. In Morlaix, the needed equipment and service were planned for an excellent newspaper plant and management was provided in place of the staff of the late collaborationist *DEPECHE*.

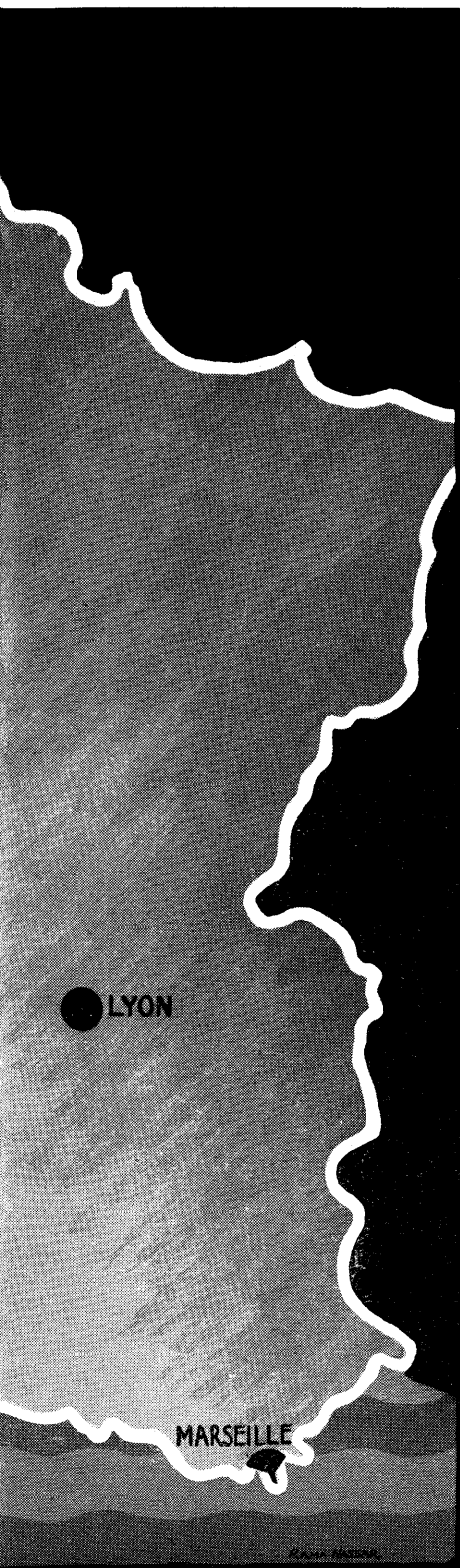
Two weeks later, when Brest fell, Mr. Volk and Captain Williams returned to the area in order to survey what had been accomplished as a result of the first mission, and to make a final check of what further operations, if any, still remained to be carried out in the Finistere Department. On the second field trip, which lasted from September 20th-September 22nd, Morlaix, Quimperle, Quimper and Brest were visited.

At F.F.I. headquarters in Pont Croix, they were informed of a fairly typical situation which produced considerable popular resentment. In the neighboring village of Landrevette, American forces on the previous day had captured a German garrison of about 300 men who had recently committed a number of outrages against the civilian population. At this point, with feeling running high, the American captors distributed cigarette rations among the German prisoners and in general displayed an attitude of apparent friendliness. As a result, according to the F.F.I. spokesmen, the populace was left with the feeling that these men would never be brought to account for their crimes. The incident, which is not an isolated case, is mentioned because it is the type of thing which produces misunderstanding and creates a sore spot in Franco-American relations.

Mr. Volk and Captain Williams entered Brest three days after the German garrison capitulated. Sniping was still going on; mopping up squads were still throwing hand grenades into tunnels and pillboxes; engineer detachments had just begun to tear down tottering walls; the streets were strewn with carcasses of dead animals. Whole districts had been pulverized into nothing and signs were not yet up to indicate improvised roads. The streets were deserted, save for some engineers and a few M.P.s who had just arrived and were on patrol to prevent looting. The towns outside Brest, on the other hand, were teeming with refugees from the battered city, and it was found that the Morlaix newspaper, TELEGRAM DE BREST ET DE L'OUEST, successor to the defunct DEPECHE, was already in everybody's hands, thanks to the arrangements made two weeks earlier.

The following day a final call was paid upon Captain





**Zone of Operations**  
**The Third Team in France**  
**6808 AIS**  
**Field Consolidation Team**

Cadalen at Morlaix. The F.F.I. leader expressed great satisfaction with the cinema and press services which had been furnished to the region and stated that the political situation had improved in the intervening two weeks. He also gave helpful suggestions on establishing contacts with F.F.I. leaders in the south Loire region. Observations made on this trip, as well as Captain Cadalen's report, indicated that the Third Team's job in the Brest territory had been accomplished and there was no reason for PWD to linger there any longer. In the great segment of France south of the river Loire, however, the need for reconnaissance was obvious, not only to discover what the territory required in the way of press, radio and cinema facilities, but also to obtain a coherent picture of the military and political situation in a region which stretched all the way to the Spanish border. With these objectives in view, Lt. Joseph and Mr. Clark were dispatched from Rennes to Bordeaux on September 26th as an advance party to make preliminary contact with the French authorities and to secure billeting accommodations. The following day, a mission consisting of Mr. Volk, Major Strome, Captain Williams, Lt. McLane, Mr. Hasbrouck and two drivers set out from Rennes headquarters. At Nantes, the party crossed the Loire by ferry and drove to Les Sables d'Olonne, a former German army rest area. Here conferences were held with an American Major of the OSS who had entered the territory during German occupation and was active as liaison officer between London and the F.F.I. in the department of La Vendee. The Major gave an encouraging report on the local situation, stating that the processing of recruits into the French Army was proceeding peaceably, and that the F.F.I. was maintaining order.

Proceeding out of Les Sables d'Olonne, the cars carried American flags as identification. From this point down to Bordeaux the route skirted the actual fighting zone. With German troops in the vicinity, the F.F.I. was maintaining a vigilant patrol of the highways and was shooting at all suspicious looking vehicles. We had experienced one casualty earlier in a similar situation. Whenever the American flag was sighted, road blocks were removed and a warm welcome accorded. The party reached the town of Fontenay in the midst of a liberation parade, and the entry of an Allied mission at that moment was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm. Traffic was completely tied up by a surging crowd of men, women, and children, shouting « Les Americains. » It was a wholly spontaneous reaction to the first Americans seen in the area. From Fontenay the party proceeded to Niort, where conferences were held with the Editor of the local newspaper REPUBLIQUE.

The next stopping place was Saintes, where the party met with Mr. Vermeuil the prefect for the Department of Charente Maritime. Mr. Vermeuil seemed to think that the F.F.I., while not hostile to the new civil authorities, was not entirely cooperative and was making no attempt to enroll its members in the regular French Army. There was still a certain uneasiness felt in Saintes, because of its proximity to La Rochelle, whence the Germans were making forays into the surrounding territory. Mr. Vermeuil expressed the opinion that the presence of Allied troops would do much to insure order. He indicated that adequate news coverage was coming by way of Bordeaux, but that publications and news reels were needed.

From Saintes the party drove on to Cognac, where they were guests for the night of members of Major

Rac's staff. Major Rac, a leader of the former Armee Secrete, was a highly respected Maquis commander whose forces were fighting the Germans at La Rochelle. The official host was Major Frichet who, it developed, had served in the same division as Mr. Volk in the last war. There were other French officers present as well who had fought side by side with the Americans in 1918, and this first sight of Americans soldiers after twenty-six years was a real event to these people. Their feelings were well reflected later in a regimental publication.

On the evening of September 29th, the mission reached Bordeaux where they were received by Lt. Colonel Espace, the military deputy for the 18th Region, and later, at a dinner reception, by Major Tranche. In the course of talks with various French officers it was discovered that the Bordeaux situation was quite tangled, both from a military and political standpoint. The F.F.I. was split into party segments, often with competing staffs and conflicting policies. Communications were in bad shape, ferries had to be used to cross the Dordogne River into the City, and orders sent from Paris did not always reach their destination. Bordeaux itself was only a few miles from the German stronghold near the mouth of the Gironde. The F.F.I. leaders felt that in view of this situation, their supply needs, especially for uniforms and arms, were being sorely neglected, and this served to aggravate the general picture.

Facts were also unearthed in Bordeaux about a matter which demanded prompt inquiry. For this purpose, Captain Williams and Lt. Joseph were sent on a special mission to Dax and Hendaye on the Spanish Border. During the stay at Bordeaux, the mission also visited the seaside resort town of Arcachon, where



they met Colonel de Luze, the F.F.I. chief for the Archachon district. Here again it was intimated that the presence of a detachment of Allied troops would help to insure general tranquillity.

On the return trip, the party stopped at Angouleme, where some were guests of the prefect and others attended a banquet presided over by Colonel Bernard, head of the dominant F.T.P. faction in the Department of Charente. Later all were present at the banquet, including the new prefect and the editor of the local paper. The stay at Angouleme afforded the mission an opportunity of seeing the Provisional Government of France swinging into action. The prefecture, which had only reopened two days before, fairly buzzed with activity, and with new blood, most of whom had taken an active part in the resistance movement, buckling down to their jobs. In Angouleme, too, German prisoners under F.F.I. guard were seen hard at work demolishing their own fortification, a spectacle which made a very strong impression on the French population.

After crossing the Loire and spending the night at Angers, the mission reached Rennes on October 5, 1944, where orders were already waiting to move to Chateau Mesnuls.

## **Intelligence Section**

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Pursuant to general PWD/SHAEF orders and to the directive laid down on August 10, 1944, by General McClure, the intelligence section for the Third Team commenced operations from Rennes Headquarters on September 1, 1944, with Captain R. G. Williams as C.I.O. and Mr. R. C. Caridia as Executive Officer. The staff of the section consisted of a number of intelligence officers and civilians who served for various intervals and on special assignments. Among these were Mr. Ammerman, Captain Curtis, Lt. McLane, Lt. Levengood, Lt. Constantine, P/O d'Auriol, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Howard, Lt. Serafini, Lt. Joseph, Mr. Ries and Mr. Branson.

Broadly speaking, the intelligence section was charged with the following duties:

(1) To act as the intelligence arm of the Third Team itself, investigating the AIS needs of various territories and advising the Chief of Operations accordingly.

(2) To provide information on political, social and economic questions, both to the Team and to PWD/SHAEF.

(3) To act as liaison with PWD combat teams and to investigate the effectiveness of our own psychological warfare.

(4) To maintain liaison with G-2 and Civil Affairs.

To accomplish these objectives, the intelligence section sent officers into the field to interview and sound

out individuals who, in their aggregate, constituted a representative cross-section of French public opinion. These included officers of the F.F.I. and of the various groupings and parties within that organization; the delegates of the French Ministry of Information; mayors, prefects and other civil functionaries; representatives of the Deuxieme Bureau; business men; trade union leaders; shopkeepers; workers; clergymen; educators; and the « man in the street. » The territory covered embraced the whole operative zone of the Third Team, including Normandy, Brittany, and the area south of the River Loire.

The technique employed was overt at all times. The person interviewed was told that he was speaking to a representative of the Allied Information Service and was asked for his analysis of a particular situation as he understood it. His bias, if any, was indicated in the reports which were always formulated with a view to presenting factual background rather than conjecture and speculation. In the course of questioning prominent local figures on the information needs of their community, the interview usually expanded to a discussion of broader matters as well. Thus, for example, an editor who was asked what press facilities his town needed, would generally be more than willing to discuss the general situation, political and economic, as it appeared to him. On the basis of such analyses it was possible to elicit a body of information which was useful to higher headquarters in forming an appraisal of conditions in France, as well as the French reaction to Allied policy and to the presence of Anglo-American forces.

From Rennes Headquarters, the C.I.O.'s office became a clearing house for intelligence documents and reports collected and compiled by officers and

civilians in the field. It also provided liaison with French authorities and representative civilians within the Rennes area, with the PWD combat teams, and G-2 and G-5 in the Brittany Base Section Headquarters.

A very considerable political intelligence mission was accomplished within the city of Rennes itself, through the investigations conducted from the beginning of September to the completion of Third Team activities. Rennes, as the historic capital of Brittany, reflected on its own scale all the complexities confronting liberated France. By interviewing spokesmen for every segment of public opinion, a series of reports was compiled which, when properly evaluated, present a fairly complete picture of the whole array of political, social and economic issues with which the Provisional Government of France must contend.

The personnel of the intelligence section also participated in all the reconnaissance missions of the Third Team. It was instrumental in establishing liaison which made it possible to secure the information required by the various other sections of the team as well as for PWD/SHAFF, G-2, Civil Affairs and the PWD combat teams. Part of the section's job was to test the results of PWD operations both among the friendly population and among the enemy.

The following is an example: In order to investigate the effectiveness of our own psychological warfare against the German troops, P/O d'Auriol visited a POW concentration area at Guipavas, near Brest, where freshly captured German troops were interned pending their shipment to regular POW camps. P/O d'Auriol found that a very high percentage of these troops carried Allied leaflets and safe conduct passes on their person. From Guipavas, P/O d'Auriol went

to an artillery outpost located between Guenou and Brest, where he discovered that the main highways leading to the besieged port were literally blanketed with leaflets, averaging perhaps one for each yard of ground. From this vantage point he was also able to observe leaflet-filled shells exploding in the center of Brest. He collected a handful of these leaflets and brought them back to the PWD combat team to study their condition after exposure to the elements. On the day of the final assault, P/O d'Auriol went into Brest itself accompanied by two members of the F.F.I., together with infantry units of the Second Division. On the Rue Victor Hugo, 2 German officers and 8 enlisted men surrendered to P/O d'Auriol and his companions. The officers held safe conduct leaflets in their hands; the men all had leaflets or safe conduct passes in their possession. Later in the day, P/O d'Auriol interviewed about 25 Frenchmen who had remained in Brest throughout the battle, and obtained their account of the state of German morale and the effect thereon of PWD leaflets during the various stages of the siege.

Officers of the Intelligence Section were in the field on various missions at all times throughout the existence of the Third Team. It is not within the province of this report to detail their actual findings, as gleaned from the large body of reports which they submitted.

For purposes of this resume, it is sufficient to mention a few of these missions to indicate the broad scope of the section's work. As the C.I.O. of the Team, Captain Williams took an active part in the two missions to the Brest area and in the survey of the Bordeaux region. He also made a personal investigation of another matter in the Dax - Hendaye area, near the

Spanish Border. Lt. Levengood covered the Normandy territory between Cherbourg and St.Hilaire du Harcouet and later investigated general conditions in Brittany. He also made a preliminary reconnaissance of the zone to be covered by the Villedieu press section, pinpointing the spots to be serviced. Captain Curtis did a job in Rennes on economic conditions, on the military trials held there, and on the political situation in Vitre. Lt. McLane made a reconnaissance of Angers and Nantes; a political intelligence survey of La Roche-sur-Yon, Niort, Saintes, Cognac and Poitiers; reported on the military situation south of the Loire; investigated general conditions in the Departments of La Vendée, Deux-Sèvres, Charente-Maritime, Charente, and Vienne. Mr. Clarke made a reconnaissance of Nantes, covered the Rennes area and reported on the political situation in the Pontivy and Vannes districts. Mr. Ammerman handled a political situation in Quimperlé. Lt. Serafini conducted political intelligence in Quimper and the Brest area generally, reconnoitred the Lorient region and went on a special mission to southern France. Lt. Joseph covered Le Mans on a political intelligence mission, and accompanied Captain Williams to Dax and Hendaye. Mr. Caridia, who operated from Rennes headquarters, made a series of reports on conditions in Brittany. Mr. Branson covered a special situation in Rennes. All the officers who made the Bordeaux trip had an opportunity to contribute their share of intelligence work over a wide range of subject matter, AIS, military and political. In the Finistere region, P/O d'Auriol and Mr. Howard carried out a detailed investigation of German atrocities.

## Press Section

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The press section of the Third Team fulfilled a dual function: 1° Between August 28th and September 20th, 1944, it published and circulated a daily wall newspaper *NOUVELLES DE LA GUERRE*, through approximately 30 cities and towns and 150 communes in Normandy. 2° It rendered practical service and assistance to the newly revived free French press in key cities throughout the Team's zone of operations. For nearly a month, the wall newspaper, which was published by the press detachment in Villedieu (Department of La Manche), provided practically the sole source of war information for the inhabitants of the area covered; while the liaison work of the Team press officers aided many newspapers to resume publication and prevented others from shutting down because of shortages in newsprint, electric power or other material.

### *A. VILLEDIEU*

A Third Team press detachment under the command of Major William H. Barrett, with Mr. Jacques Ducharme as civilian press officer, arrived in Villedieu on August 26, 1944. The first edition of the wall newspaper was circulated to the extent of five hundred copies on August 28, 1944. On September 4, 1944, Major Barrett and Mr. Ducharme left Villedieu and thereafter the publication and distribution of *NOUVELLES DE LA GUERRE* was handled by four enlisted men,

assisted by a local French editor. Pvt Charles H. Martyn and Pvt Boris Shub managed the newspaper end of the operation, while Pfc Thomas Corbett and Pvt Carmine Lucchetti kept the radio and other equipment in shape, and drove the two jeeps on the long daily runs, under all sorts of road and weather conditions.

The itinerary of the two "milk runs" took the four enlisted men each day through a large part of the recent Normandy battleground, including Coutances, Granville, Brecey, St. Hilaire, Mortain, Sourdeval, Vire, St. Sever, Percy, Tessy, Torigni, Canisy, Marigny and St. Lo, as well as through a host of smaller towns and villages. To the population of this devastated segment of Normandy, the Villedieu wall newspaper gave an up-to-the-hour account of the expulsion of the German Army from French soil during the period which ran, roughly, from the liberation of Paris to the initial breaching of the Siegfried line. The meaning of this service to the inhabitants, townspeople and farmers alike, was graphically conveyed by the waiting crowds which congregated around the jeep-borne "communique" as soon as it was posted. At most points along the route, volunteers stood by to carry their quota of copies to the local Mairie or Gendarmerie as well as to the smaller settlements within the periphery of the commune. From St. Sever alone, for example, the paper went to twenty localities surrounding the town ; from Vire to another fifteen settlements which had no electric power and were totally cut off from news of the war.

The gradual restoration of electric power to the communities covered by the Villedieu run, and distribution of the Rennes newspaper OUEST-FRANCE through most of the larger towns covered by the NOU-



VELLES DE LA GUERRE lifted the blackout on normal news channels and brought the operations of the Villedieu press detachment to their natural close. The last issue was distributed on September 20, 1944.

## *B. SERVING THE FRENCH PRESS*

From Third Team Headquarters in Rennes and from Le Mans, civilian press officers Jan Hasbrouck and Jacques Ducharme worked in close collaboration with representatives of the French Information Service as well as with editors and publishers of all French newspapers within their respective zones. Mr. Hasbrouck, who was a press officer for the Third Team from September 10 to October 7, 1944, worked in Rennes with Mr. Henri Freville, regional director of the French Information Service, Mr. Leroux, French Regional press delegate, and Mr. Emile Cochet, secretary-general of the OUEST-FRANCE. This newspaper had a circulation of 250,000 in Brittany, Normandy, Mayenne, and the lower reaches of the Loire Valley, including Angers and Nantes. As already seen, it was threatened with a shutdown because of newsprint shortage, a situation which was averted in time by calling the matter to the attention of AIS in Paris. Thereafter, adequate supplies of newsprint arrived from Paris, after the paper had been tided over by a shipment from Cherbourg. The OUEST-FRANCE was also supplied, via PWD courier service, with English newspapers, articles and extracts from English and American periodicals and books, as well as news photographs. These were turned over by Mr. Hasbrouck to Mr. Freville for distribution.

General press conditions in Brittany were also investigated, following the establishment of the TELEGRAMME DE BREST ET DE L'OUEST, and equipment shortages

were promptly met. In the mission to the south of France, Mr. Hasbrouck canvassed the needs of all the daily newspapers in the region.

Working out of Le Mans, Mr. Ducharme studied newspaper requirements in a broad zone including Chartres, Orleans, Tours and Toulouse. In a number of these localities, it was discovered that electric power was the prime necessity, in others newsprint; and in almost all cases, better news-gathering facilities and background material were required. In each instance, where practicable, steps were at once taken to remedy the situation with an end toward speeding the normal distribution of the French press. The problem of newsprint allocation was finally taken over by the French Ministry of Information, and as of the date that team operations and AIS services for France were terminated, the indicated zone had been completely surveyed and reported by the officers of the press section.

## **Other Information Services**

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Note — The PWD radio and cinema sections operated as separate organizations, outside the control of the field consolidation teams. While functioning within the Rennes zone of operations, however, these services frequently called upon the Third Team for cooperation and services of various sorts. A brief resume is therefore presented of radio and cinema activities within the Third Team Territory, with full recognition of the fact that whatever results were attained were due to the efforts of the units themselves. The public address unit, on the other hand, was a part of the Third Team and one which worked directly with the mobile cinema unit.

### *A. RADIO BRETAGNE*

A PWD radio detachment consisting of Mr. Stuart Scheftel, Mr. Pierce, Mr. N. W. d'Arcy and Mr. John Sullivan, as well as military personnel and equipment, reached Rennes early in August almost immediately after the city's liberation. It was found that both transmitters, one at Thourie (36 kilometers south of Rennes) and the one at Alma, had been put out of commission by the Germans before they left. It was also found that repairs at Thourie would involve months of labor. At Alma, although the antenna tower had been destroyed, the transmitter was restored to working order by the combined efforts of the

French and PWD personnel. It was not yet put to use, however, because of the lack of sufficient electric power in Rennes.

After several meetings with representatives of the French Provisional Government, it was decided to start operations on August 19th, under the direction of the French Government, but mainly with American personnel and equipment until such time as French personnel was trained to take over. Operations were started by using the U. S. Army SCR 698 (1 KW) and the SCR 696 studio unit. (A German mine had wrecked the Rennes studio.)

The radio programs were worked out by the French director of the station together with Mr. Stuart Schef-  
tel and Mr. John Sullivan. The PWD men prepared the original programs and directed actual operations, while at the same time training French personnel to step into their shoes. The relationship between the representatives of the French Provisional Government and the American radio men was excellent from the very start.

The daily program consisted of one hour and fifteen minutes of local material and two hours of BBC and ABSIE retransmissions. Radio Bretagne scored several international scoops, the most notable being General Koenig's announcement from the PWD operated studio in Rennes of his appointment as Military Governor of Paris. Radio Bretagne also reproduced General de Gaulle's speech in Rennes from a sound disc prepared by the PWD mobile recording truck.

By September 22nd it was possible to turn over the program operations of the station to trained French personnel and to move out the U. S. Army studio, the regular studio having been fully repaired. On the other hand, the transmitter, as well as its operators,

were to remain in the city until power was available. A. U. S. antenna tower was lent to the French for an indefinite period of time.

On the occasion of the departure of the PWD program staff, the Director of Radio Bretagne and the newspaper *Defense de la France* expressed their gratitude to the Americans for the job they had done in restoring radio broadcasting facilities to Brittany.

## *B. CINEMA*

PWD Film Section operations in liberated France date back to July 5, 1944, when *Desert Victory* opened at the Omnia Theatre in Cherbourg. The service was rapidly expanded through towns in Normandy which had escaped destruction. The Cherbourg office remained in being until September 30, 1944, during which time it collected film rentals totalling 454,000 francs, and covered most of Normandy.

The second stage of operation began with the establishment of an office at Rennes, where three cinemas were opened on August 10th and a newsreel house a few days later. One of these cinemas was supplied with power from a generator provided by PWD. The lack of electric power proved a serious obstacle to cinema operations throughout the Brittany area, but with PWD assistance the Rennes office by the early part of October was meeting the requirements of more than half the cinemas working in Brittany, and of 90 % of the more important towns. The Rennes operations were conducted by Mr. Jean Kermarrec, a French civilian.

The Brittany territory had a large number of small cinemas, equipped with 16mm projection, many of which could not be readily serviced because of the lack

of 16mm films, but 16mm newsreels as well as U. S. and British documentaries are now being shown there. Newsreels in particular proved very popular throughout Brittany.

Mobile cinema units under Mr. Ray, and later Mr. Grant, covered the cities and towns in Brittany which had no other motion picture facilities in working order. Mr. Grant's unit reached Rennes on September 8th and during the first week of operation gave 15 shows to a combined attendance of 8,000 people. During the second week 5 towns were visited, 16 shows were given to 3,229 people, and a sum of 32,712 francs received for admission which was turned over to local charities. The 70 minute program consisted of three "Monde Libre" newsreels; the O. W. I. "Autobiography of a Jeep"; the British Ministry of Information documentary "The Pilot is Safe"; and the French Ministry of Information's "France Au Combat".

The operations of the mobile unit for the Brittany territory were terminated when the Third Team departed, but the film section office in Rennes continues to operate under the management of Mr. Kermarrec.

### *C. PUBLIC ADDRESS UNIT*

For the period between September 3rd and October 7th, 1944, Mr. J. C. K. Branson operated a mobile public address unit through the Brittany peninsula. The P. A. system was used not only to broadcast the news, but to render assistance to the prefect, sous-prefects and local mayors in diffusing proclamations and notices concerning work, water supply, and other matters of vital public concern.

Using Quimper as his first base of operations, Mr. Branson covered all the surrounding towns and vil-

lages. In almost every instance, a large crowd would congregate within a few minutes after the announcement was made that a news bulletin was about to be read. The turnout was greater in localities which still had no electric current. After this zone had been covered, the P.A. unit operated in the northern part of the Finistere Department with Morlaix as the base, again rendering assistance to the French officials in making known all matters of local interest, as well as publicizing the war news.

Mr. Branson also accompanied Mr. Grant of the Cinema section on a tour of the St. Malo - St. Servan - Dinan area of northern Finistere, for the purpose of giving the population advance notice of motion pictures which were to be shown.

## **Administrative Section**

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All expenditures and payments connected with the operations of the Third Team were handled by Administrative Officers Allen B. Sulzer and Rene C. Pollard. Their fiscal duties were as follows:

### **A. VOUCHERED FUNDS**

1. Payment of per diems for O.W.I. employees.
2. Hiring, journalizing and payrolling of local civilian labor in accordance with U. S. Army Regulations.
3. Bookkeeping covering the above, which was done by the individual Agent Cashier, a bonded employee of the U. S. Government, bearing full responsibility for the safekeeping, expenditure and accounting of funds entrusted to him.

### **B. UNVOUCHERED FUNDS**

1. Payment of all team expenses incurred by the various sections with the approval of the Chief of Operations. These included the following:
  - a. Repair bills for civilian cars abandoned by the retreating enemy and taken over by PWD.
  - b. Accounts of expenditures above the living allowances accorded to American and British employees, while away from headquarters on missions.
  - c. Entertainment of French officials to promote good will in the interest of better liaison and cooperation.



- d.* Local printing of miscellaneous leaflets and publications ordered by the Press and News section.
  - e.* Local repair of radio sets ordered by the radio section.
  - f.* Miscellaneous items needed for general office upkeep and not obtainable through the U. S. Army.
2. The separate bookkeeping of all such funds, as distinct from vouchered expenditures.

When the Third Team reached Cherbourg, the administrative responsibility for the area was turned over to Messrs. Sulzer and Pollard by Mr. Eugene Fountain, Chief Administrative Officer. This at once involved payments, from both vouchered and unvouchered funds, to cover most of the items listed above. When the Team moved on to Rennes, Mr. Sulzer remained in Cherbourg for a few days to liquidate all monthly salary obligations as well as sundry bills which continued to be presented for payment. Inasmuch as Radio Cherbourg as well as the Warehouse and Shipping section continued to operate, it was agreed that one of the Administrative Officers would come to Cherbourg on the 15th and last of each month to settle salaries and other obligations. Accordingly Mr. Pollard returned to Cherbourg on September 15th and Mr. Sulzer on September 30th.

Mr. Pollard looked after the hiring of local employees and was also in charge of the officers' mess.

The administrative section had to synchronize its activities at all times with the flexible requirements of field operations so as not to impede their execution. Yet at the same time the regulations governing the handling of funds always had to be observed. It was therefore necessary to gear the system of payment accordingly and, with the full cooperation of the various section chiefs, it is believed that this end was achieved.

## Personnel

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- \*Absolon, Pvt Carl J.  
Ammerman, Mr. Richard
- \*Anderson, Pvt Eugene C.
- \*Archer, Pvt Hoyitt C.  
Barrett, Major William H.  
Belfrage, Mr. Cedric
- Bennett, 1st Lt James P.
- Billadeau, 1st Lt Z. J.
- \*Blackwood, Sgt Paul D.
- \*Blount, T/3 James W.
- \*Boyle, 1st Lt Robert W.
- \*Brady, T/5 Thomas J.  
Branson, Mr. James
- \*Bratton, Pvt Asa
- \*Brewer, Sgt Nicholas  
Caridia, Mr. Reginald C.
- Carr, Mr. T. B.
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524 West Main St., Sterling,  
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Patmos, Arkansas.  
708 14th St., Santa Monica,  
California.  
49 Hallam St., London W 1;  
or Finney Farm, Croton-on-  
Hudson, N. Y.  
412 Oak Ave., Clearwater, Fla.;  
or 2802 Devonshire Place,  
N.W. 305, Washington, D.C.  
531 Hunter St., Crookston,  
Minn.  
808 South She She, Hominy,  
Oklahoma.  
General Delivery, Lakedale,  
N. C.  
512 Main St., Sycamore, Illi-  
nois.  
837 Garfield St., Oak Park,  
Illinois.  
12 Jubilee Road, Weston-Super-  
Mare, Somerset, England.  
839 West Elm St., Ludlow,  
Kentucky.  
14 Williams St. Rockville,  
Maryland.  
464 Upper Richmond Road,  
Richmond; or Fairwater,  
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- \*Climmer, Pfc Cecil L. 1115 *Nichols St., Springfield, Missouri.*
- Constantine, 2nd Lt Albert J. *Moosup, Connecticut.*
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- Grant, Mr. George E. 10 *Midhurst Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham, England.*
- \*Grant, Pvt William F. 54 *Ranney St., East Hartford, Connecticut.*
- \*Gravatt, Pfc Frank H. 314 *W. Crawford, Elkhart, Indiana.*
- \*Green, Pvt Ralph C. 37 *East Beverly St., Pontiac, Michigan.*
- \*Hamilton, Pvt Hansel H. 1203 *West Taylor St., Kokomo, Indiana.*
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- Higgins, Pfc William F. 4 *College Ave., Medford, Mass.*

- Hine, Capt. A. G.
- \*Hohn, Pfc Martin M.
- \*Horning, Pvt Norman J.
- \*Hovan, Pvt John W.
- Howard, Mr. Cecil
- \*James, 1st Lt William B.
- \*Johnson, Pvt Albert T.  
Joseph, 1st Lt Alain
- Kelly, 1st Lt Vincent P.
- \*Kerness, Pvt Frederick
- Kilroy, 2nd Lt J. M.
- Knapp, Mr. Robert B.
- \*Lake, Pvt Harvey J. Jr.
- Lamping, S/Ldr F. S.
- Lasselin, Mr. Georges
- \*Lawyer, Pvt William E. Sr.
- \*Lee, Pvt Elijah
- \*Leftwich, Pvt Robert M.
- Levengood, 1st Lt Adam F.
- \*Likes, Pvt William C.
- \*Litinetsky, Pvt Morris
- Looney, Mr. Theodore B.
- \*Lucchetti, Pvt Carmine A.
- Madjerick, Pvt James
- \*Martyn, Pvt Charles H.
- The Ivies, Newark, Nottinghamshire, England.*
- 1307 *Walnut St., Marysville, Kansas.*
- 7519 *Sheridan Road, Kenosha, Wisconsin.*
- 2640 *South Troy St., Chicago, Illinois.*
- 40 *West 57th St., New York, N. Y.*
- 32 *Belleview Ave., Mt. Clemens, Michigan.*
- 2242 *Union St., Warren, Ohio.*
- 51 *West 87th St., New York, N. Y.*
- 89 *Clifton Place, Jersey City, N. J.*
- 456 *Hopkinson Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.*
- 3433 *St. John, Kansas City, Missouri.*
- Hudson View Gardens, New York, N. Y.*
- 684 *Berryville Ave., Winchester, Va.*
- 19 *Middleway, London N.W. 11.*
- 233 *Victor Hugo Ave., Clamart (Seine), France.*
- Route 4, Martinsburg, Virginia.*
- Semmes, Alabama.*
- Rm 106, Arnette Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri.*
- Boyertown, Route 2, Pennsylvania.*
- Route 7, Box 342, Navy Yard, South Carolina.*
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- Riffel, 2nd Lt J. D. 103 *Somme St., Newark 5, N. J.*
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- Serafini, 2nd Lt Louis *Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey.*
- Sheldon, Capt. Fred M.
- \*Shub, Pvt Boris 510 *West 110th St., New York, N. Y.*
- \*Smith, Pvt Harold K. *Fish Hawk Lane, Rumson, N. J.*
- Spring, Mr. William *Trewent, Newbarn, Longfield Kent., England.*
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*Wargat, Pvt Edward W.	43 Smith St., Fall River, Mass.
*Watts, Pvt James L. Jr.	Heflin, Louisiana.
*Weems, Pvt Lovett H.	Forest, Mississippi.
*Weimer, Pvt William E.	106 Winkler St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
*Williams, Capt. R. G.	30 Cliff Road, Paignton, Devon; or 81 Linden Gardens, W. 2, London; or c/o F. B. Whately, 44 Linco'n's Inn Fields, London, England.
*Young, Pvt Jessie A.	West Star Route, Pierce, Oklahoma.

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\*With 6808th AIS. Consolidation Team (Prov) throughout entire period of operations. Ranks and ratings of military personnel are as of the date the Team completed its mission.



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