

RESUME OF OPERATION LOYTON

12/13 AUG 44 :

Capt. DRUCE (DRAKE) + 11 (SAS + PHANTOM) + 3 JED TEAM JACOB leave RAF Fairford at 2200hrs.
Arrive DZ Le Mont 0145/0200hrs.

Team to camp B (Fontaine Colas Lorrain, near Tête du Coquin).

13 AUG :

Conference at camp B

Team move to camp A (Col des Marcassins).

15 AUG :

Canadian pilot FIDDICK joins group.

16 AUG :

Conference with PLANET (at camp A ?)

17 AUG :

Germans near camp A so team moves to camp B. They leave small group rear. Main group meet Germans. Sgt SEYMOUR (JED) is left as he was injured during parachuting. He is captured. Main group pass the night in house near Moussey.

HISLOP's team move north of camp A (minus Sgt DAVIS who was lost) to camp C (côte du Moulin, Celles sur Plaine).

18 AUG:

DILL + DRUCE in barn of M. "DOUIT" on main road Harcholet. Impossible to move to RV.

Rear group move south of camp A + meet German patrol. HALL reported killed, LODGE separated on way north to Allarmont. The rest move to camp C via Pierre Percée + Scierie LajJus.

19 + 20 AUG:

DRUCE + DILL remain hidden.

21 AUG:

DRUCE + DILL at Senones.

22 AZUG:

DRUCE + DILL move to Moyenmoutier.

DRUCE moves to Raon l'Etape by bicycle to argue with Col. MAXIMUM on withdrawal from camp A

Rear group arrive camp C

DRUCE returns Moyenmoutier.

23 AUG:

DRUCE + DILL move to camp C

24 AUG:

Recce of Veney DZ

27 AUG:
POWER + 9 parachute 8 miles west of DZ (near Charmes)

29 AUG:
Main group move to camp ?

30 AUG:
Main group move to DZ at Veney (Etoc)
Col. FRANCK's group arrive 0300 hrs

01 SEPT:
DRUCE's group move to woods south of Celles.

02 SEPT:
DRUCE's group move to maquis HQ at La Trouche.
DRUCE moves alone to FRANK's group west of Veney.
FRANKS meets MAXIMUM.

04 SEPT:
DRUCE moves to Pierre Percée to find new base. He returns on evening. All SAS leave HQ La Barraque farm (Viombois area) because Germans arrive.

05 SEPT:
All SAS move to Pierre Percée in two groups through the night.
Parachute supply received on small DZ next to camp (1 km west of Pierre Percée).

06 SEPT:
One container found in Pierre Percée village.
WHATELY-SMITH + DRUCE move to DZ north east of Neufmaisons for arrival of REYNOLDS.

07 SEPT:
REYNOLD's group arrive by parachute. ELLIOTT breaks leg. FITZPATRICK + CONWAY carry him to house near ferme de la Fosse. (Pexonne)
One plane does not see DZ lights so returns UK.
FRANKS + DRUCE move to maquis HQ at Lajus Forester's house for meeting + recce Celles.

08 SEPT:
MARX moves to La Chapelotte area.
BLACK watches Celles to Raon road.

09 SEPT:
REYNOLDS + WHATELY-SMITH move to recce for new base.
Germans arrive camp area so main party move.
MARX's group ambush Germans near La Chapelotte.

10 SEPT:
Main group move south to new camp.

11 SEPT:

Germans arrive camp. Main group move to RV at Lac de la Maix to pass the night.

12 SEPT:

Main group move to hill above Harcholet (main base Lieumont).

Night at DZ Anatomy (no parachutage).

13 SEPT:

Night at DZ Anatomy (no parachutage).

14 SEPT:

Night resupply at DZ

15 SEPT:

Night resupply at DZ

19 SEPT:

3 Jeeps, 6 men, 9 containers dropped.

20 SEPT:

FRANKS, POWER + DILL recce Senones.

21 SEPT:

MILLER attacks car on Moyenmoutier – Senones road.

FRANKS, POWER + DILL recce tanks 4 kms south of Senones. They attempt to attack these at night. (unsuccessful).

3 Jeeps + 14 men arrive by parachute at Moussey.

22 SEPT:

6 Jeeps leave on patrol of Celles area.

23 SEPT:

2 Jeeps (DRUCE + MANNERS) ambush Moyenmoutier – Senones road.

4 Jeeps (FRANKS) ambush transport Celles – Raon l'Etape road.

2 Jeeps (FRANKS + DILL) move towards Allarmont (1 jeep abandoned + team spend night at Père GEORGES's barn).

24 SEPT:

FRANKS + DILL return to camp above Harcholet.

POWER moves to Coichot.

All SAS in local houses as weather bad.

25 SEPT:

POWER returns.

26 SEPT:

Refit day.

27 SEPT:

FRANKS + POWER recce new Jeep base + move Jeeps here (near Croix de l'Hermitte).

28 SEPT:

FRANKS + SYKES ambushed on way to Pierre Percée to locate REYNOLDS + WHATELY-SMITH.

29 SEPT:

DRUCE + FIDDICK return allied lines.

Patrols sent out.

30 SEPT:

FRANKS meets MAXIMUM + GOUGH.

01 OCT:

POWER, WHITE, FRANKS recce Belval area.

02 OCT:

Group under CASTELLAIN arrive from Operation Pistol.

03 OCT:

Germans attack house + Jeep base of 27th + 28th SEPT. 3 Jeeps move, 4th defective + left booby-trapped.

04 OCT:

FRANKS returns camp above Harcholet (Lieumont).

05 OCT:

Patrols sent out.

06 OCT:

Jeeps + stores found by Germans.

07 OCT:

Main group move to Coichot. DILL stays wait on Moussey for return of DRUCE.

08 OCT:

PHANTOM group arrives at Coichot.

FRANKS moves to Celles valley to look for REYNOLDS + WHATELY-SMITH. He returns to find Coichot Forestier's hut and sawmill in flames.

09 OCT:

FRANKS decides to end Operation Loyton.

Groups sent towards allied lines.

10 OCT: FRANKS:

Group move towards allied lines

11 OCT:

FRANKS group cross allied lines. Operation finishes