

Names of other people known to have helped Allied fliers, ONLY :

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|------------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 10) Name : | M. CAUBO (Dutch) | Address : | PARIS, DEPORTED, DIED in camp |
| 11) Name : | M. le Baron BRANTSEN (Dutch) | Address : | PARIS, DEPORTED, DIED in camp |
| 12) Name : | M. NYKERK (Dutch) | Address : | PARIS, DEPORTED, DIED in camp |
| 13) Name : | M. SWAREN (Dutch) | Address : | PARIS, DEPORTED, DIED in camp |
| 14) Name : | Cap. ZEGERS (Dutch) | Address : | PARIS, DEPORTED, DIED in camp |
| 15) Name : | M. PETERS (Dutch) | Address : | PARIS, DEPORTED, DIED in camp |
| 16) Name : | Comte de MENTLON (Francois) | Address : | |
| 17) Name : | BEAUJOLIN (Caiman) | Address : | |
| 18) Name : | Stanislas FUMET | Address : | |
| 19) Name : | SOUTOU | Address : | |
| 20) Name : | Mme ALPRECHT | Address : | |

SUBJECT : Visit of Melle Suzanna Maria HILTERMAN.

L. Melle Hilterman came to see us brought by sergeant of the British office. She brought her report. The British office has one copy of it, but not the French office.

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CAB(EC)

Handwritten notes at the bottom left, including "I went in Jan 1945" and "Authority NW 2745001".

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REPORT BROUGHT IN BY Melle Suzanna Maria HILBERMAN

Born : 17 January 1919, in Amsterdam (Holland).

In June 1939 I finished High school and I decided to go to Paris to study philosophy at the Sorbonne. I had been living for about a month at the Cite Universitaire when war broke out. The Dutch College was evacuated, and I went to Rennes in Brittany with a friend, Anieka Neyssel who later on worked with us in the Dutch Paris.

In October 1939 I went back to Paris and I begun my studies at the Sorbonne. I studied philosophy and Arabian history, but first of all I learned to speak French fluently.. At this time I got acquainted with most of the people I worked with later on. I met Mr Leo Marc Nincowski, born in Bessarabia who became a Soviet Russian citizen when this part of Rumania was occupied by the Russians. He bought a false identity card when Germany attacked Russia and he became Jean Michel Mermillot. Later on he worked under the names Pierre and Michael. I also met Mr Jean Milleret and Mrs Micheline Coetschel. At the Dutch legation I met Mr Herman Laatsman.

During the first years of the German occupation I helped several Dutch boys who wanted to join the Dutch army in England and Dutch jews who wanted to go to Switzerland. I knew that Mr Laatsman did illegal work and I helped him to the best of my ability. At that moment I considered him as the most reliable and trustworthy Dutchman I knew.

In August 1943 Mr Mermillot met Maitre Nouveau, a French Resistance worker and he presented him to some friends who wanted to do illegal work. One of these boys, Jean Marie l'Aline from Rambouillet asked him in September 1943 to help him with two Americans who came down with a flying fortress near Trappes. He brought them to my apartment, Rue du Laos 23. They stayed for fourteen days at my aunt's place, rue Jasmin. Then we brought them to the Montparnasse station where a member of the French Resistance took them over. They went to Dieppe and crossed the Channel in a boat. They arrived safely in England. Their names were : James ? and Michael Szelenek (?)

A month later, Mr Laatsman was obliged to hide himself and his family in a little town near Paris. In November or in the beginning of December he met Capt Weidner and they started their work together.

At this time, Mr Duchanel helped me to get a real French identity card from the Commissariat of Brancy. I used it for the trips I made in unoccupied France and on a trip I made to Bordeaux for Mr Laatsman. I became Suzanne Mermillot, cousin to Mr Mermillot. I also arranged with Mr Duchanel to get seals from

Weidner

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different Mairies of France to make our own identity papers and also empty food ration cards. Later we decided to make a set of twelve food ration cards and to let the pilots travel with these to Toulouse to take them back there and to use them again. This was safer as there were few people who had a false identity card and a false carte d'alimentation on the same name.

Mr. Laatsman became the chief of Dutch Paris, and he invited Mr. Vermillot and me to assist him.

About this time Miquel Duchanel presented me to a Liberation worker, named Robert who knew of the whereabouts of fifteen American pilots. They were hidden in little towns round Paris and the people they were staying with did not know what to do with them.

Capt. Weidner assured me that they could cross the Pyrenees on the same way the Dutch boys were taking.

So I went to Ivry Gargan with Mr. Duchanel's friend Robert. We met a printer there who took us to a grocer who made us walk for two hours to visit different families. That afternoon I saw seven pilots. I promised them to bring them to the Spanish frontier and to arrange their return to England. They politely refused to believe me. They told me that the Gestapo arrested a large number of American parachutists concentrated near Versailles and that they managed to escape. Several people had promised them to bring them back to England and they were now rather sceptical.

I took their shoesizes and noted down everything they needed: overcoats, sweaters, and so on.

All of them had French identity papers but they were all from the Mairie of Gargan. This was really too dangerous because if one got arrested in the train the others were easy to detect and the German police would find immediately where they came from. So Robert and I came back some days afterwards to take their photographs. I don't remember exactly the date of their departure (21st of January?). Their names were:

2nd Lt. Jack O. Horton
 2nd Lt. Karl D. Miller
 Sgt James E. Tracy
 2nd Lt. Chauncey Hicks
 2nd Lt. Charles O. Downe
 F/O Ernest O. Grubb
 Jean Triobansky R.A.F.

They stayed for twenty hours at Mrs Goetschel's place, rue Jasmin, where we equipped them and where we arranged their identity papers. We brought them to the Gare d'Austerlitz and Marie France accompanied them to Toulouse.

Some days later three American boys arrived from Brussels. They were brought to the Ibis Hotel, Boulevard de la Chapelle, and

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the same day Mr Mermillot and I took them to 11 rue Jasmin. Their names were Loral Martin, Harry D. Kratz and Herman Morgan. They stayed for about three days at my aunt's apartment and the 25th of January I brought them to the station d'Austerlitz where Mr Moen waited to take them to Toulouse.

Then arrived ten Americans and two English boys from Brussels. We did not know where to put them, but Mr Laatsman was in contact with a priest from the Rue Thomond and he made an arrangement with the concierge of the Polytechnical school there who promised to shelter them in the cave of this school.

I met these twelve boys at the Nord station with two Dutch boys from Brussels who accompanied them. They had not any French papers, so we took them first to the Photomaton, Boulevard St Michel, to get their photographs for passeports.

Most of them came down in Friesland (Holland). One of the boys named Victor Ferrari, hurt his leg when he came down in Holland. Micheline Goetschel found a reliable Resistance doctor. I took him to the school in the Rue Thomond and he dressed the wound. The doctor told me that the boy could not walk for some days, so I took him to Mrs Goetschel's apartment. He stayed there for some days and Mrs Goetschel nursed him back to health.

Mr Mermillot, Marie France and I went several times to the school to equip the boys with everything they needed. The 4th of February, Mr Mermillot filled up their identity cards and we took them to the station. Marie France and I accompanied them to Toulouse where we gave them over to Mr Moen. Their names were :

Sgt. Clyde Millin
P/O John McLaughlin (Australian)
Sgt. Walter Snyder
Campbell Brigman
Harold A. Boyce
2nd Lt. Frank Mc Vinkey
Sgt. Norman Elkin
1st Lt. William McDonald.

The next were eight Americans from Gargan IVry in the neighbourhood of Montfermeil. Robert took their photographs and when their papers were ready, Mr Mermillot and I went to the Station at Gargan (11th of February) and we took them over from a man of the Front Populaire. We brought them for one day to the shoemaker Lesieur, who made all the mountainshoes for the pilots. He kept them the whole day, and in the evening, Mr Mermillot and I brought them to the station. One of them, a R.A.F. pilot, Robert Ellis, stayed behind. He had infantile paralysis and could not walk. So I took him to 11 rue Jasmin. Capt. Weidner intended to take him to Switzerland.

These boys should have been accompanied by Marie France and Sus Kraaij. On the same day Marie France took some pilots who were

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staying in Caseran, I think, and we met at the Gare d'Austerlitz at seven o'clock. As Susy did not appear at the indicated hour, I went in her place. We arrived safely in Toulouse where we met Mr Moen.

When we came back, Mr Mermillot met us at the station and told us that Susy Kraaij and Mr Coubo were arrested by the French police who would probably turn them over to the Gestapo.

We decided to go to the apartment rue du Laos, to get some clothes and burn all papers. We put all the lists of the pilots and the material we needed for the identity papers and so on in a packet and we hid it in the apartment.

We met Mr Laatsman and Capt Weidner who was rather optimistic believing that Susy and Coubo were arrested for a black market affair.

I warned Micheline and Mr Milleret and I took Robert Ellis away from the Rue Jasmin and we brought him to friends of Mr Milleret, named Chanvinal, rue des Halles.

Mr Mermillot and I did not like the look of things and we rather wanted to take a month's holiday, but as our money supply was cut off since the beginning of the war, we could not afford it. I stayed for some days with friends, but this was very inconvenient for my work, so I went back to the apartment rue du Laos.

In the meantime, Mr Laatsman asked Mr Staring to warn Brussels immediately and to tell them not to send any pilots for the moment, but I suppose that Mr Staring did not do this for we got a message from Brussels that twelve boys would arrive in a few days. At their arrival they were brought to the convent in the rue Lhomond. At this moment I brought Robert Ellis back to the Rue Lhomond as Mrs Chanormal could not keep him anymore.

Mr Mermillot went to the convent rue Lhomond to make the list of the pilots. I could not go there myself as women were not allowed to enter the convent. I put this list in my bag and this was the first compromising document the Gestapo found in the apartment next morning. They did not find the packet containing the lists of the pilots and other compromising material and I arranged to tell them as little as possible. Nobody has been arrested because of any information I gave them.

The Gestapo sent me to the concentration camp Ravensbruck where I stayed exactly one year. Everything I saw in the camp made me very glad to have worked against them.

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