



5834 273 TROOPER

S.S. BRIGHT

53^e RD REGIMENT - RECCE CORPS R.A.C.

4TH SEPTEMBER 1944 - AGE 32



Expéditeur: "info@ibdna.com" <info@ibdna.com>
Date: 29 mars 2016 17:35:03 UTC+2
Destinataire: undisclosed-recipients;;
Objet: Samples Received - International Biosciences - IBD10405UK
Répondre à: info@ibdna.com

Dear Ms. Siobhan Stevens ,

Case reference number **IBD10405UK**

Thank you for returning your DNA samples and sample collection form. I am pleased to confirm that we have forwarded these to the laboratory for testing.

Your results should be available in 12 working days, and the results will be sent to you by e-mail.

Finally should you have any questions, queries or issue with regards to the service our company provides, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



www.ibdna.com

Hi Siobhan

I hope all is well

We have had an update for the lab. They have stopped testing and advised that they are unable to obtain any DNA data from the hair. I have tried to call you to advise, and have taken the steps to have the hair returned to us. This type of testing is incredibly difficult and the lab has advised that they did not wish to proceed, They have done this so I can offer you a full refund for the test and not a notice of failure. Our marketing and administration teams have made contact with a further 2 of our labs in the hope they may assist and all advised they are unable to extract MtDNA from the core of the hair.

I am very sorry Siobhan but the test failed, but as advised the lab stopped processing. This means I can refund the fee back to you. I can also return the hair if you wish if you supply us with an name and address to send it.

Please can you supply the account details on the payee and I will have accounts transfer the fee back to their account.

Kind Regards
Stephen Ford



No. 4

CASUALTY CARD.

ARMY FORM W. 3040

Surname (in block capitals)

BRIGHT.

Army No. 5834273

Christian names (in full) STANLEY, SIDNEY

Rank TPR. Medical Category Date D

Regiment or Corps* 53RD RECCE REGT.

Name, address and relationship of next-of-kin WIFE/G.F. 43, STROMNESS ROAD SOUTHCHURCH, SOUTHBEND-ON-SEA, EX

* Battalions, etc., should be indicated.

(32) 18.7.42 Eng

Date.	Reported by.	Casualty.	Reference No.
4.9.44	ENT/803 a 11/9/44	K.I.A. 4460 N.W.E.	SEPT 9 d 13/9/44

1645. Wt.28608/2634. 750M. 9/39. Wy.L.P. Gp. 656. Forms/W3640/8.

No. 5834273

Name. BRIGHT, Stanley Sidney



Enlisted. 24-7-40 Unit. Suffolk Regt. Trans. to Recce. corps & posted 53rd Bn. 11-12-41

K.I.A 4.9.44 (NWE) (last 10/1/44)

Je soussigné Guy Lefebvre né le 24.01.1930 à Blangy sur Bernoise, résidant encore à Blangy, Bernoise atteste que je suis bien l'auteur de cette lettre racontant les événements que j'ai vécus lors de la libération de la rue d'Humencelle au début de septembre 1944. Ma tante Berthe ① (Defasque-Lefebvre), ma mère Philomène ② (Lefebvre-Berthe), mon frère P. Secret 16 ans et moi, ③ nous tenions sur la route entre nos maisons ④ et ④a, situées de chaque côté de la route alors que descendit de la côte d'Humencelle une jeep militaire ⑤ suivie d'un camion bache ⑥. Ayant reconnu la tenue des alliés ⑦ nous leur fîmes de grands gestes pour les stopper et les informer de la présence d'un groupe de soldats allemands ⑧ dans la maison, au carrefour ⑨ non plus loin. Cela fut assez difficile, seul l'officier ⑩ dans la jeep parlant un peu le français. Dès lors une dizaine de soldats anglais sortirent du camion bache et partirent à la file indienne vers l'ennemi en utilisant les fossés ⑪ existants à l'époque jusqu'au lieu dit ⑫ le "pont" ou "petit pont". L'officier nous fit mettre à l'abri.

Lorsque nous revînmes sur la route, les soldats appendaient sur une civière, un soldat tué ⑬. Ma mère sollicita l'officier pour prélever une mèche de cheveux ⑭ du soldat sacrifié à notre liberté, ce qui lui fut accordé. Le brancard fut ensuite introduit dans le camion qui avait fait demi-tour. ⑮

Depuis lors un grand respect fut toujours attaché à cette mèche de cheveux. Lorsque par descendance je devins possesseur de ce souvenir, j'ai préféré en faire don à l'organisme de Blangy qui perpétue cette page d'histoire et le devoir de mémoire.

Fait à Blangy, Ternoise le 7. 10. 2015.

Document No. 6

Translation of eye-witness account of events dated 7.10.2015

I, the undersigned, Guy Lefebvre, born on 27.01.1930 in Blangy-sur-Ternoise, still resident in Blangy-sur-Ternoise, certify that I am indeed the author of this letter which recounts the events which I experienced at the Liberation, in the Rue d'Humeroeuille, at the beginning of September, 1944.

My aunt Berthe Defasque-Lefebvre (# 1), my mother Philomène Lefebvre-Berthe (#2), my sixteen year old brother, Pierrot, and I (#3) were standing on the road, near where we lived, in houses on opposite sides of the road (#4 and #4a), when a military jeep (#5) came down the road, followed by a covered truck (#6). We recognized from their uniforms that they were allied soldiers (#7) and we waved our arms for them to stop so that we could tell them that a group of German soldiers (#8) were in a house on the crossroads (#9), a hundred metres ahead.

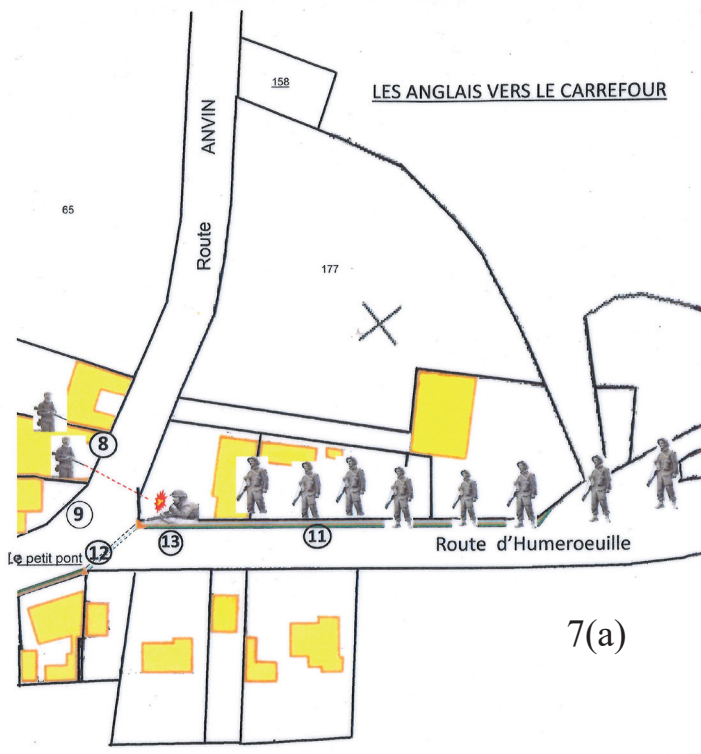
It was quite difficult, as only the officier in the jeep spoke a bit of French. Then a dozen English soldiers got out of the truck and walked off, in the direction of the enemy, in single file, in the ditch (that existed at the time) at the side of the road (#11), as far as the place known as "le pont" or the "petit pont". The officier told us seek shelter.

When we re-appeared, the soldiers were carrying a dead soldier on a stretcher. My mother asked the officer if she could take a lock of hair from the soldier who had given his life for our freedom, and she was allowed to do so. The stretcher was then placed in the truck which left and went back the way it had come.

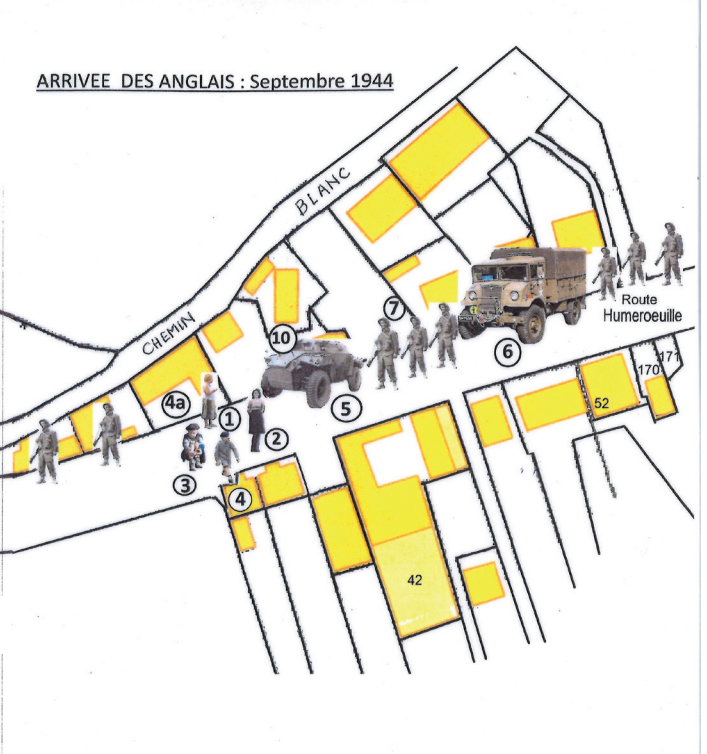
Ever since then, a great deal of respect has always been attached to this lock of hair. It came into my possession after my mother died, and I preferred to donate it to an organisation in Blangy which considers it a duty to perpetuate the memory of this page in history.

Blangy/Ternoise, 07.10.2015

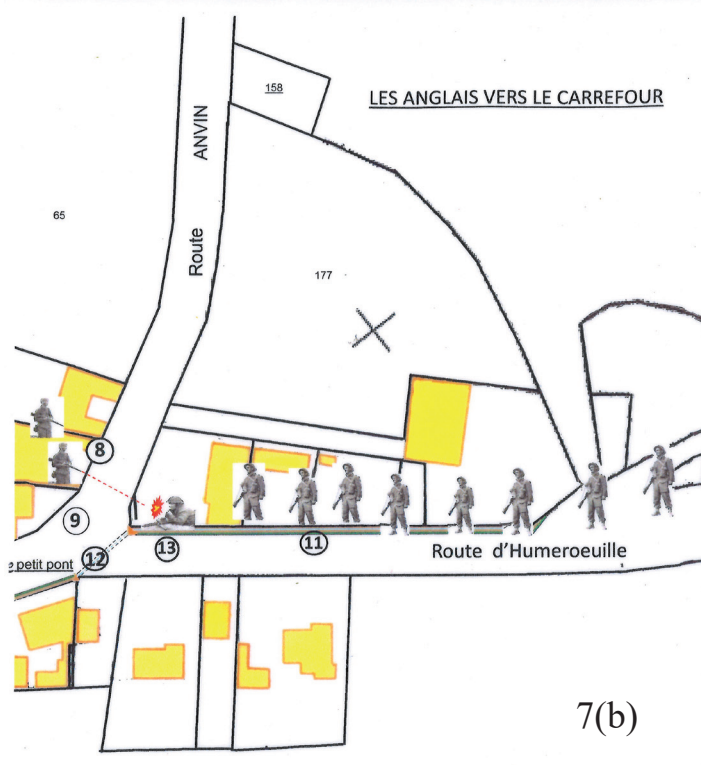
Signature



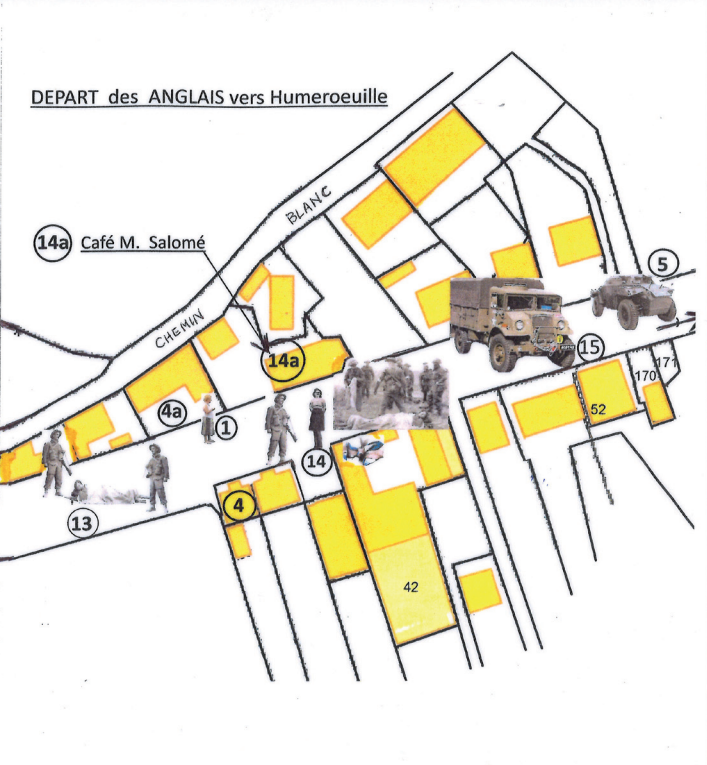
7(a)



Echelle: 1/588



7(b)



Echelle: 1/588



Le petit pont

9

Fossé 11

8

Soldat Anglais

Carrefour de la route d'Humeroeuille à Blangy sur Ternoise - Septembre 2017

9(a)

Copie certifiée conforme

Blangy sur Ternoise

le dix sept septembre

est né à Blangy sur Ternoise

N° 2
Lefebvre
Guy Victor Jean Baptiste
fils légitime
de Marie à St Pol / Berniere
le vingt deux septembre
mil neuf cent cinquante
deux avec Delvart
Jeanne Lucienne Marie
Blangy le 10 octobre 1952
à Blangy sur Ternoise

Le vingt sept janvier
deux heures
Guy Victor Jean Baptiste
du sexe masculin de Pierre Paul Joseph Lefebvre
né le vingt sept juillet mil neuf
cent quatre à Blangy sur Ternoise
profession houilleur et de Berthe Philomène
née le dix juillet mil
neuf cent neuf à Blangy sur Ternoise.
profession mécanicienne, son épouse domiciliés à Blangy sur
Ternoise. Dressé le dix sept janvier
mil neuf cent trente à dix sept heures
sur la déclaration de son père.

qui, lecture faite, a signé avec Nous Arthur Lemaître
Maire de Blangy sur Ternoise.

Lefebvre Pierre

9(b)

ASSOCIATION DES ACPG CATM TOE et VEUVES

de BLANGY SUR TERNOISE

Monsieur CHEMINANT Jean-François

Président de l'Association

81, Rue d'Hesdin

62770 BLANGY SUR TERNOISE

Tel : 06.50.45.82.75

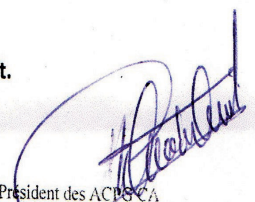
à BLANGY,

le 30 octobre 2017

Je soussigné, CHEMINANT Jean-François, Président de l'Association des Anciens Combattants de BLANGY SUR TERNOISE, Croix du Combattant, sous-officier de Gendarmerie, atteste que Monsieur Guy LEFEBVRE, domicilié à BLANGY, est bien l'auteur du témoignage manuscrit concernant une altercation sous le feu qui a eu lieu sur notre Commune de BLANGY lors de la libération en septembre 1944, opposant des soldats Anglais à des soldats Allemands.

Je précise que Monsieur Guy LEFEBVRE, âgé de 87 ans, adhérent de notre Association est une personne respectable de notre Commune et particulièrement digne de confiance.

Fait pour servir et valoir ce que de droit.


 Président des ACPG
 et VEUVES
 de Blangy sur Ternoise
 03 21 41 92 72

9(c)

Letter from President of the Veterans' Association dated 30.10.17

I, the undersigned, CHEMINANT Jean-François, President of the Veterans' Association of Blangy-sur-Ternoise, holder of the Combatants' Cross, under-officer of the Gendarmerie, certify that Monsieur Guy Lefebvre is indeed the author of the handwritten witness statement regarding the exchange of fire between English and German soldiers, which took place at the liberation of our Commune, the village of Blangy, in September, 1944.

I can vouch that Monsieur Guy Lefebvre, member of our Association, is a particularly trustworthy and respected member of our Commune.

Signature and Official Stamp of the Veterans'

MAIRIE
DE
BLANGY-SUR-TERNOISE

62770



Téléphone : 03 21 41 92 38
Télécopie : 03 21 47 25 57
e-mail : mairie-blangy@orange.fr

Blangy sur Ternoise le 01 Novembre 2017

DE : Monsieur Michel Massart
Maire de Blangy sur Ternoise
6 Bis Rue de la Mairie
62770 Blangy sur Ternoise

A : Monsieur Hervé Willemand
64A Rue de Hesdin
62770 Blangy sur Ternoise

Objet : identification et recherche

Je Soussigné Michel MASSART, Maire de la commune de Blangy sur Ternoise, encourage et soutien les personnes qui effectuent des recherches sur l'identification d'un soldat Allié, tué sur notre commune en septembre 1944. Identification à partir d'une mèche de cheveux coupée par une habitante et avec autorisation du chef militaire présent au moment de l'affrontement, sur ce vaillant soldat tué, mais qui peut permettre de pouvoir mettre à l'honneur une Personne qui a donné sa Vie pour nous : Blangiacquois.

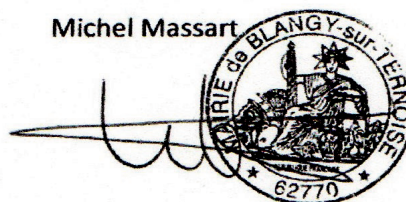
J'atteste les écrits de Monsieur Guy LEFEBVRE résident sur notre commune et né sur cette même commune. (voir le courrier joint écrit et signé de sa main) et fils de Mme Philomène LEFEBVRE qui a eu l'audace, le courage de se procurer la mèche de cheveux.

Je suis en accord, si besoin et pour faire avancer ses recherches de reconnaître la signature de Meur Lefebvre, par une attestation écrite.

C'est l'Histoire de Notre Commune que nous retrouvons au travers ses recherches, et c'est un Homme tombé sur la Commune que nous pourrons je l'espère, rendre un Hommage à titre posthume, en présence de ses descendants.

J'encourage et soutien, les personnes mettant leur effort pour Notre Histoire Communale, et je vous prie de recevoir mes salutations.

Michel Massart



Maire de Blangy sur Ternoise

Document No.11

Letter of support dated 1.11.17 from Mayor of Blangy sur Ternoise

I, the undersigned, Michel MASSART, Mayor of the Commune of Blangy sur Ternoise, encourage and support those who are carrying out research to establish the identity of an allied soldier killed in our Commune in September, 1944, using the lock of hair, cut from the head of the valiant soldier who died, by a woman from the village having obtained permission to do so from the commanding officer, present at the moment of the confrontation, and as a result of which, we may be able to honour a person who gave his life for us, the people of Blangy.

I certify that Monsieur Guy LEFEBVRE, born and resident in our Commune, wrote the attached statement and that he is the son of Madame Philomène LEFEBVRE who was bold and brave enough to procure the lock of hair.

If need be, and in order to advance this investigation, I am happy to write a handwritten attestation acknowledging the signature of Monsieur Lefebvre to be his.

It is the History of our Commune which we are uncovering, as a result of this investigation, and it is about a Man who fell in our Commune, and to whom we shall, I hope, be able to render homage, posthumously, in the presence of his descendants.

I encourage and support those who are making this effort to uncover the history of our Commune.

Signature and Official Stamp

LE SOUVENIR FRANÇAIS

Comité du Canton d'Aubigny en Artois

Hervé Willemand

64 rue d'Hesdin

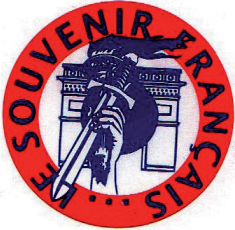
62770 Blangy sur Ternoise

Hélène Boulet

5 hameau de la Gacogne

62310 Azincourt

No. 12



le 17 janvier 2014

Famille Stanley Sidney BRIGHT

Madame, Monsieur,

Des recherches de notre association sur la libération de notre village de Blangy-sur-Ternoise, les 3 et 4 septembre 1944, nous ont amenés à découvrir, à quelques kilomètres de là, dans le cimetière communal de Chelers, la tombe du soldat Stanley Sidney BRIGHT (photo jointe), victime malheureuse de cette guerre 1939-45.

Il était né en 1912 et était le fils de Thomas George Bright et d'Ella Roberta Leeks. Il s'est marié en 1937 à Gladys F. Welch et a eu un fils, Stanley J. T. Bright, né en 1942. Ce dernier s'est marié en 1969 à Kathleen I. Reynolds et le couple a eu un fils Kevin P. Bright.

Ces éléments ont été transmis à l'« Electoral Services » (par l'intermédiaire d'une amie, partie prenante de nos recherches et des traductions en la personne de Mme Siobhan Stevens), organisme qui pense avoir l'adresse de *Kathleen Bright* citée dans cette généalogie et a proposé de lui transmettre notre lettre.

On espère de tout cœur que vous êtes cette personne, de la famille du soldat, et si c'est le cas, c'est à vous que s'adresse notre requête ci-dessous :

Nous tenons le témoignage des circonstances de la mort, le 3 ou le 4 septembre 1944, d'un soldat allié tué à Blangy-sur-Ternoise. Nous savons également que le régiment de Stanley Sidney Bright, le 53rd Reconnaissance Corps Régiment (R.E.C.C.E.), d'après plusieurs documents, a transité par Blangy-sur-Ternoise début septembre 1944 et s'est installé, le soir même pour y passer la nuit, à Bailleul aux Cornailles (près de Chelers). Nos recherches nous amènent donc tout naturellement à penser que le soldat tué à Blangy sur Ternoise est peut-être S.S. Bright.

Dans tous les cas, la commune de Blangy-sur-Ternoise, qui s'associe à nos recherches (lettre jointe du maire), souhaite rendre hommage à ce soldat qui a manifestement participé à sa libération. Si nous recueillons en plus, auprès de vous, quelques certitudes de sa mort sur le territoire de Blangy sur Ternoise, une stèle sera érigée.

Nous sollicitons donc, par cette lettre, la famille, dont vous êtes nous l'espérons, afin d'obtenir d'éventuelles précisions et documents sur le parcours militaire de Stanley Sydney Bright. Nous attendons avec impatience votre réponse et vous en remercions par avance.

Veuillez agréer, Madame, l'expression de nos sincères et respectueuses salutations.

Hélène Boulet et Hervé Willemand

Letter of 17.01.2014 from Souvenir Français to the Bright Family

Dear Sir, Madam

The research carried out by our Association on the liberation of our village of Blangy-sur-Ternoise on 3rd and 4th September 1944 have led to the discovery of the grave of Trooper Stanley Sidney BRIGHT (photo attached) who is buried in the cemetery in Chelers, a few kilometres from Blangy. An unfortunate victim of the 1939 - 45 war, he born in 1912, the son of Thomas George Bright and Ella Roberta Leeks. He married Gladys F. Welch in 1937 and they had a son, Stanley J.T. Bright in 1942. The latter married Kathleen I. Reynolds in 1969 and the couple had a son, Kevin.

All these details were passed to Electoral Services (by Siobhán Stevens, a friend who had been helping us in our investigations and who acts as our translator). The Electoral Services thought that they had the address of the Kathleen Bright mentioned in our family tree, and they have agreed to forward this, our letter to her.

We hope, from the bottom of our hearts, that you are that person, and that you belong to the family of the soldier (who died) and if you are, then we have the following request :

We have accounts concerning the circumstances of the death, on 3rd or 4th September 1944 of an allied soldier killed in Blangy-sur-Ternoise. We also know that the regiment of Stanley Sidney Bright, the 53rd Reconnaissance Corps Regiment (R.E.C.C.E.) according to several reports, passed through Blangy at the beginning of September, 1944 and that the regiment spent the night in Bailleul aux Cornailles (near Chelers). Our investigations naturally lead us to believe that the soldier killed in Blangy sur Ternoise is perhaps S.S. Bright.

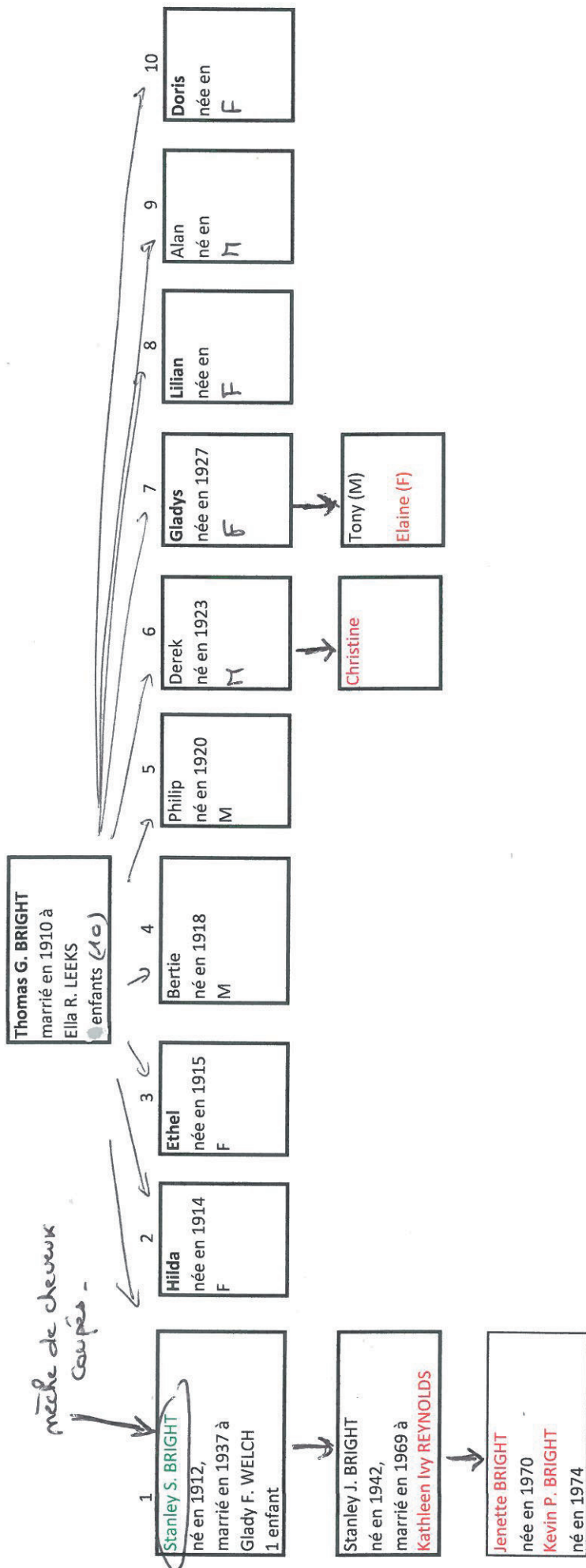
In any event, the commune of Blangy-sur-Ternoise, supports us (see letter attached) and wishes to pay homage to this soldier who obviously participated in its liberation. If we receive any further facts about his death within the area of Blangy sur Ternoise, then a monument will be erected.

We are therefore requesting the family - of which we hope you are a member, for further details and documents regarding the military record of Stanley Sidney Bright.

We look forward to hearing from you in the very near future. Thanking you in anticipation,

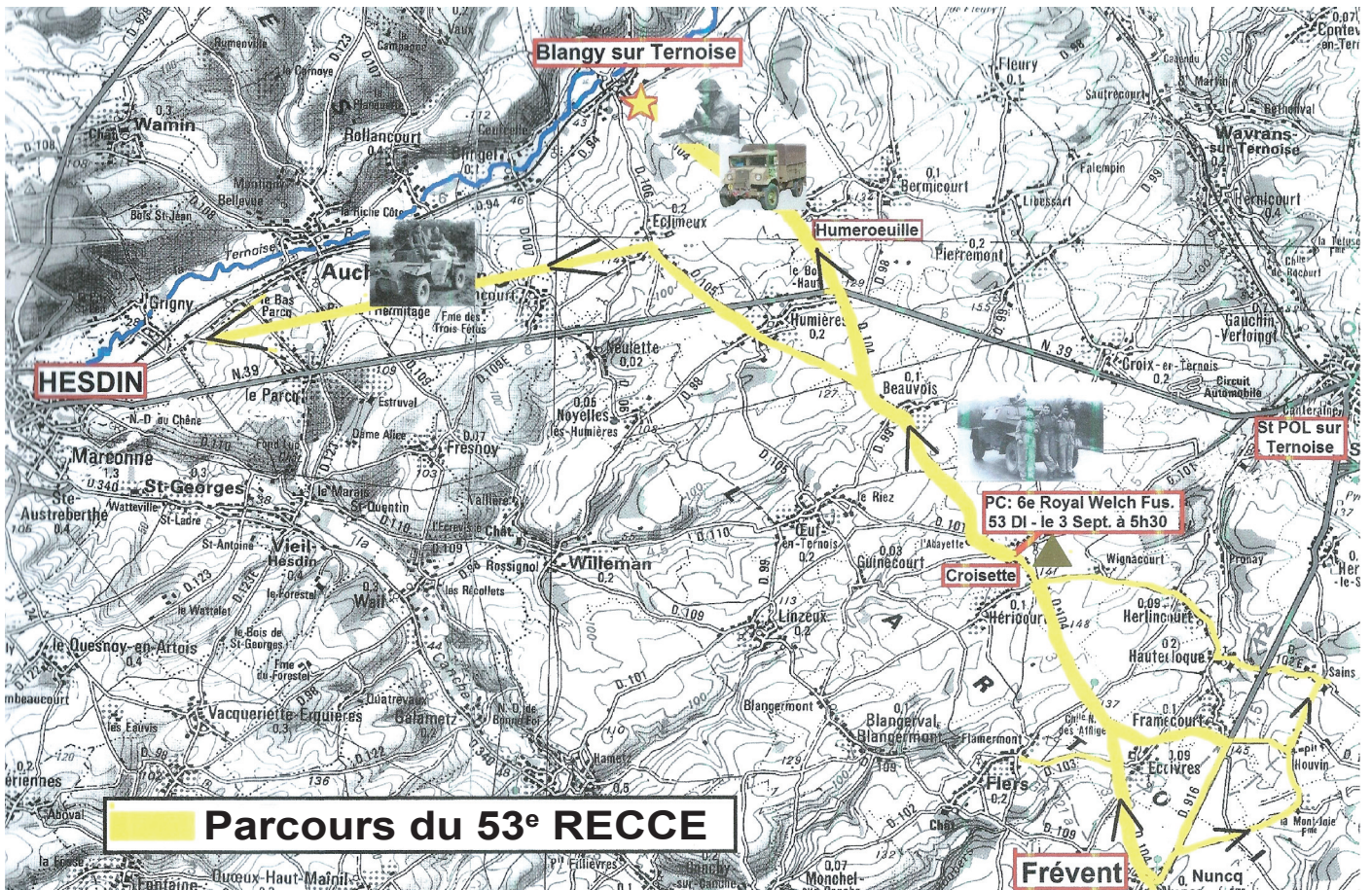
Signatures

Arbre généalogique : Stanley Sidney BRIGHT

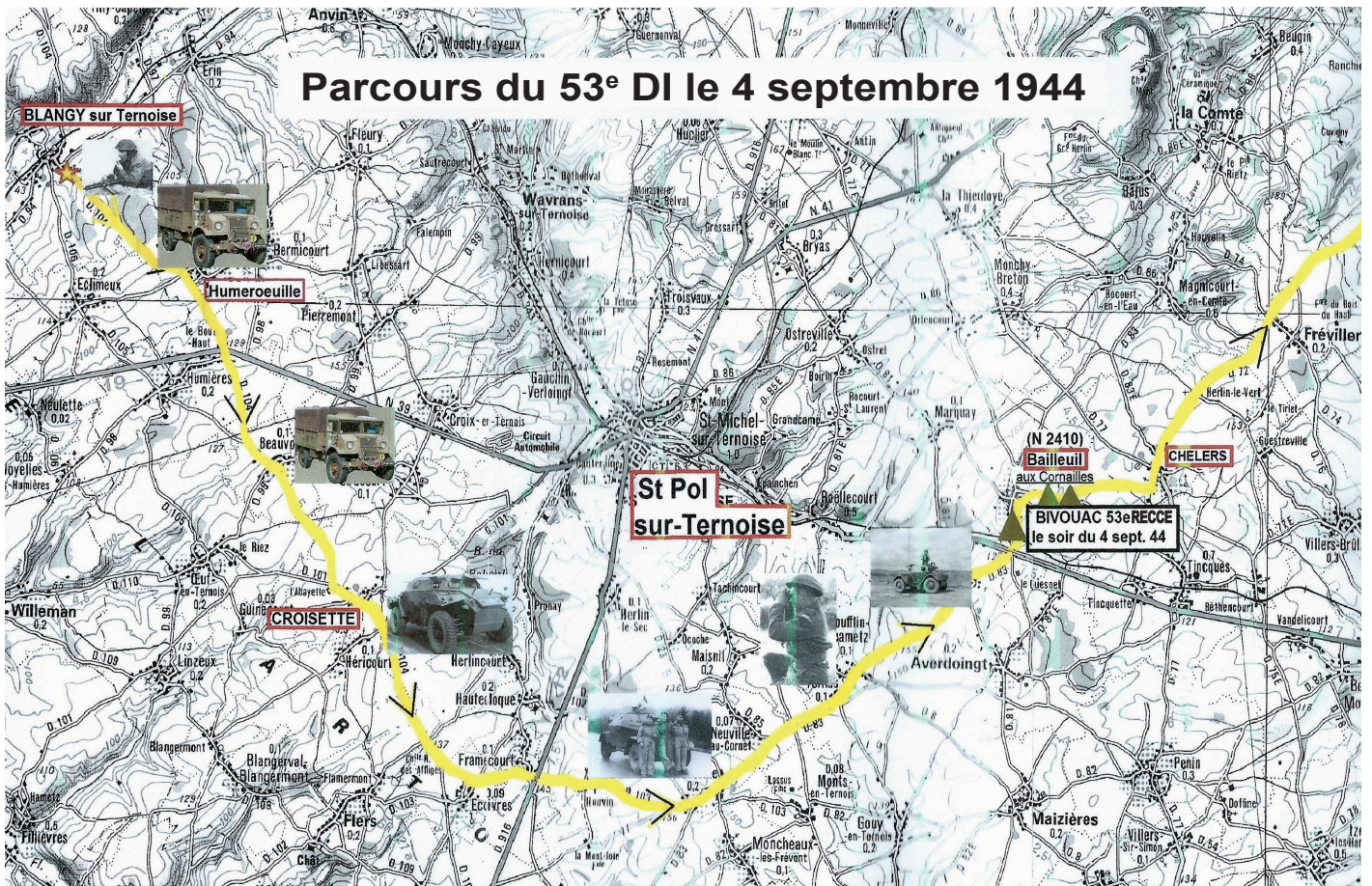


en rouge: personnes en vie et volontaires pour test

Stanley S. BRIGHT: soldat anglais mort en France à la libération le 4/09/1944 et enterré à Chelers, petit village dans le nord de la France



15(a) 4 septembre 1944 matin - 53^e RECCE régiment



15(b) 4 septembre 1944 fin de journée - 53^e RECCE régiment

Témoignage de Mme Françoise Réaux

Je soussignée, Françoise Réaux Prévot
née le 27 mai 1934 à Noeux les mines.
atteste que je suis bien l'auteur de cette lettre
racontant les événements que j'ai vécu
lorsque mon père, François Camille Prévot a été
nommé enseignant à l'école de Chelers où nous
avons vécu jusqu'à l'âge de 10 ans.

Papa était secrétaire de mairie, sous les ordres
de Monsieur le Comte de Boigny pendant la
guerre. Il avait un poste à galle dans le
grenier et corres pondait avec Londres.

Je me souviens que lorsque les allemands
ont quitté Chelers.

Papa a rencontré Stanley Bright dans le
cimetière de Chelers.

Il a trouvé les papiers de ce soldat dans
la poche de l'uniforme et a donc envoyé ces
documents à la famille de John Stanley Bright
le fils du soldat décédé, qui est venu
se recueillir sur la tombe de son père et ven
nous rencontrer à l'école de Vendin les Bèthunes

Fait à Bethune ce jour.

le 25 juin 2018

F Réaux

Statement from Françoise Réaux-Prévot

I, the undersigned, Françoise Réaux-Prévot, born on 27th May, 1934 in Noeux-les-Mines, attest that I am the author of this letter which recounts the events I experienced when my father, François Camille Prévot was the teacher at the primary school in Chelers, where we lived until I was ten.

During the war, Father was requested by the Mayor, the Count of Boisy, to be his secretary at the Mairie. He had a 'galène' radio transmitter in the attic and used to communicate with London.

I remember when the Germans left Chelers.

Father buried Stanley Bright in the cemetery in Chelers. He sent the papers he found in a pocket of his uniform, to the family of John Stanley Bright, the son of the dead soldier who came to visit the grave of his father, and who came to meet us at my father's primary school in Vendin-les-Béthune.

F. Réaux

25th June, 2018

During the night the Commanding Officer accompanied by the I.O. went into the Village of YAUCOURT and had a narrow escape when they were fired on at close range by a party of about 20 enemy who had come back into the Village.

Casualties - Tpr Cook E (A), Tpr Hoadley (A), Tpr Baxter G (C) and Tpr Williams G M (A) killed, and 2 ORs wounded.

Herlin Le Sec

- 3 Before first light RHQ moved back to a new harbour area immediately north of AILLY 8980. The Commanding Officer left to meet the Div Commander for orders at mid-day. Orders were received from the Commanding Officer for the Regt to RV at rd junc N0286. From this area the Regt moved at 1500hrs to HERLIN LE SEC N1508 and went into tight harbour. During the evening stiff fighting took place in the town of ST POL N1612 - 2 miles to the north and by midnight the 6 RWF succeeded in clearing the town. Orders were given by the Commanding Officer in the evening for A and B Sqns to carry out reconnaissance to the West with the object of protecting the left flank of the Corps Axis.
Casualties - 4 ORs wounded.
- 4 RHQ remained in harbour at HERLIN. A & B Sqns advanced to the west shortly after first light. A Sqn advancing with considerable vigour by mid-day had reached the bridge at BLANGY H0517 to find it blown and held by a considerable number of enemy on the other side. A Sqn remained overlooking the opposite bank of the river until 1600hrs and obtained several good shoots and fought several successful troop actions. Small pockets of enemy were encountered on the East side of the river and a large number of casualties were inflicted on the enemy. The progress of B Sqn directed on HESDIN G9613 was considerably slower owing to isoated guns, road blocks and small pockets of infantry which the enemy had left behind apparently with no other purpose than to delay our advance. In order to keep the Corps Axis secure it was of vital importance to know whether the communications centre of HESDIN was held by the enemy in any strength. At 1400hrs the Commanding Officer ordered C Sqn to move along A Sqn's route in order to come down on to HESDIN from the North-West. This move was successful and immediately before last light C Sqn succeeded in reaching the outskirts of HESDIN and reported only small pockets of enemy there. A number of casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Squadrons were withdrawn an hour before last light and the Regt advancing through ST. POL went into harbour in the area BAILLEUL N2410.
Casualty - Tpr Bright S - killed.

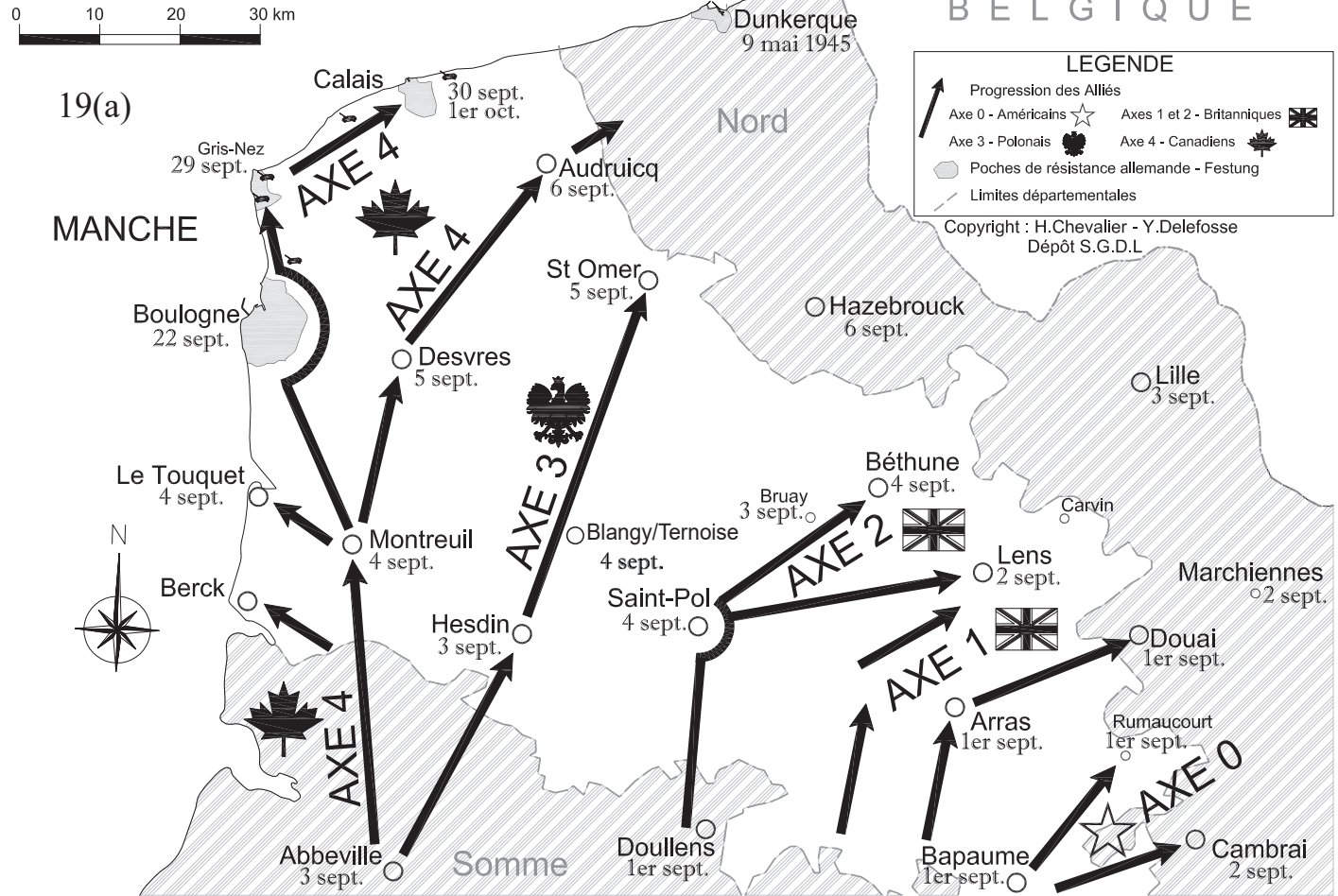
Bailleul

- 5 No orders were received until shortly after mid-day when the Regt was ordered to go forward and hold the city of LILLE. The City had only been entered by patrols of an Armd Car Regt and it was feared that the enemy might try to re-enter it. The Regt was also ordered to patrol from LILLE as far as TOURCOING and ROUBAIX to see if they held any enemy. In order to reach LILLE before last light Sqns were rushed off with all possible speed and B Sqn moved at about 1430hrs - ¾ hr after receipt of the order. The Regt moved at high speed along the route AUBIGNY H3406 - HOUDAIN H3119 - NOEUX LES MINES N4020 - CARVIN H6121 - SECLIN H6627 - reaching the City in daylight.

Lille

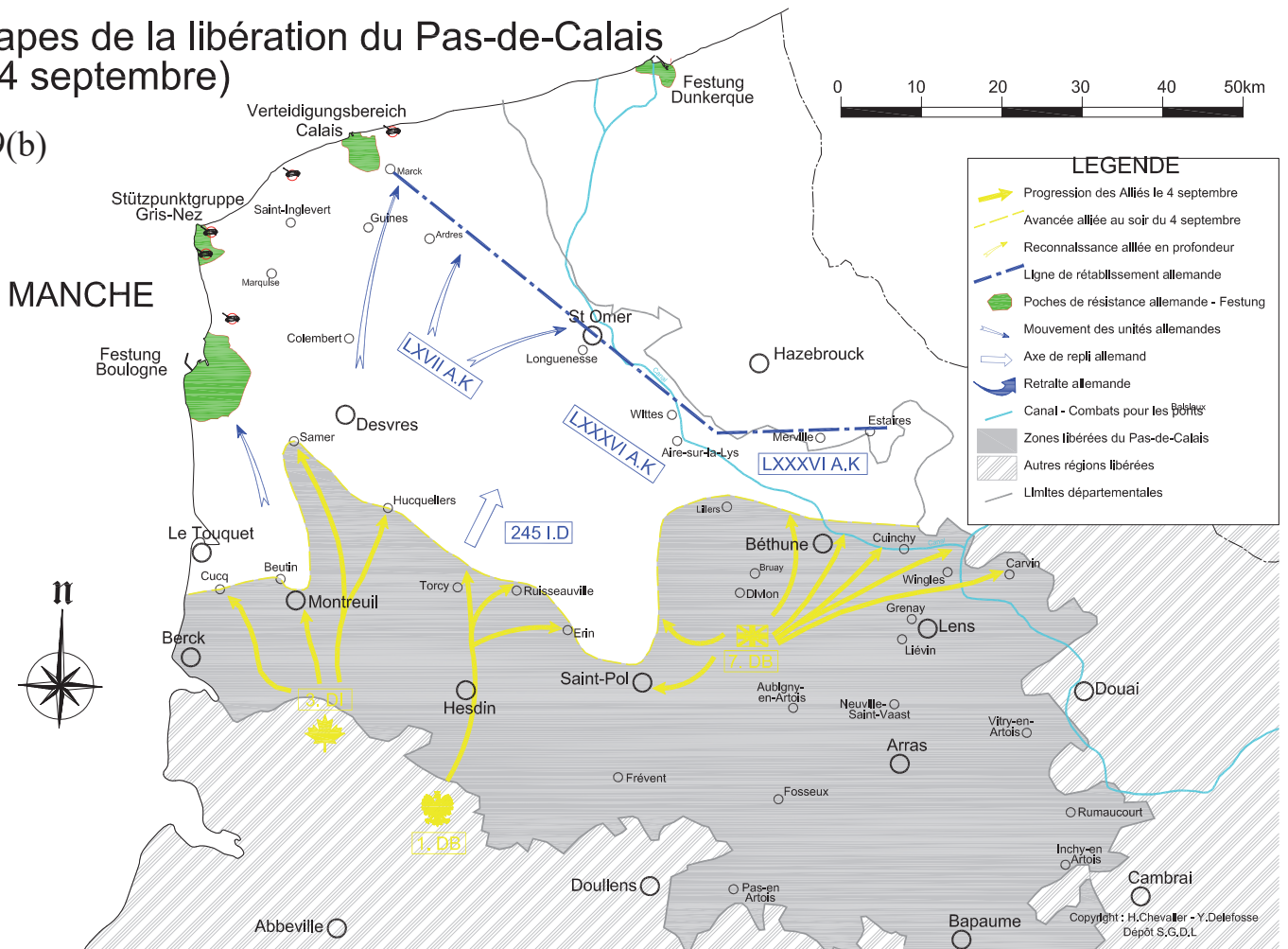
- RHQ harboured in the City centre at last light and the Sqns formed a defence round the city blocking the main entrance. B Sqn patrols succeeded in reaching ROUBAUX H7742 and TOURCOING H7646 and reported them clear, thus completing the task which was anticipated would require the whole Division. During the whole of this move the Regt was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by the whole population.
- 6 A & B Sqns were sent out to carry out recce NW of LILLE as far as the Canal running NE from ARMENTIERES H5743 along the Belgian frontier. A few stragglers were taken prisoner and Sqns spent most of the day following up unconfirmed reports. During the afternoon a report was received from Div that a German General with 500 soldiers was at YPRES H5962 willing to surrender. Regt was ordered to send off a patrol and Lieut A A Pounder of C Sqn with 3 Hy Armd Cars set off at 1500hrs for the City. Nothing has been seen or heard of this Patrol since. Regt returned to LILLE in the evening.

Libération multinationale du Pas-de-Calais



Étapes de la libération du Pas-de-Calais (4 septembre)

19(b)



Mes souvenirs de la libération de Blangy
sur Terroise - 1944 -

Ma mémoire fut surtout marquée par
la mort d'un militaire de nationalité
anglaise ce 4 septembre 1944

Détails sur les circonstances

À l'angle formé par la route d'Humereuille
et la route d'Éiun : est tombé sous le tir
de soldats allemands. le militaire anglais

Suivant le récit de Madame Rose Salomé Martinage
ma tante : Le militaire anglais fut emmené
sur une civière par ses compagnons d'armes
le long du fossé remontant la route d'Humereuille
et déposé dans la pièce servant de salle de
Café chez Madame Rose Salomé Martinage
Malgré les premiers soins ce militaire anglais
décéda sur place quelques instants après
son arrivée

Je soussigné Salomé Rémi né le 23/07/1933
à Blangy sur Terroise certifie que ce décès
tragique m'a été raconté à plusieurs reprises
par ma tante présente dans sa salle de café
ce 4 septembre 1944

Salomé Rémi

Statement of René Salomé

I have a marked memory of the death of the English soldier on 4th September, 1944.

Details of the Circumstances:

The English soldier was shot by German soldiers at the crossroads where the Humeroeuille Road and the Erin Road. According to my aunt, Madame Rose Salomé-Martinage, the English soldier was taken on a stretcher by his comrades along the ditch running beside the Humeroeuille Road, and brought into the room which served as Madame Rose Salomé's café.

Despite being given medical attention, the English soldier died just a few moments after he was brought in.

I, the undersigned, René Salomé, born on 23.07.1933 in Blangy-sur-Ternoise certify that my aunt frequently spoke of this tragic death which took place in her café, and in her presence on 4th September, 1944.

René Salomé

Ci-contre la lettre adressée à Mark Evans

Ci-dessous ses coordonnées :

Captain Mark Evans
Quartermaster

“Firing Line” Museum
The Interpretation Centre
Cardiff Castle
CARDIFF
CF10 3RB
WALES

Dear Captain Mark Evans,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me early last month explaining my 'mission' which is, namely, to discover the identity of the British soldier who fell in combat in the village of Blangy-sur-Ternoise in Northern France in September, 1944. It seems as if, having spoken to you, I might now be closer to a satisfactory conclusion to my mission.

As requested, I shall explain everything in this email, and you should also be receiving a USB key which contains the relevant, supporting documents, a list of which I shall give below. You will then be able to decide if and how you can help me.

Trooper Stanley Sidney Bright (Army No. 5834273) belonged to the 53rd Infantry Division « Welsh » under General Dempsey. We think, though we are not one hundred percent certain, that Stanley Sidney Bright was part of A Squadron (and not B or C) but who were all pushing northwards through Northern France in the summer of 1944.

In any event, he was amongst the troops who had been ordered to head towards the village of Blangy via Humeroeuille. When they arrived, they were met by some of the villagers, among them a boy called Guy Lefebvre, who warned them of danger ahead... German soldiers were further down the road, towards the centre of the village. The British soldiers, nevertheless, got out of their truck and set off, in single file, along the ditch. Guy and the others were told to take shelter by the officer in charge.

Unfortunately, very soon after, there was an exchange of gunfire, and we believe it was Trp Stanley Sidney Bright who was mortally wounded in the neck. He was carried back to the café, on a stretcher, but he succumbed to his wounds.

When Guy Fefebve, his mother and the others came out from where they had been sheltering, they saw the body of the soldier, and his mother, Madame Lefebvre decided, for reasons best known to herself, to ask the soldier in charge if she could cut off a lock of his hair. She was allowed to do so after which the body of Stanley Sidney Bright was put into the truck. Then the truck drove off in the direction of Humeroeuille, the way it had come.

This lock of hair, tied together with a red, white and blue ribbon, remained in the possession of Madame Lefebvre until her death. It was found in her house, by her son, Guy after she had died. Guy, not knowing what else to do with this precious relic of a soldier who had died liberating his village, gave it to a group of local historians, for safekeeping.

Since then, these historians, mainly Hervé Willemand and H  l  ne Boulet, have left no stone unturned in their quest to establish the identity of this soldier, in order to honour his sacrifice.

There is no need for me to burden you, needlessly, explaining all the paths they have gone down, in their search for the truth, which began over five years ago. Originally, they thought this soldier was Polish, part of the 1st Armoured Polish Division. But, according to Polish records, no one from their division was killed in Blangy that day. The Poles who did arrive in the Blangy that day suffered no casualties. According to Polish records, the 53rd Reconnaissance Corps was already in Blangy when they, the Poles, arrived on 4th September. The British had arrived before them.

We know that a Lieutenant Donald Ashworth Creaton of the 11th Hussars, aged 23, was killed in action in nearby Croisette on 3rd September, 1944. We know he is buried in Croisette.

Only Stanley Sidney Bright died on 4th September. For us, there is no doubt, that Tpr Stanley Sidney Bright was alive in Blangy on the 4th September, with his squadron. It is there, we believe he was shot and killed. After Blangy, the squadron headed to Bailleul, via Humeroeuille, where they spent the night.

Two kilometres from Bailleul is a little village called Chelers. In September, 1944, there were already in Chelers cemetery the graves of two British soldiers who had fallen in 1940. It was here, in this cemetery that Stanley Sidney Bright was also buried, alongside his fellow soldiers. A fourth was soon to join them. G.J.J. Smart (Army No. 4806435) a gunner in the Royal Artillery died on 5th September, 1944, aged 30, the day after Stanley. He too is buried in one of the four Commonwealth War Graves in Chelers.

We know that it was the village primary school teacher, Monsieur François Prévot, as secretary to the Mayor, the Count of Boisy, who oversaw the burial of Stanley Sidney Bright. It was he who, long after the war, sent the son of Stanley Sidney Bright family some papers he had found in the pocket of the dead soldier's uniform. They corresponded for a number of years, and the son came to visit Monsieur Prévot and his daughter, Françoise and together they visited the grave of his father. Françoise Reaux-Prévot is still alive today and she remembers what happened the day Stanley Sidney was buried.

During our research to establish what exactly happened that fateful day, we have collected many documents, and statements (from Guy Lefebvre, Rémi Salomé, and Françoise Réaux) and extracts of documents in support of our contention, indeed conviction, that it was Stanley Sidney Bright who fell in the village of Blangy. The remainder of his squadron, before moving on to Lille the next day, spent the night in Bailleul the night he died. This explains why Stanley Sidney is buried nearby. There were no British casualties in Bailleul on 4th September and the 53rd R.E.C.C.E. Corps suffered no other casualties that day. Stanley Sidney must be the soldier killed in Blangy.

This is what is contained in the USB key we are sending :

- 1.) Photos we have taken of the four graves in Chelers, including that of Stanley Sidney, whose grave was regularly visited by members of his family, and descendants who live in Southend-on-Sea.
- 2.) It was the niece of Stanley Sidney who gave a sample of her DNA so that we could try and confirm that she was related to the person whose lock of hair we have. (Because the hair was cut, and not pulled out by the roots, we were limited to female descendants and a mitochondrial DNA analysis.) Sadly, however, the sample of hair was too degraded (it was, after all, over 70 years old) for any result to be possible. The report is enclosed.
- 3.) We have enclosed a recent photo of this lock of hair.
- 4.) We have Stanley Sidney's Casualty Card, which confirms he was « Killed in Action » on 4th September. It does not say where.
- 5.) We have attached an eye-witness account from Monsieur Guy Lefebvre, who was fourteen at the time, and who is now 88 years of age. He was told to seek shelter indoors by the British soldiers when they arrived in what he calls their 'jeeps'. He did not see the actual shooting. When he re-emerged from wherever he had been sheltering with the others, he saw a dead soldier being carried away. It was, then that his mother cut the lock of hair from the dead soldier.
- 6.) My translation of this witness statement.
- 7.) We have also included two diagrams, according to the testimony of Guy Lefebvre, showing the situation in the village when a) the British troops arrived, and b) when they left. The people and places which figure in his statement are numbered and these numbers appear on the diagram.
- 8.) We have included a present-day photo of the exact spot where the British soldier was shot by a German sniper in the building on one side of the crossroads. For some reason the spot where he fell was called "Le Petit Pont". There was no "Bridge" there at the time, but that is what the place was called. There was a ditch running alongside the road. But that has long since been filled in.

9.) We have a copy of :

a) Guy Lefebvre's birth certificate and

b) a letter from the President of the Veteran's Association in Blangy, Monsieur Jean-François Cheminant, gendarme, attesting that the handwritten witness report was indeed written by Guy Lefebvre, and vouching for his good character and integrity and

c) my translation of this letter.

10.) We have a letter of support from the Mayor of Blangy, Monsieur Michel Massart, also attesting the authenticity of Guy Lefebvre's handwritten and signed statement.

11.) See my translation of the Mayor's letter.

12.) We have also attached a copy of a letter written by Hervé Willemand and Hélène Boulet (leading members of an organisation called 'Le Souvenir Français') to the family of Stanley Sidney Bright, who live in Southend-on-Sea, whom I was able to find through the Electoral Register.

Disappointingly, the family knew very little about the circumstances of Stanley Sidney's death. They only knew he was killed by a sniper on 4th September, 1944. They had met the primary school teacher, Monsieur François Prévôt and his daughter, Françoise, who had visited them in England. Stanley Sidney's late son, also named Stanley, and his grandson, Kevin, subsequently visited his grave in Chelers on a number of occasions when Gladys, Stanley Sidney's wife was alive.

13.) My translation of the Souvenir Français letter.

14.) It was thanks to the Elaine, the daughter of Stanley Sidney's sister, that we were able to have the DNA sample carried out. See the family tree of the Bright Family.

15.) We have also included in this dossier two maps (a) and (b) showing :

the route (a) taken by the British soldiers : from Frévent in the south via Croisette (where there was a British casualty, an officer of the 11th Hussars, Lieut. Donald Creaton) and then via Humeroeuille, on their way to Blangy-sur-Ternoise where they arrived on the morning of 4th September.

the area (b) between Blangy and Bailleul where the 53rd R.E.C.C.E. bivouaced on the evening of 4th September. This map also shows the location of the village of Chelers (the final resting place of Stanley Sidney Bright) in relation to Bailleul.

16.) The daughter of Monsieur Prévôt, Françoise Réaux, attests that her father buried Stanley Sidney in their village of Chelers.

17.) My translation of the above.

18.) We have also included a copy of the War Diary showing, in particular, the events of 4th September, 1944 which I obtained from the Tank Museum in Bovington.

19.) Two further diagrams showing the situation on 3rd/4th September and 4th September, taken from the book « Les Combats de la Libération du Pas-de-Calais 1er - 30 septembre 1944 » by Hugues Chevalier. We have the permission of Hugues Chevalier to send you these diagrams.

20.) Statement from Rémi Salomé whose aunt had the café where the mortally wounded soldier was given medical attention.

21.) My translation of Rémi Salomé's Statement

Having carried out all this research to ascertain the above facts, we are certain that the British soldier buried in Chelers is none other than the British soldier killed by a sniper in Blangy-sur-Ternoise and that he is none other than Stanley Sidney Bright, the only British casualty in the area that day.

Unfortunately, our opinion is not sufficient for the French authorities to accept this hypothesis. We need someone with authority in the United Kingdom to share this opinion, and to say so, in some official document.

It is to this end, we are soliciting your help. Without it, we can go no further. No street will be named after him. No monument will be erected to commemorate and honour the sacrifice that was made by the soldier who died in and for this commune. He needs to have a name. We firmly believe that this soldier was called Stanley Sidney Bright. If you agree and if you are able to help us, the soldier who died will have a name, at last.

His name and who he was, will then forever be remembered in this village of Blangy-sur-Ternoise, where he fell.

It is thanks to this unnamed British soldier and his comrades in the 53rd Welsh Reconnaissance Corps, that this village was liberated.

The Commune of Blangy-sur-Ternoise wishes nothing more than to know his name so they can erect a monument in his memory, as a token of their undying gratitude and profound respect.

Yours sincerely,
Siobhán Stevens

June, 2018

11, rue du Clape en Haut,
62170 Montreuil-sur-Mer
France

Ci-dessous la lettre réponse de Mark Evans



Amgueddfa'r Milwr Cymreig yng Nghastell Caerdydd
Museum of the Welsh Soldier at Cardiff Castle

Patrons: The Lord Elis Thomas PC AM | Lt Gen Sir Robert Hayman-Joyce KCB CBE DL | Lt Gen Sir Maurice Johnston KCB CVO OBE
Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards KCVO GCSI RD GOMLJ JP RNR | David Hitchcock Esq. | Anthony Clay Esq.

Dear Monsieur Massart, Maire de Blangy-sur-Ternoise,

We have recently been presented the documents, photographs and witness statements surrounding the death of a British soldier in Blangy-sur-Ternoise, killed by an enemy sniper on 4th September 1944.

We have considered these submissions carefully.

Consequently, we have come to the conclusion that the soldier killed on that day in Blangy, can be no other than Trooper Stanley Sidney Bright of the 53rd Infantry Division Recce Corps, who also died on 4th September, 1944 and who is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave in Chelers, near Blangy-sur-Ternoise.

If at all possible, I and a few of my colleagues would be pleased to come to Blangy-sur-Ternoise in order to attend the commemoration ceremony of the Liberation of your village on 4th September 2019 which would also mark the 75th anniversary of Trooper Stanley's death.

Can you also let me know of a timetable of events, and also when we are required over in France and the length of time, as we have a Regimental event on the 7th September 2019 which I am involved in.

Look forward to hearing from you soon and a Happy New Year to you all.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Evans
Captain
Quartermaster
3rd Battalion The Royal Welsh

Directors: Chairman Brig (Retd) RN Wardle OBE | JD Beatson-Hird | Lt Col (Retd) WR Brace MBE BEM
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