

Section Officer Muriel Tamara **BYCK**



Photos: Jewish Military Museum and De Vomécourt collection.

Muriel Byck was born a British subject in Ealing, west London, on 4 June 1918, the daughter of Jewish parents who had lived in France before coming to England, but who were both originally from what was then Russia, now Ukraine – Jacques Byck, born in Kiev, and Luba Basia Byck (née Golynska) born in Lvov. Muriel's childhood had involved a year-long visit to Germany with her family from 1923 to 1924 when they had lived in Wiesbaden and four years in France from 1926 to 1930 where she attended the *Lycée de Jeunes Filles* at St. Germain-en-Laye outside Paris.

The family returned to England in 1930, but her parents divorced while Muriel continued her French education at the Lycée Français in South Kensington, London. She passed her *Baccalauréat* in July 1935 and then finished her studies at the Université de Lille in northern France. Her command of French, which she spoke with no accent, was total and she was also fluent in Russian which had been spoken by her parents. Although physically slight, and having not had robust health as a child, Muriel listed skating, swimming, tennis, walking and badminton among her interests. On her return to England after her university studies she had undertaken secretarial work for two years before starting a career in stage management, working at Beaux Arts in Regent Street, London and becoming an Assistant Stage Manager at the Gate Theatre, a small, independent concern in Charing Cross, London, from 1938 to 1939.

After the outbreak of war Muriel's businessman father moved to New York in 1940 while her mother, who had remarried in 1934 to an Englishman, George Leslie, was living in Torquay in Devon where Muriel joined her. From September 1940 Muriel started work as an escort for the Children's Overseas Reception Board, helping children who were being evacuated to the U.S.A. When this scheme ceased, Muriel worked for the National Registration Board as a clerk. From the start of the war she had also devoted her spare time to voluntary work, joining the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) and helping as a librarian for the Red Cross in a hospital library. From April 1941 until she joined the services, Muriel also served as an A.R.P. Warden in Torquay.

Muriel joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) on 2 February 1942 with the service number 2071428. She applied, and was recommended for, a commission at the end of that year, but was still on the waiting list and serving as a Leading Aircraftwoman in a Records Office at Gloucester when the war was brought closer to home. On 30 May 1943 her mother and stepfather were lucky to escape unscathed when their home

in Torquay was badly damaged in an attack on the town by German FW 190 fighter-bombers. Neighbours were among those killed together with, tragically, 26 teachers and children who had just arrived for Sunday School at the church of St. Mary the Virgin on the outskirts of Torquay. Perhaps spurred by this disaster, Muriel volunteered for SOE in the summer of 1943.

Muriel was cleared for consideration by French Section SOE and went with Party 27AD to STS 7, the Students' Assessment Board at Winterfold, Cranleigh, finishing in September 1943 with a C pass and several appreciative comments:

‘A quiet, bright, attractive girl, keen, enthusiastic and intelligent. Alert, but not very practical and as yet lacks foresight and thoroughness. She is, however, self-possessed and persistent, and warm in her feeling for others. A cheerful and willing worker who is popular with the others.’

It was acknowledged that she would need extensive training to overcome her inexperience and a general lack of guile, but she was thought to hold considerable promise and should be suitable to work as a courier. For her Group A paramilitary training, Muriel was sent to STS 23a at Meoble Lodge, Morar in Scotland where she clearly captivated her conducting officer, Lieutenant Oliver, who commented ‘A very charming, attractive girl’ and, praising her great determination, believed her ‘more sophisticated than she appears’. Despite her cosmopolitan background and Russian parentage, Muriel impressed Oliver as a typically English, attractive, young woman who was good-natured and affectionate, with impressively strong patriotism. But if Oliver held any hopes for romance with the young trainee with whom he was so taken, he was to be disappointed. For, as the course progressed, Oliver noted that Muriel and another member of the party, 2nd Lieutenant Maurice Martin of the OSS, (training under the name of Maurice Morange), had fallen in love and formed a relationship.

At the end of the course at Meoble Lodge, Muriel had responded well to the demands of the training, and although she was felt to be too weak for rough work, she had proved to have high intelligence, scoring an impressive 8/10. As a result of these mixed results, she received a double grading of C/F: C relating to being suitable for employment as an agent only under specific conditions, but otherwise an F, a Fail grade. Muriel's strengths were shown in her mechanical aptitude and her ability with Morse and with potential as a W/T operator in mind, French Section therefore sanctioned her continuing to STS 52 at Thame Park. She went there still in the company of Lieutenant Martin where they proved inseparable. Muriel was nevertheless reported to have been very conscientious on the course, interested in the work, level-headed and reliable.

No record remains on her SOE file, but Muriel certainly undertook, successfully, her parachute training course at STS 51, RAF Ringway, but at this point, and despite previous cautionary notes that Muriel would require extensive training, SOE's urgent need for W/T operators once again dictated matters. One of French Section's more experienced agents, Philippe de Vomécourt (*VENTRILOQUIST/Gauthier*), was about to return to France to again pick up the remains of his circuit in the Loir-et-Cher *département*, based on a number of contacts in and around Vendôme. He was in urgent need of a W/T operator to go with him and, when asked, Muriel agreed to forego the remainder of her training, including the crucial Group B Finishing School element at Beaulieu, in order to join him. Her code name was to be *BENEFACTRESS*, her field

name *Violette* and her false identity was Michèle Bernier. Quickly taken on the strength of the FANY, Muriel made her final preparations for service in occupied France. These included a session with Leo Marks, SOE's Head of Coding, who was later to recall that Muriel impressed him as a tough and aggressive individual with a healthy contempt for the London staff as she was much more familiar than they with France. Part of Muriel's role was to teach agents in France about coding and Marks therefore paid special attention to this and had to assess her potential as a teacher. He concluded that Muriel lacked patience and was unlikely to excel as an instructor, despite the extra coaching that he gave her. He sometimes felt, however, that her impatience may have been a cover for an underlying nervousness at going "in".

In the interim, De Vomécourt had dislocated his knee while exercising during his training in England and was unable to take the parachute course at Ringway. He was therefore to be sent by Lysander while Muriel was to drop by parachute, together with Major Sydney Hudson (HEADMASTER/*Albin*) and his own W/T operator, Captain George Jones (LIME/*Isidore*), on their way to establish Hudson's HEADMASTER circuit. Hudson was charged with looking after Muriel and ensuring that she reached de Vomécourt safely, the latter having got to know his W/T operator better while her departure from Tempsford was cancelled on two consecutive nights due to bad weather.

The plan had been that Muriel, Hudson and Jones would arrive on the night of Good Friday, 7/8 April 1944, a few days before de Vomécourt, but the delay resulted in them leaving for France on Easter Sunday, the night of 9/10 April, the same night that de Vomécourt left by Lysander. Before he departed, de Vomécourt made his own inspection of Muriel's papers, clothing and possessions, confident as he was that he knew the current conditions in France better than any of French Section's conducting or dispatching staff. In doing so, he noted a brand-new leather powder compact that Muriel had been given by her fiancé, Lieutenant Martin, and which she was determined to take with her to France. De Vomécourt was concerned that it looked too new and as such items were no longer available in France, he thought it might attract unwelcome interest. He relented only on condition that he aged it by rubbing it with ammonia and Muriel was then permitted to keep, and take with her, Martin's memento. De Vomécourt was later (in his book 'Who Lived To See The Day') to praise Muriel's sang-froid as she was forced to wait for her departure. He noted that she looked younger than her years, small of stature and frail, but was clearly courageous.

At Tempsford, Hudson and Jones considered themselves to be 'old hands' on their second mission, but Hudson was not blasé enough not to want to impress the young attractive woman who was to jump with him and be in his initial care. Muriel's code name was BENEFACTRESS, her field name was *Violette* and her false identity was in the name of Michèle Bernier, a governess from Paris. As part of her cover story until she was handed on to de Vomécourt, Muriel was to play the part of Hudson's sister. Her role was to relay de Vomécourt's radio traffic (codenamed GOWN) and to train other W/T operators as he set up his new circuit in an area that was considered of great importance in respect of enemy communication. It had been planned that she was to drop to a reception organised by Maurice Southgate (STATIONER/*Hector*), 11 kilometres south-east of Issoudun and 32 kilometres east-north-east of Châteauroux. But Southgate was already committed on the night of 9/10 April and Muriel, Hudson and Jones therefore had to drop 'blind', without a reception committee, and make their own way to Issoudun in order to contact Monsieur Jacques Trommelschlager a local

contractor (originally from Alsace) in the town who would then help them on their way - Muriel to a large house on a country estate near Loches sur Tours and Hudson and Jones to a château in the south of the region of Le Mans. If Muriel became separated on landing from Hudson and Jones, her instructions were to make her way to the *Bureaux Agricoles* in the place de l'Hôtel de Ville in Châteauroux, an important source of help and transit point for SOE agents and the local *Résistance*.

Just before she left for France, Muriel wrote to Colonel Buckmaster on an issue which was causing her to feel she was the victim of an injustice. In preparation for her service in the field she had been granted a commission (with the new service number 9913) in the WAAF, but it was only an honorary position, similar in status to the honorary FANY ranks granted to women agents. But Muriel, prior to joining SOE, had already been recommended for a WAAF commission and she therefore felt aggrieved that she was now only to be an honorary officer. A written plea to Buckmaster was answered only the day before Muriel departed, with the promise that, while nothing could be done for the present, SOE would make every effort to encourage the Air Ministry to convert her honorary commission into a normal one if, in future, she wished to leave SOE and return to other duties in the WAAF.

For her flight to France, Muriel found that she was to be taken in a Hudson of 161 Squadron at RAF Tempsford. Relatively unusually, she and her two male companions were to parachute from the Hudson, an aircraft (along with the Lysander) more usually operated for landing agents in occupied territory, while the larger Halifax normally took agents who were parachuting. The method of exiting a Hudson was different – instead of dropping through a hole in the floor of the fuselage, agents sat on a form of slide and slid, one behind the other, out of the aircraft.

The drop proved uneventful, though instead of landing in open ground, the three agents found themselves in a wood. Fortunately, none of their parachutes were caught in the trees, and Muriel soon joined Hudson and Jones whom she had lost sight of on her descent. It took them some time to locate all their packages, which had dropped on separate parachutes, including Muriel's radio set and they then hid them in a dense area of the wood. As dawn broke they left the cover of the trees, found a road and set off walking to Issoudun which they reached at around 8 a.m. on a sunny Easter Monday morning. No Germans were to be seen and Muriel and Jones remained in a café while Hudson made contact with Trommelschlager and then returned to take his two companions back to the Alsatian's house. That evening Jones returned to the wood with Trommelschlager and one of his men in a lorry and retrieved the hidden packages. His own W/T set and that of Muriel had both survived the drop without damage.

Some five days after her arrival, Muriel was taken in a car by another of Trommelschlager's men, accompanied by Hudson, to her designated safe house, owned by a Madame Marthe Dauprat-Sevenet, at Chédigny (31), 10 kilometres north of Loches. The cross-country route that was taken avoided the larger communities where there might be enemy controls and the journey passed without incident other than Muriel suddenly became unwell on the way. Hudson, who had admired the excellent spirit that Muriel had so far displayed, now saw her turn pale and appear to be in pain. On arrival, Madame Domprat-Sevenet, the mother of another French Section agent, Captain Henri Sevenet (DETECTIVE/Rodolphe) and her housekeeper proved attentive and caring and, hoping that it was perhaps only the tortuous journey in the charcoal-

burning car that had upset Muriel, Hudson left her to await de Vomécourt's arrival while he returned to Issoudun.

Muriel, or Michèle as she was known to the French, recovered the next day and during the following two weeks that she then spent with Madame Dauprat-Sevenet, she impressed all with her charm, her gaiety and her sense of duty to serve France. She developed a close and trusting bond with de Vomécourt who took a paternal-like interest in his young W/T operator, visiting frequently and ensuring that she was well looked after and secure from any enemy interest.

Muriel was passed off as the fiancée of Madame Dauprat-Severet's son and while she stayed Henri Sevenet paid a day's visit in order to meet his 'fiancée' and fellow F Section agent. Madame Dauprat-Sevenet was later to write that, charmed as her son was when he met Muriel, he confided privately to his mother that he had a premonition that he would never see Muriel again and that neither he nor she would survive the war. Sadly, Sevenet's fears were to prove well-founded.

From Madame Dauprat-Sevenet's house, de Vomécourt took Muriel in late April to a new base that he established in the small town of Salbris (41), 23 kilometres to the north of Vierzon (18). There, Muriel was housed by Antoine Vincent who ran a garage and who had been involved in the *Résistance* and helping the British since early 1941. On her first day in her new lodgings she was taken to lunch by de Vomécourt and Vincent in a local restaurant only to discover, to her horror, that the establishment was full of German military personnel. Only Vincent's admission that he had chosen the place deliberately, in order to accustom Muriel to the sight of the enemy in uniform, prevented Muriel from turning on her heel and exiting the restaurant.

As had been the case in the Dauprat-Sevenet household, Muriel quickly became a much-loved member of the Vincent family in Salbris. Faithfully following her training to not transmit from just one location, she established a network of four transmitters, one in a shed only a few metres from the Vincents' garage and the other three at different locations within a 15-kilometre radius of Salbris. Muriel would cycle to and fro between her sets, transmitting from the different locations and at varying times in order to thwart any efforts by the Germans to Direction Find (DF) her. In this she was successful, though she had a major scare when one day transmitting in Salbris. The shed from which she operated was in a yard which Vincent used to store wrecked cars from his garage, only 25 metres away. His garage was partly used for bicycle repairs by the German Army, for which reason he had been keen for Muriel to quickly come to terms with seeing the enemy at close quarters. The presence of the Germans, with whom he established cordial relations, served to act as useful cover to Vincent and his *Résistance* activities, but it also meant that enemy soldiers were often hanging about. It was one such soldier who, having entered Vincent's yard, put his eye to a hole in the shed and spotted a young woman within operating a radio set. Muriel was in mid message to London when she glanced up and saw the eye watching her. She quickly sent a danger signal and signed off as the eye disappeared. Looking out of the same hole, she caught sight of a German soldier leaving the yard. The *Résistance* man who had been supposed to be keeping guard was nowhere to be seen and Muriel felt that the soldier was bound to raise the alarm. Taking all her equipment with her and making sure there was no sign of her having been in the shed, Muriel hurried back to find Vincent in his office at the garage. He immediately decided she should leave, while he stayed behind to deal

with the Germans' reaction to the soldier's report. At that moment, de Vomécourt fortuitously arrived by car. Taking Muriel with them, de Vomécourt and his driver quickly left Salbris and arranged for Muriel to stay elsewhere. Behind them, Vincent watched as some 40 or 50 Germans arrived, only to find no evidence of the claimed woman spy in the dusty shed. The German soldier who had reported the matter stuck to his story, but was not believed and was reportedly given a punishment of detention.

While Muriel stayed in her new lodgings as a precaution against any lingering enemy suspicions about Vincent's yard, she continued to cycle among her different sets and transmitting locations. One of these was not far from Salbris and close to the former French Army camp at Michenon, now a large German munitions dump. On 6 May 1944 Captain Jones had already reported to London on his W/T set that trains were being loaded in the camp and Muriel did likewise on the morning of 7 May, also recommending that the camp should be bombed as soon as possible.

She received a reply the same afternoon that the target was scheduled to be attacked by Allied bombers the following night, 8/9 May, and that in the meantime, the *Résistance* should blow up the lines to prevent any trains leaving and warn the French civilian workers at the camp to stay clear. Muriel relayed the vital message from London but as the *Résistance* planned to put into effect their operations that evening, 4 Mosquitoes and 58 Lancasters of 5 Group RAF Bomber Command arrived – 24 hours early. From a distance of 15 miles de Vomécourt watched and listened as the night sky was lit by massive explosions, the target being destroyed so thoroughly that production did not recommence on the site until 1950.

Muriel, still in the house near to Michenon, was fortunate to escape the bombing and was badly shaken by the incident. Her health again deteriorated and she appeared worn out. Concerned, de Vomécourt decided to pass her work to other W/T operators and to give Muriel a much-needed rest. She first went for a few days to stay with the Dasnière family at Nouan-le-Fuzelier (41) 12 kilometres from Salbris and then moved to, and recommenced transmissions from, the house of Monsieur Jourdain, a blacksmith, in Vernou-en-Solange (41) some 40 kilometres further west. At some point she also returned for a few days to again stay at Chédigny where Madame Dauprat-Sevenet was concerned to note that, while she sought to make light of it, Muriel was not in the best of health and appeared to be suffering from some form of nervous condition. On one occasion, taking breakfast in bed to her, Madame Dauprat-Sevenet was startled to see Muriel having difficulty in getting up, and one eye remained closed for a while in what the older woman was later to describe as some sort of minor seizure. She confided her concerns to de Vomécourt who called in to see Muriel a couple of days later when she was back in Vernou. He saw her early in the morning before setting off on a long journey with his driver, but saw enough to confirm the concerns expressed by Madame Dauprat-Sevenet, to such an extent that, some way into the journey, he had a presentiment that something was seriously wrong with Muriel. Ordering his driver to turn back, he returned as quickly as possible to Vernou where he found his fears confirmed – Muriel had felt tired immediately after breakfast and had then suddenly collapsed, unconscious. She was still in this condition when de Vomécourt arrived, he could not bring her round and realised she was seriously ill. He had telephoned two other doctors before he found a third who came to the house and immediately diagnosed meningitis, recommending that Muriel must be taken to a hospital immediately if she were to be offered any chance of survival. An ambulance was called and, despite the

risk, de Vomécourt went with it with Muriel, still unconscious, to the hospital in Romorantin, 17 kilometres to the south. Claiming to be the uncle of Muriel, though without the necessary papers to support his story, he completed the necessary forms at the hospital as his young wireless operator was admitted as an emergency case. An examination led to the decision that she must be operated on as soon as possible, by lumbar puncture. De Vomécourt, aghast at how deathly pale Muriel looked, insisted on staying while the procedure was performed, but Muriel never regained consciousness and, at around 7 p.m. on the evening of 23 May 1944, she died as de Vomécourt held her in his arms.

The grief-stricken Frenchman had little opportunity to mourn his assistant. It was only a matter of time before his hastily-concocted story was unpicked and he was determined to ensure that Muriel was buried as soon as possible before the German authorities were alerted to her, or his, presence at the hospital. He therefore rapidly arranged for her body to be released at the earliest possible opportunity, 48 hours after her death, and a hearse was summoned to the hospital. He walked, alone, behind the hearse through the town to the hospital's cemetery in the faubourg Saint-Roch, later describing himself as 'feeling as low as a man can feel'. A small group of people, alerted to the news, had gathered at the cemetery, but as they stood by the vault that was to temporarily take Muriel's coffin, two Gestapo cars drew up outside the cemetery gates. De Vomécourt was fortunate to make good his escape over the rear wall of the hospital cemetery where friends were waiting to take him to safety. Behind him, Muriel was laid to rest in a vault in a zinc coffin in order that her body might be preserved for future relocation, and the reburial registered in her true name. She was 25 years old.

Muriel's service in the field had lasted only six weeks. She had sent 27 messages and received 16, but had died two weeks' short of the invasion when her work would have been most needed. Despite the brevity of her service, she had touched the hearts of all with whom she had come in contact and was greatly admired. She was buried in grave 16, row 4 of the hospital cemetery in Romorantin, where the plot was described as being always covered in flowers.

Postwar, and despite efforts by her father, Jacques, in New York to have her body returned to England, Muriel's remains were exhumed in December 1958 (along with those of another French Section SOE agent, Captain Stanisław Makowski, also originally buried in the hospital cemetery) and reburied in the British military plot in the cemetery at Pornic (44), 330 kilometres west of Romorantin, on the Atlantic coast. This caused considerable anguish to Jacques Byck who engaged in lengthy correspondence with the British authorities over the issue, stressing that Muriel had indicated that she wanted to be buried in England, and also that he, her father, ultimately wished to be buried with her – an impossibility if Muriel were to remain in a military grave. No latitude was, however, permitted.

Another source of contention following the confirmation of Muriel's death involved her will. When it was read, in conjunction with letters that Muriel had left for her parents in the event of her death, it became apparent that she had left her savings to her boyfriend, Lieutenant Maurice Martin of the OSS. In order to settle her affairs, a meeting had to be arranged by SOE of Muriel's mother and stepfather, Mr and Mrs Leslie, with Lieutenant Martin, back in England following service in France as W/T operator to the BEGGAR circuit, before he returned to the United States.

After the liberation of France, Colonel Buckmaster, together with a member of his staff and former agents, undertook a tour of France, under the title of the JUDEX mission, in order to meet and thank many of the French people who had helped his French Section circuits. Among them was Madame Dauprat-Sevenet, grieving not only for her son, Henri, but also for Muriel, to whom she had become very attached. She passed to Buckmaster, for onward transmission to Muriel's mother, the face powder compact which Lieutenant Martin had given to Muriel before she departed for France and which Muriel had subsequently left with Madame Dauprat-Sevenet.

Buckmaster's touching and affectionate summary of Muriel read:

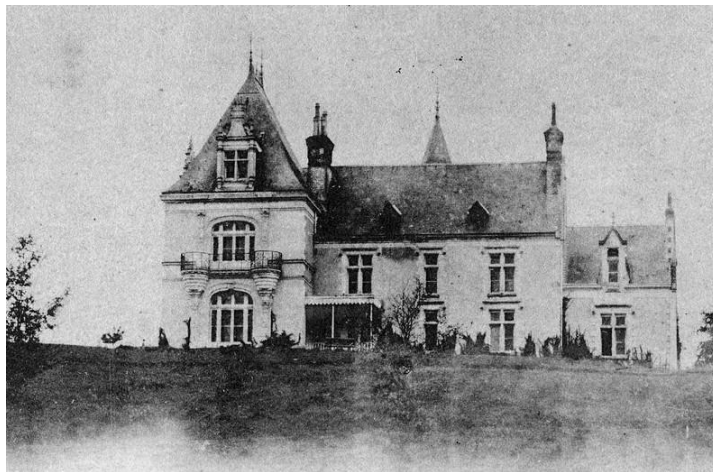
‘A terribly sad end to one of our most charming and delightful girls. Competent, willing and courageous. Very loyal and always gave of her best.’

Muriel was awarded a posthumous Mention in Despatches by the British. Her grave is in the CWGC Pornic War Cemetery in the Loire-Atlantique, France (grave 2. AB. 18, alongside that of Stanisław Makowski); she is listed on the SOE Memorial at Valençay, on the war memorials at Romorantin-Lanthenay in France and Torquay and on a commemorative plaque at the *Lycée Français* in London. On 4 June 2013 a blue plaque in her memory was unveiled on her former family home at Bay Fort Mansions, Warren Road, Torquay. Despite being a WAAF, Muriel is also named on the FANY memorial on the wall of St Paul's church in Knightsbridge, London and her photo is permanently displayed on a panel at the AJEX Jewish Military Museum in Hendon, London NW4 as well as in the museum's mobile exhibition that tours libraries and schools.

Sources: Muriel's SOE personal file is TNA HS9/250/2. Her drop into France and early days there are covered in Sydney Hudson's book 'Undercover Operator' and the personal file of and that of (Christopher) Sydney Hudson is TNA HS9/747/4. Much detail of her service in France, her illness and death, is contained in Philippe de Vomécourt's account of his wartime activities 'Who Lived To See The Day.' Martin Sugarman's original research into Muriel Byck's life and service (and that of Denise Bloch), can be found at <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/ww2/sugar2.html> and is held by AJEX, the British Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women at the Jewish Military Museum. Martin Sugarman's book 'Fighting Back', (Valentine Mitchell, 2010) has a chapter about both Muriel and Denise Bloch. The reminiscences of Leo Marks regarding Muriel came from an interview in 2000 with Martin Sugarman. Photographs from French locations, and Muriel's death certificate, were kindly sourced by local resident Tony Lark.



Muriel's step-father, George Leslie, standing outside the family home in Torquay after the German bombing raid of 30 May 1943. Photo – Sue and Phil Robinson.



Above left - Le Breuil, the house of Madame Marthe Dauprat-Sevenet, at Chédigny (31), where Muriel first stayed in France. Photo - author's collection. Above right - Philippe de Vomécourt (right). Photo - de Vomécourt coll.



Antoine Vincent's garage and adjacent house in Salbris where Muriel stayed.
Photo - Michel Septseault via Tony Lark.



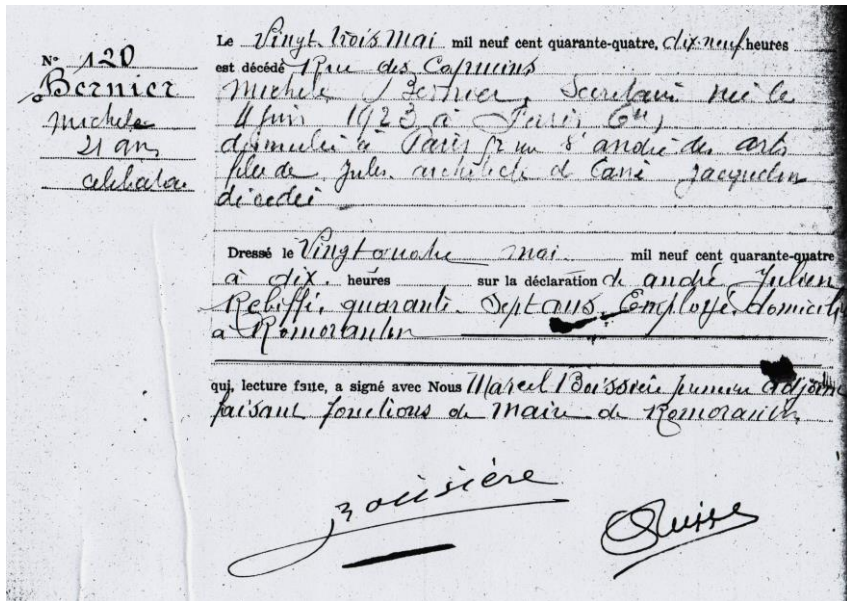
Antoine Vincent and his Résistance group in Salbris.
Photo - De Vomécourt collection.



An original SOE F Section radio set
now held in the Musée de la Résistance
et de la Déportation du Cher, Bourges.
Photo - MRDC, Bourges



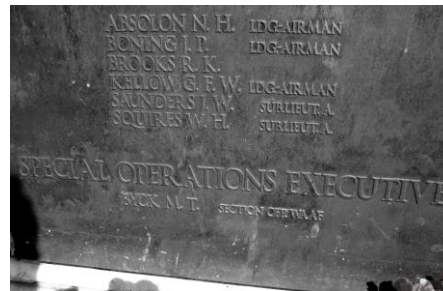
Though of poor quality, these photographs are from a false ID
card issued to Muriel in France. Photo – via Tony Lark.



Muriel's death certificate, held in the Romorantin-Lanthenay municipal archives. Photo – Tony Lark.



Muriel's grave in the CWGC cemetery at Pornic (44). Photo - Philip Curtis and Carole Crowley/TWGP.



Muriel is commemorated (above left) on the war memorial in Romorantin-Lanthenay - photo: Simon Ingyon; on the war memorial in Torquay, Devon (above centre and right) – photo: author’s coll. and (below) at the Lycée Français in South Kensington, London. Photo - Sara Jukes.



IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION Exhumation Report Form (A)

REBURIAL RETURN

Name of Cemetery of Reburial FOREIGN WAR CEMETERY Serial No. NR/WG/43754/27/R

Date of Reburial 17th December, 1958

(47945) W.P. 2218/23 2,000 3/55 A.S.E.W.L.G. GP. 685

Plot	Row	Grave	Cemetery from which exhumation effected (Plot, Row, Grave Number) or map reference of isolated grave where body found, and date of exhumation.	Regimental particulars from Cross, or from other means of identification	Means of identification	Serial Number of Exhumation Report Form (C) if effects found.
II	AB	17	ROMORANTIN HOSPITAL CEMETERY (Loir-et-Gher) Row 4 Grave 14	204697. Capt. S. MAKOWSKI General List 23.8.44	Records Headstone	_____
II	AB	18	Row 4 Grave 16	9911. S/O Muriel Tamara BYCK W.A.A.F. 23.5.44	Records Headstone	_____

Authority Form W.G.R.1. 2472 dated 2.1.58

Signature: *Ingyon*

To be made out in triplicate, two copies to Chief Records Officer, Wooburn Green, one copy for Records Officer of the District.

Above - the authorisation for the exhumation and reburial of Muriel’s body in 1958. Credit: Justin Davis

Below - in June 2013, Muriel was the subject of a Blue Plaque, on the site of her former home in Torquay, organised by Torbay Civic Society with the help of Martin Sugarman (pictured extreme left) of AJEX. Photos – Martin Sugarman.



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