Appendix:
biographies of the twenty interviewees
whose testimonies have been referred to

Vera Atkins
Interviewed Vera Atkins, 2 July 1999, Sussex. (Unwilling to talk about herself.)
Born 15 June 1908 in Romania; Jewish father; two brothers, Ralph and Guy.
Had links with British intelligence whilst living in Romania in the 1930s; moved
to Britain in 1937; joined Chelsea ARP (Air Raid Precaution) in 1940.
Name put forward for SOE by Leslie Humphreys who worked for Section D;
interviewed February 1941; appointed as an Intelligence Officer for F Section;
remained a civilian (known as Miss Atkins); particular responsibility for the
female agents.
Became Squadron Leader in the WAAF in order to go to Germany to trace missing
agents; interviewed prison and concentration camp staff; worked at the Central
Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges; worked as a consultant for both
Odette and Carve Her Name with Pride.
Awarded Croix de Guerre, Légion d’honneur and a CBE; died in 2000.

Lise de Baissac
Interviewed Lise Villameur, 17 April 2002, Provence.
Born 11 May 1905 in Mauritius; French parents, two older brothers, Jean and
Claude; educated in Paris; at outbreak of war, journeyed to England, via Spain
and Portugal; worked in office in London.
Was one of the first women to be recruited to the SOE; was on second training
course (women only); was the second woman to be parachuted into France
(preceded by Andrée Borrel seconds earlier) on 24 September 1942; codenamed
‘Odile’; set up ARTIST, a base in Poitiers; assisted new agents upon their arrival
in France; called back to England as group penetrated; collected by Lysander.
Became a conducting officer while in England; broke leg during a practice
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parachute jump; remained in England for five months; landed by Lysander on 9 April 1944.
Second mission as liaison agent to PIMENTO; did not get on well with PIMENTO, a socialist group; asked permission to join her brother Claude's SCIENTIST network in Normandy; worked as a courier for SCIENTIST; codenamed ‘Marguerite’.
Awarded Légion d’honneur, Croix de Guerre and made a Member of the British Empire; worked for five years at the BBC as a translator in the French section; married a French architect in 1950 whom she had known before the war; she died in 2004, aged 98.

Yvonne Baseden

Born 20 January 1922 in France; English father, engineer; French mother, a singer, had driven an ambulance in the First World War, worked for the French Red Cross, put in charge of a canteen on the Maginot Line in 1939–40; older brother, Rex.
Lived for eight years in France, before travelling with her parents to Belgium, Holland, Poland, Italy and Spain; left Spain at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War; returned to Arcachon in France; joined a women’s ice hockey team and enjoyed clay-pigeon shooting; studied in France and England; completed secretarial courses in English (Pitman) and French (Prevost-Delaunay).
Tried to join de Gaulle’s Free French Section but rejected because of English father; joined the WAAF as a Craft GD (Aircraft Woman General Duties); met F Section agent Pearl Witherington who recommended her; recruited for the SOE by Selwyn Jepson; trained as a wireless operator.
Parachuted into Auch for SCHOLAR circuit on 18 March 1944; codenamed ‘Odette’; based in Dôle, near Dijon; took part on 26 June in operation CADILLAC, the first daylight drop of supplies; betrayed and arrested on 26 June 1944; taken to Dijon prison; deported to Ravensbrück concentration camp near Berlin, given number 62,947; left on the last convoy run by Swedish Red Cross in April 1945, a fortnight before camp was liberated; spent nine months in King Edward VII’s Sanatorium in Midhurst recovering from TB.
Awarded an M.B.E. and Croix de Guerre with Palm; married Desmond Bailey; one son, Simon; lived in Rhodesia; remarried to a descendant of Fanny Burney, the first women correspondent in South Africa; has never returned to Ravensbrück; lives in London.

Derrick Duesbury (pseudonym)

Interviewed Derrick Duesbury, 27 August 1999, Oxfordshire.
Born 25 February 1913; educated at Cambridge University; was a pacifist; joined the Security Section.

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Claire Everett (pseudonym)

Born 14 May 1924 in Kent; parents separated for many years, finally divorced in 1939.
Lived in France with mother from age three; educated in France and a convent in Italy; returned to England after war broke out; joined WAAF.
Recruited by Selwyn Jepson; trained as a courier; parachuted in May 1944; after liberation worked for Americans, collecting intelligence by crossing the lines back and forth; on one occasion the car her organiser and her were travelling in was ambushed; was raped by two German soldiers.
Awarded M.B.E.; married fellow SOE agent; now widowed.

Francis Cammaerts

Born 1916 in England; English mother, a Shakespearean actress; Belgian father, teacher, journalist, and poet, wrote A Child of Divorce, a ‘peaceful anarchist’ who never shaved during his whole lifetime and made his own clothes; one brother.
Brought up in England; educated by father; met future SOE agent Harry Réé at Cambridge University; teacher; registered as a conscientious objector; resigned from teaching and became a farm labourer on a pacifist community in Lincolnshire where he met Nan; married; daughter born; RAF brother killed; retracted his objection to the war.
Recruited by Jepson; underwent training as an organiser; parachuted 1 March 1943 to establish JOCKEY; codenamed ‘Roger’; based in south-east France; second daughter born while in France; arrested in August 1944 – travelling with SOE colleagues Xan Fielding and Major Sorenson in a car driven by Claude Renoir, the son of the Impressionist painter, stopped at a German roadblock, pretended to be strangers hitching a lift but some of the bank notes which they were carrying were from the same series; courier Christine Granville blackmailed Gestapo chief to release them; liberated and returned to Britain.
Awarded D.S.O., Légion d’honneur and Medal of Freedom with Silver Palm; resumed job as a teacher; died in 2006.

Gaston Cohen

Born 10 October 1918; English father, educated in France; Jewish French mother; one brother, George, who was deported to Germany and did not survive incarceration, and one sister.
Brought up in the West End of London; attended a French Protestant School in London; joined Hampshire Yeomanry regiment of the British Army (artillery);
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staffed anti-aircraft batteries in Southampton during the Battle of Britain. Interviewed by Selwyn Jepson in 1942; trained as a wireless operator; parachuted into Versailles May 1943; code named ‘Justin’; based in Paris; worked for the PELICAN circuit, a sub-section of PROSPER. Crossed Pyrenees following penetration of PROSPER in September 1943; arrested by Spanish guards; imprisoned at Saragossa. Second mission to France; parachuted on 6 March 1944; based in Marseille with GARDINER circuit. Trained a French commando unit in England; joined Force 136; stationed in Poona; changed name by deed poll to Collins. Awarded Military Cross, Légion d’honneur and the Croix de Guerre; has never married; died in 2007.

Gervase Cowell

Born 4 August 1926 in Cheshire; educated by Jesuits at St Bede’s College, Manchester; volunteered in 1944 for the RAF; learnt Japanese and Russian; worked for GCHQ until 1948; studied Russian and French at St Catherine’s College, Cambridge. Joined MI6 (Secret Intelligence Service) in 1951, posted to Germany to work in the Control Commission until it disbanded in 1952; worked for MI6 in London, Amman, Moscow, Bonn, Paris and Tel Aviv; ran Soviet agent Oleg Penkovsky during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962; retired in 1981. In 1985, undertook research in MI6’s archive; in 1988, became the Foreign Office’s adviser on the wartime work of the SOE; retired from this post in 1996; became Chairman of the historical sub-committee of the Special Forces Club. Awarded an M.B.E.; designed two plaques commemorating the SOE agents, one at Westminster Abbey and one at Ravensbrück concentration camp; died in 2000.

M. R. D. Foot

Interviewed M. R. D. Foot, 1 April, 1999, Hertfordshire.
Born 1919 in London; educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford. Junior Intelligence Officer at Command Operations Headquarters in 1942; became Intelligence Officer in the SAS in 1944, serving for six months; awarded Croix de Guerre. Lecturer at St. Catherine’s College, Oxford; asked to write the official history of F Section in 1959; spent two years researching and writing; took four years to pass the sensors; SOE in France published in 1966; libelled by Odette Sansom and Peter Churchill; second edition appeared with omitted sections about Sansom and Churchill; Professor of Modern History at Manchester for six
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years; published many books including *Resistance* (London: Eyre Methuen, 1976), *Six Faces of Courage* (London: Eyre Methuen, 1978) and *SOE: An Outline History of the Special Operations Executive 1940–46* (London: BBC, 1984); lives in Hertfordshire.

**Sydney Hudson**

Interviewed Sydney Hudson, 8 June 2002, East Lothian.
Born 1 August 1910 in England; father half-German, half-British, consul in Switzerland; English mother.
Lived in Switzerland; privately educated; sold chemicals; married Joan; returned to England after outbreak of war; joined Royal Fusiliers, then Auxiliary Units; recruited by Lewis Gielgud; trained as organiser; daughter Jennifer born day before parachuted.
Parachuted into France on 24 September 1942 to lead HEADMASTER circuit; codenamed ‘Marc’; based in the Puy de Dôme; arrested on 8 October 1942 when people with whom he was staying were betrayed; was under Vichy control as arrested before southern France was occupied; sentenced to five years’ hard labour; escaped with fifty prisoners on 3 January 1944; crossed Pyrenees.
Returned April 1944; codenamed ‘Albin’; based in the Sarthe; joined by courier Sonya Butt with whom he had a relationship.
Served in Force 136 in Far East; processed prisoners of Japanese POW Camp; demobilised; divorced wife; worked in Germany with Controlled Commission; married Ruth Risse, a German Jew, in 1954.
Awarded two D.S.O.s and a *Croix de Guerre* with Palme; died in 2005.

**Roger Landes**

Born 16 December 1916 in Paris; British father (spoke little English as he lived in France), jeweller; Russian-born French mother; two brothers, Marcel and Claude.
Left school aged thirteen, started work with a building firm; went to evening classes to become a chartered surveyor; father bankrupted, left France for England in 1933 with wife and Claude; Roger remained in France until 1938; worked in rescue service in Islington during the Blitz; called up to the Royal Corps of Signals in March 1941; trained as a wireless operator.
Interviewed by Lewis Gielgud; parachuted into France as a wireless operator for the SCIENTIST network on 31 October 1942; codenamed ‘Stanislas’; based in Normandy; realised group penetrated by an informer, Grandclement; Grandclement was shot following a tribunal supervised by Landes; Landes shot Grandclement’s wife as none of his group would kill a woman; crossed Pyrenees; captured by Spanish guards and imprisoned in Miranda de Ebro.

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Lectured at Beaulieu; infiltrated a second time as an organiser for ACTOR network; based in Bordeaux; codenamed ‘Aristide’; his group undertook much sabotage around D-Day; met de Gaulle who ordered him out of France.

Joined Force 136; underwent jungle training in Sri Lanka; dropped into Malaya. Awarded the Military Cross with bar and Légion d’honneur; married Ginette Corbin, the daughter of a fellow resister on 29 July 1947; became a jeweller; was widowed and remarried; lives in Hampshire.

Bob Maloubier

Born 2 February 1923 in Paris; French parents; teachers in Brooklyn, New York.

Studied at lycée in Paris; after invasion, cycled down to Bordeaux ahead of German army, strafed by Stukas; enlisted with French Air Force in Neuilly; posted to Bizerta (Tunisia) at the time of Operation TORCH, the Allied landing; escaped shortly after the Germans landed in Bizerta; joined Special Detachments in Algiers; met F Section staff member Jacques de Guelis in Algiers; travelled to England; joined SOE; trained as a saboteur.

Dropped into Normandy in August 1943; codenamed ‘Paco’; operational in Rouen in SALESMAN circuit; caught by the local Feldgendarmerie on 20 December 1943, shot in lung and liver; returned to England on 6 February 1944; Violette Szabo joined network as courier; involved in the liberation of Limoges.

Enlisted with Force 136 in October 1944; based in Ceylon, then India. Awarded the D.S.O.; married twice; three children; lives in Paris.

Maisie McLintock

Interviewed Maisie McLintock (née Sim) 24 October 1999, Morayshire.
Born 30 November 1916 in Edinburgh; worked for the Civil Service; because of the marriage bar, left the Civil Service when she married in February 1941; brought back due to labour shortage; worked in Ministry of Labour, responsible for recruiting female labour in Scotland; received file about FANY and joined.

Undertook FANY training with Eileen Nearne; also saw Yvonne Baseden on courses; became a coder.

Bob Sheppard

Born 1 March 1922 in Paris; British father, fought in the First World War, worked in a plywood factory in Nantes; French mother, worked for the Metro; both arrested by the Germans and sent to a prison in Vittel – were exchanged with German civilian prisoners who were imprisoned in England in 1944.
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Studied at the lyéee up to the baccalaureate in Nantes; helped British servicemen to escape from France; decided to get to England and join the British Army; crossed the Pyrenees, was arrested by Spanish guards and imprisoned at Arida, Saragossa and Miranda de Ebro; released after a couple of months, moved to Gibraltar, boarded a ship to Liverpool.

Was recruited by Lewis Gielgud; underwent the training and allotted role of saboteur; parachuted on 1 June 1942 and arrested immediately upon landing – he landed on the roof of the gendarmerie; escaped within days with the assistance of friendly gendarmes; codenamed 'Patrice'; based in Lyon; began work as a saboteur.

Was recalled to London with fellow SOE agent Edward Zeff; arrested while crossing the Pyrenees on 1 March 1943, betrayed by their guide; tortured (beaten up and toenails extracted) and deported to Germany; imprisoned in Neubremme near Saarbrucken, Mauthausen, Natzweiler and Dachau; liberated on 29 April 1945.

Following his recuperation, sent to Germany as a Denazification Officer; demobilised with the rank of Major in February 1947; awarded Légion d'honneur and a Mention in Despatches; elected International President for Mauthausen concentration camp; married pre-war fiancé Lisette, in September 1945; five children; died in 2002.

Eric Sheppard

Interviewed Eric Sheppard, 22 September 1999, Cheshire.

Born 28 June 1920 in Cheshire; three brothers and one sister; left school aged fourteen to work in parents’ knitwear business; joined Fairey Aviation and worked alongside Arthur Lowe (Captain Mainwaring in Dad’s Army).

Joined the Territorial Army in the Royal Corps of Signals attached to the Fifth Kings Own Regiment; brought out of Dunkirk on 3 June 1940 on H.M.S. Windsor; caught meningitis which affected his hearing and prevented him serving overseas; called to interview to become an SOE instructor in communications.

Demobilised; returned to Fairey Aviation; worked at the British Embassy but resigned before being posted to Iran; returned to family business; worked at Kelloggs until retirement. Married twice; died in 2003.

May Shrewsbury

Interviewed May Shrubb, 23 July 1999, Buckinghamshire.

Born 11 December 1919 in London; six brothers and four sisters; left school aged fourteen to become a dressmaker; trained and qualified as a dressmaker; worked for Berketex.

Joined ATS in 1943; six weeks’ training in Pontefract; posted to the Thatched
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Barn where she worked as a dressmaker; married and very quickly widowed; demobilised August 1945; remarried.

Dorothy Temple

Interviewed Dorothy Wakely, 20 June 2002, Somerset.
Born 4 July 1915 in Essex; brought up in India; worked as a journalist in Fleet Street, 1941–2.
Joined the FANYs in 1943; seconded to SOE as a Signals Planner; posted to Algiers and then Bari in Italy; joined the British Embassy in Paris after VE Day.

Nancy Wake

Born 30 August 1912 in Wellington, New Zealand; English father, a journalist; half-Maori, half-French mother; lived in New Zealand and Australia; parents separated; five older siblings (three sisters and two brothers).
Came to London and Paris in 1930s; worked as a journalist; saw Hitler when in Berlin on assignment; married Henri Fiocca; after outbreak of war worked on Garrow escape line (later PAT line) helping downed airmen return to Britain; called ‘The White Mouse’; crossed Pyrenees when too dangerous; husband killed by Germans.
Recruited by Selwyn Jepson; trained as a courier; parachuted 29 April 1944; codenamed ‘Helene’; based in the Auvergne; lived on hillside with thousands of maquisards; undertook sabotage actions.
Awarded George Medal; worked at British Passport Control Office; ran for seat against Deputy Prime Minister Dr Clive Evatt, narrowly losing; worked at Air Ministry in Whitehall; married John Forward in 1957; widowed in 1997; living in London at the Royal Star and Garter Home for ex-Servicemen and -women.

Cyril Watney

Interviewed Cyril Watney, 11 August 2000, Essex.
Born 29 September 1922 in Calais; British father, born in France, educated in England; English mother.
Lived in France; returned to England in 1940; learned radio and Morse at Oxford University; joined British Army.
Interviewed by Selwyn Jepson; trained as a wireless operator; went to shooting galleries with Violette Szabo during his training; parachuted on 7 January 1944; based in the Lot at Saint-Céré; codenamed ‘Eustache’; worked for FOOTMAN circuit; undertook much sabotage around D-Day.
Awarded Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre; became head of Canadian Intel-
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ligence 1949–1951; lives in Essex.

Pru Willoughby

Born 22 April 1918 in Hertfordshire; four sisters; educated at St Hilda's, Oxford.
Worked for MI5 until August 1942; transferred to SOE’s Security Section at Baker Street working in counter-espionage; went to Italy in February 1944.