

OPERATION SUSSEX

THEY HAD AN IDEAL

A film by ALLIANCE PRODUCTIONS in association with FILM 101 PRODUCTIONS

Producer/Director BONNIE FRIEDMAN Co-producer MICHAEL RIPPS Cinematographer FLORIAN BOUCHET Editor AMANDA ESTRAMERA
Music/Sound design by ELIZABETH LYSINGER Additional music by JULIAN HARRIS.

OPERATION SUSSEX

Running time: 53 minutes



Louis GUYOMARD

Operation Sussex is a documentary film which tells the story of a tripartite intelligence operation involving the Americans, the British and young French resistants leading up to and following D-Day. It is told in first person narrative by survivors of the mission.

One by one, we are introduced to the characters by hearing of their shock at the defeat and occupation of France. They describe the national French character and conditions in France at the moment of defeat. We then hear how and why they volunteered for Sussex.



Henri TOSI



Georges SOULIER

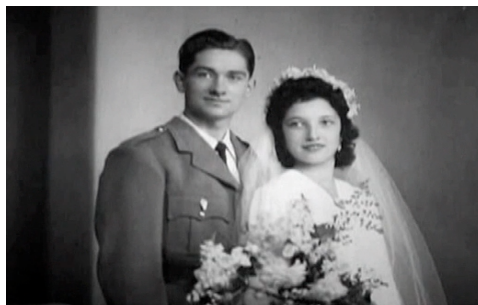
Our characters - Louis Guyomard, Henri Tosi, Georges Soulier, Jean Yves Quentel, Guy Wingate, André and Jacqueline Guillebaud, and Mario Faivre - gradually lead us on a journey through the operation by revisiting the actual locations where the events took place some seventy years ago. By traveling to different locations with each narrator we weave together the fabric of Sussex. Through their interwoven stories we go from their initial intensive testing for qualification, through their training in England, their parachute jumps into occupied France, their missions including the triumphs and tragedies, their lives after the war and we end with their reflections on lessons learned.



Jean Yves QUENTEL



Guy WINGATE



André and Jacqueline GUILLEBAUD



Mario FAIVRE

CREW

Bonnie Friedman Producer/Director/Writer

Based in Louisiana, Bonnie spent several years working in the production offices of major feature films including "The Pelican Brief", "The Client", "Interview With The Vampire" and "Dead Man Walking" among others. She then established Alliance Productions, Inc and turned her attention to her true passion of documentary films.

Florian Bouchet Director of Photography

Based in Paris, Florian has been involved in cinematography for over 23 years. Too numerous to list, his filmography can be seen at <http://florianbouchet.free.fr>. He sums up his career to date with the statement *"I want to get involved in movies in which I participate, I want my pictures tell the film that the director wants and of course I have to believe in the film I do."*



Amanda Estremera Editor

Based in Los Angeles, Amanda has been editing film and video for over 8 years. She has done work for Paramount Studios, Lifetime, VH1, NBC Universal as well as free lance projects for herself and others. Her credits include documentaries and TV series : "Who Is Bernard Tapie?", "Femme", "The Invocation", Dr. Phil, The Fifth Wheel and Blind Date.

Liz Lysinger Composer/Sound Designer/Music Editor/Mix Engineer/Pianist/Narrator

Based in NYC, Liz's credits include: "Pokemon," "Yu-Gi-Oh!", "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," "Blue Man Group," "UniverSoul Circus," "As The World Turns," "Hole In The Sky: The Scars of 9/11," "Surviving Me," The Rose Center at the American Museum of Natural History and many more. Her work has also appeared in the theatrical trailers for the movies, "The Forgotten," "The Libertine," and "Awake." She also wrote intro music for the band Big D and The Kids Table for the 2011 and 2013 Vans Warped Tours.



Bonnie Friedman
Director

The question I am most often asked is “Why me? Why this subject, this film?” I discovered the French Resistance at an early age while playing with a young neighbor. The childhood game led to a lifelong fascination with the subject of the Resistance. I was determined to introduce the subject to a wider American audience, but I first had to find a story that would explain this vast subject in a more intimate way. My initial research with the National Archives led me to Geoffrey Jones, President of the Alumni of the OSS at the time and eventually to Operation Sussex. It fit perfectly with my goals for this documentary. Doing this film has enriched me immensely. It has also given me a responsibility to share this story with as wide an audience as possible. Fate carried me to all the right people at all the right times. I remain absolutely determined to complete this journey.

REVIEWS

Pat Mire – award winning documentary and feature filmmaker, founder and artistic director of Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival

“Operation Sussex” is an important film about a little known WWII, top secret, underground network of spies and resistance fighters that Bonnie Friedman brings to life with stunning clarity and emotion.”

Robert O. Paxton - Officer, Legion d'Honneur, author of “Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order”

“I have viewed your DVD twice, and I have a good impression of it. You have some quite extraordinary footage, at times quite moving...”

Tom Rolf – Academy Award Winning Editor

“Your film captures a difficult time in WWII for France... It is nice to see some history that focuses on the righteous and patriotic Frenchman.”

OF NOTE

- Private screenings have been held in Santa Monica, CA, Lafayette, LA, London, UK, Hochfelden, France and Paris, France
- Featured in French newspaper, DNA Dernières Nouvelles D'Alsace, October 3, 2012 in an article titled “Une aventure extraordinaire”
- One of 28 films chosen for the 2012 Cinema on the Bayou film festival.

CONTACT

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