



JEANNETTE

Jeanne Louise Raymonde « Jeannette » Guyot was born on the 26 February 1919 in Chalon-sur-Saône.

Both Jeannette's parents were active in the Resistance during the war:

- Her father, Jean Marie Guyot, was a timber merchant who became a First Lieutenant Forces Françaises Combattantes (FFC) but was arrested on 5 February 1943, imprisoned in Chalon-sur-Saône, deported on 17 January 1944 to Buchenwald and died in Cham, Bavaria.
- Her mother, Jeanne, was a seamstress who also became a First Lieutenant in the FFC. She was arrested ten days after her husband, imprisoned in Chalon-sur-Saône, deported on 31 January to Ravensbrück but survived and was repatriated on 11 April 1945.

With the demarcation line between the Occupied and the Unoccupied or Free Zone less than 100 km to the north, from the end of 1940 until August 1941, Jeannette worked with Félix Svagrowsky alias César of the AMARANTE network. She used her border pass to accompany people to meet boatmen who took them across the River Saône.

#### **Confrérie Notre-Dame - CND Network (From 01/01/1942 till 15/05/1943)**

Whilst engaged on this clandestine work, she met Gilbert Renault alias Colonel Rémy alias Colonel Roulier alias Jean-Luc and from August 1941 Jeannette became his liaison officer. CND supplied the BCRA with military, economic and social intelligence about the Germans' activities in France and the Vichy government.

She continued to accompany people and carry documents from Paris to Chalon-sur-Saône until she was arrested in February 1942 on one of her journeys. Imprisoned for three months in prison in Chalon-sur-Saône and Autun, about 50 km northwest, when she was released, despite the Germans withdrawing her border pass, she continued to take about a dozen people across the demarcation line each month.

However, following betrayal by Pierre Cartaud alias Capri in June 1942, many members of the CND were arrested, forcing Jeannette to move from Paris to Lyon. There she met Jacques Robert alias Jacques Rewez alias Denis and joined the PHRARIE network. As further arrests were made and she was on the Gestapo's wanted list, her exfiltration to England was arranged.

On the night of 13 May 1943, F/Lt McCairns of 161 Squadron, landed his Lysander in a field, code-named 'Planète', near Les Fontaines, about two km south of Luzillé (Indre & Loire). SIS agent Baird got out and Jeannette got in with François Chatelin aka Lamour aka Palanque and Jean-Louis Chancel aka Chavagnac.

The following day, like all refugees arriving in Britain, she was interrogated by British Intelligence to ensure she was not a German agent and then by Captain François Thierry-Mieg alias Jacques Vaudreuil, head of the BCRA's counter-intelligence unit, who wanted to question her about her work in the Resistance.

Having proved her bona-fides, Jeannette was enlisted in the Free French Forces under the name of Jeannette Janin aka Jeannette Gauthier (Commitment n°0649) and worked with 'Colonel Rémy' who had been brought to England by trawler from Finistère on 6 January 1943.

She then worked in London for Colonel Rémy until January, 1944. During this period, Jeannette did not stop harassing Colonel Rémy so that he sent her back to France.

She makes in January, 1944, the compulsory parachuting training course in Ringway and got her wing badge n°5040.

### **Sussex Plan (From 08/02/1944 till 30/09/1944)**

Jeannette joined the Sussex Plan on the 08 February 1944.

#### **The Sussex Pathfinder mission:**

This enormous mission is major and will condition the success of this plan.

After two false starts, on night of the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 1944, Jeannette is parachuted by a RAF 161 Squadron Halifax flown out of Tempsford by 161 Squadron pilot Flight Lieutenant Parker (Calanque Operation), at about 11:45 pm in the neighbourhood of Clion, 27 km South East of Loches (Indre & Loire), with major Marcel Saubestre alias Marcel (Head of Pathfinder mission), captain Georges Lassalle alias Charles Lescour and WT Pierre Binet alias Lucien.

Their mission, as Pathfinders, consisted in preparing with the support of the French Resistance the arrival of 52 Sussex teams which were parachuted from April till September 1944:

- To prepare the safe-houses where will be accommodated the agents upon their arrivals.
- To locate dropping grounds where will be parachuted the agents and their equipment.

## Jeannette Guyot's Biography (26/02/1919 - 10/04/2016)

- To receive and dispatch towards their activity zones the agents Sussex.

As the principal liaison agent of the mission, she travelled widely over the northern France and contacted a large number of agents. Lieutenant Guyot travelled by various methods of conveyance with luggage, which, if it had been opened by the Gestapo, would have resulted in her torture and death. Because of her great courage and initiative, she undertook the most dangerous assignments, such as reporting on Gestapo activities and verifying reports of the arrest or execution of any of the "Sussex" agents. Lieutenant Guyot's work and conduct were beyond all praise and exemplify the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the Allied Nations. (General Orders: Headquarters, European Theatre of Operations, U.S. Army, General Orders No. 85 (May 8, 1945).

Gilbert Renaud, code-named Colonel Rémy, wrote prolifically about the resistance and referred to Jeannette in his book "Mémoires d'un agent secret de la France libre, Raoul Solar 1946-50".

Then, from 1 October 1944 until 30 June 1945, Jeannette was allocated to the Direction of the Studies and Researches (DGER).

She married Marcel Gaucher a former Sussex agent on 29/03/1947.

She retired to Sevrey (Saône et Loire) where she died on April 10, 2016. Only the British press (the Times, the Telegraph which devoted a full page to her) spoke of her death in due course. Some French media (Le Monde, Le Point) have taken over the information from across the Channel.



Her ashes were deposited in the family vault.

## Jeannette Guyot's Biography (26/02/1919 - 10/04/2016)

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On May 5, 2018, the town of Sevrey and the French Army paid an official tribute to Jeannette Guyot, a discreet lieutenant of the French Fighting Forces.



Jeannette is:

- Chevalier of the Legion of Honour (Decree of 30/10/1947 - JO Gazette of 25/11/1947)
- Holder of the Croix de guerre with Palm (Decision n°1204 of 31/05/1946)
- Holder of the Medal of the Resistance (Decree of 06/04/1944)
- Holder of the Distinguished Service Cross (USA)\*
- Holder of George Medal (GB)
- Act of Free French Forces commitment N°0649 (14/05/1943)
- Holder FFC Certificate n°44.145 (06/03/1958)



\*Jeannette Guyot was one of only TWO women awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in World War II or since, the second highest American decoration after the medal of the Congress. Virginia Hall, the other woman, was a U.S. Civilian working for the O.S.S.

References :

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- NARA War Diary - SI Branch - OSS London - Roll4 - Vol 3 - SUSSEX