

Dear Ken,

Here's a list of books about the SOE that might interest you. These lists are not exhaustive, but contain the most prominent books. In particular, additional biographies and personal narratives are available could be added to these lists.

I've compiled these lists from a variety of sources, including annotated bibliographies. The comments about some books are taken from these annotations (usually published reviews), and are not my own. When I make a comment, it is preceded by "KEN:"

Although mostly out of print, I should be able to buy used copies of anything. Virtually all are also available at the New York Public Library, so I can photocopy the tables of contents or pages on certain topics, if you prefer.

Books in English about the SOE in France. All are available for purchase or photocopying.

Ruby, Marcel.

F section, SOE : the Buckmaster networks / Marcel Ruby.

London : Leo Cooper, 1988.

227 pages

Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, French.

Lorain, Pierre.

✓ Clandestine operations : the arms and techniques of the Resistance, 1941-1944 / text and

drawings by Pierre Lorain ; English adaptation by David Kahn.

New York : Macmillan, c1983.

185 p. : ill., maps ; 21 x 24 cm.

Translation of: Armement clandestin, S.O.E., 1941-1944, France.

Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- Europe.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Equipment and supplies.

Nicolson, David, 1940-

Aristide : the story of Roger Landes / David Nicolson.

London : Leo Cooper, 1994.

214 pages.

Topics

World War 2 Intelligence operations

Subject

Landes, Roger, 1916-

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France.
Aristide was the codename for Roger Landes, called by Surveillant 3.2/3 "one of SOE's most famous agents and one of the few who lived" to tell his story. According to an advertisement, the book "traces Resistance actions, the struggle against betrayal of members, and the new war after the Normandy invasion. Includes stories of the subsequent lives of survivors as well as documents from British SOE archives."

Rémy, 1904-

Avec les ch'timis : en souvenir du réseau Sylvestre-Farmer, ex-W.O. / Rémy.

Paris : France-Empire, [1974]

316 pages., [1] leaf of plates : ill. ; 19 cm.

Subject

Trotobas, Michael, 1914-1943.

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France.

France -- History -- German occupation, 1940-1945.

Fuller, Jean Overton.

Double webs; light on the secret agents' war in France. Jean Overton Fuller.

London, Putnam 1958.

256 pages. 21 cm.

Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France.

Fuller, Jean Overton.

The German penetration of SOE : France 1941-1944 / [by] Jean Overton Fuller.

✓ London : Kimber, 1975.

192 pages. : 1 ill. ; 24 cm.

Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Germany.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements - France

Constantinides: This work argues that warnings received in London about the arrests of SOE agents by the Germans (and the continuation of operations under German control) were incorrectly interpreted because of incompetence rather than perfidy.

○ King, Stella.

'Jacqueline' : pioneer heroine of the Resistance / Stella King.

London : Arms and Armour, 1989.

424 pages., [32] p. of plates : ill., maps, ports., facsim. ; 25 cm.

Subject

Rudellat, Yvonne, 1897-1945.

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, British.

Surveillant 1.1: Yvonne Rudellat was the "first female field agent trained by ... [SOE] during WWII." She set up a resistance unit and sabotaged rail lines and trains. Rudellat was wounded and captured, sent to Ravensbruck and on to Bergen-Belsen where she died. The book "reads like a fast-paced spy novel."

Buckmaster, Maurice J.

They fought alone; the story of British agents in France.

London, Odhams Press [1958]

255 pages. illus. 23 cm.

Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France.

Constantinides says this is an "improvement over the author's first book on SOE F Section's operations.... Foot's comment in SOE in France is that there is no claim that this new book is completely accurate."

Chambers calls the book "typical of post-WWII books. No scruples or quibbles and the author is at the heart of things."

Buckmaster, Maurice J.

Specially Employed: The Story of British Aid to French Patriots of the Resistance.

London: Batchworth Press, 1952.

According to Constantinides, Buckmaster was head of SOE's F Section during World War II and, therefore, "was in a position to provide much more information than he did." Foot's SOE in France deals "more comprehensively with the subject than this volume."

Le Chêne, Evelyn, 1936-

Watch for me by moonlight: a British agent with the French Resistance.

London, Eyre Methuen, 1973.

224 pages, [12] p. illus., facsim., maps, ports. 23 cm.

Subject

Burdett, Robert.

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France.

Millar, George Reid.

Road to resistance : an autobiography / George Millar.

London : Bodley Head, 1979.

411 p., [8] leaves of plates : ill., ports. ; 23 cm.

Subject

Millar, George Reid.

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive -- Biography.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France --

Biography.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, British.
Guerrillas -- France - Biography

Hutchison, James, R.H., Sir.

That drug danger / [by] Sir James Hutchison.

Montrose : Standard Press, 1977.

191 pages. : ill., facsim., maps, ports. ; 26 cm.

Subject

Hutchison, James, R.H., Sir.

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive -- Biography.

World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives, Scottish.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.

Soldiers -- Great Britain -- Biography.

Hamilton, Alexander, 1923-

Wings of night : the secret missions of Group Captain Charles Pickard / [by]

Alexander

Hamilton.

London : Kimber, 1977.

206 pages., [16] p. of plates : ill., map, ports. ; 24 cm.

Subject

Pickard, Charles, 1915-1944.

Great Britain. Royal Air Force 311 (Czechoslovak) Squadron --

Biography.

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive -- Biography.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Aerial operations, British.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France.

Air pilots, Military -- Great Britain -- Biography.

Poirier, Jacques R. E.

Girafe a un long cou. English

The giraffe has a long neck-- / by Jacques Poirier ; with a foreword by Jean Lescure ;
translated by John Brownjohn.

192 pages., [8] p. of plates : ill., facsim., ports. ; 22 cm.

Note

Includes index.

Translated from the French.

Subject

Poirier, Jacques R. E.

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive. F Section.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, French.

France -- History -- German occupation, 1940-1945.

From advertisement: The author was an SOE officer. Here, he "describes the everyday life of the Resistance with its tragedies and also moments of comedy."

- McCall, Gibb.
Flight most secret : air missions for SOE and SIS / Gibb McCall.
London : W. Kimber, 1981.
256 pages., [12] p. of plates : ill. ; 25 cm.
Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive -- History.
Great Britain. Secret Intelligence Service -- History.
Great Britain. Royal Air Force. Squadron, 161. -- History.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Aerial operations, British.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France.
France -- History -- German occupation, 1940-1945.

- ✓ Funk, Arthur Layton, 1914-
✓ Hidden ally : the French resistance, special operations, and the landings in southern France, 1944 / Arthur Layton Funk.

New York : Greenwood Press, 1992.
338 pages. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Subject

United States. Army. Army, 7th -- History.
Great Britain. Special Operations Executive -- History.
Operation Dragoon, 1944.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France, Southern.

According to Surveillant 3.1, this is a "detailed and complete account of the role of the Allied intelligence services working with the French Resistance at the time of the southern France landings in the summer of 1944."

There are "[f]ine maps and pictures.... If the book has a flaw it is too detailed, yet where else could one find in one place such complete coverage."

La Clair, FILS 12.2 calls Hidden Ally an "accurate summary of the political and intelligence service rivalries ...during that fateful summer." The author's "very careful research ... is impressive." This is a "fine book."

- Other OSS teams / introduction by Bradley F. Smith.
New York : Garland, 1989.
1 v. (various pagings) : ill. ; 31 cm.

Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive -- History -- Sources.
United States. Office of Strategic Services -- History -- Sources.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- France -- Sources.
Sabotage -- France -- History -- 20th century -- Sources.

KEN: this is a bibliography. It is something I would consult if you had questions about specific operations/locations/people. I doubt you would want to own it.

Vader, John.
The Prosper double-cross / John Vader.
Mullumbimby [Australia] : Sunrise Press, 1977.
207 pages. ; 23 cm.

Subjects:

Guerne, Arnel.
Suttill, Francis.
Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
World War, 1939-1945--Underground movements--France--Biography.
Guerrillas--France--Biography.
France--History--German occupation, 1940-1945.

- o Escott, Squadron Leader Beryl E.
Mission Improbable: A Salute to the RAF women of SOE in wartime France
Patrick Stephens Ltd. 1991
256 pages. Many B&W photo ills

- o Jones, Liane
Quiet Courage : The Story of Soe's Women Agents in France
1990
According to Surveillant 1.3, this book presents the "[t]rue stories of six British women agents who were dropped into occupied France during the Second World War." Van Seters, I&NS 7.4/411, says that "Jones' work is by far the most thoughtful commentary to date on any field of women's secret service work."

- o Kramer, Rita
Flames in the field : the story of four SOE agents in occupied France
London, Penguin Books, 1995
According to Funk, WIR 14.4, the four women mentioned in the title were "among the thirteen female [SOE] agents who served in France but did not return.... Kramer explains who the women were, how they were trained, what their mission was, and how they were captured and executed.... Rita Kramer demonstrates exemplary competence in research." In addressing the controversy as to whether these and other agents had been sacrificed as part of Allied deception operations, Kramer "sets forth the evidence, reviews the literature, and brings her readers up-to-date on a controversy that will not be readily resolved." But she "is too conscientious a historian to reach conclusions on conjecture."

Moore, I&NS 11.1, says the book "contains little in the way of analysis which is truly original," and, therefore, "is essentially a book for the general reader." Nevertheless, "the story of these four women has been well-told."

Gleeson, James. They Feared No Evil. London: Hale, 1976.

Clark comment: Includes profiles of the women who served with SOE in France in World War II.

Deborah Van Seters, I&NS 7.4/410, finds Gleeson's language in discussing these

women agents to be "hackneyed" and revealing of a "patronizing attitude."

0 Butler, Josephine

Churchill's Secret Agent: Josephine Butler (Code Name "Jay Bee"). Toronto: Methuen, 1983.

The author was "a member of Churchill's secret circle with more than 50 behind-the-lines infiltrations in France; she was captured, tortured and escaped to work with a group of Resistance fighters." KEN: I don't think this one covers the SOE.

Carré, Mathilde

J'ai été la chatte. Paris: 1959.

Clark comment: Carré was a triple agent in World War II, working successively for the French underground, the German Abwehr, and SOE. She is best known in popular literature by one of her underground codenames, "Cat," thus the name of her memoirs.

See also Young, *The Cat With Two Faces* (New York: Coward-McCann, 1957); and Paine, *Mathilde Carré, Double Agent* (London: Hale, 1976).

Rochester, Devereaux.

Full Moon to France.

New York: Harper & Row, 1977.

According to Knouse, this work is "[s]hort on technical details but [offers] a good insight to the life of a Resistance fighter in France during the course of the war.

Devereaux worked with the RAF SOE units and the Maqui."

Books in English about the SOE, which may have sections about their operations in France. All are available for purchase or photocopying.

Butler, Ewan.
Amateur agent.
London, George G. Harrap & Co. [1963]
240 pages.
Subject
Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.

o Sweet-Escott, Bickham.
Baker Street irregular.
London, Methuen [1965]
278 pages. maps. 23 cm.
Subject
Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.

o Cunningham, Cyril.
Beaulieu : the finishing school for secret agents 1941-1945 / by Cyril Cunningham.
London : Leo Cooper, 1998.
162 pages. : ill. ; 25 cm.
Subject
Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
Spies -- Training of -- Great Britain -- History -- 20th century.
Intelligence officers -- Training of -- Great Britain -- History -- 20th century.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.
Beaulieu (England) -- History.

Nicholas, Elizabeth.
Death be not proud.
London, Cresset Press, 1958.
294 pages. illus. 23 cm.
Subject
Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.

Wilkinson, Peter.
Gubbins and SOE / by Peter Wilkinson and Joan Bright Astley.

London : Leo Cooper, 1993.
254 pages. : ill., maps ; 24 cm.
Subject

Gubbins, Colin, Sir, 1896-1976.
Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements.

Cookridge, E. H.
Inside SOE : the story of special operations in Western Europe 1940-45 / E.H.
Cookridge.
London : Arthur Barker, c1966.
640 pages., 14 p. of plates : ill., maps, ports. ; 22 cm.
Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements.
Spies.

Tickell, Jerrard.
Moon squadron.
London, A. Wingate, [1956]
204 pages
Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Aerial operations, British.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements.

Fraser-Smith, Charles, 1904-
The secret war of Charles Fraser-Smith / with Gerald McKnight and Sandy Lesberg.
London : M. Joseph, 1981.
159 pages., [12] p. of plates : ill. ; 23 cm.
Subject

Fraser-Smith, Charles, 1904-
Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, British.
Great Britain -- History -- George VI, 1936-1952.

West, Nigel.
Secret war : the story of SOE, Britain's wartime sabotage organisation / Nigel West.
London : Hodder & Stoughton, 1992.
305 pages. : ill., maps ; 24 cm.
Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.

Hamilton-Hill, Donald.

SOE assignment.

London, Kimber, 1973.

186 pages, [8] p. illus., ports. 24 cm.

Subject

Hamilton-Hill, Donald.

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, British.

✓ Beevor, J. G. (John Grosvenor)

SOE : recollections and reflections, 1940-1945 / J.G. Beevor.

London : Bodley Head, 1981.

269 pages. ; 22 cm.

Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.

Howarth, Patrick.

Special operations, by Peter Fleming [and others]

London, Routledge and K. Paul [1955]

239 pages. illus. 22 cm.

Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements.

Kemp, Peter, 1915-

The thorns of memory : memoirs / by Peter Kemp.

London : Sinclair-Stevenson, 1990.

376 pages. : ill., maps ; 24 cm.

Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.

Wilkinson, Peter, 1914-

Foreign fields : the story of an SOE operative / Peter Wilkinson.

London ; New York : I.B. Tauris ; New York, NY : In the United States and Canada distributed

by St. Martin's Press, 1997.

253 pages. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Subject

Wilkinson, Peter, 1914-
Great Britain. Special Operations Executive -- Biography.

Smiley, David, 1916-
Irregular regular / David Smiley.
Norwich : Michael Russell, 1994.
218 pages. : maps, port. ; 25 cm.
Subject

Smiley, David, 1916-
Great Britain. Special Operations Executive -- Biography.
Great Britain -- Armed Forces -- Biography.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, British.

Howarth, Patrick.
Undercover, the men and women of the Special Operations Executive / Patrick
Howarth.
London ; Boston : Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1980.
Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive -- Biography.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.

Stafford, David.
Britain and European resistance, 1940-1945 : a survey of the Special Operations
Executive, with documents / David Stafford.
Toronto : University of Toronto Press, 1980.
295 pages. ; 22 cm.
Subject

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive -- History.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Secret service -- Great Britain.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements -- Europe.

Marks, Leo.
Between silk and cyanide : the story of SOE's code war / Leo Marks.
London : Harper Collins, 1998.
613 pages., [8] pages of plates : ill., ports. ; 25 cm.
Subject

Marks, Leo.
Great Britain. Special Operations Executive -- History -- 20th century.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Cryptography.

Dear, Ian.
Sabotage & subversion : stories from the files of the SOE and OSS / Ian Dear.
London : Arms and Armour ; New York, NY : Sterling [distributor], c1996.
224 pages

Subjects:

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
United States. Office of Strategic Services.
World War, 1939-1945--Secret service.
Subversive activities--United States--History--20th century.
Subversive activities--Great Britain--History--20th century.
World War, 1939-1945--Commando operations.

Ladd, James D.

Clandestine warfare : weapons and equipment of the SOE and OSS / James D. Ladd,
London ; New York : Blandford Press ; New York, NY : Distributed in the USA by
Sterling Pub. Co., 1988.

159 pages. : ill. ; 26 cm..

Subjects:

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
United States. Office of Strategic Services.
World War, 1939-1945--Commando operations.
World War, 1939-1945--Equipment and supplies.
Weapons.

Marshall, Robert

All the king's men : the truth behind SOE's greatest wartime disaster / Robert
Marshall.

London : Collins, 1988.

314 pages., [8] p. of plates : ports. ; 22 cm..

Subjects:

Great Britain. Special Operations Executive.
World War, 1939-1945--Secret service--Great Britain.

KEN: This book is about to be published:

0 W.J.M. McKenzie, M.R.D. Foot (Editor)
History of SOE, Volume one
Hardcover - 400 pages (2000)
Frank Cass Publishers

0 Soe Secret Operations Manual
Paperback - 272 pages (November 1993)
Paladin Pr; ISBN: 0873647440

Book description written by the publisher:

Never before released to the public, this is the original manual used to
train special agents dropped behind enemy lines in Nazi-occupied Europe. Used by the
British SOE and its American counterpart, the OSS, it is an authentic reproduction of
extraordinary historical significance obtained from a former clandestine services
operative. The forerunner of all government guides to dirty tricks

SOE Operations - Western Europe Series

Publisher: Public Record Office

Date: New editions 1999

A NEW EDITION OF ALL SOE GUIDES

Includes: A summary of highlights in Austria, Belgium, Channel Islands, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Spain and Switzerland. A summary of operations of Jedburgh teams in France; some visual material and how to find lists of agents

Also includes suggestions for further reading.

Foot, M.R.D.,

SOE, An Outline History of the Special Operations Executive 1940-46,
London, British Broadcasting Corporation, 1984

KEN: In addition, books are available about SOE operations in other countries (Netherlands, Greece, Italy, Norway, Singapore, Malaya, and others).

New York Public Library also has:

1. a complete set of "OSS/London : Special Operations Branch and Secret Intelligence Branch war diaries" on microfilm. These are, I gather, the official and secret diaries of the SOE.

2. The Special Operations Executive / compiled and edited by Kate Johnson, Sound Archive. These are oral histories and personal narratives on audiotape, published by the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum, c1998. (London)

The Public Record Office, of The National Archive has various primary source materials (in the UK).

If you want more on F.A.N.Y than their uniforms, used copies of these books are available:

Ward., Dame Irene

F.A.N.Y. Invicta.

Published 1955. 348pp. Some honours & awards for WW1 and WW2, index. A detailed history of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry from 1907

Popham, Hugh

F.A.N.Y.

1984. Leo Cooper, 146pp, ills, plates. The story of the Women's Transport Service (First Aid Nursing Yeomanry) 1907- 1984