

2nd Lt Edmond Louis Fernand Lesout O-2045077 US Army OSS Purple Heart
AKA - Edmund Lacroix
Field Name - Tristan; Lender

Louis was born on 13 February 1907 in Le Havre, Haute-Normandie, France, the eldest son of Edmond Victor Henri Louis Lesout and Blanche Eugenie Lesout, nee Villard. In 1930 he married Marie Dedieu in New York, USA

Raised and educated in France, Edmond was employed as a waiter and steward with the CGT shipping line working the trans-Atlantic route. In 1929 Edmond settled in New York where he worked in restaurants and operated his own cafe.

In March 1941 Edmond became a naturalised citizen, and in December 1942 he was drafted into the US Army. In May 1943 Edmond was transferred to the Special Ops Branch of the OSS, transferring to the UK in November 1943.



After completing training, Edmond was appointed to the 3 man "Liontamer" Group, a new circuit to be established in the Valenciennes area in preparation for D-Day, and to support the "Archdeacon" circuit which had radioed arrangements for the drop and reception, and the "Musician" circuit which was to provide the reception party.

At 20:51 on 2 March 1944 Edmond and his team departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in 138 Sqn Halifax V LL251 NF-N. Successfully dropped at a site near Saint-Quentin, the Gestapo were waiting. The operation and reception on the drop zone had been arranged by the Germans as part of their "*Funkspiel*", using the captured radio set and codes of the "Archdeacon" and "Musician circuit.

The Agents were arrested immediately on landing and taken to Gestapo HQ at 84 Avenue Foch, Paris for interrogation. After interrogation, Edmond was imprisoned at Fresnes Prison, Val-de-Marne, Paris until he was transferred to Rawitsch Prison, Poland, in June 1944.

In the period 24 June to 4 September 1944, after orders were received from Berlin for the execution of the SOE agents at Rawitsch, they were taken by SS-Obersturmbannführer Dr. Wilhelm Scharpwinkel, head of the Breslau Gestapo, from the prison to the KZ Gross-Rosen concentration camp, 100 km SW in German Silesia. Edmond was executed and his body cremated.

Also killed : Lt David Haughton Finlayson (SOE); 2nd Lt Maurice Albert Lepage (US Army)

Edmond has no known grave and is commemorated on the Tablets of the Missing, Ardennes American Cemetery, Belgium

Edmond is commemorated on Wall Panel (NYE)

Photo Source: Findagrave