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Les Chapieux, 4 August 1947

VIII MILITARY AREA
108th 1/2 BRIGADE
99th B. I. A.
S.E.S.

Lt. MOLLARD Neal, Commanding the S.E.S.
of the 99th B. I.A.

TO: The Battalion Chief, Commanding the
99th Battailon d'Infanterie Alpine.

Submitted herewith is the report of the searches made on 4 August 1947 on the glacier of the Estellette and in the rocky couloir which goes up to 3,730 meters.

Two Crews: 1 - Lt. Mollard, Mr Geno from the American Mission,
and 2 guildes.
2 - Sgt Bois and 2 guides.

Schedule: Departure from Les Chapieux at 0300 hours. Return to Les
Chapieux at 1700.

Itinerary: Les Chapieux, Seloge, Col de la Seigne (2,736 meters),
Glacier of the Estellete.

a. Things found: On the all glacier we found debris of plane motor, propeller and life-raft. At the peak of the glacier of the Estellettes we found some more remains of plane. Inside of the Rimay (upper), 7 meters inside and in the ice, we found some more parts (from the coast 3,730 to 1 kilometer and a half to the point of wreckage (3,730). The Glacier of Estellette is covered by parts, the biggest part has the size of a human head.

b. We found the wallet of T/Sgt Cassel, inside were an identification card, different papers and \$250.00, a pad with code-words, a camera with films, navigation maps, a rocket-pistol, and other different things as shoes. Also we found remains as 2 feet, the lower part of a leg, bones and little bits of flesh.

c. Places searched: All of the glacier of the Estellette (very dangerous glacier with very deep crevasses, snow bridges (more than 30 meters long), all of the couloir at the peak of the glacier to 3,730 meters).

d. More searches will be made Thursday and Friday 7 and 8 August 1947. The purpose of the searches will be to bring down the other parts of the plane, and remains if there are any left.

e. Conclusion: In my opinion there is nothing else to be found at the place of wreckage, as the plane bursted. The rest of the plane and bodies are now inside of the glacie r of the Estellette under 15 to 30 meters of ice. Those remains will be found before thirty years from now, after the glacier will have normally melted, they will be then at the Rimay (lower). We met great difficulties, because of the rock slope and also because of the glaciers (Glacier des Glaciers), especially the glacier of the Estellette.

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In fact, those glaciers have enormous crevasses in summer time (this summer is particularly warm), they are more than 30 meters wide and from 30 to 100 meters deep. Snow bridges are very weak, and there are very few of them.

The crew and myself almost feel in a deep crevasse, more than 50 meters deep.


The rocky couloirs are also very dangerous, because of the falling rocks.

See Map 1/50,000 Mont-Blanc.

s/Mollard

A TRANSLATION OF ORIGINAL FRENCH FILE

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


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