



**Flight Lieutenant Bernard Bullivant Wireless Operator 297 Squadron RAF**

Date: **28th July 1944** Place: **Muneville-sur-Mer France**

Aircraft: **Armstrong Whitworth Albermarle**. Crew of 5 on board.

Adapted from his combat report on **2<sup>nd</sup> August 1944**

**Ft./Lt. Bullivant wrote:**

*“.....I baled out at 0030 hrs and landed in an orchard. I left my parachute entangled in a tree and started walking. I hid in a hedge until daylight. Soaking wet I arrived at a small Hamlet where I asked for help. I was given civilian clothes and some food.”*

*“.....I walked North at first and then changed to South as the Germans were retreating. I encountered a lot of enemy activity on the road to Brehall and saw an enemy convoy attacked by RAF Typhoons”*

*“.....shortly afterwards I saw two French boys.....I asked them to direct me to a place where I could get water. They escorted me to their home and I was given food and drink..... I stayed there until 0630 hours on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, when I left as enemy troops were approaching. I was stopped by group of Germans who addressed me in French. I didn't understand so just said “Oui” This wasn't the right answer so I added “Quarte kilometre” and he let me go.*

*“.....after passing through Brehal I was stopped again by a German Staff car. An officer spoke to me again in French. I only understood one word ... ici..... so I simply answered “Oui” He thanked me and drove on!*

*“.....later on I approached a house seeking water. I noticed three Germans standing a few yards away so I asked a lady for water in a low voice. She also gave me some bread and took me away round to the back of the house.*

*“.....I was put in an air raid shelter and later she brought me a meal. She dressed a gash in my face that occurred when I baled out. I asked if here were members of the resistance movement nearby and she said “Yes”. She told me that a Canadian pilot was hiding in a nearby farm.*

*“..... later I was taken to this farm and met Pilot Officer Billing a Spitfire pilot who had been shot down some days before. My escort was a British civilian from the Channel Islands. He had escaped from the Germans and had been engaged in sabotage work in the district for about a month. He was shot dead by the Germans, shortly after my arrival, whilst trying to steal a bicycle.*

*“..... I stayed on this farm until 1600 hrs on 30<sup>th</sup> July when an American tank arrived. We were advised to leave the house. I was separated from P/O Billing.*

*“.....I walked to Brehal where I met the local chief of the resistance. The following morning – 31<sup>st</sup> July – I went with a batch of German prisoners of war, in a lorry to Councances. After that I was escorted by a Military Police Officer to Lessay.*

*“.....at Lessay I was met by the Civil Affairs Officer and on the 1<sup>st</sup> August was sent to Cherbourg. Here I reported to the American Naval Headquarters and was issued with a naval working dress. I was introduced to Sqdn. Ldr Turnbull OIC Air Sea Rescue RAF. After staying overnight I was sent back to the UK on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1944.*



After leaving the RAF Bernard Bullivant joined the **Royal Observer Corps** in 1954 serving in 16 Group Shrewsbury as an Observer.

He was awarded the **ROC medal** in 1966

#### **EDITORS NOTE:**

No other details of his ROC service are to hand. If anyone can recall Bernard and add to his story please get in touch with the **Website Editor Michael Marks**  
**March 2019**