

managed to stand up and put his hands up. How that German managed not to get shot—I am still wondering today. He certainly had guts.

“We were rounded up and taken to the same chapel we had passed earlier.<sup>6</sup> There were a number of our battalion officers besides Captains Simmons and Paty. Major Gage was there and badly wounded. Our surgeons, Captain Robert Blatherwick and Lieutenant Tom Johnson, were in the group being held.<sup>7</sup>

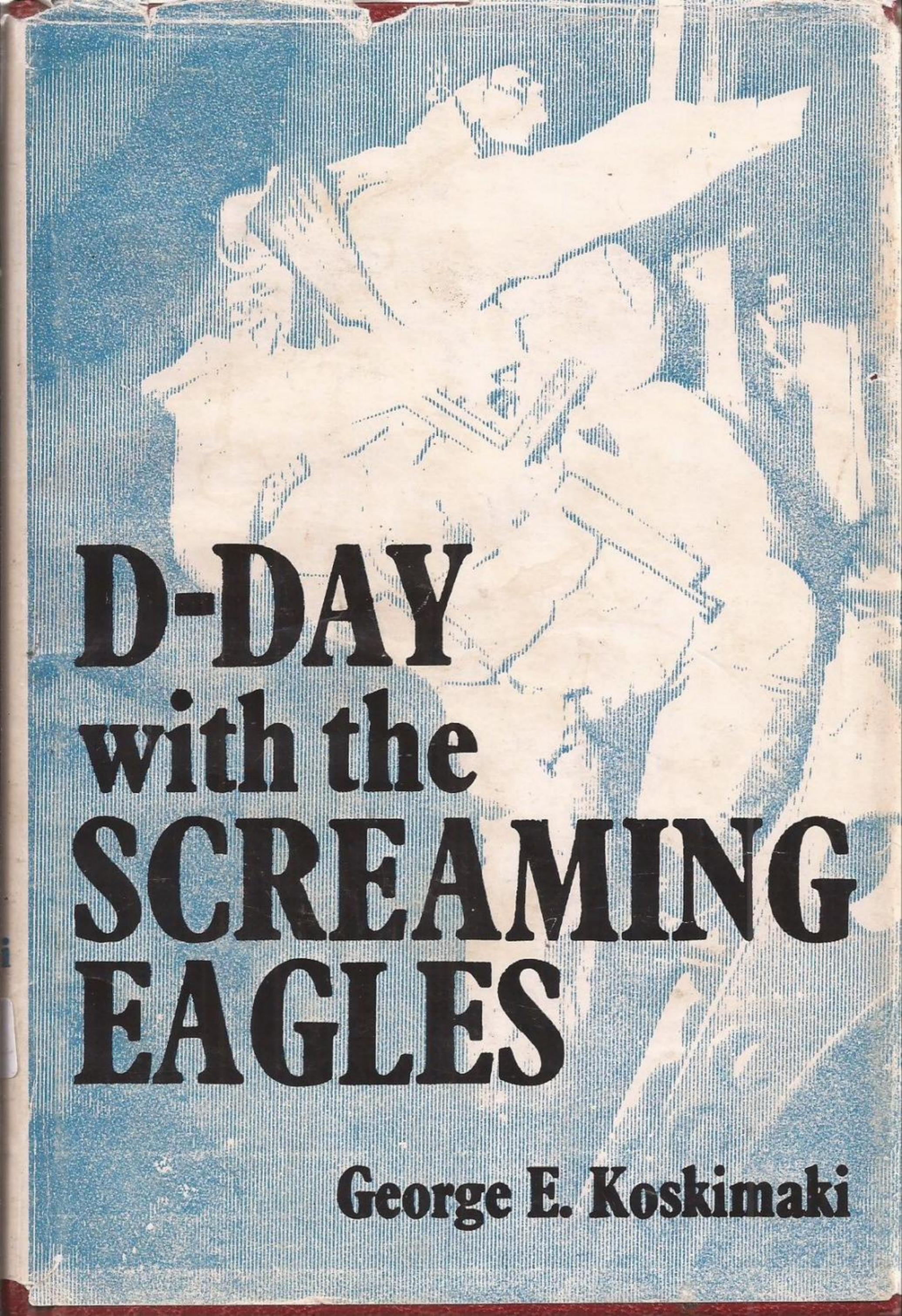
“Just before we had been captured, I had told Schwartz (our pigeonier) to release the two birds he had so they would not fall into enemy hands. Dale Courtney tried to destroy his SCR-300 radio. I don’t know if he managed to do so. The set was not in working order.”

The destruction of useful information was important to T/5 John Armstrong of the same captured group. While held under the guns of the enemy paratroopers, he recalled, “I ate my SOI (Signal Operating Instruction) under the eyes of the enemy soldiers in that church.”

### *Headed for Paris*

Privates Chester Brooks and Dick Frame landed two miles south of Carentan. Brooks said, “After assembling part of the stick, the men asked me to take charge. I promptly led the group south, reasoning that all our objectives were south of the drop zone and on the Douve River. I figured whatever units we ran into we’d then know whether to go right or left. The logic was good but we were already many miles south of the river so I led them toward Paris and away from the objectives all night. We found out where we were in the morning. We got in with the French underground and we picked up a stick from 3rd Battalion that afternoon and hid out that night. We had a rather easy war of it that first day.”<sup>8</sup>

Dick Frame had found an equipment bundle and waited in a ditch nearby for other members to arrive. He said, “About seven or eight guys assembled. Lieutenant Seale and Sergeant Burgess were in charge but they were not present so Brooks and Medic Leo Charpentier, who spoke French fluently, took



**D-DAY**  
with the  
**SCREAMING**  
**EAGLES**

**George E. Koskimaki**