

MOST SECRET

M.I.9/S/P.G.(-) 1427

EVASION CAPTURE IN FRANCE.

The information contained in this report is to be treated as

MOST SECRET

STATEMENT BY

J.12681 F/O SIMPSON, Thomas William, R.C.A.F. 405 Sqn. P.F.F. Bomber Command, R.A.F.

Left: GIBRALTAR, 1 Oct 43.

Arrived: LEUCHARS, 2 Oct 43

Date of Birth: 4 Aug 17.

Peacetime Profession: Gold miner.

R.A.F. Service: Since 28 Aug 41.

O.T.U.: Not at O.T.U.

Private Address: 9a Maple Leaf Apts.

Post in crew: Mid-upper gunner.

WINNIPEG,

Canada.

Other members of the crew:

F/Lt. FOY, J., R.C.A.F.

(Pilot) (fate unknown);

S/Ldr. LAMBERT, L., R.C.A.F.

(Bomb aimer) (fate unknown);

F/O HUSTON, H., R.C.A.F.

(Navigator) (fate unknown);

Sgt. MCGREGOR, G.,

(Wireless operator) (S/P.G.(-) 1443);

Sgt. McDOUGALL, R.C.A.F.

(Flight engineer) (S/P.G.(-) 1442); and

F/Sgt. PRIOR, R.C.A.F.

(Rear gunner) (fate unknown).

1943

I was a member of the crew of a Halifax bomber which took off on 15 Jul from GRANSDEN LODGE, Cambridge, at 2230 hrs to drop markers and bombs at MONTBELLIARD. We reached our target, dropped our flares, etc. and were on our return journey when at about 0200 hrs (16 Jul) we were attacked by two fighters East of ORLEANS. We were flying at about 5,000 ft. and two starboard engines were hit. The pilot gave orders to bale out.

16 Jul  
Baled out near  
ORLEANS

I landed in the middle of a forest in a small clearing. I buried my parachute and mac west, and started walking South, keeping to small roads. Shortly before dawn, I crawled into a bush in which I slept until midday. When I woke I opened my escape box, ate some Horlick's tablets, and continued my journey. At about 1800 hrs I saw a farm which I approached. A woman and two children were in the farmhouse and they gave me food when I told them that I was a member of the R.A.F. I remained here until about 2230 hrs.

17 Jul

I then took off my badges and started again to walk South. I walked all night. I sheltered from dawn till midday (17 Jul) and then continued my journey. On the road I was overtaken by a Frenchman in a car who motioned to me to take a seat. He gave me to /understand that ...

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W) 2 Oct 43  
O.R.S. Bomber Command, R.A.F. 4 Oct 43

APPENDIX C - Escape Information

Distribution: D.D.M.I.(P/W). I.S.9.  
M.I.6 (for I.S.9(D)). I.S.9(W).  
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Distribution of this Report:

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M.O.1(S.P.)(Lt.-Col. Butters). A.I.1(a) P/W.  
W/Cdr. Harrison (A.L.O., M.I.9). Lt.-Col. Holt.  
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Transport Command, R.A.F.  
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APPENDIX D - Equipment and Training

Distribution: M.I.9(d). I.S.9.  
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understand that his wife spoke English and that he would pick me up again on his way back after completing his errand. At about 2000 hrs he returned and drove me to his farm, North of GIEN (FRANCE 1:250,000, Sheet 16). I was given civilian clothes and stayed here till the morning of 20 Jul, when I left with his two small sons who escorted me across a river. They left me in the neighbourhood of ST. FLORENT (Sheet 16). They had given me plenty of food, and I walked for four days, resting by day, and walking by night until I reached CHATEAUMEILLANT (Sheet 21) on 23 Jul. During this period I met nobody.

20 Jul  
ST. FLORENT  
23 Jul  
CHATEAUMEILLANT

On the evening of 23 Jul some people at CHATEAUMEILLANT took me in for the night and helped me to get a ticket for TOULOUSE via CHATEAURoux. I reached TOULOUSE on 24 Jul without incident. From here I started to walk S.W. After about two hours I was approached by a lad who asked me for a match. He was trailing a bicycle with a punctured front tyre. We walked along together. He indicated that there was a German aerodrome nearby which it would be dangerous for me to pass, and offered to take me to his home for the night. We walked back to the suburbs of TOULOUSE. He told me he had a friend who could speak English. On the afternoon of 25 Jul the friend turned up and told me that he knew somebody who could help me.

24 Jul  
TOULOUSE