

547 Sq. 384 Group.

MIA 14 Oct 43

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1) 1st Lt. Giles F. KAUFFMAN, Jr. (0-798518) | MIA | MIA |
| 2) 2nd Lt. George MOLYAR (0-578301) | MIA | P/W |
| 3) 2nd Lt. Frank POGORZELSKI (0-805199) | MIA | P/W |
| 4) Sgt. David D. DANNEMAN (34261537) | MIA | MIA |
| 5) T/Sgt. Jules T. BECK (32414214) | MIA | P/W |
| 6) T/Sgt. William JARRELL (32359719) | MIA | P/W |
| 7) S/Sgt. Jacob M. MARTINEZ (36214909) | MIA | MIA |
| 8) S/Sgt. Stanley T. REUBEN (18051500) | MIA | P/W |
| 9) S/Sgt. Peter SENIAWSKY (12060630) | RTD | 348 |
| 10) S/Sgt. Paul (WMI) SPODAR (35518619) | MIA | P/W |

~~348 has been done~~

19 October 1942

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO : Personnel concerned.

1. It is the duty of all Americans to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.
2. It is an offense, carrying heavy penalties, to publish or to communicate to any unauthorized person any information which might be useful to the enemy.
3. Information about your escape or your evasion from capture would be useful to the enemy and a danger to your friends. It is therefore SECRET.
4. a. You must therefore not disclose, except to the first Military Attache to whom you report, or to an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations:
 - (1) The names of those who helped you.
 - (2) The method by which you escaped or evaded.
 - (3) The route you followed.
 - (4) Any other facts concerning your experience.
- b. You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the Press.
- c. You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.
- d. You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4a.
- e. No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General EISENHOWER:

(signed) RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGD, Ass't. Adj. Gen.

CERTIFICATE

I have read the above and certify that I will comply with it.

I understand that any information concerning my escape or evasion from capture is SECRET and must not be disclosed to anyone other than the American Military Attache to whom I first report, or an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name(Print) PETER SENIAWSKY Signed Peter Seniawsky S/Adj.
 Rank S/SGT A.S.N. 12060630 Date Nov 28, 1943
 Unit 384 Bom B Group - 547 Bomb Sqdn Witness Wm. W. Smith
Col. G.S.C.

AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

9 April 1943. (2)

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By command of Lieutenant General ANDREWS:

Ralph Pulsifer

RALPH PULSIFER, *A.T.S.*

Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

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Name (Print) Sencawsky, Peter Signed Peter Sencawsky

Rank S/SGT ASN 18060630 Date Nov 30, 1945

Unit 384 Bomb. Sq. 547 Bomb. Sq. Witness Dwight G. Smith

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS (X)

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
PW and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank and Serial No. *PETER SEWIAWSKY - S/SGT - 12060630*
2. Decorations. *NONE*
3. Unit or Squadron. *384 547 BOMB SQDN.*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *384 BOMB GROUP*
5. Date of Birth. *MAY 12, 1921*
6. Length of Service. *1 1/2*
7. Private Address. *1856 HANCOCK ST. BROOKLYN, N.Y.*
8. If in A.F., on what operation were you engaged? State place, date, and time of departure. Where and when did you come down? Were Aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed?
Shivonfurt on Oct 14, 1943 left airfield at 8:30 AM. Near the French border. GRAFFEN-UNDERWOOD
9. What was your position in aircraft? *low squadron, tail-end*
10. Were you wounded? *NO*
11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much?
12. Do you speak French? Spanish? *NO*
13. Did you have Identity Papers? *NO*
14. Have you been questioned before to-day on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom? Have you given anyone a written report on your experiences. Where and when? *YES. BY THE ENGLISH IN GIBRALTAR*
15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?
NO
16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when?
YES GIB - AND IN ENGLAND
17. Date of arrival in Spain.
OCT 29, 1943
18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar.
NOV 29, 1943
19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air.
GIBRALTAR NOV 30, 1943 - BY AIR
20. Place and date of arrival in U.K.
BRISTOL ENGLAND - DEC 1ST

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

E & E REPORT NO. 239
EVASION IN FRANCE GERMANY and FRANCE

(Date)

Peter (NMI) SENIAWSKI, S/Sgt, 12060630
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

547
(Squadron) (Group) 384

AGE: 22
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 9/12
HOME ADDRESS: 1256 HANCOCK ST
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

MIA: 14 October 1943
Arrived in Spain: OCTOBER 29, 1943
Arrived in Gibraltar: NOV. 29, 1943
Arrived in UK: NOV 30, 1943

TARGET: SCHWEINFURT

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with EWIB).

		Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-798518 1st Lt Giles F KAUFMAN, JR	MIA ✓	
CO-PILOT	0-578301 2d Lt George (NMI) MOLNAR	MIA ✓	
NAVIGATOR	0-805199 2d Lt Frank (NMI) POGORZELSKI	MIA ✓	
BOMBARDIER	34261537 Sgt David D DANNEMAN	MIA ✓	
RADIO OPERATOR	³ 22414218 T/Sgt Jules T BECK	MIA ✓	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	32359719 T/Sgt William (NMI) JARRELL	MIA ✓	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	⁶ 38214909 S/Sgt Jacob M MARTINEZ	MIA	Stripped out
WALST GUNNER	18051500 S/Sgt Stanley T REUBEN	MIA ✓	
WALST GUNNER	12060630 S/Sgt Peter (NMI) SENIAWSKI	(NMI) NARRATOR ✓	
TAIL GUNNER	35518619 S/Sgt Paul (NMI) SPODAR	MIA ✓	

Were you wounded?

No

Hit before target - #1 eng hit - Me 110 shooting rockets - got them -
1 more got down in flames. dropped bombs - #1 losing oil -
running low on ammo - TG out - stayed low - passed out giving
ammo to TG - to give it to him - plugged in set of hand
order to BO - TG came to waist - dove jammed - BT Gunn
fired out - 2 capt in - dived jump - 18000 - 20000ft -
4 or 5000ft - watching ground to where farmland was the big
target opened chute - cut 3 chutes - a/c gone still in flight -
about 15 to 20 minutes after target order to BO was given -

(I think) may have been leading by → saw town beneath - worked cords to
avoid town - knocked out for few seconds - landed about 15 yds
from road in field - picked up chute - ran to ditch + juice -
hid - took off flying boot to put on GI shoes which I had attached to
my chute harness - sat in ditch to rest - got out map + compass -
knew something of route back - got nothing from maps - then heard
people - saw farmers (about five) with shotguns - talking + yelling -
land in ditch - crawled under weeds - 203 hours - some sort of search -
one boy sat on side of hill - as sun started down farmers still walking thru fields -
2 by 1 watching them but thought I had better get away - crawled down ditch to shadow
of tree - still crawling - near tree saw across field soldiers with rifles + mgs - coming out
of wood - scattered - fired several shots into wood - they were there until - crawled
into weeds - under cover - old heart thing - dark - full moon - that only of keeping on move -

old bear rattle of eggplant - crawled thru high grass from tree to tree - came
to clear patch of ground - saw black furrows & crawled to top of
hill - Jerry soldier at top of hill - shld halt (Doppel) - I lay quietly -
for a while - turned + crawled into grove of trees & stood as h stretch
old hill soldier - mby and talking - cross road & crawl down
side of hill - at top of 2nd hill - rolled over down hill - felt out of sight
of Jerry - took out compass + started toward - had footsteps -
passed by Jerry officer - coveralls (mechanic) - heated suit - uniform ed.
GI shoes - khaki sweater - no hat - I got in fields - passed by
town - looked like a wreck - walked - foggy - 20-30 ft visibility -
fatigue pills - went around town - haystacks - covered with hay -
slept - had walked til almost daylight - didnt sleep - cold & wet -
saw at daylight on outskirts of town - gun post to mile from hiding
place - ate mallet + choc tablet - no water - didnt dry clothes
did all day - Jerry on road - motorcycle - at sundown crawled
across road - trucks traffic heavy - followed road in shadow
of trees - occasional car - hid - thirsty - water from sucking leaves - dew
came to large town - signs yellow + black - (Pual with yot 30 aft it) cant
remember exactly - dtd around barbed wire fences - hungry -
Went to other end of town - walked in shadow of houses - found
pump in front yard of house - pumped water in water bottle - walked few
feet - dog barked - kept on even when car bourn. went to side st.
and heard car & lights turned into street - hid behind a
trough - passed - civilian got out when car stopped & then he got back
in car - drove down street further & stopped - went back into
open flds away from car - into flds along road & started west -
I find another road - walked for some time & at daylight went to
a patch of trees in fld - stayed all day - clothes wet - sun at noon -

Several hundred yards away - people working in fields - dried out clothes -
left feet frozen - fell over a wire in a field - onto road at sundown -
during day ate ~~2 loaves~~ half square of chewing gum - 2 lumps of
malted & 1 choc - round a town - got lost - cemetery - west -
another road - passed 2 or three small towns - muddy roads - raised
digs occasionally - few houses in country - all houses in towns - at
sundown farmers seem to move toward towns with cows & horses -
exhausted - another party outside house found water - avoid
town to look for haystack - found 3 sided hay barn - got up a rope
& hid in hay - farmer came by to hold up my rope & at
12 o'clock ^(noon) he left - came down rope - found apple peel on
ground & ate it - across field - rain - 1/2 mile walk - found tree
cave - hid - laid in patch of trees & brush - during night
a peasant came by leading cows - he saw me - said
nothing - 1/2 hr later stood with 4 old men - I came out with
hands up - 2 spoke trench - had phrasal paper - put out
that I was an aviator - showed uniform & wings - talked in sign
lang - said thirsty & hungry - told me to lie low - asked
where was - said 65 kms east of Metz - asked for Jerry - they
put all around - train back near - said to Metz - they came back at night -
had help bag of food - bottle of whiskey - left m - said Jerry searching
houses for American came - only 2 spoke trench

One boy said had been in France - before war - now working in fields -
They told me had better leave the area - etc - gave German - cigarettes -
German money - yellow with stacks of wheat - showed money & they said
Francis - crossed tracks - & road & heard rump - hayride
party of technicians - detoured - got on tracks & walked - walked
all night - no haystack - turned off tracks - 1/2 mile - tree leaves
& branches - underbrush beneath - slept - rain - no shelter -
across fields to tracks - found drainage tunnel - got inside -
all day - stopped late after. tried to dry clothes - ate bread -
smoked cig - followed tracks at night - trouble - came to town -
soldiers on bridge in town - seemed to be supply center - frontward
of tanks (6 cars) - using spots to load & unload - cold
embankment to a town - lots of berries - off tracks thru backyards -
apple orchards - no apples - came out 1/2 mile by town - back
to tracks - walked all night - went to house for pump - woman
came out 4:30 a.m. - in uniform - black shirt & black coat -
had on overseas cap - at top was eagle & swastika - she seemed to be
asking what doing - before held up water bottle - said "agua" -
Asked if only vous Francais? "Oui" - Sprecher said Deutsch? -
"Bitte schon" Bitte schon - she just stood there - seemed little scared -
walked on road - she looking at me - 1/2 mile - road right
onto tracks - walked - saw up - came to gate house - started -
came to bomb shelter near village - hid til afternoon - tired - no food - few
tablets of Aid's Box - people across tracks - up to them - girl laughed - I in
bad shape - "parlez vous Francais" - She said no - Polish - I
said in Polish I was also - she understood - told her Am. German -
she told me to go back in hiding - would get help - asked for food -
she had none - hid - man came over - drooping hands - no
trust in me - he Serb - knew in Russian & Polish - understood some
words - showed him wings & uniform - asked name on - Eugene 1/2 had
committed him - ~~was~~ hot food - said he got food from Am Red Cross -

Said nothing for Germans - said going to take me across frontier
into France - called frontier "Crimea or Crimea" - this is in apt -
he said I should stay in Bomb shelter - at sundown came back - said
Berry after me + he didn't take me + he left in a hurry -
laid in shadow - heard shouting - boy looked in shelter -
+ someone yelled something at him + he answered "Nicht, Nicht"
+ left - Boy had white shirt + black trousers - didn't look
very dark - I laid low - til well after sundown - said had
said I was about 35 + 40 km from Metz - said should
head south - gave me directions - didn't understand - headed
south following road - over hills (road went west) had
top of head shelter (aw) - paradise - across roads + I followed it -
followed road because of forest - more quiet on road - town -
around it - went west - saw up - hiding place - barn -
hay - climbed in - covered - slept - all day - no incident - at sundown -
left - walked road - checked compass - going south - off road -
then flds - west - barbed wire fences - cross roads - flds -
+ a road - tried - town - around - crossroads - barn (2) -
took smell me - awakened - making shouting - Berry
patrol - officers - order - 80 yds in different directions - in
front of barn - crawled into hole in floor + lay over me -
that I had someone come into hay for second - walked off -
dug hole for some time - woke in apt - saw 2 series with
police dog between them - walking on road - laid low -
etc - they left - sundown - went by road south - I went south
when road turned - flds - town - dark - raining - needed
water - running stream - followed road - water - bog - wagon -
rain heard - back to sheds - edge of town - slept in wagon sheds -
at dawn - look for better hiding - man saw me - went up to him -
asked "Parley vous Francais?" - spoke Polish - spoke Polish

told him Am. animal - show wings etc - could he help? -
saw 2 Gerries living in house next door - asked if
could sleep in hayloft - yes - must not move - but sleep &
then move in - late night but pass - asked how
far from frontier - 2 kms - asked if he could take across - wld pay -
showed Frances - said offered to take me over - would she
take me close? - told me layout - how road crossed -
told me about shades on time how Gerry with dogs walked between
shades - said barbed wire fence to crawl under - once
under then am. in France - continued me quiet - at sundown
ran in with sandwich - said ^{to leave} - came close to fence
to early - took off E. coveralls & put sweater over them - that I
wld wait til midnight - that lat then - about 12 - crawled -
100 yards - 4ft high wire - 2 inches from ground - two
fences - 100 yd between - when cross was in open field -
old moon - ran in shadow - white & black signs -
kept going toward - wld all night - at sun-up came to a barn - hay ^{feathers} - ^{sleep} -
in France - saw that - wld in road - forgot what looked like - went
to farmer in field - told him Am. animal - believed me - took me back into
town - said Am. animal & put to me - gave me food - asked for
shave - asked for clothes - got pants & coat - no shirt - took me
down road - said, "am. animal" - wld down road - people looked at
me because had coat buttoned to hide O.D. shirt - took coat lining & ripped it
out & made scarf - wrapped - neck - shoes I scrapped with mud
and rocks - wld - Gendarmes in small towns paid nothing -
with French in road - told him Polish - gave him cigarette -
asked if had papers - said no - in town he was frightened - he
walked fast in town - I walked fast to appear to be with him -
he looked French 208

passed gendarmerie — edge of town — truck — truck — held truck —
we got left into Nancy — avoid conversation — conversation — chimney
with truck — got to Nancy — told him Am Airman — bought him
some apples with his making purchase — asked for place to sleep —
he kept wanting papers — needed ticket for food — man trying to get
rid of me — heard man speaking Polish — turned to him +
asked if I could talk to him — my fr. friend explained who
I was — fr. man scared — wife recently dead — 2 kids —
took me to restaurant — left 10^{fr} friend — invited to several people —
(russian, Serbs, poles) — proprietor gave me food — fr. detective
eying me — one man told me to speak Polish loudly — did — detective
left — asked to leave — dugis — asked for place to sleep — walked out
with young boy — would have to leave at 4 a.m. — he taught me
how to say 3rd class because I planned to use train — left early a.m.
dark — side streets — sun up — church services — went to churches all day —
Derry town — show matinee at 2:30 — bought food — put + said trois
to cakes — bought them — went to show — didn't know price — handed 100 franc
note — change — sat til picture over — exhausted — slept — out at
4:30 — Bar — put to glass of beer — Navy soldier standing near me —
pd for my beer ~~was~~ while paying for change — said 'merci' —
drank + left — for station — timetable — train at midnight — watched
windows layout + type of people at window — asked for 3rd class
ticket for Dijon — about 7 p.m. — left station — bar — coffee —
at 10 p.m. to station — gendarmes checking papers — didn't go in —
walked streets — back at 11 p.m. — no gendarmes — in station to
3rd class waiting room — sat by old man — asked Dijon — spoke in
Polish — paid train — he said train at 5 a.m. slept on bench —
got on train when loading at 4:30 — crowded — felt safe — stood
in platform — got there at 1:00 in aft — people's papers checked as
leaving station — waited in station cafe — check at door off
and I bought ticket to LYONS —

got on train at 2:30 p.m. & stood on platform - train was going to
Marseilles - at Lyons there was a gendarme coming to gate
but I handed in ticket & ran to window, bought me for Marseilles -
on train ten mins later for Marseilles - meant to get off at
Avignon and left there - at Marseilles - gate check
so got in crowd of workman - out back gate - & back to
station - but ticket for Avignon - ~~and to~~ platform -
train for Lyon was 7:30 a.m. - fell hunting - crawled under
train on tracks & went to sleep - dark - sunrise - no one looking -
walked to platform - bought papers from wayon - 2:30 a.m.
train - to Avignon - Harry born - but asked at public
market - 3 cabs at time - about 12 - 200 francs - but ticket for
seteville - wait on platform for train - got on - asked
woman about train & she explained change of station -
train came to station & woman tapped me on shoulder - got off
at unknown train station & on night train - at Sete but ticket to
Perpignan & at Narbonne train went west instead of south -
conductor looked at ticket & asked where going? said Perpignan -
then he made a lot of commotion & put me to a station saying "Alle,
Alle" - I got off & went into station saw timetable & got
on a train in ten minutes to Narbonne - conductor asked
ticket & found it wrong & started asking questions - handed him
a 100 franc note & he wrote out ticket - back to Narbonne -
found train to Perpignan at 10 o'clock - now six - showed ticket -
out of station - but apples - back to station - sat in 3rd class
waiting room - got train to ~~that~~ Perpignan - halfway saw
two Germans coming thru train - in 6th compartment - I got
out of platform & meant to jump off - but saw old cling to steps
and closed door so was obliged to run - stayed 30 mins -
train going about 30 miles hour -

12 midnite
with 2nd class ticket - checked - stayed on platform - slept
with 2nd class ticket - 5 am - walked into street - looked for signs -
compass - walked along road + 10 kms from CERET
came to small foothills town - asked for coffee - "parlez vous francais?" said
No, am. airman - gave me food - told me about Ceret - gestapo -
walked by mt road - cut over mt - slept in shack at night -
could sleep - 4 am - started climbing - compass - 2 am top of
mt - hermit shacks - no food - glass wine - saw me hungry
& tired - gave me drink - asked about Geneva - said
patrols all around - left - climbed pyrennes - 7 pm came
to top of tallest mt - saw town in valley - knew Spain -
29 Oct - went down mt to small town - stayed off trails -
took roughest trail - without stops - if heard anything
stops + hid - crawled by couple of shacks - while
climbing town in Spain stopped by Spanish soldier with rifle -
searched - had in his suit - explained am. airman -
took me to prison - small sp. town - 4 hrs later after interrogation
taken to Figueras - asked if volunteered - if Russian got by am -
took my money - asked what would happen to me in England? - took
pictures + fingerprints - 2 days later met Sgt. Manos + 5/12
Mr. Pithis - sent card from prison to Am consulate Barcelona -
Manos left - talked with Eng consulate then - week later
identification asked for - showed doctags - Eng consul ~~had~~ said would
have to stay in 8 days - asked why Manos could leave before me -
special case - got out 4 Nov Am consul - to Geneva -
stayed hotel 2 weeks - Barcelona - 24 hrs - Saragossa -
24 hours - Alabama - Madrid - left - 29 Nov - 11 hrs
am UK. 1 Dec

The following information has been obtained from our interview with
..... (.....) who escaped after capture
by the enemy/evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy/enemy occupied territory.

Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so it is important not to divulge any particulars of source.

Statement of information covering period from

to.....

airfield a few miles ~~west~~ east of Nancy, few
Ju 88's and F.W. 190's.

From Marseille to Avignon there are
anti-aircraft guns. Many troops on
trains around Marseille. Many
soldiers (German) using horse and ~~wagon~~
wagon around Perignan.

Heavy concentration of 4" guns in Marseille - in fields along track -
camouflaged -

Troops in Marseille sleeping in freight cars -

Flow of troops east toward Avignon from Narbonne -

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 12060630 SSGT PETER SELVAWSKY

Unit:- 384 BOMB GROUP - 547 BOMB SQDN

Please answer carefully the questions below. Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training must come largely from those who make use of them. Your report and comments will help others to evade capture or to escape

1. AIDS BOX

- (a) Did you use your aids box? ~~NO~~ YES
- (b) If not, had you one on you? ~~NO~~
- (c) If not, why had you no aids box?
- (d) If you used it, which of the following items did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g., "Lying up for 2 nights," etc.

Horlicks tablets. - ^{TWO} 2 TABLETS A DAY FOR ^{THREE} 3 DAYS

Chocolate. - ^{ONE} 1 TABLET A DAY

Milk (tube). - ^{used for} ONE WEEK

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). TWO TABLETS ^{every} DAY OR SO.

Halazone tablets (water purifier). ONE NIGHT

Matches. ~~NO~~ FOR CIGARETTES

Adhesive tape. NO

Chewing gum. YES

Water bottle. USED WATER BOTTLE EVERY NIGHT

Compass. USED COMPASS TO FIND ~~MY~~ WAY TO SPAIN FROM GERMANY

- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect? NO

(f) How did you finally dispose of the box? ~~NO~~ Didn't

(g) Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aids box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger? MORE GUM & CHOCOLATE

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? YES
If so, state COLOR.
If NOT, State why not. Don't remember -

(b) Did you use the purse? YES

- (c) If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances.

Maps. Which ones?

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *Frank - 2,000 F.*
How did you spend the money? *on food*

(d) How did you dispose of:- *spanish police took the money, maps.*

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).- *Lost.*

Surplus currency.

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS+) *Pen knife*
(+Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)

Not issued

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following? *No*
If you used any of them state briefly WHEN and WHERE.

Round compass.

Stud compass.

Swinger compass.

Fly-button compass.

Pencil clip compass.

Tunic button compass.

Pipe compass.

Pouch

Special flying boots (and knife).

*leave out
of stencil*

(b) Were they satisfactory?

(c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions, which would improve the above equipment? *No*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

(a) Did you carry passport-size photographs? *YES*
If so, how many?

(b) Did you use them? *No*
State how.

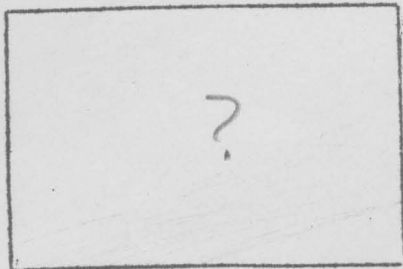
5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *YES BY IN TIME STATES BY EVADER OFFICER*
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.
GROUP 5-2

(b) Did you find the lectures of value? *YES*
officer

NAME SEWIAWSKY, PETER RANK S/Sgt ASN 12000630 REPORT NO. _____

SQ 547 GROUP 384 A/C NO. 42-29870
717 Letter P Load ? Date _____



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

abouted
SOME PLACES ~~MOVED~~
BACK AND WE JUST
FILLED IN. (TAIL END).

Observed results of Bombing:

NO

Enemy Fighter Tactics:

TAIL ATTACKS

Markings:

Our Tactics:

Our Fighter Support: NONE

Flak

Time

?

Place

FRANCE COAST

Quality

LIGHT. RED & BLACK

Technical Failures

Motors:

Armor:

Armament:

left
W/ST-GUN (left) OIL-BUFFER - WRONG ADJUSTMENT
ON OIL-BUFFER.

Miscellaneous:

LEFT OUTBOARD ENGINE SHOT OUT

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

NO + NO

Our number one engine was hit before we reached the target by an Me 110 shooting rockets. I fired several bursts at him and saw the plane dive away in flames. A few minutes later another fighter ^{fell} broke away ~~in~~ with an engine on fire. Our number-one engine was spraying oil; ~~both~~ oxygen and ammunition was low, and the tail-gun was out. I tried to get ammunition back to the tail-gunner but blacked out. ~~and~~ When I ^{had recovered} came to and had plugged my ear-phones, ^{were plugged in} I heard the order to bale out. The tail-gunner ~~was~~ ^{ed} crawled ~~in~~ into the waist while we were trying to release the ^{jammed} waist-door, which had jammed. Finally Sgt MARTINEZ forded his way through the door and I got out, in the same manner, ^{behind} ~~at~~ him.

DAMAGED BY FIGHTERS

Delays Jump

I delayed my jump intentionally from 20000 feet to approximately 5000 feet. While falling I watched the ground and waited until ~~farlands~~ the layout of farmlands ^{was} clearly visible. After my chute had opened I saw the plane disappearing ~~still~~ in level flight and counted three chutes.

There was a town ^{below} beneath me ^{which I} and to avoid ^{ed by} ~~ed~~ work ^{ed} the shroud lines of my chute. I landed ~~about~~ ^{about} fifteen in a field, ~~about~~ fifteen yards from a road, and ~~was~~ ^{lay} stunned for a few seconds. Then, gathering in the chute, I ran to the ~~other~~ end of the field, crossed a fence, and crawled into a ditch that was narrow, deep and over-hung with bushes. In the next few minutes I took off my flying boots and put on G.I. shoes which I had tied to the harness of my chute before ^{by} baling out. Although I knew something of the route which we were to have returned to Base, my maps were of no help. While I was studying the maps I heard some yelling and shouting. There were five farmers with shot-guns walking through the fields. I dug in under some weeds and ^{lay there} ~~lay~~ quietly ~~there~~ for two or three hours, conscious of some sort of search going on around me. Twice I raised up to look over the rim of the ditch. The first time I saw a boy with a shot-gun sitting on the side of a hill and again, as the sun went down, I saw the farmers still walking around in the fields.

CARRIES GI SHOES ON CHUTE HARNESS

SEES ARMED FARMERS SEARCHING

I knew that I ^{should} ~~had better~~ leave this area, ^{since my presence was known} so I started crawling down the ditch. Where the ~~weeds~~ weeds along the edge of the field were high and thick I left the ditch ^{to} and crawled ^{in the shadow of} beneath a tree. By this time ^{now} It was growing dark ^{and the chances of my being seen were} ~~and~~ ^{from a distance lessened.} ~~lessened.~~ I ^{slipped through the weeds} ~~slipped~~ from tree to tree, still crawling; ^{the} ~~and~~ across a field I ~~saw~~ a group of soldiers ^{came} out of a wood. They were scattered ~~out~~ and walking along the woods-edge. Several times they fired rifles and ^{bursts} ~~bursts~~ from machine-guns into the wood. They were

still there when I crawled ~~away~~^{off} in the weeds later. I heard ~~the~~^{could} ~~the~~^{the number of conversations} talking long after dark and ~~though there was a full moon~~^{when the} the shadow of ~~the trees~~^{rose} provided good cover. ~~the trees~~^{only good cover was in the}

I crawled on through ~~the~~^{making my way} high grass from tree to tree and eventually came to a clear ~~patch~~^{stomach} patch of ground. This was newly-plowed ~~ground~~^{soil} so I crawled ~~in~~^{up} in the furrows ~~to~~^{slope} the top of a hill. ~~Just as I got to~~^{Near} the top I saw a ~~silhouette~~

ALMOST RUNS INTO SENTRY

figure silhouetted in the moonlight and while trying to crawl away the soldier shouted something in German. I dropped ~~on my stomach~~^{my head in the dirt} and hugged the ground.

When nothing happened in the next few minutes I crawled ~~toward~~^{on} toward a line of trees and got ~~there~~^{to them} safely. ~~While~~^{when} I was relaxing ~~there~~ in the high grass a group of soldiers came up the hill, talking among themselves. I had been warned of their approach by the rattle of ~~equipment~~^{their} equipment ~~warned me of their approach~~

A little later I crawled ~~over the hill-top later~~^{over the hill-top later} and because my arms and legs were tired I rolled down the slope. ~~An hour or so later~~^{In} I felt that I had gone far enough to be out of the sight of ~~any~~^{any} sentries on the hill.

I checked my compass and walked southwest. ~~Within the next hour I once~~^{Once} had to jump in some bushes ~~and was passed by a German officer~~ when I heard

Walks through heavy fog at night

someone ~~coming~~^{walking toward me.} A German officer passed within a few feet, ~~but I do not think~~^{away} he ~~was~~^{belonged to} searching. After ~~that~~^{he disappeared} I ~~got~~^{went} into the fields ~~and~~^{later had to} walked around a town. ~~A low thick fog rolled over the valley~~^{large} I was in shortly after midnight and helped cover my escape.

The fatigue pills kept me going until ~~daylight~~^{just before} I crawled into a haystack, ~~then~~^{then and} tried to cover myself ~~so that I could~~ without leaving traces. ~~if~~

Hides near Gun Position

~~my presence~~ The hay was wet and cold making sleep impossible. ~~When it was~~^{there was} light enough I found that I ~~was~~^{had hidden} about 400 yards from a gun-post and dared not

move all day. After eating ~~a malted~~^{The "Holiches"} malt and chocolate table ~~ts~~^{rs} ~~I needed water~~^{gave me an} badly. ~~At day's end~~^{the} on a road near me ~~The traffic~~^{on the road near me} was very heavy and consisted mainly of German motorcycles ~~and~~ large trucks.

SUCKS TREE LEAVES TO QUENCH THIRST

At sundown ~~all activity~~^{when there was little activity left in the countryside} ~~ended~~ I crawled from the haystack across a road ~~into~~ the edge of a wood. From there, as it grew darker, I followed

~~the~~^{line of} trees ~~lining~~^{along} the road, ~~When there was an occasional car~~^{hiding} I hid and ~~to~~^{passed} quench my thirst I sucked the ~~dew~~ dew from tree leaves.

This road ~~led me to the edge of a~~^{up to a} large town ~~which I detoured~~^{around} around. In the outskirts on the opposite side of ~~this~~ town I found a ~~water-pump~~

in the back-yard of a house ~~and~~^{and} pumped water into my water-bottle ~~and~~^{full} and walked ~~a few feet~~^{away} when a dog started barking furiously ~~and it was still barking long~~^{it kept on barking} after I ~~had run into a side street~~^{even when I drop laid down so I got up and turned into a side street.}

A car turned into the side street ~~before I heard it coming~~^{I had walked about a hundred yards when I heard a car turn into the same street.} There was ~~just~~^{just} time to get down behind a fence ~~when~~^{when} the

car-lights swept the tree-lined walks. The car stopped near me and a civilian got out. I couldn't see what he was doing but he stood by the car for a few minutes before driving further down the street. There was no reason to connect his activities with me but I left the neighborhood hurriedly in the same direction I had arrived. From a safe distance ^{out} in the fields I followed a road in a westerly direction, and walked only long enough after daylight to find a hiding-place ~~which~~ was a copse of trees in the middle of a large field.

^{all morning} ~~My~~ clothes were wet ^{with} dew ~~all morning~~ but ~~at~~ noon the sun came out and in a few hours ^{they were} ~~had gotten~~ dry again. Only several hundred yards away farmers ^{were working} worked in the fields but I ^{felt} was not in ~~any~~ ^{no} particular danger of being found as long as I lay quietly in the ~~wood~~ ^{bush}. During the day I ate two ~~pieces of~~ Horlicks' tablets and one chocolate.

At sundown after the farmers had left the fields I moved around ~~and~~ to get warm and then started along a road, leaving it when ^{a large town appeared in the} ~~within sight of a large~~ distance. ~~town~~. In going around the ~~town~~ town I lost the main highway which had ~~been~~ ~~running~~ ~~west~~ ^{been} leading me ~~west~~ ^{west} in a straight line. During the night I walked through an unusually large cemetery, followed several good and several muddy roads ^{and} circled two or three small villages; ^I checked my compass often and carefully to be sure that I was ~~always~~ traveling west. Occasionally I ^{aroused} ~~raised~~ a dog but ~~no incidents occurred from this~~ ^{no} incidents from this and I soon discovered that there were few houses in the country. In the early hours ^{-pump} of the morning I found water at a house on the outskirts of a small village.

~~Again~~ ^A At daylight I ~~looked for a hiding place and~~ found a three-sided hay-barn in the fields ^{for a hiding place and} climbed into the hay ^{by using} a rope which hung from the rafters. Soon after I was hidden a farmer arrived and ~~worked all morning~~ ^{to} repairing the roof of the barn. When he left at noon I climbed out of the hay to ~~look~~ look for another hiding place for I was sure he would return in the afternoon. I had not realized how hungry I was until ^{eating} finding some apple peelings ^{which I found} ~~on~~ on the ground in front of the barn.

Half a mile from the barn I crawled into a ^{thicket} ~~patch~~ of trees. A light rain ^{made it difficult for me to lie} increased the ~~difficulty of~~ lying quietly in the bushes and once when I was ~~changed~~ ^{changed} my position I was seen by a farmer, ~~who was~~ herding his cows. He stared at me but ^{said nothing} ~~did not say~~ anything. About half ^{an} hour later he returned with four men and I thought it meant capture. I came out of the trees with my hands up but the men motioned me to put them down. ^{when} Two of the men spoke ^{to me in} French ~~so~~ I got out my French phrase-sheet and told them I was an American aviator. I showed them my uniform and wings and indicated that I was very thirsty and

FINDS APPLE PEELINGS TO EAT

FOUND BY FRIENDLY WORKERS

65 Kms
EAST OF
METZ

and hungry. They motioned that they would try to help me, and, ~~when~~ told me that I was 65 kilometers east of METZ. When I asked about ~~the~~ Germans they said that there were Germans all around and ~~gave me to understand~~ that I was still in Germany. We were standing near some railroad tracks and one of the men pointed to the tracks, and indicating that they led into METZ. After the men left me I went back ~~into~~ among the trees and waited for ~~them to return~~ ^{to} ~~understood~~ that they meant to help me. After dark they brought a large burlap ^{bag} of food and a bottle of whiskey, but, did not stay longer than a few minutes, after telling me that the Germans were searching the houses and area for American airmen. ~~One of the boys~~ The boy with them said that he had been in France before the war but now was ^{conscripted to} ~~working~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~fields~~ in ^{Germany} the fields. The men gave me some German cigarettes and German money. I showed them my money which they said was French and could not be used in that area.

After leaving them I ~~crossed~~ ^{the railroad tracks in sight} the railroad tracks but kept within sight of ~~of the tracks and~~ ~~them~~, walking ^{at} toward METZ. Near daybreak I could not find a haystack near the tracks so I turned ~~into~~ off into a small wood and ~~crawled~~ crawled into underbrush. After a few hours sleep ^{I was awakened by} it began to rain and I searched for better cover. I went back to the railroad tracks and ^{got} crawled into a drainage tunnel where I stayed all day. ~~At~~ In the early evening ^{I followed} the tracks ~~led me~~ to the edge of a town. ^{Approaching a} ~~Before I got~~ to a railroad bridge, ^{cautiously} I noticed soldiers ~~on the bridge~~ stationed near ^{but} there and got across easily by crawling. The tracks seemed to run into the marshalling yards of a big supply depot, for, in the distance I could see much loading and unloading being done with aid of large searchlights. Leaving the railroad I cut around the ~~town~~ ^{the} through backyards of houses ^{and} I walked all night, and stopped ^{I found} ^{near} ^{in a village} Around 0430 hours ~~at~~ a water-pump ~~in the yard of~~ a house. While I was getting the water a woman in uniform came out of the house and walked up to me. She ^{wore} ~~had on~~ a black skirt and coat, ^{and} an overseas cap ^{decorated with} at the top of which was an eagle and swastika. ^{She said something which sounded as if she were} ~~From what she said I thought she must be~~ asking what I was doing. I ~~was drinking from a cup and~~ ^{drinking} stopped long enough to say, "aqua," which was the only word that came ^{into my} ~~to my~~ mind. I asked ^{her, before she could speak again,} "Parlez vous Francais?", ~~and she which~~ ^{asked} and she replied, "oui." Then when I ~~said~~ ^{asked}, "Sprechen Sie Deutsch?"; she ^{answered} ~~replied~~, "Ja." ^{finished drinking the water in the cup, put the cup down carelessly, said} "Bitte schon." I ~~put down the cup and walked away~~ ^{put down the cup and walked away} She seemed about as scared as I and when I looked back once she was still ^{standing} ~~standing~~ by the pump watching me. I followed the road ~~for~~ a short distance before ~~got~~ finding the railroad tracks ^{again} from which I had never gotten too far. At one place I skirted a gathouse and at sun-up stopped near a village because I found a bomb shelter which looked like a ^{safe} ~~safe~~ place to spend the day.

Late in the afternoon, ^{feeling hungry and exhausted,} ~~because I felt so tired and hungry,~~ I went into ~~some~~ ^{the} fields and approached a young girl who was working there. She laughed ^{at me} when I went up to her and I realized how much of a tramp I looked. I asked her, in French, in she spoke French but she shook her head and said she was Polish. I told her, in Polish, that I was ^{of Polish origin now} ~~also~~ but that I was an American airman. She told me to hide ~~and she~~ while she tried to get some help for me. I asked for food but she said she had no way of obtaining food. After I had hidden a man, ^{sent by the girl,} came over to see me. He had a strap in his hand and was ~~very~~ suspicious of ~~me~~ ^{mystery.} Because I know some Polish and a few Russians words I tried to talk to him in those languages. I showed him my uniform and wings for identification. He wanted to know what raid I had been on, when shot down, and asked a few questions about the aircraft. Evenutally he was convinced and ^{gave me} ~~brought me~~ some food which he said ^{had come} ~~he got~~ from the American Red Cross. I learned that he was a Serb working for the Germans and after he brought the food he said he would take me across the frontier into France but that I should wait in the bomb-shelter until evening. At ^{sundown} ~~sundown~~ he rushed ~~next~~ over to ^{to tell me} ~~the~~ shelter ~~and said~~ that the Germans were after me and that he could not help ~~me~~. A few minutes after he left I heard a lot of shouting and had no sooner crawled into a ^{shaded} ~~shadowed~~ corner of the shelter when a boy knelt at the entrance and looked in. Someone ~~behind him~~ called to him and I heard him say, "nicht," or a similar word. ~~At any rate~~ I don't think he saw me., I did not think ^{he} ~~the boy~~ was in uniform but ^{was} ~~could~~ not ~~be~~ sure. I stayed in the shelter until almost dark and then, remembering that the Serb had said I was about 35 kilometers from METZ, I started south. I had a loaf of bread, some butter and sardines which had been given me by the Serb.

The southern direction took me over some low hills and after dark I came to a crossroads. From there I went west along a road; ^{having} ~~for~~ I discovered that I could walk more quietly along the road than in the woods. At sun-up, looking ~~around~~ for a hiding place, I found a barn. I ^{slept} ~~was~~ undisturbed all day, and ~~slept most of~~ the time in the hay.

^{at} ~~After~~ sundown I ^{followed a road for a few hours,} ~~walked a short distance on a road~~ but, upon checking my compass, found that I was going in the wrong direction ~~and~~ after that I walked in the fields due west. Several times during the night I had to by-pass small villages and ~~made little progress because there so many~~ ~~seemed to run into nothing but~~ barbed-wire fences. At 0400 hours when I was too tired to go much further I ~~did make an effort and~~ skirted around a town before hiding so ^{the town would be behind me} ~~that I would have the town behind me~~ ^{in that evening,} ~~the next morning.~~ I stopped in

GIVEN FOOD BY FORCED LABORER

I was sleeping late in the morning - when
~~a barn and slept until late morning when I was awakened by sounds of marching and shouting.~~ ^{awakened me and looking} When I looked through a crack in the wall of the barn I saw a German patrol on the road. They marched ~~to position~~ in front of the barn and after being talked to by an officer they scattered in several directions, ~~in small groups~~. I crawled into a hole in the floor of the barn and pulled hay over me. Once I thought I heard someone come into the ^{barn} ~~hay~~ but was not sure. I fell asleep during the afternoon and when I ~~awoke~~ ^{awoke}, and looked out on the road; ~~I saw~~ ^{there were} two German soldiers with a police dog between them walking down the road away from the barn. I waited until sundown ~~and~~ before leaving and then followed the road for a short distance before ~~going directly south.~~ ^{turning south into the fields.} I found ~~There were~~ several running streams from which I got water and when it ~~started~~ ^{began} raining ^{again} I found a wagon shack for shelter.

At dawn while I was looking for a better hiding place a man walked around the corner of the shack and saw me. Because he looked as if he were ^{going} to say something I went up to him and asked, in French, if he spoke French. He answered ~~no~~ in Polish. ~~My Polish~~ ^{I discovered,} ^{had} was not as good as I thought but we managed ^{too} a conversation without much difficulty. I told him I was an American airman and needed ~~some~~ help. He was too scared to be of much use and said that there were two Germans living in the house next to the ~~XXXX~~ shed. I wanted to sleep in the ^{barn} hayloft; ~~and~~ he agreed that it would be all right if I did not move about and if I left early in the evening. Late in the afternoon he brought some pears which ~~were~~ ^{were} ~~all~~ ^{only to which} the ^{food} he had access ^{to}. He told me I was two kilometers from the frontier, but refused to help me across or take me any closer even though I offered to pay him. He explained ~~to very~~ ^{the frontier} carefully how the road crossed ^{and} the general layout of the countryside. I was warned of ~~the~~ German soldiers who patrolled the line with police dogs. Before leaving, the man cautioned me ^{again} to keep quiet, and, as I was getting ready to leave at dark he came back with a sandwich, ^{urging} and ~~told~~ me to leave quickly.

I approached the line ^{cautiously} as ~~carefully as possible~~, almost crawling the last half-kilometer. Because my light coveralls ^{could} ~~might~~ be seen too easily I took them off and put ~~on~~ my dark sweater over them. I could see the soldiers walking between the shacks ^{as the man had described,} ~~as the man had described~~ and decided to wait until midnight when I thought they ^{might} ~~would~~ be less alert. There were ^{at least} ~~about~~ 100 yards ^{between me} ~~to cover~~ before I got to the first fence; ~~this much~~ ^{this} I covered ^{and the} on my hands and knees and at the fence ^{rolled} ~~turned~~ on my back and edged under the wire. The hundred yards to the next fence were in the open so I crawled forward slowly on my stomach. When I ^{was} ~~had~~ gotten beyond the second fence clouds passed across the moon and in the sudden

cover of darkness I got up and ran. For the rest of the night I followed roads, keeping to a southwest direction.

At sun-up I had a few hours rest in a barn and because I was sure that I had reached FRANCE I felt safer and decided ^{now} to walk during the daytime. Around noon I went into a field and told a farmer, who was working alone, that I was an American airman. He believed me without question and took me into a small village where I was fed after he had shown me off to several of his friends. The farmer gave me clothing, food and I shaved at his house before starting out again. He took me to a main highway and pointed south. When I noticed people ~~in~~ ^{on the road} looking at me, I thought it ~~was~~ ^{might be} because I had ~~the~~ ^{my} coat buttoned around my neck to hide ~~an~~ ^{an} OD shirt. To prevent this I ripped ~~out~~ ^{out} the lining of the coat and made a scarf. I scrapped my GI shoes with rocks and rubbed mud over them. No one spoke to me, ~~in~~ even in small towns, ~~nor did~~ the gendarmes, ~~who I often passed in small villages,~~ ^{said no attention.}

I met a Frenchman walking ~~the same~~ ^{my} direction as I and told him that I was Polish. ~~Max~~ To convince him I gave him one of my German cigarettes. Later he asked if I had ~~any~~ papers and was frightened when I said no. After that he tried to walk ~~apart~~ ^{apart} from me when we were in small towns but because he looked French I stuck close to him.

In the outskirts On the edge of one small town the Frenchman halted a truck and got ^{us} a ride ~~for~~ ~~us~~ into NANCY. I avoided conversation and slept during the whole trip. In NANCY while I was walking down the street with the Frenchman I ~~told him~~ ^{I told} that I was an American airman. I got him to buy some apples with ~~the~~ ^{my} money ~~but~~ but he could not get other food without coupons. After I had said that I was American he tried to get rid of me, ^{but} without just walking ~~off~~ ^{away}. I knew I had stuck to him about as long as I could, because of his fright, and, he ~~had not been able to suggest any helping~~ ^{was} way of ~~for me.~~ While we were walking down the street I heard a man ~~address~~ ^{speaking to} someone else in Polish. ~~I left the Frenchman and followed the car until I had xxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~speaking to him~~ I asked this man if I could speak to him and discovered that he could not understand my Polish very well. My French friend spoke to him, in French, and told him that I was an American airman ~~and~~ ⁱⁿ needing help. The man was very frightened ~~even though he was friendly and my first friend left me with this man.~~ ^{but}

We went to a restaurant where I was introduced to Russians, Poles and Serbs. The proprietor gave me food and while I was eating a French detective, ~~xxxxxx~~ in civilian clothes, ^{entered,} ~~came in.~~ He looked me over carefully and one man near me told me to speak Polish in a loud voice. The trick worked ~~so~~ ^{and} the detective left without asking for papers. ~~Soon after this I was asked to leave because it was too~~ ^{The proprietor asked me to leave because my presence was too} dangerous for them. I asked for a place to sleep that night and a young boy took

me to his room. He said I would have to leave ~~very~~ early the next morning. Before I went to sleep he taught me how to ask for a third class carriage ticket because I planned to use the trains if I could.

I left the young boy before daylight and walked ^{through} side streets until sun-up. After that I looked for churches and spent the morning in ~~churches~~ ^{them} at different services. The town was full of Germans and I wanted to stay off streets as much as possible. At 1430 hours I found a picture show and saw that a matinee was starting soon. Before going in the show I ~~stopped~~ ^{went to} at a bakery and bought some cakes by pointing at what I wanted and putting down a ~~bill~~ ^{franc-note}. I bought my ~~picture~~ ^{theater} ticket in much the same way. Because of exhaustion I slept during the picture and stayed until it was over.

~~From the picture~~ ^{leaving the theater} I ~~passed~~ ^{walked} by several bars and finally went into one ~~to~~ ^{for} get a glass of beer. It had seemed the emptiest of the ~~bars~~ ^{all} I passed but after I got in I found ~~several~~ ^{that among} Frenchmen ~~and~~ ^{there was} a German soldier at the bar. ~~As~~ ^{I tried} casually ~~as~~ ^{to} I ~~leaned~~ on the bar and pointed to a glass of beer. While I fumbling for my change the German, ~~who was~~ standing near me, put down the correct amount and looked at me with a smile. I managed to smile back and said, 'merci'. ~~I drank~~ ^{when I had gulped down} the beer ~~in a~~ ^{the beer I managed to leave without} getting into conversation ~~gulp and left immediately~~ without saying a word though if I had had to speak it would have been in Polish.

I went to the ~~station~~ railway station ~~and after~~ ^{where?} studied the timetables on the wall ~~found~~ ^{and} there was a train for DIJON at midnight. I watched the ~~ix~~ ticket windows ~~for~~ ^{for} a while, noticing the type of people who went to the windows, and how they got their tickets. When I was sure of myself I walked up to the window and asked, in french, for a third-class ticket to DIJON. I got it ~~without~~ without ~~difficulty~~ ^{question}. After a cup of coffee in the station bar I went ~~on~~ ^{into} the streets thinking I would be less conspicuous. ^{here.} At 1000 hours, ~~returning~~ ^{returning} to the station, I ~~found~~ ^{found} that gendarmes were checking papers ~~near~~ ^{at} the door; ~~so I didn't go in.~~ ^{I made no effort to get into the station.} ~~An~~ hour later, when I ~~returned~~ ^{came back} again, the gendarmes were gone; ~~so~~ I went into the third-class waiting room and sat near an old man. After a few minutes I asked him in Polish ~~for~~ about the train to DIJON. I had some trouble getting him to understand me but eventually I learned that the train to DIJON left at 0500 hours. I had made a mistake reading the timetables. I slept in the waiting room until ~~boarding~~ ^{boarding} time and got on the train ~~among~~ ^{with} a ~~crowd~~ ^{large} of people. ~~The train was very~~ ^{crowded} so I felt safer standing and rode this way to DIJON. We ~~got~~ ^{arrived} there at 1300 hours, ~~and I noticed that~~ Gendarmes were checking the papers ~~of~~ ^{of the people who} people as they left the station. ~~I went into the station restaurant and waited~~ ^{to} for a while.

Later when I strolled into the big waiting-room the gendarmes had disappeared. There were a few people around the ~~second~~ third class ticket window when I bought my ticket to LYONS. ^{I got aboard} The train left at 1430 hours and ~~getting aboard~~ without any difficulty ^{and} I thought it best to stand in the vestibule as I had done before. There was a map in the vestibule which I studied and ~~decided~~ after discovering that this train went ^{through} to MARSEILLES I decided to buy a ticket for that destination but I ^{at Lyons} ~~meant~~ ^{intended} to ~~get off~~ ^{leave the train} at AVIGNON.

At LYONS I was one of the first off the train and as I ran for the gate I saw a gendarme approaching it. I had reached the gate and was through it when the gendarme had gotten about fifteen feet away. He made no effort to stop me but I am not sure that I was noticed since there was a certain amount of ~~mixing about~~ confusion around the gate and ^{a large} ~~the~~ ^{was} crowd pouring ^{off the train} ~~forward~~ it was quite large. I had ten minutes to get my ticket to MARSEILLES which was ^{enough} ~~ample~~ time although I had to ^{stand in a} ~~join a~~ small line at the ticket window. I was still asking for third ~~class~~ class tickets in French.

Back on the train I took a third class seat and fell asleep, although I had tried to keep awake. When I ^{awoke} ~~did awaken~~ we were beyond AVIGNON and there was nothing to do but continue ~~to~~ to MARSEILLES. There was a gate check at MARSEILLES- two gendarmes flanking the gate- and while I hung back in the crowd wondering how to get out of this, a group of workmen ^{passed through the crowd} ~~came by~~ walking in the opposite direction. I ^{joined} ~~pretended~~ to be one of them and left the station by a back gate. This ^{brought out} ~~led~~ me into the freight yards through which I walked until ^{reaching} ~~I came to~~ a street that ^{led} ~~took~~ me back around to the station. I bought a ticket for AVIGNON and went to the platform where I discovered from a poster timetable that the ^{next} ~~next~~ train ~~ix~~ was due to leave the ~~next~~ ⁱⁿ morning at 0730 hours. Not wanting to ^{risk a night} ~~go back~~ in the station I waited my chance and sneaked under a train platform. ^{I slept there until sun-up;} ~~At sun-up the next~~ I awoke; no one was looking when I got back on the platform and ^{walked} ~~went~~ into the station through a half-open gate. I went ^{brought to} ~~onto~~ the streets and bought some grapes from a street-wagon merchant.

I had ~~not~~ trouble getting on the train at 0730 hours and was in AVIGNON. Because in a few hours. There were many German troops in this town I thought it wiser to stay off the streets although I did go once to a public market near the station to look for food. I managed, by buying three cakes at a time at different stalls, to get twelve cakes; they ~~cost~~ ^{cost} 200 francs. ^{Back in the station} ~~After the~~ I bought a ticket to SEITE and waited on the platform until train-time. Before getting on the train I spoke to ~~xxxxxx~~ an elderly woman standing near me and showed her my ticket ^{just} ~~to~~ be certain of getting on the right train. I was speaking ~~in~~ Polish

and ^{also} using a few French words to tell her what I wanted. I learned from her that I was getting ~~on~~ on the right train but that I would have to change ^{at another station} trains ~~to~~ ~~go~~ at some station along the line to go to SETE. When I got ~~on~~ on the train I sat near the woman and when we reached the place where I was to change she leaned over and tapped me on the shoulder. I followed a crowd of people to a waiting train and when showing my ticket at the gate saw to it that the ticket man noticed ~~my ticket~~ ~~read~~ ~~SETE~~. At SETE I bought a ticket to PERPIGNAN and did not ~~find out~~ ^{know} that I ~~was~~ was to change trains at NARBONNE until it was too late. ^{When the train got to Narbonne I went west instead of turning south to Perpignan and I found} I did not know that I was on the wrong train ~~from NARBONNE~~ until the conductor checked my ticket and began to get excited. ^{I understood him when} ~~From what he said I knew~~ that he was asking where I wanted to go so I stated, "PERPIGNAN." Fortunately, we were sitting in a station when he checked the ticket and in the ensuing commotion he leaned over to the window and pointed to a train that was sitting on another track in the station. ^{He nudged me and} ~~I understood what he meant when he said, "Alle,~~ alle!" Hurriedly I went into the station, looked at a timetable and found ~~there was~~ a train to NARBONNE ~~left~~ in ten minutes. I guessed that it was the train the conductor had been pointing ^{to} ~~at~~ and boarded it just before it pulled out. The conductor of this train checked my ticket and when he started asking questions I handed him a hundred-franc note. He wrote out a ticket to NARBONNE.

~~ARRIVING AT NARBONNE~~ Arriving at NARBONNE around 1800 hours I found that the next train to PERPIGNAN did not leave until 2200 hours. I produced my ticket to get out of the station and bought some apples in a store. I waited then in the third class waiting-room until train-time. ~~Because~~ ^{to Perpignan} Because the train was crowded I stood in the vestibule and about halfway ~~I noticed~~ ^I saw two Germans enter the carriage from the opposite end. They went into the first compartment and a few minutes later came out ^{of it} and entered the second compartment. I realized they must be checking papers; after looking around the only way out of the situation seemed to be to jump from the train. ~~While~~ This was not too great a risk because the train was travelling only about thirty miles an hour. When I opened the vestibule door (I was alone in the vestibule) and ~~had~~ stepped onto the two ^{train} door-steps I found that I could close the door without falling from the train. I ~~stayed~~ ^{climbing} there about thirty minutes before ~~coming~~ back inside and after that did not see the ^{two} Germans again.

We got ~~to~~ into PERPIGNAN at midnight; ~~and~~ to avoid the ticket check I stayed at the far end of the platform in the shadow of the train. Later when the ^{check was taken off} gate ^{the} had been cleared I went into the third-class waiting room and slept until 0500 hours before going into the streets. By using my compass and ~~looking for~~ signs I found a road leading south and followed it in the direction of CERET. ~~When~~

About ten kilometers from there I stopped at a cafe in a small foothills town. I ~~was~~ ^{with the woman who owned the cafe,} alone, and, when ~~the woman~~ ^{she} serving me a cup of coffee, asked if I spoke French, ~~I~~ ^{Because she was} told ^{friendly,} her that I was an American airman. She ^{was not surprised, and} gave me food, ~~and~~ ^{ing} warned me to avoid CERET because ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{activities} Gestapo ~~was present there.~~ ^{told me of} She pointed ~~me out~~ ^{ing} out a safer route if I were careful to ~~avoid~~ ^{avoid} for the German patrols.

After ~~I left~~ ^{leaving} the cafe I followed a mountain road until it ~~ended~~ ^{came to an end,} and, then keeping to a due-south compass course I started over the mountains. I rested in a shack the first night but left early in the morning because it ~~was~~ too cold to ~~get~~ ^{for} any sleep. At the top of the next mountain I stumbled into a shack and was found ^{here} by an old man ^{who} ~~who~~ appeared to be a hermit. He gave me some wine and chestnuts - that being the only food he had. When I asked about the German patrols he indicated that they ~~were all around but in no particular place.~~ ^{wandered all over the mountains and would not be in any particular place.} Walking on, at dusk I reached the ~~top~~ ^{crest} of ~~some high ridges~~ ^{some high ridges}, and, ~~from what I had learned when talking to the hermit~~ ^{far} ~~far~~ ^{across the valley,} saw a town. From what I had learned when talking to the hermit I ~~took for granted~~ ^{learned} that ~~I had reached~~ ^{the town was in} SPAIN.

~~I did not~~ ^{I did not} following ~~risk walking in the open or following even the roughest trails going down~~ ^{risk walking in the open or following even the roughest trails going down} I walked on ~~taking~~ ^{actually I didn't walk on the trails} the roughest trails ~~the mountain;~~ ^{the mountain;} ~~often I stopped to rest and plan my route ahead of me.~~ ^{often I stopped to rest and plan my route ahead of me.} and stopped often to rest and plan my route. When I heard a ^{ms} strange noise I ~~looked~~ ^{took} for cover immediately and once crawled several hundred yards between two shacks although I ~~had seen~~ ^{had seen} no activity there.

After I ~~was well~~ ^{reaching} into the valley I changed my direction ~~so that~~ ^{to} I would avoid the town but ~~I~~ walked into two ~~ex~~ armed Spanish soldiers who, when searching me, discovered the heated suit I was wearing. I explained ~~to them~~ ^{that} I was an American airman who had escaped from the Germans. They took me to a prison in a small Spanish town where I was interrogated before being removed to FIGUERAS. ~~After~~ Over a week passed before the American Consul took me to GERONA and two weeks later I went to GIBRALTAR via BARCELONA-SARAGOSA-ALHAMA-MADRID. On 1 December I arrived in U.K.

APPENDIX B:

- a. Heavy concentration of anti-aircraft guns in the fields along railroad tracks leading into MARSEILLES. All gun positions were camouflaged. Obs.
- b. ~~ix~~ German troops ~~xxxxxxxx~~ were sleeping in ~~the~~ freight cars in the freight yards at MARSEILLES. Obs.
- c. Evader thought there was steady flow of German troops east toward AVIGNON from NARBONNE because of number of troop trains he saw traveling that direction. Obs.
- d. Evader ~~xxxxxxxx~~ passed an airfield located several miles east of NANCY. Ju 88's and FW 190's were flying around the area.
- e.

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

SECRET

By Authority of
A.C. of S. G-2.

Initials.....

Date

16 December 1943

E & E REPORT NO. 239
EVASION IN GERMANY AND FRANCE

TARGET: SCHWEINFURT

Peter (NMI) SENIAWSKY, S/Sgt, 12060630
547 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

MIA: 14 October 1943

Arrived in Spain:

29 October 1943

Arrived in Gibraltar:

29 November 1943

Arrived in UK:

30 November 1943

AGE: 22 years
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 9/12 years
HOME ADDRESS: 1256 Hancock Street
BROOKLYN, New York

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	0-798518	1st Lt	Giles F KAUFFMAN, Jr	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-578301	2d Lt	George (NMI) MOLNAR	MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-805199	2d Lt	Frank (NMI) POGORZELSKI	MIA
BOMBARDIER	34261537	Sgt	David D DANNEMAN	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	32414218	T/Sgt	Jules T BECK	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	32359719	T/Sgt	William (NMI) JARRELL	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	36214909	S/Sgt	Jacob M MARTINEZ	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	18051500	S/Sgt	Stanley T REUBEN	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	12060630	S/Sgt	Peter (NMI) SENIAWSKY	NARRATOR
TAIL GUNNER	35518619	S/Sgt	Paul (NMI) SPODAR	MIA

Our number one engine was hit before we reached the target by an ME 110 shooting rockets. I fired several bursts at him and saw the plane dive away in flames. A few minutes later another fighter fell away with an engine on fire. Our number one engine was spraying oil; oxygen and ammunition was low, and the tail-gun was out. I tried to get ammunition back to the tail gunner but blacked out. When I had recovered and my ear-phones were plugged in I heard the order to bale out. The tail gunner crawled into the waist while we were trying to release the jammed waist-door. Finally Sgt MARTINEZ forced his way through the door and I got out, in the same manner, behind him.

I delayed my jump intentionally from 20,000 feet to approximately 5,000 feet. While falling I watched the ground and waited until the layout of farmlands was clearly visible. After my chute had opened I saw the plane disappear in level flight and counted three chutes.

There was a town below me which I avoided by working the shroud lines of my chute. I landed in a field, fifteen yards from a road, and lay stunned for a few seconds. Then, gathering in the chute, I ran to the end of the field, crossed a fence, and crawled into a ditch that was narrow,

deep and over-hung with bushes. In the next few minutes I took off my flying boots and put on GI shoes which I had tied to the harness of my chute before baling out. Although I knew something of the route by which we were to have returned to Base, my maps were of no help. While I was studying the maps I heard some yelling and shouting. There were five farmers with shotguns walking through the fields. I dug in under some weeds and lay there quietly for two or three hours, conscious of some sort of search going on around me. Twice I raised up to look over the rim of the ditch. The first time I saw a boy with a shotgun sitting on the side of a hill and again, as the sun went down, I saw the farmers still walking around in the fields.

I knew that I should leave this area since my presence was known so I started crawling down the ditch. Where the weeds along the edge of the field were high and thick I left the ditch to crawl in the shadow of a tree. It was darker now and the chances of my being seen from a distance were lessened. I slipped through the weeds from tree to tree, still crawling; across the field a group of soldiers came out of a wood. They were scattered along the woods-edge. Several times they fired rifles and machine-gun bursts into the wood. They were there when I crawled off in the weeds some time later. I could hear the mumble of conversation long after dark and when the full moon rose the only good cover was in the shadow of the trees.

I crawled on through high grass making my way from tree to tree and eventually came to a clear patch of ground. This was newly-plowed soil so I crawled on my stomach in the furrows up the slope of a hill. Near the top I saw a silhouetted figure in the moonlight and while trying to crawl away the soldier shouted something in German. I dropped my head in the dirt and hugged the ground. When nothing happened in the next few minutes I crawled on toward a line of trees and got to them safely. I was relaxing in the high grass when a group of soldiers came up the hill. Their conversation and the rattle of their equipment warned me of their approach.

I crawled over the hill-top later and because my arms and legs were tired I rolled down the slope. In an hour or so I felt that I had gone far enough to be out of the sight of any sentries on the hill.

I checked my compass and walked southwest. Once within the next hour I had to jump in some bushes when I heard someone walking toward me. A German officer passed a few feet away but I do not think he belonged to a searching party. After he disappeared I went into the fields and later had to walk around a large town. A low thick fog rolled over the valley I was in shortly after midnight and helped to cover my escape.

The fatigue pills kept me going until just before daylight. I crawled into a haystack then and tried to cover myself without leaving any traces. The hay was wet and cold, making sleep impossible. When there was enough light I found that I had hidden about 400 yards from a gun-post and for the rest of the day I dared not move. The Horlick's malted tablets and the chocolate gave me an uncomfortable thirst. The traffic on the road near me was very heavy and consisted mainly of German motorcycles and large trucks.

At sundown when there was little activity in the countryside I crawled from the haystack across a road to the edge of a woods. From there, as it

grew darker, I followed the line of trees along the road, hiding when an occasional car passed. To quench my thirst I sucked the dew from tree leaves.

This road led me up to a large town around which I detoured. In the outskirts on the opposite side of town I found a water-pump in the backyard of a house and pumped my water bottle full. I had walked away a few feet when a dog started barking furiously and it was still barking long after I had run into a side street.

A car turned into the side street before I heard it coming. There was just time to get down behind a fence when the car lights swept the tree-lined walks. The car stopped near me and a civilian got out. I couldn't see what he was doing but he stood by the car for a few minutes before driving further down the street. There was no reason to connect his activities with me but I left the neighborhood hurriedly in the same direction I had arrived. From a safe distance out in the fields I followed a road in a westerly direction and walked only long enough after daylight to find a hiding-place -- a copse of trees in the middle of a large field. All morning my clothes were wet with dew but at noon the sun came out and in a few hours they were dry again. Only several hundred yards away farmers were working in the fields but I felt in no particular danger of being found as long as I lay quietly in the brush. During the day I ate two Horlick's tablets and one chocolate.

At sundown after the farmers had left the fields I moved around to get warm and then started along a road, leaving it when a large town appeared in the distance. In going around the town I lost the main highway which had led me west in a straight line. During the night I walked through an unusually large cemetery, followed several good and several muddy roads, and circled two or three small villages; I checked my compass often and carefully to be sure that I was traveling west. Occasionally I aroused a dog but there were no incidents from this and I soon discovered that there were few houses in the country. In the early hours of the morning I found water-pump at a house on the outskirts of a small village.

At daylight I found a three-sided haybarn in the fields for a hiding-place and climbed into the hay by using a rope which hung from the rafters. Soon after I was hidden a farmer arrived to repair the roof of the barn. When he left at noon I climbed out of the hay to look for another hiding place for I was sure he would return in the afternoon. I had not realized how hungry I was until eating some apple peelings which I found on the ground in front of the barn.

Half a mile from the barn I crawled into a thicket of trees. A light rain made it difficult for me to lie quietly in the bushes and once when I changed my position I was seen by a farmer, herding his cows. He stared at me but said nothing. About half an hour later he returned with four men and I thought it meant capture. I came out of the trees with my hands up but the men motioned me to put them down. When two of the men spoke to me in French I got out my French phrase sheet and told them I was an American aviator. I showed them my uniform and wings and indicated that I was very thirsty and hungry. They motioned that they would try to help me, and told me that I was 65 kilometers east of METZ. When I asked about Germans, they said that there were

Germans all around and I understood that I was still in Germany. We were standing near some railroad tracks and one of the men pointed to the tracks, indicating that they led to METZ. After the men left me I went back among the trees and waited for their return. After dark they brought a large burlap bag of food and a bottle of whiskey, but did not stay longer than a few minutes after telling me that the Germans were searching the houses and area for American airmen. The boy with them said that he had been in France before the war but now was work conscripted to Germany. The men gave me some German cigarettes and German money. I showed them my money which they said was French and could not be used in that area.

After leaving them I kept within sight of the railroad tracks and walked toward METZ. At daybreak I could not find a haystack near the tracks, so I turned off into a small woods and crawled into underbrush. After a few hours sleep I was awakened by rain and searched for better cover. I went back to the railroad tracks and got into a drainage tunnel where I stayed all day. In the early evening I followed the tracks to the edge of a town. Approaching a railroad bridge cautiously I noticed soldiers stationed near but got across easily by crawling. The tracks seemed to run into the marshalling yards of a big supply depot, for, in the distance I could see much loading and unloading being done with the aid of large searchlights. Leaving the railroad I cut around the town through the backyards of houses and walked all night. Around 0430 hours I found a water pump near a house in a village. While I was getting the water a woman in uniform came out of the house and walked up to me. She wore a black skirt, coat and an overseas cap decorated with an eagle and swastika. She said something which sounded as though she were asking what I was doing. I stopped drinking long enough to say "Aqua" -- the only word that came into my mind. I asked her, before she could speak again, "Parlez-vous Francais?". She replied, "Oui." Then when I asked, "Sprechen Sie Deutsch?", she answered "Ja." I finished drinking the water in the cup, put the cup down carelessly, said "Bitte schön" to her and walked away. She seemed about as scared as I and when I looked back once she still stood by the pump watching me. I followed the road a short distance before finding the railroad tracks again. At once place I skirted a gatehouse and at sun-up stopped near a village because I found a bomb shelter which looked like a safe place to spend the day.

Late in the afternoon, feeling hungry and exhausted, I went into the fields and approached a young girl who was working there. She laughed at me when I went up to her and I realized how much of a tramp I looked. I asked her, in French, if she spoke French but she shook her head and said she was Polish. I told her, in Polish, that I was of Polish origin but that now I was an American airman. She told me to hide while she tried to get some help for me. I asked for food but she said she had no way of obtaining food. After I had hidden a man, sent by the girl, came over to see me. He had a strap in his hand and was suspicious of my story. Because I know some Polish and a few Russian words I tried to talk to him in those languages. I showed him my uniform and wings for identification. He wanted to know what raid I had been on, when shot down, and asked a few questions about the aircraft. Eventually he was convinced and gave me some food which he said had come from the American Red Cross. I learned that he was a Serb working

for the Germans and after he brought the food he said he would take me across the frontier into France but that I should wait in the bomb shelter until evening. At sundown he rushed over to the shelter to tell me that the Germans were after me and that he could not help. A few minutes after he left I heard a lot of shouting and had no sooner crawled into a shaded corner of the shelter when a boy knelt at the entrance and looked in. Someone called to him and I heard him say "Nicht" or a similar word. I don't think he saw me. I did not think he was in uniform but was not sure. I stayed in the shelter until almost dark and then, remembering that the Serb had said I was about 35 kilometers from METZ, I started south. I had a loaf of bread, some butter and sardines which had been given me by the Serb.

The southern direction took me over some low hills and after dark I came to a crossroads. From there I went west along a road; having discovered that I could walk more quietly along the road than in the woods. At sun-up, looking for a hiding place, I found a barn. I slept undisturbed all day.

At sundown I followed a road for a few hours, but, checking my compass, found that I was going in the wrong direction and after that I walked in the fields due west. Several times during the night I had to by-pass small villages and made little progress because there were so many barbed-wire fences. At 0400 hours when I was too tired to go much further I skirted a town before hiding so the town would be behind me in the evening. I was sleeping late in the morning when sounds of marching and shouting awakened me and looking through a crack in the wall of the barn I saw a German patrol on the road. They marched in front of the barn and after being talked to by an officer they scattered in several directions. I crawled into a hole in the floor of the barn and pulled hay over me. Once I thought I heard someone come into the barn ~~and pulled hay over me~~ but was not sure. I fell asleep during the afternoon and when I awoke, looked out on the road; there were two German soldiers with a police dog between them walking down the road away from the barn. I waited until sundown before leaving and then followed the road for a short distance before turning south into the fields. I found several running streams from which I got water and when it began raining again I found a wagon shack for shelter.

At dawn while I was looking for a better hiding place a man walked around the corner of the shack and saw me. Because he looked as if he were going to say something I went up to him and asked, in French, if he spoke French. He answered in Polish. My Polish, I discovered, was not as good as I had thought but we managed a conversation without too much difficulty. I told him I was an American airman and needed help. He was too scared to be of much use and said that there were two Germans living in the house next to the shed. I wanted to sleep in the barn hayloft; he agreed that it would be all right if I did not move about and if I left early in the evening. Late in the afternoon he brought some pears which were the only food to which he had access. He told me I was two kilometers from the frontier, but refused to help me across or take me any closer even though I offered to pay him. He explained carefully how the road crossed the frontier and the general layout of the

countryside. I was warned of German soldiers who patrolled the line with police dogs. Before leaving, the man cautioned me again to keep quiet, and, as I was getting ready to leave at dark he came back with a sandwich, urging me to leave quickly.

I approached the line cautiously, almost crawling the last half kilometer. Because my light coveralls could be seen too easily I took them off and put my dark sweater over them. As the man had described I could see the soldiers walking between the shaks. The best plan seemed to be for me to wait until midnight when they might be less alert. There were at least 100 yards between me and the first fence; I covered this on my hands and knees and at the fence rolled on my back and edged under the wire. The hundred yards to the next fence were in the open so I crawled forward slowly on my stomach. When I was beyond the second fence clouds passed across the moon and in the sudden cover of darkness I got up and ran. For the rest of the night I followed roads, keeping to the southwest direction.

At sun-up I had a few hours rest in a barn and because I was sure that I had reached FRANCE I felt safer and decided now to walk during the day. Around noon I went into a field and told a farmer, who was working alone, that I was an American airman. He believed me without question and took me into a small village where I was fed after he had shown me off to several of his friends. The farmer gave me clothing, food and I shaved at his house before starting out again. He took me to a main highway and pointed south. When I noticed people looking at me on the road I thought it might be because I had my coat buttoned around my neck to hide an OD shirt. To prevent this I ripped the lining out of my coat and made a scarf. I scraped my GI shoes with rocks and rubbed mud over them. No one spoke to me, even in small towns; the gendarmes, who I often passed in small villages, paid no attention.

I met a Frenchman walking my direction and told him that I was Polish. To convince him I gave him one of my German cigarettes. Later he asked if I had papers and was frightened when I said no. After that he tried to walk apart from me when we were in small towns but because he looked French I stuck close to him. On the outskirts of one small town the Frenchman halted a truck and got us a ride into NANCY. I avoided conversation and slept during the whole trip. In NANCY I told the Frenchman that I was an American airman. I got him to buy some apples with my money but he could not get other food without coupons. After I had said that I was an American airman he tried to get rid of me but without just walking away. I knew that I had stuck to him about as long as I could, because of his fright, and, he was not able to suggest any way of helping me. While we were walking down a street I heard a man speaking to someone in Polish. I asked this man if I could not speak to him and discovered that he could not understand my Polish very well. My French friend spoke to him in French, and told him that I was an American airman in need of help. The man was very frightened, but friendly, and my first friend left me with this man.

We went to a restaurant where I was introduced to Russians, Poles and Serbs. The proprietor gave me food and while I was eating a French detective, in civilian clothes, entered. He looked me over carefully and

one man near me told me to speak Polish in a loud voice. The trick worked and the detective left without asking for papers. The proprietor asked me to leave because my presence was too dangerous for them. I asked for a place to sleep that night and a young boy took me to his room. He said I would have to leave early the next morning. Before I went to sleep he taught me how to ask for a third class carriage ticket because I planned to use the trains if I could.

I left the young boy before daylight and walked through side streets until sun-up. After that I looked for churches and spent the morning in them at different services. The town was full of Germans and I wanted to stay off the streets as much as possible. At 1430 hours I found a picture show and saw that a matinee was starting soon. Before going in the show I went to a bakery and bought some cakes by pointing at what I wanted and putting down a franc-note. I bought my theater ticket in much the same way. Because of exhaustion I slept during the picture and stayed until it was over.

Leaving the theater I walked by several bars and finally went into one for a glass of beer. It had seemed the empties of all I passed but after I got in I found that among several Frenchmen there was a German soldier at the bar. I tried casually to lean on the bar and point to a glass of beer. While I was fumbling for my change the German, standing near me, put down the correct amount and looked at me with a smile. I managed to smile back and said, 'merci'. When I had gulped down the beer I managed to leave without getting into conversation, though if I had had to speak it would have been in Polish.

I went to the railway station where I studied the timetables on the wall and found a train for DIJON at midnight. I watched the ticket windows, noticing the type of people who went to the windows, and how they got their tickets. When I was sure of myself I walked up to the window and asked, in French, for a third-class ticket to DIJON. I got it without question. After a cup of coffee in the station bar I went into the streets thinking I would be less conspicuous there. At 1000, returning to the station, I found that gendarmes were checking papers at the door; I made no effort to get into the station. An hour later, when I came back, the gendarmes were gone; I went into the third-class waiting room and sat near an old man. After a few minutes I asked him in Polish about the train to DIJON. I had some trouble getting him to understand me but eventually learned that the train to DIJON left at 0500 hours. I had made a mistake reading the timetables. I slept in the waiting room until boarding time and got on the train with a large crowd. I felt safer stading and rode this way to DIJON. We arrived at 1300 hours. Gendarmes were checking papers of the people who left the station so I went into the station restaurant to wait.

Later when I strolled into the big waiting room the gendarmes had disappeared. There were a few people around the third class ticket window when I bought my ticket to LYONS. I got aboard at 1430 hours without difficulty and thought it best to stand in the vestibule as I had done before. There was a map in the vestibule which I studied and, after discovering that this train went through to MARSEILLES, I decided to buy a ticket for that destination at LYONS but I intended to leave the train at AVIGNON.

At LYONS I was one of the first off the train and as I ran for the gate I saw a gendarme approaching it. I had reached the gate and was through it when the gendarme had gotten about fifteen feet away. He made no effort to stop me but I am not sure that I was noticed since there was a certain amount of confusion around the gate and a large crowd was pouring off the train. I had ten minutes to get my ticket to MARSEILLES which was enough although I had to stand in a small line at the ticket windows.

Back on the train I took a third class seat and fell asleep. When I awoke we were beyond AVIDNON and there was nothing to do but continue to MARSEILLES. There was a gate-check at MARSEILLES - two gendarmes flanking the gate - and while I hung back in the crowd wondering how to get out of this, a group of workmen passed through the crowds walking in the opposite direction. I joined them and left the station by the back gate. This brought me out into the freight yards through which I walked until reaching a street which led me back to the station. I bought a ticket for AVIGNON and went to the platform where I discovered from a poster timetable that the next train was due to leave in the morning at 0730 hours. Not wanting to risk a night in the station I waited my chance and sneaked under a train platform. I slept there until sun-up; no one was looking when I got back onto the platform and walked into the station through a half-open gate. I went through to the streets and bought some grapes from a street-wagon merchant.

I had no trouble getting on the train at 0730 hours and was in AVIGNON in a few hours. Because there were many German troops in this town I thought it wiser to stay off the streets although I did go once to a public market near the station to look for food. I managed, by buying three cakes at a time at different stalls, to get twelve cakes; the cost came to 200 francs. Back in the station I bought a ticket to SEITE and waited on the platform until train-time. Before getting on the train I spoke to an elderly woman standing near me and showed her my ticket just to be certain of getting on the right train. I was speaking Polish and also used a few French words to tell her what I wanted. I learned from her that I was getting on the right train but would have to change at another station along the line to go to SEITE. On the train I sat near the woman and when we reached the place where I was to change she leaned over and tapped me on the shoulder. I followed a crowd of people to a waiting train and when showing my ticket at the gate saw to it that the ticket man noticed my ticket read SEITE. At SEITE I bought a ticket to PERPIGNAN and did not know that I was to change trains at NARBONNE until too late.

When the train got to NARBONNE it went west instead of turning south to PERPIGNAN and I found that I was on the wrong train. The conductor checked my ticket and began to get excited. I understood him when he asked where I wanted to go so I stated "PERPIGNAN". Fortunately, we were sitting in a station when he checked the ticket and in the ensuing commotion he leaned over to the window and pointed to a train that was sitting on another track in the station. He nudged me and said, "Alle, alle!" I went into the station, looked at a timetable and found there was a train to NARBONNE in ten minutes. I guess that it was the train the conductor had been pointing to and boarded it just before it pulled out. The conductor of this train checked my ticket and when he started asking questions I handed him a hundred-franc note. He wrote out a ticket to NARBONNE.

Arriving at NARBONNE around 1800 hours I found that the next train to PERPIGNAN did not leave until 2200 hours. I produced my ticket to get out of the station and bought some apples in a store. I waited in the third class waiting-room until train-time. Because the train was crowded I stood in the vestibule and about halfway to PERPIGNAN I saw two Germans enter the carriage from the opposite end. They went into the first compartment and a few minutes later came out of it and entered the second compartment. I realized they must be checking papers; the only way out of the situation seemed to be to jump from the train. This was not too great a risk because the train was traveling only about thirty miles an hour. When I opened the vestibule door (I was alone in the vestibule) and stepped onto the two train steps I found that I could close the door without falling from the train. I hung here about thirty minutes before climbing back inside and after that did not see the two Germans again.

We got into PERPIGNAN at midnight; to avoid the ticket check I stayed at the far end of the platform in the shadow of the train. Later when the check was taken off the gate I went into the third-class waiting room and slept until 0500 hours before going into the streets. By using my compass and signs I found a road leading south and followed it in the direction of CERET. About ten kilometers from there I stopped at a cafe in a small foothills town. I was alone with the woman who owned the cafe, and, when serving me a cup of coffee she asked if I spoke French. Because she was friendly I told her that I was an American airman. She was not surprised at this and gave me food; warning me to avoid CERET because of Gestapo activities. She told me of a safer route if I were careful to avoid the German patrols.

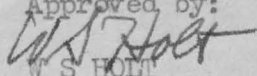
After leaving the cafe I followed a mountain road until it came to an end, and, then keeping to a due-south compass course I started over the mountains. I rested in a shack the first night but left early in the morning because it was too cold for sleep. At the top of the next mountain I stumbled into a shack and was found there by an old man who gave me some wine and chestnuts - that being the only food he had. When I asked about the German patrols he indicated that they wandered all over the mountains and would not be in any particular place. Walking on at dusk I reached the crest of some high ridges, and, far across the valley, saw a town. From what I had learned when talking to the hermit I knew that the town was in SPAIN. I did not risk walking in the open or following even the roughest trails going down the mountain; often I stopped to rest and plan a route ahead of me. When I heard any strange noise I took cover immediately and once crawled several hundred yards between two shacks although I had seen no activity there.

After reaching the valley I changed my direction to avoid the town but walked into two armed Spanish soldiers who, when searching me, discovered the heated suit I was wearing. I explained that I was an American airman who had escaped from the Germans. They took me to a prison in a small Spanish town where I was interrogated before being removed to FIGUERAS. Over a week passed before the American Consul took me to GERONA and two weeks later I went to GIBRALTAR via BARCELONA-SARAGOSA-AHLAMA-MADRID. On 1 December I arrived in UK.

Compiled by:

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Commanding

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATION
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

16 December 1943

APPENDIX "B" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 239

1. The following information has been secured after an interview with a Sergeant who evaded capture by the enemy after having been in enemy-occupied territory.

2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but in that case no information as to the source may be divulged.

Statement of information covering period from 14 October 1943
to 29 October 1943

- a. Heavy concentration of anti-aircraft guns in the fields along railroad tracks leading into MARSEILLES. All gun positions were camouflaged. Observation.
- b. German troops were sleeping in freight cars in the freight yards at MARSEILLES. Observation.
- c. Evader thought there was a steady flow of German troops east toward AVIGNON from NARBONNE because of number of troop trains he saw traveling in that direction. Observation.
- d. Evader passed an airfield located several miles east of NANCY. JU-88's and FW-190's were flying around the area.