

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

6 August 1943

SUBJECT: Amended Instructions Concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War, to Include Evaders of Capture in Enemy or Enemy-Occupied Territory and Internees in Neutral Countries.

TO: The Commanding Generals,
Army Ground;
Army Air Forces;
The Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area;
The Commanding Generals,
Theaters of Operations;
Defense Commands;
Departments;
Base Commands;
The Commanding Officers,
Base Commands;
Director, Bureau of Public Relations.

1. Publication or communication to any unauthorized persons of experiences of escape or evasion from enemy-occupied territory, internment in a neutral country, or release from internment not only furnishes useful information to the enemy but also jeopardizes future escapes, evasions and releases.
2. Personnel will not, unless authorized by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, publish in any form whatever or communicate either directly, or indirectly, to the press, radio or an unauthorized person any account of escape or evasion of capture from enemy or enemy-occupied territory, or internment in a neutral country either before or after repatriation. They will be held strictly responsible for all statements contained in communications to friends which may subsequently be published in the press or otherwise.
3. Evaders, escapees, or internees shall not be interrogated on the circumstances of their experiences in escape, evasion or internment except by the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations. In allied or neutral countries, American Military Attaches are authorized to interrogate on escape, evasion and internment matters.
4. Should the services of escaped prisoners of war, evaders, or internees be deemed necessary for lecturing and briefing, such services will be under the direct supervision of the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations.
5. Commanding Officers will be responsible for instructing all evaders, escapees, and internees in the provisions of this directive which supersedes letter, AG 383.6 (5 Nov 42) OB-S-B-M, 7 November 1942, subject: Instructions concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War and other previous instructions on this subject.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J. A. ULIO
J. A. ULIO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

1. 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**.
2. 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, or by A. C. of S., G-2, W. D.
 - (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. 4.
- e No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of A. C. of S., G-2, W. D., or corresponding organization in the theater.

GERTIFICATE

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 agency designated by A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations, or to the Military Attache in a neutral country to whom I first report. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) SIDNEY CASDEN
Rank 2LT. A. S. N. 0-734426
Unit 546 BOMB. ^{SR.} ~~GROUP~~ 384 GROUP

Signed Sidney Casden
Dated 1-30-44
Witness Walter E. Smith Capt War

RESTRICTED

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SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS (X)

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank, and Serial No. SIDNEY CASDEN 2LT. 0-734426
2. Decorations. NONE
3. Unit or Squadron. 546 SR. 384 BOMB. GROUP (H)
4. Division (Army) or Group.
5. Date of Birth. JULY 29, 1921
6. Length of Service. 1 YR 10 MONTHS
7. Private Address. 3130 BRIGHTON 7 ST. BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
8. Job as civilian. SAMPLE CLERK IN A TEXTILE HOUSE
9. From what field did you take off? GRAFTON UNDERWOOD
10. Take off time. 0700
11. Date and target. JUNE 26, 1943 VILLAY COUBLAY
12. Where did you land? 27 KILOMETERS FROM PARIS BETWEEN VERSAILLES AND ST. GERMAIN
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? FRENCH TOOK ALL EQUIPMENT
14. What was your position in aircraft? BOMBARDIER
15. Were you wounded? NO
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? NO
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? FRENCH VERY WELL
18. Did you have Identity Papers? YES 3 KINDS ^{of French papers}
19. 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?
No
DOG TAGS
20. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? NO
21. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? YES
22. Date of arrival in Spain. ✓
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. ✓
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. BY SEA FROM THE TOWN OF PLOUHA 1-29-44
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. DARTMOUTH- ENGLAND 1-29-44

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 355
EVASION IN

1-30-44
(Date)

SIDNEY CASDEN 2LT. 0-734426
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

546 384
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: VILLA COUBLAY

MIA: JUNE 26, 1943
Arrived in UK:

1-29-43

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Official Narrators
Disposition Disposition

PILOT JOSEPH ROSIO 2LT.

CO-PILOT GEORGE W. EVANS 2LT.

NAVIGATOR LEONARD J. FINK 2LT.

BOMBARDIER SIDNEY CASDEN 2LT.

RADIO OPERATOR LESTER BROWN S/SGT.

TOP TURRET GUNNER OTHO MASTERSON

BALL TURRET GUNNER JOHN H. HOUGHTON S/SGT.

WAIST GUNNER CUCCINATTI SGT.

WAIST GUNNER JOHN KUBERSKY S/SGT.

TAIL GUNNER LEE LEWIS SGT.

ALL GOT OUT SAFELY
AND THE FRENCH SAID,
ONE BROKE HIS LEG AND
WAS CAUGHT.

Were you wounded? No.

Handwritten signature/initials

I met a waist gunner from my group in Paris, but he was caught at the railway station at St. Briere with a RCAF Spitfire pilot. All I know of their names are that the American's first name was Paul, but he said he flew with Major Dillingham who led the group that day. The Canadian was a Pilot Officer and all I knew of him was that his name is Norman. They were caught by a French Gendarme who was working with the Germans.

There was also a young fellow there who claimed to be Norwegian, was a private in the English army, and worked for the B.B.C. The French are very skeptical about him because his story was so queer. He said he was on a fortress raid to Malma according, Bailed out, caught, escaped and got to Paris in five days from Germany.

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I baled out at 15,000 ft on the
bale out order. Looking up I could see
eight chutes above me and figured
it was time to pull mine. I pulled to
rapid after a fall of 15 to 20 secs.
I had to walk around bottle with me.
When the chute opened the bottle
smacked me right in the face.
I went through clouds at 3000 ft
and having noticed much to do lit
a cigarette with my lighter. I landed
hard in a wheat field and turned my
ankle. Five peasants were working
in the fields. I couldn't run away
because of my ankle, in fact I could
hardly walk. I had on G.I. shoes
and flying boots. I left the flying boots
on too about the shock, but actually
I think they helped to turn my
ankle.

The peasants looked at me
and as I spoke French I asked
them where the Germans were. They
said there were none in the

meindy and started to pound their
freaks this has a dirty meaning
amongst the Italians at some point
I was ready to sock someone, not knowing
that in France it means hit the
road. I rolled my chute into a
ball and the peasants took it. I asked
for help & they weren't eager to give
it. I pulled out my map & ask
where I was (bet Versailles & St Germain
& of Charles 27 km from Paris. & they
showed me. And they pointed the way
south to Spain. Then pointed to a
town and told me I could get a
woman there. I didn't want but
a town in uniform & certainly didn't
feel like making love. They took
my flying jacket & coveralls giving
me an old jacket & beret & wear
with my O.D.s. I cut off the shoulder
straps on my shorts.

I could hardly walk but
I started out of the field to the road
as best I could. Two men came
by on bicycles & told me to
hide in the wheat field & that

~~He~~
He insisted on taking my doct & gene
in, this was a mistake. We walked
through the town without attracting
any attention for I am no blond
gent and on ~~of~~ another ~~town~~
town where we went to a bar. They
told a lot of people who I was, and
they all shook hands and produced
some Lamb chops.

We got on ~~the~~ local train to Paris.
Took the metro & went to ex P/W's
house. 137-40 met in an air going baldness
set med. light Champion

I left here that night, but he also wanted
to get rid of me. I looked at the
map & decided to go to Bayonne
He took me to the Gare d'Amsterdam
& he bought my ticket. I told
him to buy me some newspapers
The ticket to Bayonne 3rd classe
cost me 400 francs. He put me
on the train but all the seats were
reserved and I thought I wasn't
allowed to stand, cause I knew
nothing of Fr rail travel though it was

(2)

I examined
the contents
of my
bag

they would be back that night. I
 had ~~found~~ a wheat field a good
 hiding place because the peasants
 looked for me for 15 minutes that
 evening & couldn't find me until
 I poked my head up. They told
 me to get going & pointed to a dirt
 road. I started down the road &
 ran into a peasant family. They
 stopped me and asked where I was
 going & what I was going to do.
 I told them I was following the road
 route. They told me to get off
 the dirt road immediately as it
 was heavily travelled by the
 Germans. I was to go back
 to the wheat field and wait.
 I wait until 1400 hours on

27 June and was pretty cold
 and hungry. I tried some herbs
 but they tasted awful. The peasant
 of the family returned with a man from
 Paris, who was a released
 prisoner. This man exchanged
 clothes with me & gave me
~~bread~~ a rhubarb tart & a
 bottle of water & a bottle of wine.
 He charged me 130 francs for this

like U.S. There was a young girl alone in ~~the~~ compartment. I asked her if I could come in, ~~the~~ ~~tr~~ was pretty rusty. She knew something was wrong. She was speaking to a young man on the platform, my friend who was there too took a chance & told him what I was. The young man asked if I had papers I said no. He promised that he could get me ~~one~~ ~~by~~ ~~myself~~. I got off the train.

I spent the day with my friend. We had Sunday - ~~was~~ at 1700 hrs in a cafe. We ~~that~~ I had no pictures my friend was told to get me taken in a dept store. (6 for 12 pictures)

brought the pictures with us. Two English speaking men in the cafe joined the two of us. M. Paul ~~path~~ ~~ap~~ ~~g~~ ~~g~~ ~~g~~ ~~g~~ and M. August, Brula (wagon lit poles - makes up beds) both spoke

excellent English of Paul
looked English (Boula said I was
an agent working in Paris
Police Bureau)

Paul said I would leave by A/C
in two weeks. Then the question
arose as to who would keep me
during that time. Boula said come
both me and be my dad & aunt
son. He took me to his home
in le Perreux 99 rue Marechal
Joffre. Three days after my
arrival he brought me my papers
from M. Paul. We went to Paris
to a cafe but the man who was to
take me out by plane did not show
up. Boula phoned Paul who told us
that the plane man had been caught with
50,000 franc coupons. When Paul
joined us he said that his ^{marriage} ⁵⁵ blond
arrest definitely cancelled the
plane deal. Next that if I would
wait till Wednesday I would be
taken to Marseilles & thence by
air to Algiers.
Monday 12 July our boy
landed in Sicily so this
cancelled the Wednesday 14 to
Paris as the G. were waiting to coast

too well. After that Bula was
 never able to re-contact Paul. He would
 phone but get his wife who would only
 say that he was alive & in good health.
 Stung on with Bula for four
 months. He lived like a pig.
 He didn't want to stay, but he wouldn't
 let me go for fear I would fall into
 their hands. Said he could
 figure a way & when I left it would
 be in good hands. He belonged
 to no one. Got some sort of lives
 here. I say that it comes from
 the bread & no meat. I share much
 during my stay. I didn't share much
 & we spoke English. We were out
 in the yard watching. I was once in
 the end of Sept when a neighbor
 child figured me out & told a
 landlady who told the neighbors.
 I had to be moved and went
 for three days to the home
 of a friend of Bula: Curtalad
 and old man now dead of
 natural causes. After 3 days
 when Bula said made it clear

of the neighbors that I had
gone, I returned, but now
had to keep to my room. But his
wife talked and then the neighbors
started again. Finally the local
resistance chief got wind of me
(works in a shop)
He said I must be moved from all
this talk.

He sent two men for me one
night. all men Hollywood Pistols
clutch hats, brown suits & false
moustaches, look-outs on
every corner, much slinking

They took me to their home
and I stayed with them until the
end of November. Gave me new,
really good I cards, both very
active in clandestine press &
resistance, got men ^{Fung Macquis}
Courtet, Alfred & Fule. 6 rue
nouvelle Moreau de Perrot.
He had one bad scare when
a good friend was "arrested" with
the pamphlets but thanks to the 4 pieces
it all went off well.

I had been told that I was
leaving in two weeks but here
was the usual screw-up.

The night of 20th, Marie Therese
and Mrs. Mc Cartney came

Name Therese Labadie lives
in Rouen - seemed very wealthy
here after a man in medical corps
killed in 1915. Lives with mother in
big house. Her small (5 ft) dark
yellow paled French skin 31 yrs old
jet black hair. She was an army
nurse this war. Now works in
a Paris lab. McCarty said she
was comparatively new to the org.

Miss McCarty Irish old 45
tanned English grey hair plump

Then told me I was going
to a field of leave by plane they
took me to the gate at Rastatt
& told me to follow a young girl
(a nurse something wrong with one eye (blind)
as control) blond in curly hair 19 or 20 yrs 5 ft 6 in

She led me to an apartment
75 rue Montreuil West of the Mayrials
Ceile where I spent the night
working people. She had handled
3 other Americans before. Husband dead
on son at instructs & adopted son is
escaped POW She works in an employment
bureau 45-50 yrs reddish hair 5 ft 2
height

The next day a lady ^{came} and ^{took} me to ^{Jewish} and ^{lived} in
a garage ^{M. Redaud} ^{garage}
du Parc ^{Jewish} ~~garage~~

Showed me pictures of Americans
who had been with him 26 had
gone through Jewish. I slept with
~~Edmund~~ Edmund escaped P/W who worked
for Maurice in the next door hotel.

~~Three~~ Three days after my
arrival to wife went to Paris and
found that the boy had been caught
Gestapo caught a young man who
knew name of Marie Christine cause he
had been of assistance to all
not members of J. He told all
he knew which was names only
we addressed the Gestapo took
Marie Christine but having no evidence
put her in Fresnes but did
not shoot. This same boy is
the one who revealed the 50 tons
arms cache in Brittany & Normandy
for which 50 to 100 men were shot.
~~The~~ Mme Redaud told me
that Marie C was a colonel's wife

(6)

he and her two children had been
killed. Supposed to be elderly woman.

Didand said back up we'll
get you out. A wine merchant Le Ferre
(with the resistance man) had 3 Americans
(one of saw) I went to see them
They were leaving that night.
They told me not to buy Pyrexines
as they had just made an
aborted attempt. I said I would
stay till spring & leave on my
own. Gave Le Ferre my name
to put me in touch.

Albert & Ingle who used to
visit me still found that there
was only one MC's & she was
caught they tried to get me into
the hands of what was left. I was
to make believe I had seen MC
& that all had been arranged as
this was true of the other 3 G.I.s, & it
whether Jeff ever after now was
caught & question of money at Geneva

Went back to Le Perrean for
Christmas. The 26th M.T. came

again & took me of home of an
English woman where I met Halloway.
Both of us went with M.T. to Ecouen.
All this moving made me mad
small of risk involved getting in touch
to always say. I asked MT for the
real low down & she told me her
version of MC.

MC was on a train with a man
going south. Ten women of various
were in next compartment. ~~Some~~
Germans got women to later killed guards
(escaped) told MC & man. Man
shot for woman but no proof on
MC so just sent to Fresnes.
MT says they keep in touch with
her thru Red + parcels.
Said MC was single ~~not at all~~
bet 28 + 35 yrs a nurse.

MT got in touch with
McCarthy who got in touch with
some of the org while we spent
3 weeks with MT. About 1 Jan
a real blond came very pretty
26 yrs tall husband in Paris
concentration camp. Boy of 4

He had been denounced
previously, last time in April as only
stayed to night, her Mel took
us back to Marie Schmitt on 15th
Walking with Mel no joy, Her
look make everyone stare & also
& flashy dresses.

The 17th Jan we were
~~visited~~ visited by Madeleine Dupre

<sup>Julien Dec who
he was caught with Swiss
Army orders.</sup>
Others of who worked for British
Claudette (who works for Capt
Hamilton) was often there he brought
Paul & I/O to Schmitts.

① Madeleine's if wanted me & want
② Claudette's could take me.
I was mad cause B had my boy &
my hate & give one up & another.

The 18th Claudette came
& took us to another house until
evening. Capt Hamilton came here
and asked identifying questions How
many stripes on sleeve to show rank.
Where is the flat-iron blade What
heaters on Times Sq. That
evening Claudette took us to
to give us word. I'm the

(7)

born in Russia. Mike's Irish father
fetched. She brings women into
Paris used to work for a ~~man~~

~~to~~ Julien but he was caught
~~by~~ on the barge with 3 Canadians.
Cause they ~~the~~ were all speaking
English. Julien is still alive
in some prison. He was the Chief
of this org we were now in.

She took us to Mme Schmidt
of rue Rochecourt. Here we
met Alfred a Norwegian / of whom I and
Fr are sceptical - his stories don't click
and Dickerman. That night

P/O Norman RCAF + S/Sgt 3846p waist
gunner Paul from Capt Dingleham's crew. Both
caught at St Briac by 7 or 8 gendarmes
who questioned them at the station

After ~~the~~ Saturday to 13th Jan
as we were "sleeping poorly" Mell
took me to ~~the~~ home of a Greek St Peter Professor
Moussat decorations
of last war (in Renaud area)

Station we met a girl, young
 man & elderly man. We went
 of St Brieuc after coming into
 crowded train through window.
 Papers checked at St Brieuc
 the morning of the 19th, ~~then~~
 & stayed in a room above a bar.
 That afternoon of Plouha. Stayed
 in the home of a woman with 16
 children, here Capt Williams?
 told us about the two caught. "Val"

Val had worked for Pathé news &
 United Press. To College in Vermont.
 elementary school in England ~~and~~
~~Plouha~~ Canadian 'Speaks #1 &
 Russian too understands German.
 Had been in prison seven months
 at Rennes sentenced if he
 shot. Had been thoroughly gone over
 by Gossaps beaten with lead pipe
 etc Escaped the day sentenced 15
 days before he was to be shot. Broke
 in ankle in escaping. Came
 with us. He was the one who
 explained to code of us
 24 hr delay = you ne pence souvent a l'heureuse ^{rencontre}
 about coming bonjour tout le monde dans la maison d'attente _{option}

~~the~~ Flare of us here. Willis co-pilot
at radio Jerry ball turret Walker tail
and top turret Johnny & Norman of RAF
Nal & Peter & Rhodesian P.O. & self.
Stayed here until we left.
Kept in doors all quiet, listened
of radio.

Night of the 25th left at 22 hrs
made ready-rooms with 8 others & French
at fort house, 1/2 m from Beach.
Capt Hamilton (short dark moustach) gave
us instruction. ~~Just~~ Went cross
country to beach. French signalled
with blue lights from beach & cliff.
The row boats came w using walkie-
talkie & took us to gunboat.
Came in at Dartmouth. GB pulled
alongside another boat on which we
cleared up etc.

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/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.....

Information actually seen ^{5 are in the area of to 27} ^{traces also one comes in of G as was}

Barrage balloons in and around the city of Paris never numbered more than eleven at any alert. A.A. barrages were usually light on all the raids I've seen, except one in Sept '43, when the Renault factory area was bombed, at which time the sky was full of white puffs of A.A. all the other times it was the usual black puff. ^{Light A.A. outside of} ^{3 1/2 mm from Renault} ^{of Renault barracks}

I've seen an extremely large factory on the outskirts of Paris, in which the french said Renault was turning out a good quantity of tanks and trucks for the Germans. I don't know the exact location, but they said that Villa Coublay was near by. It is easily identified by its extremely large four smoke stacks, and the building covers quite an area in itself. ^{See near Citroen}

The Germans in Paris seemed to increase a good deal just before I left (2 weeks ago) and they consisted of all types of troops (tank, grenadiers, cavalry, air corps, marines, sailors etc) but what really impressed me was the large number of big wigs and high officials floating around the city, for I never saw so much brass in all my stay in occupied territory. The coastal area which I travelled through (Brittany) revealed no specific defenses, whether that's due to camouflage or the terrain I couldn't say, but I could say that landing there would be near impossible because ^{all strategic points} ^{are so well not for tank}

I've never seen any sabotage organizations although I did come into contact with a Frenchman who said he was doing such work at Villa Coublay. The raid on the 14th of July completely demolished the assembly plant there, 1 kilometer of air field and there were three hits on the military road running along the outskirts of the field. I'm supposed saboteur, whom I've seen just before Xmas, said that the ~~team~~ was established again and turning 3 FW 190's out each day there, as far as the resistance goes, the French are filthy with opposition organizations, and I don't believe there's a town in France without their own resistance movement. The main organizations were the young Christian movement, DeGaulleists and the communists. Enemy equipment (light arms being all that I've seen) is in very good condition, and his morale is very good, for they still haven't lost their arrogance.

Hearsay

The raid on July 14 on Villa Combar was very successful, the french said that 300 chassis were destroyed on the ground, the assembly plant wiped out, and the road on the outskirts of the field being hit several times. There was also 1 kilometre of airfield which was unusable.

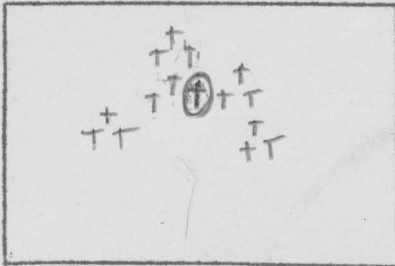
One of the resistance boys in Juvisy said that the Germans were turning out a new flame thrower in considerable quantities in Leizy. He got this information from a Frenchman who had been working there.

Results of our bombings were generally good, but the french were very piqued when we miss by a large distance and destroy a whole section of a town killing a good many good French people.

NAME SIDNEY CASDEN RANK 2LT ASN 0-734426 REPORT NO. _____

SQ 546 GROUP 384 A/C NO. 998 Letter _____ Load 5000 LBS Date 6-26-43

10-500 LBS. BOMBS



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing: JETTISONED BOMBS - CLOUDS ALL OVER

Enemy Fighter Tactics: ATTACK FROM REAR FEINT FROM NOSE LOW
Markings: UNOBSERVABLE - BUT AS I WAS DESCENDING IN
PARACHUTE 6 F4U'S WERE CLIMBING TO ALTITUDE LED BY A YELLOW
NOSE JOB.

Our Tactics: _____

Our Fighter Support: NONE

Flak NONE
Time Place Quality

Technical Failures

Motors: _____

Armor: _____

Armament: _____

Miscellaneous: _____

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above: NONE

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

E & E REPORT NO. 355
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

Sidney (NMI) CASDEN, 2d Lt, O-734426
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

546 Bomb 384 Bomb
(Squadron) (Group)

MIA: 26 June 1943
Arrived in Spain: _____
Arrived in Gibraltar: _____
Arrived in UK: _____

AGE: _____
LENGTH OF SERVICE: _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-520047	2d Lt	Joseph (NMI) ROSIO	E&E #54	
CO-PILOT	0-672784	2d Lt	George W EVANS	E&E #55	
NAVIGATOR	0-796510	2d Lt	Leonard J FINK	E&E #180	
BOMBARDIER	0-734426	2d Lt	Sidney (NMI) CASDEN	NARRATOR	
RADIO OPERATOR	20820476	S/Sgt	Lester (NMI) BROWN	E&E #52	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	16054934	S/Sgt	Edward MASTERSON	MIA	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	34290923	S/Sgt	John H HUGHTON	E&E #53	
WAIST GUNNER	12034633	S/Sgt	Anthony F CUCINOTTA	E&E #71	
WAIST GUNNER	32278859	S/Sgt	John H KUBERSKI	E&E #56	
TAIL GUNNER	15110791	S/Sgt	Lee (NMI) LEWIS	P/W	

Were you wounded?

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

6 February 1944

E & E REPORT NO. 355
EVASION IN FRANCE

Sidney (NMI) CASDEN, 2d Lt. O-734426
546 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

TARGET: VILLA COUBLAY

MIA: 26 June 1943
Arrived in UK:
29 January 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	0-520047	2d Lt	Joseph (NMI) ROSIO	E&E RPT 54
CO-PILOT	0-672784	2d Lt	George W EVANS	E&E RPT 55
NAVIGATOR	0-796510	2d Lt	Leonard J FINK	E&E RPT 180
BOMBARDIER	0-734426	2d Lt	Sidney (NMI) CASDEN	NARRATOR
RADIO OPERATOR	20820476	S/Sgt	Lester (NMI) BROWN	E&E RPT 52
TOP TURRET GUNNER	16054934	S/Sgt	Edward MASTERSON	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	34290923	S/Sgt	John H HOUGHTON	E&E RPT 53
WAIST GUNNER	12034633	S/Sgt	Anthony F CUCINOTTA	E&E RPT 71
WAIST GUNNER	32278859	S/Sgt	John H KUBERSKI	E&E RPT 56
TAIL GUNNER	15110791	S/Sgt	Lee (NMI) LEWIS	P/W

HIT BY WALK-
AROUND BOTTLE

I baled out at 18000 feet when the order was given. When I looked up I could see eight chutes above me and decided it was time to pull mine. I must have been falling then for 15 to 20 seconds. I had a walk-around bottle with me, and when my chute opened the bottle smacked me in the face. Having nothing much else to do I lit a cigarette. I went into cloud at 3000 feet and landed hard in a wheatfield. I turned my ankle and could not run away, in fact I could hardly walk. I had kept my flying boots on over my GI boots to absorb the shock, but I think they actually helped to turn my ankle.

USES ESCAPE
MAPS

The peasants in the field stared at me. I speak French, so I asked them where the Germans were. They said there were none in the vicinity. They started to pound their forearms. As this gesture has a dirty meaning in Italian I started to get mad, but soon discovered that in France it means: "Hit the road." I had given them my chute rolled into a ball. I now asked them for help, but they were not eager to give it. I pulled out my escape maps, and they did show me where I was. They pointed toward the village and told me there were woman there. I didn't want to go near a village in my uniform, and furthermore was in no loving mood. The peasants took my flying jacket and coveralls, giving me an old jacket and beret to wear with my OD's. I cut the straps off of my shirt.

I hobbled out to the road as best I could. Two men passed on bicycles and told me to hide in the wheat field and that they would return. So I did.

WHEAT FIELDS
GAVE GOOD COVER

and examined the contents of my aids box. I think that wheat fields make good hiding places, for the peasants looked for me unsuccessfully for 15 minutes before I stuck my head up. They again told me to go away, and pointed down the dirt road.

GERMANS TRAVEL
THE MAIN ROADS

I started down the main road and was stopped by a peasant family. They wanted to know where I was going and what I was going to do. I told them that I was going to follow the road south. They told me to get off the road immediately as it was heavily traveled by the Germans. I was to go back to the wheat field and wait for them.

FOOD AND CIVILIAN
CLOTHES

At 1400 hours the next day they returned with another man. I was pretty cold and hungry by now. I had tried some Horlicks, but they tasted too awful to continue eating them. This new man exchanged clothes with me and gave me a rhubarb tart, bottle of water, and bottle of wine. He charged me 130 francs. He insisted on taking my shoes and I let him, later I wished that I had not.

We walked through the town without attracting any attention, for I am no blond giant. We went to a cafe and everyone in it was told who I was. This resulted in my being given lamb chops, instead of being turned over to the Germans as one would have expected.

JOURNEY
ARRANGED

We left the cafe for the railroad station, and the rest of my journey was arranged.

Compiled By:

Dorothy A. Smith

DOROTHY A SMITH
Capt, WAC

Approved By:

W.S. Holt

W S HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

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NUMBER OF MEN: (100)

200 (M) FRANK

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Hit by
walk-around
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The peasants in the
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They started to pound their firearms. As this gesture has a dirty meaning in Italian I started to get mad, but soon discovered that in France it means: "Get to road". I had given them my clute rolled into a ball. I now asked them for help, but they were not eager to give it. I pulled out my escape maps, and they did show me where I was

The firearm sign

uses escape maps

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I hobbled out of the road as best I could. Two men

(3)

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and that they would return!
So I did and examined the contents
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the wheat field and wait for them.

At 1400 hours the next day

(4)

they returned with another man
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Food and eating them. This new man
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(5)

Journey
Conduct

We left the safe for the railroad
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355 B

No more than eleven barrage balloons were ever observed in Paris during an alert. Five of the eleven are in the area of the railroad tracks which come into the Gare du Nord. Observation, June-December

During the September raid on the Renault works, the sky was full of white puffs of AA. On all other raids, only the usual ~~the~~ black puff was observed. Light machine guns and 37 mm pom poms are placed on school and barracks roofs. Observed

There is a large factory on the outskirts of Paris in which the French claim Renault is making tanks and trucks for the Germans. It is near ~~Villa Coublay~~ the Citroen factory in the Villa Coublay area. The factory covers a large area and is identified by four large smoke stacks. Harson
December

Troops in the Paris area greatly increased in the last two weeks of December, ~~the~~ ^{all arms} were represented: tanks, cavalry, air corps, marines, sailors etc. The number of high ranking officers showed a particularly marked increase ~~at~~ in this period. Observation

The 14 July raid on Villa Coublay completely demolished the assembly plant there. There were three huts on the military road running alongside the field. One kilometer of airfield ^{and 300 A/C on the ground} were also destroyed. Just before Christmas the plant was ~~supposed~~ ^{said} to be functioning again, and turning out 3 FW 190 daily. Hearsay.

Resistance movements in France center around the de Gaulleists, Communists and the ⁱⁿ young

Austrian movement. Hearsey and
Observation

The Germans are said to
be manufacturing a new flame-
thrower at Leipzig.

APPENDIX "B" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 355 - CASDEN

Period of information covering 26 June to 20 ~~December~~ ^{January} 1943

- a. No more than eleven barrage balloons were ever observed in PARIS during an alert. Five of the eleven are in the area of the railroad tracks which come into the Gare du Nord. (observation - June - December)
- b. During the September raid on the Renault works, the sky was full of white puffs of AA. On all other raids only the usual black puff was observed. Light machine guns and .37-mm pom poms are placed on school and barracks roofs. (observation)
- c. There is a large factory on the outskirts of PARIS in which the French claim Renault is making tanks and trucks for the Germans. It is near the Citroen factory in the VILLA COUBLAY area. The factory covers a large area and is identified by four large smoke stacks. (hearsay - December)
- d. Troops in the PARIS area greatly increased in the last two weeks of December. All arms were represented: tanks, cavalry, air corps, marines, sailors, etc. The number of high ranking officers showed a particularly marked increase in this period. (observation)
- e. The 14 July raid on VILLA COUBLAY completely demolished the assembly plant there. There were three pits on the military road running alongside the field. One kilometer of airfield and 300 aircraft on the ground were also destroyed. Just before Christmas the plant was said to be functioning again, and turning out 3 FW 190's daily. (hearsay)
- f. Resistance movements in France center around the De Gaullists, Communists, and the Young Christian movement. (hearsay and Observation)
- g. The Germans are said to be manufacturing ~~as never~~ flame-throwers at LEIPZIG.

No., Rank, Name:-

Steven Casden 0-734426

Unit:-

546 384

Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training 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? **YES** *but to real need, (immediate use)*
- b. If not, why?
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights".

Horlicks tablets. **ATE TWO, COULDN'T GIVE THE REST AWAY** *more even children contact them*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. **WENT TO THE FRENCH** *gone & helpers*

Milk (tube). **FRENCH** " " "

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum. *gone & helpers*

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit. **TO PATCH UP THE CLOTHES I HAD**

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? **NO**
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? **FRENCH DID THAT.** *helpers*
- f. 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?
NO

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? **YES**
State color of stripes and letters. **RED LETTERS OR STRIPES**
If NOT, State why not.

- b. Did you use the purse? **YES.** **TO BUY A RAILROAD TICKET TO DAYONNE**
AND THE REST WENT FOR FOOD, WINE, AND CIGARETTES
(over)

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones? **NONE**

Compass. **—**

File (hacksaw). **—**

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. **2000 FR. FRANKS**

How did you spend the money? **130 for food and clothes, 400 for a R.R. ticket to
Lyon, 125 to fix my watch and the remainder for wine and cigarettes**

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. **FRENCH**

Compass. **LOST ONE BROKE THE OTHER AND BOUGHT ANOTHER**

File (hacksaw). **—**

Surplus currency. **WINE AND CIGARETTES**

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? **NO**

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? **NO Never taken. Oh base**
If so, how many? **ten worth**

b. Did you use them? **—**

**They are important, everyone
should have them. Having
been made in France of
papers for everyone**

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? **YES**

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. **At Kearney Nebraska, just before leaving
the states (May 18, 1943), by a lieutenant who escaped through Spain and flew with the
Eagle Sq.**

b. Did you find the lectures of value? **YES**

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel
will help other evaders and escapers?

**If the french don't know what to do, have them see the
resistance leader in the town, and he'll get you in with the
right parties in the least possible time.**

**I was wearing new G.I. shoes I let to French
take them which was stupid. One should keep ones
shoes cause France wear all sorts**