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

to

E & E REPORT NO. 472 EVASION IN FRANCE

> 18 March 1944 (Date)

Kenneth P C CHRISTIAN, T/Sgt, 17129189
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

(Number of Missions)

544 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: FRANKFURT

MIA: 8 February 1944

Arrived in UK:

17 March 1944

				design of the color of the colo
MEMBERS OF CREW	(This informati	on checked with PWIB)	Official	Narrators
PILOT	0-679049 lst Lt	Royston T COVINGTON,	Disposition JR MIA	Disposition
CO-PILOT	0-748624 2d Lt	James E GEARY	. MIA	
NAVIGATOR	0-683297 2d Lt	Floyd H OHLSON	MIA	
BOMBARDIER	0-674786 2d Lt	Thomas P McQuINN	MIA	
RADIO OPERATOR	17129189 T/Sgt	Kenneth P C CHRISTIA	N NARRATOR	
TOP TURRET GUNN	m 31135578 T/Sgt	John J YOUNKER	MIA	
BALL TURRET GUN	NER 19145947 S/Sgt	William W ONSTAD	MIA	
WAIST GUNNER.	39902707 S/Sgt	Stanley C WHITNEY	MIA	
WAIST GUNNER	35415325 Cpl	William C CAINE	MIA	
TAIL GUNNER	31148585 S/Sgt	Aleck M WASILEWSKI	MIA	

DIFFICULT TOKEEP FORMATION

ABORTED

Set. Christian took off from Grafton Underwood on his 10th mission to bomb Frankfurt. Due to great haze the pilot found it difficult to assume his proper place in the formation, which was reached as they crossed the Channel. Christian believes that his plane was behind schedule, and that it did not take its proper position in the element, which was Number 3. The finally ended up as "Tail End Charlie", but had difficulty keeping up with the other planes in the formation as the Number 3 engine was throwing oil. When the navigator informed the pilot that the plane was over German territory, the pilot latter decided to abort. Bombs were salvoed through the clouds, with no observation of results, and the plane turned home.

ATTACK BY FW 190'S

Green-green flares were fired, but no friendly planes appeared. After the plane had been about ten minutes on the return journey, flying on three engines, 3 FW 190's appeared from the taid. Diving out of the sun, two went over the B-17 and one went under. Christian believes that the Fw 190 that went underneath hit the wing tanks, but there was no fire. After this attack the k plane climbed into the clouds, followed by the FW 190's. However, they did not attack again, as the B-17 was dodging through the clouds. Suddenly we the plane dropped about about 1000 feet, Christian believed due to evasive PLANF OFF action. About this time the German fighters left, and the bomber continued losing altitude and heading in a South-esterly direction, while the navigator was trying to pick up landmarks. When they reached 4000 feet, the pilot ordered the crew to put on parachutes. The intercom also went out of order about this time.

COURSE

In a few minutes more flying time, the plane headed over water. On referring to a map, Christian believes that they were then over the Baie de la Seine, west of Le Havre. The encounterd some fak flak just as the left the coast. Soon after they passed over the water, a P-51 flew alongside but as far as Christian saudt could tell the pilot did not give his own pilot any indication as to the correct course to England. After the P-51 had been flying alongside for about three minutes, both planes climbed to about 3000 feet and the P-51 dissappeared.

4 CHUTES IN AIR

When they fix flew over the Cherbourgeeninsula they encountered BALES OUT- intense black flak. At this time the engineer and came back and told Christian to bale out. Christian jumped from the waist and was the last enlisted man to leave the plane. He pulled the rip cord immediately and counted 4 chutes in the air. Slipping the chute to avoid some woods, he I landed in a pasture in a heavy gale. Sometime during his descent he was hit in the ankle by flak.

HIDDEN IN BARN

On landing about 1415, he cut the shrouds and took off his chute. He I carried this to a barn about 300 yards away. Standing near the barn was a woman with a young girl and threexe two children. When he came up to her. took out his phrase card, and indicated he was an American flyer. The woman immediately took Christian inside the barn where he was hidden in the hat hay with his chute.

GERMAN SEARCH

CIVILIAN CLOTHES

Just after he was hidden, several germans arrived and assauched questioned the woman, but did not search the place thousand Thoroughly. In about 15 minutes the woman returned and gave him a drink. He brought out his map and with the aid of the woman found his position. Christian then asked for clothes and was supplied with pants, coat, and beret. He wore his heated suit under the civilian clothes and cut the tops off his My heated flying shoes.

mistakentu

MEETS GERMANS

The woman urged Christian to leave the farm in a hurry after he had dressed, which he did. After he had gone about 300 yards down the road, he I met tress three German soldiers. Mo these he gave the "Heil Hitler" with the left hand, exes exposing his wrist watch, and passed on He later met one more German and saw others in the distance searching for the rest of the crew.

WALKS

ACROSS

puron Christian continued acress country until about 1700. At this time ha saw a farmer in a field, who was unable to give him any help when approached. A little later he saw approached a frenchman who took him to a farmhouse. After he had been here about an hour, another Frenchman who spoke some English was brought in. He was then fed and hidden in a haystack, where he spent the night. CETS HELP He was told that they would buy him a ticket to Paris and that he would leave on a train early the next morning.

> He was to have take a train to Paris at 0600, but no one showed up. At 0930 he was take Winto the house again, where he was told that it was impossible for him to take the train due to the number of Germans in the visinity. The Frenchmen advised Christian to walk to a nearby town, which he reached about 1700. Here he went to a cafe and told the proprietor that he was an American flyer. The was then locked in the cafe by hinself, while the proprietor went away. In about fifteen minutes the proprietor came back and took him to another building.

From here his subsequent journey was arranged.

LT. DENREAUX WALTER D. DEVREAUX IST LT. CAV

- 1. 3 tanks observed in camouflaged truck park zez cut out of a hillside on Cherbourg Valognes road about 9 km. from Valognes. Two M.P. sentry boxes were on the road at entrance to park.
- 2. There were AA guns every 300 to 400 yards along Cherbourg Valognes road. Believed to be3-inch guns. Observation.
- 3. About 8 km. from Valognes on the Valognes Cherbourg road there is a large chateau which is believed to be a gen German headquarters. Obs. and hearsay.
- 4. There is anew airport at Evreux and we have been bombing the old one. The runway of the field is the main Paris Evreux highway. There are also two new ammunition dumps and a new railway to them. See sketch.

a section of

5. Rommel's headquarters are in a chateau in the center of Roche - Guyon. Hearsay.

On being taken from the cafe, Set. Christian was taken to a French Red Cross unit at Valognes which was housed in a large chateau. The Red Cross nurse at this unit spoke English and questioned him for purposes of identity he spent the next three days and nights in a large bedroom on the ground floor of this chateau and did not leave. The upper floors of the chateau were a German headquarters and there were Germans going in and out at all times of the day. (This was later confirmed by another source to Christian at Evreux.)

The girl in charge of the Red Cross, whose name Christian did not remember, got him an issatity x and identity card and arranged for him MF to go to Evreux, were where he arrived at 2100. He had his left hand bandaged, which was to be his idnetification to so meone who was to meet him MF at Ewreux. However, no one appeared and he spent the night in the railroad station. The next morning he went into the center of the town.

Sgt. Christian went to the Cafe du Paris, where he anounced himself to the proprietor as an American flyer. He was told to sit down and after an hour a man, name unknown, was brought in who spoke English. This man had been a waiter in Houston, Tex. He went out to enquire for the man who was to have met Christian the night before, but was unable to find him.

The French at first thought that Christian was Lt. Cape, E & E Report No. and when they found that he was not, he was severely questioned by them to established his identity as an American. Later in the day, he was joined by Lt. Cape, and from here on they traveled together and their our experiences were the same. Sgt. Christian has read Appendix C of Lt. Cape's report and has nothing to add to it.

MAVE

Walter Deureaux

SECRET

AFPENDIX "D" TO E AND I REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name: - CHRISTIAN-KENNETH P.C. TISO Unit: - 384-GROUP - 544 50D

Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training come largely from those who take use of them. Your report and comments will help others to evade capture or to escape.

1. AIDS DOX

- et. Did you use your aids box? YES
- If not, why? b.
- If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hading in woods for two nights".

Horlicks tablets. 2ND-DAY

Chocolate or Pesnut Bar, 2 ND-DAY

Milk (tube). NO

Bonzadrane tablets (fatigue). NO

Halazone tablets (water purifier). /ES - 2 TABLETS- 2 ~ day

Matches. YES

whosive tope. YES - For wounded andle

Chewing gum, FES

Water bottle. YES

Compass. YES-VERY-MUCH

Sowing kit. No .

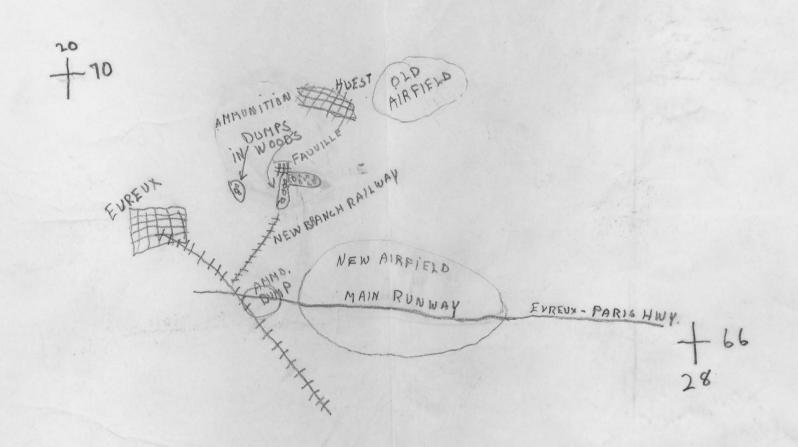
- Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? NONE ALL EXCELLENT
- How did you finally dispose of the bex? ORGANIZATON
- Can you suggest any way in which the centents of the aids box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger?

PURSE

- Did you carry a purse? Yes State color of stripes and letters. RED-STRIPE If NOT, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse? / E5

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use? Hops. Which ones? FRENCH Compass. File (hackson). NO Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. FRANCE- 2000 FRANCE How did you spend the money? DISTRIBUTED-TO-PEORLE-INTORGANIZATION How did you dispose of :-More. - ORGANIGATION Compass. File (hacksaw). Surplus currency. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? NO PASSFURT SZE PHOTOGRAPHS a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? VES If so, how many? 6-PHOTO b. Did you use than? YES LECTURES a. Were you lectured on evasion and decepe? State WHERE, WHAN and by THOLL YES-BASE- 6-LECTURES-YEROM-EACHb. Did you find the lectures of value? VERY-MUCH c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evadors and ascapers? A. KEEP-COOL B. BE - CONFIDENT C. STAY-ON-THE BALL D. FOLLOW-ORDERS of organization. E Do not earry excape kit knee facture of coveralls, He was badly cut an truce when landing in heavy gele. F. SOP on this plane was for Overlin to get 10 phrase curds for crew on each musion.

SHEET 9 F/3 Former 1-80,000 sheet 47 NW



SECRET - AMERICAN MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO.41V EVASION IN

MARCH 18/1944

(Name) (Rank) (ASN) 9189

544 (Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:

MIA: FEB-8-FRANCFORT Arrived in UK: MARCH 17, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)		
seemmen or ormu. (Turn Timestroffor allocated MT011 T.UTD)	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT ROYSTON-COVINGTON	1740170040100	no information
CO-PILOT - GEARY &		' '/
NAVIGATOR FLOYD - OHLSON		"
BUMBARDIER PATRICK - MCGUINN		
RADIO OPERATOR KENNEH-CHRISTIAN-X		Balel out
TOP TURRET GUNNER JOHN J- KOUNKER-X		11
		11
DALL TURRET GUNNER WILLIAM - ONSTAD -X		11
WAIST GUNNER L. STANLEY-WHITNEY-X		11
WAIST CUNNER R. WILLIAM - CAINE _ X		1)
TAIL GUNNER ALECK-WASILEWSKI-X		11

X - INDICATES - MEMBERS - JUMPED
6 - CHUTES - WERE - SEEN - OPENED - INCLUDING - MYSELF {FLAK-WAS- TO - HEAVY

REPORTS - ON - GANDING = THAT - 7 - CHUTES - WERE-SEEN

Were you wounded?

Were you wounded?

YES- FLAK-RIGHT-ANKLE-HIT-WHILE-BAILING-OUT

SECRET - ATERICAN INST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. No-

List all military information which you observed or were told while evading. Give fullest possible details. (Airfields, troop encampments, coastal and interior defenses, AA batteries, radar installations, troop movements, results of allied bombing, location of enemy factories and amunition dumps, enemy and civilian morale, etc., etc.,...)

- 1. 3 Tanks obreved on Chubowy-Valogues rd about 9 Km. from Valgnes, Were held in underground Care well camouflaged. MP boyes on rd outside. obs
- 2. AA guns (about 3") every 300 or 400 gds abong Chubourg Valgnes rd - abs.
- 3. about 8 Km Narye chateau which For believe German Hg, on E. sides ind about about obs.
- Mew Airfort at Evreny- 7028 E. From Fr. Road Map.
 Son Main Paris Hwy. See Shitch Obs & Henry.
- 5. Rommels HB in Chateau in center of Rocke-buyon, Hearray

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

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.

- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- Information about your escape or your evasion from capture would be useful to the enemy and a danger to your friends. It is therefore SEGRET.
- 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.
 - You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.
 - You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.
 - You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4. 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.

GERTIFIGATE

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 SEGRET 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) CHRISTIAN - KENNETH- P.C. Rank T/56T A.S.N. /7/29/89 Unit 384 BOMBGRA. 544 BOMB-SQD

Signed Remneth P. C. Christian Dated March 18, 1944

Witness ...

SECRET - AMERICAN MOST SECRET - BRITISH MIS (X)

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PRSONNEL EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

- 1. Full Name, Rank, and Serial No. KENNETH-PAUL-CHARLES CHRISTIAN
- 2. Decorations.

more

T/SGT ASN-17129189

- 3. Unit or Squadron. 344 SQD
- 4. Division (Army) or Group. 384-6ROUP
- 5. Date of Birth. AUG 19,1918
- 6. Length of Service: 17 MONTHS
- 7. Private Address. 4120 CLEVELAND KANSAS-CITY-MISSOURI
- 3. Job as civilian. FARMER-AUTO-PARTS-MGR.
- 9. From what field did you take off? GRAFTON-DNDERWOOD-STA.#106
- 10. Take off time. STATION 6'AM ENGINES 7:40 AM AIRBORNE 8 05 AM
- 11. Date and target: FEBRUARY 8, 1944 FRANCFORT-GERMANY
- 12. Where did you land? NEAR-ABOUT 25 KILOMTS-FROM-CHERBOURGH-FRANCE
- 13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? IFF-DESTROYED -RADIO
- 14. What was your position in aircraft? 15F-RADIO -OPERATOR
- 15. Were you wounded? YES = FLAKE-RIGHT-ANKLE-HIT-WHILE-BAILING-OWT
- 16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? DISTRIBUTED MONEY-TO-ORGANIZATION
- 17. Do you speak French? Spanish? FRENCH-A-LITTLE
- 18. Did you have Identity Papers? DOG-TAGS- PW-PHOTOS
- 19. Have you been questioned before to-day on your escape or cvasion? If so, where and by whom? Have you given anyone a written report on your experiences. Where and when?
- 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? VES MARCH 18,1944-LONDON-ENG.
- 22. Date of arrival in Spain. No-
- 23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. No -
- 24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. BY 5 E A MARCH 17 SMALL-BOATS-ARRIVED LIZO AM BOARDED-LARGE BOAT 2 A.M. DINDERWAY 208 AM 25. Place and date of arrival in U.K.

DARMOTH-MARCHIT 8:30 AM

OUTLINE FOR TALKS

- Complete description of everything that happened in plane before jump.
- Description of jump and landing.
- Description of what you did with your equipment. 3.
- Tell story of experiences up to time you met the person who put you in contact with organization.

DO NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO HELPED YOU AT ANY TIME. DO NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF TOWNS.

DO NOT GIVE ANY ADDRESSES.

- 5. How you crossed Pyrenees (General Location) 6. Your experiences in Spain.

Suggestions for others.

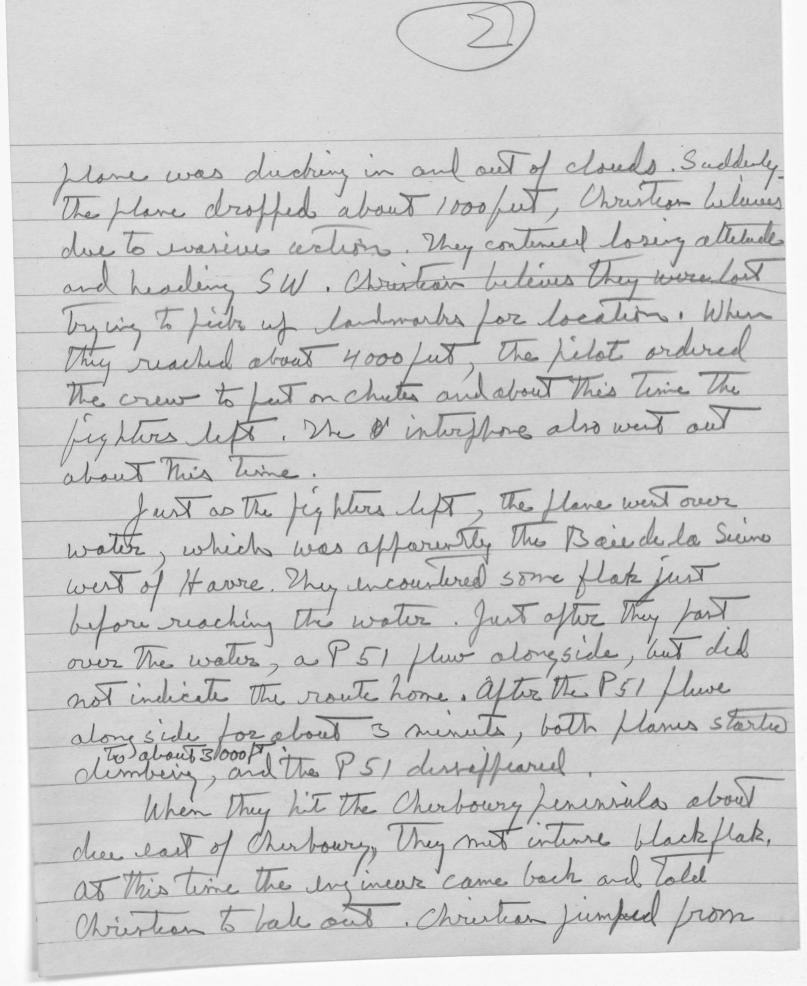
If there is some helpful incident that happened after you were picked up, do not mention it until it has been discussed with M. I. S. Interrogator.

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in the state of th

There Melan RICH RD R. NELSON Major, AC

(Ry) Took of from brefor Underwood in B17 a lobont Franfurt. Due great huge difficult to form formoleon which was reached as the channel was crossed. Christian believed his plane was behind schedele and that it did not get correct got a position in element, which was No, 3, They finally tail end charles No. 6. Plane had difficulty keeping formalion, No3. Engine Throwing oil, and when the navig star said plane was over Germany, the pilot decided to about, Bombs were Salvoid three the clouds over Germany, but no Carget was sun, no observation of visults oblained. Pilane turnel home, from grun fleres were shot, but no fighter from the lail. Two come above The flane and me came under, all out of the sun, Christian believes the plane below hit the tents, Before the allack the 317 had last alliludes and was off oxygen , after the allach to Through The clouds but not attacking because





The back door, and was the last enterted man to leave the flame. He fulled the rief chord immedeately, On the way down he counted 4 chotes in The air. He slifted The chiefe to avoid some woods and landed in a forlives in a heavy gale. He got his trufe out to cut the shrouds when he danded, While in the our he was hit in the right antile by flak.
On landing he cut the shrouds and took off his chute. It a carried to to a born about 300 gets away which he had stalled on The way down. Standing near the barns was a women and Three children, When he reached The woman, he fulled out his phrase card and indicates he was an american flyer. The woman immediately took Christian inside a born, where he was hidden in The hay with his chute, as soon as he was hidden, several arrived and quintioned The woman, but did not search the flace Moroughy , In about 15 minutes The woman returned and que you a drente. He got out his map and with The aid of the woman Jours he

was 27 kelometres from Chorboury, Christian Then asked for clothes and he was sufflied with coal fants, and aboved. He gave the woman has flying cholhes, forachule, and hae went, He wore his haled seed seed under his civilian clothes. For Shows he were cut the top off his healed shoes, The wormen wyed Charlison to leave the farm in a hurry, which he did, after about 300 gds he mest you mit & Evenon, to whom he tilled Hilles with his lest hand, wearing a watch. after farring These three, he mit one more Cormon and sow others in the distance searching for the rest of the crew. He Then headed in the office directed to He continued walking NW across country lills about 1700, when he asked a farmer in a fieldfor help, but was not given any, at about 1745 he Saw a clody, who took him to his house, He remained here about an hour, when this women brought back arother who spoke some Frylers. Thouse they Told Christian They would buy a teiner to Paris, They also fed him and hid him in a hazrlack where

3 he sleft overnght. He was to have taken ado on Train for Paris, but nobody come for him. about 0930 they look hem bock to the house and said they could not set a From heter or account of all the bermans They advend him to walk to Valognes. arriving Valoges about 1900 he went to a cafe and told the profrietors, an old women, he was an american. She left him There, clocked up The cape, and went out. She come back in 15 min and look him to a Foz. Red Cross unit in a big Chalever. He Fr RC Nurse stake English and greeteried him for ideally Jursons. He spent the brust three nights in the room all day.

The uffer slory of this house was a burmon Hg, and burmans were going in and out all day (This fact was confurmed by another source later).

The RC girl got him an idulity card and he left by car after 3 days for the Valogues 18 Rstulion the left Veloques at 1830, and arrived at Evreux cet 2/00, he man he was to meet did not show, so he spent the night in the RR stateon. The night morning he went into the lown and went to The

Cafe der Paris, whore he announced himself as a Commercian, after an hr. They brought a man who stoke English, who had been a waster in Hourton, Tex. He was out to inquire for the man who was to meet him and and the Firench them believed that Christian was ht. Cafo, who was expected that clay, He was sweely questioned on his editately before he was accepted as an American.

From here his journey was the same as ht Caps.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE A. C. OF S., G-2

472

DATE: 19 March 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, PICARD P. OSCAR, 1st Lt., AC, ASN 0-569761
hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with
KENNETH P. CHRISTIAN, T/Sgt., AC, ASN 17129189
prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory.
The person whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon is the individual
referred to above.
$\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$

Kenneth P. Christian
RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as KENNETH P. CHRISTIAN.

T/Sgt., AC, ASN 17129189 (544 Bomb Squadron - 384 Bomb Group)

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

W. F. MARANDA SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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