SECRET - AMERICAN MOST SECRET - BRITISH

HQ, ETOUSA Office of AC of S, G-2 MIS Detachment

E & E REPORTS NOS. 52 & 53 EVASION IN FRANCE

SECRET By Authority of Initials Wa A

9 August 1943

S/Sgt Lester BROWN JR, 20820476 546 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

AGE: 20 years LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 1/12 years

HOME ADDRESS: 3 Looking Street AUSTIN, Texas

S/Sgt John H. HOUGHTON, 34290923 546 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

25 years LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 4/12 years

HOME ADDRESS: INDEPENDENCE, Louisiana

MTA: 26 June 1943 Arrived in Spain: 10 July 1943 Arrived in Gibraltar: 5 August 1943 Arrived in UK: 6 August 1943

MIA: 26 June 1943 Arrived in Spain: 10 July 1943 Arrived in Gibraltar: 5 August 1943 Arrived in UK:

6 August 1943

OTHER MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT 0-520047 2d Lt Joseph (NMI) ROSIO (Evading) CO-PILOT 0-672784 2d Lt George W. EVANS (Evading) NAVIGATOR 0-796510 2d Lt Leonard J. FINK (MIA) BOMBARDIER 0-734426 2d Lt Sidney (NMI) CASDEN 20820476 S/Sgt Lester (NMI) BROWN (MIA) RADIO OPERATOR (Narrator) Engr. TOP TURRET GNR 16054934 S/Sgt Edward MASTERSON (MIA) BALL TURRET GUNNER 34290923 S/Sgt John H. HOUGHTON (Narrator) WAIST GUNNER 12034633 S/Sgt Anthony F. CUCINOTTA (Evading) WAIST GUNNER 32278859 S/Sgt John H. KUBERSKI Evading) TAIL GUNNER 15110791 S/Sgt Lee (NMI) LEWIS (MIA)

GRAFTON-UNDERWOOD 26 June 1943

We left GRAFTON-UNDERWOOD at 1700 hours 26 June 1943 to bomb VILLACOUBLAY. After making landfall over France we encountered flak and were attacked by FW 190's. Our number one engine was hit and apraying oil. We did not fall out of formation for about thirty minutes after the first attack; we were starting our run on the target; Then our number one engine was running away and the pilot could not feather the 'prop'. The whole ship was shaking violently. There was an overcast at 10,000 feet and I think the pilot tried to drop down into this before starting for home. For a short time the plane seemed to be out of control but the pilot leveled off at 15,000 feet.

PLANE OUT OF CONTROL

At least ten FW 190's started a concentrated attack on us at

NUMBER THREE ENGINE ON FIRE this altitude. They were attacking from the side and slipping past us. Later they came in, not only from the side, but, from above us. Our number three engine was set on fire and we had 20 mm holes in the right wing. There were several hits in the radio room which broke some of the wiring and control cable. At the end the FW's were raking the entire plane.

PLANE CRASHED, BURNED

SECURED IMMEDIATE HELP

USE AIDS -BOXES

27 June 1943

JOURNEY ARRANGED

The pilot ordered us to bale out. We (Sgts HOUGHTON and BROWN) were the last to leave the plane except for the pilot and co-pilot. Just as we were about to jump a 20 mm shell burst close to the waist window and we were both hit by small fragments of shrapnel. The plane must have been at 12,000 feet as we jumped out of the waist door. We pulled our rip cords almost immediately. There were four chutes other than ours, decending. The two above us were the pilot and co-pilot and we think the two below us were Sgts KUBERSKI and CUCINOTTA. Seven FW's circled us but we were not bothered. We saw our plane crash and burn about three miles east of a small village. We landed, about twenty yards apart, a mile southwest of the same village. After folding our chutes we saw eight or ten people running across the fields toward us. Not knowing who they were we started running toward a wood. Looking back, we saw they were gaining on us since we had on our heavy flying clothes. Recognizing them as civilians we stopped and waited for them to catch up with us. We had difficulty understanding their motions but after we showed our dog-tags to one of the Frenchmen he motioned us to follow him. We ran for a half-mile to a wood where he helped us hide. Then he indicated with a watch that he would return after dark with food and clothes. We also understood that two boys had gone back to the field to bury our parachutes.

Our friend returned at 2230 hours accompanied by a man and a woman who spoke some English. During the few hours of waiting we had opened our Aids-Boxes and Atten the Charge. The woman who spoke English had brought clothing for us and after we changed she said the men would get rid of our military clothing. Our party of five had walked about two miles across fields when we reached a road that was under heavy patrol. We waited two hours but did not risk crossing the road. We were taken back to the wood for the night.

The next morning they returned with a two-wheeled cart filled with sacks. After we got into the wagon they placed the sacks on top of us. They drove about three miles to a hard-surfaced road where a car was waiting to pick us up. After we got into the back of the car we were covered with coats. At a house in the small village to which we were taken, we found Sgt CUCINOTTA and Sgt KUBERSKI. Late that afternoon Lt ROSIO and Lt EVANS were brought to the house. From here our subsequent journey was arranged and we did not see the other four members of our crew again.

Compiled By:

R.R. NEISON
Major, AC

Approved By:

W.S. HOLF Lt Col, AC Commanding

REPORT DISTRIBUTION DDMI (P/W) MI-9 AC of S, G-2, ETOUSA AC of S, A-2, VIII AF MIS, Washington, POW BRANCH	COPTES 1 15 3 4 5	APPENDIX "B" - MILITARY INFORMATION MI-9 AC of S, G-2, ETOUSA MIS, Washington, POW BRANCH RAF School Highgate (S/Ldr Evans) File	COPIES 15 3 5 1 27
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HQ, ETOUSA Office of AC of S, G-2 MIS Detachment

APPENDIX "B" TO E & E REPORTS NOS. 52 & 53

9 August 1943

- 1. The following information has been obtained from an interview with two Sergeants who evaded capture by the enemy, after being in enemy-occupied territory.
- 2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so, no information as to the source may be divulged.

Statement of information covering period from 26 June 1943 to 10 July 1943

- 1. One end of the building housing Napoleon's Tomb was being used as an ammunition dump and was heavily guarded by armed guards. July, 1943.
- 2. Two miles south of TOULOUSE we saw seven HE lllk's and about ten FW 190's in the air. Some of them landed at the airport in TOULOUSE while we were passing. 9 July 1943.
- 3. In PARIS the officers were usually middle-aged men and most of the soldiers were young.
- 4. At TOULOUSE we saw a troop train standing in the station. All the soldiers appeared to be very young. There were some flat-cars in this station headed north carrying Studebaker trucks equipped with new Firestone tires. 9 July 1943.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 52

No., Rank, Name :- 20820476, S/Sgt Lester BROWN, Jr.

Unit :- 546 Bomb Sq. 384 Bomb Gp.

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? Yes
- (b) If not, had you one on you?
- (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.
 - (i) Horlicks tablets.
 - (ii) Chocolate.
 - (iii) Milk (tube).
 - (iv) Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).
 - (v) Halazone tablets (water purifier).
 - (vi) Matches.
 - (vii) Adhesive tape.
 - _(viii) Chewing gum.
 - (ix) Water bottle.
 - (x) Compass.
 - (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect?
 - (f) How did you finally dispose of the box. Buried
 - (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? Iodine

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? Yes

 If so, state COLOR. Grey

 If NOT, state why not.
- (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.
 - (i) Maps. Which ones?
 - (ii) Compass.

- (iii) File (hacksaw).
- (iv) Foreign Currency. State countries and amounts.
 How did you spend the money. Cigarettes and clothes
- (d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps. Gave them to the helpers

Compass. Gave them to the helpers

File (hacksaw). Gave them to the helpers

Surplus currency. Changed to Spanish currency

- 3. AIDS TO ESCAPE (GADGETS*)
 (* Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)
 - (a) Did you carry or wear any of the following? Not issued If you used any of them, state briefly WHEN and WHERE.
 - (i) Round compass.
 - (ii) Stud compass.
 - (iii) Swinger compass.
 - (iv) Fly-button compass.
 - (v) Pencil clip compass.
 - (vi) Tunic button compass.
 - (vii) Pipe compass.
 - (viii) Pouch.
 - (ix) Special flying boots (and knife).
 - (b) Were they satisfactory?
 - (c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions which would improve the above equipment?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

- (a) Did you carry passport-size photographs? Not issued. If so, how many?
- (b) Did you use them? State how.

5. LECTURES

- (a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? Kearney, Nebraska and England State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. June 5
- (b) Did you find the lectures of value? Yes

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 53

No., Rank, Name :- S/Sgt John H. HOUGHTON, 34290923

Unit :- 546 Bomb Sq. 384 Bomb Gp

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? Yes
- (b) If not, had you one on you?
- (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.
 - (i) Horlicks tablets.
 - (ii) Chocolate. In woods one night.
 - -(iii) Milk (tube).
 - (iv) Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). In mountains
 - (v) Halazone tablets (water purifier).
 - -(vi) Matches.
 - (vii) Adhesive tape. On wounds
 - -(viii) Chewing gum.
 - (ix) Water bottle.
 - (x) Compass.
- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect?
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box. Buried
- (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? Add a small vial of iodine

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? Yes
 If so, state COLOR. Gray-brown
 If NOT, state why not.
- (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.
 - (i) Maps. Which ones?
 - (ii) Compass.

- (iii) File (hacksaw).
- (iv) Foreign Currency. State countries and amounts. 2000 Francs
 How did you spend the money. Clothing-cigarettes-shoes-food
- (d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps. Gave them to helpers

Compass. Gave them to helpers

File (hacksaw). Lost in mountains.

Surplus currency, Changed to Spanish Money

- 3. AIDS TO ESCAPE (GADGETS*)
 (* Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)
 - (a) Did you carry or wear any of the following? Not issued. If you used any of them, state briefly WHEN and WHERE.
 - -(i) Round compass. Not used
 - (ii) Stud compass.
 - (iii) Swinger compass.
 - (iv) Fly-button compass.
 - (v) Pencil clip compass.
 - (vi) Tunic button compass.
 - (vii) Pipe compass.
 - (viii) Pouch.
 - (ix) Special flying boots (and knife).
 - (b) Were they satisfactory?
 - (c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions which would improve the above equipment?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

- (a) Did you carry passport-size photographs?

 If so, how many? Not issued.
- (b) Did you use them?

 State how.

5. LECTURES

- (a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape?
 State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.
 Twice once in states. One in England, 5 June
- (b) Did you find the lectures of value?
 Yes

1- HOUGHTON, SOHN H- S/sgt - 34290923 2- NONE 3-546 BOMB SQUADRON (H) 4-384 BOMB GROUP (H) 5- AUGUST 1, 1918 6- 16 MONTHS 7- INDEPENDENCE LOUISIANA 8- BOMBING - VILLACOUBLEE - NEAR PARIS JUNE 26 5 P.M. NEAR DOURDAY, FRA-- NCE - 6:30 PM - AIR CRAFT WAS DESTROYED 10- NO 12- NO 13- 45 NO MR. FORSYTHE BARCELONA
MAJOR CLARK MADRID
MR. PARLING-MAJOR LEWIS DIB 12 ALTER 15- YES MAJOR CLARK MADRIO 16-YES - ONE IN BIRCE WONA-July 21

DULY 24x26 TWO " MIADIRID- July 24

aug 5 orie " GIBIRIA HER-5

aug 6 " bondon- Aug 6 17- AIR - GIBIRALTER - AUG 5

18- PORT REATH - AUG 6

H & ETOUSA M95 Delachment E & E Reports Mos 5 2 and 53 395 Wasion In France 9 Cugust 1943 5/Sgt Lester Brown 37 20820476 M/9 26 June 546 Bomb Squadron 384 t Bomb Group about in Jane M 99 26 June 1943 age 20 years arthurd in filtalle Levell of Forocce 1/2 mears 5 august 1943 Home Ceddress 3 Looking St Custin Teps arrived in 416: 6 Cupe of 1943 S/Sat John H. Houghton 34290923 346 Bomb Squadron 384 Bomb Group age 25 meuro length of Service 14/2 years Aone address Independence Louisiana

GRAFTON- UNDERWOOD 26 JUNE 1945

We left Grafton-Underwood at 1700 hours 26 June 1943 to bomb VILLACOUBLAY. After making landfall in France we encountered flak and were attacked by Our number one engine was hit and was spraying oil. We did not fall out of formation for about thirty minutes after this, just as we were starting our run on the target. They number one engine was running away and the pilot could not feather the 'prop'. The whole ship was shaking violently. There was an overcast at 10000 feet and I think the pilot tried to drop down into this before starting for home. For a short time the plane seemed to be out of control but the pilot leveled it off at 15000 feet.

PLANE OUT OFCONTROL

> At least ten FW 190's started a concentrated attack on us at this altitude. They were attacking from the side and slipping past us. Later they came in, not only from the side, but, from above us. Our number three engine was set on fire and we had 20 mm holes in the right wing. There were several hits in the radio room which broke some of the wiring and a control cable. the end the FW's were raking the entire plane.

ENGINE ON FIRE

FORCED 10 BALE OUT were the Past to Leave the plane,

about to jump a 20 mm shell burst close to the waist window and we were both hit by small fragments of shrapnel. The plane must have been at 12000 feet as we jumped out of the waist door. We pulledour rip cords almost immediately. We saw four chutes, in the air. The two above us were the pilot and co-pilot and we think the two below us were Sgts Kuberski and Cucinotta. Seven FW's circled us but did not bother us. We saw our plane crash and burn about three miles east of a small village. We landed, about twenty yards apart, a mile southwest of the same village. After folding

our chutes we saw eight or ten people running across the fields toward us.

The pilot ordered us to bale out. We wantsout (Sgts Houghton and Brown)

went out after all except the pilot and co-pilot had left. Just as we were

PLANE 'EMSHED, BURNED

SECURE IMMEDIATE HELP Not knowing who they were we started running toward a wood. Looking back, we saw that they were gaining on us since we had on our heavy flying clothes. Recognizing them as civilians we stopped andwaited for them to catch up with us. We had a great deal of difficulty understanding their motions but we after we showed our dog-tags to one of the Frenchmen he motioned us to follow him. After we had run for a half-mile to a wood he helped us hide after we understood that the ware that we understood that the ware that

We also understood that two boys had gone back to the field to bury our parachutes.

USED AIDS-BOYES He returned at 2230 hours accompanied by a man and woman who spoke some English. During the few hours of waiting we had opened our Aids-Boxes and eaten the candy. The empty boxes we buried. The woman who spoke English had brought clothing for us and after we changed she said the men would get rid of our military clothing. Our party of five had walked about two miles across fields when we reached a road that was under heavy patrol. We waited two hours but did not risk crossing the road. We were taken back to the wood for the night.

27 June 1943

& JOURNEY ARRANGED Appendix B the building holesing

1. One end of Napoleon's Tomb was being used an an ammuntion dump and was heavily guarded by armed guards. July, 1943.

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3. In PARIS the officers were usually middle-aged men and most of the

soldiers were young.

4. At TOULOUSE I saw a troop train standing in the station. All the soldiers appeared to be very young. Indianater against the There were some flat-cars, headed north carrying Studebaker trucks equipped with new Firestone tires.

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT

No., Rank, Name :-

Unit :-

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- (c) If not, why had you no aids box?
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 Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g. "Lying up for 2 nights", etc.
 - (i) Horlicks tablets.
 - (iii) Chocolate. IN WOODS, ONE NIGHT
 - (iii) Milk (tube).
 - (iv) Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). IN MOUNTAINS
 - (v) Halazone tablets (water purifier).
 - (wi) Matchés.
 - (vii) Adhesive tape. ON WOUNDS

(viii) Chewing gum.

- (ix) Water bottle.
- (x) Compass.
- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect?
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box. Burie D
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 PODA SMALL VIALOF /ODING

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? R D Gray Brown
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- (b) Did you use the purse? XES
- (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.
 - (i) Maps. Which ones?
 - (ii) Compass.

(iii) File (hacksaw).

(iv) Foreign Currency. State countries and amounts. 2000 FRANCE How did you spend the money. Clather - C. quetter - Show

(d) How did you dispose of:- FOOD Helpers.

Maps. GIDVE THEM TO MEAN ORGANIZATION

Compass.

File (hacksaw). Lost in MOUNTAINS
Surplus currency. CHANGED to SPANISH MONEY

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS*)
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(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following?

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- (b) Did you use them? State how.

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.: N STATES

Thic E - ONE IN ENGLAND, 5 June 5

(b) Did you find the lectures of value?

YES

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO : Personnel concerned.

- 1. It is the duty of all Americans to safeguard information which middle, 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 benyderation, 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 that 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) Houghton, John H Signed John H. Houghton Jag Rank S/Set A.S.N. 34290923 Date 8/5/43 Unit 546 HB. Sq. 384+ B. Gp. Witness France AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

9 April 1943

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of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General ANDREWS:

RALPH PULSIFER, Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

CERTIFICATE

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

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Name (Print) HOUGHTON, JOHN HSigned Rank 5/89t ASN 34290923 Date

Unit 546 th B. Sq. 384th B. Mp. Witness

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Rank 5/89 ASN 34290923 Date

13 59 384 H.B. Hp. Witness W