

9 April 1943

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 ANDREWS:

*Ralph Pulsifer*  
 RALPH PULSIFER,  
 Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

## 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) <u>John Wm. Bieger</u>	Signed <u>John Wm. Bieger</u>
Rank <u>2nd Lt.</u> ASN <u>0-939890</u>	Date <u>Oct 25 1943</u>
Unit <u>94 Bomb Gp</u>	Witness <u>John White, Jr., 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., A.C.</u>

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. *John William Bieger*
2. Decorations. *None*
3. Unit or Squadron. *331 Squadron*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *94th Bomb Gp.*
5. Date of Birth. *Aug. 26, 1921*
6. Length of Service. *3 yrs 7 mo.*
7. Private Address. *279 Rodney Ave  
Buffalo, New York*
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?  
*Bombing Mission - Objective - Villacoubley Airport  
July 14, 1943 - About 600 hr. From Bury St. Edmunds.  
Near Mitry MORUEN <sup>NORTH (Le Mans)</sup> July 14, 1943. - Plane destroyed*
9. What was your position in aircraft? *Co-pilot*
10. Were you wounded? *No*
11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *No*
12. Do you speak French? Spanish? *Neither*
13. Did you have Identity Papers? *NO - No A.G.O.*
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 French organization in Paris. No written report*
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*
17. Date of arrival in Spain. *London Oct 25, 1943*
18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *None*
19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea ~~or~~ air. *Sumner*
20. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *Renzance - Oct 25-1943*

I was a big farm & I had heard not to go to big farms & I  
jobs all this & walked around that & stayed  
I stayed that night in haystack & next m. ate  
half choc & had no water for 32 hrs - Next a.m.  
no one around & then wondered about curfew - I  
didn't move until light - started so - wore a D's &  
summer flying jacket - ate green apples - I walked  
in road - expected French to welcome me with open  
arms - passed several french on road but they  
stared and talked about me but nothing happened -  
knew I was not being captured & took to fields - gave  
up my first woods - seemed to lead on estate -  
I ~~was~~ decided to speak to persons alone & ran into a place  
where I could not go any farther - too many people in  
fields - when I stopped I could see Mety Mary & maybe  
Eiffel tower - rested & moved toward town of M-M -  
+ 3 pm. mid - a farmer not progressive, field hand &  
alone - I was under cover - small path by field I was  
in brush - this man was a 1000 faced labor in France - I  
walked up & he looked frightened - I was holding up hands -  
he got idea I was chuter - he ~~did~~ not talking - talked some in  
German. Told me where Germans were - he volunteered  
information - kept telling me about friend of his who was  
shot - He promised me food & clothing & drink which  
I asked for - friendly - I stayed in hiding on field  
& I expelled him at night & he didn't come - I almost  
left but <sup>was</sup> afraid of curfew - stayed til next a.m. - &  
he had meant me to stay till a.m. - I had food - no  
clothes - tried to be out of sight while moving away  
but was seen by a German on a hill who was watching me -  
I went to him & talked to him & he got idea - he said  
to follow him - took me to barn - hid all day &  
slept & ate - I had about 4 visitors & one spoke  
English - afraid because secret of me there was out -  
I told him my plans of going to Spain - doubtful  
reaction - at night taken to house - slept in bed  
till the Germans were down the road & I should go another way

Got  
clothes  
here

early am raid - Calc getting started - everything all right - Had 0600  
takeoff + down at 1300 - almost to target + attacks made while in  
lowdown when bay open - saw someone bale out of May -  
Satanman plane - we climbed into high height - if there anyone to  
fly - all more attacks than that I saw - Bomb + mortar missing  
fire - taking some action - heard glass breaking - One #3  
very hot - I could feel feather - don't know why - with  
panel shot + oil all over place + smoke in cockpit -  
Bomb hung up - counter off with bubble - I presumed  
them dead - Pilot gave order to go - we had ten mins to  
go to airport - didn't know course - out of fuel -

I got out by Bombay + before this saw Sgt. Volant -  
I followed him - I jumped straight down without trouble -  
opened chute soon at 16000 ft - Saw plane with  
eng. smoke + then saw chute out Bombay + plane go  
them into slight line - Saw the coming at me but he  
bore off - I saw only Watt's chute -

I landed on my back, streaming ones, pain for  
three days acute - didn't know how to land - noticed coming down -  
(expected to be picked up) saw a town + lost sight of it - looked for  
woods to know which direction to start in - mapped over  
all way to woods + was able to use it -

I took off boots + flying clothing + waded all  
in chute - ran along hedge - was near edge of field  
of brush + at hedge pushed in eggplant + covered over -  
ran along hedge + followed line of brush - would  
crouch + check open space before crossing the  
field - 7 or 8 minutes later saw group of children running  
toward scene - they found nothing - watched them  
about 30 mins later caught one boy (17) alone + pulled him into  
brush - He regarded me as a curiosity - I told him I was going + I was  
at edge of woods + across was field of about with small haystacks  
+ he went off in buddies - I started down road + when  
he turned back I doublebacked to haystack + kids came  
back but missed me - That there no help -

train x meet morning he brot me tickets & saw that I got on train  
 in care of R.R. man - was taken off train at transfer point to  
 wait on platform for another train - he put me on another  
 train - We got to Nevers & lot of people got off & nobody came  
 on train for me so I ~~would have~~ <sup>waited</sup> - 1 <sup>west</sup> German officer  
 got on & asked for I cards - I got off train when they  
 went into compartments - I got on station - walked to  
 end of train & when German off - got off I got on again -  
 when French tried to talk to me I gave big dumb sign -  
 Train went on & on train walk saw maps - saw I  
 was near Vichy - Got off at last stop before  
 Vichy - knew where I was & just walked up tracks  
 of the small station to prevent giving a ticket -

Wanted to get chateaux - used compass & walked  
 west - that night met farmer in field & approached  
 him - gave food & slept in barn & farmer wanted  
 me to help with harvest - no - refused -

22 - next day found no roads going west - had  
 to go no. & south - went north - gave up  
 green apples - had only piece of bread - begged  
 it as big dumb man - stopped community  
 farm - too many people to talk to & went into  
 deserted barn - man found me - told him  
 who I was - (wee fool - quite a few people came  
 to see - slept that night there -

23<sup>rd</sup> - Decided to stay & rest but Frankie afraid and I  
 left - ~~stay~~ One of men who had seen me had talked to  
 Resistance chf head of town - walked 2 hrs + 4 men  
 on bikes met me - me was M. Mesin (Algerian  
 code name) outside Varrennes sur allies - man who told  
 Mesin - was taken to his house - Mesin spoke some  
 English - promised me plane to England - very insistent -  
 willing to wait - stayed til 23 August - while there met  
 a Jew who had been in America (apokalyptik) - had run of house -

23 August - I was identified there by life identikit - didn't know Ben  
 or names but all American -

23 August - 20 Sept - Stayed at Restone Org camp in mts -

3<sup>rd</sup> day 16<sup>th</sup>

Gave me glass bottle for water - could carry in inside pocket  
17<sup>th</sup> Started out early - was told not to go to Paris & didn't want -  
all roads seem to go to Paris - Compass indispensable -  
all small towns have water fountains - I kept watching  
how people walked & reacted so that I could act  
natural - found that I got place for glucose - I  
chewed grass trying to be natural - French  
would recognize me - sometimes I passed first  
German (corp in 4C) that night - I crossed street I had  
walked all day - lunch eating - stopped in German training  
bivouac area near a stream - I got some drinking  
water in bottle used to carry - bathed - 18<sup>th</sup> I  
left early & had quickly at noon I saw woman (peasant, house  
looked poor) went by & asked her for something & good receipt -  
Bed in deserted house & let me sleep there aft I night - Before  
stopping here saw Melun sign post - main highway -

from  
the  
Villedu  
Paris  
about  
east of Paris

19<sup>th</sup> left early - passed thru Melun - took road to Fontainebleau  
by compass - getting hungry - saw sign house for  
sale - saw boy in house I went in & asked for  
food - got it - couldn't stay - walked down road  
2 kms & went into woods to sleep - getting  
confidence -

road  
US  
6  
day tags

20<sup>th</sup> early on rd to Fontainebleau - I am at Dorvies -  
at night - raining - I talked to young fellow, getting by - had met  
from boy driving alone I was talking to him when other boy came  
by - he said I speak English - went off with him -  
His good attitude was not caring who he helped - talked -  
gave me plenty of food - he took me to ramshackle playhouse  
& I wanted to get some words which he gave me - he  
talked politics - tried to please his points of view by watching face -  
offered to buy ticket on RR - I knew that in small town they  
Germans might learn who had ticket - but liked to see  
small place outside Bourges - then I was going to walk  
to Chateauroux I would get a direct line ticket to Gagny - plan  
was he would give me list of transfer points & I would get on

20 Sept - Mesin arranged a promise to take me to Spain - he got in touch with Ong at Lyons - they said they would pick me up - would pick me up - went with Trichman to Cassel & rode bike to Vichy & there met a man who took me to LYON. I there stayed 2 hrs & met Raoul - he told me what to expect - he took me over <sup>PASSY (SUR SEINE)?</sup> papers examined & went to Joigny x Went to Chassy with an English woman of the husband of the Brun - went to PARIS on 1 Oct - at Joigny met Lt. Loby, Norwegian RAF - In Paris went to Ong apt, Raoul's & Pierre's - there few hrs - left with Raoul & Pierre & In to Vannes - (Lt. Bill Rice (am) W. Rott Brooks, Vackless, 2 Eng. boys - Headley + ~~Bronley~~, Norwegian ladies - Chekin, NZ, Terry, NZ, Swap, Richardson, Cunningham, Brohard) train - people coming up to speak to the boys - trouble with tickets - In Vannes at house of widow - 9 days here - went to Quimper with Pierre of Quimper - stayed at his house except for one night at village Inn - 3 or 4 nights - went to church with Pierre & ~~Jacques~~ Eve (2 boys) + then by an arrival -

from here with Brohard (#132) and 6 others by train to church near Chateaulin. Best source as Ryan (#136)

John Wm Bieger

Hq. Clermont

Resistance Organization —

location — All of South half of Dept of Allier  
aims — (Before invasion) — Terrorise +  
intimidate collaborators — hide labor evaders —  
equip themselves for invasion  
(After invasion) — Sabotage + Guerilla  
Warfare.

equipment — Ample Explosives (always  
possible for organization to replenish) —  
Small supply of handgrenades — thirty  
sten machine guns — six Smith +  
Wesson revolvers.

number of members — Possible to  
form company of 2000 men.

organization — Perfect confidence of  
men in leader (Mesmin). — Good  
discipline — little or no delegation  
of authority + responsibility however.

morale — failing morale due to failure  
to landing in France — lack of aid to  
Balkan resurrectionists — increase of  
German demands + control —



deterrent factors - Winter in Mountains  
will drive many to German hands -  
Mechanical + military knowledge lacking -

Mesmin said he thought that if there  
were no change by March he'd try to  
come to England himself - disgusted

record of activities while I was  
with them - <sup>(resistance org)</sup> (group of six men)

1. stole collaborator's trucks
2. raided "new French Army" stores for  
motor fuel, mattress covers, rope,  
miscellaneous articles
3. raided shoe, motor fuel, and  
explosives stores
4. tested guns + detonators

Mesmin asks for arms - rifles,  
revolvers - heavy machine guns,  
Plenty of explosives on hand

14 July 1943

We were called for an early morning raid <sup>but</sup> and were late getting started. However, <sup>however,</sup> our preparations went smoothly in the end and we took off <sup>from</sup> at 0600 hours to bomb \_\_\_\_\_ . We had ~~started~~ <sup>opened</sup> our bomb-bay doors <sup>were</sup> open <sup>which</sup> and started <sup>our</sup> the bomb-run <sup>when</sup> when fighters attacked. I saw someone bale out of Major Saltsman's plane, <sup>and</sup> we climbed to a higher Group, but could not find a position to fly. The attacks - all that I saw - were from 12 o'clock. <sup>but</sup> <sup>the</sup> bombardier and navigator were missing fire badly. Our evasive action was violent. I heard glass breaking and <sup>ducked</sup> each time this happened I ~~ducked~~ but all the strikes must have been in the nose. <sup>When</sup> our number three engine was hit <sup>it ran</sup> and running away and I couldn't feather it - I don't know why. The instrument panel was shot out, oil was pouring all over the place and the cockpit <sup>was</sup> filled with smoke.

attacked from 12 o'clock

Out of formation

Our bombs were hung up and <sup>because there was no</sup> communication with the bombardier and navigator ~~was off~~. I thought they ~~were~~ had been killed. We had ten minutes to go before meeting support, <sup>but without the navigator we didn't know the course</sup> we didn't know the course without the navigator and we were out of formation. The pilot gave the order to bale out.

Forced to bale out

I went to the bomb-bay and jumped after the engineer, opening my chute at 16000 feet. I saw the plane again with smoke pouring from one engine. As I watched it another chute came out of the bombay and ~~it~~ went into a straight dive. An FW 190 circled my chute once, but fell away without bothering me.

From the air I saw a large town but lost sight of it. <sup>before landing</sup> For some reason I expected to be picked up by the Germans, but <sup>nevertheless</sup> I looked for a wood to run ~~to~~ when I landed. I didn't know how to hit the ground and landed on my back, straining my knees so badly <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~ they pained me for three days.

Hides chute

As soon as I got to my feet I wadded my flying boots and equipment into the chute. <sup>that</sup> Then I saw I had come down in a field of brussel sprouts. I ran to the nearest hedge-row, shoved in my chute bundle, covered it with leaves and, in a crouching position, ran along the line of hedges. Several times I had to cross open spaces but ~~before~~ each time I did this I checked the countryside

After <sup>travelling in this manner for</sup> ~~about~~ seven or eight minutes of ~~this kind of travel~~ I almost  
 bumped into a group of children running toward my point of landing. Just in  
 time ~~to miss them~~ <sup>and they</sup> ~~missed me~~ I backed into a hedge-row. For thirty minutes I watched  
 them, feeling pleased that they couldn't find my chute. Gradually they  
 wandered ~~off~~ <sup>away</sup>. I waited ~~in my hedge-row~~ until a young boy came  
 by alone and ~~reached out~~ pulled him into the hedge with me, <sup>but</sup> I failed to get  
 any information out of him because he ~~just~~ <sup>only</sup> stared at me as ~~if~~ <sup>though</sup> I were a  
 curiosity. I soon ~~saw~~ <sup>realized</sup> that it was hopeless to expect <sup>any</sup> help from him and now  
 that I had him on my hands I wasn't sure <sup>to get rid of him,</sup> what to do ~~about it~~.

I tried waving him away and started walking off down the road. <sup>when</sup> ~~where~~ I  
 did this he turned and ran in the direction of his buddies. While his back  
 was turned I sneaked through the hedge and crawled into a bundle of hay near  
 the place where I had stopped him. A few minutes later I watched him run by  
 with four other boys and disappear ~~down the road~~ in the direction they thought  
 I had taken.

When they were out of sight I relaxed and suddenly felt very tired.  
 For the first time I realized I had injured my knees. I saw no reason to  
 leave my haystack. <sup>As</sup> There were no signs of any commotion or search in the  
 neighborhood. From the haystack I could see ~~the farmhouse~~ a farmhouse. The  
 house was a large one and the farm looked prosperous. I gave up the idea of  
 approaching it for help because we had been briefed not to go to big farms.  
 During the night I came out of hiding several times to keep from getting too  
 stiff. Thirst bothered me more than anything and in the early hours of the  
 morning I ate half of the chocolate in my Aids Box.

<sup>No aid</sup> <sup>father coming</sup> I remembered <sup>ing</sup> that there might be a curfew. ~~For this reason~~ I ~~kept~~  
 stayed hidden ~~xxx~~ until I saw people in the fields. Checking my compass I  
 started south. My clothes were O.D.'s and a summer flying jacket. X

~~Within a few minutes I had found some green apples in an orchard.~~  
 After walking a short distance I found some green apples in an orchard.

which helped to <sup>quench</sup> ~~kill~~ my thirst. From the time I started walking I had <sup>kept</sup> ~~stuck~~ to <sup>the side</sup> ~~small~~ roads hoping to find a Frenchman who could help me. I think I must have expected the French to welcome me with open arms. Within an hour I had passed a number of them. They stared at me and I stared back trying, ~~to look~~ ~~like an American~~ without much difficulty, to look like an American aviator. The small groups I passed whispered among themselves when they saw me and watched me out of sight but nothing else happened.

Hides in woods

Soon I realized I wasn't getting anywhere and was only risking capture ~~so~~ I <sup>crossed</sup> ~~went~~ into the fields. I walked into a wood but <sup>left</sup> ~~got out of~~ it quickly when I thought it appeared to be part of an estate. I <sup>entered</sup> ~~got into~~ another wood without <sup>difficulty</sup> ~~trouble~~ and after walking through it, meeting <sup>without any</sup> ~~no~~ one, I came to the edge with <sup>and</sup> ~~nothing but~~ open fields spread out in front of me. <sup>There were</sup> All the fields, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> workers in them and I could not have approached one of them without being seen by others. From the hill <sup>where</sup> I stopped ~~in~~ I could see a small town and, far in the distance, thought I saw the Eiffel tower.

I <sup>took a</sup> ~~rested for~~ a short <sup>rest</sup> ~~time~~ before starting around the edge of the woods to get to <sup>reach</sup> the outskirts of the small town without being seen. At mid-afternoon <sup>and</sup> I ducked into some brush ~~when~~ I saw a farmer approaching along a path.

<sup>after</sup> Looking him over carefully I decided he was a laborer and might help. I came out of hiding and walked toward him with my hands in the ~~air~~ air. He looked frightened and I was afraid he would run. He seemed to understand immediately from my gestures that I was an American parachutist and after that he did most of the gesturing and talking. I ~~learned that~~ ~~he was~~ Polish, in forced labor, and that <sup>said</sup> he would help me. He volunteered information about the Germans and occasionally <sup>used</sup> ~~he~~ spoke with German phrases. ~~Most of the time~~ ~~we spent together~~ <sup>spoke mostly of</sup> he told me about a friend of his who had been shot for helping Allied airmen. I asked for water, food and clothing, ~~which~~ <sup>left</sup> he promised <sup>to procure them for me</sup> before leaving me.

Helped by Pole

I hid where I could watch the path for his return. I expected ~~in~~ him to

~~be back~~  
~~return straight~~ that night and when he didn't show up I got worried and  
ed  
started to leave. Fortunately I remember the curfew and waited until morning.  
He came early and I found that I had misunderstood his plans. He brought  
food and water but could ~~not~~ get <sup>up</sup> clothes for me. We talked for a few minutes  
and after saying there was nothing else he could do for me, he went off to  
work.

Sighted by  
Farmer

After eating, I left the wood and ran across the field to the shelter of  
a hedge-row. I crouched there, looked around to see if I had been observed  
and then ran, still bent over, along the line of hedge. I stopped every few  
minutes to see if anyone were watching. The ~~second~~ <sup>third</sup> ~~third~~ of fourth time I  
did this I saw a farmer standing on a rise of ground in the distance. From  
his position I knew he must have been watching me since I left the wood.  
I felt like a fool and started walking toward him. When I got near enough  
he motioned me to follow him and led me to a barn. He fixed a bed ~~for me~~ <sup>in</sup>  
the hay and I did nothing but sleep and eat. I ~~had been with the farmer but~~  
~~work I realized that our conversation had established~~  
~~before he went back to work and about all the conversation I had with was~~  
~~no more than the fact that~~  
my effort to say I was an American airman.

16 July 1943

During the day I was awakened about four times by visitors who brought  
food and looked me over. One of them spoke English. He ~~was~~ <sup>told me that</sup> frightened of  
presence  
my ~~being~~ <sup>being</sup> there ~~and~~ because the entire neighborhood was talking,  
~~about me.~~ He thought everyone in the village was friendly but told me it  
was too dangerous to risk, <sup>remaining</sup> I was given clothes at this house and when my  
helpers asked about my plans I told them I was going to walk to SPAIN. They  
were doubtful that it could be done but had no alternative suggestion to  
offer.

17 July 1943

That night I was moved quietly to another house and given an attic bed.  
Early the next morning my helpers sneaked me out of the village to a cross-  
roads and pointing down one road, said 'Boche', then pointing down another  
road, indicated I should go in that direction. To replace my rubber water

Wanted to avoid Paris  
bottle I had been given a small glass bottle which fitted into the inside pocket of my coat. The last words of advice <sup>they gave</sup> given me were that I should not go to PARIS but I hadn't wanted to anyway.

After ~~I had~~ walked several hours it seemed that all roads led to PARIS. Had it not been for my compass I would have ended ~~up~~ there. <sup>but</sup> I held to as ~~much of a southern course as the roads~~ much of a southern course as the roads permitted. I began watching the people I passed to see how they walked and acted. I noticed that they looked at me when I looked at them and if I stared they stared. I chewed grass until I was sick of it but it helped me <sup>to</sup> feel natural. I gained confidence quickly when I found that very few people looked at me in my peasant clothing and I tried shuffling along as I thought a peasant would.

Water (was easy to get) after I discovered that all the small villages had a fount in the center of town.

Passed German  
Late in the afternoon of this third day I saw my first German. I was walking through a small village and saw him approaching at the other end of the street. For a moment I felt panic but after taking a few steps I strolled across the street and passed him from that side.

For some reason, seeing this German made me realize that I couldn't go much further without rest. My knees, still aching from the parachute jump, began to buckle on me. As soon as I got out of the village I looked for a place to spend the night. I came upon a wooded area <sup>in which there was a</sup> with clearing which appeared to ~~have~~ have been used as a bivouac. There was a small stream running through the clearing, ~~in which~~ I took a sponge bath and filled my water bottle, using the halazone tablets. Before dark I crawled off in the underbrush and made a bed for the night.

18 July 1943  
Early the next morning I continued walking south. ~~By~~ I tired quickly from lack of food and by noon felt that I could not go any further without rest. Shortly after this I passed a house where an old peasant

X  
woman was working in the yard. The house was a poor-looking one so I stopped to ask her for help. I had a good reception. She was friendly and <sup>quickly</sup> seemed to grasp ~~quickly~~ <sup>quickly</sup> who I was and what I needed. After giving me food she led me to a deserted house which <sup>although</sup> was scantily furnished but it did have a bed in it. I slept there the rest of the afternoon and all the night. I had some idea of where I was because I <sup>had</sup> ~~had~~ crossed a main road ~~that morning~~ before approaching the old woman which had a signpost point to MELUN.

I left the deserted house early <sup>in</sup> ~~on~~ the morning ~~of~~ the 19th of July. I walked through MELUN and, by compass, found the road to FONTAINEBLEAU. Around noon I began to get hungry again and started looking for likely places to get food. ~~It was a young boy working on the house~~

While passing a small house sitting away from the road I noticed a young <sup>boy</sup> in the yard. He looked like a carpenter and was making some repairs on the house. I saw no one around when I ~~went~~ approached to ask for food which may have had something to do with my luck. He gave me food without hesitation but would not let me stay there. After leaving him, I walked ~~about~~

<sup>about</sup> two kilometers down the road before going into a wood for rest and sleep. My confidence was increasing all the time.

The next morning I was on the road to FONTAINEBLEAU early. After tramping all day without speaking to anyone or having an incident of any kind, I arrived in the vicinity of DORDIVES. It was almost dusk and <sup>it was</sup> raining ~~when~~ when I found a young boy ~~by~~ driving an oxen cart along the road. He was <sup>alone</sup> ~~by~~ <sup>but</sup> himself when I spoke to him ~~and~~ while we were trying to understand each other by <sup>means of</sup> sign language another young boy passed. He walked up to us and asked me, in English, if I were an American. After he had spoken to the boy on the oxen-cart he told me to come with him. <sup>it was</sup> I was puzzled by his attitude at first ~~because~~ he seemed indifferent about helping me at all.

He took me into an old ramshackled building and left me to get ~~for~~ food. <sup>on</sup> ~~After he returned~~ I managed to get <sup>a few</sup> ~~from him some~~ French words <sup>out of him</sup> which would <sup>be</sup> ~~be~~ helpful when I approached other people for help. As soon as I had the

information I wanted he <sup>turned</sup> ~~turned~~ the discussion to politics and I found the <sup>soon</sup> reason for his <sup>apparent</sup> indifference. He tried ~~involving me~~ to get ~~me~~ an explanation from me as to why American ~~was~~ supporting Communism and <sup>wanted to know</sup> who was going to prevent American from grabbing half ~~of~~ the world after the war. I tried the appeasement policy and pointed out the subtleties of German propaganda, ~~and~~ as we talked I watched his face to see what things I said pleased him so <sup>that I</sup> I could amplify those statements. <sup>This scheme</sup> ~~It~~ must have worked because he ~~became~~ became more and more friendly as we talked.

Finally he suggested that <sup>me</sup> he buy a railroad ticket ~~for me~~ to a small town outside of BOURGES. I was worried about his buying the ticket in a small town because I thought that ~~it~~ if I were caught it could be traced, but he didn't think so and the next morning got the ticket for me. My plan was to get off the train before reaching BOURGES and walk across the Line of Demarcation to CHATEAUROUX, where I <sup>expected</sup> ~~would~~ <sup>I would</sup> ~~get a ticket~~ then have to find the way south by myself. To get to the town above BOURGES I <sup>necessitated</sup> ~~would~~ have to make several transfers but the boy assured me he would <sup>arrange</sup> ~~take care of~~ that and ~~would~~ as a precaution, would write the names of the towns down.

We were late getting to the train but I got aboard all right in the care of a railroad man. It wasn't until I had left the boy that I remembered his promise to write down the names of <sup>the</sup> transfer points. I had no idea of the schedule but stopped worrying about it when the railroad man took me off at MONTAGES and left me on the platform to wait for another train. When it arrived he motioned <sup>toward</sup> to it and I got aboard thinking the same thing would happen at the next <sup>junction</sup> ~~transfer point~~. I pretended sleep while the train was in motion.

~~The~~ The train stopped at ~~at~~ NEVERS and I ~~had~~ had a feeling that it was <sup>one of</sup> the towns at which I should change. I waited for a railroad man to come for me but nothing happened. Passengers got off, ~~and~~ others got on and I knew the train would pull out of the station soon, but I could think of nothing <sup>better</sup> to do <sup>than</sup> but sit there. Suddenly the ~~the~~ loudspeaker on the platform blared forth



the information that German~~x~~ inspectors were coming aboard to examine Identity Cards. The information was given in French and from some of the words in the sentences I understood what ~~it~~<sup>they</sup> meant. In any case I would have known soon <sup>enough</sup> because I saw two German officers get on the train and watched all the Frenchmen pull out their cards.

I waited until the two officers had gone into a compartment and then I stepped out on the platform. I walked to the end of the train and waited <sup>beside</sup> by the last coach. ~~As soon as~~ the Germans stepped off, I got back on <sup>the train</sup>. There was a brakeman or conductor~~or~~ standing near me but he seemed to be paying no attention. As soon as the train started again I made my way back to the coach I had ~~been~~<sup>out</sup> in and ~~so~~<sup>before he was</sup> took my seat amid ~~a lot of~~<sup>general</sup> staring. Occasionally one or two <sup>people</sup> tried to talk to me but I gave them the deaf-and-dumb sign and they left me alone.

I noticed, while walking through the train, that some of the compartments had maps in them. I started checking the stations we passed through with these maps and found that we were ~~getting~~ going to VICHY. I had an idea that it was a ~~not~~<sup>city</sup> place I didn't want to enter so I got off at the last small stop before VICHY. To avoid ~~giving~~<sup>turning</sup> in my ticket I walked down the railroad tracks until I saw a chance ~~of~~ to get off in <sup>the</sup> fields. CHATEAUROUX was still in <sup>my</sup> mind so I set a compass course west and started walking.

While it was still daylight I met a farmer working in one of the fields I crossed and stopped to ask him for food. He was friendly, fed me and offered me a bed in his barn. Before leaving the next morning I shaved and had breakfast. During the meal, the farmer tried to persuade me to stay and help with the harvest. I decided against ~~it~~<sup>this</sup> although I thought it over ~~as~~<sup>in the light of</sup> ~~offering~~ a refuge while I looked for help.

as I found it difficult <sup>when</sup> covering ground ~~if~~<sup>the</sup> I stayed in fields so I decided to keep to the roads. The first trouble I encountered ~~with this plan~~<sup>when I did this</sup> was that in the locale I was walking, all the roads seemed to run north or south and I

eventually  
wanted to go west. I walked north thinking I would find a ~~road~~<sup>road</sup> leading west.  
~~During~~ ~~On~~ this day I began to feel sick and decided to give up eating green  
apples ~~which~~<sup>edible</sup> which had been the only thing I had found along the roads. ~~At~~  
a poor looking house, during the morning, I knocked on the door and when a woman  
appeared I made deaf and dumb signs ~~to her~~, indicating also that I was hungry.  
~~I was given~~<sup>She gave me</sup> some bread ~~to~~<sup>and I took it</sup> take away with me.  
seemed

Late in the afternoon I passed what ~~appeared~~<sup>seemed</sup> to be a large community farm.  
There were too many people in the fields for me to approach them but I ~~sex~~  
sneaked around to ~~approach from~~ the back of the large farmhouse and crawled  
in a barn. At dusk the farmer came in and found me. After ~~explaining~~<sup>I had</sup> who I  
was he gave me food and took me into the house. That night ~~many~~<sup>of his</sup> ~~the~~  
neighbors came in to talk to me; some of them were ~~just~~<sup>only</sup> curious, but others  
wanted to help. I stayed in the house that night, and the next morning asked  
if I might stay on for a few days rest. The farmer was ~~frightened~~<sup>afraid to let me do his</sup> of that  
because too many knew I was there.

~~I knew~~<sup>Realizing</sup> he was right ~~so~~ I left at once and had walked about two kilometers  
when four men came after me on bicycles. One of these four men had been told  
~~about my presence in the vicinity~~<sup>about my presence in the vicinity</sup>  
by one of the farmers I had talked with the night before that ~~I was in the~~  
vicinity. ~~This man~~<sup>He</sup> spoke some English, asked me a few question ~~and from here~~<sup>and after</sup>  
~~my journey was arranged.~~<sup>to rest of my journey</sup>

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

E & E REPORT NO. 133  
EVASION IN FRANCE

Oct 25, 1943  
(Date)

JOHN WILLIAM BIEGER 2nd Lt      0-739890  
~~John Frank BUIGE~~      ~~T/Sgt~~      34267523

(Name)                                  (Rank)                                  (ASN)

331    94

(Squadron)                              (Group)

AGE: 22  
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 3 yrs 7 mo  
HOME ADDRESS: 279 Rodney Ave  
Buffalo, New York

14 July 1943

MIA: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrived in Spain: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrived in Gibraltar: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrived in UK: Oct. 24, 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

			Official WASH Position		Narrators E&E REPORT NO. 92
PILOT	0-379167	1st Lt.	Floyd Bentley	WASH	
CO-PILOT	0-739890	2d Lt	John William BIEGER		<del>WASH</del> <b>NARRATOR</b>
NAVIGATOR	0-736844	2d Lt	Allan Clifford EASTMAN		P/W <i>thought was dead</i>
BOMBARDIER	0-734481	2d Lt	Richard Norden MANNING		P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	31167454	T/Sgt	Samuel Edwin POTVIN		E&E REP. NOS. 100 & 101
TOP TURRET GUNNER	34267523	T/Sgt	John Frank BUIGE		<b>IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY</b>
BALL TURRET GUNNER	34213971	S/Sgt	John LeRoy CARPENTER		E&E REP. NOS. 100 & 101
WAIST GUNNER	13103641	S/Sgt	Burton Hartman REPPERT		KIA
WAIST GUNNER	13117691	S/Sgt	Lawrence Burl PHILLIPS		KIA
TAIL GUNNER	12145982	S/Sgt	Joseph Emanuel MANOS		<del>MIA</del> <b>IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY</b>

Were you wounded? N/D

SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

12050  
5 November 1943

\*  
APPENDIX "B" TO E & E REPORT NO.133

1. The following information has been obtained after an interview with an Officer 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.

- a. Along railway lines running west of VANNES observed much constructional activity, some of it rail construction. (early October)
- b. At the beginning of August observed an almost uninterrupted stream of German supplies and reinforcements destined (according to French source) for ITALY. Much of the equipment seemed obsolete and some of it was horse-drawn. (Observed at VARENNE SUR ALLIER?)
- c. Observed a French resistance organization. Their purpose before an invasion is to intimidate and terrorize collaborators, hide labor evaders, and equip organization for aid to an Allied invasion. After such an invasion their plans call for guerilla warfare and sabotage. *of* Equipment for one such organization was ample explosives, small supply of hand-grenades, thirty Sten machine guns, six Smith and Wesson revolvers. It would have been possible to form a company of 2000 men out of this organization. Discipline excellent, though very little delegation of authority or responsibility.

Morale of organization often seemed failing due to impatience in waiting for an invasion, lack of aid to Balkan resurrectionists, and increased German demands and control.

The coming winter may drive some of the organization members into the German hands as laborers, etc., because of food and clothing shortages.

There is a lack of mechanical and military knowledge in the organization.

Some activities were: stealing trucks, raiding 'new French Army' stores, raiding shoe-motor fuel-explosives stores, testing equipment. Great need for arms (rifles and revolvers). Explosives seemed plentiful.

\* Statement of information covering period from 14 July 1943  
to 24 October 1943.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- O-739890, 2d Lt, John W BIEGER

Unit:- 94 Bomb Group, 331 Bomb Squadron

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.

Horlicks tablets. Intermittently for ten days

Chocolate. Second day

Milk (tube). Second day

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier). Fourth day

Matches. No

Adhesive tape. Foot chafing

Chewing gum. As long as it lasted to ease my thirst

Water bottle. To help purify water with halazone tablets.

Compass. Constantly till first large town.

- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect? **Identity of milk tube very uncertain - please label.**
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box? **Buried it.**
- (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 - less horlicks.**

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? **Yes**  
If so, state COLOR. **Brown - red stripe**  
In 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.

Maps. Which ones? **Used both to plan action and to locate myself.**

Compass. **Selection of roads and location.**

File (hacksaw). . . No

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. France 2000 francs  
How did you spend the money? Left with helpers

(d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps. )

Compass. )

File (hacksaw). )

Surplus currency. )

LEFT WITH HELPERS

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS+)

(+Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following?

If you used any of them state briefly WHEN and WHERE.

Round compass. Yes

Stud compass.

Swinger compass.

Fly-button compass.

Pencil clip compass.

Tunic button compass.

Pipe compass.

Pouch

Special flying boots (and knife). KNIFE NOT BOOTS

(b) Were they satisfactory? Yes

(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? Three

(b) Did you use them? Yes, too large but were easily cut down and used for  
State how. identity cards.

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? Yes, once.  
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. 94th Group in early July by Lt Imstone. Not

(b) Did you find the lectures of value? S-2 because I was not long at Group. Heard something at Bovington.

Yes, but found him out-of-date on the Demarcation Line.

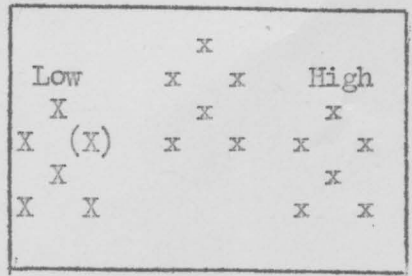
Right that must hide parachute and true that Germans watch roads  
and not fields.

I found my knife indispensable.

APPENDIX "E" TO E & E REPORT NO.

NAME John W BIEGER RANK 2d Lt ASN 0-739890 REPORT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SQ 331 GROUP 94 A/C NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Letter A Load 16-300 lbs Date 14 July 1943



Position in formation.

Make Diagram

Number two position of low squadron, low group.

Observed results of Bombing:

Not observed

Enemy Fighter Tactics: Nose attacks on bomb run.

Markings: Usual yellow nosed FW 190's.

Our Tactics:

Violent evasive maneuvers.

Our Fighter Support:

None

Flak

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Quality</u>
-------------	--------------	----------------

Sparse

Technical Failures

Motors: Unable to feather number three engine, reason uncertain.

Armor:

Armament: One bomb hung up in rack, possibly due to evasive action.

Miscellaneous:

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

DID YOU BLACK OUT? No

DID YOU USE BALE-OUT BOTTLE? Used walk around bottle but unnecessary and too complicated for bale-out operations. No bale-out bottles available. We weren't in our regular A/C.

SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 133  
EVASION IN FRANCE

25 October 1943

John William BIEGER, 2d Lt, O-739890  
331 Bomb Squadron, 94 Bomb Group

MIA: 14 July 1943  
Arrived in UK:  
24 October 1943

AGE: 22 years  
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 3 7/12 years  
HOME ADDRESS: 279 Rodney Avenue  
BUFFALO, New York

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	O-379167	1st Lt	Floyd Bentley	WATTS	E&E RPT 92
CO-PILOT	O-739890	2d Lt	John William	BIEGER	NARRATOR
NAVIGATOR	O-736844	2d Lt	Allan Clifford	EASTMAN	P/W
BOMBARDIER	O-734481	2d Lt	Richard Norden	MANNING	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	31167454	T/Sgt	Samuel Edwin	POTVIN	E&E RPT 100 & 101
TOP TURRET GUNNER	34267523	T/Sgt	John Frank	BUICE	IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
BALL TURRET GUNNER	34213971	S/Sgt	John LeRoy	CARPENTER	E&E RPT 100 & 101
WAIST GUNNER	13103641	S/Sgt	Burton Hartman	REPPERT	KIA
WAIST GUNNER	13117691	S/Sgt	Lawrence Burl	PHILLIPS	KIA
TAIL GUNNER	12145982	S/Sgt	Joseph Emanuel	MANOS	IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY

14 July 1943

We were called for an early morning raid but were late getting started. Our preparations, however, went smoothly in the end and we took off from Bury St Edmunds at 0600 hours to bomb VILLACOUBLAY. Our bomb-bay doors were open and we had started our bomb-run when the fighters attacked. I saw someone bale out of Major Saltsman's plane, and we climbed to a higher Group, but could not find a position to fly. The attacks - all that I saw - were from 12 o'clock. Our evasive action was violent but the bombardier and navigator were missing fire badly. I heard glass breaking and ducked each time this happened but all the strikes must have been in the nose. When our number three engine was hit, it ran away and I couldn't feather it - I don't know why. The instrument panel was shot out, oil was pouring all over the place and the cockpit was filled with smoke.

ATTACKED  
BY FIGHTERS

OUT OF  
FORMATION

Our bombs were hung up and because there was no communication with the bombardier and navigator, I thought they had been killed. We had ten minutes to go before meeting support but without the navigator we didn't know the course and we were out of formation. The pilot gave the order to bale out.

FORCED TO  
BALE OUT

I went to the bomb-bay and jumped after the engineer, opening my chute at 16000 feet. I saw the plane again with smoke pouring from one engine.

6



As I watched it another chute came out of the bomb-bay and went into a straight dive. An FW 190 circled my chute once, but fell away without bothering me. <sup>then the ship</sup>

From the air I saw a large town but lost sight of it before landing. For some reason I expected to be picked up by the Germans, but, nevertheless, I looked for a wood to <sup>HIDE IN</sup> run to when I landed. I didn't know how to hit the ground and landed on my back, straining my knees so badly that they pained me for three days.

#### HIDES EQUIPMENT

As soon as I got to my feet I wadded my flying boots and equipment into the chute. I then saw that I had come down in a field of brussels sprouts. I ran to the nearest hedge-row, shoved in my chute bundle, covered it with leaves and, in a crouching position, ran along the line of hedges. Several times I had to cross open spaces but, each time I did this, I checked the countryside for observers. After travelling in this manner for seven or eight minutes I almost bumped into a group of children running toward my point of landing. I backed into a hedge-row just in time and they missed me. For thirty minutes I watched them, feeling pleased that they couldn't find my chute. Gradually they wandered away. I waited until a young boy came by alone and pulled him into the hedge with me, but I failed to get any information out of him because he only stared at me as though I were a curiosity. I soon realized that it was hopeless to expect any help from him and now that I had him on my hands I wasn't sure what to do to get rid of him.

#### FOILS CHILDREN'S SEARCH

I tried waving him away and started walking off down the road. When I did this he turned and ran in the direction of his buddies. While his back was turned I sneaked through the hedge and crawled into a bundle of hay near the place where I had stopped him. A few minutes later I watched him run by with four other boys and disappear in the direction they thought I had taken.

When they were out of sight I relaxed and suddenly felt very tired. For the first time I realized I had injured my knees. I saw no reason to leave my haystack, as there were no signs of any commotion or search in the neighborhood. From the haystack I could see a farmhouse. The house was a large one and the farm looked prosperous. I gave up the idea of approaching it for help because we had been briefed not to go to big farms. During the night I came out of hiding several times to keep from getting too stiff. Thirst bothered me more than anything and in the early hours of the morning I ate half of the chocolate in my Aids Box.

#### NO AID FORTH-COMING

Remembering that there might be a curfew, I stayed hidden until I saw people in the fields. <sup>Then I checked</sup> Checking my compass I started south. My clothes were O.D.'s and a summer flying jacket.

After walking a short distance I found some green apples which helped to quench my thirst. From the time I started walking I had kept to the side roads hoping to find a Frenchman who could help me. I think I must have expected the French to welcome me with open arms. Within an hour I had passed a number of them. They stared at me and I stared back, trying, without much difficulty, to look like an American aviator. The small groups I passed whispered among themselves when they saw me and watched me out of sight but nothing else happened.

#### HIDES IN WOODS

I crossed into the fields when I realized that I wasn't getting <sup>no</sup> any where and <sup>was</sup> only risking capture. I walked into a wood but left it

quickly when I thought it appeared to be part of an estate. I entered another wood without difficulty and after walking through it, without meeting anyone, I came to the edge and saw nothing but open fields spread out in front of me. There were workers in all the fields. I could not have approached one of them without being seen by others. From the hill where I stopped I could see a small town and, far in the distance, thought I saw the Eiffel Tower.

I took a short rest before starting around the edge of the wood to reach the outskirts of the small town without being seen. At mid-afternoon I saw a farmer approaching along a path and ducked into some brush. After looking him over carefully I decided he was a laborer and might help. I came out of hiding and walked toward him with my hands in the air. He looked frightened and I was afraid he would run. He seemed to understand immediately from my gestures that I was an American parachutist and after that, he did most of the gesturing and talking. He was a Pole, in forced labor, and said that he would help me. He volunteered information about the Germans and occasionally used German phrases. He spoke mostly of a friend of his who had been shot for helping Allied airmen. I asked for water, food and clothing, he left promising to procure them for me.

HELPED BY POLE

I hid where I could watch the path for his return. I expected him to be back that night and when he didn't show up I got worried and started to leave. Fortunately I remembered the curfew and waited until morning. He came early and I found that I had misunderstood his plans. He brought food and water but could get no clothes for me. We talked for a few minutes and after saying there was nothing else he could do for me, he went off to work.

SIGHTED BY  
FARMER

After eating, I left the wood and ran across the field to the shelter of a hedge-row. I crouched there, looked around to see if I had been observed and then ran, still bent over, along the line of hedge. I stopped every few minutes to see if anyone was watching. The third or fourth time I did this I saw a farmer standing on a rise of ground in the distance. From his position I knew he must have been watching me since I left the wood. I felt like a fool and started walking toward him. When I got near enough he motioned me to follow him and led me to a barn. He fixed me a bed in the hay and I did nothing but sleep and eat. When he went back to work I realized that our conversation had established no more than the fact that I was an American airman.

16 July 1943

During the day I was awakened about four times by visitors who brought food and looked me over. One of them spoke English. He told me that my presence there frightened him because the entire neighborhood was talking. He thought everyone in the village was friendly but told me it was too dangerous to risk remaining. I was given clothes at this house and when my helpers asked about my plans I told them I was going to walk to SPAIN. They were doubtful that it could be done but had no alternative suggestion to offer.

17 July 1943

That night I was moved quietly to another house and given an attic bed. Early the next morning my helpers sneaked me out of the village to a cross-roads and pointing down one road, said 'Bocke'; then pointing down another road, indicated I should go in that direction. To replace my rubber water bottle I had been given a small glass bottle which fitted into the inside pocket of my coat. The last words of advice they gave me were that I should not go to PARIS but I hadn't wanted to anyway.

WARNED TO  
AVOID PARIS

TRAVELS BY  
COMPASS

After walking several hours it seemed that all roads led to PARIS. Had it not been for my compass I would have ended there, but I held to as much of a southern course as the roads permitted. I began watching the people I passed to see how they walked and acted. I noticed that they looked at me when I looked at them and if I stared they stared. I chewed grass until I was sick of it but it helped me to feel more natural. I gained confidence quickly when I found that very few people looked at me in my peasant clothing and I tried shuffling along as I thought a peasant would. It was easy to get water after I discovered that ~~EVERY~~ small village had a fountain in the center SQUARE.

PASSES GERMAN

Late in the afternoon of this third day I saw my first German. I was walking through a small village and saw him approaching at the other end of the street. For a moment I felt panic but after taking a few steps I strolled across the street and passed him from that side.

For some reason, seeing this German made me realize that I couldn't go much further without rest. My knees, still aching from the parachute jump, began to buckle on me. As soon as I got out of the village I looked for a place to spend the night. I came upon a wooded area in which there was a clearing which appeared to have been used as a bivouac. There was a small stream running through the clearing. I took a sponge bath and filled my water bottle, using the halazone tablets. Before dark I crawled off in the underbrush and made a bed for the night.

18 July 1943

Early the next morning I continued walking south. I tired quickly from lack of food and by noon felt that I could not go any further without rest. Shortly after this I passed a house where an old peasant woman was working in the yard. The house was a poor-looking one so I stopped to ask her for help. I had a good reception. She was friendly and quickly seemed to grasp who I was and what I needed. After giving me food she led me to a deserted house which although scantily furnished had a bed in it. I slept there the rest of the afternoon and all that night. I had some idea of where I was because before approaching the old woman, I had crossed a main road which had a signpost pointing to MELUN.

I left the deserted house early in the morning on the 19th of July, walked through MELUN and, by compass, found the road to FONTAINEBLEAU. Around noon I began to get hungry again and started looking for a likely place to get food.

While passing a small house sitting away from the road I noticed a young boy in the yard. He looked like a carpenter and was making some repairs on the house. I saw no one around when I approached to ask for food which may have had something to do with my luck. He gave me food without hesitation but would not let me stay there. After leaving him, I walked down the road about two kilometers before going into a wood for rest and sleep. My confidence was increasing all the time.

20 July 1943

The next morning I was on the road to FONTAINEBLEAU early. After tramping all day without speaking to anyone or having an incident of any kind, I arrived in the vicinity of DORDIVES. It was almost dusk and it was raining when I found a young boy driving an oxen cart along the road. He was along when I spoke to him but while we were trying to understand each other, by means of sign language, another young boy passed. He walked up to us and asked me, in English, if I were an American. After he had spoken to the boy on the oxen-cart he told me to come with him. At first his attitude puzzled

me for he seemed indifferent about helping me at all. He took me into an old ramshackled building and left me to get food. On his return I managed to get a few French words out of him which would help me when I approached other people for help. As soon as I had the information I wanted he turned the discussion to politics and I soon found the reason for his apparent indifference. He tried to get an explanation from me as to why America was supporting Communism and wanted to know who was going to prevent America from grabbing half the world after the war. I tried ~~the APPEASEMENT~~ policy and pointed out the subtleties of German propoganda. As we talked I watched his face to see what things I said pleased him so that I could amplify those statements. This scheme must have worked because he became more and more friendly as we talked.

~~INVOLVED IN  
POLITICAL  
DISCUSSION~~

Finally he suggested that he buy me a railroad ticket to a small town outside of BOURGES. I was worried about his buying the ticket in a small town because I thought that if I were caught it could be traced, but he didn't think so and the next morning got the ticket for me. My plan was to get off the train before reaching BOURGES and walk across the Line of Demarcation to CHATEAUROUX, where I expected I would have to find the way south by myself. To get to the town above BOURGES necessitated several transfers but the boy assured me he would arrange that and would write the names of the towns down as a precaution.

IS GIVEN  
TRAIN TICKET

We were late getting to the train but I got aboard all right in the care of the railroad man. It wasn't until I had left the boy that I remembered his promise to write down the names of the transfer points. I had no idea of the schedule but stopped worrying about it when the railroad man took me off at MONTAGES and left me on the platform to wait for another train. When it arrived he motioned toward it and I got aboard thinking the same thing would happen at the next junction. I pretended sleep while the train was in motion.

HELPED BY  
RAILROAD MAN

The train stopped at NEVERS and I had a feeling that it was one of the towns at which I should change. I waited for a railroad man to come for me but nothing happened. Passengers got off, others got on and I knew the train would be pulling out of the station soon, but I could think of nothing better to do than sit there. Suddenly the loudspeaker on the platform blared forth the information that German inspectors were coming aboard to examine Identity Cards. The information was given in French and from some of the words in the sentences I understood what they meant. In any case I would have known soon enough because I saw two German officers get on the train and watched all the Frenchmen pull out their cards.

GERMANS CHECK  
IDENTITY CARDS

I waited until the two officers had gone into a compartment and then stepped out on the platform. I walked to the end of the train and waited beside the last coach. As the Germans stepped off, I got back on the train. There was a brakeman or conductor standing near me but he seemed to be paying no attention. As soon as the train started again I made my way back to the coach I had sat in before the inspection, <sup>AND</sup> took my seat amid general staring. Occasionally one or two people tried to talk to me but I gave them the deaf-and-dumb sign and they left me alone.

EVADES CONTROL  
OFFICERS

I noticed, while walking through the train, that some of the compartments had maps in them. I started checking the stations we passed through with these maps and found that we were going to VICHY. I had an idea that it was a city I didn't want to enter so I got off at the last small stop before

VICHY. To avoid turning in my ticket I walked down the railroad tracks until I saw a chance to get off into the fields. CHATEAUX was still in mind so I set my compass course west and started walking.

REFRIENDED BY  
FARMER

While it was still daylight I met a farmer working in one of the fields. I crossed and stopped to ask him for food. He was friendly, fed me and offered me a bed in his barn. Before leaving the next morning I shaved and had breakfast. During the meal, the farmer tried to persuade me to stay and help with the harvest. I decided against this although I thought it over in the light of a refuge while I looked for help.

22 JULY 1943

I decided to keep to the roads as I found it difficult to cover ground when I stayed in the fields. The first trouble I encountered when I did this was that in the locale in which I was walking, all the roads seemed to run north and south and I wanted to go west. I walked north thinking eventually I would find a road leading west. As I began to feel sick this day, I decided to give up eating green apples which had been the only edible thing I had found along the roads. During the morning, I knocked on the door of a poor looking house and when a woman appeared I made deaf and dumb signs, indicating that I was hungry. She gave me some bread and I took it away with me.

DISCOVERED IN  
BARN

Late in the afternoon I passed what seemed to be a large community farm. There were too many people in the fields for me to approach them but I sneaked around to the back of the large farmhouse and crawled into a barn. At dusk the farmer came in and found me. After I had explained who I was he gave me food and took me into the house. Many of the neighbors came to talk to me that night; some of them were only curious, but others wanted to help. I stayed in the house that night and the next morning asked if I might stay on for a few days rest. The farmer was afraid to let me do this because too many knew I was there.

JOURNEY  
ARRANGED

Realizing he was right, I left at once and had walked about two kilometers when four men came after me on bicycles. One of these four men had been told about my presence in the vicinity by one of the farmers with whom I had talked ~~with~~ the night before. He spoke some English and, after asking me a few questions, the rest of my journey was arranged.

Compiled By:

JOHN F. WHITE, JR  
1st Lt, AC

Approved By:

*W.S. Holt*  
W'S HOLT  
Lt Col, AC  
Commanding

F and E Rpt. #133

(2 Lt. John W. Biegel)

Appendix C

Lt. Biegel came down on 14 July 1943 near MITRY-MORY (20 kms. N.E. of Paris) and traveled on his own until 23 July with the following incidental help:-

15 July, ~~at~~ just outside of MITRY-MORY a Polish worker gave him food and warned him of the whereabouts of Germans.

15-16 July, a farmer on the outskirts of MITRY-MORY gave him food, shelter for the night, and civilian clothing.

18 July, just N. of MEHUN an old peasant woman gave him food and shelter for the night.

20 July, <sup>(near DORDIVES)</sup> a young man who spoke English gave him food, shelter for the night, ~~and~~ bought him a railway ticket to a small town near BOURGES.

21 July, W. of <sup>VICHY</sup> ~~Meun~~ a farmer gave him food and let him sleep in a barn.

22 July, near ~~Vichy~~ VARENNES-SUR-ALLIER a farmer found him, fed him, and gave him shelter for the night.

The next day (23 July) when Bieger had left his farm and ~~gone~~ walked about two kms. he was overtaken by four men on bicycles. One of them had seen Bieger at the farm the night before and had reported to the Chief of resistance in town. Another of the four was M. MESIN (a code name), an Algerian, who spoke some English. Bieger was taken to MESIN'S home outside of VARENNES-SUR-ALLIER and stayed there until 23 August. From 23 August to 20 September he was at the camp of the resistance organization in the mountains. On 20 September MESIN got in touch with an organization in LYONS, and a Frenchman took him to VICHY and turned him over to another who took him to LYONS. In LYONS he met RAOUL who told him what to expect and then took him to JOIGNY whence M. and Mme BRUN (English woman and French husband) took him to PASSY-SUR-SEINE (?). On 1 October he was taken to Paris to the apartment of RAOUL and PIERRE who took him with a party of evaders (Billy Rice, Robt. Brooks, Vickless, Swap, Richardson, Cunningham, Brohard, and others including Headley and Bromley of RAF) by train to VANNES. In ~~Vannes~~ VANNES Bieger spent nine days at the house of a widow, and then PIERRE of QUIMPER took him to QUIMPER where he stayed at PIERRE'S home. Brohard (E and E # 132) was here and Bieger was taken with him and six others ~~by train~~ to ~~the~~ CHATEAULIN to a stone church. Ryan arrived at this church shortly thereafter and the rest of Bieger's story is the same as his (E + E # 136-137).

by PIERRE and EVE

John Wm. Biéger

SECRET  
EQUALS BRITISH

MOST SECRET

APPENDIX "B".  
MIS(X).....

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 July 14, 1943  
to Oct 24, 1943

- ~~1) None seen ~~no enemy airplanes seen~~~~
- 2) Along rail line going west from Vannes -  
Big rail + construction + material concentrations
- ~~3) None seen~~
- 4) About beginning of August I saw  
an almost uninterrupted stream of  
German supplies + reinforcements destined  
(I was told by the French) for Italy. These  
trains were small however + I was  
unable to estimate their number.  
Equipment was mostly obsolete + even  
horse drawn. (Observed at Varennes / Allier)
- ~~5) None seen~~
- 6) Enemy troop morale seemed excellent.  
Troops looked cocky + confident.  
They sang frequently + well .....
- ~~MIS(X). No civilians seen~~



File No.

OUT-CHARGE SHEET

Date charged out

Charged to

Remarks:

*2/10/41  
14/1*

Morale of organization often seemed failing due to impatience in waiting for an invasion, lack of aid to Balkan Resurrectionists, and increased German demands and controls.

The coming winter may drive some of the org members into German hands as laborers, etc. because of food and clothing shortages.  
There is a lack of mechanical & military knowledge in the org —

Some activities were: stealing trucks, raiding 'new trench army' stores, raiding shoe-motor-fuel-explosives stores, testing equipment.  
Great need for arms (rifles & revolvers).  
Explosives seemed plentiful.

INSTRUCTIONS.—If a document is taken from the files, charge it to the person to whom delivered. Make charge sheet in duplicate. Place one in record file and one in suspended file used for follow-up on "charge-out sheets."

App B —

- a. Along railway lines <sup>running west of</sup> ~~between~~ VANNES observed much constructional activity, some of it rail construction. (early October)
- b. At the beginning of August observed an almost uninterrupted stream of German supplies and reinforcements destined (according to French source) for ITALY. Much of the equipment seemed obsolete and some of it was horse-drawn. (Obs at VARENNES & ALLIER?)
- c. Observed a French resistance organization. Their purpose before an invasion is to intimidate and terrorize collaborators, hide labor evaders, and equip organization for ~~an~~ allied aid to an allied invasion. After such an invasion their plans call for guerrilla warfare and sabotage. Equipment for one such organization was ample explosives, small supply of hand-grenades, thirty sten machine guns, six Smith and Wesson revolvers. It would have been possible to form a company of 2000 men out of this organization. Discipline excellent, though very little delegation of authority or responsibility.

S E C R E T

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name :- 0-739890-2nd Lt - John W Bieger  
 Unit :- 94th Bomb Gp - 331 Squadron

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. - Intermittently for 10 days
  - (ii) Chocolate. - 2nd day
  - (iii) Milk (tube). - 2nd day
  - (iv) Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).
  - (v) Halazone tablets (water purifier). - 4th day
  - (vi) Matches. No
  - (vii) Adhesive tape. - Foot chafing
  - (viii) Chewing gum. - As long as it lasted to.
  - (ix) Water bottle. Ease my thirst
  - (x) Compass. - to purify water with Halazone
- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?  
 If so, in what respect? Identity of milk tube
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box. Very uncertain - Please label Buried it.
- (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-less Horlicks.

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? Yes  
 If so, state COLOR. Brown - red stripe  
 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? Both (to plan action and to locate myself)
  - (ii) Compass. - To locate myself

Selection of roads + location

(iii) File (hacksaw). *No*

(iv) Foreign Currency. State countries and amounts.  
How did you spend the money.

(d) How did you dispose of:- *French - 2000 Francs - left with organization*

*Left with  
Helpers*

Maps. *left with resistance organization*

Compass. *left with resistance organization*

File (hacksaw). *left with resistance organization*

Surplus currency. *left with escape organization*

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS\*) *Knife - indispensable*  
(\* Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following?  
If you used any of them, state briefly WHEN and WHERE.

(i) Round compass. *Yes - ~~exclusively~~*

(ii) Stud compass. *No*

(iii) Swinger compass. *No*

(iv) Fly-button compass. *No*

(v) Pencil clip compass. *No*

(vi) Tunic button compass. *No*

(vii) Pipe compass. *No*

(viii) Pouch. *No*

(ix) Special flying boots (and knife). *No*

(b) Were they satisfactory? *Yes*

(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? *Yes* *3 Too large but were easily cut down*  
State how.

*Identification cards*

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *Yes once*  
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

*94th Gp - Early July - St. Justone*

(b) Did you find the lectures of value? *Yes* *not because not long of Gp - Heard something about evasion -*  
*found his out-dated 5000L*

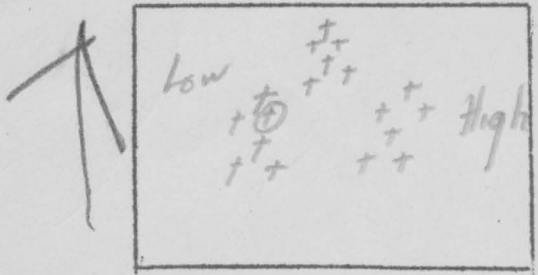
*St. Justone line*

*Rightly being parachute  
at time that Germans watch roads + hot fields*

*I found my knife indispensable*

NAME John W. Bieger RANK 2nd Lt ASN 0-739890 REPORT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SQ 331 GROUP 94 A/C NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Letter A Load 300lbs Date July 14, 1943



Position in formation.  
Make Diagram  
Number 2 position  
of low Squadron  
low Group

Observed results of Bombing: NOT observed

Enemy Fighter Tactics: Nose Attacks on bomb run  
Markings: usual yellow FW190

Our Tactics: Violent Evasive Maneuvers

Our Fighter Support: None ever seen

<u>Flak</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Quality</u>
<u>Sparse</u>			

Technical Failures  
Motors: None  
Armor: Unable To feather #3 engine  
reason uncertain.

Armament: 1 Bomb hung up in rack -  
Possibly due to Evasive action.  
Miscellaneous:

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

Black-out, no walk around battle  
Bail Battle used, but unnecessary &  
complicated for bailout  
operations  
No bale out battles available  
We weren't in own A/C