

LT GORDON (IN INK) 0-728197  
LT RUPPE (LEFT ESCAPE KIT IN PLANE) 0-791054

MOST SECRET

5

M.I.9/S/P.G.()

APPENDIX D  
BUT TOOK SET HUGHES who was badly wounded and taken to hospital

Unit:- 358 sq 303 sq. (Both)

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 tick (✓) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g. "Lying up for 2 nights", etc.
  - (i) Horlicks tablets. ✓ *WALKING IN MTS* ✓
  - (ii) Chocolate. ✓ *WALKING IN MTS* ✓
  - (iii) Milk (tube). *NO - DIDN'T KNOW IF IT WAS SILENT OR WHAT* ✓
  - (iv) Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *NO LOST THEM* ✓
  - (v) Halazone tablets (water purifier). *NO - NOT NEEDED* ✓
  - (vi) Matches. ✓ *NOT NEEDED EXCEPT FOR SMOKING* ✓
  - (vii) Adhesive tape.
  - (viii) Water bottle. ✓ *YES - IN SPRINGS IN MTS* ✓
  - (ix) Chewing gum. ✓ *YES* ✓
  - (x) Compass. ✓ *YES* ✓
- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *NO* ✓  
If so, in what respect?
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box? *DESTROYED Burnt*
- (g) Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aid box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger? *MILK TUBE SHOULD BE LITLED - BANDAGES FOR MEDICAL AID. Spanish Money and an increase in French money.*

M.I.9 / /

Distribution by M.I.9:-  
M.I.9(d)  
I.S.9.  
Lt.Col. Holt.  
File.

Lieut.-Colonel, G.S.

2. PURSE

(a) Did you carry a purse? If so, state COLOUR. ~~NO~~ YES  
If NOT, state why not.

BROWN WITH  
RED LETTERS

(b) Did you use the purse? YES YES. ALSO SGT.

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

(i) Maps. ✓ Which ones? BOTH BOTH ✓

(ii) Compass. ✓ ✓ ✓

(iii) File (hacksaw). NO ✓ ~~YES~~

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

FRANCE FRANCE  
APPROX 2,000 4000  
FRANCE

- 1) FOOD ✓
- 2) CLOTHING ✓
- 3) RR TICKETS ✓
- 4) GUIDES ✓

(d) How did you dispose of:-

✓ Maps. SPANISH GOT ONE DESTROYED OTHER

CONFISCATED IN SPAIN  
GAVE TO SGT LUCAS.

✓ Compass. DESTROYED

✓ File (hacksaw). DESTROYED

✓ Surplus currency. NONE

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.

(i) Round compass. NO ✓

(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 yes

(c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions which would improve the above equipment?

✓ YES - MORE FRENCH MONEY - VALUE OF FRANC IS ABOUT 200 PER \$1.00 OF AMERICAN MONEY ON BLACK MARKET

4.

(a) Did you carry passport-size photographs? If so, how many? No No

(b) Did you use them? State how.

✓

5.

LECTURES.

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

✓ YES - MOLESWORTH - OCT, 1942 - LT ROBINSON

(b) Did you find the lectures of value?

YES  
yes

LT. RUTHER  
CO-PILOT

I

LT. GORDON  
NAV.

2

We left Moleenath 0900 hours January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1943  
to bomb Lorient France. Arrived over target about  
1545 ~~dropped~~ bombs were attacked over target by Fw's  
& ME. 109's Our No 2 motor was hit & had to be feathered  
due to terrific vibration. No 3 & No 4 were on fire.  
Gun on R.P.M. was shot out & motor was running  
away. A 20mm explosive cannon shell hit our  
bomb-bay. Radio compartment was hit several times.  
A large hole in fuselage near waist gun window. The  
horizontal stabilizer had a large hole in it. Explosive  
shell hit our top turret putting it out of commission  
& injuring engineer. Babcock was shot in chest just  
after dropping his bombs. This all happened at about  
22000 ft & damage all done by fighters.

Sgt Mullendore thinks he got one.

" FINCHER " " " " 3.

We were about 200 yds back of our formation. A fighter  
out of control came up under us & Lt Ruff seeing it  
just as we were about to hit it took the controls &  
pulled our ship up on its tail & avoided a collision.  
Immediately after the bell sounded to bail out.

LT GORDON  
+  
LT RUPPE

#22

(3)

## Appendix A

- 1- (a) Terrisa ? - Acted as interpreter + guide. She bought her own ticket + refused money to buy it with. Gave us food.
  - (b) Wealthy Frenchman who owned rock or granite establishment at Sublé gave us shelter + food.
  - (c) Joseph ? in Fardets - Former employee General Motors in New York in 1930 - Gave food + hotel.
- 2- Yes - Paid four guides 2000 francs to guide us through mountains. Money was what was left from our escape kit. Were paid at Larran.

## Appendix B

- 1- no. ~~5~~ French naval officer told us at Pamplona that at Marseille, France an old sewer system from there to a lake 20 km inland was used for submarines.
- 2- no
- 3- no
- 4- no

6- French moral for allies very high.  
We were never refused help + in  
general the French seem to be anxiously  
waiting for an allied invasion.

In talking to French people they  
told us the Germans "are very sad"  
when the first occupied France they  
were very sure of themselves but now  
their cock sure ways have disappeared.

### Appendix C

1- No - I do not think so.

2- No except Sgt Mullendore + Sgt Lucas of  
our crew might still be in France.  
The last we saw of them they were  
far west of Tours, France.

3.

JAN 23<sup>d</sup> LT RUPPE

I

I left Co Pilot's seat followed by Pilot. We went to escape hatch in nose. The door had been blown away & wind was gusting in. I grabbed my chute as it was about to blow out. Lt Godwin was there & I motioned to him to bale out. I put on my chute had trouble with it. Had to take off chute & remove my nose West. We were in a dive & I was getting dizzy from lack of oxygen. I was afraid of passing out so grabbed my rip chord before jumping & pulled it shortly after baling out. Chute opened I saw German fighters around me I tried to pull shroud lines so as to keep part of air of chute & passed out. Do not remember anything until I hit the ground. I came to in a large field surrounded by about 30 French people of all ages & sizes. They had taken off my chute & buried it. I tried to walk but could not due to a spine injury. A French girl about 17 who could speak a little English told me one of the other bays had landed about 500 yds away. I asked if any Germans close she said no. Two Frenchmen carried me to next field & found there Sgt Hughes our Radio operator. He had been shot in 3 places by machine guns & was lying on ground. He had been hit in right forearm, in upper part of right arm other in shoulder (Right). He was bleeding badly. I ask girl to get someone to take him to hospital I took his money, escape kit & anything of use to Germans. He was bleeding from nose & mouth but was conscious. They asked what I wanted to do & I told them escape & asked to be hidden. The 2 Frenchmen carried me about a mile to a

from house + hid me in the attic. I stayed there and a note was brought from St Goulon asking me I had written to him asking him to join me that night. My back was treated + I was put to bed. About midnight St Goulon + 2 sqts came.

Here on stay the same Jan 24<sup>th</sup> + 25<sup>th</sup>

We stayed at this house 2<sup>1/2</sup> for 3 nights. 2 sqts at the house. This <sup>4<sup>th</sup> night</sup> we walked guided by a French girl + a French man to a small station I think Goumin. Girl we

JAN 26<sup>th</sup>  
gave money + she bought our tickets to Tours. She bought a ticket for herself did not travel with us but told us to follow her change trains where she did. Our tickets were all 4 in one. We changed trains do not know name of town but

many Germans. We then went through Lorient, Nantes Angers. Girl advised us to split us 4 being too many to travel together. I asked girl to find out last two stops before

Tours she did + I told sqts they would get off at one + 2<sup>1/2</sup> at other. This we did we got off at Sable. We left station + walked up main road to first side road then turned

right + went down side road about 1 mi went into field + ate food we had. Boy in next field + further took us to a hospital in Sable where we found a French soldier who spoke English. He + a Dr told us where we get help. They

took in Dr car to a house on edge of town. A wealthy Frenchman. We stayed here 2 days + nights. Many Frenchman came to see us

Jan 27<sup>th</sup>  
They contacted a R.R man who agreed to assist us. We gave him money + he bought tickets + went with us to

Bordeaux. He did not speak but 2 + 3 words of English but had relatives in Seattle. We left A.M. Jan 28<sup>th</sup> went thru Angiers,

Nanto to Bordien traveled 5<sup>th</sup> class. We arrived about mid-night. Man with us was to contact a man there who told us to go to Payoo instead of Bayonne. We left at 2.30 A.M. went thru Day changed trains + went on to Payoo. We had planned on going to Aizoa where there was a post mistress who had helped by send men by boat to Portugal but our guide was told at Payoo that this was too dangerous. We walked to edge of town of <sup>PAYOO</sup> Freshan left us to go back in town + find night road.

In a hour he came back + took us to a Freshan who had a mill that made some sort of fabrication. We had wine + this man went to station master to ask info for us. It came running back + had us run out thru back yard + jump on a freight train that was moving slowly. # The train master hid us in a car of ties

We were stopped at destination line + train inspected but we was not found. We were then put up in cab electric train. We lay on floor until we arrived at Tarr. Here our train crew stopped. A train master took us on a passenger train to OKORON. no tickets. Here train master bought 3 bus tickets to TARDETS + went with us. His brother in law lived there + we went to his house. After 1/2 hour we were taken to an old hotel. Stayed that night next day + next night + next day hid in back room on top floor. 8 P.M. we left with a man named Joseph who had worked for 15 M. in states he paid our hotel + bought tobacco + food + would take no money from us.

We walked about 1 mi to a farm house stayed that night + next day. We met our 2 guides who took us to LARRAN or to a farm house about a mile from town. 2 Guides who took us here left us emptied our pockets. Stayed here that night + next night about 9 we left with 1 guide + walked about a mile to a house where we picked up a second guide. We had wine slept about 1 hour + left about 2 A.M. + walked until we were within about a mile of Spanish border. Guides left us + told us to walk along a inner or other side until we came to a house + here we would find a forest ranger who would telephone U. S. Embassy for us. We reached house about 5 hrs later. Gave note that Joseph's wife had written for us. We entered house + found Border Patrol. They searched us but not well. They took letters Joseph had given us to mail + read them returned them to us next day. We waited while they ate dinner. They took us from 2 P.M. to about 5 P.M. about 10 miles to a small town where a small H. Q. for Border Police was set up. Here they asked us many questions such as were we Democrats or Republicans, What religious belief. What type of plane, what formation. What part of France did we come down in. What route. Where are base in U. K. was. What last town in France.

All we told were 3 large towns we had been in Nanto, Bayonne

Bordeaux. Had not been in Bayonne. 4 Egin bombs. V formation.  
Wanted to know when shot down told them same time in Jan.  
Asked about guides in mt told them we used compass + map.  
They took knife + map. Had no money. Took letters + had us  
tear them up. We stayed <sup>IN HOTEL</sup> until next afternoon we were taken  
by bus to A O I Z then by train Pamplona where we were  
taken to Civilian police station. Civilian questioned us  
& took us to hotel where we stayed a month. Not allowed out.  
Canadian Gilman Assistant Naval Attache came about 5 days  
after our arrival. Later Col Stevens, Charles Gilbert. They  
bought liquor, clothes + each 400 Pesetas apiece. March 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt  
Mrs Stevens took us + Lt Mayo to Madrid. We stayed in  
hotel <sup>Mayo</sup> 6 days Ruffe 2 weeks under doctor. We went by  
car to Laredo with Lt Baber. March 22<sup>nd</sup> we left by car  
arrived Gibraltar 23<sup>rd</sup> left Gibraltar 25<sup>th</sup> flew to Orense spent night  
26<sup>th</sup> Merbach Street Morocco stayed 24 hrs + the night of <sup>11:15 P.M.</sup>  
27<sup>th</sup> flew to Praetorius. Arrived 10<sup>th</sup> AM. then flew to  
London. Rpt to I.A.C. about 5<sup>30</sup> P.M.

①  
2nd Lt. Eldon J. Ruppe  
Co. Pilot

④  
March 29, 1943

- (#1) 0-791054 2ND LT. ELDON T. RUPPE
- ~~#2) No~~
- #(3) 358 Bomb Sqdn., 303 Bomb Group
- #(4) 303 Bomb Group
- (5) Nov. 10, 1917
- (6) U.S.A.A.F. 11 months <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> RCAF 10 months
- (7) PERSONNEL MANAGER FOR BEVERLY HILLS Country Club
- (8) January 23, 1943 on Lorient France  
Molesworth, England 0900 hours departure
- (8) Private address 5100 Sunbeam Ave.  
Chattanooga, Tennessee, U.S.A.
- (9) Came down at Spezet, FRANCE Jan. 23, 1400 hrs.  
Aircraft and contents destroyed
- (21) Yes by M.A. at Madrid Capt. Charles  
Pabcock and Mr. Anderson of Sib.  
Yes, both the above names have written  
accounts.
- (22) No
- (23) Yes at Embassy Madrid, & Mr. Anderson at  
Alibraton and Capt. Nelson in London

Inf. Lt. Edwin Ruffe  
Co. Pilot

- (24) Gibraltar March 25, 1943 via Orian  
and former Merchants, Morocco by Gir.
- (25) Fresswick Scotland, March 28, 1943

#(10.) The French people told me that the first pilot  
Pilot - crash-landed the plane and lost his  
right leg <sup>He set the plane on fire.</sup> in doing so. It is my belief  
the pilot lost his parachute through  
the escape hatch in the nose as he  
left the pilot's seat immediately behind  
me and upon reaching the escape  
hatch where our parachutes were  
stored, being the snap-on chest type,  
the wind coming through the open  
escape hatch was blowing the chests  
around light bits of paper. I managed  
to catch my parachute just as it was  
about to blow out. In so much  
as the 1<sup>st</sup> pilot crash landed the plane  
after once leaving his seat I am inclined  
to believe he had no other alternative.



A.  
Eldon J. Ruffe

seemed to have us practically surrounded. I did this as I knew he must have medical attention immediately, as he was bleeding badly. Upon sending for the German authorities two Frenchmen carried me to a place where I could be hidden from the Germans. I had a spine injury and couldn't walk.

Two Chait Summers: ① Sgt. Roebuck jumped from plane and we have heard nothing at all from him. ② Sgt. Lucas: I jumped from plane and landed with a sprained ankle. Kept him with me until I had recovered enough from my back injury to travel with the use of crutches to railway station. I took the Sgt. with me as far as Sublet, a town just a few miles west of Tours. From there the two ~~sergeants~~ Sgts., waist gunner Sgt. Lucas and the engineer Sgt. Mullendore traveled together and the Navigator and I

5  
2nd Lt. Edwin J. Ruppe  
Co-pilot

traveled together. We decided this best as four traveling together was much too conspicuous. Ball Turret Operator - Sgt. Fitcher last seen by waist gunner Lucas. Sgt. Fitcher was seen putting on his parachute. He had gotten out of his turret and is believed to have gotten out <sup>of plane</sup> safely but we heard no more of him.

Tail Gunner - Sgt. Patterson I believe was killed in the tail position as I had been trying to contact him on the innerphone before the bailout alarm was sounded and couldn't get him to answer.

+

19 October 1942

(6)

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO : Personnel concerned.

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

By command of Lieutenant General EISENHOWER:

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

## CERTIFICATE

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

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

Name (Print) ELDON T. RUPPE Signed Eldon T. Ruppe  
 Rank Lt. 2ND A.S.N. 2-791054 Date 23 MAR 1943  
 Unit 358 Bomb Sqdn Witness Carl W. Holcomb  
303 BOMB GROUP

Lt. Col. Carl W. Holcomb, C.A.C.  
United States Army  
GIBRALTAR

7015

19 October 1942

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By command of Lieutenant General EISENHOWER:

*Ralph Pulsifer*  
RALPH PULSIFER,  
Colonel, AGD, Ass't. Adj. Gen.

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Name (Print) ELDON T. RUPPE Signed Eldon T. Ruppe  
Rank 2nd Lt. A.S.N. 0-791054 Date March 29, 1949  
Unit 359 BOMB SQDN. Witness [Signature]  
309 BOMB GROUP Est. a. c.

Gibraltar  
24 Mar 1943

I have received direct orders and I understand that when I arrive in the United Kingdom I am to proceed immediately without delay to London and there to report immediately without delay to Colonel Menzies, London District Transit Camp, Grand Central Hotel, opposite the Marylebone RR Station, London.

Thomas P. Mayo 1st Lt. A.C.

Bruce W. Gordon 2nd Lt. A.C.

Eldon J. Ruppel 2nd Lt. A.C.