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Return to For necessary action Draft reply

Reed PIN + X 231 Huy 0930 No. 141

IS9(AB/F/284.

SECRET.

To: Major White.

From: I.S. 9. ((A.B.).

The attached letter to F/O. PROSSER has been received in this Bureau for forwarding.

It was felt wise to open the letter in case it was an urgent request for help. As you will see, a small parcel of coffee, soap, etc., would be very acceptable.

D. D.

22.DEC.44.

hetter forwarded to Colonel Holffre Prossess intention of publicazing -

82269

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service
APO 887

JFW/eme

26 December 1944

MEMORANDUM: Transmittal of papers re F/O Prosser

TO: CO, P/W and X Det, Mil Int Sv (Rear), APO 413, US Army. (Attn: Lt Col W S Holt)

- 1. Attention invited to Prosser's intention to publicize experiences.
- 2. Forwarded for your information and any action deemed necessary.

Incls: Itr to F/O Prosser containing 2 pictures and 1 menu

JOHN F WHITE, JR Major, AC 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.

- 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 punyone ation, 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.

capture is SECRET and must not be disc Military Attache to whom I first repor	concerning my escape or evasion from losed to anyone other that the American t. or an officer designated by the
Commanding General of the Theater of O	nerations I understand that dis-
closure to anyone else will make me li	able to disciplinary action,
Name (Print) PROSSER-) AUID	Signed Jon's NOSSEU
Rank & O A.S.N. + 1190708	Date Documber 13/43
Unit 92 GNOWP	Witness hu What
	0.)600

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(4) Any other facts concerning your experience.

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By command of Lieutenant General AMDRE'S:

RALPH PULSIFER, A.T. A. 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 <u>STCRET</u> 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) DAVID PROSSER	Signed David	10580
Rank 10 ASN + UGB708		143
Unit 409 Sq 928.6.	Witness Witness	son 157 ATAUS

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. DAULD PROSSET, F40 + 1190708
- 2. Decorations.
- 3. Unit or Squadron. 407 5QU.
- 4. Division (Army) or Group. 92 G.P.
- 5. Date of Birth. 344 14 43 /21
- 6. Length of Service. 6 MONTHS
- 7. Private Address. 20 + . B. SIMPSON 4' O'BIE LAING SCARS DALE N. 4-
- 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?

 ALCOURTH STATE 3/43 0000 - TARGET. ROMALLY FELL- 30 KIL. N.E OF PARIS- At 1000 kg.
- 9. What was your position in aircraft? PRESUMABLY ON COURSE 16 KIL
- 10. Were you wounded? SPRAINED ANGLE
- 11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? ORGINASATION PAID 30000F
- 12. Do you speak French? Spanish? FRENCH 455 SPAWISH A LITTLE
- 13. Did you have Identity Papers? AGO CARD & FREWICH
- 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? RARCELOWA BARRELOWA BARREL
- 15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?
- 16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when?

 16. ALHAMA- DECEMBER 1743 _ GIBRALTAZ DEC. 1643
- 17. Date of arrival in Spain. Nov. 17/43
- 18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. DEZ 15143
- 19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. 61B RALTAR-130
- 20. Place and date of arrival in U.K.

BRISton- DEZ. 18/43

2 06 dethy seemed be Ettle deft from OR - pron quality @ Down on Navani saw & 13 Syst - 200 south with 13 Sept - Syrini attach 12 or poston un 3-6 20,000 The fell from 10-13, 600 - spm my thick Londy forgers.

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2 Such me rether than women.

SECRET EQUALS BRITISH

MOST SECRET

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

The following information has been obtained from our interview with
(
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 SEPt 3143

Statement of information covering period from SEPE 3143—
to NoV-17143-

SEPT-9/48- town that gamen Army muits were doing exercises in own of Meanx - such exercises were not large but forquent. Also DCA inthin 3 kilometers of Mily - two batters of one que. I german fighters were said to have fallen in Sept 3 unit - none Sept 4. People at the Mouse all approved of vaids on Pavis over though taxits were not hit at times - all were valozed that mostakes were possible , will these people were page from variets, there people all had avus which they intruded to use told that me U.S. aromen fell near by a day after the italian capitalation and unfused sweech assistance on the ground that the war would soon be over. One work told me he had been a poisoner of war in Hamover-there had been no damage There when he was last there Letty 1943 but he said that a qual Mumber of the german soldiers at Statingued came from that awar and that after the fall of the 6th Army Hanover and town adjacent were purished by the closes of stores, cafes, instanuals, commun etc, because of the failured of the men soldiers. the German police their were supposed to have been particularly bad. All there people fewourd do gaulee to Growing and others. Goods vite Pairs on Sept 15 there was a lot of activity of troop morning at the gars de Novel-there must have been 5 troop trains standing in the Real Yeards Mr train was moving with the yards with theops. Going to NEUERS that same day their were many convinces on the train reserved for the Welvemarcht - two converges fall of tank men. In Nevers . about 2008 garrisoned troops for administration of Department. many Rufft water flires in storets from near by airdrance

which was a Hell K drawe - 6 Kil fram NEVERS, In Nevers told by a the Czech worker that people were Not very pro-Ally but theutral - this was a singular opinion and not too vrosanable for some I was there NEVERS had already brien under a punishment enoteus because there had been so much substage there. I played swith one man R. Blandeau who pour quite premiènt in the visislance, the had his. Hours, and He supported many beople come locar hidring by feeding them and taking food out to the lovests for them the segment to work more with the hiding of workers destined to germany told that he Consot was somed effectively by day light by but with little effect (military) at night. People about la little concerned about coulding their and wantered of Fouts could not enne down lower for quater accusacy, one way to Pairs Aus many trains that caus on Rail road / with Me log wings, told by other man who took me to Pairs that he had worked at Viruna and that news the viil goods there- Their ever many quant factories of avanament tanks, Air Evaft and other dreavy Avers. Said that in factory there were enany going entages bods of 16 & 17 who hirdurated any prisoners solo dof? bumbs to per Pavis and the other boys easied the pune Howard things and other matrioid dropped from a tell fax also dept 28. In Pairs I went to one of he boys facil. His Name lows lettery book in the U.S.A. and a le.s. citizen the poses positioned in country aspended - positionally against The gestapo - (Incidentally the gestapo activity was being vive much incorased in WEVERS). He also seemed to do saldage too under command of a Lean-Marie who had been a founde 8767 - this group of young men seemed to be wed organized and effectively against the Nazi. the inciridary builts we brought were too small for the astroly object of busing the vacouds of men conscripted to

go the generally in one Ministry of Robor. These Courts was about 4 meters by 2 in the shape of a double expirador made of balcalite, the vext 6 seeks I spent in Pasis with man while made peopled trips to Bourily and our to Drane, our the Drains top about oct 5 hd seems two german troop train and material trains devailed, and at Romity about od 15 and train devailed. About Now 5 buil was / Not with a charge and at last murity discoursed that a passenger train was coming and the charge was ramoured but the former were found by Germans, the Kommandant gove the people the choise of No Grad for 2 days or a curfew begunning at 7:30 pm. Ravilly andrane well lit once but another time a small villiage was but and almost empletely distroyed, an U.S. airman parrelutely and was killed by the hysterical Event cound. People who had been news St. Nizar ray that the generals have much Aburar thanksome dreamy tanks. On trains to south near the Redotavia their press suring sectors and aismen on train. Italian Soldizes were seent in Novbon but carrying no marking. In Spain o fulled with an Austrian deserter from the Dehomacht. he was in the A.A. at Harve and Bordeaux. He had described the 6th of Feb. 1943 and how spent the very of the time since there is prison in Apain although he is for moves. I did not guestion line You closely about the technical part of A.A. but MISTE about the German Avney - moval etc. He did day that the Gollevier poeur work purdictous for all their prook there. I also talked to paule Italian excapped proisoners of suas susho paid after they had been taken they had been asked those takes to fisher for Musiche but not are man had rulisted with the Germans.

they had brown near grandle but not in the troops of occupation they gave most of Region was walevial to five French they were Alpur toosps.

December 31, 1943

Dear Lt. Emerson,



In regard to the supposed "suitcase" carried by Flight Officer Prosser, I wish to report the facts of the case in opposition to the fiction. The "suitcase" was merely a musette bag in which I carried some extra sweaters, a scarf, some cigarettes and other minor items—there were no suits, jackets trousers, etc.

None of the items actually in the bag were taken out of the aircraft.

Hoping this explaination will clear all existing mystery, I am

David Bosser F/O A/C

Now is the time for all good en to come to the aid fo their country.

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

E & E REPORT NO. 269 EVASION IN FRANCE

NÉCEMBER 18/43-

David G PROSSER F/O T-1190708
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Target: ROMILLY-SUR-SEINE
Take off: 0630
Station ALCONDURY

(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 7-7
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 6 MONTHS
HOME ADDRESS: 70 7 B. SHUPSON -

4 DAK LANG - FCARSDALE- NIV.

MIA: 3 September 1943
Arrived in Spain:

November - 17/43
Arrived in Gibraltar:

Arrived in UK: 18|43

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB) Narrators Disposition Disposition PILOT 0-735040 2d Lt Ralph (NMI) BRUCE CO-PILOT 0-743061 2d Lt Sebron A McQueen E & E #249 NAVIGATOR T-1190708 F/0 David G PROSSER NARRATOR BOMBARDIER 0-670292 2d Lt Bertram R THEISS E & E #218 RADIO OPERATOR 33202991 T/Sgt Mike FLESZAR E & E #216 TOP TURRET GUNNER 15114879 T/Sgt Hedley E CASSIDY E & E #250 BALL TURRET GUNNER 32327409 Sgt Milton (NMI) SELDIN MIA WAIST GUNNER 33391867 S/Sgt Simeon K McGUIRE MIA WAIST GUNNER 32142309 S/Sgt Robert D MUIR E & E #217 TAIL GUNNER -16092258 Sgt Regis L McDONELL MIA

RUMOUR! - ALL TEN MEMBERS LANDED IN AREA OF MITRY - ONE PARIS SEPT 4/43 - WITH HELP

Were you wounded?

SPRAINED ANGLE ON LANDING.

HID

own leg and put it on my ankle. They gave me some sugar and some coffee and then said that I had better go. I did not know what to do, so I started limping toward for the door. Then they said that I should not go but should hide. They hid me in a crevice between a couple of buildings, a place where so a searcher would have been least likely to look for me. I spent the day there. I tried to sleep, but I was pretty badly shaken up and did not seem sleepy. Some mice and snakes also kept me from making myself comfortable. That night I was taken to the house to eat and sleep. One of the family rubbed my ankle with camphor.

12 DAY VISIT

After I had spent 12 days at this place, little had happened. I had been given false identity papers with my own name on them, but my hosts did not seem to be able to find any help for me. My hosts were very poor people, and I did not think I should stay with them any longer if they were unable to find help, so I decided to go on my own. They gave me a couple of food tickets, and I took the train for NEVERS. I had been *** Light for the find helpful frenchmen could be found in NEVERS.

WENT TO NEVERS

when I reached the city, I found that it was full of Germans. I was very hungry and tried to find a small restaurant, and did not find a small one, so I when I was noticed the ate at a rather large one. The civilian sitting next to me wore a Nazi eagle, so I thought I should not have much conversation with him.

LOOKED FOR HELL? My ideas gained from instruction in exasion was to find a worker and ask him for help, but I could not find any workers on the streets. I walked to the bridge across the Loire and found it guarded by a couple of gendarmes, so I decided not to cross. While I was walking, I came upon a man carrying sand in a wheelbarrow. I asked him what the next town was. Then I asked him what the war news was, hoping that he would tell me something he had heard from Iddio/
the BBC so I would know he was all right. He remarked that I was not French, so I replied that I was an American. He did not seem very surprised and told me that he was a Czech worker. He did not know where I could find help, but he told me to come with him. I/followed//th/at/some/aistoned He took me to a man who did not seem very friendly but told me to come with him. I was fearful

SEE EDE 216-217,218, 299-250

BAILED

LANDED NEAR FRENCH-PEOPLE

WALKED

MET GERMAN SPEAKING HELPER HELPER

TAKEN TO HOUSE

I was in the same crew as Lts McQUEEN and THEISS, and Sgts FLESZAR, CASSIDY, and MUIR, and our flight is described in their reports. I had with me a musette has in which I carried some swedters to a scarf.

When the order to bail out came, I followed the co-pilot out the nose hatch at 20,000 feet. I made a free fall for 10,000 or 13,000 feet, spinning a good deal. My hands felt as if they were frozen. When my chute opened, I was pulled pretty painfully. I could see people gathering in the fields beneath me. I saw one parachute, in the air above me. When I landed, I hurt my whiteled ankle. It felt as if it were broken, but it was apparently only a bad sprain. The French people around did not seem to want to help me, apparently because there were so many of them. I asked a couple of them in French if they could hide me, but they said that they could not. I asked a couple of them to hide my parachute, and I gave my mae west and flying equipment to a couple of others. I started walking off, wearing OD trousers, a battle dress jacket, a tan woolen shirt, and civilian oxfords. After walking a short distance I took off the battle jacket.

but I had been briefed to be suspicious of large houses, I came to a large house, and talked to the departs / but the did not seen so I did not approach the occupants. to/want/to/welp/mes/ I walked to a marsh and stopped to try to do something to for my ankle which by then was making it almost impossible for me to walk. opened my first aid kit and was disappointed to find that it contained a dressing for a bullet wound. I limped on to a road. A number of people were walking down it. Two men walked toward me, and one of them asked me in German if I were andernan/aylator American aviator. They looked to me like workers, and I figured that I could trust them, so I replied in German that I was an American. When they offered to hide me, I walked with them through the brush to the back entrance of the house I had passed earlier. There I was asked if I had any identity papers. I had my AGO card with me, and when I showed it to them people , they seemed satisfied. They asked me what was wrong with me. I had and rene English-French dictionary with me, so I looked up the proper words to explain When I asked for a bandange, they that I had broken or sprained my ankle. did not seem to have any, but one of the Frenchmen took off a bandage from his

that I was being turned over to the Germans. I went to a house, and from there my journey was arraged.

Compiled by:

D E EMERSON 1st Lt, AUS Approved by:

W STULL HOLT

At Coa, AC

Commanding

Appendices A-E

Appendix B

- 1. The following information has been obtained from officer who evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy occupied territory.
- 2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but in that case it is important not too divulge any particulars about the source.

Statement of finformation covering the period from 3 September 1943 to 17 November 1943.

- a. Around September 9 evader was told by Frenchmen that German army units were doing exercises in the area of MEAUX. These exercises were supposed to be large/but/hot frequent but not large scale.
- c. Frenchmen said that seven German fighters went down in the raid on September 3 and none on September 9.
- d. Frenchmen told the evader that an American aviator landed on the day after the Italians capitulated and declined French assistance because the war was going to be over so soon.
 - e. A Frenchman who had worked in a rubber plant at HANNOVER told exader that a number of the Germans at Stalingard fame from the HANDVER area. //tfff The Frenchman said that after the fall of the Sixth Army HANOVER and an adjacent town were punished by the closing of stores, cafes, restaurants, cinemas, etc., because of this failure of German arms. The German police were supposed to have been particularly bad.
 - f. Going in to Paris to the Gare du Nord on September 15, eavder saw a lot of troop activity. Five troop trains were standing in the yards.

 in September
 - g. Evader understood that about 2000 German troops were garrisoned in NEVERS for administration of the Department.
 - h. Zyader/saw In September evaders saw numbers of German fliers in NEVERS. He understood that they came from an airdrome about 6 km away, but he did not know in which direction. He understood that He lll-K's were stationed at the field.

minet a sun move de constante.

field.

- i. Frenchmen told evader that Le CREUSOT had bombed effectively by daylight and with little military effect at night---but they gave no further details
- j. A Wumber of Frenchmen who talked to evader seemed to be concerned about American high-level bombing and wondered if the Fortresses could not come down a little lower for greater accuracy.
- In Spain
 k. /Ewader talked to three Italian #ffff officers who had been in the occupying forces at GRENOBLE. They said that Italian troops in that area had benn asked to fight for Mussolini after the Italian armistice. When they refused, they were threatened with being sent to Russia. These three Italians had escaped.
- 1. In Spain evader talked to and the and the and a Austrian deserter from INNS-BRUCK who claimed that 50,000 refugees were in that town when he was last there in January, 1943.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name: - + 1140702 FIU DAULD PRUSSER

Unit:- 407 59- 9/2 B. GP.

Please answer carefully the questions below. Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training must come largely from those who make use of them. Your report and comments will help others to evade capture or to escape

AIDS BOX

(a) Did you use your aids box? PRINCE MALCHES / LITTLE .

(b) If not, had you one on you?

(c) If not, why had you no aids box? HAD HELD ALWAYS.

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.

MULLNYALMS C12555 5106 Chocolate.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum. 00 Mountarns

Water bottle.

Compass.

(e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? Horacices ABLETS If so, in what respect? OLD AND STATE - BIFFICULT to
REMOVE FROM PAPER HUST MOST UNPLEASANT TASTE

(f) How did you finally dispose of the box?

FRESH

(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? HORLICKS COULD 166

PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? BROWN WITH RED STRIP AND If so, state COLOR. In NOT, State why not.
- (b) Did you use the purse? UES .
- (c) If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use? Pur a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances.
- ALL PRINCE- DETERMENTUR HOW to elloss Maps. Which ones? DEBARCATION -Compass.

File (hacksaw). Gets No.

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. FRENCH. HUERSCANDE How did you spend the money?

How did you dispose of:

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

(d)

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. (MRRIER

Stud compass.

Swinger compass. V

Fly-button compass. W

Pencil clip compass. W.

Tunic button compass. NO

Pipe compass.

Pouch

100

Special flying boots (and knife). NO

- (b) Were they satisfactory? —
- (c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions, which would improve the above equipment?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

 If so, how many?
- (b) Did you use them? NES Identity
 State how. FOR TWO STATES CARDS

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

407 Squ. - AUGUST 43, INTEL.

(b) Did you find the lectures of value?

VERY MULH-SO-

BNE THERE NOT STRESSED IS THAT IT IS TO GET MEDICAL ATTENTOWN OF A VERY GOOD SORT IN FRANCE FROM THE PEOPLE AND SO DO NOT ABOUTON HOPE OF ESCAPE BGZAUSE OF SUJURY.

NAME PROSSER-DAVID RANK \$ 0 ASN \ \(\mathref{U}\)25708 REPORT NO. 269 ZZ97ZS \(\mathref{U}\)2-5004BS SQ\(\mathref{U}\)7 GROUP \(\mathref{Q}\)2 A/C NO. Letter \(\mathref{L}\) Load \(\mathref{D}\) Date \(\mathref{SBP}\)6-3/43
SQ 407 GROUP 92 A/C NO. Letter 2 Load 2. Date 5691-3/43
Position in formation. Make Diagram (Does not correspond to previous reports from the same crew.)
Observed results of Bombing: Stor Down BEFORE Bours.
Enemy Fighter Tactics: AttACK 12 O'CLOCK - LOW Markings: UN DOURTEDLY GERMAN - too QUICK BN ATTACK TO NOTICE ANYTHING DEFINITE.
OUR TACTICS: SHOOTENG UTOLENTLY DURENT SHORT PERFOD WE HAD - THE ATTACK POAS a SURRIEE.
Our Fighter Support: - GONE HOME
Flak Time Place Quality ? ? ? Technical Failures
Motors: ? Armor: ? Armament: ? Miscellaneous: ?

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

NO - NOT WEAR OI SHOES - CIVILIAN OXFORDS