

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 503
EVASION IN FRANCE

MAR. 23, 1944.
(Date)

GEORGE ANTHONY COLLINS, 2d LT O-749466
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
7th Mission
332 BOMB 94 BOMB
(Squadron) (Group)

Merignac

TARGET: ~~Merignac~~

MIA: 5 Jan 44

Arrived in UK:

MAR. 23, 1944.

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

		Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	O-740849 2d Lt ✓ Harold Keller LOCKWOOD	IN GIB.	IN GIB.
CO-PILOT	C. E. ADCOCK ✓		LONDON
NAVIGATOR	H. J. WIENER ✓		NOT KNOWN
BOMBARDIER	Collins, ✓		LONDON
RADIO OPERATOR	✓ STEVENS ✓		NOT KNOWN
TOP TURRET GUNNER	MARTIN ✓		IN GIB.
BALL TURRET GUNNER	SAUNDERS ✓		NOT KNOWN
L WAIST GUNNER	LIVESAY ✓		NOT KNOWN
R WAIST GUNNER	MAN N ✓		DEAD
TAIL GUNNER	✓ BERTHOLDT ✓		IN GIB.

Were you wounded?

NO

TODAY
457
475-6
479-480
483
TOMORROW

AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

19 October 1942

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) George A. Collins Signed George A. Collins
Rank 2nd LT. A.S.N. 0-749466 Date Nov 20 1942
Unit 94th Bomb. gr Witness Wm. W. Hark
Col. G.S.C.

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

E & E REPORT NO. 503
EVASION IN FRANCE

23 March 1944
(Date)

George Anthony COLLINS, 2d Lt, O-749466
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: MERIGNAC

7th Missions
(Number of Missions)

MIA: 5 January 1944
Arrived in UK:

23 March 1944

332 Bomb Sq, 94 Bomb Group
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

		Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	O-740849	2d Lt Harold Keller LOCKWOOD	E&E #510
CO-PILOT	O-801126	2d Lt Charles Eugene ADCOCK	E&E #449
NAVIGATOR	O-689712	2d Lt Harry J WIENER	MIA
BOMBARDIER	O-749466	2d Lt George A COLLINS	NARRATOR
RADIO OPERATOR	37468932	T/Sgt Floyd E STEVENS	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	15333885	S/Sgt Robert H MARTIN	E&E #512
BALL TURRET GUNNER	19180813	Sgt Floyd E SAUNDERS	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	19175377	Sgt Bennie E LIVESAY	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	14078615	S/Sgt Horrace S MANN	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	13069341	Sgt George M BERTHOLDT	E&E #511

Were you wounded?

March 23, 1944

2d Lt. George A. COLLINS O-749466

BEHIND
FORMATION

Our ship was heavily armored and tended to have less speed than the others in the group. On our 5 January mission we flew the briefed course to the target area without incident, except for a little flak over ST. NAZAIRE, but we had to push the engines to keep up with the formation. We let our bombs go over the target at MERIGNAC but met heavy and concentrated flak soon after. I could hear the flak rattle off the fuselage. The stabilizers were hit and would not respond. We soon fell behind the formation. Two FW 190's came at us from 3 O'clock. A 20mm shell hit the top turret, injuring the gunner and putting the gun out of commission. The oxygen system was also knocked out.

LAST
MAN OUT

At about 16000 ft, another fighter dove right under us. The right nose gun went out and wouldn't fire. No. 4 engine was out. I thought I heard the pilot call "All bail out" over the intercom, but suddenly the attack stopped just afterwards, though the fighters continued to circle about in plain sight. When we had dropped to about 7000 ft, I looked around and found everybody gone, so I put on my mae west (we appeared to be over the water at the time) and went out the bomb bay.

FIRST
CONTACTS
UNSUCCESSFUL

On the way down I saw 4 chutes open below me. I opened mine when about 1000 ft, up, and landed in a small pine tree, unhurt. Our plane was burning nearby. It was about 1130. A German plane buzzed us but did not fire. I left my chute and hid in the underbrush. About a quarter of a mile to the W, I could see a lake where there was a seaplane base, so I started off in the opposite direction to find help. I met an old woman walking along the road and called to her, but she did not reply and went on. Then I ran across a man on a bicycle. "Je suis un aviateur Americain," I said to him. Then I saw he was in uniform, so I went on hastily. ~~Probably he was a postman, but I was afraid to contact anyone in uniform.~~

GETS
CIVILIAN
CLOTHES

I came to the main highway and started towards a house. A boy on a bicycle came up behind me and said "Suivez-moi, vite, vite!" He took me on along the road several kilometers to an abandoned house in the woods, where I hid while he went off and fetched his father, who brought some food and civilian clothes for me, and a good pair of French GI shoes. That evening they took me on to their house on a bicycle. They gave me a long saw to carry and told me to pretend to be deaf and dumb if we were stopped.

MEETS
OTHER U.S.
FLYERS

I stayed with them that night and all the next day. Two older men came and asked me to identify myself. I showed them my dog tags but did not give them to them. The following day they came again and took me in a truck to a nearby town. At the farmhouse where I was taken to stay, I found T/Sgts. LEONARD and MORRIS, and S/Sgt. TADDEO. (See E&E reports Nos. 516-517-518.)

where my journey was arranged.

Compiled by
Theodore M. Purdy, Jr
1st Lt., CE

Appendix B

- a. Along ~~the~~ coast from LE VERDON to ARCACHON concrete blockhouses are spaced at regular intervals of 1 km. One 75mm gun and one MG are emplaced in each. The crews are housed in small concrete shelters about 25 yds away. Mines and wire around blockhouses only. Spaces between blockhouses are not mined. (Observation-Jan.)
- b. Submarine pens N/ of BORDEAUX are being enlarged. 8 submarines were in them on 30 January. Bombing has affected only one pen, *the* lock gates of which have been crippled. Italian submarines formerly stationed there have been withdrawn. (Observation and hearsay-Jan.)
A large gasoline dump is NW of these pens.
- c. Heavy concentration of German troops on point of GIRONDE peninsula near LE VERDON, where Germans expect an Allied thrust towards BORDEAUX. On 30 January, 62 barrage balloons were counted around BORDEAUX. MG emplacements and underground defenses were being built in parks and on outskirts of city. 100,000 British Indian troops captured in France or Africa are now stationed in this region and are employed on construction work and secondary defense. (*Hearsay.*)

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND F REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 0-749466 2ND LT. GEORGE A. COLLINS (THUR)

Unit:-

Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training 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? NO
- b. If not, why? LOST IN PARACHUTE FALL
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights".

Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box?
- f. 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?

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? NO
State color of stripes and letters.
If NOT, State why not. LOST IN PARACHUTE FALL
- b. Did you use the purse?

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones?

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

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

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? *NO*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? *NO. why?*
If so, how many?

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

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

NOV. 1943, BOVINGTON. BRITISH INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

b. Did you find the lectures of value? *YES*

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?

*CARRY CIVILIAN CLOTHING AND AT
LEAST 10,000 FRANCS.*

(S.S.)

503

The first town to which I was taken was HOURTIN. I stayed with PAUL HENRI BAGUET, who ran a garage there. The postmaster and doctor there were also in touch with the BORDEAUX organization.

I met TADDEO, ~~LEONARD, MORRIS~~ at a farmhouse N. of HOURTIN where MARCEL ANDRON and his family lived. After being given food and wine, we were taken to a small brick house in the woods about 500 yd. away where we stayed for 16 days. We were joined by Sgts. MORRIS and LEONARD two days later. We had a wood fire, and breakfast was sent out to us. We went in to the farmhouse for other meals. There were several false alarms while we were there, and we were told we would leave any day by plane from BORDEAUX, but nothing happened. Finally we were told the BORDEAUX organization was being broken up by the Germans, and we'd have to wait a while. A woman came and took our photos for false identity cards, which were given us just before we left.

Finally on 23 January we left by truck for BORDEAUX, hidden by bags of charcoal piled in the back of the truck. We were taken to a house where there was a woman who spoke English. We took baths and had dinner, but were told the agents who were to take us out had been picked up by the Germans, so we'd have to wait again. We went to another house about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile away, where we stayed during the next week. This woman did not give her name. Several members of the organization came to see us, and I was taken out for a ride by one of them, a Canadian who had been a General in the World War. He said "G.O.C., C.M.G.C" would identify him, and that he was a friend of Sir JOHN DILL's. He was a man of 65 or so, and of course spoke perfect English. We saw the MERIGNAC airfield, the submarine pens, and the parks and squares of the city, where the Germans and Hindu troops were working on fortifications.

I was also shown a letter from an operative called "XP4" of the French Secret Service (Deuxieme Bureau) asking us to tell the British Intelligence that British and American aviators should wear some civilian clothes under their flying suits or coveralls, as it was becoming difficult for the French to find such clothes for evaders. They also asked that at least 10000 frs. be put in each purse, as money was not coming through to this organization in sufficient quantities to finance operations.

During this time we had to be careful and did not go out, as the Gestapo chief was supposed to be living in the next house. We were told that 110 persons had been arrested shortly before we arrived, and most of them had been shot.

On the 30th all four of us were taken to the R.R. yards, where the engineer of a large electric locomotive hid us in the machinery compartment of his engine. A German guard came aboard to inspect it just before we were due to leave, but the engineer started the motors, making a terrific racket; and the German got off. We were then taken back to a freight car in the middle of the train and hidden in the small guard's compartment. The train was a fast freight, loaded with automobiles which were to be taken to Spain. We were told that only a few Frenchmen had been smuggled through in this way, and that we must keep the whole thing dark, even after reaching Spain.

We reached ST. JEAN DE LUZ safely and spent the day in a small house on the beach S. of the town where a smuggler lived. He was to take us across the frontier that night. A Belgian, a former Major, also turned

up to join the party. He was an older man and we later had some trouble getting him across. We went about halfway to the frontier by car, then at 2100 that evening started to walk across the frontier. It took about six hours. The guide left us at the frontier, ~~after taking what money we had.~~ (I understood he had already received 30000 frs. from the man who had brought us from BORDEAUX.) It was hilly and fairly hard going and we had to give the Belgian a shot of cognac to get him through, but we reached VERA DE BIDASSOA safely and went straight to the Spanish police.

They asked our nationality, names, and whether we had been prisoners of war. We said we had, and we all said we were officers. The Belgian was extremely talkative. The police took our identity cards, money, and knives, but were extremely friendly and pleasant. We were fed and taken to sleep in the barracks. In a cafe where we went the next day we met S/Sgt. GASSAWAY (E&E 519) who had been there several days.

Next day the border police came and took us on the tram to IRUN where we reported to the Commandante of the town. We stayed at the HOTEL NORTE, which was full of refugees, spies, and evaders. We telephoned to the U.S. Consul at BILBAO, but he said there was nothing he could do until the Spanish Air Ministry released us. He never came to see us, but the British Consul brought us some clothes and money, and Mrs. STEVENS, wife of one of the Military Attaches in MADRID, came over from SAN SEBASTIAN and we went there one day and had lunch with her. There was plenty to drink and we charged everything at the hotel to the U.S. Consul. There was a German officer in the building with the Commandante who glowered at us, but we were not molested, though we heard that some Allied flyers who had gone out alone had been kidnapped and taken back across the border into France.

CAFE

We heard that there were two girls at the ~~RISTORANTE~~ ESPANA who were paid by the Germans to try to get information about organization methods and personnel out of evaders.

We stayed there from 31 January until 4 March, when a representative of the Spanish Air Ministry came and took us to ALHAMA DE ARAGON, by way of SARAGOSSA. One of our Military Attaches came and interviewed us, and we left there on the 19th for MADRID, and went on next day to MALAGA and GIBRALTAR. ~~After the usual questioning we were sent on to the U.K.~~

Compiled by:
Theodore M. Purdy, Jr.
1st Lt, CE

Approved by:
etc

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS (X)

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank, and Serial No. *GEORGE ANTHONY COLLINS. 2ND LT. A.C. 0-749466*
2. Decorations. *NONE*
3. Unit or Squadron. *832 ND SQ.*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *94TH BOMB GP.*
5. Date of Birth. *DEC. 12, 1915*
6. Length of Service. *2 YRS 2 MOS.*
7. Private Address. *GARDNER NECK, SWANSEA, MASS.*
8. Job as civilian. *INSURANCE UNDERWRITER*
9. From what field did you take off? *94TH BOMB GP.*
10. Take off time. *0720*
11. Date and target. *JAN. 5, 1944. ~~MERIGNAC~~ MERIGNAC, FRANCE*
12. Where did you land? *~~HOURTIN~~ HOURTIN, FRANCE*
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? *YES*
14. What was your position in aircraft? *BOMBARDIER*
15. Were you wounded? *NO*
16. Did you pay your guides? *YES* If so how much? *6000 FRANCES (Pd. BY FRENCH)*
17. Do you speak French? *Spanish? NO*
18. Did you have Identity Papers? *YES*
19. 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. AT GIBRALTAR BY BRITISH LIASON OFFICER. AND AT AIRFIELD NEAR BRISTOL TO BRITISH SECURITY OFFICER
20. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?
NO
21. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when?
YES. AT ALHAMA DE ARAGON, SPAIN. - GIBRALTAR.
22. Date of arrival in Spain.
JAN. 30, 1944.
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar.
MAR. 20, 1944.
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air.
GIBRALTAR BY AIR.
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K.
AIRFIELD NEAR BRISTOL, MAR. 23, 1944.

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

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

Troops concentrated at Le Verdun where Germans expect allied invasion moving down Grand river to Bordeaux. All public parks in Bordeaux are being heavily fortified with M.G. emplacements and underground defenses. On Jan. 30, 1944 there were 8 submarines in the locks at Bordeaux.

German troops in southeastern France are largely made up of a mixture of young boys (15) and older men up to the age of 60. There are also a good many Italian Hindu troops in eastern France. I tried to get an approximation of the no. and was given the figure 100,000. However I doubt the reliability of this figure.

In Bordeaux at foot of rue d'Orleans was large dock handling 10,000 ton ship - 8 ships in harbor - fisheries no longer running.

(Jan.) Man during saw many trains coming up from Spain with av. gasoline -

AA guns in church steeples in this part of France - taken over schools.

2 RTR bridges NE of Bordeaux have AA guns on 1 to N.

Blockhouses on coast about 1-2 km. apart (concrete with MG's) mines around blockhouses only - space in between generally without wire.

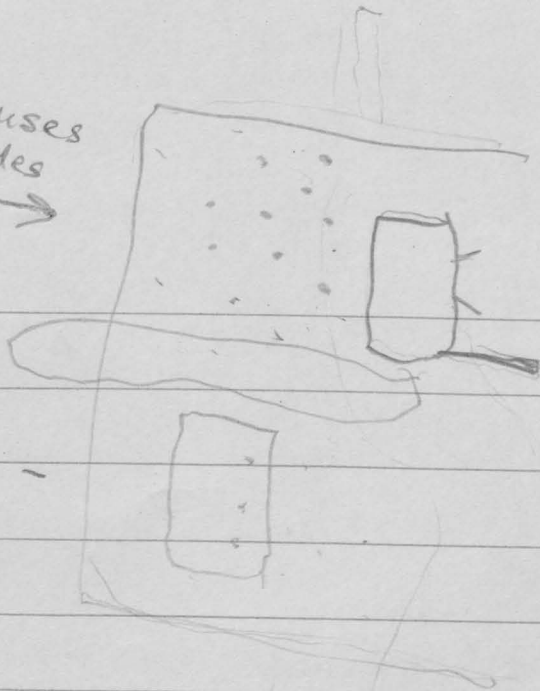
BBC message Sat. 1900:

THE FOUR FRIENDS ARRIVED IN ENGLAND
WITH THE CITROEN.

LES QUATRE AMIS SONT ARRIVES EN
ANGLETERRE AVEC LA CITROEN.

UEUP

Blockhouses
on Landes
Coast. →



RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

6 August 1943

SUBJECT: Amended Instructions Concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War, to Include Evaders of Capture in Enemy or Enemy-Occupied Territory and Internees in Neutral Countries.

TO: The Commanding Generals,
Army Ground;
Army Air Forces;
The Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area;
The Commanding Generals,
Theaters of Operations;
Defense Commands;
Departments;
Base Commands;
The Commanding Officers,
Base Commands;
Director, Bureau of Public Relations.

1. Publication or communication to any unauthorized persons of experiences of escape or evasion from enemy-occupied territory, internment in a neutral country, or release from internment not only furnishes useful information to the enemy but also jeopardizes future escapes, evasions and releases.

2. Personnel will not, unless authorized by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, publish in any form whatever or communicate either directly, or indirectly, to the press, radio or an unauthorized person any account of escape or evasion of capture from enemy or enemy-occupied territory, or internment in a neutral country either before or after repatriation. They will be held strictly responsible for all statements contained in communications to friends which may subsequently be published in the press or otherwise.

3. Evaders, escapees, or internees shall not be interrogated on the circumstances of their experiences in escape, evasion or internment except by the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations. In allied or neutral countries, American Military Attaches are authorized to interrogate on escape, evasion and internment matters.

4. Should the services of escaped prisoners of war, evaders, or internees be deemed necessary for lecturing and briefing, such services will be under the direct supervision of the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations.

5. Commanding Officers will be responsible for instructing all evaders, escapees, and internees in the provisions of this directive which supersedes letter, AG 383.6 (5 Nov 42) OB-S-B-M, 7 November 1942, subject: Instructions concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War and other previous instructions on this subject.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J. A. ULIO
J. A. ULIO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

1. 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**.

2. 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, or by A. C. of S., G-2, W. D.

- (1) The names of those who helped you.
- (2) The method by which you escaped or evaded.
- (3) The route you followed.
- (4) Any other facts concerning your experience.

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. 4.

e No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of A. C. of S., G-2, W. D., or corresponding organization in the theater.

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 agency designated by A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations, or to the Military Attache in a neutral country to whom I first report. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) George A. Collins

Signed George A. Collins

Rank 2ND LT. A.C. A. S. N. O-749466

Dated Aug. 23 1944

Unit 94th Bomb. GP. 332ND SQ.

Witness Wendell H. Tidy, Jr.

1st Lt. C.E.

AG P BR HQ SOS 2-44/24/22472

RESTRICTED

24 March 1944.

[See pilots afc.]

(Bombardier)

Merignac

Collins

bombardier

5 Jan. 44 - took off from regular base - naval ship
and crew - weather OK as briefed - routine flew out in
formation flew briefed course to target - saw no fighters -
Some flak at St. Nazaire - ship was heavily armored lead
ship, fell behind formation - let bombs go as expected -
heavy and ^{concentrated} accurate ^{terrific} flak - direct hit? heard flak
rattle ^{turned about} off plane - v. stabilizer and rt. hor. stabilizer
hit - saw ^{FW 190's} fighters shortly after from 10 to 3 o'clock 30mm
shell in top turret - gunner injured - operated without
sight - bullet knocked out oxygen - (16,000 ft.) ^{fighter} plane
dove down right under us ^{FW 190} followed by our lead - rt nose
gun went out - couldn't fire - No 4 out - attack went on
thought he heard - all bailed out - ^(others bailed out) then attack stopped -
we were out of formation - ^{went out B1B} fighters still out there - (looked for alt.

Saw 6,500) everybody had bailed out - put on mail west (over
4 Chutes water) nobody in plane, so went out bomb bay doors -
in air - cleared shore of lake - jumped - out only 4 seconds
landed in tree - ^{10 ft high} plane hit and burned nearby.

1130 hit * { 9I underwear.
elec. shoes, suit, coveralls - GI shoes - flying boots -
not hurt - German plane buzzed him - no gunfire - got out of
chute - left it there - hid in underbrush - ~~1/2~~ mile from lake -
in woods - open meadow. Started off to look for help - saw old
pleasant woman - deaf - couldn't understand - ran into man on
bicycle (postman?) Je suis aviateur Americain - went to spot

(threw away flying boots - walked in electric boots)
 indicated. He had on uniform, so I did not trust him
 and when he went away I went to main hury - Saw
 house - boy 217 came up behind me on bicycle - he said "Surrez
 moi, vite, vite!" Had flying gloves some US flyer had given him
 took him E. of HOUTIN and to empty abandoned house in
 woods - came back with another man - Then later with another
 with food clothes, wine - Changed clothing - took off ^{everything except} socks
 was given fr. GI shoes - man put my clothes in bag and
 took them - gave him bicycle - wheeled it down small
 road - met two oldermen (55-60) gave him saw to carry
 and go through woods - boy and I went to his home x 2 mi E.
 Stayed there all day and next night - was fed given cigs

Tamb wine - all next day - at evening - man who had brought
 clothing came asked for identification - name US address

PAUL
HENRI
BAGDET

also Postmaster and Dr. of this town.
 Fr navy

where
German
Commandant
kept car

rank, bomb grp. and Sq. Showed dog tags - Said
 they would radio London - Took him on bicycles to main

rd. rode until they met truck - threw bicycles in truck
 drove to HOUTIN. (Man was 35, spoke a little English C. some French)

drove to garage and put me in room at back. Later
 went to house 2 man who had brought clothes
 Stayed in his garage because he had small child, gave

dog tags to this man - washed, shaved in house, was
 taken on N. to farmhouse in car, was put in small

house Emil TADDEO, USAAF was there - Shot down in
 Same raid. Stayed there 16 days - went into farmhouse

In evening - joined by 2 more US from 31 Dec raid -
 Sgt. Leonard and S/Sgt Gilbert Morris. Bkfst sent out to

them, wood brought to them. Many people came
 through and met aviators. Man and wife with child
 in farmhouse - (won't give names) Several false alarms
 that we were to leave from Bordeaux by plain - Germans
 watching everybody so plans were changed -

Left finally by truck - 4 US. + 1 driver -
 hidden by bags of charcoal - preceded by private
 car - went to house in Bordeaux, woman spoke English
 was fed, took baths, but were told appts had
 been picked up - so they would have to wait.

MARCEL
ANDRON
Haute
Garonne
France

to truck
house
with
fireplace
table
slept on
mattresses
provided
with
identity
cards
Woman
came and
took photo

XP4

Young special police
former criminals are
dangerous (working
with Gestapo)
still fairly
numerous
in large
towns.

Italian subs
at Bordeaux

Morale of
G.I.s good.
Replaced

500,000
men a day

French
want
guns
any kind

Saw BB's in Bordeaux - 62 1500' Gasoline NE above god
Germans working in Park (Pl. des Quinances) dump
RR. Bridge leading out of town has not been
bombed. New locks being built for sub. base
(I knocked out) new one being built. New barracks
down river housing 800 men. Brit. Working under Nazis -
hit Germans while at mess.

Gasoline NE above god
dump
3 1 km -
from base
to Navy camp
city

Injured, husband has important job in organization
Speaks many languages
Woman took us through st. to her house (1/2 hrs walk)

Stayed there 1 week - (Jan ³⁰ left) did not go out - went
Canadian last war (Can. MG Corps)
out in car with ~~General~~ General G.O.C. CMGC - friend of
Bill's - 65 or so - speaks English - Rec'd letter from Fr. 2^{eme}

Bureau - clothing and 10,000 frs. (letter destroyed)
Bordeaux
Organization had been destroyed 110 persons rounded up.

One man had given it away - was being protected by
Germans. (Had been given money by other Americans.) Had new
identity card given him (never used it) marked deaf and dumb.
"Chief of Police of Bordeaux" (German ~~was~~) was said to be in next bldg.
so they had to be careful -

28th - put all 4 into car, picked up a man,
went to RR Sta. went to St. Jean de Luz. [Organization had
only smuggled fr. before.] Probably got ride in freight cars. Germans
now on all trains. Spent 1 day at St Jean (arrived 03.30)
spent day at smuggler's house on beach - laid low, saw many
Germans - working on fortifs. About 2100 on 29th men
came walked out of town to wait for train - a Belgian Major
arrived - (older man, 57 or so.) had some trouble getting across -
had cognac - inland route did not cross big rivers - came
out at Vera - knocked at house - woman came down no
word said. ~~slept~~ ^{ate wine} next day were taking to town -

4 U.S. Belgian and 2 guides - guides were pd. in Bordeaux
30,000 frs. by man with whom we stayed. Took money into Sp.
where police took it.

(Went to Sp. police) Belgian was talkative - spoke to everybody
fed boys - gave selves up, following org. instructions - police
took identity cards, knife, money. friendly and pleasant.
Spoke fr. said they had been captured by Germans and escaped.
Some interrogation - Belgian told them everything - others said
they were officers - stayed in gendarmes barracks - were treated

mts.
but no
sun
6 hrs
for
warming

24,000

gave
directions
how to get
to Vera

Mathis
in St.
Sebastian
Ruons
name

Picked up U.S. flyer Gassoway in first Sp. town had been there several days. Ran into him in cable.

O.K. stayed over night, fed. Next day border police came, went on narrow gauge tram to Irún. (Irún still quite smashed up) reported to Commandante of town -

got receipts for money - name, nat'l, rank, - stayed at hotel - saw many refugees - at hotel called US consul Norte at Bilbao - procedure to follow printed on sheets given them at hotel which is highly organized for refugees.

From Jan. 30 - Mar. 4 stayed there, then went to Alhama de Aragon - a resort arranged for VS flyers.

Airfield at Biarritz just completed and is being used for Bay of Biscay patrol. 7 Hq at Dax. German officer has office opposite Comdt. Got map from Gassoway.

Sp. girls who speak Fr.

Drank etc. in Irún - 3 more VS came in three weeks later, many French aviators, refugees, Fr. intelligence - Fr. surgeon later seen in G.I.B. - Germans carry arms and wear uniforms. Wife of Lt Col Stevens came over from San Sebastian - they went there one day -

Called consul but he never came up - signed bills for 1000 ptes. Could not get them out due to embargo -

Sp. air ministry rep. came and took them to Zaragoza - AM went on to Alhama - from there to Madrid on 19th - M/A came to Alhama and took them through - showed up with 2 autos took 17 to Madrid. Went to office of M/A - then took train that night to Malaga then by bus to Gib. [Brit. Int.]

Vaccination

no interrogation

XP 4 ~~XP 4~~ will transmit names of all those ^{in Irún} ~~in Irún~~ U.S. newspaper man met in Spain said it was foolish to strafe trains - mostly friendly French killed. clothing - shoes
money - English.

Saw Germans going through coming from States - In frontier towns of Sp. if alone you may be picked up and sent out to F. Treated as PW's
Not too happy to go back.

OUTLINE FOR TALKS

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

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

DO NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF TOWNS.

DO NOT GIVE ANY ADDRESSES.

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

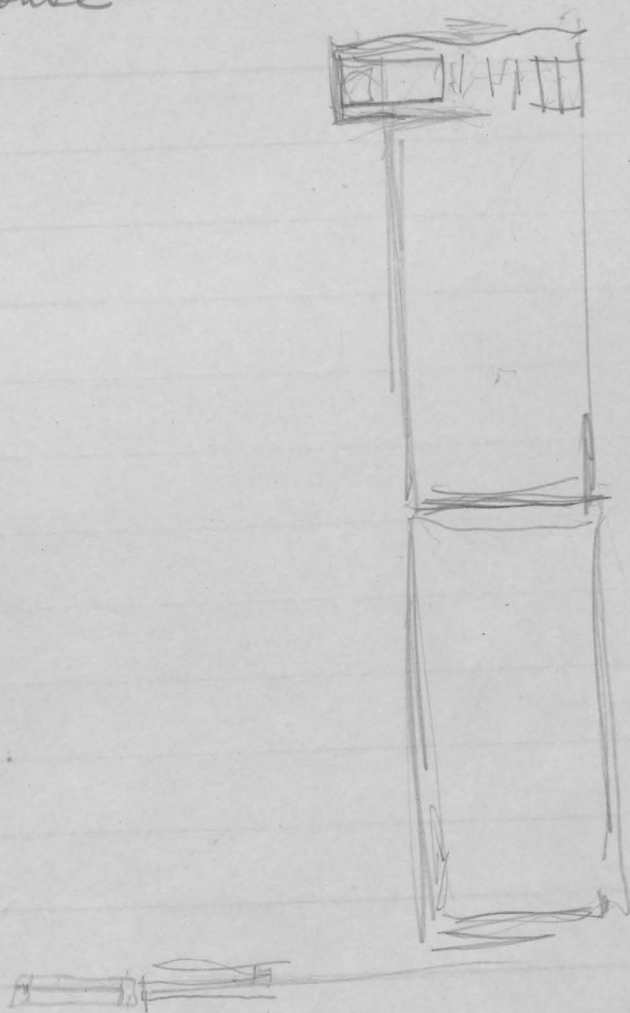
Suggestions for others.

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

Richard R Nelson

RICHARD R NELSON
Major, AC

They came out on locomotive (electric)
of through freight train carrying 250 German
cars to Spain - hid in cab in corridor between
motors, with German in cab at one point -
went from there back to freight car where
there was a small house



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

503
DATE: 24 March 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, JAMES M ANGEL, S/SGT, AC, 15115198

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

GEORGE ANTHONY COLLINS, 2nd LT, AC, O-749466

prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory.

The person whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon is the individual referred to above.

George A. Collins

James M. Angel

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



=====

The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as GEORGE A COLLINS
2d Lt, AC, O-749466 (94 Bomb Group, 332nd Squadron)
previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

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

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