

St Clouds C - 761 ^{Typed}

Pt of Landing 1 mi N. Soissons

The frightened woman who opened the door was Cécile Lengelle. Her husband is a P/W, Her father who went crazy in 1940, lives in special quarters in the barn. The older woman was her mother, Mme Le Blanc. The house

next door belonged to Cécile's brother-in-law and he gave me a shirt and sweater. These houses are at Pasly one mi NW Soissons. At noon the

next day ^{Prof. Drier} a professor of English from a school at Soissons came to see me. He ^{comes originally from SE France} had been a lieutenant in the French Army, and was the organization contact man. He told

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me I was in good hands
and that he hoped to have
something for me soon.
I stayed here two weeks,
Once the Professor took me
to visit three members of
the RCAF, who were nearby!
F/Os Steele, Alliston and John

On 23 May two men
came for me. One was
Dupuis with whom the
Englishmen lived. He took me
to live home where I met
an American Sgt Greene of the
RCAF. A milk truck took
us to Dorsons, where we
got a room, and M. Dupuis
and his friend drove us ^{all} into
Paris where Greene and I

followed a woman in a red hat to an apartment house, and went up to the 7th floor. A quarter of an hour later an elderly couple came and asked us if we would like to move, we told them we did not enjoy walking around Paris. The man was a judge who dealt in cases affecting business houses. He has an apartment in Paris and another home 60 mi away. His wife, a nurse is assistant to a woman doctor.

Two nights later a young Frenchman came to tell us we would leave the next day. He gave Greene a pair of trousers. The next day a young boy came, gave us

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our metro tickets, and we followed him at a distance as per instructions. After an hours walk we went to a hospital where we ~~to~~ ^{rejoined} Steele and Alliston. Here we met Capt Thomas (E & Rpt#) Sgt Nief (E & Rpt#) Sg/Ldr Sparks RQF, Sgt Evans RQF and another Sgt in the RQF.

Here we were given instructions by a man about 30 yrs old. He was short, heavy, had a fleshy face, big stomach and round shoulders. He spoke poor English. A girl of medium build with a roll of light brown hair told us to say that Bergundy had sent us Howie

and Charlie were our guides
 of Toulouse. Charlie is about
 22 yrs old, Henri came on through
 with us. Due to bomb-
 damage, we missed our
 connections for Pau. Finally
 after an awful mix-up we
 got on the train and fell asleep.
 We awoke in a large station
 and got off the train. In Henri
 Caler we found we were in
 Tarbes, not Pau.

When we finally reached
 Pau, there was no one to
 meet us. We went to the park
 on the right, across from the
 station, as instructed ^{in Paris} for
 such a situation. Both our
 guides set off to make

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~~contacts~~. I day returned
about five hours later and
took us to a house 3 km from
town for food and drink. Then
we went on to a deserted
house on a hill where we
stayed, sleeping on straw,
from 27-30 May. Rosemary

the American girl, came to see
us ~~with~~ bringing books and
cigarettes. She thought she was
known in England as Rosemary ^(P)

Greene to RAF Sgt and
I went in to a hotel where
Rosemary gave us food for the
journey and our bus tickets
at 1730 she got us on the
bus to Navarrete. The rest
of the party was already on
the bus plus Sgt Douglas ~~and~~

and another RAF sergeant. At
the end of a ~~land~~ we found
a track which took us off
into the hills. The story
of the crossing is told in the
war report.

SECRET

ESE REPORT NO. 761
EVASION IN FRANCE

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

3 July 1944
TARGET: ~~FIGHTER~~ SWEEP
MIA: 8 May 1944
Arrived in UK: 22 June 1944

C R CLONTS, Jr, 1st Lt. O-794204
(1 Mission)
506 Fighter Squadron, 404 Fighter Group

Shot down

I was tail end Charlie in a formation of ten fighters. As we made a turn, I was jumped by an FW. I called them to the formation, as I started evasive action. The first burst hit my elevator controls and I started down. I received four more bursts before I was able to bail out at 10,000 feet. I delayed my jump to less than 1000 feet, judging the time to pull the ripcord by my view of a church steeple. I landed on my back in a wheat field, did a somersault, and was dragged in the wind before I could get to my feet and spill the chute. I was badly dazed, but I later learned that a group of people, watching from only a mile away, missed my jump completely. With my chute in my arms I ran to the woods without stopping to get out of my harness.

Delays Jump

I found an old hole full of leaves. Carefully removing the leaves from the bottom of the hole, I threw in my chute, harness, gloves and helmet. I ripped open my dinghy, looking for water, as my mouth was cut and bleeding. I found none, but I put the dinghy pack in my flying jacket and then covered all my equipment with the leaves I had saved from the bottom on the hole. I started south through a wheat field and up a hill to another woods, from which I saw three Germans coming along a nearby road. I dropped down into a drainage ditch, on the crest of the hill, until they had passed. Soon afterwards two more Germans came by on bicycles. I crawled 60 feet to a pile of brush with a good view of the surrounding area, and stayed here for the next 21 hours. The brush was low and I did not dare move much, as the Germans patrolled the road until midnight. It was bitterly cold and I had reason to be thankful for my GI long handles, woolies.

Hides equipment

Hides in Brush

Horlicks helps

Scouts

uses language card

The next morning I felt pretty low, but I chewed some Horlicks tablets and felt a lot better. We had been briefed that walking through the fields in daytime is relatively safe. I waited until noon, however, when I thought even one would be eating, before setting out. After walking a mile I pulled out my escape map, and while it was lacking in detail, I was soon able to locate myself by studying the nearby river. I went on until I came to a village in a valley. I lay on the hillside studying it, as I wanted to avoid asking for help where there were children. At 1600 hours an elderly couple went out to work in their vegetable garden. I watched them for an hour and then approached them for food. I could not make myself understood until I pulled out my language card. They gave me bread and wine, but said they could not give me civilian clothes or any further help, so I retired to the woods.

That evening I decided to approach the village priest. I started toward the rectory, but got into a private garden by mistake. An old man saw me, and quickly closed the gate so that I could not get out. I took out my language card and explained who I was. He then took me into his house, where his wife fed me bread and eggs, although she was much more frightened than pleased to see me. I had no sooner finished eating than the old man motioned me to follow him out of the house. After leading me for some distance, he stopped and pointed to two farms and, using my language card, made it clear that I could find clothing at either place, but that I must stay hidden until 2200 hours.

When the time came I found the gate locked, but crawled over the wall easily enough and knocked. The woman who opened the door was very frightened to see me and just stood there. Again I took out my language card, and she seemed to relax. An old woman joined us, she looked at the card and took me in immediately. I was soon fed and dressed in civilian clothes. The old lady then gave me a quilt and took me out to the barn to spend the night. where I spent

The next morning I could see that definite attempts were being made to take care of me, so I lay there and waited. At noon I was brought a note

civilian clothes

saying that I was in good hands. From then on all that was required of me was patience.

Pyrenees

When we started walking over the mountains we were ~~soon~~ joined by a band of Jewish refugees. Our mountain guide had made a financial arrangement to take them across unknown to the patriots who had been helping the Allied airmen in the party. There was a girl of eighteen, two women over forty and two old men amongst their group. It was suggested that we carry the luggage of these five people, as we were traveling light in preparation for a quick, business-like crossing. We did, ~~and this~~ ^{which} was a mistake, for we had little food, and the guide only gave us one meal during the three-day trip through the clouds. The luggage added to the strain, and while the refugees had an ample supply of food, they would not share it. The guide had to spend most of his time keeping order amongst this undisciplined mob, ~~and there was particular difficulty~~ in making them be quiet when we passed through danger areas. ~~We~~ finally reached Spain and were glad to be arrested, as we were a weary hungry crew. It was another thirteen hours, however, before the police treated us to a meal of boiled potatoes.

Compiled by

Dorothy A. Smith
DOROTHY A. SMITH
Capt, WAC

Approved by

W S HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

APPENDIX "B"

- a. On 8 May a radar station was observed approximately 5 miles SW SOISSONS. It is the large round type ~~P~~ and stands on the flat top of a hill. A power line runs up one side of the hill to it.
- e. On 26 May two ME 109's were observed making a landing approach at an airfield approximately 3 miles ~~S. BORGES (?)~~ ^{S of Bourges}.
- b. A brief observation of the LE BOURGET airdrome on 23 May revealed no damage.
- c. From 8 to 16 May ME 109's and FW 190's were observed at 21 hours flying west down the valley at SOISSONS. A few JU 52's were also observed. From 16 to 23 May, one CONDOR was observed flying toward PARIS and at 2100 hours several JU 52's flew west down the valley at minimum altitude. One ME 210 or 410 was observed over SOISSONS during this period.
- d. On 25 May bomb damage to the marshalling yards 10 mi S PARIS was observed. A good job had been done; tracks, goods cars, several steam engines and electric installation were demolished. The yards seem to have been full of freight at the time of the bombing.
- f. On 26 May bomb damage in the TOULOUSE area was observed. The main part of the chemical plant had not been touched. One bomb had taken out about 20 feet of the double track road bridge. A single track was back in operation, but the train had to move very slowly. One end of the highway bridge received a direct hit, but could be repaired. Many houses on the north side of the river had been demolished and more had been destroyed W of the RR than E of it.
- g. On 27 May W. ^{of} ~~TARBES~~ and E. ^{of} ~~PAU~~ 3 HE 117's were observed going into land at a field N of the RR. On the field 2 ME 109's and one ME 110 were observed. Other aircraft observed on the field could not be identified.
- h. Hearsay 29 May at PAU that one airfield had been bombed out of operation, but that the other was still functioning. During 4 days at PAU no more than one ME 109 was observed at a time. Bi-planes flew in the area and a group of 4 training planes, possibly HE 112's, were seen flying in the area.

cont B

S

misc map
pp 56

CHATEAU THIERRY

VILLERS COTTERETS

SOISSONS

COMPIEGNE

FISMES

FISMES

A

Coucy

Chauny

LAON

N

M

- g. Hearsay and observation on 21 May that there is at least one flak gun at CHAVIGNY N. SOISSONS. The flak bursts in the air between 10,000 and 12,000 feet. See area 9 in sketch attached. More AA guns, probably four, were observed firing on 9 May in area X in sketch attached.
- h. Hearsay in early May that World War fortifications centering around CROUY are under repair and reconstruction. 2000 Germans were brought into work on the project in April. Civilians living N of the AISNE were given 48 hours to evacuate their homes. [The depth N. SOISSONS/ of the area of evacuation is not known. This area extends in width from the AISNE to the LAON road and probably to the CHAUNY road. The fortifications begin E of the CHAUNY Road. See sketch attached.
- i. The RR between SOISSONS and PARIS was closed to civilian traffic during the month of May. Civilians must take a local train to COMPIEGNE and then change for PARIS.

APPENDIX "D"

1. AIDS BOX: ~~I found that~~ Chewing Horlicks made me feel much better. I used the chewing gum to relieve my thirst, ~~which it did effectively and it~~ also helped to steady my nerves. I used the compass in the mountains to keep a check on the guide. ~~I used the water bottle in the mountains too, but it was clumsy to carry, and the rubber gave the water a horrible taste.~~
2. PURSE: I carried a red purse and used the maps and money.
3. PHOTOGRAPHS: I carried twelve photographs and used two of them.
4. LECTURES: I was lectured on evasion at Myrtle Beach, SC, and at base in England. I found the lectures valuable because they taught me to delay my jump, ~~and~~ I attribute my evasion to that and nothing else. The lecturers also told me to wear GI shoes and carry extra socks. I did and ~~I~~ had no blisters.
5. SUGGESTIONS: My advice is to hide immediately and get away later.

I was shot down by
an enemy fighter while flying
bet 17000 to 18000 ft, Formation
of 10 I was tail end Charlie. We
made a turn and ~~the~~ FW jumped
me before I knew it I called them
to the rest of the formation & started
evasive action when a burst
hit my elevator controls. I
started down but did not open
just a falling leaf at 15000 opened
canopy & started to bail out
when I received a 5th burst from
astern at 10000 I bailed out
my eyes watering as believe was
falling S of a little village
No trouble getting out almost
thrown out. I delayed my jump
& watched the village ^{Church} and filled
to rip cord the chute opened at
less than 1000 ft. 1 mi away 3 British w
a garden and not see chute
open
I hit the ground with my back in way

bad bludge on back of neck so in ^{shocked} ^{condition} ^{and} ^{direction} of travel and a ^{small} ^{distance} ^{of} ^{about} 10 ft in 30 mi wind
before I could give my feet a spell
to. Landed in wheat field 10 m
high. 1503200 ft from a small
patch of woods. Gallied climb in
against rain for woods without
letting out of harness. Stopped
20 to 30 ft within wood fall of
brush. Found old hole both leaves
out of bottom. Towed chute helmet
& gloves in. Ripped open roughly
puck looking for water & found
mouth cut & bleeding. Cudde
found ^{British} ^{roughly} ^{back} ^{of}
put it in fly in jacket & covered
out chute with ^{leaves} ^{and} ^{twigs}. My
A/c was a guile of a mile away
on F/W lugged between us. Knew
which way I & started out was
in valley E & W wheat fields N village
Went uphill following path
through small wheat field & another
woods. Climbed hill in woods and
came of wheat field & no more
could. Looked about, could see
Mule from A/c & her 300 yds away

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I saw two young G soldiers
had side arms. I passed down
into a ditch 12 ft below rim of
hill. It was old one for drainage. I
heard them pass. Soon after 2 G
came ~~by~~ on road on motorcycle
Crawled 60 to 70 ft & under a
pile of brush & stayed low for
next 21 hrs cause I had good
view of road & saw G
patrolling road until midnight
~~was~~ I practically froze &
thanked goodness for my G.I.
long handles. Very little room
for more as brush so low.
At 0700 on 9th could only
^{I hear} see farmers working in the field.
No traffic in road so decided
might be over so would
ease out unit & few hrs &
then transfer as briefed that planned.
A detection in field during day

are small. Then Forward
by one base & cart & A/c followed
by a G. 15 min later two G with
Killes paddled toward the town.
I knew I was NE Paris & decided
to go W around town. Set out after
1700 travelled slowly into forest
look-out figured I saw
how first & better chance of getting
run out of woods but here 30 ft
when I crawled through on
edge found I had lost path
lost from three foghorns which
had followed as I crawled.
Went back 100 yds for it.
When I ended short of road.
At 1200 decided all would
be eating. Took off coveralls &
A/c jacket, looked them up path
under my arm ^{as} crossed road
followed hedge row 1/4 mi. best
Chewing Adolicks & feeling better
Turned SW across fields & walked
1 mi cross hill to a valley. Took
out map to locate self & tried
early though map poor I had new
idea but near impossible position
when shot down so located self
by Ruse River 1300 hrs walked

toward little valley village
 built houses & church thought of
 making contact through Long. I
 tried to figure out which houses
 had & about these children. Found

1600 saw elderly couple
 working in vegetable garden. Watched
 them for hr then ^{they moved toward town} moved towards
 me in ~~group~~ & sat & drank. ~~They~~
~~toward them & decided to help~~
~~approach~~ me for food & drinks.
 Couldn't understand me until
 I used Language Card. They
 thirsty & given piece of bread &
 a cup of wine. Then asked if
 could help me with asked for civilian
 clothes & also said no. Said safe
 to travel S/W Went back to work
~~at road~~ at 1800 they walked
 off & went to village. Decided
 to approach priest & stated toward
 the ~~village~~ ^{town}. Got into priest's garden

when thought approaching priests
quarters. I wanted leave when
an old man saw me & spoke to me
I went under stand. Got out
language card. ~~Went to house~~
~~called wife more frightened than pleased~~
but fed me. We all tried to understand
made me understand that I was to
follow him. Wife gave me 3 eggs
by road, clock the city away.
Walked ~~into~~ ~~a~~ ~~house~~. Walked to
two houses we pld & made
we understood that here could
get clothes etc also pld & with
& got me to realize must go here
tell us br. I decided to go
nearest & started down
hill at 22.15. Half hr later
found gate locked & had to
crawl over the wall. Knocked at
a woman's door who opened. She
seemed frightened. I held up rose
card out & she helped another
old lady told me of camp
& fed me. Then came DD
~~prisoners meat & beer into~~
~~the~~ She gave me army
pants and a coat and beret.

Lange & Wain G

fighter of woman

Cécile Le Blanc

Pasly

Wain G

4 Mrs Le Blanc her mother
the older woman. Her father
craft. Once 1910 lives in barn
in special quarters

and took me out to the barn
with a quilt. Next morning to kitchen for
breakfast. Her boy 15 yrs knew some English
& made me understand English

teacher coming to see me at noon

~~at noon so came~~ at breakfast

father-in-law Lange of the
other house brought me I sent
meats of the & at noon the

professor of Eng at Sossou's school
came off. It was T. & G. & a man

contact man in Eng. Told me I was

in good hands & hoped he could

have something for me in a few days

[Prof Obier] who also speaks Eng came

from SE France. Said he'd send

messenger to Paris. Stayed here

2 weeks leaving once with

prof to visit 3 women who had

asked me come down. F/Os

Steele & Alliston and John.

On Tuesday 23 May 2 men

came for me one was Dupont with
whom he & I lived for a while he then
went to work by truck & Dupont's
house & here met an American &
Greene of RCAF. Went into
Sonson's by milk truck & got into
a room M. Dupont & other men
lived as of Paris. Steel Green
Alien & self. I got there about
1830. Self Greene & I left

Blond
late 20s
early 30s
single
slender
5/15
woman
looking
spoke for

truck & followed woman
to a red light of an apt house
Went to 2nd floor 15 min later
elderly couple came in & asked
if we wanted to stay here or move.
He said thank you no more welcome
in Paris. Man of couple was a judge
told in cases of business houses.
Some 60 mi from Paris apt in Paris wife asst to a
woman Dr (a nurse). Stayed here

2 nights of night young
woman came & said would leave
following night. Next day brought Greene
to us & told us to follow to
by metro but never speak to
him. On 23rd young boy came with
metro tickets & was followed him.
as per instruction. Taken to a
park. Walked about for an hour

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See F/O Steele for
names as good F.O.

then went to a hosp where
he met Steele & Cileston
again & Capt Thomas Sgt Mice
~~Sgt ^{S-T} X? RAE~~ Sgt Ldr Sparks
Sgt Evans RAE Sgt ? RAE
at 1900 hrs left in 2 parties
after a man of 30 yrs with fair
By ~~not~~ short & chubby fleshy
face & big stomach gave us
instructions. A girl here to
looking very water but not blond.
Some by roll of light brown hair
medium build. To pay Burgandy
sent me. Caught train
of Toulouse. Henri was one
of guides & came through with us
the guide Charlie 22 yrs. Held
up in marshalling yards (one
of bomb damage?) Therefore
missed the train connection
of Toulouse. Twice got on wrong
train & left again in front of Gedaps

Don't should not

few \$ around however one said:
 a carp family. Went to waiting room
 then got train. S of Pan left ship by
 boat damage so a hrs off at
~~Pan~~ at Pan time 0100 all asleep
 reached by station few yds where
 guides all got off cones not far
 away. ~~found~~ an air later
 found he were in Terbes. Went
 back to waiting room many here
 already spent night. Set 0700
 train to Pan & got there. No one
 to meet us. Had been told in
 Paris of his apparent to follow
 cross stream in front of station
 to go into park on right, which
 he did. Charlie thought he
 knew an the contact but said
 might have to back to Paris no food or water
 Both guides went off. Around
 1300 left rest & went would
 not at 1430 they did walked
 3 km out of town to a house for
 food & drink. Then to abandoned
 house on hill. Stayed here
~~for~~ 3 nights on straw in L
 room. 27-30 May.
 On ~~3rd~~ 29 to I left the
 cabin with a box from Sgt Greene

Robertson camp to see
 with a 7 man - thought one
 was known to be a doctor.

6

& Sgt. RGT to a hotel (guide
was Rosemary (T man) Rosemary
came & gave us food for journey.
Sgt. RGT would knock at 6:30
follow him to bus station. Gave us
bus tickets. And all this,
at bus station saw remainder of
group & Sgt. Dougherty & in RGT
took bus to Navarone
Here a woman, a boy & 12 flies
got off & followed on their in a line.
Went down a lane and a taxi
appeared & took 6. Other taxi
expected 1 hr 45 min same taxi
not for remainder 7, taken 4:30
& met guide on side of ^{cul} road.
Stated walking night of 30th.
led by 6 F2 Jewish refugees,
who immediately suggested we
carry the luggage of the girl of
18 & 2 women over 40 &
like fools we did. ~~the~~ Walked 5 hrs

1st night. Spent the ~~evening~~ in a
hut. Guide brought water and kept
order. Now had added more
I 7 Jews 13 of them & 13 of us
Four were old men. Paid Guide
themselves but had to wait 8
days for us. Guide young & new
under 30 5 ft 6 in. Good man
otherwise. I and my at walked
till midnight when I was to
start with to go on. In a soft
here Guide left but meat
new Guide. I was led plenty.

Walked 6 hrs. around 1300 at a
cabin I think we changed guide,
at 05 00 crossed a stream
on a swinging bridge & went farther
Cabin named. All soaking wet
Bought some wine. [Spent a lot of
100 francs per bottle. more in pay & pay
for food & goat

That afternoon on again for food & goat
given a meal by guide. ~~For~~ woman at
good but only meat on. ~~For~~ ~~house~~ who did
Bills. For tired wanted ~~cooking~~ 1000 francs
of leave them but Guide said no.
Then on again on East Climb
4 hrs later got back into clouds
& rain. Two of old men could go
no farther. We wanted to go on
rested & warmed back feet &
went on leaving one in cabin

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at 0300 guide said no
talking. Started climbing
at 0430. guide dragging the
old man said stop. He was
looking for path found it & crossed
border at 6:15 on 3 June.
~~Here guide left~~ ^{2 km in} ~~here~~ ^{sp.} still going had
fallen shingles off roof of mule
car. Here guide left up.
followed mule path along
stream 889 saw ran into sp
border patrol 0900 Bull fire
& waited for the others walked
by village N of I Saba for
interrogation 1300 I Saba 1500
here for night no food till
2230 then just boiled potatoes.
Taken to Pamplona 4 June
& police ~~then to B~~ left on
Sat 10th for Alhama left
here the 17th left on 18th U.K. 22nd

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, AGC, 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) Charles R. Clonts, Jr. Signed Charles R. Clonts, Jr.
Rank 1st Lt. A.S.N. 0-294204 Date June, 19, 1944
Unit 404th F.B. Gr. Witness Horace W. Forster

HORACE W. FORSTER,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
U. S. Mil. Lia. Off.

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO 761
EVASION IN

June 22, 1944
(Date)

Clonts, C.R. Jr. 1st Lt. 0-794204
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
(No of Missions)

TARGET:

Date Missing in Action: May 8, 1944

506 H.F.B. Sq. 404 H.F.B.
(Squadron) (Group)

Date Arrived in UK: June 22, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to
each man
and how you know

PILOT

CO-PILOT

NAVIGATOR

BOMBARDIER

RADIO OPERATOR

TOP TURRET GUNNER

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

P47

9 to 11

Were you wounded? No.

Lips Cut and bruised. Two teeth were very loose.

I was tail end Charlie in a
formation of ten fighters. As we made
a turn, I was jumped by FW. I
called them to the formation as I started
evasive action. The first burst
hit my elevator controls and I started
down. I received four more bursts
before I was able to bail out at
10000 ft. I delayed my jump
to less than 1000 ft. Judging
~~my drop by~~ to time to pull the rip
~~cord by the size of a~~ my view of
a church steeple. I landed on
my back in a wheat field, did a
somersault and was dragged
in the wind before I could get my
ket and spill the chute. I was
badly dazed, and ~~ran for the~~
~~house to its the chute in my~~
~~was about to land~~ but I
later learnt that ~~my fate~~ a
~~was not a~~ group, watched from
only a mile away, missed my

jump completely. (2) With my chute
in my arms I ran for the woods
without stopping & got out of my
harness. I found an old hole
full of leaves. Carefully removing
the leaves from the bottom of the hole,
I threw in my chute, harness
gloves and helmet. I ripped open
my dunny looking for water as
my mouth was cut and bleeding. I
found none, but I put the
dunny pack in my flying jacket
and then covered all my equipment
with the leaves I had saved from
the bottom of the hole. I started
south through a wheat field
and up a hill to another woods,
from which I saw there
Germans coming along a nearby
road. I dropped down into
a drainage ditch on
the crest of the hill until they
had passed. Soon afterwards

2.

Two more Germans came
by on bicycles. I crawled
to 60 ft. to a pile of brush
with a good view of the
surrounding area. I
stayed here for the next
24 hrs. The brush was low
and I did not dare move
much as the Germans
patrolled the road until
midnight. It was ~~very~~
bitterly cold and I had
reason to be thankful for my
G.I. long handles.

~~We had been briefed~~
The next morning I felt
pretty low, but I chewed some
Hortons tablets and felt a
lot better. We had been
briefed that walking ~~too~~ through
the fields in daytime ^{was} ~~was~~

3

relatively safe. I waited until
noon however, when I ~~felt~~ thought
everyone would be eating, before
getting out after walking a mile.
I pulled out my escape map,
and while it was lacking in
detail I was soon able to
locate myself but studying
the nearby roads. I went on
until I came to a village
in a valley. I lay on the
hillside studying it as I
wanted to avoid asking for
help where there ~~is~~ were
children. At 1600 hrs an
elderly couple went out
to work in their vegetable garden.
I watched them for an hour
and then approached them for
food. I could not make
myself understood until

I pulled out my language card. They gave me bread and wine, but said they could not give me civilian clothes or any ~~other~~ further help. I retired to the woods,

That evening I decided to approach the village priest quietly. I started toward the rectory but got into a private garden by mistake. An old man saw me and ~~at once~~ quickly closed the gate so that I could not get out. I took out my language card and explained ~~me~~ who I was. He then took me into his house ~~and~~ where his wife fed me bread and eggs, although she was much more frightened than pleased to see me. I had no sooner finished eating than

the old man motioned me to follow him out of the house. After leading me for some distance, he stopped and pointed to two farms and, using my language card, made it clear that I could find clothing at either place, but that I must stay hidden until 2200 hrs.

When the time came I found the gate locked, but crawled over the wall easily enough and knocked. The woman who opened the door was very frightened to see me and just stood there. Again I took out my language card and she seemed to relax. An old woman

6
joined us. See looked at
the card and took me in
immediately. I was soon
fed and dressed in civilian
clothes. The old lady then
gave me a quilt and took
me out to the barn to spend
the night.

The next morning I could
see that definite attempts were
being made to take care of me
so I lay there and waited.
At noon I was brought a
note saying that I was in good
hands ~~and~~ from then on all
that was required of me
was patience.


When we started
walking over the mountains
we were soon joined
by a band of Jewish
refugees. ~~They had made~~
our mountain guide

had made

a financial arrangement to
~~with the guide~~ ~~mountain guide~~
 quite take them across quite
 unknown to the patrols who
 had been helping the allied
 armen in the party. There
 was a girl of eighteen, two
 women over forty and two old
 men amongst their group.
 It was suggested that we
 carry the luggage of these
 five people ~~and~~ we were
 travelling light in preparation
 for a quick business-like
 crossing. We did and this
 was a mistake, for we
 had little food and the
 guide only gave us one
 meal ~~during the~~ ~~three~~ ~~day~~ ~~trip~~ ~~through~~ ~~the~~ ~~clouds~~ ~~lets~~ ~~luggage~~
 added to the strain, and
 while the refugees had a

8.
ample supply of food,
they would not share it.
The guide had to spend
most of his time keeping
order amongst this undisciplined
group and there was particular
difficulty in making them be
quiet when we passed through
danger areas. We finally
reached Spain and were
glad^{be} arrested, as we were a
weary hungry crew. It was
another thirteen hours however
before the police treated us
to a meal of boiled potatoes.

B

On 8 May a radar station was observed approximately 5 mi SW Soissons. It is the large round type  and stands on the flat top of a hill. A power line runs up one side of the hill to it.

On 26 May ~~two~~ ^{the} Me 109 were observed making a landing approach at an airfield approximately 3 mi S Bourges.

A brief ~~last~~ observation of the Le Bourget airfield on 23 May revealed no damage.

From 8 to 16 May Me 109 and Fw 190 were observed at 21 hrs flying west down the valley at Soissons. A few JU 52 were also observed. From 16 to 23 May, one Condor was observed flying toward Paris and at 2100 hrs several JU 52 flew west down the valley at minimum altitude. One Me 210 or 211 was observed over Soissons during this period.

On 25 May bomb damage
of the marshalling yards 10 mi S
Paris was observed. A good job had
been done, tracks, goods cars, ^{several} steam
engines and electric installations all
~~destroyed~~ demolished. The yards
seem to have been full of freight
at the time of the bombing.

On 26 May bomb damage in the
Toulouse area was observed. The
main part of the chemical plant
had not been touched. One bomb
had taken out about 20 ft of the
double track road bridge. A single
track was back in operation, but
the train had to move very slowly.
One end of the highway bridge
received a direct hit, but
could be repaired. Many houses
on the north side of the river
had been demolished and more
had been destroyed W of the RR.

than E of it.

On 27 May W T arbes and E
Pau 3 HE 177 were observed going
in to land at a field N of the RR.
On the field 2 Me 109 and one Me 110
~~could be~~ were observed. Other
aircraft observed on the field could
not be identified.

Hearsay 29 May at Pau that
the airfield had been bombed
out of operation, but that the other
was still functioning. During 4 days
at Pau no more than one Me 109 was
observed at a time. Bi planes
flew in the area and a group of
4 training planes, possibly HE 112.

Hearsay and Observation
on 21 May that there is ^{at least one} flak gun at
Chavignac N Gosses. The flak
bursts in the air between 10000
and 12000 ft. See area 9 in

sketch attached. ~~There are~~
~~More~~ ^{AA} guns, probably four, were
observed ~~on~~ firing on 9 May
in area X in sketch attached.

~~Hearsay in early May~~
~~that World War fortifications~~
~~in area X and, probably Y, in sketch~~
~~attached are under repair and~~
~~reconstruction. The French in~~
~~area X were given 48 hrs to~~
~~evacuate their homes at the~~
~~end of April. The depth of~~
~~this area is not known.~~

Hearsay in early May that
World War fortifications centering
around Crony are under repair
and reconstruction. 2000 Germans
were brought in to work on the
project in April. Civilians living
N of the Aisne were given 48
hrs to evacuate their homes.
The depth N Soissons of the area
of evacuation is not known.
This area extends in width from the

across to the Laon road and
probably to the Clanny road
The Fortification. Begin. E. of
the Clanny road. See sketch attached

The RR ~~line~~ between Soissons
and Paris was closed to civilian
traffic during the month of May.
Civilians must take a local
train to Compiègne and then
change for Paris.

that Chewing
1. Aids Box. I found, the sticks
~~and~~ made me feel much
better. I used the chewing
gum to relieve my thirst, but
it did not effectively and it also
helped to steady my nerves.
I used the compass and the
mountains to keep a clock
on the guide. I used the water
bottle in the mountains too,
but it was clumsy to carry
and the rubber gave the water
a horrible taste.

2. I carried a real purse
and used the maps and money.

3. Photographs I carried twelve
photographs and used two
of them.

4. I was lectured on evase or at
myrtle Beach S. C. and at
base in England. I found the

lectures ~~at~~ valuable
because they taught me to
delay my jump and I attribute
my evasion of that and nothing
else. The lecturers also
told me to wear G.I. shoes and
carry extra socks. I did and
I had no blisters.

5. My advice is to hide
immediately and get away
later.

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Clonits C.R.D. W.H. 06294204
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

June 22 1944
(Date)

404th F.B. Gp.
(Unit)

#761

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

May 8, 1944 11:30 1 mile North of Soissons, France

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.

Was it on fire, etc? Elevator controll shot away.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 10,000'

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

Fighter

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

Pilot

Yes

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Yes

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions? No.

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

SECRET

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

No., Rank, Name:- 0-794204 1st Lt Charles R. Clontz, Jr.

Unit:- 401st F.B. Gp. 506th F.B. Sqdn.

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? *Yes.*

b. If not, why?

Had an American box

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.

*from dingy pack none in box
Second day (to gain nourishment.)*

Chocolate ~~or Peanut Bar.~~

No

~~Milk (tube)~~

No

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *No -*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *No -*

Matches. *No*

Adhesive tape. *No -*

Chewing gum.

*Yes. (to relieve thirst) 1st & 2nd day. I helped
for that & also helped my
rubber gues write letters by hand*

Water bottle.

Yes - Over the mountains and carry it by hand

Compass.

Yes. - Checked the guide with it.

Sewing kit.

Did not have one.

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?

e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *Frenchman took it away from me*

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?

*Yes
Red stripe*

State color of stripes and letters.

If NOT, State why not.

b. Did you use the purse?

*Yes. Paid for some food.
(over)*

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?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many?

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

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

No. Because every one has a different set of circumstances.

Echoes - fine - no blisters
absolutely no

And first get away later

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
Major, AC

CONFIDENTIAL

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

761

DATE: 24 June 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, THOMAS R. LITCHFIELD, JR., Capt., AC, O-661339

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

CHARLES R. CLONTS, JR., 1st Lt., AC, O-794204

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.

Thomas R. Litchfield Jr.

Charles R. Clonts, Jr.

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



=====

The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as CHARLES R. CLONTS, JR., 1st Lt., AC, O-794204 (506 Fighter Bomb Squadron - 404 Fighter Bomb Group) previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

J. F. Carroll
J. F. CARROLL, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

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. *Charles Roy Clonts, Jr. 1st Lt. 0-744204*
2. Decorations. *None*
3. Unit or Squadron. *506th F.B.*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *404th FB Gp.*
5. Date of Birth. *Feb. 26, 1918*
6. Length of Service. *Two + 1/2 yrs.*
7. Private Address. *Oviedo, Florida.*
8. Job as civilian. *Farmer*
9. From what field did you take off? *Winkton - Station 414*
10. Take off time. *Approximately 08:40*
11. Date and target. *May 8, 1944. Fighter Sweep*
12. Where did you land? *1 mi N Souzons*
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? *None Carried*
14. What was your position in aircraft? *Pilot*
15. Were you wounded? *Mouth Bruised*
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *No.*
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? *No.*
18. Did you have Identity Papers? *Yes Dog tags - Given two identity Cards in France*
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. Gib. by British Military Intelligence Capt Goundle*
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. Military Attache - Madrid. Consuls Office at Gibraltar.*
22. Date of arrival in Spain. *June 3, 1944 06:15*
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *June 19, 1944*
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *Gib. by Air June 21, 1944*
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *Airport, Bristol June 22, 1944*

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.

GERTIFICATE

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) Charles R. Clonts, Jr.
Rank 1st Lt. A. S. N. O-794264
Unit 404 H. F. B. Gp.

Signed Charles R. Clonts, Jr.
Dated June 22, 1944
Witness Wiley A. Smith Capt WSC



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

RESTRICTED

SECRET - AMERICAN
* MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "B" 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, ~~army and civilian morale~~, etc., etc.,.....)

May 8 Radar Station S.W. of Soissons Approximately 5 Miles. The large round type . Observed from pt. 1 mile N.W. Soissons.
 May 26 Air field at Borges. Approx. 3 miles South of city. Saw  in landing approach.

2 ME109's ~~land~~ Making Landing Approach.
May 8 to 16 Saw 109's & 190's going west down the valley at
Dairour about 21:00 hrs. between these dates. Also near two Ju 52's
to El Bira and several Ju 52's

Soissons about 21:00 hrs. between these dates.
May 16 to 23 I saw one Condor going toward Paris and several Ju 52's
going west down the valley at minimum altitude about 21:00.
I also saw one ME 210 or 410 during this time over Soissons.
P. at isidrome. Did not

May 23 On way to Paris by ferry saw Le Bourget airdrome. Did not observe any fighter type A.C. Only had a short look at it.

May 25 Leaving Paris bound for the south. I saw the damage to the marshalling yards about 10 miles south of the city. It was a very good job. Tracks, Electric installations, goods cars and steam engines were demolished. The yard was pretty well filled with goods cars at the time of bombing. I saw several engines (steam) that were demolished.

May 26 Saw the ~~attacked~~ bombing results on the chemical plant south of Toulouse. One bomb took out about 20% of the R.R. Bridge, which was a double track affair. They had a temporary line across one track. We went over very slowly. One end of the highway bridge ^{down the side of} rained direct hit but could be easily repaired. There are many houses to the north of the river. More on the west side of the R.R. ^{road and about} than on the East side. The main part of the chemical plant was not touched. ^{Side of}

May 27 West of Tarbes but East of Pau I saw 3 HF 177 $\frac{1}{2}$
go in and land at an air field North of R. R. There were
2-109 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1-110 $\frac{1}{2}$ - and other aircraft I saw but did not identify on
the field.

May 29 At Pau I was told one Airport was bombed so heavily that it was abandoned, but that the other was in operation. Around Pau I saw 1-109 flying & 4 training planes (perhaps HF 112's) and some biplanes. Henschel Delfins. In 4 days there I did not see more than 1-109 and only one T-6. Not more than 4 of the HF's.

One

A. Hearing and observation that there is a
flak gun at Chevigny N Soissons. There
may be more 821 many heavy flak shoots
high at P47's burst in air.

10 012000 H

Hearing and observation that there
are flak guns probably 4 in area X
were observed diving at B175 on 9 MAY

+YB

the World War fortifications
and reconstruction. The
are under repair
Trench in area X - depth N of Soissons
not known but definitely N of AISNE given
which evacuate at about April
Area Y is included in all probability

Fortifications are definitely E of Clammy rd
maybe E of LAON rd so area Y is 5? Clammy
is center of reconstructed line of fortifications
2000 ft brought in for the work in April (?)

R.R. line Soissons - Paris closed
all trench which must go by local
Compiègne to 20 to Paris through
Tunnel

Comment on #761:

A good, workmanlike job all through. Good briefing well learned. Note that evader attributes his success entirely to his delayed jump.

Evader's bad luck in being stuck with a group of refugees is not general enough to justify special attention.

See addition on
proof sheet

note

Inclusion of refugees in Payrenee parties is becoming a common and dangerous practice.

to G5