

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) WILLIAM A. SMITH

Signed William A. Smith

Rank 1ST LT. AC A. S. N. 0-725095

Dated August 14, 1944

Unit 367 Sqdr 306 BOMB GP (H)

Witness Charles A. Brown
1st Lt. A.C.

AG P BR HQ SCS

122472

RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL

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

DATE: 14 August 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, JAMES H. FRIES, S/Sgt., AC, 35536077

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

WILLIAM A. SMITH, 1st Lt., AC, O-725095

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.

William A. Smith

James H. Fries

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as _____

WILLIAM A. SMITH, 1st Lt., AC, O-725095, 306 Bomb Group, 367 Bomb Sq.
previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

F. S. VERTY
F. S. VERTY, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

306 Op 14 Aug

On the 17 June 1944 I landed on the ~~side~~ of a tree near crossroads about 3 miles SE of Leve Loué (Sarthe). After a few hours, ^{on my own} I was taken in a farm house in the vicinity. I ~~had~~ ^{had} asked for help ~~and the farmer~~ to the farmer (who was a middle aged man ~~was~~, had been in the last war and ~~was~~ lived in Loué with his wife and two children.) That night the Doctor of Loué came to treat my ankle and told me that soon I would be taken to a comrade. ^{He also told me} that the wounded member of my crew (I believed to be the Radio man) had been taken P/W, he named also ^{AS TAKEN P/W} S/Sgt Blackwell ~~as being P/W~~ and described another (who I ~~recognise~~ believe to be the waist gunner) ~~to be so also.~~

The next day the Farmer and another man took me by cart to the forest of Charnis ^{the trip} (near Ste Suzanne, Sarthe). ^{on our way there the cart picked up S/Sgt Ehrhard and from there this the same} ~~we~~ stayed there in a tent occupied by a British Lt Col who spoke fluent French (he had been there three weeks to organize resistance, He was blonde, blue eyes, slender; 5'11") With him ^{were} ~~was~~ an English Lt and an English girl dropped two days previously, an English radio man and frenchmen of all types totaling about 25. Every other night an aeroplane dropped ammunition and guns in the forest. On the third day of my arrival ^{to} this camp, we were attacked by 80 Germans who destroyed the camp. Ehrhard an Australian (F/Sgt Franck Redford shot down at Jublain, Mayenne on the 10 June) and I hid in the woods until dark and then crawled away. ^{As we were} ~~In the woods we met~~ getting out we met a Frenchman from the Camp (aged 25) who took us to his house in Sable (Sarthe) His name is Jacques and his father owns ^{pit} ~~Lime carriers~~. His mother and wife were German hostages. He had been to school at le Havre and had been with the maquis in Brittany until he joined the Lt Col. Jacques tried to take us by foot and with the help of a compass towards Spain But the contacts he had on the way did not work so on the 24 he put Ehrhard and I In the house of M Emile Derouet who lived with his wife, daughter and son. Jacques took the Australian to another Farm house. We stayed with the Derouet's Until the 7 July. On the morning of this day, a frenchman ^{whom} we ~~had~~ never seen before ~~came~~ with the Australian and took us to St Denis d'Orques. There another

man called Le Crox (once a prize fighter) took us by tramway to Le Mans.

(He told us that he travelled often to Paris, ~~seem to have~~ ^{had} many houses, much money and ~~be~~ ^{we thought he was a} high official in the underground. We stayed a few hours in his house and he then took us by bus to Lauare (Sarthe). When we left the bus we walked ~~at~~ 4 Km to St Maxient (Sarthe) and were put in the ~~attique~~ attic of a chateau in town.

We stayed there until the 18 July. Le Crox came often to see us. On the 18 a man came and after walking all night we arrived to Cheri, a small village near La Ferte Bernard (Sarthe). We stayed there with 15 to ~~even~~ ^{twenty} resistance men who were doing sabotage under the command of a man they called the "Professeur".

On the 21 a man came to question us and ~~make~~ ^{made} sure of our Identity. His name was Robert Poussin, had lived in America for 8 years ~~and his~~ (he can be reached by mail at: 23 Rue de Chartres, Courbevoie, Seine ~~France~~) That same day This man took us to the Bois de Croix (near Le Mans, Sarthe) We stayed in this house # which had besides Poussin and us 7 resistance boys doing sabotage work until the 9 August. On that day we were taken to Connerre to a doctors house (Dr M. D'Allestre ancien externe des hopitaux de Paris, Connerre, Sarthe). The American were expected in this town the same day and that same evening we were picked up a reconnaissance of the 79th division.

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

William D. Smith 1st Lt 0-725095 August 14-1944

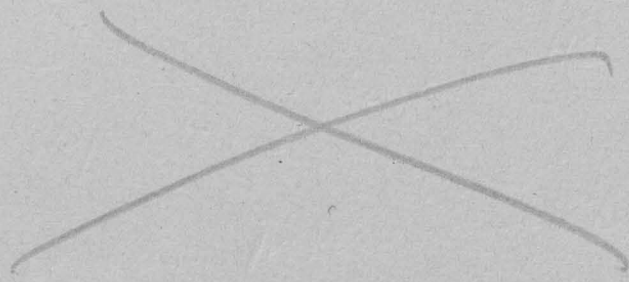
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)
367 Sqdn 306 Bomb Gr.

(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS

- PILOT
- CO-PILOT
- NAVIGATOR
- BOMBARDIER
- RADIO OPERATOR
- TOP TURRET GUNNER
- BALL TURRET GUNNER
- WAIST GUNNER
- WAIST GUNNER
- TAIL GUNNER



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

June 17-1944 - near St. Suzanne, SARTHE, France

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

No! Engine on fire - burned through wing - Frenchman says plane bailed - source one wing bailed up.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

17,000 ft.

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

Radio man (wounded) wounded in arm by flak - French doctor reported one other prisoner suffered broken leg in fall.

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

all bailed out all parachutes opened

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

No - from reports of French I did not believe the plane exploded.

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

Sgt. CHARD joined source next day

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

Only information - three were taken prisoner, wounded. who was wounded, Blackwell and one other whose leg was broken.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?

buried up French reported - did not examine wreckage but French showed the parts of wreckage.

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by 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?

perhaps still afloat - perhaps caught by Ostap - French buddies were unable to find any information concerning them whereabouts.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

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? *LEFT IN PLANE*
- 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. *LEFT IN PLANE*

- b. Did you use the purse?

(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?

No

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

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

Yes

AN ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND, MANY TIMES BY INTELLIGENCE
306 BOMB OP.

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?

Evaders MUST be patient in Hiding - Let as few French, or Friendly people see them as possible - IF IN ORGANIZATION, Move From one place to another preferably AT NIGHT, AND USING SMALL SIDE ROADS

SECRET

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL,
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

SMITH, W^M 1ST LT. 0-725095
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: Aug 17-44

Date arrived in UK: Aug 13-44

11 (No. of missions)

367 (Squadron) 306 (H) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions)

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT LT. J.W. Pedersen

UNKNOWN

CO-PILOT J. Blood

UNKNOWN

NAVIGATOR LT. Gustafson

UNKNOWN

BOMBARDIER LT. SMITH, W.A.

Escape (Myself)

RADIO OPERATOR S/SGT Wonnino

PRISONER

TOP TURRET GUNNER T/SGT Arnold

UNKNOWN

BALL TURRET GUNNER S/SGT Blackwell

PRISONER

WAIST GUNNER S/SGT Kerr

UNKNOWN

WAIST GUNNER S/SGT Ehrard

Escape

TAIL GUNNER REMARK- One Prisoner identity not known

Decorations: AIR MEDAL

Date of Birth: 4/4/16

Private Address: Millfield, Ohio

Length of Service: 3 yrs 4 months

Job as Civilian: STUDENT (college)

From what field did you take off? Take off time.

Station III (Tharleigh) Approx 10:00

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? AS FAR AS KNOWN - PLANE

Were you wounded? Give details. Burned up No wounds

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? No

Do you speak FRENCH? Some SPANISH? No GERMAN? No ITALIAN? No OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers? None

Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom?

Q2 XV Corps 3rd Army Front Lines

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?

No

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

Q2 XV Corps 3rd Army Front Lines

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

No

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air.

T2 MARBLE, FRANCE

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

S/sgt Worrington
S/sgt Blackwell

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

UNKNOWN

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.,.....)

Reported location of two airfields near Le Mans which may be used by fighters, (one might be used by medium bombers) - Air Support XV Corps, 3rd Army, has locations in co-ordinates.

German airplanes were operating in vicinity always at "Deck" level and almost always at night between 2230 and 0300 - presumed to be reconnaissance Me 109's.

German foot troops are terribly demoralized but German armor in the vicinity seemed to be moving up - no battle lines but small pockets of resistance - allied bombing of a small RR bridge near source's location was not successful. In 12 trips fighter-bombers failed to hit RR once.

Striking by fighter-bombers was highly successful - the Germans did not move anything in daytime - but hid their vehicles in the woods or along the highway until dark, using much natural camouflage.

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

930

DATE: 14 August 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, JAMES H. FRIES, S/SGT., AC, 52236071

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

WILLIAM A. SMITH, 1st Lt., AC, O-725095

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.

William A. Smith

James H. Fries

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The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as _____

WILLIAM A. SMITH, 1st Lt., AC, O-725095, 306 Bomb Group, 367 Bomb Sq.
previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

P. S. VERRY
SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

P. S. VERRY,
CONFIDENTIAL

B. 17

Bombardier
Black and white
pench. -

U. Smith.

hauled out at 1 PM. (1)

June 17, 1944. - to attack airfield near Orleans. - Hit by flack before the target. - quite a distance. (north of Paris probably) no apparent damage. ~~Circle~~ Circle the target overcast did not drop low. (Radio was by flack coming to target not serious). - on the way back saw no 1 in fire still in formation. - We tried to reach the coast on lines. - gave order to bail about 9000 feet not losing altitude. - came out east from the back. - Edward was out no 2. -

Bombardier saw 6 chutes. - did not delay. - Edward delayed until 9000 feet. saw 3 chutes of the waist. - ~~low~~

Bombardier landed in a hole of a tree near crossroads about 3 miles SE of Loue ~~is~~ (depart SARINHE) the tail gun Edward (tail gunner) landed north of Loue (SARINHE).

Home. Left chute in tree. I saw farmer in distance went to farm house the farmer did not look good so left and hid in a wooden house (stayed there 4 hrs) 3 German came ^{on roof of} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~car~~ ^{car} looking for me on road and went away. - After four hours. - walked on top of hill ~~saw~~ There was another farm house, I watch a farmer. I went up to talk to

to him. - He took me in. - (had been in ^{air war} middle age, had a wife & small children)
That night the doctor of Lone came. (only one doctor in Lone). My foot had been injured in the shower lines and had been twisted - it hurt -

The doctor told me if I could walk would take me to a command. He said the Radio man (the man wounded) had been taken. PW. Also named St-ht Blackwell - low turret gunner was PW and also said another man who he described tall with a broken leg (I believe maybe went missing).

18. June Next day ~~he~~ the farmer and another man took me in a cart. -

to the farm of CHARNIE (near it Suzanne, PARIE). Stayed there in a tent in which lived a British Lt Col (who paid visits and organized resistance & spoke french fluently) (slender who seemed to me to suffer from Azura blue eyes, blonde 5/11 ^{he had been there 3 weeks}) also an English girl who had been shipped 2 days before - Frenchmen of all types and a radio man english and an English Lt dropped with the girl. - (total people "sounding and going about 25 people) They

said they contacted England by Radio about us.

we stayed in the woods. 3 days. - (until 20th _{2200 hrs})
 (they were going to keep us until Bombardier could walk.) I think the Lt. Col wanted us to help him. - Every other night an aeroplane dropped ^{ammunition} stuff. the only one the night we were chased out of the woods.

We were attacked by about 80 Germans who threw hand grenades destroyed everything we ran away.

Ehrard, Bombardier and an Australian who had come that day had been shot down on 10th June. - flying a Lancaster (2 killed he said) he was with the rest of crew but they did not come to camp was shot down at ~~EURLAIN~~ (des. Maxime name FLYT FRANK REDFORD.)

The 2 of us waited until dark we crawled out of the woods 200 yards. then we stood up. - We walked out of the woods. - we waited until Germans left we could hear the cows, we met a French boy from the woods he had been hiding near us. - Knew English -

his home is in SABLÉ (Sarthe) his father owned trou camiers, his name is Jacques, his father owned everything, his mother and wife were hostages he was 25. Went to school at Le HAURE had been with the majors in Metz and was with the Lt. Col. -

Jacques ~~took~~ and us went ~~to~~ south towards spain with compass. - left on the 21st at dusk day ~~at~~ in a barn that a woman to whom we talked owned. - Jacques knew a man who lived on highway between SABLÉ and St Suzanne. - could find that man that night, stayed in farm house and were told that our plane crashed there. -

22^d contacted Jacques, walked there, he was an old man who had helped Jacques and americans before, a ^{very} rich farmer. - slept 22^d and 23th there. Jacques went for help at St Suzanne. Bombardier was not yet in civilian clothes. - (I was in a t. shirt). -

On 24th he came back and put the 2 americans with a farmer near village of ~~Charmes~~. CHAMMES (MAYENNE near St Suzanne)

the farmer. - Mr ~~de~~ EMILE D'ÉROUET
his son spoke English. - was before war
collège de laune, son daughter and his
wife)

We stayed with them until evening
of July 7.

(the Australian went to another
farm)

we lost contact with Jacques,
~~he~~ but was helping all the time he said
would try to fly us out. -

On July 7. - were awaking at 4 AM. -
a frenchman who we never seen before
took us to ST DENIS d'OROUET (ARTHE)
or MAYENNE) This man had the
Australian.

Met another man at St Denis
he was called LE CROX (was once a rich
farmer, small) ~~was the~~ He took
us to trainway when to LE MANS. -
He was ~~to~~ high probably in underground
had much money many house, much
food made many trip to Paris he said. -
stayed in his house until 5 PM. - took us
to ~~MONMIRAIL~~ LE LAUARE (ARTHE)

we left our men walked north
 4 km to St MAXIMENT (SARTHE). We
 stayed in the Attique of the Chateau
 in town. He was the repository he
 was keeping it. we stayed until the
 night of 18 July. - (never got out)
 Le Croix came to see us. And
 dare go out because many collaborators.
 (He came to us ^{on 16th} if we would fight
 with fight with Paratroopers who would
 be dropped near Chartres in 15 days)

the 18th a man came to take us at
 a town near La Ferte Bernard (Cher) small
 village (SARTHE) we walked almost
 all night. - we stayed there with armed
 resistance ^{10 to 15 men} in a barn until the 21st -
 (they did sabotage, many from Paris, had radio)
 British arms - were getting contact with a
 man they called the professor.

On the 21st a man came to see us
 he lived in America for 8 years His name
 was was ROBERT POUSSIN letter would
 reach 23 rue de Chartres Courbevoie
 Seine, France. (He questioned to
 make sure of identification)

On the 21st. Robert Poussin took us to LE ROIS ~~not~~ de croix (near the main SARTHE).

We stayed with Poussin in the home of an old man a farm house in the woods. - It was full of men ~~we~~ ^{my} resistance boys doing sabotage work. We stayed there until 8th August. - (They were suspicious of Germans running around U.S. uniforms Robert told us about it too). -

9 August we were taken to ~~Can Can~~ CONNÈRE to a doctor. Americans were expected that day (doctor address: Dr M. DELESTRÈ (part of ^{accommodation} service externe des Hopitaux de Paris CONNÈRE, SARTHE).

We were picked up that evening by reconnaissance of 79th Division.

(we went on with them all night at THORIGNÉ (SARTHE) we crossed the bridge. - ^{we went past as} 1.2 miles from ~~VIBRAY~~ VIBRAYE then we ~~to~~ came back ^{to Thonigné} for night to guard bridge at Thonigné,

we were relieved on 10th and
 came back to 15th Cape Hq. -
 Interrogated by G2 (^{Major} General Hazelit Hq)
 on military information. - The Hq
 was near SAVIANE (in woods) (SARTHE)
 Air support sends us back to by
 jeep to 19 TAC. near Fougères. -
 (MAYENNE). - There we were sent to
 9th A.F. Hq. - he only asked us a
 few questions and gave us orders
 to U.K. - Landed at Grove,
 aeroplane at Heaton. - questioned -
 by British security. -

we gave Dérouet 1500 francs.
 for our stay ~~etc~~