

S E C R E T

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

SECRET
By Authority of
ACofS, G-2
Initials *WASH* WSH
Date: 16 July 1944

16 July 1944

E & E REPORT NO 829 (IS-9WEA/7/1/5)
EVASION IN FRANCE

Kenneth N HOUGARD, S/Sgt, 19170044
(25 Missions)
544 Bomb Sq, 384 Bomb Group

MIA: 8 May 44
Arrived in UK:
7 Jul 44

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	0-798297	1st Lt	Earl T ALLISON	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-4044844	Capt	Randolph JACOB	MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-800687	1st Lt	John O CURTIN	P/W
BOMBARDIER	0-734967	1st Lt	Jack C NAGEL	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	32040920	T/Sgt	William F LAUBENSTEIN	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	35472350	T/Sgt	William A CLEMENTS	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	37233420	S/Sgt	Vernon H KAUFMAN	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	16018325	Sgt	James H GRINNETT	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	19170044	S/Sgt	Kenneth N HOUGARD	NARRATOR
TAIL GUNNER	0-447290	2d Lt	Lester W HALL	P/W

BAILS OUT

We were just getting on the bomb run when we were hit in the mid-section with flak. We started losing altitude quickly, and the inter-phone system was dead. I didn't get any orders to bail out, but the waist gunner released the escape hatch and I kicked the door open and bailed out. We were at about 26,000 ft and I pulled my rip-cord at about 2000 ft. I had to pull the chute out with my hands. I could hear bullets popping all around me.

DELAYS JUMP

GERMANS FIRE
AT CHUTE

HIDES IN
TREE

I hit the ground in a field near STE COLOMBE and ran over to a hedge at one side of the field and buried my parachute and mae west. I counted 25 bullet holes in my chute. I climbed up in the branches of a tree and stayed there until it got dark. Then I came out of the tree and found a barn in the field. It was moonlight. I could hear German motorcycle patrols on the road. I ate the candy from my escape kit and slept in the barn that night, burrowing into the hay.

GERMANS
TAKE RADIO

The next day I watched from the barn and saw some German officers go to the wrecked plane. They took the radio equipment and then drove off. I stayed in the barn all day. As soon as it got dark I went to the house on the same farm and knocked at the door. Some one said something that sounded like "Come in," so I walked in. There were two men and two women in the house. I told them I was an American aviator, but they apparently didn't understand or were afraid. All they would say was, "Non, non," so I left the farmhouse and started down a road to the south. I thought I was somewhere in the coastal defence area, and I knew it wasn't healthy to stay there.

RECONNOITERS
BRIDGE

I kept going down the road, dodging motorcycle patrols, until I hit a junction and a main highway. I went down the highway until I came to a mill on the DOUVE River. From the mill I watched the bridge across the river for a good long while to make sure that I wouldn't run into any sentries. When I was certain no sentries were on the bridge, I crossed the river and made my way to STE COLOMBE.

FOUND
BY
FARMER

I didn't want to walk right into STE COLOMBE, so I stopped at the first barn I came to just out of the town. I slept in the hay there that night. About 1000 hours I heard some one putting a ladder up the side of the barn. I went to the other end of the haymow and tried to hide. But I could hear some one moving the ladder around to the window at my end of the barn. I knew then I couldn't get away, so I just waited. I heard the ladder being placed, and then a farmer came up into the haymow followed by his son. I told them, as best I could, that I was an American airman. They were both pleased and brought the whole family up to see me. Some one was sent down to get me something to eat, and came back with eggs, bread and cider.

FRENCH BRING
CLOTHES

Before the day was over it seemed that all the Frenchmen in the neighborhood knew I was there. They brought an old black coat, a beret, some black shoes that were too tight for me, and a pair of old coveralls. The farmer had a daughter about 19 years old who could speak a little English. I asked her to get me some one who could speak English. She told me some one would come, so I waited in the barn. One Frenchman tried to give me some French money he had been given by another American airman who had been shot down. That afternoon another Frenchman came who could speak good English. From that point on my journey was arranged.

JOINS
ESCAPERS

On 1 July the Frenchmen who helped me were ordered to evacuate by the Germans. I left them and joined two American officers who had been captured by the Germans but who had escaped and were hiding in a barn. One of the officers was an infantryman, 2d Lt John BOWLEY (uncertain of spelling). The other was a glider pilot, F/O Adrian (Buck) CARSON.

SEEN BY
GERMANS

On the way to the barn we ran smack into two German soldiers who were digging potatoes. The woman and the girl who were leading the way had taken the wrong path. The two Germans were just a few feet away when the woman turned to me and asked in French where the path was. My French was so bad that I was afraid we'd be done for if I tried to answer her. But just then I saw the right path and just said, "Ici". Those two Germans looked at me suspiciously, but they let us pass without saying anything.

AMERICAN
OFFICERS
ORDERED
SHOT

When I reached the barn the two French women left me, and I put a ladder up to the window in the haymow, climbed in, and pulled the ladder up after me. The two American officers told me they had both been captured and were being taken in a truck past LA DETROUSSE when the road was strafed by our P-51's and the truck was hit and stopped.

RAIDS
GARDEN

BOWLEY and CARSON told me that a German officer had ordered them shot when the truck was hit. But one German guard took the officers to some Frenchmen and gave them instructions to hide the Americans. This German guard said he would go back and tell the German officer that he had shot them. BOWLEY told me that the Frenchmen had hidden them in the haymow. They were waiting there until they should be overrun by the American troops.

I stayed in the barn with the two officers for four days. The first day a French woman brought us some milk, but the next day we didn't get any food because there were so many Germans about. We finally got so hungry that I decided to risk getting some food. I climbed out of the barn and got some peas, onions and lettuce from the garden. We made a meal out of that along with some old bread I had with me.

On 3 July CARSON came down with a fever and he looked pretty sick. BOWLEY was also suffering from his grenade wound, and he told me we couldn't stay there much longer without better food. I decided to take another chance and went to a farmhouse where I got three bottles of milk, a half bottle of whiskey, potatoes, peas and a little meat from a Frenchman. We drank all the milk and ate the potatoes and peas, but saved the meat for the next day. CARSON didn't get any better.

I left the barn again and went to a farm where I tried to get some help from another Frenchman. He was afraid to help us because there were so many Germans near. He kept saying: "Americans be here in morning. Be courageous."

HEARS
AMERICAN
GUNS

I went back to the barn then and stayed there the rest of the day with the two officers. That night we could hear the Germans coming into the lower part of the barn to take some motorcycles they had stored there. But we could also hear the American guns firing and knew that our troops were getting close.

AMERICAN
VOICES

On the morning of 4 July our artillery began laying down a barrage on a hill just east of the barn. We just lay there in the hay, keeping quiet, and listening for American voices. When we finally did hear some voices we couldn't make out whether they were German or American, until at last we heard some one say: "Bring a squad of men and search the house!"

Lt BOWLEY and I were watching through the window and saw four or five Americans going down the road past the barn. One of them stopped for a moment, and Lt BOWLEY stuck his head out the window and yelled: "Hey, soldier! Stand there and don't let any one shoot at us. We're Americans!"

A lieutenant came up then and arranged to send the two officers to the hospital for first aid and to send me back to the rear.

We first had breakfast with a Frenchman at a farmhouse. The French people crowded around the American troops, shook hands with every one, and kissed them.

Compiled by

Approved by

Irvin H. Luiten
IRVIN H. LUITEN
Major, Inf
IS-9 (WEA) MIS

W. S. Holt
W. S. HOLT
Lt Col, AC

REPORT DISTRIBUTION

DDMI (P/W)	1
MI-9	18
ACofS, G-2, SHAEF	1
ACofS, G-2, ETOUSA	3
DofI, USSTAF	5
ACofS, A-2, Eighth AF	68
ACofS, A-2, VIII FC	19
ACofS, A-2, Ninth AF	1
ACofS, A-2, IX BC	15
ACofS, A-2, IX ASC	9
ACofS, A-2, IX TCC	21
ACofS, A-2, XIX TAC	11
RAF School, Highgate (S/Ldr Hervey)	1
MIS, Washington, CPM BRANCH	5
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ACofS, A-2, Ninth AF	1
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APPENDIX "C" - FUTURE PLANS

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DofI, USSTAF	5
ACofS, A-2, Eighth AF	68
ACofS, A-2, VIII FC	19
ACofS, A-2, Ninth AF	1
ACofS, A-2, IX BC	15
ACofS, A-2, IX ASC	9
ACofS, A-2, IX TCC	21
MIS, Washington, CPM BRANCH	5
ACofS, A-2, XIX TAC	11
File	3
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S E C R E T

APPENDIX "D" TO E & E REPORT NO 829

Kenneth N HOUGARD, S/Sgt, 19170044
544 Bomb Sq, 384 Bomb Group

1. AIDS BOX: I used the water bottle, compass, Horlick's tablets, one map and candy.
2. PURSE: I carried a red purse from which I used the maps and compass. I gave the 2000 French francs to helpers.
3. PHOTOGRAPHS: I carried no photographs.
4. LECTURES: I was lectured at Group and found the lectures of value.
5. SUGGESTIONS:
 - a. Every one should have some knowledge of French.
 - b. Carry a toothbrush, razor blades and a small cake of soap.

S E C R E T

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

16 July 1944

APPENDIX "B" TO E & E REPORT NO 829

1. The following information has been obtained in an interview with a sergeant who evaded capture in enemy-occupied territory.

2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but in that case it is important not to divulge any details as to the source.

Statement of information covering the period from 8 May 44
to 5 Jul 44

- a. At ST NICOLAS de PIERRE PONT the informant saw (10-15 June) a column of American P/W's marched under German guard toward La HAYE du PUIT. He estimated the number of prisoners at 100. An unidentified civilian who saw this column told the informant that the Americans were being pushed and kicked by German guards. (Observation and hearsay.)
- b. Near ST SAUVEUR de PIERRE PONT informant saw a column of Frenchmen, their hands bound with cord, being marched along the road by German guards. Informant was told by a civilian that these Frenchmen had been taken prisoner by Germans for entering forbidden zone along German front. (Observation and hearsay.)
- c. Informant was told by a reliable source at ST NICOLAS de PIERRE PONT that there is a great shortage of food in PARIS and that some civilians are on the verge of starvation. He was also told that civilians in Normandy had been sending, prior to D-day, meat and other foodstuffs to friends and relatives in PARIS to alleviate food shortage expected with the invasion. (Hearsay.)
- d. Informant was told by an unidentified civilian that Germans had issued an order shortly before D-day that all American and British airmen parachuting from planes should be fired upon by German troops. (Informant was fired upon while parachuting from plane and counted 25 bullet holes in chute after hitting the ground.) (Hearsay and experience.)
- e. Informant saw (20-25 June) while at ST NICOLAS de PIERRE PONT wounded German soldiers coming from the front. Some of these were completely demoralized, weeping, and asked civilians for first aid. Informant was told by civilians in ST NICOLAS de PIERRE PONT that German units lacked sufficient medical personnel to care for wounded troops. Informant overheard one German soldier remark: "The war is finished for us. It will be over by August." Another German casualty remarked: "The Americans have a great force.. We are lost. They are our good friends. Why do we fight them?" Informant speaks no German, but remarks were translated for him by a friendly civilian who also overheard them. Near ST NICOLAS de PIERRE PONT informant saw (20-25 June) two German soldiers pulling a small cart carrying wounded men from the front. Germans appeared to have no transport to carry casualties. (Observation and hearsay.)
- f. Near LAUNAY informant saw (25-28 June) German soldiers searching farmhouses and barns for hogs and chickens. On one occasion he saw German soldiers machine gun a farmer's flock of chickens, apparently for sport. (Observation.)
- g. At ST NICOLAS de PIERRE PONT (25-30 June) informant saw civilian homes that had been looted by German troops. Furniture and mirrors in these homes had been wantonly smashed to bits. Everything of value had been taken away by the troops. (Observation.)
- h. Civilians informant met were highly favorable to DE GAULLE as the leader of the French people.
- i. At ST NICOLAS de PIERRE PONT informant was told by a source who had talked to many German troops that the German soldier was uninformed about the situation at the front. Many German soldiers were under the impression that their forces still held towns captured as much as a week before by the Allies. (Hearsay.)

SECRET

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

Give number

829

13 July 1944

E & E REPORT NO. 1 (IS-9WEA/7/1/5)
EVASION IN FRANCE

Kenneth N HOUGARD, S/Sgt, 19170044
(25 Missions)
384 Bomb Group, 544 Bomb Squadron

TARGET: ?

MIA: 8 May 1944

Arrived in UK: 7 July - due chm
2 5 July 2

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	0-798297	1st Lt Earl T ALLISON	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-2044844	Capt Randolph JACOB	MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-800687	1st Lt John O CURTIN	P/W
BOMBARDIER	0-734967	1st Lt Jack C NAGEL	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	32040920	T/Sgt William F LAUBENSTEIN	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	35472350	T/Sgt William A CLEMENTS	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	37233420	S/Sgt Vernon H KAUFMAN	MIA
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WAIST GUNNER	19170044	S/Sgt Kenneth N HOUGARD	NARRATOR
TAIL GUNNER	0-447290	2d Lt Lester W HALL	P/W

BAILS OUT

DELAYS JUMP
GERMANS FIRE
AT CHUTE

We were just getting on the bombrun when we were hit in the midsection with flak. We started losing altitude quickly, and the interphone system was dead. I didn't get any orders to bail out, but the waist gunner released the escape hatch and I kicked the door open and bailed out. We were at about 26,000 and I pulled my ripcord at about 2000 feet. I had to pull the chute out with my hands. I could hear bullets popping all round me.

HIDES IN
TREE

HEARS PATROL

I hit the ground in a field near STE COLOMBE and ran over to a hedge at one side of the field and buried my parachute and mae west. I counted 25 bullet holes in my chute. I climbed up in the branches of a tree and stayed there until it got dark. Then I came out of the tree and found a barn in the field. It was moonlight. I could hear German motorcycle patrols on the road. I ate the candy from my escape kit and slept in the barn that night, burrowing into the hay.

GERMANS TAKE
RADIO

NO HELP

The next day I watched from the barn and saw some German officers go to the wrecked plane. They took the radio equipment and then drove off. I stayed in the barn all day. As soon as it got dark I went to the house on the same farm and knocked at the door. Some one said something that sounded like "Come in", so I walked in. There were two men and two women in the house. I told them I was an American aviator, but they apparently didn't understand or were afraid. All they would say was, "Non, non", so I left the farmhouse and started down a road to the south. I thought I was somewhere in the coastal defence area, and I knew it wasn't healthy to stay there.

RECONVOITRES

BRIDGE

I kept going down the road, dodging motorcycle patrols, until I hit a junction and a main highway. I went down the highway until I came to a mill on the DOUVE River. From the mill I watched the bridge across the river for a good long while to make sure that I wouldn't run into any sentries. When I was certain no sentries were on the bridge, I crossed the river and made my way to STE COLOMBE. / Stencil 1

FOUND
BY
FARMER

I didn't want to walk right into STE COLOMBE, so I stopped at the first barn I came to just out of the town. I slept in the hay there that night. About 1000 hours I heard some one putting a ladder up the side of the barn. I went to the other end of the haymow and tried to hide. But I could hear some one moving the ladder around to the window at my end of the barn. I knew then I couldn't get away, so I just waited. I heard the ladder being placed, and then a farmer came up into the haymow followed by his son. I told them, as best I could, that I was an American airman. They were both pleased

and brought the whole family up to see me. Some one was sent down to get me something to eat, and came back with eggs, bread and cider.

FRENCH BRING
CLOTHES

Before the day was over it seemed that all the Frenchmen in the neighborhood knew I was there. They brought an old black coat, a beret, some black shoes that were too tight for me, and a pair of old coveralls. The farmer had a daughter about 19 years old who could speak a little English. I asked her to get me some one who could speak English. She told me some one would come, so I waited in the barn. One Frenchman tried to give me some French money he had been given by another American airman who had been shot down. That afternoon another Frenchman came who could speak good English. From that point on my journey was arranged.

JOINS ESCAPERS

On 1 July the Frenchmen who helped me were ordered to evacuate by the Germans. I left them and joined two American officers who had been captured by the Germans but who had escaped and were hiding in a barn. One of the officers was an infantryman, 2d Lt John BOWLEY (uncertain of spelling). The other was a glider pilot, F/O Adrian (Buck) CARSON.

SEEN BY
GERMANS

On the way to the barn we ran smack into two German soldiers who were digging potatoes. The woman and the girl who were leading the way had taken the wrong path. The two Germans were just a few feet away when the woman turned to me and asked in French where the path was. My French was so bad that I was afraid we'd be done for if I tried to answer her. But just then I saw the right path and just said, "Ici". Those two Germans looked at me suspiciously, but they let us pass without saying anything.

When I reached the barn the two French women left me, and I put a ladder up to the window in the haymow, climbed in, and pulled the ladder up after me. The two American officers told me they had both been captured and were being taken in a truck past LA DETROUSSE when the road was strafed by our P-51's and the truck was hit and stopped.

AMERICAN OFFICERS
ORDERED SHOT

BOWLEY and CARSON told me that a German officer had ordered them shot when the truck was hit. But one German guard took the officers to some Frenchmen and gave them instructions to hide the Americans. This German guard said he would go back and tell the German officer that he had shot them. BOWLEY told me that the Frenchmen had hidden them in the haymow. They were waiting there until they should be overrun by the American troops.

RAIDS GARDEN

I stayed in the barn with the two officers for four days. The first day a French woman brought us some milk, but the next day we didn't get any food because there were so many Germans about. We finally got so hungry that I decided to risk getting some food. I climbed out of the barn and got some peas, onions and lettuce from the garden. We made a meal out of that along with some old bread I had with me.

On 3 July CARSON came down with a fever and he looked pretty sick. BOWLEY was also suffering from his grenade wound, and he told me we couldn't stay there much longer without better food. I decided to take another chance and went to a farmhouse where I got three bottles of milk, a half bottle of whisky, potatoes, peas and a little meat from a Frenchman. We drank all the milk and ate the potatoes and peas, but saved the meat for the next day. CARSON didn't get any better. / Stencil 2

I left the barn again and went to a farm where I tried to get some help from another Frenchman. He was afraid to help us because there were so many Germans near. He kept saying: "American be here in morning. Be courageous."

HEAR AMERICAN
GUNS

I went back to the barn then and stayed there the rest of the day with the two officers. That night we could hear the Germans coming into the lower part of the barn to take some motorcycles they had stored there. But we could also hear the American guns firing and knew that our troops were getting close.

AMERICAN
VOICES

On the morning of 4 July our artillery began laying down a barrage on a hill just east of the barn. We just lay there in the hay, keeping quiet, and listening for American voices. When we finally did hear some voices we couldn't make out whether they were German or American, until at last we heard some one say: "Bring a squad of men and search the house!"

Lt BOWLEY and I were watching through the window and saw four or five Americans going down the road past the barn. One of them stopped for a moment, and Lt BOWLEY stuck his head out the window and yelled: "Hey, soldier! Stand there and don't let any one shoot at us. We're Americans!"

A lieutenant came up then and arranged to send the two officers to the hospital for first aid and to send me back to the rear.

We first had breakfast with a Frenchman at a farmhouse. The French people crowded around the American troops, shook hands with every one, and kissed them.

Compiled by

Approved by

Irvin H LUITEN
Major, Inf
IS-9(WEA) MIS

W S HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

APPENDIX "B"

a. Between 10/15 June informant saw at ST NICOLAS DE PIERRE PONT a column of American P/W's marched under German guard toward LA HAYE DU PUIT. He estimated number of prisoners at 100. An unidentified civilian who saw this column told informant that the Americans were being pushed and kicked by German guards.

b. Near ST SAUVEUR DE PIERRE PONT informant saw a column of Frenchmen, their hands bound with cord, being marched along road by German guards. Informant was told by civilians that these Frenchmen had been taken prisoner by Germans for entering forbidden zone along German front.

(cont'd)

APPENDIX "D"

1. AIDS BOX: I used the water bottle, compass, Horlicks tablets, one map and candy.
2. PURSE: I carried a red purse from which I used the maps and compass. I gave the 2000 French francs to helpers.
3. PHOTOGRAPHS: I carried no photographs.
4. LECTURES: I was lectured at group and found the lectures of value.
5. SUGGESTIONS: Everyone should have some knowledge of French.
Carry a toothbrush, razor blades and a small cake of soap.

SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~
I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "B" TO E. & E. REPORT No. 1 (I.S. 9 (WEA) 7/E&E/1) 5

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

No. 19170044 Rank Staff Sergeant Name Kenneth N. Hougard

Date of interview 6 July 1944 (Evaded in France)

N.B.—It is of the utmost importance that when giving information on the above subjects you state clearly:—

- (1) Date, time and place where you obtained the information.
- (2) Was it the result of personal observation or a report by someone else?
- (3) If not from personal observation who was the source (i.e., waiter, farm labourer, hearsay, cafe rumour, etc.), and how accurate do you estimate the source to be?

NOTE: When disseminating information from this report, the source will not be disclosed.

a 1. At St. Nicolas de Pierre Pont (148880) the informant saw (June 10 to 15) a column of American PW's marched under German guard toward La Haye du Puit (178841). He estimated number of prisoners at 100. An unidentified civilian who saw this column told informant that the Americans were being pushed and kicked by German guards.

b 2. Near St. Sauveur de Pierre Pont (147890) informant saw a column of Frenchmen, their hands bound with cord, being marched along road by German guards. Informant was told by civilian that these Frenchmen had been taken prisoner by Germans for entering forbidden zone along German front.

c 3. Informant was told by reliable source at St. Nicolas de Pierre Pont that there is a great shortage of food in Paris and that some civilians are on verge of starvation. He was also told that civilians in Normandy had been sending, prior to D-day, meat and other foodstuffs to friends and relatives in Paris to alleviate food shortage expected with the invasion.

d 4. Informant was told by unidentified civilian that Germans had issued order shortly before D-day that all American and British airmen parachuting from planes should be fired upon by German troops. (Informant was fired upon while parachuting

Evaluation of informant's credibility.

Key.

- 1.—Reliable. X
- 2.—Credible.
- 3.—Questionable.
- 4.—Undetermined.

Observation and
Hearsay

Observation and
Hearsay

Hearsay

Hearsay and
Experience

With the exception of items.....above, information herein has been given verbally by E. & E. to Location German gun positions near La Detrousse given by E&E to officers of American unit operating in that sector.

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SECRET

SECRET
I.S.9(WEA)

E. & E. REPORT NO. 1 (I.S.9(WEA)7/EE/1/5
APPENDIX "B", contd.

from plane and counted 25 bullet holes in chute after hitting ground.)

5. Informant saw (June 20 to 25) while at St. Nicolas de Pierre Pont wounded German soldiers coming from front. Some of these were completely demoralized, weeping, and asked civilians for first aid. Informant was told by civilians in St. Nicolas de Pierre Pont that German units lacked sufficient medical personnel to care for wounded troops. Informant overheard one German soldier remark: "The war is finished for us. It will be over by August." Another German casualty remarked: "The Americans have a great force. We are lost. They are our good friends. Why do we fight them?" Informant speaks no German, but remarks were translated for him by friendly civilian who also overheard them. Near St. Nicolas de Pierre Pont informant saw (June 20 to 25) two German soldiers pulling a small cart carrying wounded men from the front. Germans appeared to have no transport to carry casualties.

Observation
and
Hearsay

6. Near Launay (142880) informant saw (June 25 to 28) German soldiers searching farmhouses and barns for hogs and chickens. On one occasion he saw German soldiers machine gun farmer's flock of chickens, apparently for sport.

Observation

7. At St. Nicholas de Pierre Pont (June 25 to 30) informant saw civilian homes that had been looted by German troops. Furniture and mirrors in these homes had been wantonly smashed to bits. Everything of value had been taken away by the troops.

Observation

8. Civilians informant met were highly favorable to De Gaulle as the leader of the French people.

9. At St. Nicholas de Pierre Pont informant was told by source who had talked to many German troops that the German soldier was uninformed about the situation at the front. Many German soldiers were under impression that their forces still held towns captured as much as a week before by the Allies. (June 25 to 30)

Hearsay

SECRET

SECRET

RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD

Date: 6 July 1944

NAME: Kenneth N. Hougard

RANK: s/sgt.

ASN: 19170044

SQUADRON AND GROUP: 384th Bomb Group, 544 Sqn.

AIR FORCE: Eighth

AWARD RECOMMENDED: Air Medal *2*

REASONS (refer to E & E Report No. 1 (I.S.9 WEA/7/~~EE~~1/5

Staff Sergeant Kenneth N. Hougard displayed unusual courage and initiative in evading capture by the Germans after baling out of his plane May 8, 1944. He risked his own capture by German troops on four occasions by helping an infantry officer and a glider pilot who were hiding from the Germans in a barn near St. Nicolas de Pierre Pont in the La Haye du Puits area. He preferred to risk his life under shell fire from American troops in order to get back to his unit; whereas, he could have been evacuated along with his French helpers.

Marvin H. Luiten
MARVIN H. LUITEN
Maj., Inf.
I.S.9 (WEA), MIS

RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD

Date: 6 July 1944

NAME: Kenneth N. Hougard

RANK: s/sgt.

ASN: 19170044

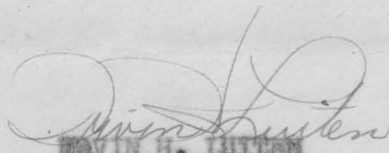
SQUADRON AND GROUP: 384th Bomb Group, 544 Sqn.

AIR FORCE: Eighth

AWARD RECOMMENDED: Air Medal

REASONS (refer to E & E Report No. 1 (I.S.9 WEA/7/1/5)

Staff Sergeant Kenneth N. Hougard displayed unusual courage and initiative in evading capture by the Germans after baling out of his plane May 8, 1944. He risked his own capture by German troops on four occasions by helping an infantry officer and a glider pilot who were hiding from the Germans in a barn near St. Nicolas de Pierre Pont in the La Haye du Puits area. He preferred to risk his life under shell fire from American troops in order to get back to his unit; whereas, he could have been evacuated along with his French helpers.


MARVIN H. LUTEN
Maj., Inf.
I.S.9 (WEA), MIS

SECRET

Kicks Open
Escape Hatch
Bails out

Our target, I think, was ~~gun emplacements in the~~
~~Cherbourg area.~~ We were just getting on the bomb run ~~and~~
~~bomb bay doors were just opening, I remember---when we were~~
hit in the midsection with flak. I think it was 88mm.
We started losing altitude quickly, and the interphone
system was just dead. I didn't get any orders to bail out,
but the waist gunner smelled powder and released the
escape hatch, ^{and} I kicked the door open and bailed out.

Delays
Jump

^{and I pulled my rip cord at about 2000 ft.}
We were up at about 26,000, ^{and} I remembered you were
to delay your jump if this sort of thing happened to you.
So I went down a long way before I pulled the ripcord. I
must have been at about 2000 feet when I did. A funny
thing happened then. The chute wouldn't open out and I had
to pull it out with my hands.

Germans Fire
at Chute

When I was going down I could hear bullets popping all
round me. I looked below and saw one chute hit the ground
before I did. There were three more chutes coming down
above me---way up high. I don't know whether they came
from my plane.

^{and}
I hit the ground in a field near Ste. Colombe (pin-
points landing at 195988). As soon as I got my feet on
the ground, I ran over to a hedge at one side of the field
and buried my parachute and mae west. As I was hiding
that chute, I counted 25 bullet holes in it. I realized
then that the Germans must have been shooting at me as I
came down, and that accounted for all those popping noises
I heard while still up in the air.

Hides in
Tree

I looked around for a good place to hide and finally
chose a tree. I climbed up on the branches and stayed there
until it got dark. From where I was sitting in the tree,
I could see the tail end of a ship from my Squadron. It
had a big "P" on it, and the last two numbers were "11".
The last two numbers on my ship were "11", so it might
have been mine. I could see another wrecked ship in the
field, too, but I couldn't identify it.

Hears Patrol

^{Then}
When it got dark, I came out of the tree and found a
barn in the field. It was moonlight, so I took it mighty
easy going over to the barn. I could hear German motor-
cycle patrols on the road. I ate the candy from my escape
kit and slept in the barn that night, burrowing in the hay.

Germans
Take
Radio

The next day I watched from the barn and saw some
German officers go to the one wrecked plane with the "P"
on the tail. They took the radio equipment out and back to
their car and then drove off. German soldiers kept wandering
along and taking bits of the plane for souvenirs.

Gets No
Help

That same day some German soldiers came out to the
plane and took three bodies from it. They put the bodies
in boxes and started digging some graves. But then a
German officer came along and said something to them.
They quit digging, put the bodies into a truck and drove off.

I stayed in the barn all day, waiting for night. As
soon as it got dark, I went up to the house on the same
farm and knocked at the door. Someone said something that
sounded like, "Come in", so I just walked in the door.
There were two men and two women in the house. I told them
I was an American aviator, but they apparently didn't
understand or were afraid. All they would say is, "No,
no", I figured they didn't want to bother with me, so I
left the farmhouse and started down a road to the south.
I thought I was somewhere in the coastal defence area,
and I knew it wasn't healthy to stay there. I wanted to
get farther inland.

SECRET

~~Uses Care
In Crossing
Bridge.~~

I kept going down the road, dodging these Nazi motorcycle patrols, until I hit a junction and a main highway. I went on down the highway where I came to a mill on the Douve river. From the mill I watched the bridge across the river for a good long while to make sure that I wouldn't run into any sentries. When I was certain no sentries were on the bridge, I crossed the river and made my way to Ste. Colombe.

~~Hears Noise
At About 1000
Hours Wed
Morning-~~

I didn't want to walk right into Ste. Colombe, so I stopped at the first barn I came to just out of the town. I slept there that night up in the hay. I guess I must have made some noise up there, because I heard someone putting a ladder up the side of the barn. I jumped away from the side of the barn where I heard the noise and went to the other end of the haymow and tried to hide. But I could hear someone moving the ladder around to the window on the end of the barn I had gone to. I knew then I couldn't get away, so I just waited.

~~Farmer
Finds Him~~

I heard the ladder being placed, and then a farmer came up into the haymow followed by his son. I told them, as best I could, that I was an American airman. They were both ^{pleased} happy as heck, then, and brought the whole family up to see me. Someone was sent down to get me something to eat and came back with eggs, bread and cider.

~~French Bring
Clothes~~

Before the day was over it seemed ^{that} like all the Frenchmen in the neighborhood knew I was there, and they were all bringing me odd bits of civilian clothes. Someone ~~one~~ brought an old black coat, a beret, some black shoes that were too tight for me, and a pair of old coveralls. The farmer had a daughter about 19 years old who could speak a little English, and that helped to make myself understood. I asked her to get me someone who could speak English. She told me someone would come, so I waited in the barn. One Frenchman came to see me and tried to give me some French money he had been given by another American airman who had been shot down.

~~Joins
Escapers~~

On 1 July the Frenchmen who helped me were ordered to evacuate by the Germans. I left them and joined two American officers who had been captured by the Germans, ^{but who} had escaped and were hiding at a barn at la Detrousse (143882). One of the officers was an infantryman, 2nd Lt. John Bowley (uncertain of spelling). The other was a glider pilot, ~~Flt~~ Officer Adrian (Buck) Carson.

~~Is Seen
By Germans~~

I went with a French woman and a girl to the farmhouse where the officers were hiding. On the way to the barn we were walking down a little path through a garden, and we ran smack into two German soldiers who were digging potatoes. The woman ^{and} the girl were leading the way and had taken the wrong path, which was taking us into a dead end against a wall. The two Germans were just a few feet away when the woman turned to me and asked in French where the path was. My French was so bad that I was afraid we'd be done for if I tried to answer her. But just then I saw the right path and remembered some of the little French I had learned. I just said, "Ici", and pointed to the right way. Those two Germans looked at me suspiciously, but they left us pass without saying anything.

SECRET

SECRET

When I reached the barn, the two French women left me, and I put a ladder up to the window in the haymow, climbed in, and pulled the ladder up after me. The two American officers told me they had both been captured and were being taken in a truck past la Detrousse when the road was strafed by our P-51's. ^{and stopped} The truck was hit during the strafing and immobilized.

Bowley and Carson told me that a German officer ^{had} ordered them shot when the truck was hit. But one German guard American Officer took the officers to some Frenchmen and gave them instructions Ordered Shot /s to hide the Americans. This German guard said he would go back and tell the German officer that he had shot the ^{two} American officers.

^{Bowley} The infantry officer told me that the Frenchmen had hidden them in the haymow. They were waiting there until they would be overrun by the American troops.

Raids
Garden

I stayed in the barn with the two officers for four days. The first day a French woman brought us some milk, but the next day we didn't get any food because there were so many Germans about. We finally got so hungry that I decided to risk getting some food. I climbed out of the barn and got some peas, onions and lettuce from the garden. We made a meal out of that along with some old bread I had with me.

Glider Pilot
XII

^{Bowley} On 3 July Carson, the glider pilot, came down with a fever, and he looked like he was pretty sick. The infantry officer was also suffering from his grenade wound, and he told me we couldn't stay there much longer without better food. I decided to take another chance and went to a farmhouse where I got three bottles of milk, a half bottle of whisky, potatoes, peas and a little meat from a Frenchman. We drank all the milk and ate the potatoes and peas, but saved the meat for the next day. The glider pilot Carson didn't get any better, and I was afraid we'd have to get some care for him.

I left the barn again and went to a farm where I tried to get some help from another Frenchman. He was afraid to help us because there were so many Germans near. He kept saying: "American be here in Morning. Be courageous."

Hears
American Guns

I went back to the barn then and stayed there the rest of the day with the two officers. That night we could hear the German coming into the lower part of the barn to take some motorcycles they had stored there. But we could also hear the American guns firing and knew that our troops were getting close. Boy, we were afraid we'd get caught by the Jerries just at the last moment.

Hears American
Voices

On the morning of July 4 our artillery began laying down a barrage on a hill just east of the barn. We just lay there in the hay, keeping quiet, and listening for American voices. When we finally did hear some voices we couldn't make out whether they were German or American, until Then at last we heard someone say: "Bring a squad of men and search the house!" We knew then that those were our infantry.

Lt. Bowley and I were watching through the window and saw four or five Americans going down the road past the barn. One of them stopped for a moment, and Lt. Bowley stuck his head out the window and yelled: "Hey, soldier! Stand there and don't let anyone shoot at us. We're Americans!"

SECRET

MAP USED: G.S.G.S. 4250, 1942
La Haye du Puits, Sheet
6 E/5, 1/50,000

- 5 -

SECRET

A lieutenant from the 79th Division (?) came up then and arranged to send the two officers to the hospital for first aid and to send me back to the rear.

French Are
Happy

We first had breakfast with a Frenchman at a farmhouse. ~~Those~~ French people were certainly glad to see the American troops. ~~They crowded around,~~ shook hands with everyone, and kissed them. ~~They were happy as heck!~~

SECRET

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E. & E. REPORT No. 829

No. 19170044 Rank Staff Sgt Name Kenneth N. Hougard

Unit 8th Air Force, 384th Bomb Grp, 544 Sqn.

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 or escape capture.

1. AIDS BOXES.

- (a) Did you use your aids box? Yes
- (b) If not, why not?
- (c) If you used it, state briefly when and where When came down
- (d) What did you use? Water bottle, compass, Harlick's tablets, used one map, ate all candy.
- (e) Did any of the items prove unsatisfactory? No
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box? After hid parachute, hid box, put contents in water bottle.
- (g) Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aids box might be changed, to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that it cannot be larger?

2. PURSE.

- (a) Did you carry a purse? Yes If not, why not?
- State colour of purse Red
- (b) Did you use it? Yes
- (c) If so which of the items in it were used? Maps? Yes
- Compass? Yes File? No
- Foreign currency 2000 Francs State countries and amounts used? 2000 Francs
- What was it spent for? Gave to helpers.
- (d) How did you dispose of: Maps Gave to Helpers. File Gave to Helpers
- Compass Lost Surplus currency None
3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? Yes, one small.

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS.

Did you carry any passport size photographs? If so, how many? No

Did you use them?

5. LECTURES.

- (a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? State where, when, and by whom if possible? Yes
- at 384th Grafton Underwood
- (b) Did you find the lectures of value Yes
- (c) Do you have any suggestions based on your experience which will help other evaders and escapers? Everyone should study French phrases. Difficult to get along in English. Carry on mission toothbrush, razor blades, small cake soap.

Distribution

H.Q. First U.S. Army.

I.S.9(W.E.A.) (3) - PW & X Det. M.I.S.
G-2 Div S.H.A.E.F.
(Less App. "C" & "D").
File.

If any further information is
required concerning this report
detailed application should be made
to I.S.9 (WEA) G-2 Div S.H.A.E.F.
giving the E and E Report No.

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) HOUGARD, Kenneth N.
Rank S/Sgt A. S. N. 19170044
Unit 384th Bomb Gp. 544th Sqdn.

Signed Kenneth N. Hougard
Dated _____
Witness _____

AG P BR HQ SOS

/22472

RESTRICTED

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

829
DATE: 8 July 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, P. OSCAR PICARD, 1st Lt., AC, 0-569761

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

KENNETH N. HOUGARD, S/Sgt., AC, 19170044

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.

Kenneth N. Hougard

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



P. Oscar Picard

The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as KENNETH N. HOUGARD,

S/Sgt., AC, 19170044 (544 Bomb Squadron - 384 Bomb Group)

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVADED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) FranceFor All Personnel.

1. No. 19170044 Rank Staff Sergeant Name Kenneth N. Hougard
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) Air Medal, 25 missions
3. Were you wounded? Give details No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 544 Sqn, 384th Bomb Group
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 8th A. F. 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Tail Gunner
7. Date of Birth 21 October 1922 8. Length of Service 1 year 9 months
5628 North Greeley Ave.
9. Peace time occupation Personal records clerk Private address Portland, Oregon
Union Pacific RR
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dogtags, identification bracelet
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

13. No. and location of O.T.U. _____
14. No. and location of Conversion Unit _____

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPSWHO BALE OUT

15. Post in Crew Tail gunner
16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.
N.B.—Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.
- PILOT Earl T. Allison, 1st Lt.
- CO-PILOT Capt Jacobs
- NAVIGATOR Don't know name
- BOMBARDIER Jack Nagel, 1st Lt.
- RADIO OPERATOR William Laubenstein, Tech Sgt.
- TOP TURRET GUNNER William Clements, Tech Sgt.
- BALL TURRET GUNNER Vernon Kaufman, S/Sgt
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) Jim Grinnitt, S/Sgt.
- WAIST GUNNER (L.) Narrator (Shw waist gunner this mission, normal tail gunner)
- TAIL GUNNER Lawrence Hall, 2nd Lt.
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-17, May 8, 1530, Grafton Underwood, England.
18. Where and when did you come down? May 8, 1700 hours, about one mile west of Ste. Colombe.
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Hid parachute, harness, mae west, boots in hedge.
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Does not know. (ship carried bombsight)

SECRET

P/W Section _____

LT COL SPENCER _____

Lt Col Starr _____

Major Simpson _____

Major Mellen _____

Capt White _____

Correspondence _____

P/W Records _____

✓ 289 W5a
will send us

1 Security Ctr. We to
forward it to Washington

ACTION: _____

Return to Files _____

For retention _____

For necessary action _____

Draft Reply _____

Pass to others in Section _____

Recommendations _____

Total Distribution _____

Keep ~~the~~ a folder
Distribute C as

usual

But 289 W5a

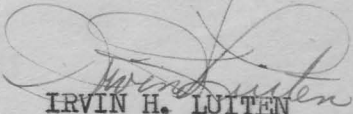
will keep main

folder with other of etc

CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 19170044 Rank Staff Sergeant
Name (BLOCK LETTERS) KENNETH N. HOUGARD
Unit 8TH AIR FORCE, 384th Bomb Group, 544 Squadron
has been fully/~~not~~/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9 (WEA) on 6 July 19 44
and has signed a Security Certificate.
He ~~should~~/should not/be re-interrogated.


IRVIN H. LITTEN

Majors Inf.
I.S. 9 (WEA)

IMPORTANT.

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH)
AN OFFICER OF M.I.9 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF PW. & X. DET.
M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office, Washington

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

6 August 1943

KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

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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.

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Major General,
The Adjutant General.

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b You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.

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Name (Print) Kenneth N. Hougard Signed Kenneth N. Hougard
Rank S/Sgt. A. S. N. 19170044 Dated 6 July 1944
Unit 384th Bomb Gp. 544 sgdn. Witness James D. Linton

RESTRICTED

SECRET

TOP SECRET.
I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. 1 (IS 9/WEA/7/EE/1/5)

If further circulation of this information is made, it is important that its source should not be divulged.

No. 19170044 Rank Staff Sergeant Name Kenneth N. Hougard

Date of Interview 6 July 1944

Meets Secret
Operative

The English-speaking Frenchman who came to see me on May 10 said he was in a secret organization. I don't know what his name was, and can't remember just what he looked like. Because there were so many Germans in the area around Ste. Colombe, he said he would send me to Paris. He made arrangements to have the farmer's daughter buy me a ticket the next morning. But later he met another Frenchman in another secret organization who advised him against sending me to Paris. He was told that there were 600 or more American airmen in Paris at that time and that it was becoming difficult to supply them with food.

Go To
Rauville la
Place

Before this interpreter left, however, he made arrangements for me to leave the farmhouse in the morning. I slept in the farmhouse the night of May 10. In the morning a Frenchman with gray hair, heavily built, and about five feet 10 inches tall came with two bicycles. He and I then started for Rauville la Place (214948). When we arrived he took me to the home of Monsieur and Madame Picot Gaston, a Rauville la Place, par Ste. Sauveur le Vicomte (Manche), where it was arranged that I stay.

I stayed with them for about a week and a half, sleeping in a room downstairs with a small French boy whose father was a prisoner of war. Most of the time I stayed in the house. Whenever Germans came, I hid in one of the rooms.

Policeman
Visits Him

Gaston had a radio set, and I heard the news regularly. One day a French policeman from Cherbourg came to see Gaston. I thought that I was done for when I saw him walk in with his uniform and carrying arms. But he seemed to be in the secret organization as well. He had a radio set with him and left it with Gaston. While he was there, he took my name and serial number and told me that he would let Paris know about my being safe and that Paris would let London know.

Monsieur Gaston seemed to know a lot about the underground. He knew names of a lot of people in secret organizations. He had hidden another American whom he called "Mississippi" and had sent him to a farm near Denneville.

A second interpreter came to see me one day, and brought me some books to read. He had been a prisoner of war in Germany and was now hiding some Belgians from the Germans.

Meets
Monsieur
Octave

While at Rauville la Place another Frenchman came to see me from Ste. Sauveur le Vicomte who was called Monsieur Octave (phonetic spelling). This man was finding hiding places for me. He was a short fellow, with a black mustache, and he always wore a big stiff, white collar. Everytime I saw him he was well dressed, and always came on a bicycle. He used to come to bring me news and on one occasion brought me some handkerchiefs.

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My helpers heard that the Germans were going to put a gun in a field near Gaston's place; so it was decided that I be moved to a safer place. Monsieur Octave had found a farm for me where it would be quiet and less dangerous.

Leaves For
Farm

Gaston and I left on an afternoon (I don't remember the date) in Gaston's horse-drawn buggy. Monsieur Octave went ahead on a bicycle to guide us. First we went to Ste. Sauveur le Vicomte and then to a large farm just out of Ste. Sauveur de Pierre Pont (147890). When we arrived at the farm, I was introduced to an old man there whose name I can't remember. There were about 15 people on the farm. I remember a girl about 20 whose name was Marie Rose, and two brothers whose names were Auguste and Ernest.

At this farm the second interpreter, who worked at some place in Cherbourg, came to see me to bring me some books. Monsieur Gaston, too, came to see me several times.

A priest, L'Abbe Raymond Hedouin, cure de St. Nicolas de Pierripont, came to visit me. He seemed to like me immediately and treated me wonderfully. He brought me shoes to replace those I had---which were much too tight. He also gave me new trousers and a sweater.

The Germans started putting some poles in the fields on the farm, so I was afraid I'd be found. When the interpreter from Cherbourg came to see me again, I told him I'd like to move because there were too many people at the farm, and I thought it dangerous.

Goes To Priest's
Home

The third time L'Abbe Hedouin came to see me, he told me to stay with him. He arranged that I borrow Marie Rose's bicycle, and I went along with him to his house. I think that was about May 23. We went to his house in St. Nicolas de Pierre Pont, and I stayed there that night.

The next day the interpreter from Cherbourg came to see me again. He told me that it was much safer for me to stay with the priest, and I was not to go back to the farm. L'Abbe Hedouin then went to the farm and told the people there that I had been sent away. I kidded him about fibbing to the people. But he said, "When a lie is for the good, it is all right."

L'Abbe Gives
First Aid To
Germans

L'Abbe Hedouin told everyone I was Belgian and was a nephew of his. He had only his maid with him, so I didn't have to worry much about being discovered. But I had to hide once in a while when Germans came to his house to get medical treatment. He used to help any of the Germans who needed medical care. Apparently the word had got around among the Germans that he was such a kind man, for when one of them was hurt, he'd be brought to L'Abbe's house. L'Abbe used to tell me that he didn't like the Germans, but that individually they needed help sometimes just like any other people.

Gaston, the interpreter from Cherbourg, and Monsieur Octave used to all come to see me while I was staying at the L'Abbe's house. They'd bring me news about what our bombers were doing and what was happening on the Russian front.

On June 5 Monsieur Octave came to see L'Abbe and brought him an armband with the Free French cross on it. He said the priest should wear the armband after the invasion, and

SECRET

then if he were captured by the Germans, he'd be treated as a prisoner of war.

Priest Has
Name Of
Casualty

The day after the invasion, L'Abbe went to Ste. Sauveur de Pierre Pont to give services for a P-47 pilot who had crashed there. L'Abbe had the pilot's name and serial number when he returned, and also a picture he had taken from his body. I never did find out the name of the pilot.

Gaston came to see me again after that and took my picture in order to make identification papers. He had the papers with him when he took my picture. He said he was also going to take a picture of the American he called "Mississippi."

We heard that the Germans were moving onto a hill just east of St. Nicolas. On June 10 L'Abbe, his maid, and I left and went to a farm about a mile to the west (143880) where we lived in a stable, sleeping in the hay. We were there when the Americans captured Ste. Sauveur le Vicomte. Monsieur Octave got through the lines somehow and came to see us at the stable. He was very happy and told us that the Americans had taken the town.

Then the Germans began putting in positions near the farm, and a lot of German troops were coming by on their way to Baudreville. We began thinking about moving again.

One morning I wandered out to look at the railroad tracks the Americans had been bombing and walked right into a German officer and a German soldier. The officer asked me in French how many kilometers it was to Ste. Sauveur le Vicomte. I told him as best I could in the poor French I had been able to pick up. He looked at me curiously, and then went on. I was terribly afraid that I would be caught for certain that time.

Moves
Again

One morning the priest was told to move because too many Germans were in the neighborhood. The three of us packed our things in a wheelbarrow, and went to another farm at la Hurie (143867). There were a lot of French people there who had evacuated from the areas where the fighting was going on. We all slept in the barn and ate our meals in the farmhouse.

I stayed at la Hurie for about three days, until the Germans started moving in there, too. L'Abbe and the French people there were starting to evacuate again. I told the priest that I was going to stay and wait for our lines to come up to me. L'Abbe was very worried about me, and afraid that I would be hurt in the battle.

When I was at the farm just west of St. Nicolas, I had been told about two American officers who were hiding out at a farm at la Detrousse (143862). I had gone to see them twice, and L'Abbe had gone to give one of them, an infantry officer, treatment for grenade wounds. So I decided I'd now hide out with them.

When I left L'Abbe for the farm at la Detrousse, he and his maid were evacuating to LaHaye du Puits.

SECRET
- 4 -

Some American evaders in Paris are being betrayed by girl friends, according to the interpreter from Paris. He said that some of the Americans have several girl friends and are betrayed to the Germans by one who becomes jealous.

The interpreter told me that an airman, Lt. Laurence Hall, had been captured by the Germans. This may have been the lieutenant who went with us on the mission, acting as tail gunner.

SECRET

P/W Section _____

LT COL SPENCER _____

Lt Col Starr _____

Major Simpson _____

Major Melien _____

Capt White _____

Correspondence _____

P/W Records _____

*File in Hongard's
Folder*

ACTION: _____

Return to Files _____

For retention _____

For necessary action _____

Draft Reply _____

Pass to others in Section _____

Recommendations _____

Total Distribution _____

MITG (b)

File

Please take up with
I. P. (3). I suggest a B.O.
enclosing a copy of the
broadcast, the original
of which should be
returned to Col Holt.

2. I think we can
probably make a case
under Censorship's
Qualified Release dealing
with escaper stories —
particularly if the
B.O.C. did not submit
this.

MITG

Curt

8 June 44

2.
Pw ex (Lt Col. Holt).

Very many thanks for letter
as see this. We have taken
up with our Dept. Advisors re
Censorship. (I.P. 3).

M.I.G.

Lt Col. Holt
main

TO:

TS 9 WEA

MAJOR NELSON

P/W Section

LT COL SPENCER

LT COL OINBILL

MAJOR SIMPSON

MAJOR BIA KIMAN

MAJOR NELSON

CAPT WHITE

CORPUS LONDEGE

P/W RECORDS

D.O.M.I. (P/W)

Here is text of BBC

ACTING broadcast re an invasion. Please

For information Return to Files For retention For necessary action

Draft Reply

Pass to others in Section

Recommendations

Total distribution

W.I. 9. Please take up July 8. 7

W.S.H.

7 July 1944

TELEPHONE MESSAGE:

At Corps Headquarters the General (Eisenhower) met S/Sgt K. Hougard of Portland, Oregon. He had just come through the enemy lines. Hougard was a gunner in a Flying Fortress which was shot down over France on May 8th. Members of the French Underground saw him parachute to safety, they took charge of him, they fed and clothed him, told him later about the Invasion, and finally, they passed him through to the American Lines. He had just arrived and General Eisenhower promised to advise his Commanding Officer that he was safe.

The above was broadcast on the B.B.C.
Home Service after the 9 o'clock news in
'War Report' on 5th July 44

Asp.

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO
EVASION IN

(Date)

HOUGARD, Kenneth N. S/Sgt. 19170044

TARGET:

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

25

(No of Missions)

Date Missing in Action: May 8, 1944

544

384

Date Arrived in UK: Oct. 14, 1943

(Squadron)

(Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to
each man
and how you know

PILOT - 1st. Earl T. Allison

CO-PILOT Capt. Jacobs

NAVIGATOR

BOMBARDIER 1st. Jack Nagel

RADIO OPERATOR T/Sgt. William Laubenstein

TOP TURRET GUNNER T/Sgt. William Clements

ALL TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt. Vernon Kaufman

WAIST GUNNER - S/Sgt. K. Hougard

WAIST GUNNER S/Sgt. Jim GRIMMITT

TAIL GUNNER 2nd LT. Hall

Were you wounded?

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO 5 (WEA)
EVASION IN France

(Date)

Kenneth N HOUGARD, S/Sgt, 19170044

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

25 (No of Missions)

384 Bomb Group

544 Sq. (Squadron)

(Group)

TARGET:

Date Missing in Action: 8 May 1944

Date Arrived in UK: _____

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to
each man
and how you know
MIA

PILOT	✓O-2044844	Capt Randolph JACOB	MIA
CO-PILOT	✓O-798297	1st Lt Earl T ALLISON	MIA
NAVIGATOR	✓O-800687	1st Lt John O CURTIN	P/W
BOMBARDIER	✓O-734967	1st Lt Jack C NAGEL	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	✓32040920	T/Sgt William B LAUBENSTEIN	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	✓35472350	T/Sgt William A CLEMENTS	MIA
MIDDLE TURRET GUNNER	✓37233420	5(?) Sgt Vernon H KAUFMAN	MIA
WALIST GUNNER	✓19170044	S/Sgt Kenneth N HOUGARD	NARRATOR
WALIST GUNNER	✓16018325	Sgt James H GRINNETT	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	O-447290	2d Lt Lester W HALL	P/W

Were you wounded?

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

APO 595, U S Army,
6 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Letter Orders.

TO : S/Sgt Kenneth N Hougard, 19170044.

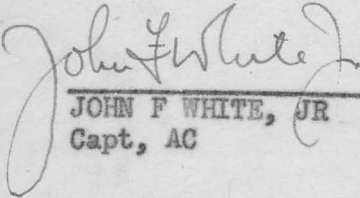
You will proceed o/a 6 July 1944 from Northolt, England to London, England. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/40425.

By command of Major General QUESADA:

J. J. CLARK, SR,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adj General.

R E S T R I C T E D

A TRUE COPY:


JOHN F WHITE, JR
Capt, AC

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

APO 595, U S Army,
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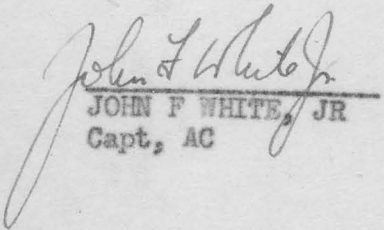
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212/40425.

By command of Major General QUESADA:

J. J. CLARK, SR,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adj General.

R E S T R I C T E D

A TRUE COPY:


JOHN F WHITE, JR
Capt, AC

Capt. Blunden

M.I.9(b)

WEE

As requested.

Liaison, BBC

7 July 44

R.S.P. MacKean
Major, G.S.

W.

EXTRACT FROM WAR REPORT. 5th JULY 1944, 9.00 p.m.

Robert Barr: (BBC correspondent):

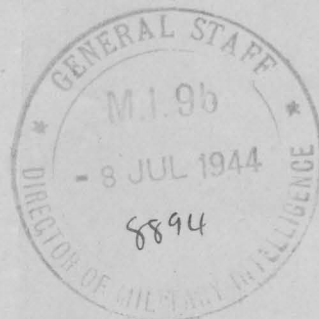
At a Corp Headquarters the General (Eisenhower) met Staff Sgt. K. N. Hougard of Portland, Oregon, who had just come through the enemy lines. Hougard was a gunner in a Flying Fortress which was shot down over France on May the 8th. Members of the French underground saw him parachute to safety, they took charge of him - they fed and clothed him, told him later about the invasion and finally they passed him through to the American lines. He had just arrived and General Eisenhower promised to advise his Commanding Officer that he was safe.

John Snagge:

From another of our correspondents in France, Pierre Lefevre, comes a despatch describing in detail the work of the French Underground which saved this American gunner from capture. Because this work is carried on behind the enemy lines, great secrecy has to be preserved and that's why Lefevre can't always mention the names of the places. But still his story gives some idea of the extent of the operations of this unseen Allied Army.

MAP OF THE MAQUIS

File in Hougard's folder



RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
IX TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

APO 595, U S Army,
6 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Letter Orders.

TO : S/Sgt Kenneth N Hougard, 19170044,

You will proceed o/a 6 July 1944 from Northolt, England to London, England. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/40425.

By command of Major General QUESADA:

J. J. CLARK, SR,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adj General.

RESTRICTED

REF ID: A66501
La Haye du Puits,
Sheet 6 of 5
G.S.C.S. 4250, 1942

TOP SECRET
1.2.9 (WEA)
E. & E. REPORT No. 1 (18 9/1947)
1/50,000

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVASION CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

For All Personnel.

1. No. 19170044 Rank Staff Sergeant Name Kenneth N. Housard
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) Air Medal, 25 missions
3. Were you wounded? Give details No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 544 Sqn, 584th Bomb Group
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 8th A. F. Job (Pl. Comd., Rtn., etc.) Tail Gunner
6. Date of Birth 21 October 1922 Length of Service 1 year 9 months
7. Peace time occupation Union Pacific RR Personal records of private address 5838 North Greeley Ave. Portland, Oregon
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Doctags, identification bracelet
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

13. No. and location of O.T.U.
14. No. and location of Conversion Unit

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

15. Post in Crew Tail Gunner
16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.
N.B.—Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.
Pilot Bert T. Allison, 1st Lt.
CO-PILOT Capt Jacobs
NAVIGATOR Don't know name
BOMBARDIER Jack Nagel, 1st Lt.
RADIO OPERATOR William Lubenstein, Tech Sgt.
TOP TURRET GUNNER William Clements, Tech Sgt.
BALL TURRET GUNNER Vernon Kauffman, S/Sgt
WAIST GUNNER (R.) Jim Grimmett, S/Sgt.
WAIST GUNNER (L.) Narrator (8th Air Force, 58th Bomb Group)
TAIL GUNNER Lawrence Hall, 2nd Lt.
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-17, May 8, 1930, Gatton Underwood, England.

18. Where and when did you come down? 1700 hours, about one mile west of Ste. Colombe.
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mac wess? hid parachute, harness, boots in hedge.
20. Does not know. (Ship carried bombight)
- Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA) 6 July 1947
- Date 6 July 1947
- Attached: Appendix "B"
- Appendix "C"
- " "D"
- Disposal: E & E sent to UK
- Major, Jay