

SECRET

M.I.9/S/P.G. (-) 1525

EVADED CAPTURE IN FRANCE.

The information contained in this report is to be treated as
MOST SECRET.

STATEMENT BY

1334647 F/Sgt. (Temp) WOOD, George Albert, 263 Sqn. Fighter Command, R.A.F.

Arrived : U.K. 1 Nov 43

Date of Birth: 25 Jan 22 Peacetime Profession: Laboratory Assistant
R.A.F. Service: R.A.F.V.R. Since Mar 41.
O.T.U.: No. 61 O.T.U. REDNAL Private Address: 7 Thornton Road,
Post in crew: Pilot. WIMBLEDON,
S.W. 19.

1943

I was piloting a fighter-bomber which took off from BOLTHEAD, SALCOMBE, at about 1120 hrs on 23 Sep 43 to dive-bomb MORLAIX airfield. I reached my target at 1200 hrs, bombed my objective, but was hit by flak just as I released my bombs. I got into a left-hand spin out of control; the controls had been destroyed. I had to bale out from a fairly low altitude and came down on the outskirts of the airfield, about 3 kms. N.E. of MORLAIX.

Baled out
23 Sep

I landed in a wood, very near a light gun position. It was manned by only one German. In fact, while I was in the air, I heard single shots being fired at me. (I heard later from the French that the German had orders not to leave his gun.) I had no time to destroy my parachute and harness, which was entangled in a tree. I threw my gloves and helmet away and ran, wearing my mae west and transferring my escape kit from it to my pockets.

I reached a field in which there were some piles of wood, and managed to push my mae west under one of these. I continued to run away from the airfield in a N.W. direction, so as to put as much distance between myself and the airfield as possible. I managed to evade making contact with anybody for the remainder of that day. When darkness fell I attempted to cross the river DOSSEN (FRANCE 1:250,000, Sheet 7), as I had seen a monastery on the other side, at which I thought I might get help, but sank up to my waist in mud, and had to give up the attempt.

24 Sep

I made my way back to a farm at PLOUJEAN (4 kms. North of MORLAIX) which the Germans had searched. I had noticed that they had avoided a haystack, and was intending to make for this. I found a barn and was making myself comfortable at about dawn (24 Sep) when I was surprised by a lad, bursting in. He fetched his "patron" and after giving me some coffee, bread and wine, a jacket and pullover, the people prepares a hiding place in the haystack.

/I was visited

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W). M.I.5. 2 Nov 43.

APPENDIX C - Escape Information
Distribution: D.D.M.I. (P/W). I.S.9.
I.S.9(W). M.I.6. (for I.S.9(D)).
MIS-X, ETOUSA. File.

Distribution of this Report:

D.D.M.I. (P/W). M.I.9. I.S.9. I.S.9(W).
M.I.9(d). M.I.19. M.I.6 (for I.S.9(D)).
M.O.1(S.P.) (Lt.-Col. Butters). A.I.1(a) P/W.
W/Cdr. Harrison (A.L.O., M.I.9). MIS-X, ETOUSA.
G.S. "I", British Army Staff, Washington, for
POW Branch, MIS, War Dept (for COOK for JONES)
(2 copies)

APPENDIX D - Equipment and Training
Distribution: M.I.9(d). I.S.9.
I.S.9(W). W/Cdr. Harrison.
MIS-X, ETOUSA. File.

C.S.O.2., G.S. "I", B.A.S. Washington.
C.I.O., H.Q: Bomber Command, R.A.F.
Fighter Command, R.A.F. (2 copies).
Coastal Command, R.A.F.
Transport Command, R.A.F.
Tactical Air Force, R.A.F.

File.

I was visited during the morning by a man who was collecting produce from the farm who spoke a little English. He went into MORLAIX and made contact with a man who wrote a message on a piece of paper to the effect that I should lie low for two or three day. Later in the day another man came to check my identity. From this point onwards I was helped on my journey.