

SECRET.

H.I. 2/3/P.G./LIB/550.

The information contained in this report is to be treated as

SECRET.

STATEMENT BY

1581317 W.O. WESLEY, Laurie, 207 Sqn., Bomber Command, R.A.F.

Captured: PARIS 4 Jul 44

Liberated: TRENDHORST 2 May 45

Date of Birth: 19 Jul 22

Peacetime Profession: Clerk (Transport)

R.A.F. Service: Since 18 Dec 41

Private Address: 23 Hurst Road,  
Smethwick, Staffs.

1. EVASION and CAPTURE.

I was the bomb aimer of a Lancaster aircraft returning from an attack on MAILLY-LE-CAMP on the night of 3/4 May 44 when we were attacked by a fighter. The aircraft was hit several times and we got the order to bale out. I landed among some young trees near the village of DORDIVES. The time was about 0030 hrs.

I could not hide my parachute as it was firmly entangled in the trees so I decided to get as far away from the area as possible before daylight. About dawn I got into a wood where I hid up until evening. I had lost my flying boots when I baled out and was not in very good shape for walking far. However I came on some houses not far from my hiding place and I decided to seek help. At the first house I called at the people would have nothing to do with me so I walked down the road a little way and approached another house. Here I was taken in and given food and a bed to rest in. The occupants of the house spoke some English and suggested that I should stay with them until the Allies arrived. They had abundant confidence in the British and were sure that invasion was imminent.

I stayed on in the hope that I would be able to contact the organisation but after almost eight weeks during which time there were no developments I decided to leave. By this time the food situation was becoming very difficult into the bargain.

My friends gave me some civilian clothes and on 27 Jun 44 I set off, my objective being RENNES, having been given an address there by my friends. From there I hoped to be able to reach the Allied lines.

After three days travel I reached a village near ORLEANS and as my food was running low I decided to seek further help. I approached a house in the village where I was taken in and given a meal and a bed to rest in. My feet were also in need of attention by this time as the shoes which I had been given were not a very good fit.

During the day I had a visit from a man who, I believe, was a member of the local resistance group and that night he and two friends took me to a cross roads where I met two gendarmes who took me by bicycle to an isolated house on the railway about 10 miles away.

At this house I met two Americans of the U.S.A.A.F. whose names I have now forgotten. The next day in early afternoon a car arrived in which there was an American evader, T/Sgt MACLENNAN and also a man who drove this car /and a young.....

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W) on 11 Aug 45.

Distribution of this report.

D.D.M.I. (P/W), I.S.9., I.S.9(A.B.),  
I.S.9(W), A.I.1(a)P/W (2 Copies),  
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APPENDIX A.

Distribution.

I.S.9., I.S.9(A.B.),  
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and a young woman, both French I think. This young woman was about 28 years of age, buxom, vivacious, heavily made up and not particularly attractive. Her hair was straw blonde and obviously dyed with the darker hair showing at the roots.

We all got into the car and drove to PARIS, arriving there at about 1900 hrs. By this time I was beginning to become somewhat suspicious. In the first place this girl had told us that we would probably be flown to the U.F. from an airfield near PARIS which sounded rather elaborate to me and secondly at the road blocks through which we passed the driver simply showed a pass of some sort to the guards who let us pass without any examination of the occupants - a somewhat motley bunch.

Upon arrival in PARIS we stopped at a public phone box while the driver (as he said) phoned to advise the people to whom we were being taken. After dropping the girl we drove to the Piccadilly Hotel (I believe) where a man was waiting for us. I was shown to a room with MCCLANAHAN where we stayed until 4 Jul.

During our stay at the hotel we were visited by two men who "interrogated" us. They said that they had to ask us certain questions just to establish our identity and they noted answers down on what I saw was a "Red Cross" form. When they got down to such questions as Squadron, Station and C.O. I shut up.

They both spoke English, one of them with an accent that sounded to me like American. This man was powerfully built, about 38 years of age and I heard him referred to as the Captain. Accompanying them during the interrogation was the man who brought us our food and whom I took to be that proprietor of the hotel. He was a middle aged man, tall and slim, going bald and wearing glasses with rather thick lenses. He was cleanshaven.

On 4 Jul MCCLANAHAN and I were taken by car to what turned out to be the Ge. tape H.Q.

2. CAMPS IN WHICH IMPRISONED.

- |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| (1) FRESNES Prison (PARIS)          | 4 Jul - 15 Aug 44    |
| (2) BUCHENWALDE Concentration Camp. | 20 Aug - 17 Oct 44   |
| (3) STALAG LUFT III (SAGAN)         |                      |
| (TREIBSTEDT)                        |                      |
| (TRENDORST)                         | 21 Oct 44 - 2 May 45 |

3. ATTEMPTED ESCAPES.

Nil.

4. LIBERATION.

I was liberated at TRENDORST by units of 2nd British Army on 2 May 45.

TOP SECRET.

APPENDIX A.  
M.I.9/S/P.G./LIB/550.

The following information was obtained from BRITISH personnel who have been repatriated.

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

NAME, etc:- 1581817 W.O. WESLEY, Laurie, 207 Sqn., Bomber Command, R.A.F.

DATE OF INTERVIEW:- 11 Aug 45.

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>NAME AND ADDRESS.</u>	<u>REMARKS.</u>
(1) 4 May - 27 Jun 44.	M. MULLER and daughter Gaby Sous le Vignes, DORDIVES, Loivet, France.	Food, shelter and civilian clothing.

I.S.9(W),  
25 Sep 45.

*Ken* *Induckee S/O*  
Major, I.O.

APPENDIX A.  
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