

SECRET.

M.I.9/S/P.G/LIB/1519.

The information contained in this report is to be treated as

SECRET.

STATEMENT BY.

171436 F/O SPIERENBURG, SA. 582 Sqn (D.F.F.) Bomber Command, R.A.F.
Captured: PARIS 14 Jul 44. Liberated: 28 Apr 45.
Date of Birth: 17th May 1920 Peacetime Profession: Nil
R.A.F. Service: 21 Nov 1941 Private Address: 290 Laan-Van, N.O
Indie,
The Hague,
HOLLAND
or
65, Jesmond Park,
West, Newcastle-on-
Tyne.

1. EVASION AND CAPTURE.

I took off in a Lancaster from LITTLE STAUGHTON at approximately 2200 hrs 25 Jun 44. The target was BLAINVILLE-SUR-MER. We were attacked by fighters on the way to the target and in the first attack the rudder was shot away. I managed to right the machine but the wing had been partly shot away. The intercom had gone dead, so I gave a verbal order to bale out. I landed in a hamlet in the vicinity of CHATEAU-THUERRY. On landing I tore up all papers and buried my maewest, and parachute. I began to walk in a southerly direction. At daybreak I sighted a farm and approached it. There was a disagreement between husband and wife and seeing that I would get no help, I left. About 1 km down the road I met a farm hand and eventually persuaded him that I was R.A.F. and he took me into a wood and told me to rest. He returned about 1/2 hour with food and wine.

After he brought a village priest to me who supplied me with a civilian suit. Soon after another man arrived on a motor cycle and he took me on the back to several villages and finally we came to a small village (name not known) near VILLERS-COTTERETS (near SOISSONS) where I stayed four days. I was fed and sheltered here and did not leave the house. The owner of the house arranged for me to go to PARIS by train and I arrived there on the evening of 3rd Jul 44. I was accompanied by the owner of the house and as we arrived late in PARIS we spent the night on the station. The following morning this woman took me to her mother's house where I stayed about a week. Later I was seen by a man called JACQUES who moved me to another house. Later I was taken to the Hotel ETOILE and stayed there three or four days. During this time I was seen by an English-woman, a Mrs. CRAIG of BRIGHTON. I saw her only once and she was not able to aid me. On 14 Jul 44, a man (name unknown) came to /the hotel

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9 (W) 1st Nov 45.

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the hotel and told me to get ready to go to LYONS. We went out to the car and I realised by looking at the driver that I was in the hands of the Germans. I was first taken to the PALAIS de SECURITE and later to FRESNES Prison. I spent about a month here and was then taken to BUCHENWALDE by cattle truck under very bad conditions.

2. CAMPS IN WHICH IMPRISONED.

FRESNES	PARIS	Jul 44 - Aug 44
CONCENTRATION CAMP	BUCHENWALDE	Aug 44 - Nov 44
STALAG LUFT III	SAGAN	Nov 44 - Feb 45
MILAG NORD	BREMEN	Mar 45 - Apr 45

3. ATTEMPTED ESCAPES.

In Feb 45 S/Ldr. MATHERS and I escaped from a wood cutting party and walked for about five nights in an attempt to join the British forces. We reached STEDDORF and here were taken in and fed by the Burgomaster, HARRY TILKE who later took us in a cart to ZEVEN and there we were picked up by a Marine Guard and taken to MILAG NORD. 3 weeks later we were liberated.

4. LIBERATION.

I was liberated in Apr 45 by the Guards Armoured Brigade and reached U.K. 10 May 45

BY: (w) ...

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