

SECRET

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

Handwritten initials and date:
corrected 11 June 44

5 June 1944

E & E REPORT NO. 654
EVASION IN FRANCE

Hobart C TRIGG, S/Sgt, 16073581
(3 Missions)
351 Bomb Squadron, 100 Bomb Group

TARGET: PARIS

MIA: 16 September 1943
Arrived in UK:
21 May 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	0-795862	2d Lt	Arthur M VETTER	E&E RPT 260
CO-PILOT	0-741943	2d Lt	Donald Glenn SMITH	P/W
NAVIGATOR	0-734944	2d Lt	Wendell L McCONAHA	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-676542	2d Lt	James G BORMUTH	E&E RPT 311
RADIO OPERATOR	33237317	T/Sgt	John M WAGNER	E&E RPT 254
TOP TURRET GUNNER	35333680	T/Sgt	Orval L PARSONS	P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	31172594	S/Sgt	Edward W FONTAINE	E&E RPT 275
WAIST GUNNER	32560807	S/Sgt	Edward M DALY	E&E RPT 653
WAIST GUNNER	16073581	S/Sgt	Hobart C TRIGG	NARRATOR
TAIL GUNNER	37461810	S/Sgt	Warren G LUSH	E&E RPT 310

(SEE EYE RPT 653)

My story in the aircraft is the same as that of the other waist gunner, S/Sgt DALY, E&E Report No. 653. I jumped at 2000 feet and pulled the ripcord while I was still in the slipstream. ~~the pilot chute opened immediately but the chute proper opened slow.~~ I pulled at it and it opened with a terrific jerk that knocked off my helmet. On the way down I undid my leg straps and chest buckle. Then I grasped the shoulder straps and held myself in a sitting position. ~~The ground came up fast. I hit hard on my shoulders and I thought I was going to break my neck. The aircraft hit at the same time about 50 yards away. I had been jerked free of my chute which hung in a tree, as I started to pull it down people began to come toward me.~~

I turned and ran up a road, threw my mae west under a bush, ~~and~~ crawled a quarter of a mile through an alfalfa field and lay still. A little while later some one ~~else~~ crawled through the alfalfa to me and shook hands. He ~~then~~ pointed to a nearby haystack. I got out of my electric suit and went over near, but not to, the haystack. I got out my aids box and hid my money in the lining of my shorts. ~~When with my compass I started to travel SW with out waiting for the Frenchman, because S-2 had always told me to lie low for twenty-four hours, so I thought it too early to accept help. I was, besides, too frightened to risk his being a collaborator. I stopped in a field to fill my pockets with sugar beets, and filled my water bottle at a brook. I came to some woods, but they were so swampy that I decided to travel on the roads. There was moonlight, but I kept in the shadows most of the time.~~

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USES
SHIRT FOR
DOG TAGS

~~USES
SHIRT FOR
IDENTIFICATION~~

About 0330 hours I started looking for a place to sleep. I found a roofed grain shelter, dug a hole and crawled in. I spent the whole of the next day lying there observing the people who traveled the road. At dusk I approached some people cutting clover. ^{an man} The husband was suspicious and held his sickle ready to hit me if I made a sudden move. So I opened my coveralls and showed them my T-shirt which was marked "U S Army Air Force" and ^{UNDE} also marked with a large pair of wings and propeller. They went into a huddle. When a boy came over the hill on a bike, I started to move on so as not to incriminate them, but they took my hand and ^{indicated} motioned that it was all right to stay.

Several people joined us, and each ~~time~~ I had to show my T shirt. We moved over to a haystack. I remained ~~here~~ while they went off and got me some bread, eggs, peaches and cigarettes. Then everyone left. I sat there

By SP5 NARA Date 5/17/50
Authenticity MM 17 00

and

~~AGREEMENT~~
~~USES INFORMATION~~
~~FROM BUREAU~~

eating for a while, then, when nothing happened I put the rest of the bread in my pockets, abandoned the raw eggs, and started walking again. I traveled along the roads, falling flat at first whenever any one passed, but there was very little moon and I ended up shuffling, as taught in evasion lectures, straight through two or three villages.

WARY
PEASANT
~~WARY~~
~~PEASANT~~

About 0300 hours I filled my pockets with turnips and began to ^{think} ~~worry~~ about a hiding place. The haystacks in the neighborhood were not suitable and I knew I could not clear the next town before dawn. Seeing a ~~group~~ of trees in the middle of a field, from which there was a good view of two roads, I went over. It was cold so I slept in a ~~heap~~ haystack until noon, and then crawled through the clover to ~~the trees~~. I was pretty wet, and I needed a shave. A man with a pair of oxen was plowing the field. I worked my way toward him. He saw me, loosened the oxen, and came toward me brandishing a thick stick. I showed him my T-shirt, and he shook hands. He took me to a friend of his who was a ~~peasant~~ shepherd. He took me into his little chuck wagon and told me to dry myself while he rounded up his sheep.

~~TAKEN TO~~
~~FARM~~
TESTED
FOR
GERMAN

At 2000 hours we started toward town. On the way we met the man of the ~~farm~~ who had a sack of food and wine ~~to give~~ me. Then he ran on ahead to a house into which we followed him after exchanging a series of whistle signals. Here I was given a glass of ~~eau de vie~~, which I at first mistook for water, and a piece of raw ham. An old lady came in and spoke to me in German. I don't understand German and did not give the incident much thought. I spent the night in a shed.

"YA" IS
DANGEROUS
WORD WHEN
READING

Early the next morning (18 September) ten to fifteen very tough-looking men came in. Soon we were joined by a man who could speak English. As he started to question me the men closed in around ~~us~~. He asked what I wanted. I told him food, ~~and~~ clothes and ~~then~~ to have some one burn my uniform. He asked why I kept saying, "Ya" ^{did he read the sign? it was}. I told him all Americans. They all vanished for a time. When the crowd returned, each man brought me something. I was given food, cider, a cigar, trousers, a shirt, and blacking for my shoes. My uniform was put in a sack and ~~set afire~~ ^{burned}. **AMERICAN AND**

SUSPECTED
OF BEING
GERMAN

^{Since} I learned that, as I was forty miles from the scene of the crash, ~~and was~~ blue-eyed ~~and~~ kept saying "Ya" I had been strongly suspected of being German. That evening they made me write out the names of the crew. My paper was compared with another slip which they already had. When the two papers agreed everyone became very pleasant and friendly. I joined S/Sgt DALY (E&E Report No. 653) the next morning, and from there on the rest of my journey was arranged.

JOURNEY
ARRANGED

Compiled by
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DOROTHY A SMITH
Capt, WAC

Approved by
W S HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

APPENDIX "B" - REPORT NO. 654

Due to ^{the} circumstances of evasion, all military information is the same as that in E & E Report No. 653.

APPENDIX "D" - REPORT NO. 654

1. AIDS BOX: I ate the Horlicks and chocolate the first few days ~~when I was~~
~~in my~~ The benzadrine was particularly helpful in ~~helping~~ ^{aiding} me to walk clear of the area of my landing. I chewed the gum to pass time; used the sewing kit to mend my trousers; the matches for cigarettes; the adhesive tape for cuts. I also used the compass, halazone and water bottle.
2. PURSE: I carried a red purse and used the compass, maps and money.
3. PHOTOGRAPHS: I had no photographs, as they had not been completed when I went down.
4. LECTURES: I was lectured in the USA. I wore GI shoes as taught in the lectures and reached Spain with good feet, although I was a long time on the way. Others in the party wore French shoes and regretted it.

By SR NARA Date 8/1/50

OUTLINE FOR TALKS

1. Complete description of everything that happened. in plane before jump.
2. Description of jump and landing.
3. Description of what you did with your equipment.
4. Tell story of experiences up to time you met the person who put you in contact with organization.

DO NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO HELPED YOU AT ANY TIME.

DO NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF TOWNS.

DO NOT GIVE ANY ADDRESSES.

5. How you crossed Pyrenees (General Location)
6. Your experiences in Spain.

Suggestions for others.

If there is some helpful incident that happened after you were picked up, do not mention it until it has been discussed with M.I.S. Interrogator.



RICHARD R NELSON
Major, AC