

MOST SECRETM.I.9/S/P.G.(-) 1488EVADED CAPTURE IN FRANCE.

The information contained in this report is to be treated as

MOST SECRET

STATEMENT BY

EP.12024 F/O. Soren Kjell LIBY, 118 Sqn. Fighter Command, R.A.F.

Arrived: U.K., 24 Oct 43.

Date of Birth:	17 Jan 20.	Peacetime Profession:	Student.
R.A.F. Service:	Since 9 Apr 40.	Private Address:	Hop Street, BERGEN, Norway.
O.T.U.:	No. 52 O.T.U. ASTON DOWN.		
Post in crew :	Pilot.		

1943

I left WEST HAMLETT on 16 Aug 43 at 1630 hrs to escort American Marauders which were on a bombing commission on an enemy aerodrome close to PARIS. The bombers were attacked by a large number of F.Ws. I went after four of them and found that I was being chased by further fighters. One was firing but appeared out of range. I must have been hit, however, as my engine caught fire and I had to bale out.

16 Aug
Baled out
East of
ST. VAAST

I came down at about 1730 hrs, 1 km. East of ST. VAAST (FRANCE 1:250,000, Sheets 3A and 8).

As there were French policemen in the neighbouring field I had no chance to destroy my parachute. I hid my mac west and ran towards the coast. There were several people about, but no one paid any attention to me. After about two hours I was approached by a farmer who asked me what I intended to do. He said that he thought it would be impossible for me to get away, but he gave me food, wine and a pair of civilian trousers. I decided to walk towards the coast in the hope of getting a boat. There was a wide stretch of mines with trip wire, which I had to cross.

On reaching the coast I saw no boats and went to sleep till dawn (17 Aug). I then made my way back and at about 0500 hrs I approached a French lad and asked him about German sentries and patrols on the roads. He put his arm round my shoulders as if we were old friends and took me past several sentries towards ST. VAAST station. My idea was to take a train to PARIS. I had no escape kit and no money, and the lad gave me 300 francs and then left me.

/I reached ST. VAAST

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W). 27 Oct 43.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).
G.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)
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File.

APPENDIX A - List of Helpers

Distribution: I.S.9. M.I.6 (for I.S.9(D))
I.S.9(W). File.

APPENDIX B - Military Information

Distribution: M.I.3. M.I.6. M.I.10.
M.I.14. M.I.19(2).
21 Army Group.
M.O.1(S.P.). A.I.1(a) P/W
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MIS-X, ETOUSA.
D.D.I.C. Admiralty. File.

APPENDIX C - Escape Information

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

APPENDIX D - Equipment and Training

Distribution: M.I.9(d). I.S.9.
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I reached ST. VAAST station and sat down on a bench outside. A woman approached me, and I disclosed my identity. After much discussion she and her husband decided to take a chance and help me. They gave me food and blankets and hid me in a wood. They thought it unwise for me to try and take the train to PARIS.

At 1000 hrs (18 Aug) I was taken back to the station building by another lad and given civilian clothes and a bicycle. From here I was helped on my journey by an organisation.