

SECRET.

M.I.9/S/P.G.(-) 2261.

EVADED CAPTURE IN FRANCE.

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

STATEMENT BY

Aus.423243 F/O Richard Norman JOHNSON, 101 Sqn., Bomber Command, R.A.F.

Left : BAYEUX, 4 Sep 44.

Arrived : U.K., 4 Sep 44.

Date of Birth : 15 Dec 23.
R.A.F. Service: Since Apr 42.
Post in crew : Bombardier.

Peacetime Profession: Student.
Private Address: 66 Birrigh Road,
Belle Vue,
SYDNEY,
Australia.

11 Apr 44
Baled out N
of AMIENS

We took off from LUDFORD MAGNA at 2230 hrs on 10 Apr 44 in a Lancaster aircraft. At 0300 hrs (11 Apr) I baled out North of AMIENS and, upon landing, hid my parachute, harness and map west under leaves and earth.

I started to walk in a North-easterly direction and whilst walking I met my navigator, F/O E.J. BURCHELL. We walked for two days, resting during the day time and walking by night.

RAINCHEVAL

Contact with
Resistance
Movement

When we got to PUCHEVILLERS (N.W. EUROPE, 1:250,000, Sheet 5, N 1975) I explained who we were to a labourer and asked if there was any help we could get. We were directed to RAINCHEVAL (N 2177) to a French-Canadian who lived there. We stayed with the French-Canadian for three days. He gave us some civilian clothes and during the three days contacted a resistance group at DOULLENS (N 18) and arranged for us to go there.

DOULLENS

On 16 Apr two men from the group came, with a F/Sgt. MACAULAY, and fetched us. We were given bicycles and taken to a house at DOULLENS. There we met S/Sgt. LEIBRING, C., U.S.A.A.F. We stayed at this house until 30 Apr, during which time we were joined by F/O DRAGE. We were all given identity cards.

/On 30 Apr

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W)
O.R.S., Bomber Command, R.A.F. } 4 Sep 1944.

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30 Apr 44
AMIENS

On 30 Apr we were taken by car in two parties to AMIENS (N 15). BURCHELL and I were taken to one house, the others went elsewhere. We stayed here for two weeks during which time we were joined by 1st Lt. RINKEL, U.S.A.A.F.

On 14 May the three of us were moved to another house, owing to the bombing.

On 21 May we were again moved to a house still in the same district. BURCHELL was moved from there to the country after a short time as his voice was too loud. RINKEL and I stayed there until 31 Aug when the British liberated the town.

31 Aug 44
Contact with
British troops

I was evacuated via BAYEUX and arrived in the U.K. on 4 Sep 44.