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TOP SECRET.

I.S.9(W.E.A.)/2/327/1023.

EVASION FROM FRANCE.

The information contained in this report is to be treated as

SECRET.

STATEMENT BY

Aus.400631 W/Cdr. D.R. DONALDSON, R.A.A.F., 463 Sqn., 5 Gp., Bomber Command, R.A.F.

Date of Birth: 7 Jan 15. Peacetime profession: Accountant.

Date of Enlistment: 17 Sep 40. Private Address: 52 Union St.,
BRIGHTON S.6,
Victoria, Australia.

Type of aircraft, place, date and time of departure.

Lancaster, WADDINGTON, 23 ? 24 Jun 44, 2300 hrs.

Where and when did you come down?

Near ST. POL, 24 ? 25 Jun 0015 hrs.

How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?

Left chute on site and hid mae west in wood.

/Left WADDINGTON 23 Jun 44.

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W.E.A.) 2 Sep 44.

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APPENDIX A.

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APPENDIX C.

D.D.M.I. (P/W).
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Left WADDINGTON 23 Jun 44.

I left WADDINGTON in a Lancaster on 23 Jun 44. My target was a V.1 site North of BETHUNE (N.W. EUROPE, 1:250,000, Sheet 2, H 32). While on my second orbit (we were a bit early on target) I was hit at 12,000 feet by heavy flak underneath the port inner which caught fire. In feathering the port inner, the engineer feathered the port outer as well and owing to a failure of our accumulators we were unable to un-feather the port outer. My port inner was still burning, rudder controls must have been shot away as I had no control over the swing of the aircraft.

Baled out.

I gave the order to bale out and heard the replies of some members of the crew. I saw the bombardier, engineer and navigator leave the a/c. I am not certain about the W/T operator and gunners. As I left the aircraft through the forward hatch I noticed my rev. counters all reading "nil".

Fired at in air.

As I was descending by chute I noticed three members of the crew being engaged by searchlights and light flak. Searchlights wavered on me, and some light flak was fired, doing no damage. As I neared the ground I heard voices, and rifle bullets seemed to come very close to me. I landed safely nr. ST. POL. I left my chute on the site and made for a nearby wood where I hid my mac west.

Bombers miss V.1 site.

The wood was bombed by allied aircraft. They were after a nearby V.1 site but missed it. Shortly after the attack I saw a V.1 being despatched.

The whole area was full of Germans and I had several narrow escapes but during the next four days I made my way towards AMIENS, meantime receiving food, civilian clothes from people who would not give any further assistance.

AMIENS bitter at Allied bad bombing.

I reached AMIENS by way of ST. POL DOULLON (?) keeping to the main road and walking by day. On arriving at AMIENS I noticed the bomb damage was severe, and the population seemed very upset, so I made for the next village of DOUAI. At DOUAI I contacted a Cure who sent me to a man who could speak English, and with whom a R.V. was made for the following day, in AMIENS. From this point my journey was arranged for me.

TOP SECRET.

APPENDIX C.
I.S.9(W.E.A.)/2/327/1023.

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.

EVADER'S NAME, etc.: - Aus. 400631 W/Cdr. D.R. DONALDSON, R.A.A.F.,
463 Sqn., 5 Gp., Bomber Command, R.A.F.

DATE OF INTERVIEW: - 2 Sep 44.

The main fact of my walking down the main road from DOULLON (no trace) (? DOULLENS - N.W. EUROPE, 1:250,000, Sheet 5, N 18) to AMIENS at this time aroused the Underground's suspicion, as they were very reticent to take me to any hiding. I learned afterwards that I had been very carefully watched and the other R.A.F. men with whom I came in contact were asked to question me very carefully to prove my bona fides. W/T with LONDON finally settled the matter.

I was in the hands of the organisation from 27 Jun - 31 Aug 44.

There were a number of R.A.F. and other service personnel in AMIENS and we all wanted to get on to Spain or to the lines, as at that time the CAEN bridge-head seemed static. The organisation who was looking after us refused to let us go.

E. A. Hughes s/o

for Lieut.-Colonel.

I.S.9.
22 Jan 45.

Distribution:
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I.S. 9.(W.E.A.) 2/324/1023

WARNING AGAINST GIVING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ESCAPE OR HOW YOU EVADED CAPTURE

This applies to Members of all Services and continues even after discharge therefrom.



1. It is the **duty** of all persons to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.

2. The Defence Regulations make it an **offence**, punishable with imprisonment, to **publish** or to **communicate** to any unauthorised person any information or anything which purports to be information on any matter which would or might be directly or indirectly useful to the enemy.

3. This document is brought to your personal notice so that you may clearly understand information about your escape or how you evaded capture is information **which would be useful to the enemy**, and that therefore to communicate any information about your escape or how you evaded capture **is an offence under the Defence Regulations**.

4. You must not disclose the **names** of those who helped you, the **method** or **methods** by which you escaped, the **route** you followed or how you reached this country, nor must you even give information of such a general nature as the **names of the countries** through which you travelled. All such information may be of assistance to the enemy and a danger to your friends. Be specially on your guard with persons who may be newspaper representatives.

5. **Publishing or communicating** information includes :—

- (a) publication of accounts of your experiences in books, newspapers or periodicals (including Regimental Journals), wireless broadcasts or lectures :
- and (b) giving information to friends and acquaintances either male or female, in private letters, in casual conversations or discussions, even if these friends or acquaintances are in H.M.'s or Allied Forces and however "safe" you may consider them to be.

6. F.O. (557-44)
A.C.I. (1896-43)
A.M.C.O. A89-44 } prohibit lecturing by escapers or evaders to any unit without prior permission of the Admiralty, War Office, Air Ministry.

TO BE COMPLETED IN THE PERSON'S OWN HANDWRITING.

I have read this document and understand that if I disclose information about my escape, evasion of capture I am liable to disciplinary action.

Signed Donald Donald Roy Date 29/100
 Full Name (Block letters) DONALDSON, DONALD ROY
 Rank and Number A/W/CDB
 Unit #63 RAMP 392
 Witnessed by V. H. ...

WHAT YOU MAY SAY.

By signing the attached document you have undertaken to maintain a strict secrecy about your experiences. It is realised, however, that your family and friends are certain to ask you questions. Below you will find suggestions for the best way of answering them :—

ROYAL NAVY.

(In similar terms to those for Army and R.A.F., altered to suit particular circumstances.)

ARMY (Escapers).

I was captured by the Germans (Italians) and sent to a prison camp in **Germany (Italy)**. I managed to escape and get back to this country, but I cannot tell you how I did that without spoiling the chances of others who are trying to get away. I am sure you will understand that I cannot tell you anything till after the war, and I have orders not to say more than I have already told you.

or

ARMY (Evaders).

I managed to evade capture and get back to this country. As many others are trying to do the same, you will understand I cannot tell you anything till after the war. In any case, I have orders not to say more than I have already told you.

R.A.F. (Escapers).

I was shot down by flak during a bombing raid. I baled out, and was captured and sent to **Germany**. I managed to escape from a prison camp and get back to this country. As many others are trying to do the same, you will understand it is not possible for me to tell you anything till the war is over. In any case, I have orders not to say more than I have already told you.

or

R.A.F. (Evaders).

I was shot down by flak and baled out. I managed to evade capture and get back to this country. As many others are trying to do the same, you will understand it is not possible for me to tell you anything till after the war. In any case, I have orders not to say more than I have already told you.

Full Name (Block letters) JOHN ALAN DONALD ROY

Rank and Number A/Platoon

Unit 463 RAAF Sqdn

Signed Donald Roy

Date 29/4/44

Witnessed by [Signature]