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SECRET.

M.I. 9/S/P.G. (-)2576.

EVADDED CAPTURE IN FRANCE.

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

STATEMENT BY

R.159028 F/Sgt. (now P/O) STEWART, Charles John, 405 Sqn., Bomber Command, R.A.F.

Left : FRANCE, 6 Sep 44.

Arrived : In U.K., 7 Sep 44.

Date of Birth : 3 Nov 21.
R.A.F. Service: 21 Mar 42.

Peacetime Profession: Labourer.
Private Address: KILLAM,
Alberta, Canada.

16 Jun 44,
Baled out over
CARENCY.

We took off from GRANSDEN LODGE in a Lancaster aircraft on 15 Jun 44 at 2359 hours. I baled out over CARENCY (N.W. EUROPE, 1:250,000, Sheet 2, H 40) at 0100 hours (16 Jun). After hiding my parachute I set out walking for some time after which I hid in a wood. About 1530 hours I declared myself to two farm labourers, who in turn contacted another labourer. This man came for me about 2230 hours that night and took me to his house in CARENCY where he gave me a meal and civilian clothing.

ACQ.
SAINS EN GOHELLE.

The next morning (17 Jun) I was taken by motorcycle to a farm near ACQ (H 30) where I stayed for two days, after which I was moved to SAINS EN GOHELLE (H 31) where I remained at various addresses until 25 Jul. On that day I was forced to leave as the Germans had discovered two American evaders in the village and it was feared that they would search every house.

I slept the night in a coal mine and the next day walked to SERVINS (H 31) where I found shelter with a man in the village.

On 3 Aug I returned to my former hosts at SAINS EN GOHELLE. On 25 Aug I was woken early by my hostess /who told me

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W).
O.R.S., Bomber Command, R.A.F. } 7 Sep 44.

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Rounded up by
Germans and
shortly afterwards
released.

who told me that the Germans had begun to search the houses. I left at once with my host for the coal mines. On the way we were stopped by five Germans who asked us our ages. When they heard I was 22 years of age they took me to a house where they had assembled about 100 young French boys. Luckily, the Germans had not troubled to search me or demand my identity card, which at the time that I was picked up I did not possess. My friends, however, were able to smuggle a false identity card to me by placing it in a sandwich which was sent in to a young man who had also been rounded up and was a cousin of my helpers. He handed me the identity card just in time, as soon afterwards the Germans demanded to see them. When I was questioned I could not understand a word I was asked, and the young Frenchman who had handed me my identity card, supported by all the other Frenchmen, told the Germans that I was crazy and dumb. I acted as though I were simple and was put with a group of suspicious characters. However, shortly afterwards I was returned to my former companions, and after being marched around and inspected, I was released, together with the rest of the men.

1 Sep 44,
Contacted Allied
forces.

On 1 Sep I made contact with an Allied Reconnaissance party and two days later was sent back through the lines.