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Spare

SECRET.

M.I.9/S/P.G. (-)2602

EVADED CAPTURE IN FRANCE
AND REACHED SWITZERLAND.

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

STATEMENT BY

R.81832 Sgt. HAMMOND, John Allan, R.C.A.F., 408 Sqn., Bomber Command, R.A.F.

Left : PARIS 10 Sep 44.

Arrived : HENDON 10 Sep 44.

Date of Birth : 13 Oct 20.

Peacetime Profession: Radio announcer.

R.A.F. Service: Since 10 Jan 41.

Private Address: 276 Elm Avenue,

Post in crew : Flight engineer.

ST. LAMBERT,

QUEBEC,

Canada.

Other members of crew:

F/O STEWART (N.Z.) (pilot) (P/W).

F/O C.H. LAMUS (bomb aimer) (S/P.G. (-)2573).

F/Sgt. LEITCH, D.D.P. (navigator) (P/W).

Sgt. MARSDEN, S. (wireless operator) (P/W).

Sgt. DAVIDSON, R.D. (R.C.A.F.) (air gunner) (safe in SWITZERLAND).

Sgt. HAMILTON, C.T. (N.Z.) (air gunner) (safe in SWITZERLAND).

11 Mar 43,
Baled out over
ROSIERES.

We took off at 1850 hrs on 11 Mar 43 from LEMING in a Halifax aircraft. I baled out over ROSIERES (GERMANY, 1:250,000, Sheet K 48, P 26) and walked through the woods towards the West until 0830 hrs (12 Mar). At 1930 hrs I approached a farmhouse at the junction of the COLOMREY-CHAUMONT road, received food, civilian clothes, directions to CHAUMONT and suggestions for a train to BELFORT (A 39).

I arrived at CHAUMONT LA VILLE (FRANCE, 1:250,000, Sheet 17, P 45) at 0930 hrs on 13 Mar on foot and took /the 1145 train

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W))
O.R.S., Bomber Command, R.A.F.) 11 Sep 44.

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W/Cdr. G.H. Doble, R.C.A.F. File.

BELFORT.

the 1145 train for BELFORT without incident, arriving at 1530 hrs. I then walked to the village of FOUSSEMAGNE (GERMANY, 1:250,000, Sheet K 48, A 49). I was alone all this time and arrived at a farmhouse at 1930 hrs where I received food and shelter until 18 Mar, when I contacted a French smuggler who volunteered to take me over the frontier.

GLAY.

I left FOUSSEMAGNE in his company at 1230 hrs on 18 Mar on bicycle to DAMPIERRE-LES-BOIS (A 37) where we stayed overnight. The next day (19 Mar) we travelled on bicycle to GLAY (A 36), waited until 2030 hrs and then continued on foot towards the frontier with an unknown guide.

19 Mar 43,
Reached
SWITZERLAND.

I crossed the frontier at approximately 2330 hrs at a point near the Swiss village of GRANDFONTAINE (A 36) and was arrested by a Swiss Douanier at 0230 hrs (20 Mar). I was then taken to TRUNTRUT Prison and released on 30 Mar when I reported to the British Legation in HERNE, and was interrogated.

I left SWITZERLAND with Sgt. ARNOLD (S/P.G.(-)2293) on 25 Aug 44. On 27 Aug we met Sgt. FRYER (S/P.G.(-)2292) at CHATEL (GSGS 4230, Sheet 1, (W) V 45) and from this point my story is the same as his.