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SECRET.

M.I.9/S/P.G.(-) 1999

EVADED CAPTURE IN ALSACE
and FRANCE.

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

STATEMENT BY

1812279 Sjt. VIRGO, Cyril Gordon, 166 Sqn., Bomber Command, R.A.F.

Left : GIBRALTAR, 24 Jun 44.

Arrived : WHITCHURCH, 25 Jun 44.

Date of Birth : 9 Dec 12.
R.A.F. Service : Since 5 Dec 42.
O.T.U. : No.18 (FINNINGLEY).
Conversion Unit: No.1462 (BLYTON).
Post in crew : Rear gunner.

Peacetime Profession: Plumber.
Private Address: 51, Wiverton Road,
SYDENHAM,
London, S.E.26.

Other members of the crew:

P/O JUPP (pilot) (Believed P/W).
Sgt. HOLDBROOK (engineer) (Fate unknown).
F/Sgt. LEIGH (bomb aimer) (Killed).
F/O COLAN (navigator) (Killed).
Sgt. WILDER (wireless operator) (Fate unknown).
Sgt. MORGAN (mid upper gunner) (P/W).

I was a member of the crew of a Lancaster aircraft which took off about 1900 hrs on 25 Feb 44 to bomb AUGSBURG. While over SAULXURES (ALSACE) on the way out we were attacked and hit by an enemy fighter. The pilot gave the order to bale out.

25 Feb 44,
Baled out near
SAULXURES
(ALSACE)

I came down in the mountains near SAULXURES (GERMANY, 1:250,000, Sheet K.49, (W)V 5678). I hid my parachute and flying kit in the snow, which was about 18 inches thick, and remained where I was until the following morning (25 Feb). Early that day I started walking South and about 1730 hrs that night I met an Alsatian on the road. I speak a little French, and with the aid of my phrases list I made him understand who I was and that I was in need of help. This man took me to his mother's house, where I was sheltered for eight days. During this time he asked me the names of the other members of my crew. He told me that P/O JUPP and Sgt. MORGAN had been taken P/W and that an officer and two sergeants had been found dead several hundred yards from the aircraft. He described

/F/O COLAN and

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W). 25 Jun 44.
O.R.S., Bomber Command, R.A.F. } 26 Jun 44.
European Intelligence, B.B.C. }

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APPENDIX C.

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Distribution: M.I.9(d).
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F/O COLAN and F/Sgt. LEIGH, but I am in some doubt as to whether the second sergeant was HOLDBROOK or WILDER. .

Before I left SAULXURES my helpers gave me some civilian trousers, a jacket and some boots. They took away all my R.A.F. uniform.

5 Mar 44,
ST. STAIL
(FRANCE)

On 5 Mar my helper took me by train to ST STAIL ((W)V 5176) which is about 200 yards over the frontier. Here he left me with a farmer with whom I remained until 15 Mar. From this point my journey was arranged for me.