

E&E 373 - Joseph Shandor

SECRET - AMERICAN
 MOST SECRET - BRITISH

HEADQUARTERS
 EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
 Z/W and X Detachment
 Military Intelligence Service

E & E REPORT NO. 373
EVASION IN FRANCE

16 February 1944
 (Date)

JOSEPH (NELI) SHANDOR S/Sgt 13083478
 (Name) (Rank) (ASN)

350 Bomb Sq, 100 Bomb Group
 (Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: FRANKFURT

MIA: 4 October 1943

Arrived in UK:

4 February 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWID)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-729854	Capt	Harold B HELSTROM	MIA	
CO-PILOT	T-60807	F/O	Hubert E TRENT	MIA	
NAVIGATOR	0-731274	1st Lt	Harold H CUTTICE	P/W	
BOMBARDIER	0-729559	1st Lt	Hilbert W PHILLIPPE	MIA	
RADIO OPERATOR	16044018	T/Sgt	Robert C GILES	E&E #333	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	19083107	S/Sgt	William D EDWARDS	MIA	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	37193193	T/Sgt	Carroll F HAARUP	E&E #334	
WAIST GUNNER	33267030	S/Sgt	Thomas F MEZYNSKI	E&E #374	
WAIST GUNNER	13083478	S/Sgt	Joseph (NELI) SHANDOR	NARRATOR	
TAIL GUNNER	19021292	S/Sgt	Charles E CRIPPEN	MIA	

Were you wounded?

5

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
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E & E REPORT NO. 373
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

Joseph SHANDOR S/ST. 13083478
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

350th 100th
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 21
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 19 months
HOME ADDRESS: POYTAGUE, PENN

MIA: Oct. 4th 1943
Arrived in Spain: JAN. 20th 1944
Arrived in Gibraltar: JAN. 31st 1944
Arrived in UK: FEB. 4th 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)
See Harvey + GILES

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	<u>HELSTROM - PRISONER OF WAR</u>	<u>(See Harvey + GILES)</u>
CO-PILOT	<u>TRENT - LAST KNOWN SAFE IN FRANCE</u>	<u>MACKAY</u>
NAVIGATOR	<u>CURTICE - PRISONER OF WAR</u>	<u>(See Harvey + GILES)</u>
BOMBARDIER	<u>PHILLIPPE - LAST SEEN 30 MILES FROM LAVANELET</u>	
RADIO OPERATOR	<u>HARRYUP - SAFE IN ENGLAND</u>	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	<u>GILES - SAFE IN ENGLAND</u>	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	<u>MEZYNSKI - UNKNOWN, PRESUMED SAFE IN HIDING</u>	
WAIST GUNNER	<u>EDWARDS - LAST SEEN 30 MILES FROM LAVANELET</u>	
WAIST GUNNER	<u>—</u>	
TAIL GUNNER	<u>CHIPPEN - LAST SEEN 30 MILES FROM LAVANELET</u>	

Were you wounded?

NO

just read two officers

PLANE
CRASHLANDS

After crashlanding in the vicinity of CAEN (For details see E & E Report No. 333-4) I joined Sgt Edwards and Sgt Crippen to start my evasion. We left the other members of the crew ~~at the aircraft~~ and started walking in a southwesterly direction. We thought once of checking over our escape equipment but decided to wait until further away from the plane.

AWARE OF
GERMAN USE OF
BINOCULARS

Keeping to thick woods and briar ~~patch~~ patches we skirted a small village, came out into open fields and walked along the hedge-rows just in case the Germans were searching the fields with binoculars. After covering about eight kilometers we stopped to rest by a cowpath and examined our Aids Boxes. Three evaders walking together were too many ~~to cover our identity~~ ^{we knew} but after discussing it, we decided to keep on ~~for~~ that way for awhile.

WALK AT
NIGHT

With ~~only~~ wire fences as our main obstacle we travelled about four kilometers further before stopping for ~~the night~~ our second rest. This time we stayed hidden until evening and started through the fields in the dark. Several times we ran into small groups of people who stopped talking as they passed us but it was ^{too} dark for them to see our uniform. About 0200 hours we got onto a dirt road and followed it until 0400 hours.

SECOND
DAY

We were near a farm and searched around the place for a haystack. Not finding it, we crawled into tall weeds growing along a fence and slept until daybreak. There was a large haystack about fifty yards away; we ~~secretly~~ got in it and stayed until 0700 hours.

~~There~~ ^{We found} a stream on the edge of the field in which we hiding, filled our waterbottles and tried to wash some of the dirt off our face and hands but were not very successful. We ~~didn't~~ felt in need of a longer rest than we'd had but our field ~~didn't appear~~ ^{wasn't} to be very safe because so many people were passing on their way to the farmhouse ^{which sold milk.} We moved into a field in back of the farm and took off our shoes and socks to dry them in the sun.

We saw a woman come out of the farmhouse and it took us a few minutes to realize that she was watching us and working her way up to get a closer view.

She watched us for about an hour; ~~she disappeared~~ ^{then disappeared} into the house only to return later with another woman, ~~so~~ I went down to speak to her. She was very frightened at hearing that we were American airmen but gave me a bag of walnuts, and indicated that she wanted nothing more to do with us.

We moved, not far away, to another field and stayed there all day. In the afternoon a Frenchman walked up, ~~looked~~ stared at us and then motioned that we were to stay there until evening, awaiting his return. Because he had looked friendly we waited and ^{he} brought food to us. We were puzzled as to where he had come from until the farmhouse woman came to us later with a pail of milk. We realized then that she had sent the man. We asked the Frenchman for clothes. He thought it over and told us that he would come back at 1930 hours. We waited until 2100 hours and began to get nervous when he didn't show up. We were feeling rested by that time so we started southwest through the fields.

Secure
food

At a main road we saw a man patrolling what appeared to be a power line and were careful to avoid him. We kept on through the fields, having trouble only with fences and high hedges. We kept going all night because it was too cold to ~~not~~ sleep in the fields but at 0630 hours we stopped at a haystack.

THIRD DAY

A farmer passed through the fields and refused to help us after ~~we~~ listening to our explanations. We picked some hard pears, ate walted milk tablets and sat in the haystack until evening. At noontime the farmer had passed by again; ~~and~~ we approached him a second time but could not even get information out of him. Before dark he came by a third time and this time he had food but he ~~was~~ was frightened and left us without saying anything. We had argued all day about directions because ^{neither we nor our compasses} ~~we~~ ~~two of our~~ ~~compasses~~ ~~nor~~ ~~we~~ agreed as to the direction we should go.

SPEND DAY
IN HAYSTACK

CENTRAL
AREA

Finally, starting out just at dusk, we kept to roads which we thought were going south and some of the time we cut through fields if we thought the road

TRAVEL AT
NIGHT

was leading us in the wrong direction. At 1200 hours we went to sleep in some bushes by the side of a road. An hour later it began to rain, making sleep impossible, but for warmth we ~~stayed~~ ^{lay} as close together as possible.

FOURTH DAY

At 0800 hours we got onto a dirt road. There was no traffic and we were sure it was leading in the general direction of south. It was too cloudy to get a ~~sun bearing~~ bearing on the sun. We met one wagon while walking about five kilometers, but we had heard it far enough away to hide before it was in sight.

Recognised
BY TWO
FARMERS

We approached a village cautiously with but one thing in mind - to get civilian clothing. As we got nearer the village it began to look deserted, and finally we saw ~~one~~ one house ~~that~~ looked occupied. Before we reached it, however, we saw two men walking across the fields, in our direction. They seemed to know who we were before they got to us. They motioned us to follow them and we were taken to the edge of a field and hidden. They returned shortly with food but would not give us much information. They left us ~~after~~ again after a few minutes and we stayed on in the field waiting for them to return though we were not sure they would.

Two women came into the field and after watching them for a short time ~~it was obvious that~~ ^{we were alone} they were looking for us. We let them know where we were hidden but they only seemed frightened. It seemed that they had only come out to look at us. After this experience we waited ~~at least~~ at least another hour ~~waiting~~ for the two men to return though we had no reason to believe that they would.

GATHER AND
COOK
POTATOES

On the opposite side of the village we ~~gathered~~ filled our pockets with potatoes out of a field. There had been a sign on the roadside which stated it was 12 kilometers to the next village so we started in that direction hoping to get clothing from some one. When we got in sight of the village we stopped to rest and went into a wooded ravine to cook the potatoes. After eating them we went back near the road and stopped the first Frenchman who passed alone on a bicycle. We told him

