

From Michael Moores LeBlanc:

E&E 283 Lt John K. Justice.

It is known that Justice was helped by Mr. Van den Top, in Stroe, the Netherlands.

In Paris, Justice was shelter within Fernande Ominus' Safe-house system.

The pertinent copy for Justice, 'roughly' translated, is as follows:

Area: Barneveld(?), the Netherlands.

Date: 10/10/43.

Cause. Battle damage - loss 4 engines.

Recovered on 12 November, 1943, in Brussels by Mr Van Moorlegheim.

"The main body of text says:

" ... Justice was recovered in Holland towards the middle of October 1943. He was brought to Brussels by Smit (Karst Smit) and taken to the home of Mme Chabot and Mlle Ambach by Mr Van Moorlegheim, who then conferred him to Mr Escrenier. Mr Escrenier and Mr Spilliaert guided Spicer to the home of Mr Spilliaert, where he was identified (interrogated & certified to be an allied airman) and photographed. Following this, he was escorted by Mr Hoste to the home of Mr & Mme Olders, who sheltered him from the 12th to the 16th of November, 1943. Mr Hoste and Mr Spilliaert then guided Spicer to the home of Mr & Mme Rouffart, who sheltered him for the 16th till the 18th of November. After this, Mr Hoste and Mr Spilliaert guided Spicer to the home Mr and Mme Sacotte, who sheltered Spicer from the 18th till the 24th of November. Mr Hoste and Mr Spilliaert returned him to the home of Mr & Mme Rouffart where he lived from the 24th till the 26th of November, on which date, he was guided to the home of Mr & Mme Depaye who kept Spicer till the 3rd of December 1943. Justice was visited on many occasions by Mr Matthys. On the 3rd of December, 1943, Mr Matthys gave Spicer over to a delegate of Mr Michiels for evacuation by the Comete Service.

Helper background:

'Pitou' Ernest Van Moorlegheim, leader of Group Erdry, was a police commissioner in Brussels. He was a decorated army veteran of the '18 Day War' with a heroic citation for action under enemy fire. He has a long record of intelligence service work and help given to allied airmen. He was a member of the SOE Bravery Group and co-operated with a resistance group known as ARM. The ARM group had its origins in help given to Israelites and other refugees but soon found themselves handling evading airmen brought to them by Fiat-Libertas, as well as the first few airmen handled by Comte Belgium's new leader, 'Jean Serment' Yvon Michiels. About the 24th of August, 1943, 'Pitou' and his group, narrowly avoided being caught up in the snares of the notorious arch-collaborator, Prosper de Zitter in the summer of 1943, when it was learned that man managed had managed to intercept and trap most, if not all of the ARM groups airmen on the false 'Captain Willy Jackson Line'.

From that point onward, Van Moorlegheim went on to feed the airmen he recovered, mostly men coming down from Holland, into the hands of the EVA Group. They, in turn, passed the airmen on to the Comete Line. This new arrangement worked very successfully until the 14 of November, 1943, when the Germans finally succeeded in arresting one of the Erdry group's guides, 'Willy' Schmidt and T/Sgt Nello Malevasi of the 385 BG at the Dutch-Belgian frontier. In turn, this led to the arrest of the Erdry group's young Brussels guide, Lotty Ambach, who was waiting for the delivery of the American airman but who was met instead by an Abwehr agent. Altered by these dangerous development and knowing he would have to flee for his life, Van Moorlegheim took a chance and, perhaps burdened by guilt of having taken on a mistress, 'Pitou' decided to spend one last night with his bed-ridden invalid wife to say good bye before he left. It was a delay of only a few hours but it was too long for him. The Germans raided the home early on the morning of the 15th of November and Ernest was arrested. He was executed at Bayreuth, on 29 November, 1944. Age 29. Willy Smit also died in Germany but details are unknown. Lotty Ambach and her mother Mme Chabot survived the concentration camps. Many other members of the Erdry group in Brussels and members of the connecting feeder group led by Karst Smith in Holland were also arrested and some of these good folks never returned home. Karst Smith escaped immediate arrest and went into hiding. He continued with resistance activity until early March 1944 when he was arrested in Paris while helping to establish a new escape line. He survived the war. He was one of the very first to be betrayed by 'King Kong' Chris Lindemans, who would rise to infamy as a kind of Benedict Arnold ... a brave resistance figure who, under terrible personal pressure and in very dramatic circumstances, would become a notorious German agent and betray many resistance members. Some people believe he was responsible for the Allied disaster at Arnheim in September of '44. He committed suicide while in an Allied prison hospital.

FICHE D'AVIATEUR ASSISTÉ

0085

I.- IDENTIFICATION

Né à: en mer (NEW YORK)	Nom: JUSTICE
le: 15.5.17	Prénoms: John K. (Jack)
Domicile: 116 Findlay, Montebello, California	Nationalité: américaine
N° matricule: USAAF O-735390	
Grade & fonctions: 1st Lt - Pilot	
Unité: Sq. 349 Chef: Major Wm.W. VEAL	
Type d'avion: B-17 Fortress.	
Mission: 10.10.43 - accomplie	
Signalement:	

II.- EQUIPAGE

Nom & prénoms	Grade	Fonctions	Sort
JUSTICE John K.	1st Lt	pilot	recueilli par "VA
SWIFLDS John F.	2nd Lt	co-pilot	ignoré
PROFFERS Wm.C.	2nd Lt	bombardier	"
PATTERSON Peter V.V.I.	2nd Lt	navigator	"
DOMONAH John F.Mc.	I/Sgt	engineer	"
WHITLOCK Richard E.	I/Sgt	radio	"
STOPA Stanley S.	S/Sgt	B.G.	"
HAFKO Harry	S/Sgt	W.G.	"
BORRENDARL Robert P.		W.G.	"
SPORTILL Guy		T.G.	"

III.- SINISTRE

Lieu: HOLLANDE (HOLLAND) Date: 10.10.43
 Causes: Battle damage - loss of 4 eng.

IV.- AIDE APPOURTEE

Recueilli le: 12.11.43	Evacué le: 3.12.43
à: Bruxelles	Remis à: délégué du 3 ^{ème} Lt Michiels
par: M.Van Moorlegheem	pour: évacuation par Service Comète
Identifié par: M.Escrinier	Photographié par: M.Duchesne

JUSTICE a été recueilli en Hollande vers la mi-octobre 1943 & amené à Bruxelles par K.Smit, chez Mme Chabot & Mlle Ambach, où il a été remis à M.Van Moorlegheem qui l'a confié à M.Escrinier.

M.Escrinier & Spilliaert l'ont mené chez M.Spilliaert où il a été photographié & identifié. M.Hoste l'a ensuite conduit chez M.& Mme Olders qui l'ont hébergé du 12 au 16 novembre 1943. M.Hoste & M.Spilliaert l'ont alors confié à M.& Mme Kouffart qui l'ont hébergé du 16 au 18 novembre. M.Hoste & Spilliaert l'ont alors conduit chez M.& Mme Salette qui l'ont hébergé du 18 au 24 novembre. M.Hoste & Spilliaert l'ont alors ramené chez M.& Mme Rouffart où il est demeuré du 24 au 26 novembre, date où il a été conduit chez M.& Mme Depaye qui l'ont logé jusqu'au 3 décembre 1943.

Justice a été visité à plusieurs reprises par M.Matthijs. Le 3 décembre 1943, M.Matthijs l'a remis à un délégué de M.Michiels pour évacuation par le Service Comète.