

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

E & E REPORT NO. 469
EVASION IN FRANCE

MARCH 18, 1944
(Date)

JOHN T. AMERY 1st Lt. 32583144
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

351st. 100th
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 23
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 16 MONTHS
HOME ADDRESS: 440 EDMUND BLVD
NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

MIA: 29 Dec 43
Arrived in Spain: _____
Arrived in Gibraltar: _____
Arrived in UK: 17 March 44

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT <u>FRANCIS R. SMITH JR.</u>	} Bailed out	
CO-PILOT <u>JAMES P. LAW</u>		
NAVIGATOR <u>BILL HERCHOWITZ (NMI)</u>		
BOMBARDIER <u>CLIVE S. MANNION</u>		
RADIO OPERATOR <u>JOHN L. SWENSON</u>		
TOP TURRET GUNNER <u>NARRATOR</u>		
BALL TURRET GUNNER <u>ALVAN E. BIDDLE</u>		
WAIST GUNNER <u>CONRAD P. STUMPF</u>		
WAIST GUNNER <u>JOHN W. RUNCLE</u>		
TAIL GUNNER <u>WILLIAM WERTZ (NMI)</u>		

Saw 5 planes while jumping

By 4/2/44 NARA Date

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E & E REPORT NO. 469
EVASION IN FRANCE

18 March 1944
(Date)

John T AMERY, T/SGT, 32583144

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

5 Missions
351 Bomb Sq, 100 Bomb Group
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: _____
LENGTH OF SERVICE: _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____

MIA: 29 December 1943

Arrived in Spain: _____

Arrived in Gibraltar: _____

Arrived in UK: _____

17 March 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

			Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-747348	2d Lt Francis P SMITH, JR		MIA
CO-PILOT	0-751159	2d Lt James P LAW		MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-809604	2d Lt SAUL (NMI) HERCHWOTIZ		MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-688710	2d Lt Clyde S MANION		IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
RADIO OPERATOR	11129879	S/Sgt John L STEVENSON		MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	32583144	T/Sgt John T AMERY		NARRATOR
BALL TURRET GUNNER	31198980	Sgt Alvin C LITTLE		MIA
WAIST GUNNER	36500968	Sgt Conrad P STUMPFIG, Jr		IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
WAIST GUNNER	16087728	Sgt John W RUNCLE		IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
TAIL GUNNER	17054110	Sgt William (NMI) WERTZ		IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY

you wounded?

E and E Rpt. # 469
(T/Sgt John T. Avery)

our base

We left ~~Dine~~ at 0800 hours on 29 December 1943 to bomb Ludwigshafen. ~~After~~ We had left the target and were near our rendezvous with a P47 escort when

FIGHTER
ATTACK

three F/Ws attacked us from below out of the clouds. ~~The pilot yelled "Get out of the ship". I~~ ~~dropped from the turret and grabbed my chute. The~~ ~~bulkhead was a mass of flame and so was our~~ ~~left wing. I dropped down into the bombardier's~~ ~~hatch and pulled the emergency lever, but the door~~ ~~wouldn't open. The co-pilot pushed me aside,~~ ~~pushed the door open and fell through it as he did~~ ~~so. I followed him through the door. As soon as I~~ ~~was clear of the plane I opened my chute, for I had~~ ~~been off oxygen for almost five minutes and~~ ~~was afraid that I would blackout.~~

consequently

While I floated down I saw our ship ^{burning} pass 3000 feet below me, ~~its whole left wing and for the~~ ~~fuelage was the cabin burning. Another B-17 dove~~ ~~vertically to the earth. Three F/Ws kept~~ ~~circling me, so I hung in my harness, fighting~~ ~~death. When I came down there were woods~~ ~~and open fields beneath me, a single track~~ ~~railway line off to my right, and a highway~~ ~~running at right angles to it. I fell in a~~ ~~ploughed field and twisted my leg; and a~~ ~~strong ground wind caught my chute, which~~ ~~dragged me three hundred yards before I could~~ ~~pull in my top shrouds.~~

DROGGED
BY
CHUTE

POSITION
UNKNOWN

FAILED TO
ORIENT
HIMSELF
ON MAP.

HELPED
by
peasants

Couldn't
understand
directions
in French

I bundled up my chute and ~~as I made for a~~
~~wood half a mile away~~ I tossed ~~it~~ ^(the chute) under some stones,
~~forgetting to take my first aid kit from the harness.~~
Further on I ~~took off my electric shoes and my boots~~
~~and put on a pair of juncassins which I had brought~~
with me. At the edge of ~~the~~ wood I took out
my compass and started westward ~~by it~~. I was
not yet sure whether I was in Germany or France,
~~so~~ so I avoided some woodcutters whom
I saw in the wood and went on for fifteen
minutes. Then I buried my ^{flying clothes} ~~under some stones~~,
~~boots and electric shoes~~. I was now wearing
O/D's and what was left of my coveralls, ~~which~~
~~the back of which I had discovered had been~~
~~burned away~~ in the plane. ~~At this point I~~
consulted ~~my~~ ^{the} maps from my purse, ~~which along~~
~~with my aid box I had carried inside of my~~
~~O/D shirt~~, but I could not orient myself, so
I decided to go directly west. It was now 1415
hours (I had bailed out at 1330), and for
~~most of the remainder of the day I ran along~~
~~hills through the wood~~. At dusk I came upon
two old woodcutters to whom I declared
myself. They shook hands with me but couldn't
understand ~~my~~ ^{my} request for help. I ~~asked~~ ^{they said}
"Français?", and ~~to this~~ they replied "Oui".
~~That was the extent of my French, however,~~
and when to my next question, "Paris?", they
pointed West, I couldn't believe ~~that they~~
~~were right~~. When I ~~asked~~ ^{so I} "Deutschland?" they
pointed North and East, however, so I left them and

started southwards down the road. When I had
 gone about half a mile I heard a large car come along
 the road. I heard the woodcutters whistle, but the
 car was too close to me then, so I walked
 nonchalantly along. As soon as the car had passed
 me, however, I made off into the fields. ^{When I was scared by a car.} About a
 mile off the road I came upon a ~~rickety~~
 rickety house, and presently one of the same
 woodcutters appeared. I asked him for
~~water~~ I said "water." He made me sit down and
 then brought me bread, apples, and wine; but,
 when I ~~made signs by means of signs~~ I asked to
 sleep in his haystack, he said "chateau" and
 pointed to a house in the distance. I walked
 to this house and then and saw that it
 was boarded up; but ~~a child appeared~~. While
 I was looking through the barred gates a
 child appeared and, seeing me, called
 his father. This man, when he understood that
 I was an American aviator, took me
 into his ~~lodge~~ ~~his house~~ a cottage and
~~he~~ gave me food and wine. ~~His~~ His
 daughter had meanwhile gone out, and she
 now returned with a young man who took
 me to his house, ~~in the neighborhood~~. ~~There~~ Once
 there, he asked to see my dog tags and then
 put me to bed. Early the next morning the young
 man ~~awakened me~~ and after breakfast
 gave me a civilian jacket and scarf, some
 sand wicks and a can of British ration, and
 a large map on which he had traced a route
 for me. He warned me to stay off the roads after

who was
 the caretaker
 of the
 estate.

BED,
 SUPPLIES,
 AND
 DIRECTIONS

2000 hrs.
8 P.M. which is curfew time, and then he took me to
the road and ~~bade me farewell~~ started me off.

SECOND
DAY

I cut across country avoiding all towns until at
1300 hours I stopped at a farm to ask for water, in place
of which I got wine. ~~I then continued on my way~~
~~but I heard many planes and saw ME 109s~~
~~practicing ground strafing, so I kept to the~~
~~highway, turning my back on which.~~ At one point I
walked ~~on~~ right past a German ~~Volkswagen~~ car
in which a big German sat at the wheel while
two Germans in green uniforms were ^{hunting rabbits}
in the underbrush ~~beside the road~~. ^{Towards evening I}

HELP
REFUSED

stopped knocked at a ~~house~~ door in ~~a~~ village to
ask for a place to sleep, but the woman who
answered shut the door in my face. In the
next village I saw three ~~the~~ gendarmes,
so I walked on until ~~the~~ near the next
village I found a haystack and crawled into
it. It was ~~too~~ bitterly cold and I couldn't sleep
at all, so at ~~the~~ 0400 hours I began ~~my~~
walk again. I lost my way in the dark and soon

THIRD
DAY

~~Because of the darkness and a slight omission~~
~~in my map I missed my way and~~
~~found myself in a large~~
~~vineyard from which I had great~~
~~difficulty extricating myself. Finally, however,~~
After climbing innumerable fences I got
out and climbed ^{a range of} hills where I found

HALAZONE
TABLETS

pools of water from which I filled my
water bottle, using ~~the~~ ^{my} halazone tablets to

CARE
OF
FEET

CAUTIONS
CROSSING
OF A
RAILWAY
LINE

purify it. I walked on through the center of a large town without incident, crossed an unguarded canal, and in a wood on the other side rested and changed into some dry socks that I carried.

~~my socks. (I had worn ^{these} ~~them~~ pair of socks when we left base. In walking I wore two pair and kept the other next to my skin to dry them out. I had also worn a towel instead of a scarf when we left and with this I could dry my feet. I used this to dry my feet when I changed my socks.)~~

While I rested here I timed the intervals at which I heard the trains passing on a line which lay ahead of me. ~~Then I walked toward the railway, intending to cross the line between two trains; but when I came nearer I saw that there were gates ^{at the crossing} ~~which I intended to cross~~ ^{and} people standing about, so suspecting ~~control at this point~~ I circled the village,~~

waded across a stream, and crossed the line ~~just~~ ^{just} opposite an ~~empty~~ ^{empty} sentry box, which I first observed to make sure that it was empty. I dried my possessions, put on my trousers which I had taken off to cross the stream, and proceeded by compass ~~across~~ ^{across} country to ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~shelter~~ ^{shelter} ~~again much further along~~ ^{again much further along} Late that afternoon

I ~~approached~~ ^{approached} one of the last few houses in a village and asked for a place to sleep. ~~Here~~ ^{Here} The woman ~~slammed~~ ^{slammed} the door in my face, so I walked on to the next village. ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~again~~ ^{again} I was cold and my leg was very painful,

A MAXIM
OF
SAFETY

FOOD
AND
BED

FOURTH
DAY

FIFTH
DAY

but I had decided that, if I was refused help in one village, the only safe thing to do was to get out of town at once. In the next village I tried again; and the woman who answered my knock, ~~when she finally~~ ^{she} understood that I was an American, ^{she} took me in, fed me, and put me to bed.

The next morning, although my leg was black and blue ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~hunger to~~ ^{hunger} and my wound was festering, I ~~left after having had a~~ ^{left} ~~cup of coffee and~~ ^{cup of coffee} walked until 1600 hours. Then, while I was resting, I saw a light at a distance off the road, went towards it, ~~I came to~~ ^{came to} a large farm, ~~where I found a young man to whom I~~ ^{where I found a young man to whom I} showed my wings. He fed me, looked at my leg, and gave me some pills for my cold, and a razor which I needed very badly by this time. Then he put me to bed, and ~~went off on his motorcycle. When he returned he told me that the man for whom he had gone was not at home.~~

At 0430 ~~the~~ hours the next morning my friend ~~awakened me~~ ^{awakened me} brought me breakfast and gave me a note in French saying which ~~...~~ said: "This is an American aviator. Help him and show him the way to Paris." He then put me back on the highway, and I walked until 1400 hours. ~~It was raining~~ ^{and my leg was so bad by this time} that I turned ~~into~~ ^{off} the road to a farm where I saw three men milking cows.

GOOD
FELLOW-
SHIP BOT
NO HELP

THE
CREAM
OF THE
BEST

in the dark
and
shivering
cold

~~When I showed~~
When I showed them my note they ~~gave~~ fed me, and
gave me a ^{large} sandwich to carry. I then returned to
the highway. ~~During~~ During the afternoon a Frenchman
stopped on a bicycle stopped and asked me for a
match. He insisted upon talking to me; and,
since I couldn't understand him, I finally
showed him my note and my wings. Thereupon he
slapped me on the back and dragged me to a
roadside café where he bought me a drink. ~~Then~~
~~he~~ ~~Then~~ he rode beside me for a while and
finally ~~he~~ ~~left me~~ ~~telling~~ ~~me~~ ~~that~~ ~~I~~ ~~would~~ ~~find~~
help in the next village. When I reached ~~the~~
~~that~~ ~~place~~, however, there was a Gestapo
car jacked up in the road ~~and~~ and a
German officer standing beside it, so I went
straight on through ~~the town and~~
~~walked until it was dark~~ ~~I reached another~~
village at night fall. When I was turned
away at one house in this village, I left the
town and looked for a haystack. ~~Suddenly~~
I heard a ~~German~~ ^{convoy} truck coming down the
road, ~~and~~ and I plunged into the fields
to hide. ~~but in the~~ ~~As I turned back~~ In the
darkness I fell into a fertilizer pit, and got
when I climbed out I was ^{so} covered with ~~filth~~ ^{muck} ~~that~~
I knew ~~that~~ I could not appear on the
road in this condition. So I ~~shaved~~ ^{chopped my hair to} the canal
and washed all my clothes. Finally I found

SIXTH
DAY

a day nearer, and myself now ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~middle~~ ^{middle} of my, ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~tried~~ ^{tried} to sleep in my wet clothes. Early in the morning, ~~just when I had fallen into a fitful sleep,~~ three farmers came upon me. There was nothing to do but climb down and declare myself. They stood ~~stock still~~ ^{staring} at me, so I simply turned and walked away. ~~This day I ^{was} ~~avoiding~~ ^{avoiding} towns ~~which my~~ ^{which my} ~~first~~ ^{first} ~~helper had warned me~~ ^{helper had warned me} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~looked~~ ^{looked} ~~circumstances~~ ^{circumstances} ~~country roads.~~ ^{country roads.}~~

This day I took ~~several~~ ^{back} ~~circumstances~~ ^{circumstances} roads, ~~avoiding~~ ^{avoiding} towns ~~to~~ ^{to} which my first ~~young~~ ^{young} helper had warned me, ~~and my leg was so hurt me so much that I~~ ^{and my leg was so hurt me so much that I} ~~could not walk for more than ten minutes without~~ ^{could not walk for more than ten minutes without} ~~resting.~~ ^{resting.} ~~Since~~ ^{Since} ~~late~~ ^{late} in the day, since I was getting near to Paris, I buried my British ~~ration tin and everything else~~ ^{ration tin and everything else} ~~which I had~~ ^{which I had} ~~exposed.~~ ^{exposed.} ~~Each evening~~ ^{Each evening}

INTEL-
IGENT.

TREATMENT
OF MAP

END

APR 10

~~I had~~ ^{I had} ~~memorized~~ ^{memorized} my route for the next day and ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~destroyed~~ ^{destroyed} the section of the map which I had ~~covered~~ ^{covered} ~~on that day~~ ^{on that day} ~~so that~~ ^{so that} ~~if I should be~~ ^{if I should be} ~~captured,~~ ^{captured,} ~~no one could trace back my~~ ^{no one could trace back my} ~~marked map~~ ^{marked map} ~~the route which I had~~ ^{the route which I had} ~~traveled.~~ ^{traveled.}

~~At night~~ ^{At night} ~~fall,~~ ^{fall,} I left the road to look for a place to sleep; but I could find no safe shelter until 0200 hours, and then I found only a roofless lean-to ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~where~~ ^{where} it was so cold that I had to ~~move my arms and legs~~ ^{move my arms and legs} ~~violently~~ ^{violently} ~~every ten minutes~~ ^{every ten minutes} ~~in order to keep myself from~~ ^{in order to keep myself from} ~~freezing,~~ ^{freezing,} and I got no sleep.

SEVENTH
DAY

At 0630 hours I got up and ~~started to walk~~
~~into Paris, dressed in an O.D. shirt and trousers,~~
~~a short civilian coat and moccasins, started~~
to walk into Paris. I knew that my clothes
would attract attention, and I had no
notion what I ought to do.

PARIS, A
DANGEROUS
CITY

THE FIRST
FRIGHT

"WINE" IS
NOT
ENOUGH

FINDS
HELP

ALBERT
CHANCE

JOURNEY
ARRANGED

As soon as I entered the outskirts of the
city I got off the main highway ^{almost}
and kept to the back streets. Very soon I saw
four armed German soldiers walking
directly towards me, but just as they
were about to meet me they turned into
a restaurant. I was very tired and very
hungry, so I looked for a small
restaurant that was empty. The first
one I found I entered and asked the
proprietor for wine. He asked me what
kind. I was at a loss ~~then~~ for an
answer, so I showed him my wings;
but just then four men entered. I
left at once. After an hour I entered
another empty café and asked for wine.
The proprietor ~~couldn't understand me~~
and called his wife. ~~When I showed~~
~~myself~~ I made her understand that I
was an American aviator and that I was
hungry. She gave me food and wine,
indicated that I was to stay there, and sent
her husband for a man who could speak
English. This man arrived after some time, and
my journey was arranged.

E and E Rpt #

(Sgt Auey)

Appendix B

- a) A German general lives in the Chateau Vincennes, and in the N/E/ corner of the Bois de Vincennes there is a large concentration of trucks and gun carriages well camouflaged (Hearsay, Paris, March 1944)
- b) There are heavy A/A batteries at Sceaux (Hearsay, Paris, February, 1944)
- c) There are ~~2~~ radar installations in the Tour d' Eiffel, Paris (Hearsay, March 1944)
- d) ME 110's were practicing ground strafing just north of Highway 41 between L'Esperance Ferme and Moscou Ferme on 2 Jan 44 (Observation)
- e) There was very heavy freight traffic on the railway line between Chalons^{-sur-Marne} and Epervay early in January 1944 (Observation)
- f) At St. Saulx a new concrete bridge was being built across the canal S/W/ of the railway line. The canal looked particularly well kept (Observation, January 1944)
- g) Meaux is a well known German Gestapo center (Hearsay, January, 1944)

(Sgt. Army)

App. B (cont)

- h) Heavy military traffic was observed on the Chalons - Paris highway in January 1944.
- i) There is a large fighter airfield just south of Chalons (Hearsay, January 1944); many planes were observed in the air around the district just north of Chalons in January, 1944.
- j) Barrage balloons were observed anchored near the Pont de Clichy, Paris, in February, 1944.
- k) On the S.E. corner of the Champs Elysée across from the metro station of Place de Concorde is the office of the German commandant of Paris (Observation, January - March, 1944)
- l) Germans in greyish uniform with black bands on the left cuff and AFRICA KORPS in silver upon the black band were seen in Paris at the end of January, 1944.
- m) In the railway yard at St. Briene flak cars with four or six pom-poms each were seen waiting on sidings (15 March 1944)
- n) Curfew in Paris is midnight ^{The district of} and in Champagne 2000 hours (Observation & hearsay, Jan - March 1944)

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE A. C. OF S., G-2

469

DATE: 19 March 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, HUGH A. SMALLWOOD, T/Sgt., AC, ASN 34262101

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

JOHN T. AMERY, T/Sgt., AC, ASN 32583144

prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory.

The person whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon is the individual referred to above.

John T. Amery
JOHN T. AMERY
RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



Hugh A. Smallwood

=====

The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon
has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as JOHN T. AMERY,
T/Sgt., AC, ASN 32583144 (351 Bomb Squadron - 100 Bomb Group)
previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

W. F. [Signature]
SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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