

E&E 280: T/Sgt Harold L POPE

(Plane returned to England.)

PILOT	0725595	1st Lt	William R FLESH	Did Not Bail Out
CO-PILOT	0798486	1st Lt	John G GOSAGE	Did Not Bail Out
NAVIGATOR	0735967	1st Lt	Omar (NMI) GONGALES	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0676309	2d Lt	James J LUX	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	34201968	T/Sgt	Conner D BREWSTER	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	37259551	T/Sgt	Harold L POPE	NARRATOR
BALL TURRET GUNNER	36507324	S/Sgt	Francis G DOLSEN	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	11045517	S/Sgt	George P GINEIKIS	E&E 257
WAIST GUNNER	32287971	S/Sgt	Leon E MacDONALD	E&E 256
TAIL GUNNER	20902175	S/Sgt	James (NMI) MARASCO	MIA

SEE E&E
256-257

I was engineer in the crew from which Sgts GINEIKIS and MacDONALD have returned. I thought we dropped our bombs over the target, but the radio operator reported that the bombs were still in the bomb-bay, and the pilot ordered the navigator to jettison them.

BAILED OUT

When the pilot gave the order to bail out, I left by the bomb bay, ~~When I~~ I started going down head first. When I was on my back, the parachute opened and just about broke my neck and back. I saw four parachutes below me and one above. I landed in a swamp but still had all the wind knocked out of me. Before I could unhook my parachute, some girls were rolling up the silk. A man grabbed my mae west and helmet. I was led off too some woods, stumbling a bit because I was still a little shaken. I went to a hedgerow and took off my flying boots, which someone else seized. In a few minutes a couple of other people brought Sgt MACDONALD, and the rest of my story is the same as his. When our journeys were arranged, I did not travel with him all the time.

Compiled by:

D E EMERSON
1st Lt, AUS

Approved by:

W. S. HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

Appendices A, C-E No Appendix B---He just didn't see anything.

HELPED

SEE E&E
256

LANDED

Had B-17's all over sky before coming to enemy coast - they got
most in scrubland - number about 40 but 10 lands - format in building y-
terrible formation - tightened up after that coast. \$8,000
Before that T not so foggy as now - sun up - hit by flak No. 1
just about time ground B13 down - that dropped B, but still in BB
K-O called tell me - I call P - ordered New York to go - King down -
couldn't hang up with format in - No. 1 says wind will in
could see left wing vibrating - called back twice if going down -
needle - a solid frozen oil - Pader low sky - in going down. Had been
out of the tunnel look instruments - somebody call 5 ft - back T and -
25-50 out - from - 1 fire - not around at that.
Co P out front, B up in cockpit. B out & going putting on chute
Called BB release - went out. Mac Donald appeared & first
out - at wait

Going down had first in back - chute opened - down was like
meat & back.
Looked around - a cluster of houses - I almost mistook but not but
landed in a swamp - people coming toward land in place.
Hatched B13, before understood ch. girl rolling up hills. M & B about
gratified by another fellow. Still had - flying boots -
B16 mentioned bread timber - started in, fell down
green - M. Took M flying boots in body now another
fellow took - but Mac Donald & I left.

2/10 followed them - by in corner watched by & girl typing
but - what had, but not com. Walked down road c 1 mile - other
people saw us go in. 3 old men came in bicycles. One showed
on map who was - c 8 miles from B. B. Belgium.
When we went start, they motioned in - but food, in bottles.
Tunnels, coat - left overalls there - put on over O.P. to nose.

Some as dark took to home - c 2200 major / aeromarine in to B.H.
Belgium led & whole neighborhood - have look at it. ^{to know how}
Major had card saying Myn - In Air force. ^{to know how}
Took H/V. serial nos, name - crew data. ^{to know how}
C 2200 2 Belgians put a bike took us to town, landing. ^{to know how}
13 see - to land in str. 2 little dts, wife.
In D. other who had box - dark, needle wire looking, 135, very
dark way hair - rode motorcycle - c 5'8"
That describes with hair.

6 Nov
Ap c 1000 next morning - ground / heavy.
2 Belgians led. 2/1 woman who speak good English came.
Dust clothes - then got into / all night long in just leather jacket
Kept down & tried will

c 1900 out - raining - took benzine - followed host out / train -
c 21 day in lakes - to bridge - 2 loads along with B - ride - hand wind &
hard rain - soaked & shiver - legs gave out - stopped at inn
in these Card's place c 0200 - slept - slept eight hours - rode
to Dier - there early daylight - to family at home -
Oed was wife, 3 sons, 2 dts - in law, 1 in girl.
Lall been in Belgian army.

7 Nov
Host bath - to bed. Ate c 1300. Had not exchanged clothes - shed
no shirt & to them. Trousers, shirt, coat, overcoat
C 2 blocks to daystore - tea - slept there - all 73 Nov
c 0900 did follow from place before came over with I/P -
Card & then picture at his place - told us now can take
P - see head other 2.

To train - met another young fellow - by train to Louvain
To bus - met other fellow by train to Malines - with Mac & 2 new girls
Left on 9 days there at jewelry shop with young haired lady who speaks
English - 'Mom' - had been in England in last war -
w. first boss - supposedly - had been in - told us he shops
strictly to - white / to officers come in - to be about bombings.
men who

Tall fellow c 6' who took us to bus came back - took us
by car - to end station - lost tickets - put us on train for
Brussels. waited around at station some time - met 1 very short
girl - talked in this way - but pitched - another fellow came go -
reddish hair - very unpolished - had round glasses. / He took
us to 2 room apt - thick another's door - by train.
Shave - tried fed us - we not hungry - took there & other side / train
& to girl's apt. He c 20, rather heavy set - got with bottles -
Marionette is something like that. Dinner - 2 Nov - by 3 pm
then.

I went next door at apt at Belgian policeman - 16 yrs married -
he & wife.
9 days there - 2 men in - one being sent to Belgian army for two

Then young - other c 30-33
Left took us to end station - met red haired sandy face fellow again -
L told us more in Belgium - met little girl again from blocks from
station - with the tall nice looking fellow - pilot - been down some
time.
Eng had left Brussels with us - Morley, Ronald Sgt Red Op
in Lancaster

Picture

? On train 3/4 of Ward & Canadian clip to further - left Burns -
 c 1800 - 2 young Irish guides - one small, other large further
 Older Chubby? Dicked up another fellow - in coming to London -
 Henri (now in trial)
 To little c 0900 next morning - walked across further to trying
 2 Irish men in - is changed passengers for 2.
 Nice looking girl met us - to couple of hours. To policeman -
 took us to house - in side. T. (best). Walked in 2 young
 Train to little. 1900 train to Paris - few hours in room?
 fellow apparently going to school.
 Snap to Paris - c 1900 - dark - man met us - spoke good
 English - mustache - c 40-45
 Canadian, 2 English, & 1 waiting. Old woman took road
 & London
 Little woman in black came took us to get near Cambetta Palace.
 2 couple to
 Took name, we, rank - 'Chief' who met us came.
 15 days there. Went to foot ball game.
 Man at old folks took us to picture show - wife young the old girl.
 1 Dec - old lady took 2 of us to meet lady in black - at station -
 not chief.
 Girl with glasses - 31 or so - guided us to Bordeaux - time c 2200
 to c 0700. 2 other fellow with another girl - Ward &
 shift Canadian - Kennedy.
 Met man with body around face - across river - in Bordeaux - left
 girl. Chased train to Dax. Met young fellow there - bright.
 Guide & 2 of us - nearly 1 with 2 or 3 guides - other 2 with
 men for. To further - Road to Bayonne - then c 1800.
 Stayed at restaurant at Bayonne - saw a lot of men & women
 young - left in room c 0500 - bright - 18-20 hours - met 2 of
 guides. Other 2 guides took all in way - spoke good English.
 Walked to good hotel - in - one in bed - by all day - in
 1800 guides came - walked - another guide, the another - very
 cautious.
 Just as got to London thought surrounded - Kennedy had passed
 out - slatted - lay low - reassembled - over hill into
 Bayonne.

Left men
 at 15 years.

Just over line to farmhouse. Then out / at.

C 1000 next day - walked N - Liggins, Kennedy. Can't place
referred to take us - only 1 guide now. To another place c 1700.
They not happy. To hills - stayed in sleep shed.

C 1100 next morning - first first with Dymon hit go.
Walk B-3 has to can. then in forest - at dark to over the
bush 2 days & 1 night. Then 3 other fellows came - 1st walk
one - S/Ldr Passey, Clements, Johnson.

Getting to us - by police guard, bridge - to in our place - sleep
shed - day in house.

That night walk all out - 2 guides nearby every all time.
To another sleep shed -

Walk 1 hr - road - can meet us - to St Sebastian - hotel

On road came soon - said first 4 in Spanish to meet
that afternoon. Mills, traded place with Wand - 2, 9 & 6

Madrid c 2000 - to Br Embassy.

Then 7th day - treated for cold & scabies. Mgr Clark came next
afternoon.

Questioned about where crossed & greenies - at Br Embassy.
Don't not concentrate in help.

Left 7th morning - in long for to 10.

Stopped Smith for it -

Darking with gutted - 2 at in room at same time left
interrogation.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 280

No., Rank, Name:-

Unit:-

Please answer carefully the questions below. Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training must come largely from those who make use of them. Your report and comments will help others to evade capture or to escape.

1. AIDS BOX

- (a) Did you use your aids box? *NOT VERY MUCH.*
- (b) If not, had you one on you? *YES.*
- (c) If not, why had you no aids box? *-*
- (d) If you used it, which of the following items did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g., "Lying up for 2 nights," etc.

Horlicks tablets. *✓*

- Chocolate. *Peanut bar -*

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *- but not much help -*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *Used one (green) helped here*

Matches. *-*

Adhesive tape. *- used on hand*

Chewing gum. *gave away*

Water bottle. *- Bulky and kept it*

Compass.

- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *NO*
If so, in what respect?
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box? *Helping to keep it*
- (g) Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aids box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger? *NO*

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? *YES*
If so, state COLOR. *MARK II*
If NOT, State why not.
- (b) Did you use the purse? *NO - immediate help*
- (c) If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances.

Maps. Which ones?

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

(d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS+)

(+Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following?

If you used any of them state briefly WHEN and WHERE.

Round compass. ✓

Stud compass.

Swinger compass. ✓

Fly-button compass.

Pencil clip compass.

Tunic button compass.

Pipe compass.

Pouch

Special flying boots (and knife).

(b) Were they satisfactory?

(c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions, which would improve the above equipment?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

(a) Did you carry passport-size photographs?
If so, how many?

(b) Did you use them?
State how.

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape?
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

(b) Did you find the lectures of value?

SAT 10/6/63

SUGGEST

most useful for someone who evades.

that

TWO 8 P/11/11/11

would be

NOT NEEDED - early help

YES - BUT DID NOT NEED THEM

NO - HAD 100 BUT
BUT HAD LOST THEM,
DID NOT REALIZE HOW USEFUL
& IMPORTANT THEY HAD BEEN.

10/11/11 1.05 -
RETURNED EXHIBIT

Yes - point like 3/11/11
French also

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS (X)

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
PW and I Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank and Serial No. *HAROLD L. LAMBERT, T-105, 312, 2201*
2. Decorations. *HIP MEMS A-100, TWO AIR LIFT MEDALS*
3. Unit or Squadron. *100TH BOMB GROUP, 349th BOMB GROUP*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *100TH BOMB GROUP*
5. Date of Birth. *SEP 7 67 1914*
6. Length of Service. *16 MONTHS*
7. Private Address. *EMERSON, N.H.*
8. If in A.F., on what operation were you engaged? State place, date, and time of departure. Where and when did you come down?
Were Aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed?
*GELENNIRCHIN GERMANY, NOV 5TH 3:30 AM
BREE BELGIUM, NO.*
9. What was your position in aircraft? *TOP TURRET GUNNER*
10. Were you wounded? *HAND WOUND
NOT SUPE OF BEING HURT IN ACCIDENT.*
11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *NO.*
12. Do you speak French? Spanish? *NO.*
13. Did you have Identity Papers? *YES ALL DOCUMENTS - 1-1-14
BELLHANE, FLA*
14. Have you been questioned before to-day on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom? Have you given anyone a written report on your experiences. Where and when? *YES. MADRID SPAIN, MR CHRISTY, 22-1-44
JUST OF OPEN AIR
MR D. DAVENPORT, 22-1-44*
15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? *NO*
16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? *YES. MADRID SPAIN, 22-1-44
GIBRALTAR*
17. Date of arrival in Spain. *DEC 2ND-43*
18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *DEC 17-43*
19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *DEC 25-43*
20. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *DEC 26-43*

(4)

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

E & E REPORT NO.
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

Harold L POPE T/Sgt 37259551

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

100

(Squadron) (Group)

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

MIA: 5 November 1943
Arrived in Spain: _____
~~12~~ December 1943
Arrived in Gibraltar: _____
Arrived in UK: _____

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

			Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	1st Lt O-735967	Onar (NMI) GONGALES		
CO-PILOT	2dLt O-676309	James J LUX		
NAVIGATOR	T/Sgt 34201968	Cormer D BREWSTER		
BOMBARDIER	T/Sgt 37259551	Harold L POPE	NARRATOR	
RADIO OPERATOR	S/Sgt 36507324	Francis G DOLSEN		
TOP TURRET GUNNER	S/Sgt 11045517	George F GENEIKIS	E & E Report 257	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	S/Sgt 32287971	Leon E MacDONALD	E & E Report 256	
WAIST GUNNER	S/Sgt 20902175	James (NMI) MARASCO		
WAIST GUNNER				
TAIL GUNNER				

Were you wounded?

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

E & E REPORT NO. 286
EVASION IN FRANCE

A/C #42-3439

Harold L Pope T/Sgt 37259551
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

349 100
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 29
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 16 MONTHS
HOME ADDRESS: EMERSON NEBRASKA

DEC 20 - 43
(Date)

Target: GELSENKIRCHEN
~~Altitude 0830~~
Station: THORPE ABBOTS

MIA: 5 November 1943
Arrived in Spain: ~~DEC 20 1943~~
Arrived in Gibraltar: ~~17th DEC~~
Arrived in UK: DEC 20 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

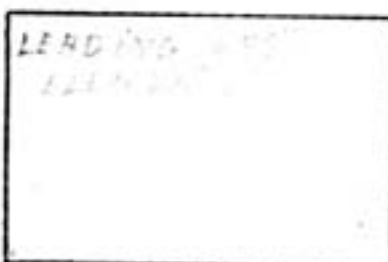
				Official Disposition RD	Narrators Disposition
PILOT		Lt	W R FLESH		
CO-PILOT		Lt	Gossage	RD	
NAVIGATOR	0-735967	1st Lt	Onar (NMI) GONGALES		
BOMBARDIER	0-676309	2d Lt	James J LUX		
RADIO OPERATOR	34201968	T/Sgt	Conner D BREWSTER		
TOP TURRET GUNNER	37259551	T/Sgt	Harold L POPE		NARRATOR
TAIL TURRET GUNNER	36507324	S/Sgt	Francis G DOLSEN		
WAIST GUNNER	11045517	S/Sgt	George P GINEIKIS		E & E #257
WAIST GUNNER	32287971	S/Sgt	Leon E MacDONALD		E & E #256
TAIL GUNNER	20902175	S/Sgt	James (NMI) MARASCO		

Were you wounded?

RIGHT HAND INJURED - NOT SERIOUS - OUT

NAME WILLIAM J. COPE RANK 1LT ASN 2245435 REPORT NO. 280

SQ 149 GROUP 103 A/C NO. 136783 Letter D Load 4000 Date SEP 20, 1944



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing:

P
BOMBS NOT DROPPED ON TARGET.
THEY WERE SET DOWN NEAR TARGET.

Enemy Fighter Tactics:

Markings:

TWO FIGHTERS CAME IN TO DISRUPT

Our Tactics:

NO ACTION.

Our Fighter Support:

WAS OK TO INTERFERE WITH ENEMY

Flak

TARGET AREA VERY HEAVY

Time

Place

Quality

2:00

RUMR, VALLEY

HEAVY

Technical Failures

Motors:

NO ONE ENGINE HIT BY FLAK

Airport:

OK

Armament:

O.K.

Miscellaneous:

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

NO

NO

G1 SHUCS
YES - WERE UNDER FLAK
KEPT THEM
BUT - FIGHT - THE

T/Sgt Harold Pope. E&E 280. Comete 212.
Emerson, Nebraska. Born 06/09/1914. Age 29.

100 BG/349 BS. Thorpe Abbots, REngland.
Aircraft type: B-17 a/c 42-3439
FTR 05/11/43.
Mission: Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Synthetic gas works.
Δ Pope landed in near Reppel -8 miles from Bree, Belgium.

Arrived in Spain: 02 December 1943.
Arrived in Gibraltar: 17 December 1943.
Arrived in UK 20 December: 1943.

The crew

Trade	Rank	1st name	Sur-name	Service nr.	Fate
Pilot	1 Lt	William R.	Flesh.	0-725595.	ret'd to Base with a/c.
C-Plt	1 Lt	John G.	Gossage.	0-798486.	ret'd to Base with a/c.
Nav	1 Lt	Omar	Gonzales.	0-735967.	Pow
B/A	2 Lt	James J.	Lux.	0-676309.	Pow
F/Eng	T/Sgt	Harold Lavern	Pope.	37259551.	E&E 280. Comete 212.
R/Op	T/Sgt	Connor D.	Brewster.	34201968.	KIA
BTG	S/Sgt	Francis G.	Dolson.	36507324.	Pow
LWG	S/Sgt	George P.	Gineikis.	11045517.	E&E 257. Comete 209.
RWG	S/Sgt	Leon E.	MacDonald.	32287971.	E&E 256. Comete 208.
T/G	S/Sgt	James	Marasco.	20902175.	Pow.

as per Bussels:

The following information come from Bussels book translated by Peter Loneke.

MacDonald came down in a village called Reppel, east of Peer.

Pope also came down near Reppel.

The two people who helped them initially were Joseph Vliegen and Van Vleymen. Mr Clerx gave them civilian clothing and food.

Gineikis came down in Ellikom also near Peer. He died at the age of 31 from a heart attack.

All three were escorted to the house of Loenders, in Peer, where they stayed one night. Mr Joseph Gielen and Joseph Vliegen escorted them to the home of Loeners. They were collected the next day by Eugene Thierry and Romain Lanaerts. They took the road to Hechtel-Helechteren-Zolder up to Linkhout. They spent the night with the parents of Romain Lanaerts. The next day they moved to Diest and stayed with the family Vanblerckom.

Details of Sortie:

I was engineer in the crew from which Sgts Gineikis and MacDonald have returned. I thought we had dropped our bombs over the target, but the Radio Operator reported that the bombs were still in the bomb bay and the pilot ordered the navigator to jettison them. When the pilot gave the order to bail-out. I left by the bomb bay. I started going down head first. When I was on my back, the parachute opened and just about broke my neck and back.

I saw four parachutes below me and one above me.

I landed (near Reppel, east of Peer) in a swamp but still had all the wind knocked out of me. Before I could unhook my parachute, some girls were rolling up the silk. A man grabbed my Mae West and helmet/ I was led off to some woods, stumbling a bit because I was still shaken. I went to a hedgerow and took off my flying boots which someone else seized. In a few minutes a couple of other people brought Sgt MacDonald and the rest of my story is the same as his. When our journeys were arranged, I did not travel with him all the time.

Note: The plane returned to England with the Pilot and Co-pilot.

Had B-17s all over the sky before coming to enemy coast.

Thought mission would be scrubbed.

Number aborted as ??? is ??? - formation breaking up - terrible formation - tightened up a bit after hit coast.

Before hit I not see fighters come in - some ??? out?

Hit by flak no 1 (engine) first about time opened bomb bay doors - thought dropped bomb but still in bomb bay.

R/Op called to tell me - I call Pilot. Pilot ordered Nav jettison (bombs).

Going down. Couldn't keep up with formation. No 1 prop milling.

Could see left engine vibrating.

Asked ball turret if pieces coming off underneath.

He said frozen oil.

Pilot order leave ship. We going down.

Had been out ??? tunnel???? took instruments

Somebody call a fighter. back turret?

2530 ??? few in? I fire. ??? ??? out them?

C/Plt out of seat. B/A up in cockpit. B/A and Gossage putting on chute.

Pulled bomb bay release - went out.

MacDonald apparently 1 first out at waist.

Going down head first on back - chute open - damn near broke neck and back.

Looked around. 4 chutes below me. 1 chute above.

Landed in swamp. On left side. rolls over on back. Knocked wind out of me but not hurt.

People coming towards landing place.

Before unhooked chute girls rolling up silk.

Mae West and helmet grabbed by another fellow.

Still had on flying boots.

Boy aged 16 motioned towards timber. Started to run. Fell down. again. Took off boots in hedge row.

Another fellow took them.

Brought MacDonald to hedgerow.

2 of us followed trees.

(Flying coveralls and leather jacket)

G in corner???

??? watched boy and girl picking beets.

??? but not communicate.

Walked down road ca 1 mile. other people see us going.

3 old men come on bicycles.

One showed on map where we are.

ca 8 miles from Bree, Belgium.

When we want start they motion sit.

Brought food and clothes.

Trouser. Coat. Left coveralls there. Put on over O.D. trousers.

Soon as dark took to home.

ca 2200 hrs. Major of aeronautics in RAF.

Belgian lad & whole neighbourhood in to have look at us.

Major had card saying (he was a) Major in airforce.

Took aircraft no. Name, Rank. Serial number. Crew data.

ca 2200. 2 Belgians put on bikes. Took us to town.

Leading to Bree.

To hardware store.

2 little daughters. Wife.

To Dr. Met us. He had fixed Lux up. Dark, rather nice looking. ca 35. very dark wavy hair. 5'8". rode motorcycle.

Told that Gineikis (staying) with him.

Up ca 1000 next morning. Quart of brandy.

2 Belgian lads ca 21 and woman who spoke good English came.

Brought clothes.

There got rid of all ???

Except leather jacket

Kept shoes and ??? well.

ca 1900. raining.

Took ???

Followed host out of town on bikes

To hedges

2 lads along with G

Ride.

Headwind and hard rain - soaked to skin - legs gave out. - stopped at one of guides place.

ca 0200 arrived.

Slept a couple of hours.

Rode to Diest.

There early daylight - to family at home.

Old man and wife. 3 sons 2 daughters-in-law.

All boys had been in Belgian army.

Hot bath - to bed.

ca 1300. ??? exchanged clothes. I had no shirt up to then.

Trousers, shirt, coat, overcoat.

07 November

(a 2 blocks to drugstore.. tea. slept there all of 3 of us. (Pope, MacDonald, Gineikis)

ca 0900 old fellow from place before came over with ID

Had taken pictures at his place.

Told us man come to take pictures - would be back with the other two.

To tram - met another young fellow - by tram to Louvain.

To beer joint.

Left Gineikis there.

Then (Pope, MacDonald) by bike to Malines with 2 new guides.

Left one guide in cafe.

The other guide took us to his house.

4 days then at jewlery shop with grey-haired lady who spoke English.

'Mom'

Had been in England during the last war.

We first Americans

She apparently had son in England.

Told us her shop strictly for Germans.

Wives of German officers complaining to her about bombings.

Tall fellow, ca 6 feet, who took us to house came back.

Took us by street car - to rr station - bought tickets - put us on train for Brussels.

Waited around station for some time.

Met by very short girl. (MML note: 'Michou/Lily' Dumon)

Talking very thin voice - low pitched.

Another fellow came ??? (MML note: Elie Miroir)

Reddish-hair and ruddy complexion. horn-rimmed glasses.

He took us to two room apt - think his mother's home - by tram.

Gave. Tried feed us - we not hungry.

From there for other ride by tram to French girl's apartment.

She ca 20. Rather heavy set.

Apartment with brother - Marrett's something like that. (MML note: Marie Maca)
Dinner - 2 of us. Boy's (MML note: Henri Maca) fiancée's there. (MML note: Andree Blainplain)

Pope:

ca 11/11/43. Went next door stayed at Belgian policeman (MML note: Jean and Jeanne Van Tuykoms) -
16 years married.

He and wife.

4 days there.

2 men in.

on being sent to Belgian Org for ?

then on ?

other 30-33.

15/11/43.

Lady (MML note: Jeanne 'Jacqueline' Van Tuykom) here took me to railway station.

Met red-haired ruddy-faced fellow again. (MML note: Eli Miroir)

He told me Mac in Spain.

Met little girl (MML note: Michou) again a few blocks from station.

With her was tall nice looking fellow. Pilot. Been down some time.

Sgt Ronald Morley. R/Op in Lancaster. English lad. Left Brussels with me.

On train were:

F/Lt (MML note: Geoff) Ward and Canadian chap (MML note: Jim Kennedy) to frontier.

Left Brussels ca 1800 hrs.

2 young Frenchmen as guides.

One small with sharp features.

Other ???

Picked up another fellow. Frenchman going to London. 'Henri' (now in Gibraltar). (MML note: Agent Creter?)

2 French lads escorting.

We changed passports.

Nice looking girl met us.

To Captain of horses.

French policeman took us to his home on French side. To bed.

16/11/43.

Walked across frontier to Cysoing. Walked into Cysoing.

Left for Lille ca 0900 next morning.

Train to Lille.

(First spent a) Few hours in room of fellow apparently going to school.

1400 train to Paris.

Group to Paris.

(Arrive) ca 1900. Dark man met us. Spoke good English. Moustache. ca 40-45. (MML note: 'Jerome' Jacques LeGrille)

Canadian (Kenedy), 2 English (Morley & Ward) and I waiting.

Blond woman (MML note: Germaine Bajpai) took Ward and Canadian (Jim Kennedy).

Morley and I with Little Woman in Black (MML note: Fernande Onimus) came.

Took us to Gambetta Place.

2 couples.

Chief who met us came. Took names. Numbers, Rank.

16-30/11/43.

15 days there.

Went to football game.

Man??? old folks took us to picture show

wife young. daughter old captain?

1st December, 1943.

Old lady (MML note: Odile Verhulst?) took 2 of us to meet 'Lady in Black'.

To station. Met chief.

Girl with glasses. 35 or so. (MML note: Roland Whitton?)

Guided us to Bordeaux.

Train ca 2200 hrs.

ca 0700 - (arrived in Bordeaux)

2 other fellows along with another girl - Ward and Officer Kennedy.

Met man with badly scarred face - across nose - in Bordeaux (MML note: Max Roger?)

Left girl.

Changed trains to Dax.

Met young fellow there. (MML note: 'Franco' - Jean Nothomb)

Bicycles.

Guide for 4 of us?

Morley and I with Dax guide.

Other two with scar face.

to timber??? (woods)

Rode to Bayonne.

There ca 1800 hrs.

Stayed at restaurant at Bayonne.

Saw middle aged man and woman.

Up early.

Left in rain ca 0500 - biking 18-20 kms = met Spanish guides.

Other French guide took all our money - spoke good English.

Walked up good hill. hour. Open a shed.

??? all day rain.

1800 Spanish guides come - walked - another guide - then another - very ???

Just as we got to border thought surrounded.

Kennedy had passed out.

Scattered.

Lay low.

re-assembled.

Over hill into Spain.

Just over line to farmhouse.

There rest of night.

ca 1000 next day

Walked off

Helping Kennedy

Came to place.

Refused to take us.

Only one guide now.

To another place. ca 1700

They not keep us.

To hills - stayed in sheep shed.

c100 hrs next morning - food first ??????

Walk B - 4 hrs. to tram - this ??? food? - at dark to another barn two days and nights.

Then to other fellows came???

Mills. S/Ldr Passey.

F/Sgt Clements,

Johnson

???ing to car

Spanish police ???

Bridges??? to ??? ??? shop

Spend day in house?

That night walk all night

2 guides wanting ??? money all the time.

To another sheep shed.

Walk ? hour to road - can met us - to St Sebastian - hotel

British Consul came soon.
Said first A in Spain for to Madrid??
That afternoon
Mills traded place with Ward
We ??? Madrid ca 2000 hrs to British embassy
There 7 days - treated for cold and scabies?
Major Clark came next afternoon
Questioned about where crossed Pyrenees - at Brit Embassy.
(Interrogated by Michael Creswell in Madrid)
But not concentrating on helper.
Left 7th morning in Lorry for Gibraltar.
Stopped ??? for ???
Donald Darling interrogated - 2 at(attachés?) in room at same time different interrogators.

Arrived in Spain: 02 December 1943.
Arrived in Gibraltar: 17 December 1943.
Arrived in UK: 20 December 1943.

Sgt MacDonald: We left Thorpe Abbots at 1030 hours on 5 November 1943 in B-17 to bomb a synthetic gas works at Gelsenkirchen, Belgium (sic- Germany). We made out run and dropped our bombs but then we took some flak (un-exploding) hits between # 1 & # 2 engines. We lost # 1 prop and # 2 engine started acting up. We could hear the pilot and co-pilot discussing (arguing) what to do and heard the pilot say he thought we could make the coast. (Note: He later flew the crippled ship back to the UK, he and the pilot staying in it.)

Finally the order came over the inter-phone to bale out and I was the first to leave the ship. As I was immediately over a town I did not delay my jump, for doing so would almost certainly resulted in capture. I counted five chutes in the air.

My chute caught in a tree when I landed, but a crowd of peasants gathered around me and helped me to dislodge it. I gave them my heated suit, having thrown away the balance of my flying clothes while descending. The peasants kept repeating 'Comrade' and pointed in the direction of SW, so I started running across the fields in that direction after about 3 kms met my my engineer (Pope).

Pope and I kept on across country together for several kms. In one field we saw two youngsters picking beets and we tried to talk with them but they would not notice us. About 1400 hrs we came to a thicket where we decided to hide and wait for dark. There had been no evidence of a search. After we had been there about half an hour, two old peasants came by on bikes and told us to wait until 1800 hrs at which time they would return. They did so as promised and brought us coffee and civilian clothes.

They took us to a nearby farm house and the whole populace, including two escaped Russian prisoners who came to visit. We got up to leave several times but each time we were motioned to sit down. About

19 October 1942

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO : Personnel concerned.

1. It is the duty of all Americans to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.
2. It is an offense, carrying heavy penalties, to publish or to communicate to any unauthorized person any information which might be useful to the enemy.
3. Information about your escape or your evasion from capture would be useful to the enemy and a danger to your friends. It is therefore SECRET.
4. a. You must therefore not disclose, except to the first Military Attache to whom you report, or to an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations:
 - (1) The names of those who helped you.
 - (2) The method by which you escaped or evaded.
 - (3) The route you followed.
 - (4) Any other facts concerning your experience.
- b. You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the Press.
- c. You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.
- d. You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4a.
- e. No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General EISENHOWER:

(signed) RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGD, Ass't. Adj. Gen.

CERTIFICATE

I have read the above and certify that I will comply with it.

I understand that any information concerning my escape or evasion from capture is SECRET and must not be disclosed to anyone other than the American Military Attache to whom I first report, or an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name(Print) HAROLD L. POPE Signed Harold L. Pope
 Rank 1/SGT A.S.N. 37259551 Date Dec 17 - 42
 Unit 100th Bomb Group 349th SQ VIX Witness H. W. Smith
C. J. G. C.