

1. JACK E. WILLIAMS 2ND LT. 0-662228

2. ~~3~~ AIR CORPS 360TH BOMB SQ. 303RD BOMB GR.

124585 "B" POW BAKER

3. JULY 21, 1919

4. 12 MONTHS IN R.C.A.F. 6 MONTHS IN U.S. AIR CORPS

5. TOOL + DIE MAKER

6. 241 GLENDALE AVENUE
HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN

- 1. Gilbert Schowalter, 1st Lieutenant Jack E. Williams, 2nd Lt., O-662228
- 2. 360th Bomber Squadron, 360th Bomber Squadron,
303rd Bomber Group. 303rd Bomber Group.
- 3. October 8, 1917. July 1, 1919.
- 4. April 1, 1942. 12 months in RCAF: 6 months in U.S.
A.C.
- 5. Student Tool and die maker.
- 6. 3737 North 24th Place, 241 Glendale Avenue,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Highland Park, Michigan.
- 7. Bombing Romilly, December 12, 1942, 10.30 a.m.
- 8. Pilot - 1st Lieutenant P. F. Flickenger
Co-pilot - 2nd Lieutenant J. E. Williams
Bombardier - 2nd Lieutenant B. R. Polk
Engineer - Whitman, Sergeant
Radio Operator - Fegette, Sergeant
Tail Gunner - Kurtenback, Sergeant
Waist Gunner - Therien, Sergeant
Waist Gunner - Dillard, Sergeant
Ball-turret Gunner - Hartung, Sergeant

All of the above crew landed safely and are either evading or are prisoners of war.

9. We left Molesworth about 10.30 a.m. December 12. We were over the coast of France at 11.50 a.m., we being the tail end of the formation due to many of the planes turning back. We saw ship No. 582 jettison its bombs and the men bale out. This ship slipped under and to the right of us and it was at this time that two of their crew jumped. Our No. 3 engine ran away, shortly followed by No. 2. No. 1 was violently throwing off. We hit the ground; that is, made a crash landing, at 12.40, after having been violently attacked by fighters. After our engines had failed the pilot called me and I told the men in the radio room to prepare for a crash landing. We destroyed the bomb sight sextant, tore up and threw out the maps. I do not know that the guns were destroyed. We made certain that the detonators went off on the I.F.F. equipment. Our radio man destroyed all of his flimsies. We all landed uninjured, happy, and in a good frame of mind. We discussed how to dispose of the aircraft and could not find a way to do so. It was buried in the mud. We discussed burning the plane, but did not have any incendiary bombs. Our crew figured that we had destroyed six enemy fighter planes during the attack and while coming down.

Immediately on landing 12 to 15 French people came running, surrounded us, and Therien, who could speak French, asked which direction to go. They said any way but north. We all ran to a wood, shook hands, split up in pairs and set off in different directions. I went with Lieutenant Williams.

We crossed a barbed wire fence, a highway and then a railroad. Then we went under a bridge and continued west along a creek, where we found a series of small squares of thick underbrush. We went through these, continued on to a large wood and there ran into Whitman and Fegette of our crew. We told them to choose a course and we would take another one. We got out of the woods, crossed a stream and, seeing a large woods 1 1/2 miles away, made for it. At this time we saw some Germans on the highway which we had previously crossed. They were mounted on motor-cycles, going apparently to where we had crashed. We hid in a field until the Germans had passed and then went for the woods. We stayed in these woods until

dark and then set out on a south-west course through a field. We crossed a railroad running due east-west. Coming to a small village we walked around it and stayed on this same course until 10 p.m. We were tired out and wet and at this time had on low shoes. We found an old abandoned farmhouse. I still had my torch which turned out to be very useful. We found a hay loft above a pig pen and slept there all night and till dark next day. We had a good view from this hiding place and there was no activity around it. We then left for a large farmhouse we had been watching all day.

We opened the door and walked in on some people who had just finished eating. There were five grown people and two children. They stared at us for a few minutes and then started jabbering. One large man just looked and then came up and said he was Swiss. He made a great fuss over me. I showed him the U.S. on my clothes and the man showed them all around the room. He told the woman to give wine to us. They offered us their bed but we said we would rather sleep in the barn, but after much argument we went to bed. After this we heard many people come into the house. We had slept for a few hours when we were awakened and they said to come down as we would have to leave. They gave us food and we left with the large man and two other men and went back by the first barn, where we had spent the day before, and walked several miles. The large man left us after kissing and hugging us and we went on with the other two for several hours. We were told not to talk at all but merely to follow them. We went through a few small towns, but our guides seemed to know every move of the German guards. We also walked past what appeared to be a large German camp.

They took us to the home of a man whose wife spoke English. Here they gave us a bottle of champagne and red wine. We then went to the outskirts of a town, passed a sugar plant, and went to the home of a merchant and here went to bed. We had breakfast the next morning and were told to stay there and someone would come to see us. We found that the man had gone in search of help for us. He came back during the day with some friends and they asked us each time if it was all right to bring these friends up. They would come up and look at us and talk to us briefly. They then brought us some clothes and took our uniforms. That evening a man came with a truck, put us in the truck and took us to his home where he gave us food and lodging. We stayed there all that night and all of the next day. About 9 p.m. that night another man came with a truck and took us to a farmhouse about eight miles from the town. We stayed there that night and the next day and night. On the third night a man came and took us in his car to a small town, where we went to a confectioner, had some wine and waited for a train. We waited so long that we had to run to catch our train. We got into a carriage with about six other people and pretended to sleep on the journey.

Shortly thereafter we arrived in Paris. We were taken to a private home, given some drinks, and went to bed. Early the next morning we were wakened and taken on a subway to another house where we stayed all day and night, and the following day about 5 p.m. a Frenchman came and took us on a subway to a lady's house. She was not at home so we waited. Finally the man who had taken us there had to leave, so he left us and it was not until 8 p.m. that the lady came. We then had our supper. After supper a friend of this lady came in who spoke excellent English. We talked for some time and then went to bed. The next evening about 6 p.m. we were taken to an empty flat where we spent several days; in fact, we spent Christmas there. We were furnished an excellent Christmas dinner, consisting of champagne, chicken, eggs, and we were also given scarves and ties. One night, several days later, the lady who had taken us there came back and said she had good news and we were soon to leave. We left that night after saying "Goodbye" and we walked about two miles to another apartment where we met several French people. We were asked several questions, which we apparently answered to their satisfaction. We talked for some time and then we were allowed to take a bath and shave and go to bed. The next morning we were taken to the railroad station where pictures of us were taken. We were then taken to another lady's home and were told to wait there for a couple of days. We stayed two days and nights and were then taken to the railroad station and boarded the train. While waiting for the train Lieutenant McKee....

(same as Lt. McKee's story)

"WHAT HAPPENED TO ME AT MADRID AND GIBRALTAR."

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING CONDITIONS AND HELPING U.S. PERSONNEL

When we arrived in MADRID we were taken to the British Embassy. We were quartered in a small building in the rear of the Embassy which had several cots for sleeping. There was also a small building where two Spanish women cooked our meals. The British Red Cross gave us clean clothes soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste and shaving articles. We were also paid 35 pesetas a week for buying things we wanted such as wine and coffee. We were interviewed by the Embassy officials who wanted our names, rank, squadron and the names of the personnel in our plane for future identification. We stayed at the Embassy several days until it was arranged for us to leave by train for GIBRALTAR.

The night we left we were taken to a hotel in MADRID where we had our supper. We then proceeded to the railway station. There were about 76 men leaving with us who had been released from MIRANDA prison camp. We had compartments on the train and after a very long journey we arrived at a small Spanish town just North of the border of GIBRALTAR. We were put in buses and taken to a town on the border of GIBRALTAR. At the British Vice-Consulate we filled in forms giving false names, birthplace and fathers name, mothers name and rank. I was given the name of Sgt. Jack ROGER of the Canadian Army at MADRID by Major HASLAN and told to make up false answers for everything else they asked me. After an hours wait we were driven across the border into GIBRALTAR. We were taken down to the docks and interviewed by British officers after which we were taken out to the s.s. ORMONDE, which was lying in the harbour. After being on board the boat a day and a night we realized we weren't being treated as we thought we should be. The British authorities would not let us go ashore to communicate with the American authorities, and we did not have clean clothes or money. After doing a lot of complaining to the C.O. of the boat, they sent out an American Finance Officer who gave us \$100.00 uniform allowance and took back word to Col. HOLCOMB, the military observer at GIBRALTAR to do everything he could to get us off the boat, which he did, and they took us off the boat about 1800 hrs that same day. When we arrived in the town we were issued with British battle dress and taken to an officers camp called the Laretto Camp. The next day I went to the Military hospital in GIBRALTAR with acute tonsillitis. I stayed in the hospital nine days. When I was released I got in touch with the American Operations Officer, Capt. GABLE, who told me there was an American B-24 bomber leaving for PORTREATH that night. I then made arrangements with the pilot of the B-24. Late in the afternoon Mrs. Carole Landis Wallace arrived by plane from ALGIERS. She also received permission to go on the B-24 to WINGLAND if the weather permitted. At 2 a.m. on 29 Jan we took off and after an uneventful trip landed at PORTREATH at 8.30 a.m. We had breakfast and we were then told we were to go on to LONDON on a small De Haviland plane. After testing the plane it was found unfit to fly, so being very anxious to get to LONDON, Mrs. Landis and I motored over to another field, 20 miles from PORTREATH where a government C-47 cargo plane was waiting to take off for LONDON. We took off at 1400 hrs and were in HENDON airport at 1530 hrs. I then took a bus to LONDON and reported immediately at H.Q., EFOUSA, where I was identified.

SUGGESTIONS

In MADRID the American Embassy should take care of all U.S. personnel escaping from FRANCE. Instead of paying us 35 pesetas for buying coffee and wine they should have it there. The British authorities in GIBRALTAR should have let us get in touch with the Americans instead of shipping us on to a boat in the harbour without clean clothes or money.

9)

LT. WILLIAMS
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME AT MADRID
+ GIB.
SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS
IN HELPING U.S. PERSONNEL.

When we arrived in Madrid, we were taken to the British Embassy. We were quartered in a small building in the rear of the Embassy which had several cots for sleeping, there was also a small building where two Spanish women cooked our meals. The British Red Cross gave us clean clothes, soap, tooth brush, tooth paste and shaving articles. We were also paid 35 pesetas a week for buying things we wanted such as, wine and coffee. We were interviewed by the embassy officials who wanted our names, ranks, squadrons and the names of the personnel in our plane for future identification. We stayed at the Embassy several days until they had arranged for us to leave by train for Gib. The night we left we were taken to a hotel in Madrid where we had our supper then we proceeded to the railroad station. There were about 76 men leaving with us that had been released from Miranda prison camp. We had compartments

on the train and after a very long journey we arrived at a small Spanish town just north of the Gibraltar border. We were put in buses and taken to a town on the Gibraltar border. At the British Vice Consulate we filled out forms giving false names, birthplace, fathers name, mothers name and rank. I was given the name of Sgt. Jack Roger of the Canadian Army at Madrid by Major Haslam and told to make up false answers for everything else they asked me. After a hours wait we driven across the border into Gibraltar. We were taken down to the Docks and interviewed by British officers after which we were taken out to the S. S. Ormonde lying in the harbour. After being on board the boat a day and a night we realized we weren't being treated as we thought we should be. The British authorities wouldn't let us go ashore to communicate with the American authorities, and we didn't have clean clothes or money. After doing a lot of complaining to the C.O. of the boat, they sent out an American Finance Officer who

gave us \$100.00 uniform allowance and took
back word to Col. Holcomb, the military Ob-
server at Gib. to ~~do~~ do everything he could to
get ~~us~~ us off the boat, which he did, and
they took us off the boat about 1800 hrs that
same day. When we arrived in the town we
were ~~taken~~ issued British battle-dress and
taken to an officers camp called Saretto Camp.
The next day I went to the military hospital
in Gib with acute tonsillitis. I stayed in
the hospital 9 days. When I was released I
got in touch with the American Operations officer
Capt. Gable who told me there was an American
B-24 bomber leaving for Portreath that night.
After which I made arrangements with the pilot
of the B-24. Late in the afternoon Mrs. Carole
Laudin Wallace arrived by plane from Algiers.
She also received permission to go on the B-24
to England, weather permitting. At 2 A.M Jan. 29
we took off and after an uneventful trip land-
ed at Portreath at 8:30 A.M. We had breakfast
then we were told we could go to London on

a small De Havilland plane. After testing the plane it was ^{found} unfit to fly, so being very anxious to get to London, Mrs. Landis and I motored over to another field, 20 miles from Portreath where a Gov't C-47 cargo plane was waiting to take-off for London. We took-off at ~~3~~ 1400 hrs and were in Hendon airport at 15:30 hrs. I then took a bus to London and reported immediately at headquarters Etoussa where I was identified.

Suggestions

In Madrid the American Embassy should take care of all U. S. Personnel escaping from France.

Instead of paying us 35 pesetas for buying coffee and wine they should have it there.

The British authorities ^{in the} should have let us get in touch with the Americans instead of shipping us on to a boat in the harbour without clean clothes or money.

The following information has been obtained from our interview with

2nd Lieutenant Jack E. WILLIAMS
360th Bomb Squadron,
303rd Bomb Group.

who evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy occupied territory.

Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so it is important not to divulge any particulars of source.

Statement of information covering period from

- (1) In a small village where we were staying with M. Guy REUTER there was an enemy aerodrome about 5 Km. east of the town. We saw several Me.109's and Me.110's. The French people also told us of another German aerodrome at RHEAU about 15 Km. north-west of the town.
- (2) We saw no enemy dumps or heard of them.
- (3) While in Paris, we were informed by the Vice-President of the Standard Athletic Club at Mendon, a suburb of Paris, that there was a Battery of A.A. guns on the grounds of the Club.
- (4) While we were staying with M. Guy REUTER, and also in Paris, we were told of the Frenchmen and boys being made to work on fortifications at SOISSONS.
- (5) We heard of no special enemy coast defences.
- (6) We received the impression that enemy morale was very bad. They feared American production and also the French people had witnessed the killing of numerous German soldiers by German officers for refusal to go to the Russian front.

APPENDIX B

1. In a small village where we were staying M. Guy Reuter there was an enemy aerodrome about 5 km. east of the town. We saw ^{several} ME 109's and ME. 110's. The French people also told us of another German aerodrome at RHEAU about 15 km north-west of the town.
2. We saw no enemy dumps or heard of them.
3. While in Paris, we were informed by the Vice-President of the Standard Athletic Club ~~that~~ at Meudon a suburb of Paris ~~that~~ that there was a battery of A.A. guns on the grounds of the club.
4. While we were staying at M. Guy Reuter's house and in Paris we were told of the French men and boys being made to work on fortification at Soissons.
5. We heard of no special enemy coast defenses.
6. We received the impression that enemy morale was very bad. They feared American production and also the French people had witnessed the killing of numerous German

by German officers
soldiers, for refusal to go to the Russian front.

APPENDIX C.

1. We were assisted in our escape by an organization in Paris. We were put in touch with ^{the organization by} a French lady who had been taking care of us in Paris. The organization gave us clothes, food and arranged for lodging with safe people. They paid for everything including railroad tickets to Bayonne and guides to take us across the Spanish border.

2. I ~~don't~~ know of one R.A.F. man who is hiding in a convent in Paris but refuses to let the organization take him to Spain. He has been in the convent a couple of months and has fallen in love with a French girl in the convent and absolutely refuses to leave.

Nelson

6

No., Rank, Name :- 0-662228 2ND LT. JACK E. WILLIAMSUnit :- 360TH BOMB SQ. 303RD BOMB. GR.

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? **YES**
- (b) If not, had you one on you?
- (c) If not, why had you no aids box?
- (d) If you used it, which of the following items did you use? Put a tick (✓) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g. "Lying up for 2 nights", etc.
- ✓ (i) Horlicks tablets. *for food during 2 days and one night*
 - ✓ (ii) Chocolate. *for food during 2 days and one night*
 - (iii) Milk (tube).
 - (iv) Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).
 - (v) Halazone tablets (water purifier).
 - ✓ (vi) Matches. - *for lighting cigarettes*
 - (vii) Adhesive tape.
 - (viii) Water bottle).
 - ✓ (ix) Chewing gum. - *after eating the chocolate & Horlicks tablets*
 - ✓ (x) Compass. - *very useful, kept us from going in circles and helped in going towards the Sp. Border*
- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect? **No.**
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box? *We burnt the box and put the remaining articles in our packets*
- (g) Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aid box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger? *There should be a few cigarettes in the kit.*

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? If so, state COLOUR. *Brown, YES*
If NOT, state why not. *Yes. purse my pockets were not handy for carrying one*
- (b) Did you use the purse? ~~NO~~ *YES*
- (c) If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?
Put a tick (✓) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances.

✓(i) Maps. Which ones? *all of them*

✓(ii) Compass. *for keeping on a course to Spain*

(iii) File (hacksaw).

✓(iv) Foreign Currency. State countries and amounts. *French currency*
How did you spend the money? *2000 francs. Give it to Frenchman for railroad tickets and gave it away.*

(d) How did you dispose of :-

Maps. - *burnt them*

Compass. - *lost it*

File (hacksaw). - *lost it*

Surplus currency. - *lost it*

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.

(i) Round compass.

(ii) Stud compass.

(iii) Swinger compass.

(iv) Fly-button compass.

(v) Pencil clip compass.

(vi) Tunic button compass.

(vii) Pipe compass.

(viii) Pouch.

- ✓ (ix) Special flying boots (and knife). *Gave my knife to some French people.*
- (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?
No.
- (b) Did you use them? State how.

5. LECTURES.

- (a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape?
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.
YES, soon after we arrived in England by R.A.F. personnel.
- (b) Did you find the lectures of value?
Yes very valuable.

LT. WILLIAMS

6. (a) How did you carry Aids Box in A/C? *In pocket of Flying suit.*
- (b) How did you carry Aids Box when evading? *In overcoat pocket*
- (c) Were the contents removed and carried in your pockets?
yes.

7. CLOTHING.

- (a) What types of civilian clothing would have been useful?
shirt, suit pants and coat, overcoat, tam.
- (b) What clothes were worn after Flying Kit was discarded?
Civilian suit, Overcoat + tam.
- (c)

6. (a) How did you carry Aids Box in A/C?
- (b) How did you carry Aids Box when evading?
- (c) Were the contents removed and carried in your pockets?

7. CLOTHING.

- (a) What types of civilian clothing would have been useful?
- (b) What clothes were worn after Flying Kit was discarded?
- (c)

19 October 1942

7

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:

Ralph Pulsifer
 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) JACK E. WILLIAMS Signed Jack E. Williams
 Rank 2ND LT. A.S.N. 0-662228 Date January 20, 1943
 Unit 360TH BOMB SQ. Witness W. H. H. Nelson
W. H. H. Nelson
Attache