

# Escape and Evasion Report of Flight Officer Charles Yeager, October 19, 1942, p. 1

National Archives and Records Administration (E&E Report 660)

YEAGER

Flying # 4 on mission to Bordeaux 3 FW190 came in from rear. Seared elevator cables. Snapped with rudder + popped canopy + tried to get out I got out at 18000 ft. I took off dingy pants, oxygen mask + helmet in air. I was whirling on back as I pulled cord at 8000 ft. An FW190 above me started towards me. As he was about 200 yds from me a 51 came in on his tail + blew him up. I floated over gnignols + landed in clearing in oak woods. There was one pine sapling about 20 ft tall. I grabbed sapling + swung down. Clute being up walked SE after hiding in w. About 200 ft 1/2 a dozen Finen ran up to me. They ran over + pulled clute down + came back to me. One of them took me by my arm. (I took off A2 jacket + flying suit - was in O D trousers + shirt) and took me to house 200 yds away + gave me civilian clothes. Led me here. A gendarme came up road, so they hid me in barn. When gend. left. Meanwhile one of the other

Young man  
+  
two sisters  
(about 23 +  
18)

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men came back with note from Eng-speaking  
 French woman telling me to trust my helpers.  
 They took me by bicycle to hotel  
 about 1 km away outside of Gaignols  
 to this Eng. sp. French woman (60 yrs old)  
 who has daughter (30) and grand daughter.  
 The man who brought me to the hotel  
 took me by bike to CASTELJALOUX to  
 a house of fleshy, white haired man  
 (40), [wife, son (19), daughter (17)]. Stayed  
 overnight. Next morning the same man  
 came back + took me to a farmhouse  
 off N 133 near the lake at Font Guillem  
 au Pujo bet. Pompage + Housilles on  
 left side of road going south. Stayed  
 7 days. A farmer from Housilles on 12<sup>th</sup>  
 took me to Nerac. There I was put  
 in house ~~was~~ 1/2 km from Nerac, house of  
 regional chief (Gabriel - wife, Marie Rose  
 wife's brother, Leon, an old lady (Gabriel's  
 mother). This is house where Dr. Henri  
 stays when he is in the neighborhood.  
 After a few days Dr. Henri came in Frankel  
 truck + went to the Maguis and got  
 Hall + six sergeants + took ~~them~~ them to  
 the Maguis near Nerac. Then went back to  
 Casteljaloux + picked up Seidel.  
 On 25 we went to farmhouse + km 5 of  
 Nerac.

35  
 man +  
 wife +  
 small boy  
 (AFAM)  
 5 yrs old

Here  
 unpacked  
 grenades  
 +  
 machine guns  
 which  
 RAF  
 dropped by  
 chute.  
 Had  
 37mm  
 AT guns  
 here!

# Transcription, Escape and Evasion Report of Flight Officer Charles Yeager, October 19, 1942

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Flying #4 on mission to Bordeaux 3 FW190s came in from rear. Severed elevator cables. Snap-rolled with rudder and popped canopy and tried to get. I got out at 18000 ft. I took off dinghy pack, oxygen mask and helmet in air. I was whirling on back as I pulled cord at 8000 ft. A FW190 above me, started towards me. As he was about 2000 yards from me a 51 came in on his tail and blew him up. I floated over Grignols and landed in clearing in oak woods. There was one pine sapling about 20 ft tall. I grabbed sapling and swung down. Chute hung up. Walked SE after hiding M.W. About 200 ft, ½ a dozen French ran up to me [young men and two sisters (about 23 and 18)]. They ran over and pulled chute down and came back to me. One of them took me by my arm. (I took off A2 Jacket and flying suit--was in O.D. trousers and shirt) and took me to house 200 yds. away and gave me civilian clothes. Fed me here. A gendarme came up road, so they hid me in farm. When gend. left. Meanwhile one of the other men came back with note from Eng-speaking French woman telling me to trust my helpers.

They took me by bicycle to hotel about 1 km away outside of Grignols to this Eng.sp. French Woman (60 yrs old) who has daughter (30) and granddaughter.

The men who brought me to the hotel took me by bike to CASTELVALLOUX to a house of fleshy, white haired man (40), [wife, son (19), daughter (17)]. Stayed overnight. Next morning the same man came back and took me to a farmhouse off N 133 near the lake at Fort Guillem au Pujo bet. Pompogne and Houeilles on left side of road going south. Stayed 7 days. A farmer from Houeilles on 12<sup>th</sup> took me to Nerac. There I was put in house ½ km from Nerac, house of regional chief (Gabriel-wife, Marie Rose wife's brother, Leon; and old lady (Gabriel's mother: this is house where Dr. Henri stays when he is in the neighborhood. [Here unpacked grenades and machine guns which RAF dropped by chute. Had 37mm A-T guns here.] After a few days Dr. Henri came in Franbel trucks and went to the Maquis and got Nahl and six sergeants and took them to the Maquis near Nerac. They went back to Castelvaloux and picked up Seidel.

On 25 we all went to farm house 4kms S. of Nerac.