SECRET.

I.S.9/WEA/2/98/238.

ESCAPED FROM FRANCE.

The information contained in this report is to be treated as SECRET.

ACCOUNT OF ESCAPE OF

Aus.409160 W/O LYALL, R., R.A.A.F. 453 Sqn., 2nd Tactical Air Force, R.A.F.

Date of Birth : 2 Apr 22.
R.A.F. Service : 3 years.
O.T.U. : No.61 (REDNALL).
Conversion Unit: Nil.
Post in crew : Pilot (fighter).

Peacetime Profession: Student.

Private Address: 39 Aphrasia Street, New Town, Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

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Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure.
SPITFIRE 9B. 12 Jul 44. 1430 hrs. 125 Airfield.

Where and when did you come down?
12 Jul 44. 1530 hrs. approx 15 miles E.S.E. FALAISE.

How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?
Left in cockpit.

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?
Took maps away. Destroyed I.F.F.

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Maps Used: FRANCE, 1:250,000, Sheet 7 F/3, 7 G/4, 7 F/6, 8 G/1.

Take off — I took off on 12 Jul from landing strip, B.11 at 1430 hrs. approx. My mission was a sweep for M.T. in the area East CAEN - FALAISE.

Hit by flak — On our way home I was at 4,500 ft approx. when I was hit by flak. My radiator and oil cooler were damaged. I tried to reach our lines but my engine stopped. I had then to try and land. I crash-landed my plane E.S.E. of FALAISE at 1530 hrs. approx.

Crash-land

/I collected my .....

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INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W.E.A.), 17 Aug 44.

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APPENDIX C.
I.S.9(W.E.A.)/2/98/288.

The following information was obtained from BRITISH personnel who have been repatriated.

If further circulation of this information is made, it is important that its source should not be divulged.

ESCAPER'S NAME, etc.:- Aus.409160 W.O. LYALL, R.,
453 Sqn., R.A.A.F., 2nd T.A.F.

DATE OF INTERVIEW:- 17 Aug 44.

Maps Used: FRANCE, 1:250,000, Sheets 7 G/4 and 7 G/6.

On 7 Aug we reached ST DENIS SUR SARTHON (Sheet 7 G/4, 2286) and at 0700 hrs we met two boys in a field bringing in the horses. We told them who we were, that we were hungry and tired and without hesitation they took us to the farm where they fed us very well indeed. They then gave us a blanket and allowed us to sleep in the loft which was fully stocked with straw. In the back garden of this farm there is a crashed and half burnt out F.W. 190.

At 0600 hrs (8 Aug) we approached a farm and asked for some food. They fed us and at 0700 hrs as we were leaving this farm we were picked up by a farmer who took us to his house. The farm is in the village of FERRIERE BOCHARD (Sheet 7 G/4, 2481) and the farmer had a daughter aged ten called Marcelline. The family consisted of the farmer, aged 31 - 34, his wife about seven months pregnant, and three daughters aged ten, four and two, plus two sons aged five and 12 months.

At 0930 hrs (13 Aug) he took me to ST. CENERI (Sheet 7 G/6, 2378) where we met the U.S. Army.

M. K. K. Howat.
J. Cdr., A.T.S.
for Lieut. Colonel.

I.S.9.
25 Sep 44.

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~~I.S.9/E/T.S.(-)~~

I.S.9/WEA/2/98/288.

APPENDIX D.

No, Rank and Name:- Aus.409160 W/O LYALL, R.

Unit:- 453 Sqn., 2nd Tactical Air Force, R.A.F.

Category:- Escaped from FRANCE.

1. AIDS BOX.

(a) Did you carry an aids box with you?

(b) If not, why did you not carry it with you?

(c) Did you use your aids box? Yes.

(d) Was it satisfactory?

2. PURSE.

(a) Did you carry a purse? Yes.

If so, state colour. BROWN.

If not, state why not.

(b) What did you do with the money? 2,000 French francs - Taken by Germans.

3. LECTURES.

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

O.T.U. and Sqn. Three weeks before D. Day.

4. GENERAL.

Have you any observations to make such as hints likely to be of use to other evaders or escapers?

Always have a good pair of boots if possible - carry all possible escape aids. Always carry a razor. Always carry a detailed map of area flying over.

M.I.9.
19/Sep/1944.

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