

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 520 - U. S. Army

: AUTH: CG, 15 AF :
: Init. :
: 24 November 1944 :

D-RMM-1F

24 November 1944
Ref: USA/SKP/239

ESCAPE STATEMENT

1. Bell, Rual W., F/O, T 62809, 100 Sq., 332 Ftr. Gp.

27 March, 1920

Enlisted 22 Oct. 1942.

Home Address - 1717 N. Williams Ave., Portland, Ore.

Peacetime Profession - Stenographer.

MIA - 14 Oct. 1944

RTD - 23 Oct. 1944

Missions

P.R.C.

2. On 14 Oct. 1944, Source was flying an escort mission in a P-51 to Blechemmer area. After approximately two hours on course the engine cut out at 24,000 ft. Source immediately glanced at the instruments and noticed extremely high oil temperature and very low fuel and oil pressure. After making several unsuccessful attempts to start engine, source started to bail out at an indicated alt. of 10,000 ft.

3. Never in enemy hands.

4. On 14 Oct. 1944 Source landed approximately 15 or 20 miles N. E. of ZAGREB (45o 52' N) 16o 00'E) after having landed, source walked in a southerly direction until nightfall and spent the night in the woods. On 15 Oct. 1944 source met a friendly Yugoslav farmer who called the Partisans. The Partisans then took source to Cetingrad where he spent the night at Partisan Hq. The following morning he was taken by automobile to Topusko (45o 17' N 15o 58'E) again spending the night with the Partisans. On 17 Oct. 1944 source hitch-hiked to a British Mission for the night on 18 Oct. 1944. Due to the crowded condition at the mission, source was moved to the outskirts of the town to live with a Yugoslav family where he stayed until 19 Nov. 1944. On 19 Nov. 1944 source, 56 French, 26 British and 57 U.S. Soldiers were taken by truck to a small American Mission where they met an American Officer who found them a place to sleep. Plans were supposed to pick up escapees here but were unable to get in because of foul weather. On 20 Nov. 1944 source was again moved by truck to OBROVAC (44o 13' N 15o 41'E) where Dalmatian Partisans furnished food and sleeping quarters. On 21 Nov. 1944 source and forty American escapees left OBROVAC enroute to ZARA. (44o 04' N 15o 13'E) Driver refused to return to OBROVAC because the Ustaches had taken over the road. Source spent the night aboard a British Cruiser (H.M.S. COLOMBO). On 22 Nov. 1944 Source was taken aboard British Destroyer (H.M.S. BROCKLESBY) and embarked for ANCONA, Italy.

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~~SECRET~~

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APPENDIX B

18 Oct. 1944 to
19 Nov. 1944

Sam Mitich in GLINA

Source slept in his house.
Shopped for Source. Washed
clothes, etc.

Dmitar Suzic (Kapetan)
Komandant. MJESTA.
in TOPUSKO.

Partisian captain who befriended
Source, furnished food and a
place to sleep.

19 Nov. 1944

American Mission and
Landing Strip

Provided accomandations for
Source. A/C could not come
in owing to unfavorable
weather.

D. Gopheny in GLINA
(Partisian Captain)

Furnished food and cot for
Source. Very friendly.

British Mission in Glina. Major Churchill is in charge. Lord
Burkenhead ~~also~~ associated with this Mission.

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APPENDIX G

Source says Escape Kit is practically worthless. Advises Airmen to carry extra cigarettes, candy, stockings, toothbrush and knife on person or a larger Escape Kit be issued.

American currency was used to good advantage.

Always wear G.I. Shoes.

Side arms should be worn on Mission.