

SECRET.

M.I.9/S/P.G.(-) 2741;
(-) 2742; (-) 2743.

EVADED CAPTURE IN DENMARK.

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

STATEMENT BY

112388 F/Lt. Robert Richard GEE }
148803 F/O Samuel Connor WOODHAM } 161 Sqn., Bomber Command, R.A.F.
173441 F/O Patrick Joseph MOLONEY }

Left : SWEDEN, 7 Nov 44.

Arrived : U.K., 7 Nov 44.

(For personal details see end of this report).

Other members of crew:

S/Ldr. ABECASSIS (pilot) } (Still in DENMARK).
F/O WALKER (wireless operator) }
P/O FLOWER (engineer) (S/P.G.(-) 2755).
W/O PHILP (second bomb aimer) (Killed in crash).

On 6 Oct 44 at about 2235 hrs we took off from
TEMPSFORD in a Stirling aircraft on a special flight to
DENMARK.

7 Oct 44
Crash-landed
near VEM

On approaching the Danish coast, we were flying at an
altitude of 500-1000 feet, when we were attacked by a night
fighter. Our aircraft burst into flames and we were forced
to crash-land about 0130 hrs on 7 Oct. We came down about
six kilometres N.W. of VEN (DENMARK, 1:100,000, Sheet 16,
R 8576). The aircraft was completely destroyed and all our
equipment burned. All of us got out with the exception of
the second bomb aimer who was killed and burned in the crash.
The engineer, P/O FLOWER, was badly burned.

7 Oct 44
HOLMGAARD MOSE

We started to walk in an Easterly direction with the
intention of crossing DENMARK and escaping to SWEDEN. We
walked until about 0530 hrs and hid in a wood near HOLMGAARD
MOSE (R 8884), where we remained all day (7 Oct).

/The engineer

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W) } 9 Nov 44.
O.R.S., Bomber Command, R.A.F. }

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The engineer, P/O FLOWER, whose burns were very serious, would have been unable to carry on and we decided that he should give himself up to some local farmers. He left us about noon on 7 Oct and we did not hear of him again until we arrived in SWEDEN. He returned to the U.K. with us.

The crew then split into two parties. S/Ldr. ABECCASSIS and P/O WALKER left us. We did not see them again.

The three of us left our hiding place near HOLMGAARD MOSE about 1850 hrs on 7 Nov and walked about three miles to the East. We made contact with a farmer who was very frightened when we told him that we were R.A.F., but he supplied us with food. We remained about two hours at his house, when he took us to a nearby haystack, where we remained for the rest of the night.

On the morning of 8 Oct we walked in an Easterly direction until we reached a main road which we were afraid to cross in daylight as the traffic was very heavy. We hid by the roadside all day and moved on about 1630 hours. We then made contact with another farmer who gave us food and directions to HOLSTEBRO (Sheet 17, S 0075). We were anxious to get to a doctor and have our wounds attended to.

8 Oct 44
LINDE

On the night of 8 Oct we walked through LINDE (Sheet 16, R 9382) towards HOLSTEBRO. About 6 kms past LINDE we met a girl on a bicycle who took us back to her parents' home in LINDE. We arrived there at about 0100 hrs on 9 Oct. They gave us food and attended to our burns. They then put us to bed and we slept there until 1500 hrs. We left this place at about 2200 hrs, as word was received that the Germans were looking for us.

As it was raining very heavily, we found shelter in a barn a few kilometres away and stayed there until about 1800 hrs on 10 Oct. That night we made contact with several farmers, but with the exception of receiving food they would not help us for fear of being found out by the Germans. We crossed the railroad at (Sheet 17, R 977769) and moved from there in a Westerly direction to by-pass HOLSTEBRO, as we had heard that the town was full of German soldiers.

11 Oct 44
SKOLE

At about 0100 hrs on 11 Oct we made contact with another farmer, who gave us food and shelter in a barn. We moved on in the morning and crossed the river STORAA, going S.E. in the direction of TVIS (Sheet 22, S 0770). We made contact with a farmer near SKOLE (S 0868) on the East side of the river TOISAA, who gave us food. We re-crossed the river and went to SKOLE, where we met a boy who spoke English. He took us to his home, where we received food, shelter and medical attention. We slept there all night. The next day we received a road map from the boy's father.

13 Oct 44
ILSKOV

On the morning of 12 Oct we moved on, by-passing HODSAGER (Sheet 22, S 1467), and called at a farm near the SOUTH FELDBORG PLANTAGE (S 1966), where we stayed all night.

On the morning of 13 Oct we moved in a S.E. direction by-passing SIMMELKAER (S 2161) and ILSKOV (S 2855), and reached a church just outside this town. We made two unsuccessful contacts but were taken in at the third farmhouse, where we remained until noon on 14 Oct. We heard later on that many people in this district were German sympathisers.

/We walked

15 Oct 44
VINDERSLEV

We walked East through KOMPEDAL PLANTAGE (Sheet 23, S 3755), where we stayed in a barn overnight. On 15 Oct we reached VINDERSLEV (S 5744), where we met a man who made us very welcome and gave us food and medical attention. In the afternoon we walked through SERUP (S 5154) and slept in a school on the East side of the town.

16 Oct 44
TORSØ

On 16 Oct we went through LEMMING (S 5553) and by-passed SKORUP (S 6755), arriving at TORSØ (Sheet 24, S 7157) at about 1800 hrs. Here we made contact with an old lady on the outskirts of the town and received food and shelter for the night.

17 Oct 44
VITTEN

On the morning of 17 Oct we made our way around HAVRUM (S 7556) - SKØD (S 7956) and VITTEN (S 8354). Outside VITTEN we were picked up by a lorry and taken to the outskirts of HINNERUP BROBY (S 8751). We by-passed this town and arrived in GRUNDFØR (S 8951) at about 1930 hrs, where we made contact with a farmer and received shelter for the night.

17 Oct 44
GRUNDFØR

18 Oct 44
SPORRING

On 18 Oct we walked N.E., by-passing SPORRING (S 9253). We then met a man, and from this point our journey was arranged for us.

	<u>F/Lt. GEE.</u>	<u>F/O WOODHAM.</u>
Date of Birth	: 22 Nov 18.	15 Jun 13.
R.A.F. Service	: Since Jun 39.	Since 10 Aug 40.
Post in crew	: Navigator.	Bomb aimer.
Peacetime Profession:	Civil servant.	Linotype Operator (Machine compositor).
Private Address	: 36, Chester Street, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, 2.	22, Burleigh Road, SUTTON, Surrey.

	<u>F/O MOLONEY.</u>
Date of Birth	: 17 Mar 22.
R.A.F. Service	: Since Apr 41.
Post in crew	: Air gunner.
Peacetime Profession:	Student.
Private Address	: Station House, Roscrea, CO. TIPPERARY.