SECRET - MERICAN MOST SECRET - DRITISH

HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS P/W and X Detachment Military Intelligence Service

E & E REPORT NO. 733 EVASION IN BELGIUM-HOLLAND-FRANCE

(Date)

Claude R LESLIE, S/SGT, 35507564

(Name)

(ASN)

24 Missions

547 Bomb Sq, 384 Bomb Group

(Squadron)

(Group)

TARGET: SOLINGEN

MIA: 1 December 1943 Arrived in UK:

9 June 1944

| MEMBERS OF CREW: (This | information | checked | with PWIB)                                  |                           |
|------------------------|-------------|---------|---|---------------------------|
| PILOT                  | 0-736509    | lst Lt  | Official<br>Disposition<br>Edmund S GOULDER | Narrators Disposition P/N |
| CO-PILOT               | 0-1699192   | Major   | Mauric S DILLINGHAM                         | P/W                       |
| NAVIGATOR              | 0-670732    | lst Lt  | Arthur C HARRIS                             | P/W                       |
| BOMBARDIER             | 0-735164    | lst Lt  | William BOOMHOWER                           | P/W                       |
| RADIO OPERATOR         | 17041787    | T/Sgt   | William F SEARS                             | P/W                       |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER      | 34121576    | T/Sgt   | Edward THOMASSON                            | P/W                       |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER     | 35507564    | s/sgt   | Claude R LESLIE                             | NARRATOR                  |
| WAIST GUNNER           | 35380958    | S/Sgt   | Michael J VODILKO                           | P/W                       |
| WAIST GUNNER           | 17128063    | S/Sgt   | Paul R SAUNDERS                             | P/W                       |
| TAIL GUNNER            | 0-740042    | 2d Lt   | Ernest M BOYCE                              | P/W                       |

### RESTRICTED

#### WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

6 August 1943

SUBJECT:

Amended Instructions Concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War, to Include Evaders of Capture in Enemy or Enemy-Occupied Territory and Internees in Neutral Countries.

TO:

The Commanding Generals,

Army Ground; Army Air Forces

The Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area:

The Commanding Generals,

Theaters of Operations: Defense Commands: Departments:

Base Commands;

The Commanding Officers,

Base Commands;

Director, Bureau of Public Relations.

- Publication or communication to any unauthorized persons of experiences of escape or evasion from enemy-occupied territory, internment in a neutral country, or release from internment not only furnishes useful information to the enemy but also jeopardizes future escapes, evasions and releases.
- Personnel will not, unless authorized by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, publish in any form whatever or communicate either directly, or indirectly, to the press, radio or an unauthorized person any account of escape or evasion of capture from enemy or enemy-occupied territory, or internment in a neutral country either before or after repatriation. They will be held strictly responsible for all statements contained in communications to friends which may subsequently be published in the press or otherwise.
- Evaders, escapees, or internees shall not be interrogated on the circumstances of their experiences in escape, evasion or internment except by the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations. In allied or neutral countries, American Military Attaches are authorized to interrogate on escape, evasion and internment matters.
- Should the services of escaped prisoners of war, evaders, or internees be deemed necessary for lecturing and briefing, such services will be under the direct supervision of the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations.
- Commanding Officers will be responsible for instructing all evaders, escapees, and internees in the provisions of this directive which supersedes letter, AG 383.6 (5 Nov 42) OB-S-B-M, 7 November 1942, subject: Instructions concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War and other previous instructions on this subject.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J. A. ULIO J. A. ULIO Major General. The Adjutant General.

- Information about your escape or your evasion from capture would be useful to the enemy and a danger to your friends. It is therefore SEGRET.
- 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, or by A. C. of S., G-2, W. D.

(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.

You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.

- You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.
- You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4.

No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of A. C. of S., G-2, W. D., or corresponding organization in the

theater.

GERTIFIGATE

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 SEGRET and must not be disclosed to anyone other than the agency designated by A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations, or to the Military Attache in a neutral country to whom I first report. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) CLAUDE R. LESL

Witnes

AG P BR HQ SOS 2-44/2M/22472

RESTRICTE

### RESTRICTED

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| Name (Print) OLAUDE R LESLIE           | Sig  |
|--|------|
| Rank 5/SGT. A.S. N. 35507564           | Da   |
| Unit 547 th Bomb Sp. 384 th Bones. Fr. | Witn |

|       |     | 2   |     | 17  | 0   | . 1 |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Signe | 1   | lac | all | 11. | Te. | rhe |
| Dated | Jus | il. | 2,1 | 944 | /   |     |
| · 0   |     |     |     |     |     |     |

#### SECRET - ATERICAN MOST SECRET - BRITISH

# APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

List all military information which you observed or were told while evading. Give fullest possible details. (Airfields, troop encarpments, coastal and interior aefenses, AA batteries, radar installations, troop movements, results of allied bembing, location of enemy factories and amunition dumps, enemy and civilian morale, etc., etc.,...)

# CONFIDEN IAL

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE A. C. OF S., G-2

DATE: 10 June 1944 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: 733 SEVERINO J. FERNANDEZ, S/Sgt., AC, 31110682 hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with CLAUDE R. LESLIE, Stagt., AC, 35507564 prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory. The person whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon is the individual referred to above. RIGHT THUMB PRINT:

The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as CLAUDE R. LESLIE, S/Sgt., AC, 35507564 (547 Bomb Squadron - 384 Bomb Group)

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

J. F. CARROLL, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.
CONFIDENTIAL

#### SECRET

#### APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name: - CLAUDE R. LESLIE, S/867, -35507564
Unit: - 547 & Boneb, Sp. - 384 & Boneb &c.

Saggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training come largely from those who make use of them. Your report and corments will help others to evade capture or to escape.

#### AIDS BOX

Did you use your aids box? Mo.

If not, why? Mat, in posission. (left in Ne) we have pocket or esteralls.

If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights".

All the same of th

Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

. Sowing kit.

- Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?

How did you finally dispose of the box?

Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aids box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger?

# PURSE

Did you carry a purse? W State color of stripes and letters. If NOT, State why not. not in posissing

Did you use the purse?

(over)

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones?

Compass.

File (hacksew).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of :-

Mops.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion?

Yes; and exam amposs

## 4. PASSPORT SZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? Mo.

b. Did you use them?

#### 5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and ascepe? Yes. State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOLL USA - Kearmy

b. Did you find the lectures of value: aptifuhser recommaine.

c. Do you have any sucception of the contraction of the contract

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?

Twenty minutes after landfall in Belgium we had a runaway prop. Ten minutes later we left the formation, called for fighter support and turned back on three engines. Number two engine went out ten minutes from the coast and seven minutes later number three engine stopped, we had two P-47s on car wingtips - one had Minnie Mouse on the cowling - when the pilot turned S and told us to prepare to bail out. The RWG left first, followed by the LWG and I fell out behind him, delaying my jump to 5000 feet from above 20,000 feet. I was in free fall when I last saw the aircraft and counted two chutes after maine had opened.

Mombing of Chilb around 22 May was very good, Two days Later heavy

usen repaired. There was only one train Iron W France into PAMES unbil

Franch consider American bushing in your sloppy.

21 May when two Lines were opened. .

SPERTAN SPERMAN

the feilds and was surrounded by more than thirty people the moment I landed. After kicking the chute into an irrigation ditch with the harness, I asked in German, if anyone could speak English. They were surprised that I spoke German because they had assumed I was American, and, after assuring them I was American I asked the crowd to scatter before the Germans arrived. I ran toward a farmhouse and had travelled about 400 yards when I heard shots. One of the Belgians had dragged my chute out of the ditch and spread it in the field. The Germans arrived and fired into the crowd, which scattering them all over the countryside. This was a help to me because

GERRAL X

I waited until dusk before moving and found a Belgian inxthexbaxayard one I had seen when landing waiting in the barnyard for me. I asked

STRECTIONS

directions to FRANCE because I had lost my compass, and set off in the direction he pointed. I walked through fields to the edge of a village before noticing that I was travelling N.

a Frenchman inside. He was friendly, gave me food and maps, and pointed ssw as the direction I should walk toward FRANCE.

HAND BREAM

I walked steadily that night through the fields until early morning and without asking permission crawled into a large barn by to get some sleep.

I found such a perfect hiding place in the barn I stayed all day. The Frenchmen had given me enough food to last that day. In the evening I went to the farmhouse near the barn and found the family at supper. In German I asked if anyone spoke English. One of the people there spoke German and after explaining my situation and English speaking person was sent for and I was taken to another house that night. From there my journey was arranged.

2 Roser Es

Appendix B: 733

a. Evader was told by Bergian source that there is a Radar locator near YPRES

Example Appendix B: 733

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Ap

b. Bomb damage at SCHAERBEER in airfields and Renault plant had good results (APRIL C. Liberators that bombed SCHAERBEEK railway station in April did a good jog.

d. According to evader Flak in BRUSSELS was not very good. It was tracking fire and not barrage. N of SCHARRBECK the flak was medium, accurate and tracking fire. (MARCH -ATRI)

e. Evader thought German troops in Belgium were constantly on the move. He heard that many Poles had been forced into the German army stationed in Belgium and that they were ready to turn on the Germans at the first opportunity. Austrians in German army planning desertion.

f. Evader heard of a line of fortifications Brom BRUGES to the French frontier, running 30 miles inland. It also faced inland in event of paratroop attack. 2,000,000 kilos of concrete had been poured in this line.

g. The railroad system in BRUSSELS had suffered complete damage. There were no more engines left. Bombing of rail centers around BRUSSELS had been very accuarte, particularly on roundhouses.

h. GARE DU NORD station badly damaged. Tracks destroyed but one line had been repaired. There was only one train from N France into PARIS until 24 May when two lines were opened.

i. Bombing of CREIL around 22 May was very good. Two days later heavy repairs being made.

j. French consider American bombing is very sloppy.

k. Evader heard in Belgium that the Germans had a plan for inundating area around ANTWERP. Houses on the seawall are reinforced with concrete and all

k (cont)

civilians over an area 25 km from the coast have been evacuated.

APPENDIX D: 733

1. I left my aids box and purse in the aircraft. My coveralls did not have a knee pocket.

23. I carried a small escape compass.

3.4. I had no escape photos. I had had some taken at Group but had not received them yet.

I had been betured on evasion in NEBRASKA and at my Group.
I found the lectures very valuable concerning the type of farmhouses to approach after reconnoitreing, walking in fields away from roads and keeping GI shoes.

### TOP SECRET

#### E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

| LAUDE R.  | LESLIE -S/SG | 735507564 | Q_ | in 9,1944 |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|----|-----------|
| (Name)    | (Rank)       | (ASN)     | 7  | (Date)    |
| 347 Bones | Jr 384 # Bo  | nef Du    |    |           |
| (Un       | it)          |           |    |           |

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc? 3 legences deads. The fire.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 20,000 ft,
Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? Saw Levo Waist Commers. Parachutes open?

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? The knowledge.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions?

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and what means was source rescured and what life rafts, wrechage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

#### SECRET

FEADQUARTERS

EUROPEAL THEATER OF OPERATIONS

F/W and X Detachment

Military Intelligence Service

E & E REPORT NO 133 EVASION IN



6-9-44 (Data)

TARGET: SOLINGEN

Date Missing in Action: DEC-1-1943

Date Arrived in UK: JUNE-9-1944

(Name) (Renk) (ADA)

24 (No of Missions)

5 H1 the (Soundron)

384 4 (Group)

MEMBERS OF LEAST: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know

PALOT / St ft. Guelder

00\_PALOT Major Llillingtone

NATIONAL St ft. arthur Hours

BURNARMEN / St ft. Boomfower

RADE CHEMATOR T/S GT. William t. Stars

TOP TURRED GUERRE T/S GT. Edward Floricassore

LEAL TURRET GUERRE S/S GT. Claude R. Leslie

R WATER GUERRES/S GT. Ma. J. Vocliber

LEAL GUERRES/S GT. Paul Saunders

THE GUERRES/S GT. Paul Saunders

THE GUERRES/S GT. Paul Saunders

Refyal automabile

Were you wounded?

no.

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO : Personnel concerned.

and the last of the second design and

- 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.

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 Far. 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 EISETHOMER:

(signed) 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 mort, 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.

Rank S/SGTA.S.N. 3550,7564 Date 6-8-44

mit 547 # Sp. - 384 # Maitness Du. O. D. D.

HORACE W. FORSTER, Colonel, G.S.C., U. S. Mil. Lia. Off.

1. Roden locator near YPRES - oy od Eng had full info - plans of custricter atc - between YPRES two e oast - Bubu ad he had sent 3 sets of plans Z. Bubing at Schaarbeck on airfields & buraches tate in april was good - also on Remault plant in Schaarbecks -3. Libs bull Scharlick Hatim - good job - april - hung Selastopet-Paussels flat not very good, very wild, in barrage fire - tracking fire 5 No Schaarbech Hack not hevy but occurate, tracker fire -6. German typs in Bely custombly on move - hel of lots of Poles forced in Lewise Cerry in Relie - redy to turn on Lerry -7. austinais in Seven any planny desertion alsohd of line fortifications from Bruges to To frontier -2000,000 Kilog Concretinist - hisy-9 RR systemin Rucrels shot - no engines - brushing on rail Celler Bruk Brosels acrto- pitch Roudlises -10. GARE DU NORD - only one track in a yolin - next deshoyed only on train from N France into PARIS - in May 24-11. Broking at CRE/L- good - May 22? - regain going on good shape 
12. In think little of our broking - sloppy -13. had in Belg that Sevry cound Outwery, had plan for inventeling - her on secural reinforced cornete - all crity's evold 25 bons from court -

20 mins pour belian roast - ocenaway perop - que in to tret - salvoed on to of you funder 10 mins - abited - all for file support - fred flows - true sout on 3 enf - 10 mint from cost 2 out - guy in denny thing the somber - to 3 min y coast - 2 P470 on wing tips - one P47 had minie mouse in cowling -3rd engoul 3 min from Cst. Ptrod ship 5 - the cas gal ready to get out - when I got is lost - WGs still in infram - then RWG went to Wdon't vecud - be jumped - chute opened windthy - LWG Alland him delayed to 5000 - sawhim open later - & Allud 20 seconds later - delyd to 5000 - when last now ak was in fre fall - diffing toweds heyseld -Daw 2 o hutes - of cered chute away - poon as Inded - 30 people on ocene at once - baked chile into irrigation ditch - with harness = asked peple - in Herman - if splee English - suspes becas I asked in Leman the people to scatter before Herry came - I went 400 yds two Junter - had shits lkd back - saw Belge had gotten clinte & spend set in fld & Gerry fine into and they reathed - crawled up to barn - hid in hay - can about 20 Servier - tired + slept - while hy Gerry in hay mow - Ilad down at me - That he saw me - he wild and in their - stepped on one whom and tleft the train patrel oricide - withtelanck - man who had lid me to hide in bown - was in yed - asked which way to trance - hi put N - had lost compass - wheel N - had my hit shoes - wheel Thru flas to Alge of MISEN DERG - there got bring on stons - goog wrong way - saw literia barn ofgod There man winds french - gave me pool of maps of good out trance - went SSW - got to BEVERN - Dame me - took am hid in big barn who wown to from

profet hiding lace in born - byd all day - slept - Otil had food from Fruchen in weining went to here - truly in Kitchen Girl opke German - Ald then Camer a shed of congre near pople in from went to ad pring form ford man
in Condu Cerry look were - became I work one to his close I sont
in Condu Cerry look were - became I work one to his close I sont
inter in oft he could say in key sele - a gend as me (commandant)
inter in oft he could say in key sele - a gend as me (commandant)

from OOS TIVLETERN - giving sundames uniform toycle - to

Gentrinie at " - styd a rule - next across cycled to y presy centrinie at " - styd a rule - next across cycled to y presto hotel - civises - to barber shop with 55t Devon Koski - It

2 It's at hotel from Dwornkos Ki's crew - 8 bays at barbers place in YPRES with

2 It's at hotel from Dwornkos Ki's crew - 8 bays at barbers place in YPRES with Dworkoski - thento POPERINGE with mente of ong tell alin & blance hair owned stationery storin small rearly village - stayed with Jerome in Poperage colden in Relgian army - Resistance grep - was a sheltener - was in black market toh adus from hold owner in PRES: omall, lightfeld, do hair, gets Eng-large Intel on cathedral square in YPRES - Il days in Poperinge with from near large Catholic institution / Worls away - Herman garage was Lineally across died from Jo hone - went beel to YPRES with blands guide - met & Brewen (in Populage for 21 days) - B, D + self + 24 cop D's were taken to Brussels with 3 guides from Poussels - avor. ZHDec in Brussels at 7 th a tore - gave completee.

The on selves and cruw - Sgt Brewer and I to autique blose in Settanto Econo. Its Jacques, high is org, took us to Mome Gill SON - contact man was GASTON, seem under Jacques - Jacques, very efficient - toto very well - there I weeks-Many how hoping have Gillson - left around sudge february - 28 feb i went to 96 Rubens to M. Le Plat, SCHAARBEUK - met Lt. Shepard herehere 7 weeks - same as Shipands except when in Paris - foris, 45Kmsmet Virginia and Philip in Paris - went their place in only NW y Peris, 45Kmsto babuy alop, - will camptell - H. mille taken it stay in Standricount

M. D. D. C. W. Dela Cour, 24 yrold girl Paulette & mother German Capt lived her a week twas in hurlingthing - near more - jud Shoppard -

SECRET - AMERICAN MOST SECRET - BRITISH MIS (X)

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

|     | QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PRSONNEL EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES   |
|-----|--|
| 1.  | Full Name, Rank, and Serial No. OLAUDE R. LESLIE S/SGT, 3550750  |
| 2.  | Decorations. air midal and 3 clusters, dl. F.C.  |
|     | Unit or Squadron: 5414   |
| 4.  | Division (Army) or Group. 384 44   |
| 5.  | Date of Birth. aug. 20, 1919.  |
| ,   |  |
| 7.  | Private Address. 128 4 Lletzen ave, Llaylon,   |
| 3.  | Job as civilian. Tool and gage maker.  |
| 9.  | From what field did you take off? Statton 106. Grafton Underwood   |
| 10. | Take off time.   |
| 11. | Take off time.  Date and target. DEC. 1. SOLING EN, GERMANY.  Where did you land? LEYSELE, BELGIUM I mile West  Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes on how   |
| 12. | Where did you land? LEYSELE, BELGIUM I'mle West 25ml veet  |
| 13. | Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?  |
| 14. | What was your position in aircraft? Ball Junnel gunner   |
| 15. | Were you wounded? My   |
| 16. | Did you pay your guides? If so how much? No  |
| 17. | Do you speak French? Spanish? Mo, No   |
| 10. | Did you have Identity Papers? Mo (Lumbic)  |
| 19. | Have you been questioned before to-day on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom? Have you given anyone a written report on your experiences. Where and when you covil Leason Official. Support to   |
| 20. | Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?   |
| 21. | Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? Yes. at Madrid Buttish Enchasay   |
| 22. | Date of arrival in Spain. and at Gibralte. may. 28, 1944   |
| 23. | Date of arrival at Gibraltar. June 7, 1944   |
| 24. | Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. By air. Subjection.  |
| 25. | Place and date of carry at the original place and the carry at the car |
|     | Bristol air port. June 9, 1944   |