

9 Glenmore St
Naremburn NSW 2065
Australia

September 29, 2017

Dear Suzanne,

I tried to contact you through the American Air Museum, but to no avail. My mother, Hélène (Gill at the time), helped your father to escape from France during World War II. She never spoke about her wartime activities and I had very little idea about them until I discovered the escapelines website and made contact with Keith Janes. He emailed me the written account that my mother made of her resistance work after the war, as requested by the American Military Intelligence.

I now know the names of the 11 airmen that she is known to have aided and your father was one of them. As he is mentioned several times in her written account, I thought you might like to have a copy, if you have not got one already.

I can send it to you by email. My email address is pgemmell@tpg.com.au After the war, in 1947, my mother came to Australia for a holiday and stayed! She was a single mother at the time, but remarried in 1953 and had three more children. She died in December 2011 at the age of 94, saying she had had a very good life, and no regrets.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Gemmell

GILL, Helen
12 Rue Lesueur
Paris 16th district
PAS.38.81

July 20th 1943 I leave Paris with my son aged three on my way to Nogent-le-Rotrou, Eure-et-Loir, for a summer holiday (six weeks) as I am a British subject by marriage I have to secure a permit from the German authorities and am compelled to sign every day at the Police Station in Nogent same as I was doing in Paris, thus enabling the Germans to always trace my whereabouts. As I arrived in Nogent I was very surprised to meet Georges Leumounier a teacher of English, whom I had met the previous summer – He seemed very upset and told me the following story

We have been waiting for you anxiously. On the 15th of July a Hallifax Bomber fell near our town and an English airman is hiding in a farm. We all believe that you can do something through your husband and you must do it as quickly as possible as the airman must not remain in this town any longer.

Although it was extremely difficult for me to get in touch with my husband (interned at Saint-Denis) I succeeded in sending him a note through a friend and received the following answer "The parcel will be collected in a few days". In the meantime, however, one of my friends from Nogent-le-Rotrou, Jaqueline Frelat (104 Rue St. Hilaire Nogent-le-Rotrou) went to Paris trying get in contact with a man believed to be from the I.S. Axel X (wishes to remain unknown) and she came back two days later telling me that a girl would come to take Ivor Sansum (British airman) to a small place called Mortrée. As everything seemed to be settled I requested my husband to do nothing about this matter. I was visiting I. Sansum almost daily; he was suffering from a sprained ankle and his moral was very low due to the fact that no one spoke English. However after a few days his moral was much higher. The people he stayed with looked after him with the greatest of care and parted with their one and only Sunday suit – I forget their name but Mlle Frelat should know it.

A few days later the girl from Paris called. She was tall and very dark – Her name was Carmen. As no room could be found for her in the village I offered her to share my bed which she accepted gladly. I thus made her acquaintance and told her that I was looking for a long time for an opportunity enabling me to work for an "organisation" and that I would appreciate if she would introduce me to her "Chief". During our conversation I understood that she was making her first trip and she spoke no English. In the evening of her arrival we went to make arrangements for Sansum's departure which was taking place the next morning. In the meantime Jaqueline Frelat and G. Lemounier thought that Carmen was not very able and although every explanation was given to her regarding the voyage she seemed quite uneasy and worried.

Jaqueline Frelat who had assumed a good deal of responsibility, was worried for Sansum's security and she begged me to travel with him and Carmen. I accepted immediately although I had to take my son with me. When I asked Carmen if she

would not mind my presence she answered "I am very glad that you are coming as I did not feel very safe".

~~Next morning we both made for the station and Ivor came with the farmer.~~ We were all standing on the platform for about five minutes when the train arrived. Carmen took my child and sat in a carriage whereas Sansum and myself were squashed in a corridor. As Sansum's foot began to ache I managed to find him a seat. Two hours later we arrived at Le Maur, where we had to take another train.

The station was crowded with German soldiers and Sansum made his way through them. He was always at his ease everywhere and never made a false step. We took another train which took us to Sées where from we had to walk 10km to Mortrée. We arrived at Sées at noon and Carmen and I had to catch the 5pm train taking her back to Paris and myself to Nogent-le-Rotrou. We had no time to spare and we started our long walk. Although Sansum's foot was very swollen and painful he walked all the way. We had a rest and a snack in the fields and arrived at Mortrée at 2pm. As Carmen had the instructions given to her by Axel and the password she took Sansum to Mr. Chevreuil, Mayor of Mortrée, living Route d'Alménèches. They were very well received, had tea and Sansum felt relieved and very happy. He stayed two weeks with Mr. Chevreuil's sister living nearby and as he told us afterwards he had the most marvellous time. He took a good rest and looked very fit when I saw him a few weeks later. In the meantime I was going back to the station with the child. We were very tired and a few klms before the station waved to a truck which took us to Sées. We remained at the station awaiting the train and Carmen. Just before 5pm she arrived with Mr. Chevreuil who had taken her in his car. He made on me an excellent impression.

He was the chief of the "Resistance" in Mortrée and was in contact by Radio with England. He told me that he had given almost all his clothes to the airmen and that he had none left. He seemed very daring and impetuous but also very talkative and I was rather surprised the way he spoke in a station crowded with people.

He told me that he had two more airmen hiding in the woods and that he was awaiting instructions from Paris so that Sansum and the two others left together. The two American airmen mentioned were Willard Freeman and Charlie Mankowitz. Freeman had a broken ankle and Mankowitch had received a bullet through his thigh. A Doctor from Mortrée, Dr. Lemeunier, was taking care of them and they were almost cured. This Doctor was arrested by the Gestapo two days after these boys left but was released a while after on account of lack of proof.

Freeman and Mankowitz had a terrible time as they remained about a month in the woods in the open air. As it was raining almost every night they were getting drenched and caught colds. Their food was brought to them by Mlle Chevreuil who was walking 4kms twice a day – She was looking after their wounds as well. At 5pm our train arrived and we both got in. I again reiterated to Carmen that I would like to be useful and that I was prepared to give my life for it and I urged

her to talk about me to the "Chief". I thought that my knowledge of a few languages could also be useful. She gave me good hopes telling me that they were very short of people owing to the summer holidays and also due to the fact that many got caught by the Gestapo. I felt confident that I at last got a chance! I got out at Nogent-le-Rotrou and Carmen continued to Paris. I went back to the hotel where I had told that I was leaving for Le Mans to visit some friends of mine.

Jaqueline Frelat came to visit me a while after and she was very happy to learn that our journey had been a success. My holidays in the country continued as though nothing had ever happened.

On August 15th J. Frelat went to Paris again and she came back very thrilled and told me the following story

- Axel has at the present moment very few people at his disposal and he has asked me to take the three (above mentioned) airmen to Lyons, where she was going to meet a very important gentleman by the name of Julien.

Of course, Mlle Frelat had accepted and she showed me the itinerary which was the following:

- 1) She would go to Mortrée to collect Ivor Sansum, Freeman and Mankowitz. A car would then take them all to Le Mans where they would all spend the night in a Hotel and the following morning take a train at 7am leaving for Tours
- 2) At Tours a train was leaving for Vierzon about one hour after their arrival
- 3) At Vierzon another train was leaving for Bourges. Upon their arrival they would have to walk 15km from Bourges to St. Florent sur Cher (I am not quite certain of this place) a country house where Mlle Madeleine, Axel's daughter would meet them and accommodate them for the night. The following morning they would have to cross the demarcation line through fields and take the 11am train from (a small station which I do not remember) to Montluçon.
- 4) Then after a few hours spent in Montluçon, a train would take them to Lyons which they would reach at about 10pm. Julien was meeting them all at the station.

Of course, the quickest and best way was to go straight from Le Mans to Paris and from Paris to Lyons but none of the airmen had any identity papers and Germans were checking all the papers at Mâcon or Chalons sur Saone (on the way from Paris to Lyons). Jaqueline Frelat was told that German guards had left the surroundings and that they could cross the line near St. Florent without danger. I was not acquainted with Axel at that time but I thought that it was very unwise to send a young girl alone with three airmen at one time. I had been told by Mr. Chevreuil that two airmen had definite American looks. Nevertheless, I did not share my worries with J. Frelat but warned her to be extremely careful as I thought that three men were a lot and that she should certainly have started with one or two as it was her very first experience.

Jacqueline was leaving Nogent two days later. She turned up late on the eve of her departure and she seemed worried. She told me that she had thought over everything and that she really did not think herself capable of doing such a big job. Three men were a lot and she got scared. She begged me to go with them all, telling me that I was free, that it would make a change for me and that I could be an interpreter as she spoke poor English.

Naturally I was very willing to do anything to help the airmen but I had to face numerous difficulties. First of all I had to sign every day at the Police Station and secondly I only had my British identity papers. The third reason was that I had to take my young child with me.

Nevertheless I made up my mind immediately. The airmen needed help and I was not going to refuse mine. I made arrangements with the Police Station where I had met a young man, Jacques Komaroff, and whom I told that I was leaving for a few days to Le Mans to visit my friends. He was very amicable and told me that I had nothing to worry about as he would sign for me if the Germans came to check the books. He also offered me a false identity and as he thought it would be useful for me in Paris as owing to my British nationality I could not go out of doors after 7pm. All this seemed to me very suspicious and I refused his offer telling him that I had no need for false papers.

I prepared a few things and was going to meet J. Frelat two days later at 4pm in front of the station at Le Mans where they would all come by car and then the itinerary described above would be followed.

Two days later at 4pm I was in front of Le Mans station. Never shall I forget the awful impression I got there. There were crowds of German soldiers, I felt Gestapo all around me and Germans staring at me. I felt that they were looking for something. All cafes were full of Germans also. The whole atmosphere was unbearable.

I was hoping that the car would stop somewhere else and was really afraid that everybody got arrested. At last after a few minutes which seemed hours to me, J. Frelat came. She was alone and told me that the boys were at the back of the Hotel but the landlady had told them to leave Le Mans immediately as Germans were checking all papers in cafes and in every room in Hotels as a plane had fallen over Le Mans a few days before and all the airmen had escaped. I also thought that it was madness to remain in Le Mans a minute longer and the itinerary could not be followed blindly. We all took a seat in the car and the driver, M. Terrier, from Alençon, upon our advice took us to the next small station on the way to Tours whereupon we had to take the train next morning at 7:30am. We were very worried as M. Terrier was only allowed to travel alone and the car was full of people and Germans were all over the town. After a long travel which seemed endless we arrived to the next village and we saw woods. We immediately planned to have a snack and spend our night there as it certainly was the safest place. M. Terrier refused to leave us and he remained with us till the train's departure.

We all had a snack in the woods. J.Frelat remained with the boys while I put the child in the car and remained there with M. Terrier. There was moonlight and the car was seen from the road. If Germans had seen it the worst would have happened as this was forbidden also. We had an absolutely sleepless night. M. Terrier was also a remarkable man and he was doing a lot to the "Resistance".

At last dawn came and we started to get ready. In small groups we went to the station. We always bought the boys' tickets and were slipping them to each one of them. We got into the train to Tours. We had a whole carriage to ourselves though all trains were crowded at this time of the year, and everything went all right. Upon our arrival to Tours we went to the waiting room and spent there about one hour. I thought it was the best way instead of walking around. The boys were pretending to sleep. We always told them to do so as French people are very talkative and it happened more than once that they were spoken to. After about half an hour's waiting I saw a man come into the waiting room and carefully study every face. My heart sunk as I felt absolutely sure that this man belonged to the Gestapo. There is something unmistakable about them. We all were in a dark corner of the room and no notice was taken of us. 30 minutes later we were in the train to Vierzon. There was again plenty of room in the train and were comfortably seated having a carriage to ourselves. Upon our arrival to Vierzon we thought it was unsafe for us this time to sit in the waiting room and we went out in order to find a public garden. We wished to have a snack and we had two hours to spend. Although I thought it was unsafe J. Frelat went shopping with Sansum and I remained with Freeman and Mankovitch.

We all joined at the station and arrived at Bourges without incident. At Bourges we had to walk 15km and we were worried as it was 8pm and the boys were tired and besides there were all wounded.

Mankowitz had a bad wound and I had to re-do his bandage several times.

All of a sudden we saw a taxi going our way. We hurried towards the driver and asked him whether he could take us to St. Florent. The driver told us that unfortunately he had promised a German officer to take him but we pleaded that we had a sick child and that we were exhausted. I believe he got sorry for us as he agreed to take us.

Sansum, Freeman and Mankowitz were walking in front of us, by themselves, we waved to them to come back but the more we were waving the faster they were running away from us. At last they seemed to understand and came back. They all sat at the back with the child and J. Frelat and myself sat in front next to the driver.

The driver was a nice man but we had to speak to him without stop as no one else could say anything. The place we were going to was just about 500 metres before demarcation line where the Germans were checking identity papers and the driver lost his way and almost drove us up to the Germans. We stopped in time and had a narrow escape. We found the house with great difficulty. We were exhausted and all looking forward to a good rest. Marie-Madeleine (Axel's

daughter) met us and we went into the house. As the maid was not very reliable she was told that we all were scouts and that we should spend the night in the house. After a good wash and dinner Marie-Madeleine told us that unfortunately Germans had taken all the furniture from the house and that she could only give us her room to sleep in. The room was a small one, there was only one double bed and mattresses on the floor, and we were six people with the child. Anyhow we settled ourselves the best we could. Freeman took the bed, I slept on the floor with the child, Mankowitz took a mattress and J. Frelat and Sansum took the other corner of the room. We were so tired that everyone slept very well.

Next morning after breakfast everyone was ready to leave. I had no intention whatsoever to go any further. I had some friends at Bourges with whom I planned to stay before going to Paris. I had no identity papers and the worst part of the journey was over. I told my intentions to the airmen and J. Frelat but no one even wished to hear about it. Freeman and Mankowitz had tears in their eyes and they told me "We have such confidence in you that we would travel with you all over the world – Please do not leave us or else we feel that something will happen."

I certainly could do nothing else but accept. I had no papers but none of them had any and I never thought about my return journey to Paris. A few minutes before leaving I fell from a bicycle and badly hurt both of my knees. I almost thought that I would be unable to leave. Nevertheless, we all left at noon. We crossed the demarcation line and walked 5kms before we arrived at the station wherefrom our train was leaving for Montluçon. We always gave the ticket to every airman and they handed them over to the "controlleur".

This time the train was crowded and we could get neither in 3rd or 2nd class. We had to get into the 1st class corridor and stayed there absolutely squashed. The most annoying thing was that we were all poorly dressed and certainly not like 1st class travellers. We travelled like this till Montluçon where we took the train to Lyons. This last part of the journey was the worst one as we stood on our feet for about eight hours. The boys were tired, thirsty, hungry and had no cigarettes left. Except all these miseries no incidents occurred.

The train arrived at Lyons two hours late at 12pm. As it was after curfew we all received a slip of paper authorising us to go out in town after time. Unfortunately no one was awaiting us as we learnt afterwards Julien had been expecting us till 10pm, but left the station at that time. We were all alone, in the dark outside of the station.

The only solution was to go back and sleep in the waiting room. The latter was also packed and J. Frelat and the boys had to sleep on the ground. I was ordered to go to the "Centre d'Accueil" which was reserved for mothers and infants. I put the child on the floor on a mattress and thought that I could go out but the nurse told me to remain there as no one could go out. During the night I went about six times and visited J. Frelat and the boys. Everyone was all right. I had no sleep at all that night which seemed endless. At last dawn came and we were ready to go out of the station by 8am as nothing could be done before. Miss Frelat had

already telephoned twice to the house we were going to but no answer was received.

We went out of the station. It was pouring outside and the town seemed duller than ever. Fortunately it was Sunday and taxis were running. We took one and went to the address indicated to J. Frelat but the house seemed to be empty and no one answered. As we could not walk around with the boys we took them to Church where they remained for about one hour and a half. Meanwhile we returned to the house and were lucky this time to find the owner himself M. Bonnamour, 8 Avenue Foch, Lyons, who had been expecting us the previous night and as he was sick he went to bed and his telephone was out of order. The maids were out and his wife and children away. We asked him whether we could bring the boys in and upon his approval Jacqueline went to meet them at the Church. I remained with M. Bonnamour. He was a very nice man; spoke very good English and had an Insurance Company. J. Frelat and the boys joined us a few minutes later. They felt ever so happy to have reached the end of this endless journey. They all enjoyed a bath and we prepared some lunch.

M. Bonnamour told us that he was going to Julien to tell him that we were all here and that we could expect his visit in the afternoon. At about three o'clock Julien came in with his secretary by the name of Annie. He was slim and smart and typically English in manners and speech. He spoke perfect French. I liked him at first sight although he was very distant and cold. His blue eyes were extraordinarily sharp. He questioned us a lot about our journey and about everything. J. Frelat answered all his questions. He also questioned me apart and his curiosity was justified. I was only Miss Frelat's friend and I had accompanied her upon my free will. In the afternoon Julien, Annie and the boys left the house.

We remained in Mr. Bonnamour's house till the following morning. Our train was leaving at 9am and we went to the station by the tramway. Everything was all right till we reached Chlâons-sur-Saone at which town the train stopped and the loud speaker announced "10 minutes stop - checking of identity papers". My heart sunk - I had none. J. Frelat took my child and I told them to go to the dining car. I got out of the train and waited till the Germans checked the whole train. I got into the dining car when all was over and felt that I had a narrow escape.

We arrived to Paris in the evening. A few minutes after our arrival I took a train to Nogent-le-Rotrou and J. Frelat remained in Paris and reported to Axel.

I remained in Nogent two more weeks and received news from Axel. He was telling me that he was coming to Nogent to meet me. That was in the middle of September. He arrived one evening. We had dinner together with J. Frelat and we left next morning for Paris. J. Frelat remained in Nogent.

We travelled from Nogent to Paris standing in a corridor and Axel spoke to me during four hours. He was very agreeable to accept me in his organisation as he had made full investigation. He told me all about my future work and gave me full details about the organisation etc...He also asked me whether I agreed to the conditions. I certainly did and the more dangerous it was the more thrilled I was.

Nevertheless, I told him that in addition to the work he wanted me to do I would very much appreciate taking care of Allied airmen as I felt confident that I would do in a very successful manner. My sole aim was to help the Allied cause and combat the enemy in every possible way. Axel agreed to my request and we parted at the station. I came home and the holidays were over.

Two days after my return Axel came to my apartment and told me that he would like me to meet a lady called Madame Jeannette Huet, 48 Ave du President Wilson. He told me that I would have to take important documents from this lady and take them over to M. Jaques Dupuis, 5 Rue d'Aumale. As I understood I was just a link between the two above people and Axel did not want Jeannette to meet M. Dupuis. We went to Mrs. Huet the same afternoon. She seemed to be a nice person and I liked her. We spoke a lot and Axel told her that I had just helped three airmen. She seemed very interested and told me that she knew a girl by the name of Claude (Paule Vastel) who was working for a man by the name of Jean-Pierre (Pierre Moulins) from the O.C.M. This gentleman was travelling the whole time in Normandy and Brittany and he knew lots of farmers who were hiding allied airmen. These farmers did not know what to do with them any. Jean-Pierre did not know how to get in touch with an Organization. As Paule Vastel was working for him, Jean-Pierre had requested her to find an organization. Paule Vastel had asked Jeannette about it and now Jeannette was acquainted with me.

Jeannette arranged a meeting for Jean-Pierre and myself next morning at 11am. I came at 11 sharp and Jean-Pierre arrived a few minutes later. Middle size, blond hair and blue eyes he looked extraordinarily energetic. By what I understood he was giving a lot of military information to England. He told me that he would secure for me the address of hiding airmen. I could then make a trip and take them to Paris before their departure to Lyons.

Jean-Pierre also gave me false identity papers which enabled me to travel all over France. I had also made arrangements at the Police Station and signed only twice a week instead of every day.

In the meantime I found out that M. Dupuis was also working for Julien and that I should have to deal with him regarding the airmen. I went to his office 5 Rue d'Aumale. He had an Insurance Company and he was a very busy man. I told him that I would get a few addresses of hidden airmen and that I needed some help as I could not do it all by myself. He told me that he knew a very suitable girl for this work, energetic, full of courage and absolutely reliable. This girl was Madeleine (Mme Graddor).

In the middle of October I gave M. Dupuis a list of addresses and requested him to give it to Madeleine as she would have to go to the country to find the airmen. I was at that time busy with work for Axel and moreover I presumed that it would take me more than three days to do the voyage and I had to go to my Police Station.

Madeleine came back three days later. She was very disheartened as three airmen had left all by themselves just before her arrival. She was desperate and cried. She was in bad need of money at that time as she had three children and her husband was hiding. I suggested to M. Dupuis to discuss this matter with Julien.

The addresses given to me by various people were not always successful as very often the airmen had already left.

One address still remained on the list and after a rest Madeleine left Paris again. I requested M. Dupuis to tell her before her departure to take the boy to Jeannette's home. As Jeannette was very anxious to have all airman at her home I had promised her that the first one would stay in her flat a few days awaiting Julien's instructions. I had a meeting in Jeannette's flat with Axel and Jean-Pierre on Sunday morning when Madeleine and Trafford Curry (American) gunner on a fortress arrived.

This was the first time I was seeing Madeleine (for about five minutes) and I never had the opportunity to meet her again.

Curry stayed with Jeannette a few days and she invited me often to her flat. I was interpreting (as Jeanette did not speak English). Curry had not spoken English for three months and he felt happy speaking to someone. Miss Vastel, as Jeannette's friend came daily, she was practising her English and dances with Curry.

In the meantime I saw Dupuis and told him to write to Julien requesting him to send someone for Curry. A reply was received and Julien was advising us that a young man by the name of Jean would come to Paris at the end of the week. A week after nobody had come and Curry got very impatient and warned us that he would leave by himself if no one turned up next day.

I made up my mind and next morning told Jeannette to prepare a few things as I was leaving at 7pm with Curry to Lyons. I telephoned to Dupuis and told him about my decision. He agreed.

We left Jeannette's flat at 7pm as the train was leaving at 8pm. We took the tube to the station. Curry was following me everywhere but we were apart. We had to take 1st class as there was no room anywhere. The carriage was half empty. There were only three gentlemen Curry sat in front of me, we did not speak to each other. He had his own ticket and his identity papers but as they were fake I made up my mind not to let the Germans see them. I had met a girl friend in the train, an English girl hiding from the Germans, to avoid internment, and we spoke the whole night. Curry slept like a child. I started to get worried at Dijon where they usually checked the papers. I meant to go out with Curry and get into the train when all was over. At Dijon the train stopped but there was no usual announcement by loud speaker. I felt relieved when all of a sudden the door was opened and two German officers came in. They looked at everyone of us but, I

suppose that they did not find what they looked for as they closed the door again and went away. I had received quite a shock; Curry was still sound asleep...

We arrived at Lyons at 6am. We took the train to M. Bonnamour's flat and arrived there at 9am. It was Sunday, a maid opened and M. and Mrs Bonnamour were still asleep. As we were not expected I did not want to intrude and told the maid that we would come back

We went to a café, had a coffee and ate cakes in the street. It was raining again, we walked in the streets and came back Avenue Fock at 10am. Mr. Bonnamour was up and he apologised for not having received us before but he was far from thinking that it was me. We stayed with Mr & Mrs Bonnamour for lunch and Julien came in the afternoon with a young man with whom J, Sansum had stayed. He told us that he had business in America, he looked very wealthy and spoke very good English. I did not know his name.

Julien was quite happy to see me and he was very cheerful. He told me that he would go to Paris in a short while and that he would organise everything there as there seemed to be no chief and Mr Dupuis was too busy with his own Insurance company. Julien asked me what I thought about Madelaine Graddon as Mr Dupuis had talked a lot about her. I answered him that I could not tell much about her as I had seen her only once but I presumed she was a reliable person. The annoying thing was that she did not speak English at all.

We talked about the work which had been done in Paris. He asked me to look for winter coats, tooth brushes etc and I said that I would certainly do my utmost to help him.

He told us that he was leaving for Switzerland in the evening and in case he would not be back his secretary had all instructions and that she would continue his work just as though nothing had happened.

Before leaving Julien told me that he would be in Paris in a fortnight in order to arrange everything there and he was very happy to see that everything was going on all right. His organization in Lyons had, in fact, never been running as well and the airmen were leaving five by five every week. We would take him five boys weekly and keep the rest in Paris.

Julien left for Switzerland in the evening. I remained in Mr. Bonnamour's flat and so did Curry. We had dinner and went to bed. Curry left early in the morning with Mr Bonnamour – he was very thankful for all we had done for him and he left everybody sadly.

I left for Paris with Mr Bonnamour at 9am as he was going to Paris and I had Mrs Bonnamour's ticket as she could not leave. Upon my return to Paris I saw J. Pierre who gave me the address of two airmen in Caen. As no password

could be given to me Jean-Pierre had to go with me and introduce me to 'Resistance' people. As J-Pierre did not speak English he always wished me to interview the airmen before they left to Paris.

We left for Caen a few days later by 4pm train and arrived there at 9pm. Rooms had been reserved for us by a hotel owner also from the 'Resistance'

Early in the morning J-Pierre went out and I had to wait for the airmen and himself. He came back an hour later with a young boy only. I was expecting two but the other airman had suddenly fallen ill and had to go urgently through an operation. J-Pierre left us alone for about half an hour during which time I interviewed him. He was a British airman(engineer on a Hallifax) aged 20 and named Kenneth Skidmore. By what I had heard from him I was certain that he was genuine.

We left for the station a while after. On our way I noticed that Skidmore had a parcel under his arm and I inquired what he was carrying. 'That's nothing ' he replied 'only my airforce uniform and a few belongings'. As many parcels were searched at that time I took care of it. We travelled without incident. Skidmore sat in front of me and the carriage was full, he looked very natural and although he spoke no French he helped a lady with her valise upon request. We reached Paris at 3pm and at 3.30 I was in Jeanette's flat. She was going to take care of Skidmore during his stay in Paris. J. Pierre had left us at the station.

I telephoned to my flat from Jeanette and was told that Julien had called on me in the morning and he was going to call me back on telephone at 4pm. I left a message for him to call me at Jeanette's flat as I was very tired and needed an hour's rest.

Julien telephoned to Jeanette and I requested he meet me at her flat. He came a while later. He was very glad to see that I had bought in another airman. Julien was going to take Skidmore to Lyons himself as he was leaving in a few days. Dupuis was away at this time but he was coming back next day. He told us about his plans of re-organising everything, visiting all flats where airmen were going to stay a few days, he was going to meet J.Pierre and the rest of the people working for him. He was prepared to stay in Paris a fortnight and more, if needed.

Next day Julien saw Dupuis and met Mme Graddon, Mrs Schmitt and other people I was not acquainted with. He was very satisfied. I again offered him my services. (Later upon his arrival to Lyons Julien wrote me a letter telling me that due to the fact that I had to sign every day at the police station he could not allow me to leave Paris for a week or even more and that he would send me on 'special duties'as often as required)xx

Note from final page:

xx After a few days in Paris Julien left for Lyons with Skidmore.

About beginning of December Mme Graddon came to Jeanette with two English airmen – John Harvey and Norman Cuffley and she left them with her.

Jeanette telephoned to me inviting me to her flat to meet the boys and do interpreting for her. She also asked me to come to her flat whenever she was going out for a whole day as she did not want them to be left alone. I was quite busy at that time but I came as often as I could. As Paule Vastel was absolutely free and had nothing to do she was coming daily and I thought that my presence was needless. I thought that it was dangerous to make tea parties and dancing and from this time (beginning of December) I never went to Jeanette's flat anymore.

In the meantime J.Pierre had another American pilot in Caen. As Julien had sent Jean from Lyons, they went together to Caen. They came back to Paris, had dinner Paule Vastel's flat, spent the night there and left in the early morning.

A few days after the arrival of the British airmen at Jeanette's flat, Mme Graddon brought her an American airman (I don't remember the name). He had been staying with an American lady who could not keep him any longer. Jeanette had thus three airmen and P. Vastel was almost living in her flat also. (I was told so by J.Pierre)

In the meantime I was making arrangements to go to Evreux where J.Pierre had given me the address of a British pilot hiding. He was a Flight Lieutenant, pilot on a Spitfire, by the name of Hugh Parry. He was very badly wounded and had been between life and death for three months. The people he stayed with were looking after him very well but as he was feeling stronger they thought that it was time for him to leave. I heard that these people had hidden 13 airmen (I never knew their name but believe J.Pierre does)

As the people warned us that we should almost have to carry Parry, J.Pierre decided to leave with me for Evreux.

P. Vastel, as J.Pierre told me, had been crying a whole morning asking him to bring her an airman. Although he hated the idea to take anyone in her flat he got angry and at last agreed. I did not like this idea either but I had to agree also. Jeanette's house was full and we were very short of flats at that time. We left for Evreux next day. We arrived there at noon. I waited in a café in the front of the station and J.Pierre went for Parry. I waited two hours at which time I saw a car arrive in front of the station. I went there J.Pierre had come with Parry and the farmers who had looked after him.

Hugh Parry looked extraordinary, thin, pale and weak. He could scarcely stand on his feet. The train was about to leave and we found room in a 3rd class carriage. The farmer's wife kissed Parry with tears in her eyes and she said to me " take good care of my boy as he has been ever so ill" She gave us a bill covering expenses for Parry's stay, doctors, medical supplies etc. This bill was never paid. We had to change trains one hour after the latter was crammed.

Parry could not stand and I had to request a young boy to give his seat to a sick man, which he did immediately. We arrived to Paris in the evening and took the tube to Paule Vestel's flat. Parry could scarcely walk and J.Pierre and I had to carry him.

At Paule Vestel's we had to climb to the fifth floor and this was awful as Parry was more dead than alive and he was exhausted. Cold perspiration was flowing down his face and he could scarcely breathe. Upon our arrival into Paule's flat I gave definite instructions to Paule to look after Parry. She had a cousin Doctor and told us that this Doctor would visit him daily.

I also asked Paule not to take out Parry on any account and requested Parry to refuse to go out if he was asked to. I left Parry with Paule and returned home.

Next day I had an appointment with J.Pierre at a Metro Station. He told me he was expecting a gentleman who would accompany another American airman. The gentleman came a few minutes after our arrival. As Paule lived close by we took the airman to her. I saw Parry for the second and last time. As Mlle Vastel was a very jealous person I did not want to hurt her feelings and I never went back to her flat.

At the end of December we received a letter from Julien telling us to be prepared to leave with almost all the airmen except Parry who was still very weak and recovering slowly.

Madelaine would leave with two airmen staying with Mrs Schmitt and the third one staying with Jeanette. Jeanette would leave with Harvey and Cuffley. Madelaine was leaving in the morning and Jeanette in the evening. They would first go to Lyons and then to Toulouse. Madelaine had already left when a letter was received in afternoon from Julien's secretary requesting us to stop sending "parcels" as Julien had had a very dangerous accident and that a few parcels got lost.

Jeanette remained in Paris but Madelaine had already left. We learnt later that she managed to have the airmen cross the Pyrenees mountains. These boys, I believe, were the last ones who left through Julien's organisation. Jeanette remained with two airmen in her flat and Paule had also two.

J.Pierre had a few addresses of airmen to give me but all flats were full and we did not know where to put them.

However, on 12th January 1944, J.Pierre gave me an address and told me that it was very urgent. I had to leave for Ecoen, 8 Rue de Paris, where two American airmen, Andrew Hathaway and Sidney Casden, were hiding. I left for Ecoen next day. I previously telephoned to M Dupuis asking him whether he could give me an address where the boys could stay a few days. He gave me Mrs. Schmitt's address, 87 Bld Rochechouart, Paris.

I left for Ecoen on January 13th and arrived there at 4pm. Mrs Labadie met me at the gate and she was expecting me. I met her daughter, Marie-Therese, who was a nurse and who seemed to do quite a lot of work for the "Resistance". We had tea and I left with A. Hathaway and S. Casden at 5pm. M. Therese and her mother accompanied us to the station. I had asked Mrs Labadie whether she would accept some money for having kept the airmen for a fortnight but she refused and accepted nothing.

We arrived in Paris at 6pm and as Mrs Schmitt's flat was close by the station we walked it. Mrs Schmitt met us at the door of her house and we walked into her flat. She introduced to us two other airmen, Walter Dickerman and another fair boy who told me that he was Norwegian. His Christian name was Fred, that was all I knew. Mrs Schmitt's flat was very small. She had only one bedroom with a double bed and I wondered how she would accommodate the airmen I had just brought in. She seemed quite annoyed to have such a lot of airmen at one time and I told her that I would only leave them for one night and that the next morning I would take them to friends of mine. She agreed. The front door bell rang and Mrs Schmitt introduced another girl followed by two airmen. The girl told Mrs Schmitt that she only would like her to feed them and that she had a place for them to spend the night. This girl's name was Claudette. She was about 32-35 years of age and looked very energetic and clever. Spoke perfect English. During one conversation she had asked me what I intended to do with all the airmen who remained in Paris as she had learnt that Julien's organization did not work anymore.

I certainly was annoyed as I had quite a few airmen who could not leave Paris and I believed that Julien's organization would not work for sometime to come and we had to get rid of these boys in the quickest way. I had confidence and trusted Claudette the minute I had met her.

She definitely told me that she could take care of all the airmen we had in Paris. I mentioned Parry who could not travel by himself and she told me that it did not matter at all as they had a very badly wounded airman leaving by car and at the same time they would take Parry. I also told Claudette that none of these men had identity papers but she replied "Everything will be done for them if you let me handle them" Of course, all this seemed a little bit fantastic at that time but I still believed that I had found the right person. When I told Claudette that someone had to pay the expenses incurred by the airmen she told me that she would take care of everything. The only thing I had to do was to give her names and addresses of the airmen.

Before giving her the above I told Claudette that I had to ask M Dupuis' advice and that I would give her the answer next day. Next day I came to Mme Schmitt and met Claudette again. I was taking Hathaway and Casden to M Moussat, Bld Murat as Mme Schmitt had no room. In the meantime I had seen M Dupuis- He was agreeable although very sceptic about the whole story I had told him. He still thought that the best thing was to await until Julien's organization would work again. He told me nevertheless to give Jeanette's address but not Paula's

for the time being, he also did not want Hathaway and Casden to leave with Claudette.

I took Hathaway and Casden to M. Moussat, Ave Murat where they stayed one day only. When I had met Mr and Mrs Moussat, through my friend Mlle Frelat, they requested me not to take anyone to their flat and I could go there alone only. I gave them the assurance that their address would not be given by me to anyone.

When I saw Claudette next day (I had asked her to take care of Hathaway, Casden, Harvey and Cuffley) she asked me the address of Hathaway and Casden as she had to see and interview them. She told me that British Officers would interview them. As I would not give her the address she was asking for I took Casden and Hathaway back to Mrs Schmitt. Hathaway had no winter coat and I had to give him my husband's new winter coat. I went to Mrs Schmitt twice to visit Casden and Hathaway and to know when they were leaving. A man came that day and interviewed them. They expected to leave in a few days.. I also spoke to Fred. He seemed to know fluently four languages. He told me that he had been away from his parents who were from Germany. He was working for the BBC and was on a plane recording when they all had to bail out owing to an accident. He was taken prisoner by the Germans but stayed in Germany only two days. He escaped and came to France and Paris. He told me that while it had taken him 2 days to reach France he had spent fifteen days to come from the North of France to Paris. He seemed very anxious to leave for England. As he spoke French he was allowed by Mrs Schmitt to go out and he frequently went out in the streets and café's.

In the meantime I had gone to Jeanette and told her that Harvey and Cuffley would leave in a few days as I had found an organization which would take care of them. She received me very badly telling me that it was none of my business and that Harvey and Cuffley would leave with her only and if not, that she would keep them til the end of the war. I got very angry indeed on that day and told her that our aim was not to keep these boys but send them as quickly as possible to the country they belonged to. Anyhow Claudette went to Jeanette and took Harvey and Cuffley with her. They had not finished their noon meal as there was no time for it.

Jeanette as well as Paule were certain that Claudette belonged to the Gestapo – moreover they wanted to keep the airmen as long as they could.

I had taken the responsibility of sending the airmen through Claudette's organization and I was assuming it all by myself. Since the 15th of January I never went either to Mrs Schmitt or Jeanette or Paule. I was run down at that time and I wanted to stop my actions for a month or so since Julien had been arrested. I saw no-one and my life had become a peaceful one and absolutely normal.

However this peaceful time did not last very long. On a Saturday, beginning of February I got a telephone call from Jeanette telling me that Mrs Schmitt has

been taken to a hospital and that she was very ill. I understood that she was in prison.

In the meantime I had learnt that Paule upon her own decision had taken Parry to Jeanette after the departure of Harvey and Cussley. She did not want to keep him any more as he was difficult about food etc.....the other airman remained in her flat.

On Monday I had an appointment with Dupuis and he advised me that Jeanette was in prison also with Parry. Gestapo came to her flat at 4am (same as Mrs Schmitt) they came to arrest her as they were aware that she had kept in her flat Harvey and Cuffley and they were surprised to find another airman, Hugh Parry, they arrested them both as well as her maid and the maid's husband.

Claudette had also been arrested upon her arrival to Mrs Schmitt's flat to visit the airmen.

This time I felt that it was my turn. I did not trust these women would keep silent about me and I started to prepare a few things in case I should have to leave in a hurry. I made a thorough inspection of my flat, burnt all identity cards, documents, addresses, photographs, nothing regarding my activities remained. I told Dupuis and Richard (alias Axel) about my decision but they did not believe that anything would happen to me. I remained in my flat until Thursday 12th of February on which day I visited my husband (for the last time) at St Denis. He told me to get away from Paris as soon as possible.

In the afternoon I saw J.Pierre who also told me not to remain in my flat a minute longer. He also went to P.Vastel and told her to get away. She had taken her airmen to friends of hers but she told J.Pierre that she would not leave owing to her father who would be arrested and her mother who was doing a lot in the "Resistance" in Brittany. In spite of all J.Pieres's recommendation she refused to leave.

On Thursday night I took my child, who was sick, wrapped him in a blanket as it was snowing outside and I went to another flat. I left my mother and brother in my flat and told them that the Gestapo could come any minute. They would say that the child was sick and that I left for Bayeux.

Next morning I telephoned to my flat to know whether everything was all right but the telephone was hanged up and I understood that something had happened.

I telephoned to my brother's office and he told me that I should get away from Paris as soon as possible as they had come during the night at 4am.

They wanted to arrest my brother but upon his real ignorance of everything, they did not. They questioned both my mother and brother for two hours. They were eight men with machine guns. Two soldiers were at the door and six civilians searched the flat thoroughly. The only thing they found were six

identity photographs of girl friends and my self. They picked up mine and said to my brother "This is your sister" He agreed. They kept my photo as well as Jacqueline Frelat's photo which was amongst the others.

In the meantime I got in touch with M. Therese Laladie and asked her wheather she could take me and my child in her house at Ecoeu where Casden and Hathaway had stayed as I had no place to go to. She agreed and I stayed at Ecoeu six weeks.

I came back to Paris to pick up a few things and go to Normandy. I had got in touch through Mlle Frelat with Mr Cleneuil, Mayor of Mortrée, who said that he would find me a quiet place.

During my 48 hours stay in Paris, I learnt that my brother had been arrested. Fortunately the Gestapo kept him only one day. They questioned him again about me and the child. During the day they travelled in all the places I had been during my holidays, they went to Nogent-le-Rotrou,, they went to all members of my family. Gestapo went again to my flat and they remained with my mother the whole day. They opened the door to everyone coming and answered the telephone. They found out nothing, should anything have happened to my brother I was prepared to go to the Gestapo myself.

I left for Normandy in the middle of April. I arrived at the station at noon and I had to walk 10km – with my baby. We found Mr Chevreuil who was glad to help me. As he was also expecting the Gestapo to search his house he took me to Montmerrei and I stayed there with M and Mrs Laitin eight months till the Liberation. These people risked their life for me and they have been extraordinary kind to me.

The Gestapo was everywhere even in these small villages and I could not go out anywhere. I remained in the house and walked in the park belonging to the house only. It was very hard and the life was very dull.

As I was told afterwards, Gestapo had come to the Baker's wife inquiring about a young girl accompanied by a child and who was hiding here. The baker's wife told him he was mistaken and as it happened a fortnight before the Liberation we never heard about this incident.

We were Liberated in the middle of August and I came to Paris beginning of September. I learnt my husband had suffered a lot through me as he had been questioned by the Gestapo three times. They wanted my address. He was put in a cell three times.

I also met my friend J . Frelat who was arrested on the 1st of June 1944. They arrested her because of me and during two months they kept on asking her where Mrs. Gill was. She was put in a prison at Chartres and remained there two months. Her behaviour was very courageous. She was very ill treated and she still remembers how they smashed her face asking her to tell them where I was. She instantly inquired what I had done and they told her that I was a "Dangerous

Spy” and that they would cut my head off very shortly. They never mentioned her own activities. J. Frelat got out of prison by miracle. The Gestapo left one day as the Radio had announced that Americans were in Chartres, and next day gates of the prison were opened.

Three weeks after my arrival at Montmerrei Mr. Cleneuil and all his friends were arrested by the Gestapo also. He was tortured and sent to Germany. He has come back now and I have had the pleasure of seeing him.

Everybody I knew got out of prison and I do not know anyone who lost life during this internment.

The End

I met the previous summer - He seemed very upset and told me the following story

- We have been waiting for you any/only. On the 15th of July a Hallifax Bomber fell near our town and an English airplane is hiding in a game. We all believe that you can do something through your husband and you must do it as quickly as possible as the German must not remain in this town any longer. -

Although it was extremely difficult for me to get in touch with my husband (interviewed at Saint-Denis) I succeeded in sending him a note through a friend and received the following answer: "The parcel will be collected in a few days."

In the meantime, however, one of my friends from Mogout - G. Roton, Jacqueline Frelat (104 Rue St. Hilaire Mogout - G. Roton)

C. L. L., Helen
12 Rue desmuer
Paris 16eme
PAS 38-81.

July 20th 1943 I leave Paris with my son aged three on my way to Mogout - G. Roton, Gure-et-Lair, for a summer holiday (six weeks)

As I am a British subject by marriage I have to secure a permit from the German authorities and am compelled to sign every day at the Police Station in Mogout same as I am doing in Paris, thus enabling the Germans to always trace my whereabouts.

As I arrived in Mogout I was very surprised to meet Georges Desmuer a teacher of English, whom I know

3/ went to Paris trying to get in contact with a man believed to be from the U.S. ~~Paul~~ X (wishes to remain unnamed) and she came back two days later telling me that a girl would come to have her. I saw Larum (British woman) to a small place called Montreuil. As everything seemed to be settled I requested my husband to do nothing about this matter. I was visiting J. Larum almost daily; he was suffering from a splintered ankle and his moral was very low due to the fact that none spoke English. However after a few days his moral was much higher. The people he stayed with looked after him with the greatest of care and parted with their me and only Sunday with I forget their name but Mr. Fréchet should know it.

A few days later the girl from Paris called. She was a tall and very

4/ dark - her name was Carmen. As no room could be found for her in the village I offered her to share my bed which she accepted gladly. I thus made her acquaintance and told her that I was looking for a long time so an opportunity of meeting her to work for an "organization" and that I would appreciate if she would introduce me to her "chief". During our conversation I understood that she was making her first trip and she spoke no English. In the evening of her arrival we went to make arrangements for Larum's departure which was taking place next morning. In the meantime Jacqueline Fréchet and J. Larum, thought that Carmen was not very able and although every explanation was given to her regarding the voyage she seemed quite uneasy and worried.

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6/ The station was crowded with German soldiers and Sassum made his way through them. He was always at his ease everywhere and never made a false step. We took another train which took us to Lées where from we had to walk to Rhein to Mörthe. We arrived at Lées at noon and Carman and I had to catch the 5 pm train taking her back to Paris and myself to Nogent-le-Rotrou. We had no time to spare and we started our long walk. Although Sassum's foot was very swollen and painful he walked all the way. We had a rest and a snack in the fields and arrived at Mörthe at 2 pm. As Carman had the instructions given to her by Axel and the passport she took Sassum to

5/ Jacqueline Prelat who had assumed a good deal of responsibility, was worried for Sassum's security and she begged me to travel with him and Carman. I accepted immediately although I had to take my son with me. When I asked Carman if she would not mind my presence she answered "I am very glad that you are coming as I did not feel very safe". Next evening we both made for the station and Jon came with the lawyer. We were all standing on the platform for about five minutes when the train arrived. Carman took my child and sat in a carriage whereas Sassum and myself were squeezed in a corridor. As Sassum's foot began to ache I managed to find him a seat. Two hours later we arrived at Le Mans where we had to take another train.

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7/ Mr. Chevrel, Mayor of Montee, living Route d'Heumenies. They were very well received, had tea and Samum felt relieved and very happy. He stayed two weeks with Mr. Chevrel's sister living nearby and as he told us afterwards, he had the most marvellous time. He took a good rest and looked very fit when I saw him a few weeks later.

In the meantime I was going back to the station with the child. We were very tired and a few hours before the station moved to a truck which took us to Leo. We remained at the station awaiting the train and Panam. Just before 5 pm he arrived with Mr. Chevrel who had taken her in his car. He made on me an excellent impression.

8/ He was chief of the "Resistance" in Montee and was in contact by Radio with England. He told me that he had given almost all his clothes to the airman and that he had none left. He seemed very daring and confident but also very talkative and I was rather surprised the way he spoke in a station crowded with people.

He told me that he had two more airmen hiding in the woods and that he was awaiting instructions from Paris so that Samum and the two others left together. The two American airmen mentioned were

Willard Freeman and Charlie Maunowitz. Freeman had a broken ankle and Maunowitz had received a bullet through his thigh. A doctor from Montee, Dr. Lemerier, was tending care of them and they were almost cured. This doctor was arrested by the Gestapo two days after these boys left but was released

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10/ Hogout-le-Rotou and Carman continued to Paris. I went back to the Hotel where I had told that I was leaving for Le Mans to visit some friends of mine. Jacqueline Frelat came to visit me a while after and she was very happy to hear that our journey had been a success. My holidays in the country continued as though nothing had ever happened.

On August 15th J. Frelat went to Paris again and she came back very thrilled and told me the following story.

- Axel has at the present moment very few people at his disposal and he has asked me to take the three (above mentioned) women to Lyons, where she was going to meet a very important gentleman by the name of Julien - Of course, Mlle Frelat had accepted and she showed me the itinerary which was the following:

9/ a while after on account of lack of proof. Freeman and Maunouriel had a terrible time as they remained about a month in the woods in the open air. As it was raining almost every night they were getting drenched and caught colds. Their food was brought to them by Mlle Clerreuil who was walking 4 kms twice a day - she was leaving after their wounds a well.

At 5 pm. our train arrived and we both got in. I again reiterated to Carman that I would like to be useful and that I was prepared to give my life for it and I urged her to take about me to the Chgs. I thought that my knowledge of a few languages could also be useful. She gave me good hopes telling me that they were very short of people owing to the summer holidays and also due to the fact that many got caught by the G.P.s. I felt confident that I at last got a chance! I got out at

11) She would go to Mortier to collect for Saumur, France and then take them all to Le Mans where they would all spend the night in a Hotel and the following morning take a train at 7 am leaving for Tours.

3) At Tours a train was leaving for Vierzon about one hour after their arrival.

3) At Vierzon another train was leaving for Bourges. Upon their arrival in Bourges at 8 pm they would have to walk 15 km from Bourges to St. Florent 2/10 (Have not quite certain of this place) a country house where Mlle Madeline, Axel's daughter would meet them and accommodate them for the night. The following morning they would have to cross the American zone live through fields and take the 11 am train from (a small

12) station which I do not remember) to Montluçon.

4) There after a few hours spent in Montluçon, a train would take them to Lyons which they would reach at about 10 pm. Julien was meeting them all at the Station.

Of course, the quickest and best way was to go straight from Le Mans to Paris and from Paris to Lyons but none of the women had any identity papers and Germans were burning all the papers at Macon or Clugny sur Saone (on the way from Paris to Lyons) - Jacqueline Frelat was told that German guards had left the surroundings and that they could cross the line near St. Florent without danger. I ~~did~~ was not acquainted with Axel at that time but I

13) thought that it was very unwise to send a young girl alone with three airmen at one time. I had been told by Mr. Cleverant that two airmen had definite American looses. Nevertheless, I did not share my worries with J. Frelat but warned her to be extremely careful as I thought that three men were a lot and that she should certainly have started with one or two as it was her very first experience.

J. Frelat was leaving Nogent two days later. She turned up late on the eve of her departure and she seemed worried. She told me that she had thought over everything and that she really did not think herself at all of doing such a big job. Three men were a lot and she got scared. She begged to go with them all, telling me that I was free, that it would make a change for me and that I could

14) be an interpreter as she spoke for English. Naturally I was very willing to do anything to help the airmen but I had to face numerous difficulties. First of all I had to sign every day at the Police Station and monthly I only had my British identity papers. The third reason was that I had to have my young child with me.

Nevertheless I made up my mind immediately. The airmen needed help and I was not going to refuse mine. I made arrangements with the Police Station where I had met a young man, Jacques Komaroff, and whom I told that I was leaving for a few days to Le Mans to visit my friends. He was very amiable and told me that I had nothing to worry about as he would sign for me if the Germans came to clear the looses. He also offered me a false identity and as he handed

16) I was hoping that the car would stop somewhere else and we would be afraid that everybody got arrested. At last after a few minutes could seemed hours to me, J. Frelat came. She was alone and told me that the boys were at the back of the Hotel but the landlady had told them to leave Le Mans immediately as Germans were closing all papers in cafe and in every room in Hotel as a plane had fallen over Le Mans a few days before and all the women had escaped. I also thought that it was madness to remain in Le Mans a minute longer and the itinerary could not be followed blindly. We all took a seat in the car and the driver, Mr. Terrier, from Alençon, upon our advice took us to the next small station on the way to Jours when we had to take the train next morning at 7.30 am. We were very worried as Mr. Terrier was only

15) it would be useful for me in Paris as owing to my British nationality I could not go out of doors after 7pm. All this seemed to me very suspicious and I refused his offer telling him that I had not need for false paper. I prepared a few things and was going to meet J. Frelat two days later at 4 pm in front of the Station at Le Mans where they would all come by car and then the itinerary described above would be followed. Two days later at 4 pm I was in front of Le Mans station. Never at all I forget the awful impression I got there. There were crowds of German soldiers, I felt Gestapo all around me and Germans staring at me. I felt that they were looking for something. All cafes were full of Germans also. The whole atmosphere was unbearable.

17) allowed to travel alone and the car was full of people and Germans were all over the town. After a long travel which seemed endless we arrived to the next village and we saw woods. We immediately planned to have a snack and spend our night there. It certainly was the safest place. Mr. Ferrier refused to leave us and he remained with us till the train's departure.

We all had a snack in the woods. What remained with the boys while I put the child in the car and remained there with Mr. Ferrier. There was moonlight and the car was seen from the road. If Germans had seen it the worst would have happened as this was forbidden. We had an absolutely sleepless night. Mr. Ferrier was also a remarkable man and he was doing a lot to the "Resistance".

At last dawn came and we started to get ready. The small group we went to the Station. We always

18) brought the boys' trunks and were slipping them to each one of them. We got into the train to Tours. We had a whole carriage to ourselves. Although all trains were crowded at this time of the year, and everything went all right. Upon our arrival to Tours we went to the waiting room and spent there about one hour. I thought it was the best way instead of walking around. The boys were pretending to sleep. We always had them to do as French people are very talkative and it happened more than once that they were spoken to. After about half an hour's waiting I saw a man come into the waiting room and carefully study every face. My last guess is I felt absolutely sure that this man belonged to the Gestapo. There's something unmistakable about them. We all were in a dark corner of the room and no one

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(19) was taken of us. 30 minutes later we were in the train to Venzon. There was again plenty of room in the train and were comfortably seated having a carriage to ourselves.

Upon our arrival to Venzon we thought it was unsafe for us the time to sit in the waiting room and we went out in order to find a public garden. We wished to have a snack and we had two hours to spend. Although I thought it was unsafe J. Filat went stopping with Sansum and I remained with Freeman and Maukovich.

We all joined at the station and arrived at Bonye with out incident. St Bonye we had to walk 15 km and we were worried as it was 8 pm and the boys were very tired and beside they were all wounded. Maukovich had a bad wound

(20) and I had to do his bandage several times.

All of a sudden we saw a taxi going our way. We hurried towards the driver and asked him whether he could take us to St. Florant. The driver told us that unfortunately he had promised a German officer to take him but we pleaded that we had a sick child and that we were exhausted. I believe he got sorry for us as he agreed to take us.

Sansum, Freeman and Maukovich were walking in front of us, by themselves, we moved to them to come back but the were we were waiting the fasts they were running away from us. At last they seemed to understand and came back. They all sat at the back with the child and J. Filat and myself sat in the front next to the driver.

23) Identity papers and the worst part of the journey was over. I told my intentions to the airman and J. Frelak but none ever wished to hear about it - Freeman and Mammawitz had tears in their eyes and they told me "We have such confidence in you that we would travel with you all over the world - Please do not leave us or else we fear that something will happen". I certainly could do nothing else but accept. I had no papers but none of them had any and I never thought about my return journey to Paris. A few minutes before leaving I fell from a bicycle and badly hurt both of my knees. I almost thought that I would be unable to leave. Nevertheless, we all left at noon. We crossed the demarcation line and walked 5 km before we arrived at the station whereupon

24) Our train was leaving for Montigny. We always gave the ticket to every airman and they handed them over to the controller.

This time the train was crowded and we could get neither in 2nd or 2nd class. We had to get into the 1st class corridor and stayed there absolutely squeezed. The worst annoying thing was that we were all poorly dressed and certainly not like 1st class travellers. We travelled like this till Montigny where we took the train to Lyons. This last part of the journey was the worst one as we stood on our feet for about eight hours. The boys were tired, thirsty, hungry and had no cigarettes left - except. All these miseries no incident occurred. The train arrived at Lyons two hours late at 12 pm. As it was after curfew we all received a slip of paper authorizing us to go out in town after tea.

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25) Unfortunately none was awaiting us as we learnt afterwards Julien had been expecting us till 10pm. but left the station at that time. We were all alone, in the dark outside of the station. The only solution was to go back and sleep in the waiting room. The latter was also packed and J. Frelat and the boys had to sleep on the ground. I was ordered to go to the "Centre d' Accueil" which was reserved for mothers and infants. I put the child on the floor on a mother's and thought that I could go out but the nurse told me to remain there as no one could go out. During the night I went about six times and visited J. Frelat and the boys. Everyone was all right. I had no sleep at all that night which seemed endless. At last dawn came and we were ready to go out of the station by 8am, as

26) as nothing could be done before. Miss Frelat had already telephoned twice to the house we were going to as no answer was received. We went out of the station. It was pouring outside and the town seemed really dead ever. Fortunately it was Sunday and taxis were running. We took one and went to the address indicated to J. Frelat but the house seemed to be empty and none answered. As we could not walk around with the boys we took them to Church where they remained for about one hour and a half. Meanwhile we returned to the house and were lucky this time to find the owner himself Mr. Bonnamon, 8 Avenue Ford, Lyons, who had been expecting us the previous night and as he was sick he went to bed and his telephone was out of order. The maids were out and his

24/ The driver was a nice man but we had to speak to him without stop as no one else could say anything. The place we were going to was just about 500 meters before demarcation line where the Germans were checking identity papers and the driver lost the way and almost drove us up to the Germany. We stopped in time and had a narrow escape. We found the house with great difficulty. We were exhausted and all looking forward to a good rest. Marie - Madeleine (Arel's daughter) met us and we went into the house. As the maid was not very reliable she was told that we all were scouts and that we should spend the night in the house. After a good wash and dinner Marie-Madeleine told us that

22/ Unfortunately Germans had taken all the furniture from the house and that she could only give us her room to sleep in. The room was a small one, there was only one double bed and mattresses on the floor - and we were six people with the child. Anyway we settled ourselves the best we could. Freeman took the bed, I slept on the floor with the child, Mamovitz took a mattress and I slept and Sansum took the other corner of the room. We were so tired that everyone slept very well. Next morning after breakfast everyone was ready to leave. I had no intention whatsoever to go any further. I had some friends at Bourges with whom I planned to stay before going to Paris. I had no

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27) wife and children away. We asked him whether we could bring the boys in and upon his approval. Yvonne went to meet them at the Church. Yvonne met M. Bonnamour. He was a very nice man, spoke very good English and had an Insurance Company. J. Frelat and the boys joined us a few minutes later. They felt ever so happy to have reached the end of the winter journey. They all enjoyed a fast journey. We prepared some lunch. M. Bonnamour told us that he was going to Julien to tell him that we were all here and that we could expect his visit in the afternoon. At about three o'clock Julien came in with his secretary by the name of Anne. He was slim and sweet and typically English in manners and speech.

28) He spoke perfect French. I liked him at first sight although he was very distant and cold. His blue eyes were extraordinarily sharp. He questioned us a lot about our journey and about everything. J. Frelat answered all his questions. He also questioned me about and his curiosity was justified. I was only M. Frelat's friend and I had accompanied her upon my free will. In the afternoon Julien, Anne and the boys left the house. We remained in Mr. Bonnamour's house till the following morning. Our train was leaving at 3 am and we went to the station by the tramway. Everything was all right till we reached Clabou-sur-Saone at which town the train stopped and the Lord speaker announced "to our unity stop - closing of

29) Identity papers. My last name I had none - J. Frelat took my child and I told them to go to the Dining car - I got out of the train and waited till the Germans changed the whole train. I got into the Dining car when all was over and felt that I had a narrow escape. We arrived to Paris in the evening - A few minutes after our arrival I took a train to Nogent le Rotrou and J. Frelat remained in Paris and reported to Axel. I remained in Nogent - two more weeks and received news from Axel - He was telling me that he was coming to Nogent to meet me. That was in the middle of September. He arrived one evening. We had dinner together with J. Frelat and we left next morning for Paris. J. Frelat remained in Nogent. We travelled from Nogent to Paris standing in a corridor and Axel

30) spoke to me during four hours. He was very agreeable to accept me in his organization as he had made full investigation - He told me all about my future work and gave me full detail about the organization etc... He also assured me that I agreed to the conditions. I certainly did and the more dangerous it was the more thrilled I was. Nevertheless, I told him that in addition to the work he wanted me to do I would very much appreciate having care of Allied airmen as I felt confident that I would do in a very successful manner. My sole aim was to help the Allied cause and combat the enemy in every possible way. Axel agreed to my request and we parted at the station - I came home and the holidays were over.

31/ Two days after my return Axel came to my apartment and told me that he would like me to meet a lady called Madame Jeannette Huot, 48 Ave du Président Wilson. He told me that I would be to have important documents from this lady and take them over to Mr. Jacques Dupuis, 5 Rue d'Armale - As I understood it was just a line between the two above people and Axel did not want Jeannette to meet Mr. Dupuis. We went to Mrs. Huot the same afternoon. She seemed to be a nice person and I liked her. We spoke a lot and Axel told her that I had just helped three women. She seemed very interested and told me that she knew a girl by the name of Claude (Paula Vastel) who was working for a man by the

32/ name of Jean-Pierre (Pierre Mouches) from the O.C.M. This gentleman was travelling the whole time in Normandy and Brittany and he knew lots of farmers who were hiding Allied airmen. These farmers did not know what to do with them and Jean-Pierre did not know how to get in touch with an Organization. As Paula Vastel was working for him, Jean-Pierre had requested her to find an organization. Paula Vastel had asked Jeannette about it and now Jeannette was acquainted with me. Jeannette arranged a meeting for Jean-Pierre and myself next morning at 11 am. I came at 11 sharp and Jean-Pierre arrived a few minutes late. Middle age, blond hair and blue eyes he looked extraordinary energetic. By what I understood

33/ He was giving a lot of Military information to England. He told me that he would secure for me addresses of hiding airmen. I could then make a trip and take them to Paris before their departure to Lyons.

Jean Paine also gave me false identity papers which enabled me to travel all over France. I had also made arrangements at the Police Station and signed only twice a week instead of every day. In the meantime I found out that M. Dufuis was also working for Julien and that I should have to deal with him regarding the airmen. I went to his office 5 rue d'Amale. He had an Insurance Company and he was a very busy man. I told him that I would get a few addresses of hidden airmen and that I needed some help

34/ as I could not do it all by myself. He told me that he knew a very suitable girl for this work, energetic, full of courage and absolutely reliable. This girl was Madeleine (Mme Gradier).

In the middle of October I gave Mr. Dufuis a list of addresses and requested him to give it to Madeleine as she would have to go to the country to find the airmen. I was at that time very well known for Axel and moreover I presumed that it would take me more than three days to do the voyage and I had to go to my Police Station.

Madeleine came back three days later. She was very distressed as three airmen had left all by themselves just before her arrival. She was desperate and cried. She was in bad need of money at that time as she had

35) three children and her husband was hiding. I suggested to Mr. Dupuis to discuss this matter with Julien. The address given to me by various people were not always successful as very often the address had already left.

One address still remained on the list and after a visit Madeleine left Paris again. ^{I was not going to} I had her ¹⁰⁰ ten before her departure to take the boy to Jeanette's home. As Jeanette was very anxious to have an address at her home I had promised her that the first one would stay in her flat a few days awaiting Julien's instructions. I had a meeting in Jeanette's flat with Axel and Jean-Pierre one Sunday morning when Madeleine and Trafford Curry (American) gunner on a fortifier, arrived.

This was the first time I saw

36) was seeing Madeleine (go about five minutes) and I never had the opportunity to meet her again. Curry stayed with Jeanette a few days and he invited me often to her flat. I was interpreting (as Jeanette did not speak English). Curry had not spoken English for three months and he felt happy speaking to someone. Miss Vastel, as Jeanette's friend came daily, she was practicing her English and dancing with Curry.

In the meantime I saw Dupuis and told him to write to Julien requesting him to send someone for Curry. A reply was received and Julien was advising us that a young man by the name of Jean would come to Paris at the end of the week. A week after wordy had come and Curry got very impatient

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37) warned us that he would leave by himself if no one turned up next day. I made up my mind and next morning told Jacqueline to prepare a few things as I was leaving at 7 pm with Curry to Lyons. I telephoned to Dupuis and told him ^{about} my decision - He agreed. We left Jacqueline's flat at 7 pm as the train was leaving at 8 pm. We took the tube to the station - Curry was following us everywhere but we were apart. We had to take 1st class as there was no room anywhere. The carriage was half empty, there were only three gentlemen. Curry sat in front of us, we didn't speak to each other, he had his own ticket and his identity papers but as they were gone I made up my mind not to let the Germans see them. I had met a girl friend in the train, an English girl living from the Germans, to avoid internment.

38) went, and we spoke the whole night. Curry slept like a child - I started to get worried at Dijon where they usually closed the papers. I meant to go out with Curry and get into the train when all was over. At Dijon the train stopped but there was no usual announcement by loud speaker - I felt relieved when all of a sudden the door was opened and two German officers came in. They looked at everyone of us but I suppose that they didn't understand what they looked for as they closed the door again and went away. I had received quite a shock; Curry was still sound asleep... We arrived at Lyons at 8 am. We took the train to Mr. Bonnamy's flat and arrived there at 9 am. It was Sunday, a waiting opened the door and told us that Mr. and Mrs. Bonnamy were still asleep. As we were not expected I did not want to enter the and

39/ told the maid that we would come back. We went to a cafe, had a coffee and ate cows in the street. It was raining again, we walked in the streets and came back Avenue Foch at 10 am. Mr. Bonasson was up and he apologized for not having warned us before but he was far from thinking that it was we. ~~In the afternoon~~ We stayed with Mr and Mrs. Bonasson for lunch and Julien came in the afternoon with a young man with whom J. Sansum had stayed. He told us that he had business in Geneva, he seemed very wealthy and spoke very good English. I did not know his name.

Julien was quite happy to see us and he was very cheerful. He told us that he would go to Paris in a short while and that he would organize everything there as there seemed to be no chief and

40/ Mr. Dupuis was too busy with his own insurance company. ³⁰ Julien asked me what I thought about Madeline Grador as Mr. Dupuis had talked a lot about her. I answered him that I could not tell much about her as I had seen her only once but I presumed she was a reliable person. He answered me that she did not speak English at all.

We talked about the work which had been done in Paris. He asked me to look for winter-coats, boots, brushes etc and I said that I would certainly do my utmost to help him.

He told me that he was leaving for Switzerland in the evening and in case he would not be back his secretary had all instructions and that he would continue his work just as though nothing had happened.

Before leaving Julien told me

43) We left for the station a while off. On our way I noticed that Skidmore had a parcel under his arm and I inquired what he was carrying. "That's nothing he replied, only my Airforce uniform and a few belongings." As many parcels were searched at that time I got case of it. We travelled without incidents. Skidmore sat in front of me and the image was full. He looked very natural and although he spoke no French he helped a lady with her valises upon her report. We reached Paris at 3 pm and at 3.30 I was in Jeannette's flat. He was going to take care of Skidmore during his stay in Paris. J. Pierre had left us at the station. I telephoned to my flat from Jeannette and was told that Julien had called on me in the morning and he was going to call me back on telephone at 4 pm. I left a message for him to call me at Jeannette's flat as I was very tired and needed an hour's rest.

44) Julien telephoned to Jeannette and I requested him to meet me at her flat. He came a while later. He was very glad to see that I had brought in another airman. Julien was going to take Skidmore to Lyons tomorrow as he was leaving in a few days. Julien was away at the time I but he was coming back next day. He told us about his plans of reorganizing everything, visiting all flats where the airmen were going to stay a few days, he was going to meet J. Pierre and the rest of people working for him. He was prepared to stay in Paris a fortnight and more, if needed.

Next day Julien saw Dupuis and met Mme Gaddor, Mrs. Schmitt and other people I was not acquainted with. He was very satisfied. J. again offered him my services. (Later upon his arrival to Lyons Julien wrote me a letter telling me that due to the fact that I had to sign every day at the police station he could not allow me to leave Paris.

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xx After a few days in Paris, Julien
left for Lyons with Sidewore.

42) As no pass word could be given to me Jean-Pierre had to go with me and introduce me to "Resistance" people. As J. Pierre did not speak English he always wished me to interview the arriver before they left to Paris. We left for Caen a few days later by the 4pm train and arrived there at 9pm. Rooms had been reserved for us by a Hotel owner also from the "Resistance". Early in the morning J. Pierre went out and I had to wait for the arriver and himself. He came back an hour later with a young boy only. I was expecting two but the other arriver ~~had~~ had suddenly fallen ill and had to go regularly through an operation. J. Pierre left us alone for about half an hour during which time I interviewed him. He was a British arriver, an engineer on a Hallifax, aged 20 and named Kenneth Swiftmore. By what I had heard from him I was certain that he was genuine.

41) that he would be in Paris in a fortnight in order to arrange everything there and he was very happy to see that everything was going on all right. His organization in Lyons had, in fact, never been running as well and the arriver were having five or six every week. We could have him five days weekly and keep the rest in Paris. J. Pierre left for Switzerland in the evening. I remained in Mr. Bonnamon's flat and could carry. We had dinner and went to bed. Curry left early in the morning with Mr. Bonnamon. He was very thankful for all we had done for him and he left everybody sadly. I left for Paris with Mr. Bonnamon at 4pm as he was going to Paris and I had Mrs. Bonnamon's ticket as she could not leave. Upon my return to Paris I saw J. Pierre who gave me the address of two arriver in Caen.

45) for a week or even more and that he would send me on "special duties" as often as required) xx
About beginning of December Mme Gradnor came to Jeanette with two English airmen - John Harvey and Norman Cuffley and she left them with her.

Jeanette telephoned to me inviting me to her flat to meet the boys and ~~was~~ the interpreting for her. She also asked us to come to her flat whenever she was going out for a whole day as she did not want them to be left alone. I was quite busy at that time but I came as often as I could. As Paul Vatel was absolutely free and had nothing to do she was coming daily and I thought that my presence was needless. I thought that it was dangerous to make tea party and dancing and from this time (beginning of December) I never went to Jeanette's flat anymore.
In the meantime J. Paine had another American pilot in (men.

46) As Julien had sent Jean from Lyons, they went together to Pau. They came back to Paris, had dinner at Paul Vatel's flat, spent the night there and left in the early morning.

~~Julien~~ A few days after the arrival of the British airmen at Jeanette's flat, Mme Gradnor brought her two American airmen (I don't remember the name). He had been staying with an American lady who could not keep him any longer. Jeanette had these three airmen and P. Vatel was almost living in her flat also. (I was told so by J. Paine)

In the meantime I was making arrangements to go to France where J. Paine had given me the address of a British pilot hiding. He was a flight lieutenant, pilot on a Spitfire, by the name of Hugh Parry. He was very badly wounded.

47) and had been between life and death for three months. The people he stayed with were looking after him very well but as he was feeling stronger they thought that it was time for him to leave. I heard that these people had hidden 13 airman (I never knew their name but believe J. Pierre does) As the people warned us that we should almost have to carry Parry, J. Pierre decided to leave with me for Gray.

P. Vastel, as J. Pierre told me had been crying a whole morning asking him to bring her an airman. Although he liked the idea to take anyone in her flat, he got angry and at last agreed. I did not like this idea either but I had to agree also. Jeanette's house was full and we were very short of flats at that time. We left for Barreux next day.

We arrived there at noon. I visited 18) in a cafe' in the front of the station and J. Pierre went for Parry. I waited two hours at which time I saw a car arrive in front of the station. I went there. J. Pierre had come with Parry and the farmer who had looked after him. Hugh Parry looked extraordinary, thin, pale and weak. He could scarcely stand on his feet. The train was about to leave and we found room in a 3rd class carriage. The farmer's wife kissed Parry with tears in her eyes and she said to me "I am good now of my boy as he has been ever so ill". She gave us a bill covering expenses for Parry's stay, doctors, medical supplies etc. The bill was never paid. We had to change trains one hour after. The latter was examined. Parry could not stand and I had to request a young boy to give us a seat to a nice man, which he did immediately. We

49) arrived to Paris in the evening and took the tube to Paule Vastel's flat. Panny could scarcely walk and J. Pigne and I had to carry him. At Paule Vastel we had to climb ~~for~~ to the fifth floor and this was awful as Panny was sure dead than alive and he was exhausted. Cold perspiration was flowing down his face and he could scarcely breathe. Upon our arrival into Paul's flat I gave definite instructions to Paule to look after Panny - she had a cousin Doctor and he told us that the Doctor would visit him daily. I also asked Paule not to leave out Panny on any account and requested Panny to refuse to go out if he was asked to. I left Panny with Paule and returned home.

Next day I had an appointment with J. Pigne at a Metro Station. He told me he was expecting a gentleman who would accompany

50) another American airman. The gentleman came a few minutes after our arrival. As Paule lived close by we took the airman to her. I saw Panny for the second and last time. As Mlle Vastel was a very jealous person I did not want to hurt her feelings and I never went back to her flat. At the end of December we received a letter from Julien telling us to be prepared to leave with almost all the women except Panny who was still very weak and recovering very slowly.

Madeline would leave with two airmen staying with Mrs. Schmitt and the third one staying with Jeanette. Jeanette would leave with Harvey and Liffley. Madeline was leaving in the morning and Jeanette in the evening. They would first go to Lyons and then to Toulouse. Madeline had already left when a letter was received,

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51) afternoon from Julien's secretary requesting us to stop sending "parcels" as Julien had had a very dangerous accident and that a few parcels got lost. Jeannette remained in Paris but Madeleine had already left. We learnt later that she managed to leave the airman cross the Pyrenees mountains. These boys, I believe, were the last ones who left through Julien's organization. Jeannette remained with two airmen in her flat and Paul had also two. J. Paine had a few address of airmen to give me but all flats were full and we did not know where to put them. However, on the 12th of January 1944 J. Paine gave me an address and told me that it was very urgent. I had to leave for Geneva, 8 rue de Paris, where two

52) American airmen, Andrew Hattaway and Sidney Carden were hiding. I left for Geneva next day. I previously telephoned to M. Dupuis asking him whether he could give me an address where these boys could stay a few days. He gave me Mrs. Schmitt's address, 87 Blvd. Rochechouart, Paris. I left for Geneva on January 13th and arrived there at 4pm. Mrs. Labadie met me at the gate and she was expecting me. I met her daughter, Marie-Therese, who was a nurse and who seemed to do quite a lot of work for the "Resistance". We had tea and I left with A. Hattaway and S. Carden at 5pm. M. Therese and her mother accompanied us to the station. I had asked Mrs. Labadie whether she would accept some money for having kept the airmen for a fortnight but she refused and accepted nothing. We arrived in Paris at 8pm

53) and as Mrs. Schmitt's flat was close by the station we walked it. Mrs. Schmitt met us at the door of her house and we walked into her flat. She introduced to us two other airmen - Walter Rickerman and another fair boy who told me that he was Norwegian. His Christian name was Fred that was all I knew. Mrs. Schmitt's flat was very small. She had only one bedroom with a double bed and I wondered how she would accommodate the airmen. I had just thought in. She seemed quite anxious to have such a lot of airmen at one time and I told her that I would only leave them for one night and that the next morning I would take them to friends of mine. She agreed. The front door bell rang and Mrs. Schmitt introduced another girl followed by two airmen. The girl told Mrs. Schmitt that she only would live here to feed them and that she had a place for them to spend the night.

54) This girl's name was Claudette. She was about 32-35 years of age and looked very energetic and clever. She spoke perfect English. During our conversation she had asked me what I intended to do with all the airmen who remained in Paris as she had learnt that Julien's organization did not work anymore. I certainly was annoyed as I had quite a few airmen who could not leave Paris and I believed that Julien's organization would not work for sometime to come and we had to get rid of these boys in the quietest way. I had confidence and trusted Claudette the minute I met her. She definitely told me that she could take care of all the airmen we had in Paris. I mentioned Pamy who could not travel by himself and she told me that if did not matter at all as they had a very badly wounded airmen leaving by car and at the same time they would take Pamy.

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55) I also told Claudette that none of these men had identity papers but she replied "Everything will be done for them if you let me handle them". Of course, all this seemed a little bit fantastic at that time but I still believed that I had found the right person. When I told Claudette that I had to pay the expenses incurred for the summer she told me that she would take care of everything. The only thing I had to do was to give her names and addresses of the women.

Before giving her the above I told Claudette that I had to ask Mr. Rufus' advice and that I would give her the answer next day. Next day I came to Mrs. Schmitt and told Claudette again. I was taking Hathaway and Casden to Mr. Morvat Blot Murat. As Mrs. Schmitt had no room. In the meantime I had seen Mr. Rufus - He was agreeable

56) although very sceptic about the whole story I had told him. He still thought that the best thing was to wait until Julien's organizer would come again. He told me nevertheless to give Jacqueline's address but not Paul's for the time being, he also did not want Hathaway and Casden to leave with Claudette. I told Hathaway and Casden to Mr. Morvat - we Murat where they stayed one day only. When I had met Mr. and Mrs. Morvat through my friend Mlle. Delat they requested me not to take anyone to their flat and I said so here alone only. I gave them the assurance that their address would not be given by me to anyone. When I saw Claudette next day (I had asked her to take care of Hathaway, Casden, Harvey and Cuffley) she asked me the address of Hathaway and Casden as she had to see and interview them. She told me that British officers would interview them

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57) As I could not give the address he was asking for. I took Carden and Hathaway back to Mrs. Schmitt. Hathaway had no winter coat and I had to give him my husband's new winter coat. I went to Mrs. Schmitt twice to visit Carden and Hathaway and to know when they were leaving. A man came that day and interviewed them. They expected to leave in a few days. I also spoke to him. He seemed to know plenty of languages. He told me that he had been away from his parents who were pro-Germans. He was working for the B.C. and was on a plane recording when they all had to bail out owing to an accident. He was taken prisoner by the Germans but stayed in Germany only two days. He escaped and came to France and Paris. He told me that while it had taken him 2 days to reach France he had ~~been~~ spent

58) fifteen days to come from the North of France to Paris. He seemed very anxious to leave for England. As he spoke French he was allowed by Mrs. Schmitt to go out and he frequently went out in the streets and cafes. In the meantime I had gone to Jeanette and told her that Harvey and Cuffley would leave in a few days as I had formed an organization which would take care of them. She received me very badly telling me that it was none of my business and that Harvey and Cuffley would leave with her only and if not, that she would keep them till the end of the war. I got very angry indeed in that day and told her that our aim was not to keep these boys but send them as soon as possible to the country they belonged to. Anyhow Jeanette

59) went to Jeanette and took Harvey and Cuffley with her - they had just finished their work meal as there was no time for it. Jeanette as well as Paule were certain that Claudette belonged to the Gestapo - moreover they wanted to keep the women as long as they could.

I had taken the responsibility of sending the women through Claudette's organization and I was assuming it all by myself. Since the 15th of January I never went with to Mrs. Schmidt or Jeanette or Paule. I was run down at that time and I wanted to stop my activities for a month or so since Julien had been arrested. I saw no one and my life had become a peaceful one and absolutely normal.

~~However~~ However, this peaceful time did not last very long. On a Saturday, beginning of February

60) I got a telephone call from Jeanette telling me that Mrs. Schmidt has been taken to a hospital and that she was very ill. I understood that she was in prison.

In the meantime I had learnt that Paule upon her own decision had taken Panny to Jeanette after the departure of Harvey and Cuffley. She did not want to keep him any more as he was difficult about his food etc... The other woman remained in her flat.

On Monday I had an appointment with Dupuis and he advised me that Jeanette was in prison also with Panny. Gestapo came to her flat at 4 am (same as to Mrs. Schmidt). They came to arrest her as they were aware that she had kept in her flat Harvey and Cuffley and they were surprised to find another woman, Hugh Panny. They arrested them both as well as her maid and the maid's husband.

Claudette had also been arrested

61) upon her arrival to Mrs. Schmidt's flat to visit the arrival.
This time I felt that it was my turn. I did not trust these women would keep silent about me and I started to prepare a few things in case I should have to leave in a hurry. I made a thorough inspection of my flat, turned all identity cards, documents, address, photographs, nothing regarding my activities remaining. I told Dupuis and Richard (alias Axel) about my decision but they did not believe that anything would happen to me. I remained in my flat till Tuesday 12th of February on which day I visited my husband (for the first time) at St. Denis. He told me to get away from Paris as soon as possible. In the afternoon I saw J. Pierre who also told me to remain in my flat a minute longer. He also went to P. Vastel and told her to get away. She had taken her answer to friends

62) of her but she told J. Pierre that she would not leave owing to her father who would be arrested and her mother who was doing a lot in the "Resistance" in Brittany. In spite of all J. Pierre's recommendations, she refused to leave. On Thursday night, I took my child who was sick, wrapped him in a blanket as it was snowing outside and I went to another flat. I left my mother and brother in my flat and told them that the Gestapo could come any minute. They would say that the child was sick and that I left for Bayeux. I telephoned to my flat to know whether everything was all right but the telephone was hanging and I understood that something had happened. I telephoned to my brother's office and he told me that I should get away from Paris as soon as

63) possible as they had come during the night at 4 am.

They wanted to arrest my brother but his real ignorance ~~they~~ of everything, they did not. They questioned both my mother and brother for two hours. They were eight men with machine guns. Five soldiers were at the door and six air boys searched the flat thoroughly. The only thing they found were six ~~identity~~ photographs of girl friends and myself. They picked up mine and said to my brother "This is your sister". He agreed. They kept my photo as well as Yacqueline Trélat's photo which was amongst the others.

In the meantime I got in touch with M. Gerese Labadie and asked her whether she could take me and my child in her house at Goren where Costen and Hattaway had stayed as I had no place to go to. She agreed and I stayed at Goren.

64) six weeks.

I came back to Paris to find up a few things and go to Normandy. I had got in touch through ~~all~~ ~~the~~ ~~way~~ with Mr. Clémence, Mayor of Nantes, who said that he would find me a quiet place.

During my 48 hours stay in Paris, I learnt that my brother had been arrested. Fortunately the Gestapo left him only one day. They justified him again about me and the child. During the day they travelled in all the place, I had been during my holidays. They went to Nogent le Roton, they went to all members of my family. Gestapo went again to my flat and they remained ~~about~~ ~~my~~ ~~mother~~ ~~the~~ ~~whole~~ ~~day~~. They opened the door to everyone coming and answered the telephone. They found out nothing.

Should anything have happened to my brother I was prepared

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65) to go to the Gestapo myself
left for Normandy in the middle
of April. I arrived at the station
at noon and had to walk
10 km. with my baby - we
found Mr. Moreuil who was
glad to help me. As he was
also expecting the Gestapo to
search his house he took me
to Montreuil and I stayed
there with M. and Mrs. Lantier.
Eight months till the liberation -
these people missed their life for
me and they have been
extraordinary kind to me.
The Gestapo was everywhere even
in these small villages and
I could not go out anywhere.
I remained in the house and
worked in the farm belonging
to the house only. It was very
hard and the life was very
dull.

As I was told after words, Gestapo
had come to the Bauer's wife

66) inquiring about a young girl
accompanied by a child, and who
was hiding here. The Bauer's wife
told him he was mistaken and
it happened a fortnight before the
liberation we never heard about
this incident.

We were liberated in the
middle of August and I
came to Paris beginning of
September. I learnt that my
husband had suffered a
lot through me as he had
been questioned by the Gestapo
three times. They wanted my
address. He was put in a
cell three times.

I also met my friend
J. Pelat who was arrested
in the last of June 1944.
They arrested her because of me
and during two months
they kept on asking her
where Mrs. Sill was.

She was put in a prison
at Clamart and remained there

67) two months. Her behavior was very courageous. She was very ill bedded and she still remembers how they masked her face asking her to tell them where I was. She instantly inquired what I had done and they told her that I was a "Dangerous Spy" and that they would cut my head off very shortly. They never mentioned her own activities. I Frelat got out of prison by miracle. He Jestafo left me that as the Radio had announced that Americans were in Clark's and next day Satz of the prison were opened.

Three weeks after my arrival at ~~the camp~~.

Montenue Mr. Cleveant and all his friends were arrested by the Jestafo also. He was tortured and sent to Germany. He has come back now and

68) I have had the pleasure of seeing him.

Every body I knew got out of prison and I do not know anyone who lost life during this imprisonment.

The End