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I.S. 9 (WEA) Hq.....3

P/W & X Det. MIS

G-2 Div., SHAEF

(Less App. "C" & "D")

File

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

~~EVADED CAPTURE~~ ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

For All Personnel.

- 1. No. 34682960 Rank Pvt Name James Y. Carroll
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) No.
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details. No.
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) Co C, 320 Inf.
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 35 Div 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) rifleman
- 7. Date of Birth 9 May 1923 8. Length of Service 1 yr, 8 mos.
- 9. Peace time occupation textile worker 10. Private address 705 Lindsey St.
Atlanta, Georgia
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dogtags, paybook
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No.

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

- 13. No. and location of O.T.U.
- 14. No. and location of Conversion Unit

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

- 15. Post in Crew
- 16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.
N.B.—Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.
- PILOT
- CO-PILOT
- NAVIGATOR
- BOMBARDIER
- RADIO OPERATOR
- TOP TURRET GUNNER
- BALL TURRET GUNNER
- WAIST GUNNER (R.)
- WAIST GUNNER (L.)
- TAIL GUNNER

17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure

18. Where and when did you come down?

19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?

20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EXAMINEE CAPTURED/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

For All Personnel.

1. No. 34082960 Rank Pvt Name James Y. Garroll
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) No.
3. Were you wounded? Give details No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), 2dn. (Air Force) Co C, 350 Inf.
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 35 Div
6. Job (Pl. Comb., Rtn., etc) Rifleman
7. Date of Birth 9 May 1923
8. Length of Service 1 yr, 8 mos.
9. Peace time occupation textile worker
10. Private address 705 Lindsey St. Atlanta, Georgia
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Postage, paybook
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No.

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

13. No. and location of O.T.U.
14. No. and location of Conversion Unit

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

15. Post in Crew
16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure
18. Where and when did you come down?
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and map west?
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date 3 September 1944

- Attached:
- Appendix "B"
 - " "C"
 - " "D"

JOHN FORSYTH
2d Lt CAC

Disposal: Returned to unit.

Major

CUTOFF AND
CAPTURED BY
PARACHUTISTS

My regiment was part of the troops that were assigned to liquidate the pocket around Mortain. My company was originally in support of Cos. A and B, and we had some tanks in support of the whole regiment. On 7 August, the tanks ran out of ammunition and had to retire. We were sent off to a hill to bivouac. After we had reached it, the Germans dropped a lot of parachutists who surrounded the hill and cut us off from our lines. We were told to try to fight our way through. Four of us went in one group, we tried several paths down the hill, but each was one blocked with Germans. On the way, one of the men with me was wounded, and another went off in another direction. The fourth man was a first aid man and he and I took the wounded man between us. We went down another path and ran right into some Germans who outnumbered us. They captured us and sent the wounded man and the first aid man to the hospital and I went to some headquarters.

INTERROGA-
TION

At this headquarters they took my paybook and field jacket away, and then I was marched with 7 other PW's all night and landed at a barn toward daylight. Here we were interrogated one by one. The interrogator spoke good English. He asked me first my name, rank and number which I told him. Then he asked me if I belonged to the 35 Div, if that division was fighting with the 29 Div, when I came to England and to France, and to all of these questions I replied with my name rank and number. At this point he got most annoyed and produced a notebook from which he read all my vital statistics including my dates of training in the States, my departure for the UK, my arrival in France, the dates of my furloughs, the various units to which I had belonged, and then he asked me if the information was correct. It was, but I again gave him my name, rank and number. Then he told me that he had lived in the States for fifteen years, and told me a good deal about Atlanta, and asked me if it was all still the same. Again I gave him my name rank and number. This time he dismissed me. When I got back to the other prisoners I found them talking about their units and tank and infantry tactics. I told them they shouldn't do that and said that the Lt in the group might be a German stool pigeon. I merely said it to illustrate my point, but he took me seriously and produced his AGO card. He was from the tank outfit supporting one of the other regiments of the 35 Div.

JOURNEY TO
TRUN AND ES-
CAPE 19 AU-
GUST

For the next two weeks we were moved slowly to the E. We stayed with the fighting troops and moved as they were pushed back. We marched usually at night and tried to sleep in the daytime. On the fourth night the 8 of us prisoners were marching in single file just behind the troops. I saw some AA fire not far off and I thought that it must be American, so I told the tank Lt that we ought to make a break for it. It was very dark, so we both started to walk faster in order to get ahead of the PW group and mingle ourselves with the troops. This worked very well. One of the Germans even put his arm around my shoulder and started to tell me something. Unless he suspected something it was too dark to tell that I wasn't another German. I said "Ja, Ja" every time he paused for breath, and when he had finished I walked on. Unfortunately one of the prisoners noticed that we were gone. The Germans had told us that if anyone escaped the others would be shot, and this prisoner believed it. So he yelled out "All American troops over here". The guards examined the group and discovered that two were missing, and called ahead to the troops among whom we were walking to send us back. Once or twice they tried to make us walk in the daytime, but the Lt objected on the grounds that the planes would strafe us, and the Germans gave it up, especially as they didn't want to be strafed themselves.

The Germans gave us very little food, but the French gave us what they could, and we got cigarettes from the Russians who were driving some of the German carts. They had a certain number of SS troops mixed in with the line outfits that I saw. Some of the Germans spoke a little English. They all asked us whether we were English or Canadian, and when we said that we were Americans, they refused to believe that America was in the war, and asked why we were fighting Germany. I told one that we were going to win the war, and he said that that wasn't true because when our troops got to a certain point they would release a secret weapon that would destroy us all. I asked him if that would be gas. He grinned and didn't answer. Every time the subject of the war was brought up we used to say that we would win, and finally the Germans got mad and started to mistreat us, so we avoided the subject thereafter. I saw one medic with a pistol and asked him why he was armed. He implied with motions that when he received Germans who were wounded more seriously than he could treat, he was authorized to shoot them. They took good care of our wounded prisoners. When the Germans were hard pressed in a retreat, they shot all the horses that they couldn't ~~take~~ take with them. Finally on 19 August we arrived in the vicinity of Trun, and the fighting got very hot. There seemed to be opposition coming from all sides. Artillery, rifle and machine gun fire were falling like rain. We prisoners and the guards started to run for cover. Two of the guards were hit and one stopped to look after them. The fourth went with us and we all started to dig foxholes. Then a mass of Germans came retreating in our direction and jumped into the foxholes with us. I persuaded one of them that they were about to be captured, and he gave me his pistol. But after a while, he changed his mind and took it back. Then most of the Germans left. The artillery continued all this time. Soon a German officer came and told us to get out of the foxholes and go into a building across the field. There were a lot of Germans running to it in panic. We prisoners cried "Run, run", hoping that all the Germans would run into the building ahead of us and then we could take off. But one of them remained behind us and forced us to go in. Then one of the Germans said that our troops were just around the corner, so five of us eight prisoners made a break for it. We ran out of the building and the Germans fired on us, some following, but at that moment the Canadians appeared around the corner of the field and the Germans retreated back into the building. The Canadians took us five to their Hq.

THREE DAYS
WITH CANA-
DIANS

The four who ran out with me stayed at the Hq because they were pretty much shaken up, while I went back with one Canadian, Pvt Carl McAllister, Hamilton, Ontario, to see if I could get out the other three prisoners, one of whom was the tank Lt, 1st Lt James Roberts. He had been wounded in the leg when we ran out of the foxholes. When McAllister and I got to the building, we discovered that the Germans had abandoned the upper part and had all gone into the cellar. McAllister fired his machine gun into it, and 60 Germans came out with their hands up. Our three prisoners were not with them, so I went around the building to look for them. On the way I saw a German major trying to get away. I yelled to him, he reached for his gun, and then I opened fire and killed him. I took his Luger. Then I walked on and came to a barn. There I heard a German shout "Kamarad" and walk out with the three prisoners. The Lt and one of them went back to Hq; the third stayed with the troops and was killed the next day. I stayed on with the Canadians till the 22 August, when McAllister and I took the 60 German prisoners to Trun. There we met four correspondents who took our pictures and got stories from us about the fighting and my adventures as a prisoner. I also met an American Ordnance officer who said that he would take me to Bayeux to the American au-

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E&E 8/268/610

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thorities. I went with him and arrived at Bayeux at 1800, where I was handed over to an outpost of Co C, 793 MP Bn.

TREATED AS
CRIMINAL BY
AMERICANS

The outpost kept me for a few days, and then sent me to the Co Hq, where I stayed for a few more days. ~~XXXX~~ At both these places, they treated me as well as they could. Then I was sent to the Bn Hq, where a 1st Lt from the S-2 section interrogated me. He asked me my unit. I told him: Then he asked me where my patch was, and I told him that it was on the field jacket that the Germans had taken from me. Then he asked me to describe it. I did so. He told me to give him the Luger I had taken from the German major. I refused saying that it was mine by right of conquest. Then he told me that I was a f..... spy and had me put in a cellar with two stragglers, one of whom was Pvt Phil Karl, 32779796, 113 Cml. Proc. Co., APO 350. We were under guard. Later that night, the intelligence Lt came down and offered me \$20.00 for the Luger, and said that it would be taken away from me anyway. I still refused to part with it. The next morning they got us up at 0500 and put us on kp until ~~1000~~ 2200 that night. At that time we were returned to the cellar. M/Sgt Howard E. Golightly, 36614473, Hq Det, 793 MP Bn, came to me and said that they were trying to get something on me in order to take the Luger. He said that he would take it and lock it in his trunk until I left. I gave it to him. The next day I did kp again from 0500 to 2200. When I got back to the cellar I discovered that someone had gone through everything in it because sheets and blankets had been pulled out of drawers, and other stuff was disarranged. I imagined that a search had been made for the Luger. The next morning a captain and a 1st Lt took me to Cherbourg. There I was interviewed by Capt Andrews, G-2 Section, Normandy Base Section. He turned out to be from the Atlanta police force. I told him all about Atlanta and the name of the chief of police. He said that a spy would know all that, but he gave me a new uniform. Then I was sent to Maj R.F. Manson, O-331174, CIB, G-2, CZ, Hq ETOUSA, APO 887 who questioned me, gave me his field jacket, and had me put under guard again. I stayed in Cherbourg that night. The next morning I was put in a jeep with a driver and a guard and taken to 12 US Army Group (Rea) at Le Mans. I was questioned here, and then sent to the forward echelon. I was questioned again there and sent back to the rear echelon where I spent the night in the guardhouse. I protested, but the MP said he was only obeying orders. The next day I was taken to Hq Third US Army, PM section. They questioned me and gave me a note saying that my German equipment should not be taken from me. From there I went to the G-2 section, where Capt Rose talked to me. I told him about the Germans using ambulances to pull guns. Then he put me in a truck with some air evaders and I was taken to the E&E Det. at PWE No. 6.

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