

"Evasion Report"  
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MAY  
24

SECRET.  
M. I. 9/S/P.C. (-) 3088.  
EVADED CAPTURE IN GERMANY  
AND HOLLAND.

The information contained in this report is to be treated as

SECRET.

STATEMENT BY

1378441 F/Sgt. MAKOPSKI, Max Henry, 49 Sqn., Bomber Command, R.A.F.  
Date of Birth: 16 Jul 20. Paratime Profession: Clothing Designer  
R.A.F. Service: Since Feb 41. Private Address: 33, Durham Road,  
BLACKPOOL, Lancs.

1. EVASION.

I left FULBROOK in a Lancaster aircraft on 21 Feb 45, to bomb GRENVENHORST, and on the return run to WESEL was forced to bale out, landing 30 miles N.E. of GRONAU (Germany) at 2200 hrs. I hid my parachute etc., in a ditch and joined the navigator, F/O. ABERLEY, R.C.M.F. We walked about 15 miles that night, heading for HOLLAND, and hid the next day in a haystack.

We set off again at 2200 hrs on 22 Feb, through the forest, until we saw some posters in Dutch and German, showing us that we were near the border. We avoided German sentries and tried to get some sleep in the woods on the third day. In the evening we arrived at ENSCHEDL, just over the Dutch border and hid in the forest, where we got some raw potatoes to eat. The wood was fenced with wire and full of active flak batteries, so it took us some time to get through. We spent the rest of the night going through the city, and then stopped in a small farmer's storehouse for two whole days, as the weather was very bad and our food insufficient.

The next day we walked two or three miles West, through BOEKEL and when it got light, hid in a copse. About 1200 hrs, we were discovered by a Dutch farmer, who fetched his wife and brought us food and milk, also telling us that we were surrounded by Germans. She told us to shelter in a certain barn, and promised to return that evening with a man who spoke more English. We were very tired and fell to sleep about 2000 hrs, awaking about an hour later to hear voices, and the door shut. We stayed one more day but nobody came, so we set off for HAAKSBERGEN, hoping eventually to reach BRITISH troops the other side of the RHINE.

We hid the next night in a hen coop on a farm, and then made contact with two farm labourers, who brought in the local schoolmaster, who spoke English. The schoolmaster promised to put us in touch with the Underground movement, and that night a man and a woman arrived with a slip of paper, and next day brought round civilian clothes and arranged about our feeding with the farmer. That night we walked through HAAKSBERGEN in civilian clothes, ABERLEY was taken to stay with the Mayor of the town, and I went with another underground member. As there were Germans living immediately opposite the house where I spent the night, I was moved on the next day to a family who kept me for five and a half weeks. Here we lived in a carefully concealed hiding place, and were supplied with boots and books by a young boy.

In Apr when the situation got very difficult, the Underground /took over the.....

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took over the town and held it until the BRITISH arrived. The husband of my hostess of the first night took us to the Dutch Liaison Officer, serving with the British Army.

We were returned to the U.K. on 8 Apr 45.

The info

2895-L/Cpl.

Place of Birth

Service: