

In Gorizia there are about 1500 German troops and the towns of Latisana and Lignano are full of German troops.

English mission called Lockwood in charge of Major Watson and Major Turner in Sibia area. Spent three days there. English mission at Semic in charge of Capt. Saggars. Spent five days there. American officer, Lt Benson at airstrip. About three who believed to have gone down with ship. Thinks they were tail turret, ball turret and nose turret.

#### Appendix E

Used money to buy food and get help. Used maps to locate position. Compass was put to good use but thought food concentrate poor and couldn't eat most of it. Used water bag and other materials in food package. Had GI shoes. Thought briefing was poor as was only told to heed to Yugoslavians when landing in enemy territory. Thought escape kit ought to contain foreign money as well as U.S. also suggest extra pair of socks would come in handy. Didn't have medical kit on harness.

### ***Escape Statement***

#### ***John, Hassan,***

1 August 1944

L. Hassan, John, 2nd Lt. 484th BG 826th Sq.  
Duty Navigator  
Age 21 Home Address: Pittsburgh PA  
MIA 13 June 1944 RTD 25 July 1944  
Missions: 21

2. Not in enemy hands at any time.

3. After take off had trouble with #1 engine. South of Udine, Italy enroute to target, cylinder blew out on #1 engine, oil poured out, oil pressure dropped. Pilot left formation to turn back. Over 20 ME 109's encountered south of Udine and north of Marano Lagoon while this a/c was returning alone. Enemy attacks were coordinated, 4 ME 109's coming in aggressively from all around the clock at split second intervals, barely avoiding collision with each other. Gunners of this crew claim two destroyed and two probables, and apparently stuck to their gun positions though their plane was badly damaged. As a result of enemy action, three engines were finally shot out, the plane caught fire in bomb bay, under the flight deck and in waist. Plane crashed in Adriatic south of Marano Lagoon.

Source landed by parachute in street of Gorgo, Italy, 45° 55'N- 13° 01' E, about 0930 on 13 June 1944. Parachute became snarled in overhead telephone or electric wires which helped to breach fall. One leg strap of parachute harness was broken. Source discarded winter flying jacket and Mae West vest in street. He was wearing tropical worsted uniform, no cap. An Italian woman leaning from a doorway shouted for him to run and pointed the way out of town. Other townspeople remained indoors. Source ran north and climbed tree to hide. There being no immediate pursuit, he left tree and crawled in a ditch behind some houses.

4. Fascisti wearing green Italian uniforms, with trench helmets painted white, riding in Volkswagons searched roads in the vicinity and fired several rounds in the air to terrorize evaders and

make them disclose their hiding place.

Source observed 1st Lt. R.L. Remington, pilot, captured, riding north out of Gorgo at 0945, 13 June 1944, in Volkswagon with 4 Fascisti guards.

Coming out of his hiding place at dark, source at 2300 hours entered a farm house about 300 yards on the west side of a road, 3 miles north of Gorgo. Here he found a South African soldier hiding out who acted as interpreter with the Italian family there. An interview was arranged with a "rebel", a member of the Italian National Liberation Party (headquarters said to be at Trieste) who suggested source join and fight with members of this party said to be located in the mountains in the north. Source explained that his orders were to return to his own unit via Yugoslavia. The "rebel", name unknown, was at first reluctant to aid him in his journey, but finally consented.

Lt. Walter E Chapman, bombardier, came to this house on the morning of 14 June 1944, T/Sgt. Frederick S Howland, Engr., arrived at same house on night of 14 June, both having been guided to the house by Italian farmers. From description of prisoners received by Italians at this house, it is believed that Lt. Richard Olson, copilot, S/Sgt. William B Snyder, radio operator, and Sgt. Alvin T Houpt top turret, as well as Lt Remington, pilot, were captured by Fascisti on 13 June.

5. At 1430, 17 June 1944, source accompanied by Lt Chapman and Lt Howland, all wearing civilian clothes which they had obtained in a swap for their uniform, left by truck for Gorizian. They rode sitting openly in the truck. At Cervignano they were stopped by Fascisti road guards who examined driver's identification card and then permitted truck to proceed. The evaders hid in the truck when passing gate of Marna A/D.

General Route: Gorgo, Latisana, Cervignano, Gradisca, Gorizia. Dismounted at Gorizia in late afternoon where streets were crowded with German soldiers, many being of middle-aged appearance. They walked out of town following the instructions of a boy and a girl who preceded ahead on bicycles taking them to Yugoslavia Partisans in the small town of Manzano near Montepapino.

The evaders left Manzano the night of 18 June for Laqua, Italy with four Partisan boys as guides, arriving there on 19 June. On 22 June they left Laqua with 4 boy guides, crossing the Italian border, place unknown, on the night of 24/25 June. The border was heavily guarded and illumination flares were shot off by the enemy at frequent intervals. Source believes it inadvisable to attempt crossing Italian-Yugoslavian border without a guide.

Route followed in Yugoslavia was from Podgora, SE to Prozid, down Kupa River Valley to Brod, then cross country NE to Semic, thence to Metlika. Party left Metlika hurriedly on report of approaching German troops and walked to Vinica, then to Ceralski Stol, to Cordun and to landing strip "Altenmark". Evacuated by air on night of 24/25 June 1944.

6. Source, Lt Hassan, a navigator credited with 21 missions, has a defiant, independent attitude, laying great stress on the hardships he endured and his unwillingness to return to combat duty in this theater. Source says that if he knew how difficult it was going to be to travel through enemy-occupied country, he would have immediately surrendered as a prisoner, and will surrender "next time". He is apparently worried about the possibility of returning to combat duty. Says that he served previously in the South Pacific and has had enough of war.

#### Appendix B