20 April 1943

HQ, ETOUSA

OFFICE OF AC OF S, G-2 mis Detachment

E & E REPORT NO. 25 EVASION FROM FRANCE.

0-430620, Capt. John L. RYAN, Air Medal, 367 Bomber Squadron, 306 Bomber Group. ARRIVED U.K .: 17 APRIL 1143

AGE : LENGTH OF SERVICE : PRIVATE ADDRESS :

2 yrs. PRACETIME PROFESSION: School teacher. (taught French) 546 Eighth Avenue.

TROY, N.Y.

MISSION:

LORIMYT, 6 March 1943.

Other members of crew :

PILOT CO-PILOT NAVIGATOR BOMBADIER TOP TURRET RADIO OPERATOR BALL TURRET WAIST GUNNER WAIST GUNNER TAIL GUNNER

(NARRATOK) 0-661870 lst Lt. Gerald L. SIMMONS 0-660491 lst Lt. Robert B. HERMANN 0-661003 lst Lt. James LAINE (Killed) (Prisoner) (Prisoner) 17032540-T/Sgt Glen A. BLAKEMORE (Safe) LANDED SAFELY 11009583 T/Sgt Charles E. PERRY (Prisoner) 18051542-Sgt James GRENE TR. (Prisoner)
18081398 — S/Sgt John R-CHAPMAN (Prisoner)
15082521 — S/Sgt SHITH (2) Root G. Mumay (Prisoner) 15099498- S/Sgt William H. FORRESTER (Prisoner)

6 MARCH 1943

We left THURLETCH at 0945 hrs on 6 March 1943 to bomb LORIENT. The flak was intense as we approached the target at 23000 ft. One burst knocked out our No. 3 engine and cut out my engine controls. I could not feather the No. 3 prop and the engine set up a terrific vibration. We had been hit just before unloading our bombs on the target.

DAMAGED BY FLAK

We made a left turn off the target and flew about 30 miles out to sea in formation. The No. 3 engine vibrated about 6 inches, shook off the cowling and then the prop flew off. It hit the side of the fuselage, knocking out the windshields. The Co-pilot's face was badly cut. We started dropping behind.

Capt. DRAFER, leading the lower element, slid up under me and passed me. I realized that it was impossible to getback to

ENGLAND. The engines were running wide open. We could not keep up and were doing 2100 RPM's and about 41 inches. My gas was insufficient to get back at that power setting. We made a right turn out of formation and headed in for the QUENTER Peninsula.

The plane started to let down immediately. Our speed picked up and I lowered the wheels to slow us down. After giving the warning signal I told the crew not to jump until we had crossed the coast and to wait until I told them.to jump.

GUILVENEC

We crossed the coast at 4000 ft. over Guilverec.

AHACKED BY FIGHTERS I waited until we were at least two miles inland before giving the order to abandon ship. Before the order we were attacked twice by F.W's. One was from the rear which I did not see and the other came in at 11.00 o'clock. The second one was shot down by Sgt. BLAKEMORE, top turnet gunner. The fighter went into the sea. The French saw this and told me about it.

ABANDON'S SHIP at 220 m.p.h. The top turnet gumer went out first and I was out last. I put the ship on the automatic pilot and it held fairly steady. Before jumping I went into the nose which was empty, back past the cockpit where I twisted the knob on the automatic pilot to down position. The air speed had risen to 240 m.p.h. I found no one in the radio compartment and could see that the main entrance door was off. I went back to the bomb bay and jumped. Before leaving the cockpit I had destroyed the I.F.F. and I believe the bomb sight was thrown into the ocean. My jump was at 1430 hrs.

(It was discovered uponistuming that Copt, Ryan's arm hanten broken near the shoulder)

St. JEAN-TROLIMAN

The main straps and was jerked up my back over my head.

Because of the low altitude jump I was down quickly. I landed on my shoulder and passed out. The landing was made in a pasture about 10 ft from a road and a mile from ST JEAN-TROLIMAN. There were about 40 Frenchmen surrounding me when I regained consciousness. A woman helped me out of my chute. I asked about the Germans and was told they were in the town. Immediately I was shown the best direction in which to run. The French buried my chute.

I was in a small valley and started running West. When I came to a stream I walked in the water for an hour before resting. I took a benzadrine tablet and filled my water bottle and continued to walk until 1750 hrs. For a hiding place I found some brush in the corner of a field and covered myself in it. I remained hidden here until 2100 hrs. After eating some of the chocolate and malted milk tablets and drinking most of my water I walked for about 300 yds to a farm and asked for food. They gave me milk, bread and butter and told me the Germans had that one was pead. captured seven of my crew and had killed one. I did not ask for help here because it seemed too near the area of search. With the aid of my compass I walked S.W. until 2430 hrs and changed my direction to North. Finally I found a haystack. My arm was hurting too badly to climb up on it so I slept at the bottom.

I approached a man and boy in a barn and told them who I was.

7 March 43

At 070° hrs I went across the road to a farmhouse. There was a Frenchman and a 13-year old boy in the house. After talking to them they gave me coffee, bread and soup. They also gave me cake and bread to take away. After sitting by their fire for an hour I started walking North keeping close to the hedgerows. At 120° hrs, having found a field of heavy brush, I made a bed and lay in the sun to get warm. I ate more bread and chocolate before

still wearing my uniform (pinks, leather flying jacket). He asked me about myself and when I said, "An American parachutist" he was very friendly. He took his knife and cut off my insignia. Then he told me to stay where I was, hidden, until he went after food. In an hour he was back again with a friend and some food (wine, a bowl of stew, 5 raw eggs and bread and butter). They stayed with me for about 30 minutes but before leaving said they would come back for me that evening and hide me in their stable. They were back again at 210° hrs. We went to their stable and they said they thought they might find help for me. At 0030 hrs they awakened me to say that friends were with them.

and wooden shoes. I gave my passport pictures to one of the men

who was to try getting an identity card for me. After they left

The friends were two men who brought civilian clothes

8 March 1943

HELPERS EFFORTS

9 March 1943

I slept until 0530 hrs when the farmer came in and told me to hide in the field that day. At 2100 hrs the friend who was trying to get the identity card returned. He was discouraged because his effort had failed. My pictures were given back to me and after we had eaten I was told that since suspicion had been aroused it

would be best for me to go further for help.

At 2400 hrs I started walking N.E. I walked until 1200 hrs before stopping for a long rest. My water bottle had been lost in some of the thorny underbrush. While I was sitting in the corner of a field smoking two Frenchwomen brought their cows into the field and upon seeing me ran away. I was walking off hurriedly when the two women came after me bringing a man with them. They asked for my identity and then took me into their house for food. All of their neighbours came in to see me. The doctor who was called for me could not come because he had no gas. I stayed all that afternoon and slept in the stable that night.

One friend who came said he thought he knew someone who could help me. At 1300 hrs a farm hand walked with me to a wood about 3 miles away where we met the friend. He took me another

10 March 1943

2 miles deep in the forest where I waited while he went off to talk to the supposed helper. In a half-hour they both joined me and after talking the rest of my journey was arranged for me.

1	John L. Ryan, Capt 0-430620
2	Air Medal
3	367 Bomb. Sgdn.
4	306 Bomb. Gp.
	13 December 1917
	2 yrs.
D	School teacher
3	546- Eighth Ave, Troy, W.Y.
9	Bombardment of Lorient, 6 March 1943. Departed from
	Thurleigh (Beds.) at 0945, 6 March 1943. Came down
	at St. Jean-Trolimon, Finistère at 1430, 6 March 1943
	Aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed.
(10)	Crews Co-pilot - 1512. Gerald L. Simmons - killed
	Navigator-151. LT. Robert B. Herman - prisoner
	Bombardier-1st LT. James Laine - prisoner
	Top-turret - T/set. Glen A. Blakemore - safe
	Radio Oper - T/Sgt. Charles E. Perry - prisoner
	Ball-turret-9/5t. James Green - prisoner
	Waist Gunner-Styl. Chapman - prisoner
	Waist Gunner Stst Smith (3) - prisoner
	Tail Gunner Stat. William H. Forrester - prisoner

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and could see that the main entrance door was M. I went back to the Bomb Me corps I had destroyed the F. F. F. and I believe the bomb right was thrown into the ocean . My jung was at 14 30 hrs. When the chute opened my left arm got tangled in the main straps and Owas gerbed up my backtover my head. Because 2 the low altitude young I was down quickly. I landed on my shoulder and passed out. Hie landing was made in a pastire about 10 feet from a road and a mile from STUJEANLTROLIMAN. Here were about 040 Frenchier surrounding me when Ingained Consciousness. a woman helped me del of my clute. I asked about the Hermans and was told they were in the town. Immediately 2 was shown the least direction in which to sun, The French brould my cheetex

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4 Left Julingh 9,45 March 6th 1943 & bomb Lovet. afferenched target at 23000 ft great Leal of flock. The bust net off right water us + Another out my no 3 engine, come of their functory + cut my engine controls. I could not feather not frof + ugine met of treffer of whation. We were hit just before we shoffed our bouts. We droffel bouts mude a left tem off the target + went about so miles out & sea in formation. no 3 whatest about 6 in shook all combine of the engine then ful flow off. this hit side of fuseloge + Rucked out withhelle for filet + lo Vilet. but lo Viloto force. We started to drop befind. Eaft Drofer love elevet slid up who met famil me. I redliged it was informable to get back to England Second my engines were vering procheally will ofen, I could not keep us, We were doing 2100 RPMs + about 41 inches, My gas was implicant to get book at that four satting. We made a right tun out of formation + beaded in toward quimper familia + stuted to let down immediately We ficked up speed + I fast my wheels down to slow us down. I gave the to just intil ne crossed coast. I would till the

when to just. We would the coast at 4000 ft EvilviNEE inhelating at 240. I write funtil we got about 2 miles be before giving and to about a slip, post before giving a lie we took two attacker by F. W 190 one from mean which I did not see + one from 110'clock. The second one was slot Sea. The French saw this + told no about it. We started to get at about 2500 ft going about 220. ever started to junt I feet skip on automating filet + it held fairly stearly. To fee I junted them I nearly into mose to see if anyon left them fact Piloto lockfut when I twisted the Rust on automatic filet to down forition. The air ofeed uf to 240 at this time. I westints took alog bomb boy to adio long. The was no me there to bomb boy main entires don was ff. I F. F. offer I left look. Jis. I think to bomb boy the to the think of the we was fulled up my got tought in my chute of any left am got tought in main strafe to was fulled up my got tought in main strafe to was fulled up my bock + lup one my lead. I some down a my shoulder + farsed out; I ladelin a faster I bout 10 ft. fin a road. I was a bout I mile from St. fear-Trolimon. When I care too the were about 40 French feofle and me, the word telfed me out of my chite. I asked when the Gener were + they told me they were in the town. They whiteled a way to flee I tank of leaving my chitch to which rally the war a strian - I walked in it. I walked about an how then stoffed & took out

a lot of water & filled water bottle. I walked entil &, so then I hid is the come of a field of and bush or stayed until by ab orclock, I walter with to the to t fam & asked for food. They gave no milk beads butter total me about the Tenans cofting somen + killing in of my event, I didnot ask thereforfle for helfar I thought it to close -I had better get farther away. I walked on S. Wintel about 12, 30 wing my confam. I walked on a distroval + changed my direction to Math. I fonda baystock + spect the right. I could not clint on account of am so sleft by the ridegit. I duelfed a fever was sick this lasted for 5 days. March 7 - about 7 o'clock I net airon the road to a for house. There was a French name of one boy about 13. I talked to the they gave no eoffer, bealt tubout I stayed by their fire about I he. I walked next to bedge now north until noon. I forda big field with heavy bush I bent slow a flace I lay down in sew to get man. I ats my bread + chocolato + sleft I was all in, About 37. M I was awakeed by a French on who keft his come near by Tatel hed my uniform on. Hearhed ne who I was a Stold him American who care down in farochet day before. He was very frielly took out his knife & art offallog my insignia. It left + told no to stay where I want to wild brig me some food in a fort an form, He can book with a filed + a bog of I boule of stew, Segge now, butter

bottle of mis & bottle of alambique They stayed take the the might to the stable who I endfalled. They can about 90. M. I met " they again to fine + entert some or to helper. It 12,30 they worked + and their friedwas they MAREH 8th Theones 2 non. 10 teacher styen-Tholiman. They took off my emifor & gave no clother wooden shoer. I gave my a picture to the teacher to be acid he would go to guinfer the next day to get me an identity early taken to Hanten They staged about to his left , I not book to bed, Called no about a to feel of took no book to the same field to stay brought no for at Suested.

night: Dowing day brought no for at two family and two family to two family to the stay of the family to the family to the stay to family the family to the stay to family the search of the family to the stay to family to the family to the stay to family to the family to the family to the search of the search of the stay to family to the family to the search of the s MARIH 9th I walked all might while moon.
I lost my water bother gig them head.
I stoffed any field to make I then head. caronto fieldwith 8 com. they now when they source, I stated walking and and the 2 more, a man its their house feeling of had all neighbors con in to nee me. The colled a doctor but he had no you van blant come. I stayed all afternoon a sleft in stable that MARCH 10 the a friendly their a man who could help me. at the thought the keen a man who could help me. at 17.M. the fam hand took me to a woods about 3 min away where we not the first find. This man took me about 2 miles

further into moods his first left in to ge find the man who could help no, Tooth renear back in a to he were talked. They both left to the send man atmed in about a hom. Fan her a my fengus and golfer. I speak French doing taught it in although High school. Vafere recessary to have to travel in Frances

MAREHIOZ The mon who was the seen of find that ea to me in morde was a Court PONT ALAISE he had been Ref of I.B.M. in Vais, Ab stoke good English. The returned with 2 young new (NOEL ARHAN al AMIL -nho was her to mayor (+ PLOMENR) We talked 2 you new soil that alka would ever for me that night a can at 9 P. M. arkan con in can with On from Tout- Z'-abbe + count + I were waiting . Left lout + die them " " " to LOFTHDY. at 2. stayed in held owned by arhano mother. Il was summer total reg - by It offeren but none there at this time. Wet Blokemore in hotel had been but the every before. Stayed line from Wed to 23rd (two weels). Dung this time a Dr. from Putlable - cane to see me 3 times but could do little - x ray recele De Subaine. De Capt (tr) musland marine) rierre Dréau of Les Conde amonged to have us son to Pont- aven, when the Chief Mr alexandre Thrieband-(aramand Tual) returned be sent can To hoctuly and brokus to lost Aven where we stayed cel time of Time Clamence Barbarin ave de la Sare-We Stayed until age 5 when I left with Chief for a fundouse at Im. from Port Aven, Welther to ledge following deversion on Tues 6th left famboure at 6 pm I walked Im over filds to man road where can was waiting. Drove to Rosporden Where took trans for Paris, Seat always are to bot pt class in bem sleepen .

Rrend like sailor carrying comos bay with 8 bolisten - (with neck awater benet! At Nandes we were helt for 2 his by alest - 1-3 a.m. On Heisting in a world said - pretended sleep . an wed in Paris at of or his wed at Station. Montparnance by 2 aguils of shief - In momes Went acconstruct to Case for toppee, The chief tool me to a bounde of Wome Montel, 7 Rue Caesa Franch. Stand til 3 pm. when your lady took me to
ext. of rune Jacqueline Richet. 36 Rue le Ponthiève
Paris 8, Works in Red Cross-change of avilian p/w in
Germany Med Day Thurs. another agest came to use me + west for walk. English. Showed The building of interest 2 During this time dressed is civilian Alther Stayed here mitil - I week left on trail So Lagare station (Hot sfot). no check of forfer. Sgt Fitzgerald - Paris - Cem - or Canadian For the by byriels to Flenny La For at the transt might be might be might be miles E to field of them book to ll. K at IPM.

Not questioned - No reports given on experiences. 23 Yes yesterday, 16 april 1943. (24)

appendix "C" 1. Yes. Peasants contacts à organization. all Trally recessary to live six weeks in France in matters of food, shelter, and clothing and a trip to Ingland, 2. Frans of one American ogt, from 305# Gp who was in Paris on 13 Quil. Name may Le Fitzgerals or that may be the same of a Canadian who is hiding with the american

FOHN L. RYAN (3)

M. NOEL ARHAN HOTEL ARHAN L. OLTUDY FRANCE.

SHELTER AND FOOD FOR 2 WEEKS.

M. ISBORGE EAILLEAU.

FOOD

LOLTHAY FRANCE

MLLE. ELEMENEE BARBARIN

SHELTER AND

AVE DE LA GARE

FOOD 2 WEEKS.

PONT-AVE FRANCE

LOUNT PONTALAISE.

GIGARAETTES AND

NEAR. PONT L'. ARBE. FRANCE.

HELPED SEGURE

TRANSPORTATION.

DOLTOR SUBAINE.

MEDIEAL ATTENTION.

LOETHDY FRANCE.

EMIL -

HELP WITH

(SELY TO MAYOR OF PLOMEUR) TRANSPORTATION.

Appendix A"

M. NoëL	ARHAN - Shelte	er - Zwks
	L ARHAN	
	LOCTUDY, FINISTÈRE	
M. GEO	LOCTUDY, FINISTÈRE	JUBIECT) - tood
	LOCTUDY, FINISTERE	supplement ration
		over 2 wk. period
Mila (LÉMENCE BARBARIN	
1116.		
	AVENUE DE LA GARE	
	PONT- AVEN, FINI	STERE
		3 3 44 6 (2.4)
MME	MONTET	
	7 RUE CÉSAR FRANK	1 1 10 10
	D. T. T. CLOAN I KANER	- meal path - Iday.
	PARIS	
N 1	1987 July Copy Charles Copy	12 Spring word 1 Tell
MME	JACQUELINE RICHET	- Shelter - Iwk.
	36 RUE PONTHIÈVRE!	the second - 2
8-43-97.5	PARIS, Brime	The Mar 181
7.	TAIRIS, O	
=/	alily and and analysis	1,1000 1, 1,75 ()
1/LT. F	. YEO- THOMAS -	cigarettes, money \$500 F
	RAF HO, LONDON	

COL. BASSY Arranged passage home.

(Ha) 10 DUKE ST.

LONDON W1

M. ALEXANDRE THIEBAUD (ALIAS M. ARMAND TUAL)

LONDON - arranged shelter in Enistère, provides food, eigavettes, etc aus transportation to PARIS

2. No one paid for services rendered.

Appendix "R"

1 - hone

2. - none

3. - Flak batteries in racetrack at Longehamps, Varis.

4. - Few divisions moves out of Bretague about 151 of month with all equipment and supplies.

· 5.- ROADS MINED IN Connearnea and Triquine 1st wk of April. Tank barricades exected in roads in vicinity some date.

6. Very low. Soldiers in Bretagne either very young recruits or wounded soldiers back from Russia and disgusted with 5 yes of wave

APPENDIX "IS" JOHN L. RYAN 0-430620 EAPT. 362 259. 306 GR. (6) t. Mone 2. Home 2. Flak batteries in rose trock at Longsburgen, Pairs. If Few divisions morel out of Bratague about first of April with all equipment and sufflies. 3 Roods mined in Comeanea and TREGUNE

first week in afril also tank baricula wested 4 Lewon maale low. Soldiers in Bretague are

either very young remite or wounded men back from Thuring disputed with five years of war.

9 April 1943

AG 383.6 Hq ETOUSA

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO : Personnel concerned.

- 1. It is the duty of all Americans to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.
- 2. It is an offense, carrying heavy penalties, to publish or to communicate to any unauthorized person any information which might be useful to the enemy.
- 3. Information about your escape or your evasion from capture would be useful to the enemy and a danger to your friends. It is therefore SECRET.
- 4. <u>a.</u> You must therefore not disclose, except to the first Military Attache to whom you report, or to an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations:

(1) The names of those who helped you.

(2) The method by which you escaped or evaded.

(3) The route you followed.

(4) Any other facts concerning your experience.

- b. You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press. c. You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.
- d. You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4a.

e. No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General ANDREWS:

RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

CERTIFICATE

I have read the above and certify that I will comply with it.

I understand that any information concerning my escape or evasion from capture is <u>SECRET</u> and must not be disclosed to anyone other than the American Military Attache to whom I first report, or an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) JOHN L. RYAN	_ Signed John S. Mylan
Rank CAPTAIN ASN 0-430620	Date
Unit 5674 Bome. Sapr., 306 & GP.	_ Witness

HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS UNITED STATES ARMY

SPECIAL ORDERS)

19 Apr 19/3 1942

NUMBER 109

EXTRACT

1. Gapt JOHN L. RYAN, 0430620, AC, is asgd to Hq Eighth AF, is placed on TD at this hq in the G-2 Sec. Upon completion of this TD he will rpt to the CG, Eighth AF for dy. TCNT. A per diem of \$6.00 is auth while on the TD and while on travel status. TDN. FD 31 P 431-02 A 0425-23.

By command of Lieutenant General ANDREWS:

C. H. BARTH, Brigadier General, GSC, Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.