Escape and Evasion Report

Anthony Ornatek

September 5, 1944

#2427

By Nightfall Lt. Miller, Lt. Bartemus, Sgt. Miller and I all joined up in a barn at Tilques / pas de Calais. The farmer here traded our A2 jackets for civilian clothes and cycled with us to Avezdoing (sp?) the next morning. We stayed there until 2 January with some formerly well to do farmers. Then on bikes to Fillievres. While we were here the Cure of Fillievres/ pas de Calais, M. Guittard, a café owner in Frevent gave us I cards and after a short stop in a woman's home Guittard drove us to Frevent.

That night we were farmed out to different homes. I spent 18 days with M. et Meme, Aucet-Guyot. He is a painter. Word got around about my presence and I moved up the street to M. Fernand Peucelle. He is a contractor for a beet sugar company. I lived with him at 18 Rue d'Hesdin Frevent from 20 January to 16 March. His Daughter and refractaire Georges Lefevre from Lille lived here. He contacted the Lille organization and 14 of us set out by truck to Cooras(sp?).

On the way we collided with a German ____ but got away while the Germans were still blinded by our lights and regained Frevent. Of the fourteen of us, all but a Canadian and Lt. Judson Doyle were French.

That morning we reached Arras by autobus and stayed until 1500 hours with a former captain in the army. Then three men took us to Lille. Here we spent three days in an apartment rented in the name of M. Laurent. It belonged to the organization and no one lived here. M. Antoine whom I believe was caught later was in charge of us.

An old man and his son, who had been our guides from Frevent to Arras and so to Lille were now our guides to Paris. A man named Maurice also guided us to Paris. The "old man" is about 48 years old, 5ft 8in tall, weighs about 180 lbs. has grey hair and blondish moustache.

The son was a tall, lanky boy with blond hair. We took the metro to Charenton and then a bus to Maisons Alfort. The four of us lived in a widows apartment while she stayed in Paris. Miller and the Canadian went elsewhere.

We were here from 20 March to 6 May. Mme. Claude visited a lot. While we were here all but she and one man in the organization were caught. Lt. Bruce Sundlun had been here previously and used to ____. He contacted Mme. Colette. Sundlun and E,C. King had been staying with Mme. Simone at 3 Rue Des Jardins. Leaving two here, Sundlun, Doyle, King and I set out by train on 5 May for Belfort.

After an hour here in a big clearing, Mme. Colette and another woman [maybe Annie, but Sundlun will know] took us by bus to Beaucourt. From here we went on foot towards a guide's cottage but were stopped on the way by a girl who said that the Germans had surrounded the place and that the guide had been killed.

The two women returned to Paris and Sundlun and King went to Beaufort to ask the provost for a guide. Doyle and I went on our own asking directions of Frenchmen along the way. One finally pointed out Boncourt Switzerland. It was nighttime and woody country. We traveled by compass and avoiding the German sentries got over the border.