

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE  
APO 520 U. S. Army

21 September 1944

ESCAPE STATEMENT

1. Ray, Chester A., (Jr), 1st Lt., 0-809872, 766th Sqdn., 461st Gp.

Born - 21 September 1919. Enlisted - 7 April 1941.

Home Address - 5210 Commonwealth, Detroit, Michigan.

Peacetime Profession - Machinist.

MIA - 12 July 1944 RTD - 20 Sept 1944 Missions - 30

2. No prison camps.

3. While flying on mission to Nimes, France, on July 12, source's plane was hit by fighters just before the bomb run. A 20 mm shell hit the dash panel, and the oxygen lines and started a fire. The pilot gave the order to bail out. Of the crew members, the tail and ball gunner are safe, the co-pilot, Lt. Dargie, is believed to have been killed when his chute caught on fire. Maquis claim to have buried an airman (American) by that name. The rest of the crew are unreported.

Source was picked up by peasants upon landing and hidden from the Germans. He was carried into town where he spent the night. The next day, he was taken into the country where he was lodged at a farm house and taken in charge by the Maquis. Source stayed here until August 2d or 3d.

A plane was reported to be coming into air strip at Apt so source was taken to Maquis headquarters in mountains near Apt where he stayed until Sept. 12th when he was taken out by C-47 and flown to 8th Evacuation Hospital.

JOSEPH A. REID,  
1st Lt., A.C.,  
Interrogator

1 Incl:

Ltr 383.6