

2 June 1945

ESCAPE STATEMENT

1. Rudel, Chester H., 2nd Lt. 0-713554, 764 B.Sq., 461 B.Gp.  
Born 23 Sept 1918 Enlisted - 23 Sept 42.  
Home address - Feaseaden, North Dakota.  
Peacetime profession - A/C inspector.  
MIA - 17 Dec. 44 RTD - 1 June 45 Sorties - 23

2. On 17 Dec 44 Source was on a mission to Odertal S/R, the a/c a B-24, was piloted by 2nd Lt. R.G. Smith.

About 30 minutes before target time the supercharger went out on No. 4 engine. The amplifier seemed to be in order (25,000 feet). At this time the A/C was attacked by 5 FW-190s which smashed up the ship, and set it on fire. Bail out order was given by source who was the co-pilot.

All but one man, who was killed by the fighters, got out. Source knew all were safe except two men of whom he has no knowledge.

The A/C crashed near DUBRITZA SLOVAKIA.

3. Trencin Slovakian Military Hospital. 17 Dec - 26 May 45 (4863N-1800E).

4. Source landed between TRENCIN and DUBRITZA in hilly country. A German outpost was situated ¼ mile away, and they captured source who had fallen to the ground after his chute caught in a tree.

Source had broken his back in hitting the ground. An ambulance was called and source and Cpl. Chas. Foss, who was wounded in the arm, both men taken to hospital in TRENCIN. On 18 Dec 44, Cpl. Robt. Trumpy, also from sources crew, was brought in with a broken ankle. Treatment in hospital, under the Slovak doctors and Catholic Sisters was very good. Sources back was operated on and he was fed as well as possible. Food was very short at all times.

No other Americans arrived during sources stay in the hospital. Trumpy was sent to a German camp in Jan 45 and Foss left on 3 April 45, to travel in a Red Cross train for an unknown destination. (Foss had a wounded arm, from gunfire in the A/C and was having trouble in getting it healed).

On 10 April 45 Russian troops entered TRENCIN and from there onwards Russian patients were treated in the hospital.

On 26 May 45 source was moved by Rumanian ambulance to BSJANO, thence by air (Rumanian A/C) to DUCHAREF. Here the American mission took charge and source was flown via C-47 to BARI arriving 1 June 45.

J. G. K. KENNEDY,  
Captain, AIS,  
Interrogator.

3 Incls:

1. Ltr 383.6

2. & 3. Appendix B & F

HQ. 15 AF, escape statement, 2 June 1945, Ref: USA/SKP/851.

APPENDIX B

May 45.

Rumanian Lt. (Pilot) -  
MOGCS NINA  
Galeo Grivitei 81  
Etaj IV A.P.7  
Bucharest II

Took a letter from Source to  
Bucharest from Trencin to American  
Authorities arranged his evacuation  
to Bucharest.

Suggest a delivery to this person of  
a letter of recognition for his  
assistance, as otherwise source  
might still be at Trencin.

17 Dec 44 - 26 May  
Catholic Sisters &  
Dr. Joseph Elias  
At Trencin Slovakian Military  
Hospital.

All very kind and helpful to Source.  
Doctor acted as interpreter.

HQ. 15 AF, escape statement, 2 June 1945, Ref: USA/SKP/851.

APPENDIX F

Cpl. MORIN - killed in A/C during fighter attacks on 17 Dec 44.

S/Sgt GRAINGER and nose gunner - no info.

Remainder of crew captured by Germans 17 Dec 44. - info from Cpl. TRUMPY.

Cpl. TRUMPY - Sent to German POW camp Jan. 45.

Cpl. FOSS - left on red cross train 3 April 45 for unknown destination in German hands. FOSS had a bad flak wound in right arm.

Remainder of crew uninjured.