

J.T. Lucero

Date of interview: 22 OCT 44.

No. 39280257 Rank: S/Sjt

Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 6 Missions

Wounded: No

Sqn (Air Force): 753 Sqn

Gp. (Air Force): 458 Bomb Gp, 8th U.S.A.A.F.

Job: Eng & Gnr Aircrew

Date of Birth: 28 Dec 1919.

Length of Service: 22 months.

Peace time occupation: Machine Operator.

Private address: 911, ROSS STREET, ALAMOSA, COLORADO, U.S.A.

Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Identity Tags.

Do you speak French, or any other foreign language: Spanish.

Post in Crew: Aerial Engineer & Gunner.

Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure: LIBERATOR. HORSHAM ST. FAITH. 11 JUL. 44, 0800 hrs.

Where and when did you come down? BRESKENS, HOLLAND. G.S.G.S. 4336/2 094190.

How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Hid them in a ditch.

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? A/c crashed and burned.

1. JUL. 11. I was the Aerial Engineer and Top Turret Gunner of a Liberator which took off from HORSHAM ST FAITH on 11 JUL at 0800 hrs for an attack on MUNICH. We were hit over the target by flak and the P/O engine failed approaching BRESKENS on the route home causing the a/c to lose height rapidly. The Capt gave the order to bale out and I was at the first to jump. I landed in a wheat field about 1 mile South of the village of BRESKENS (GSGS 4336/2 094190) and immediately hid my parachute, harness and map west in a ditch.
2. JUL. 11-14. I then walked South for about ten miles and hid in a field of wheat near a farm. There were some men working nearby and I managed to attract the attention of one of them. He spoke no English, but I finally convinced him of my identity, whereupon he told me to remain in hiding and that he would return in one hour. He returned bringing me some food. He was accompanied by a friend who took me to a farmhouse where I was given civilian clothes and where I stayed for three days. There I was visited by a Doctor from BRESKENS, and also by a young man, both of whom spoke good English. Thereafter I was taken care of.
3. JUL. 14th. The young man (name not known) who visited me at the farmhouse where I stayed was a member of the Dutch Underground Movement and he, accompanied by an Official of the same organisation, took me to the village of WATERLAND KERKJE (GSGS 4336/2 087103) where I met :

P. VERMEULEN,
HOOFD SCHOOL,
WATERLAND KERKJE

who was also a member of the Underground Organisation.
4. JUL 14-
SEP 1st. He took me to the home of:

P. TOURNÉ
I. 8, IJZENDIJK,
HOLLAND. (GSGS 4336/2 130105)

where I stayed for seven weeks. When VERMEULEN felt that the Germans suspected his activities, he was afraid that his connection with TOURNE might lead to a search of his, TOURNE's house, and he then took me to his home of:
5. SEP 1.-
OCT 5. J. DIELEMAN,
LAND BOUWER,
WATERLAND KERKJE.

I stayed with this family for five weeks, remaining hidden all the time as there were German troops in the neighbourhood and frequently German officers were actually billeted in the farmhouse.
6. OCT 5th-
OCT 18th When the Germans finally occupied the farm premises it became too dangerous and I was then taken to:

E.P.L. MOLLET,
WAGENMAKERIJ,
PLAKKEBORD, i. 30
IJZENDIJK

Where I stayed until the arrival of CDN troops on Oct 18th 44.