

Jean Pierre  
File

28 March 1945.

Statement

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" I, [REDACTED] declare the following to be a truthful and complete report on my mission:

1. I left OBERSTEIGEN on February 28th and was brought to the American outpost line by two Lieutenants and two other American soldiers. They left me approximately 400 yds. in front of the last outpost. I crossed the German lines at about 0030h, March 1st. I saw no enemy soldiers but knew I was behind the German lines because I found a line of field telephone wire which I recognized as German. I passed several bunkers and heard soldiers inside speaking German. I went into an abandoned bunker, made a fire, dried my clothes and awaited daybreak.

2. I then went on to Zinsweiler, going through the woods. At about 1000h, I came out of the woods onto the road from ZINSWEILER to NIEDERBRONN - REICHSHOFEN, crossed the road and went through the fields. I arrived at REICHSHOFEN at 1200 and found ~~the~~ a Bn CP of the 73rd VGr Div. Civilians told me that another CP was located at JAEGERTHAL. I decided to go there to verify that report. I arrived in JAEGERTHAL towards evening, returned to NIEDERBRONN and slept in barn. On my way back, I noticed an Arty CP in woods near NIEDERBRONN and 2 batteries of what I thought were 75 mm howitzers.

3. On March 2nd, I left NIEDERBRONN to go to SULTZ-UNTERWALD. Just as I was leaving the village, somebody called my name behind me. I did not turn and walked on. Then 2 German gendarmes came up from behind and one of them started interrogating me. I recognized him as a former police man from WINGEN by the name of GOTTHART who had several times challenged me because of minor administrative offenses during the German occupation of the Alsace, and who therefore knew me personally. He knew me as pro-French.

4. As my "wehrpass" had been made out as issued in WITTERSHEIM and the Gendarm knew that I had been registered for the draft in LA PETITE PIERRE, I realized that I could not show my papers, and denied having documents. The gendarmes brought me to the police station in NIEDERBRONN, where a complete and intimate bodysearch was made.

5. I said I had been sent through the lines by the present Mayor of LA PETITE PIERRE, H. GIESSLER, who wanted me to find out how the Germans treated civilians in re-occupied areas and to find out the names of Germans taking reprisals against pro-French civilians. I stated that GIESSLER had given me the "wehrpass" and a letter to an American officer at LICHTENBERG who brought me to the American outposts. I denied having been given a password for the return trip.

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