

STATEMENT OF REPORT OF INTERVIEW OF RECOVERED PERSONNEL

At approximately 2330 hours on the night of 9 July 1943 I landed in Sicily by parachute and landed on top of a barbed wire entanglement. I was immediately brought under fire by two enemy machine guns. One of which was approximately fifty to seventy-five yards from me and the other about one hundred yards. After about five or six minutes I cut the chute harness from me and rolled off of the wire with only a few minor scratches.

I took one of my hand grenades and crawled toward the nearest machine gun guided by its flash and got to within thirty or forty yards of it. From this position I threw one grenade and the machine gun ceased firing. Whether or not I actually knocked this gun out I do not know. The other machine gun continued firing. At this time the small kroll that I was on came under mortar fire and I crawled back toward a dirt road. After approximately thirty minutes three American Medics came by looking for a Medical Supply Bundle. We searched a small area where they thought the bundle would be but we did not find it.

We came back to the dirt road and decided to circle to the left in order to get to our D. Z. During this hike I found Pvt. Bradley an Indian from "A" Co., 505th with a broken leg. The Medics gave him first aid and a hypo, and I gave him a few instructions and we left him there.

About five to six hundred yards further on I met Lt. DeMasie from "A" Co., 505th with approximately twenty men. I gave him orders to pick up as many men as possible and to head for our D. Z. in one half an hour. I also showed him the place where we would meet. I left the Lt. and continued on my circle and from then on we ran into enemy machine gun fire quite often. Whenever I tried to get on course I was turned back by Machine Gun Fire.

The Medics were still with me. During the night we tried to get to our D. Z. and failing in this we cut every communications line that we ran into. This continued all night long.

When daylight came we found ourselves in a very large field. We got to a couple of small hills on one end of it by approximately 0930 hours. Here we hid in some brush and grass. At approximately 1530 hours one of the Medics poked his head over the rise of the small hill and was immediately brought under fire, by an enemy machine gun but was not hit. He quickly rolled down the hill.

At about 1830 hours the German Machine Gun crew which had fired at the Medics came up the trail that we had used. They seemed to be looking for something. I let them walk past me and when all three of them had passed me I stepped out and took them prisoners. They belonged to the Herman Goering Luftwaffe Troops.

The three Medics ran up to the prisoners and started disarming them. While this was going on a German Reconnaissance Car came across the field from a patch of woods about three or four hundred yards away. There were six or seven Germans in the car and all were armed with machine pistols.

I made the prisoners lie down and threatened them with a hand grenade. The Germans coming up got out of their car and spread out to both sides of the two small hills and covered the three Medics and I with their weapons and ordered us out of the bushes. This was at approximately 1900 hours.

We were taken prisoners between the towns of Mesciru and Catelgerone, but nearer to the latter on 10 July 1943.

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