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EVADED CAPTURE IN NORWAY.

The information contained in this report is to be treated as

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STATEMENT BY

J.13270 F/Lt, Marion Maurice NEIL
 J.26374 F/O George Frederick DEATH
 J.19606 F/O Gordon Arthur BIDDLE
 J.85879 F/O Kenneth William GRAHAM
 R.115449 W/O GRANDY, George Edward
 R.174494 F/Sgt. FIRESTONE, Elliott Harvey

407 (RCAF) Sqn., Coastal Command, R.A.F.

Left : Island off coast of NORWAY, 11 Oct 44. Arrived : SCALLOWAY (SHETLAND)
 12 Oct 44.

(For personal details see end of report).

26 Sep 44.

Crash landed
at HAEGLAND,
NORWAY.

We took off from WICK in a Wellington Mk 14 aircraft at 0045 hrs on 26 Sep 44. During the course of our patrol one engine failed and we jettisoned fuel to try to reach England. The cock jammed and too much fuel was lost, so we had to turn towards NORWAY. We crash-landed at HAEGLAND, six miles S.W. of OS, NORWAY.

BJORNEN.

We all threw our parachutes, harnesses and bags into the sea. We set fire to the aircraft, and then talked to one of the Norwegians who had gathered around the crash. He informed us that there was a German garrison at OS and another at BERGEN, and advised us to go across a mountain to reach a fiord. We did this, arriving at BJORNEN, a small group of four houses, on
 /a fiord running

INTERVIEWED BY: I.S.9(W). 15 Oct 44.APPENDIX A.

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a fiord running North of BJORNE fiord.

Leaving the remainder of the crew in hiding, F/Lt. NEIL approached one of these houses. The man in the house he visited sent him to another house inhabited by a Norwegian woman who knew of the crash. She got her cousin to hide us on the mountain, while she went to enquire as to the possibilities of our return by fishing boat to the U.K. At noon on 26 Sep she returned with some milk and told us that her father would make further enquiries that night. She brought more food at 1900 hrs and at 2000 hrs, and returned with a man who took us to a small cove on the shore, where we were picked up by two men in a rowboat and taken to a small island West of the peninsula, where we met another rowboat with three more men.

26 Sep 44.

Taken to island of STRONA.

We split up, three of us to each boat, and were taken to STRONA, a small island almost due West of where we crashed. We spent the night of 26 Sep in the upper storey of a boathouse there. Before dawn we left for the mountains and stayed there all day of 27 Sep 44.

We stayed, living in the mountains by day and sleeping in the boathouse at night, until 1 Oct. During this time our friends (names unknown) returned each night, bringing us food and civilian clothing; they also instructed us to shave off our moustaches. At 1000 hrs on 1 Oct a man came and took us to a small bay, where we were picked up by a motor boat and taken to a boathouse on the East side of the peninsula, three miles North of HATVIK, a German U-boat training base, from which we saw three submarines operating. There we met the chief of the underground movement who took us to a farmhouse nearby, where we were fed and given dry clothing. At the farmhouse were eight other members of the underground movement. The chief sent a message to the U.K. saying we were safe. This message is known to have arrived.

1 Oct 44.

Near HATVIK.

Before dawn on 2 Oct we were taken to a secluded small cabin in the mountains, where we stayed with a Norwegian who cooked for us and looked after us until 8 Oct. While we were there we were loaned three Sten guns, each of which had two chargers, and one Luger. The Norwegian had a Colt. We were also given ski-boots. Food was brought to us during these six days by the owner of the cabin.

2 - 8 Oct 44,
Sheltered in
mountains.9 - 11 Oct 44,
Island near
AUSTERWALL.

On 8 Oct the Chief returned with another man, who took us to a farmhouse, where we were fed. At 0300 hrs on 9 Oct we were taken to a boathouse one mile North of HATVIK, where we were transferred to another fishing boat and taken to a small island almost due West of AUSTERWALL, a town on the large island North of SELBO Fiord. We stayed until 11 Oct 44 at a fisherman's cabin with a Norwegian merchant seaman, who accompanied us to the U.K.

12 Oct 44,
SCALLOWAY.

On the night of 11 Oct we were picked up in a motor launch and taken to a waiting Norwegian naval vessel, which brought us to the U.K., where we landed at SCALLOWAY on 12 Oct 44.

/F/Lt. NEIL.

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F/Lt. NEIL

Date of Birth : 29 May 21.
 R.A.F. Service : Since 10 Dec 40.
 Post in crew : Navigator.
 Peacetime Profession: Student.
 Private Address : 175 Woodville Avenue,
 TORONTO, Ontario.

F/O DEATH.

10 May 21.
 Since 31 Mar 42.
 Second pilot.
 Audit Clerk.
 224 Pearson Avenue,
 TORONTO, Ontario.

F/O BIDDLE.

Date of Birth : 22 Feb 18.
 R.A.F. Service : Since 16 Sep 40.
 Post in crew : Pilot.
 Peacetime Profession : Customs Clerk.
 Private Address : 2204 Parent Avenue,
 WINDSOR, Ontario.

F/O GRAHAM.

17 Feb 20.
 Since 22 Feb 41.
 Wireless operator/Air Gunner.
 Sales Clerk.
 258 Greenwood Avenue,
 TORONTO, Ontario.

W/O GRANDY.

Date of Birth : 21 Mar 23.
 R.A.F. Service : Since 23 Jul 41.
 Post in crew : Wireless Operator/Air Gunner.
 Peacetime Profession : Service Station Attendant.
 Private Address : 562 Glebeholme Boulevard,
 TORONTO, Ontario.

F/Sgt. FIRESTONE.

12 Sep 22.
 Since 11 Jul 42.
 Wireless Operator/Air Gunner.
 Telegraphic Clerk.
 6105 Durocher Avenue,
 Outremont 8,
 MONTREAL, Quebec.