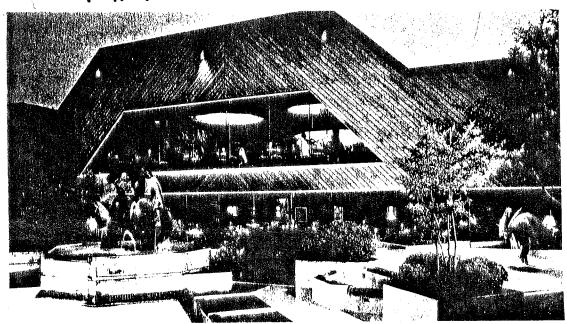


AIR FORGES

Escape & Evasion Society

ATLANTA

MAY 21-24 1986



Terrace Garden Inn

3405 Lenox Road, N.E. / Atlanta, Georgia 30326 / 404 261-9250

Y'all come.

AFEES has scheduled its 1986 general meeting for May 21st thru May 24th at the Terrace Garden Inn in Atlanta Georgia. Paul Kenney and Heyward Spinks are hard at work planning what will undoubtedly be the most interesting annual meeting we have ever had. Mark these dates on your calender now and plan to be with us next May.

You will receive program details and costs at a later date but we hope that you will make plans to join us in welcoming our foreign guests to a warm AFEES reception to Atlanta. We have invited representatives from the RAFES in England and the RAFES (Canadian Branch) as well as former Helpers from Holland, Belgium, and France.

This may be your last opportunity to meet with fellow evaders, your Helpers, or some of your crew members. This may be the time for you to find some of the people responsible for making your escape possible or some of the details about the escape organization that helped you.

WE'LL SEE YOU IN ATLANTA N'EST-CE PAS ????

EUROPEAN TOUR AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

A total of 62 Americans participated in the AFEES European tour from June 4th thru June 19th. An average of 52 were in the group at any given time with members joining or leaving us at various stops. We were a total of 31 actual Evaders with the other 31 being wives, children, sisters, etc.

FIRST STOP LONDON

Fifteen members of the tour arrived in London prior to June 1st to permit participation in the 40th anniversary celebration of the Royal Air Forces Escaping Society. We were well received by our British compatriots and we very much enjoyed the visit to the RAF Museum at Hendon prior to the RAFES banquet held in the museum dinning room. On Sunday morning we joined with the members of the RAFES and their many guests from the continent for a special worship service at the RAF church of St. Clement Danes. The festivities concluded with an elegant brunch served at a small hotel near St. Clement Danes.

SECOND STOP AMSTERDAM

The London delegation had arrived in Amsterdam on June 4th therefore several of them were at Schiphol airport to meet Heyward Spinks and the main body of the group when they arrived at 8:00AM on Wednesday June 5th. At least 20 members of the Dutch Resistance groups were on hand to welcome AFEES to Holland. The wives of AFEES members who had been shot down in Holland were presented colorful bouquets of flowers by Yoke Folmer, Mia Lelivelt, Mrs Van Den Hurk and Mrs Vrij

Thursday June 6th was a very full day planned and executed by our Dutch Helpers. We started at 9:30AM with a bus tour of Amsterdam including visits to the Rijksmuseum, a diamond factory and the Heineken Brewery. The day concluded with a boat tour and dinner at the RAF Club at Schiphol airport where we presented certificates and pins to our Dutch Helpers. A tired but happy gang were bussed back to the Hotel American in Amsterdam at midnight.

We were the guests of our Dutch friends at the congress of International Resistance Movements in Rotterdam on Friday June 7th. We had front row seats at an outstanding musical salute to the resistance and a short talk by Prince Bernhardt.

We left our hotel in Amsterdam at 8:30AM on Saturday June 8th headed for Maastricht and the Abby Rolduc a 12th century monestary converted into a conference center. Enroute to Maastricht we stopped at Eindhoven and had lunch at the Resturant Fort St. Pieter at Luikerweg. Accomodations at the Abby Rolduc were spartan but interesting and the dinner was, as the kids say, "out of sight".

Our last day in Holland included a visit to Margraten cemetery where we laid a wreath in memory of our fellow Americans who did not make it and who now rest in eternal peace on American soil in Holland.

Our efforts to thank the Dutch for their help during WW II were met with resistance at every turn. They were extremely gracious hosts who gave us the V.I.P. treatment at every stop. Once again we are indebted to the Dutch for their warm reception and generous hospitality. There were many tearful goodbys as our bus drove away from the restaurant St Gerardushoeve in Epen Holland enroute to Brussels.

BRUSSELS TOWN HALL

On Monday June 10th 54 members, wives, children, and friends of the AFEES and 20 members of the Belgian resistance network COMETE were received by the mayor of Brussels in the beautiful 14th century Hotel de Ville (Town Hall). After a short ceremony in one of the main reception rooms the group was taken on a very interesting tour of the working offices of the Town Hall. Many of the offices were decorated with original paintings and tapestries from the 15th and 16th centuries. We felt as though we were touring a museum when actually we were touring working offices of the various members of the Brussels Town Council. The ceremony was followed by a wine and cheese reception during which we were able to talk with the mayor and several of his aides as well as to renew acquaintances with members of the COMETE LINE.



BRUSSELS TO RENNES in THIRTEEN HOURS

One of the major SNAFU's of the whole trip was the thirteen hour bus ride from Brussels to Rennes via Rouen. We knew that this would be a long bus ride when we departed Brussels but we did not expect the bus to get lost and take an extra three hours. We arrived at the Hotel Guescline in Rennes at 9:00PM and were greeted by a worried Leslie Atkinson and General Chesnais who had been expecting us at 6:00PM.

On Wednesday June 12th we were taken on a tour of Rennes, visited some of the government buildings, and were the city's guests at a great luncheon buffet in the City Hall. After lunch we went to St. James cemetery for a short memorial ceremony. The men who were shot down in Western France laid a wreath here in memory of their comrades who are buried in this U.S. Military cemetery.

In the afternoon a wreath was laid at the memorial to the resistance in the center of the town of Rennes. Many of our French Helpers were present at this moving ceremony to honor those who gave their lives as civilian soldiers.

Our stay in Rennes was topped off with an AFEES dinner in honor of the more than eighty Helpers from Western France who were our guests. The banquet rooms at the Hotel Guescline were a bit small for such a large group but we rolled with the punch and a good time was had by all. Certificates and pins were presented to all of our Helper guests. These tokens of our appreciation and rememberance were well received by our Helpers.

RENNES TO PARIS WITHOUT A HITCH

Our bus left Rennes at 8:30AM on Thursday June 13 for Paris with a lunch stop at Chartres and a visit to the beautiful 13th century Cathedral of Notre Dame. We arrived in Paris and the Hotel P.L.M. St. Jacques at 4:00PM. Several members of the Union National des Evades de Guerre joined us for dinner in the hotel that evening.

Friday June 17th was a busy day, starting with a reception at the Paris town Hall and ending with an outstanding dinner for Helpers at Chantilly.

The festivities in Chantilly were probably the high water mark of the whole trip for many of us. The afternoon started with a crowded reception at the Chantilly Town Hall and a welcoming speech from Mr Philippe Courboin the Mayor of Chantilly. This was followed by a short tour of the city and a stop at the world famous racetrack at Chantilly.

One hundred forty two French Helpers were guests of the AFEES for dinner at the Chateau de Montvillargenne, this was truly a night to remember. The party broke up after the presentation of pins and certificates to our Helpers and the gang headed back to Paris at 11:45 arriving back at our hotel at 1:15AM.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY JUNE 15 & 16 ARE FREE DAYS IN PARIS

Many members of the group enjoyed free days in Paris while others traveled to the western part of France. Six members of the group headed for the invasion beaches in Normandy while three headed for Plouha and the Plage Bonaparte area.

Ralph Patton and George and Mary Buckner hosted an AFEES dinner in Plouha for 42 members of Reseau Shelburne, and Ralph Patton and Moe Moriarity hosted a luncheon for 50 Helpers of three crews shot down in the area of Locarne in the Brittany section of Western France.

WHAT MAKES AFEES TICK ??

For more than 20 years AFEES has enjoyed the support of a great number of Evaders, both financial and moral, without this support AFEES would not exist. To all of you who contributed so willingly to our 1985 program I can only say THANK YOU, to all of you who participated in our trip to Europe I can only hope that you now understand why we should keep in contact with our Helpers. It means so much to them to know that we Americans have not forgotten.

The success of our European trip was no accident, it took a lot of hard work on the part of many people to make it work. It is impossible to name all of them but I would like to mention a few. Without Heyward Spinks there would have been no trip, it was his idea and he did most of the work. Heyward has kept AFEES alive and well for the past four years while your president has served as an officer and director of the 8th Air Force Historical Society. THANK YOU HEYWARD!

In Holland Jan Voges was the prime mover in organizing our stay in that country. Jan's wife Trees was ill during most of the time Jan was working on our visit therefore his efforts were all the more difficult for him. The end result was truly outstanding and we thank Jan and all of our Dutch friends for the warm, well organized reception we received in Holland.

There is no possible way for us to thank Leslie Atkinson for the tremendous amount of work that he did for AFEES. To some extent we tend to take Leslie's work for granted, he is always there when we need him, he helps us to understand the French psyche and the French way of doing things. Leslie has worked with AFEES since its founding and has carried the ball on numerous occasions to the benefit of AFEES. We have invited Leslie and his wife Renee to join us in Atlanta, perhaps you will thank him in person for all he has done for AFEES.

A warm personal THANK YOU to the following for their significant help in organizing our activities in Holland, Belgium, and France: Henk Seitsma, Armand Hardy, and Gen. Chesnais. FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND THE NEW YEAR

ROYAL AIR FORCES ESCAPING SOCIETY (CANADIAN BRANCH) ANNUAL MEETING

Several AFEES members and their wives attended the annual meeting of the RAFES (Canadian Branch) at Niagara-On-The-Lake Ontario Canada on October 4, 5, & 6. Over one hundred were in attendance at their saturday evening banquet in honor of the Helpers that the RCAF had flown in from Europe.

Those Helpers who were honored were:

Madame Henri De Werpe from Belgium
Mrs Peggy (Van Lier) Langley, formerly from Belgium now living in
England. widow of Lt. Col J. M. Langley of M.I. 9
Mrs Hortense Daman Clews, now living in England
Maria Delnet, now living in Kitchener Ont. Canada
Tony and Guy d"Artois of Quebec City.

AFEES members were accorded the usual warm hospitality of our Canadian friends and a good time was had by all.

At the annual business meeting Ralph Patton invited all of the members to join us in Atlanta on May 21 thru 24 1986 for the AFEES meeting. A sizable number indicated that they intended to come to Atlanta.

CANADIAN TV MAKES A DOCUMENTARY of PLAGE BONAPARTE

The Canadian leaders of Reseau Shelburn went back to France in September with a film crew from a Quebec TV station to film a documentary on their work in organizing and operating the Shelburne Escape Network. The finished product was shown on French Canadian TV on two different occasions. The tape of this will be available to us for showing at our Atlanta meeting. This should be a great nostalgic trip for all of our members who came out of France via operation Bonaparte. The film is in French but we will have several bi-lingual guests with us in Atlanta to translate it for us. By letter to Ralph Patton dated 17 Nov. Raymond LaBrosse has promised to join us in Atlanta, and Lucien Dumais has been invited. This will be a great opportunity for all of you who came out of France by boat to learn first-hand some of the details of the organization behind this fantastic operation.

AFEES'ers ATTEND THE REUNION OF THE 8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fifteen members of the AFEES and seven wives and two sons attended the tenth annual reunion of the 8th Air Force Historical Society in Wichita Kansan Oct. 16th to 20th. A short AFEES meeting was held on Saturday Oct. 19th at which Ralph Patton briefed the members on the many activities that AFEES is involved in. Those present were:

Mr & Mrs Stan Sokolowski Mr & Mrs Larry Grauerholz

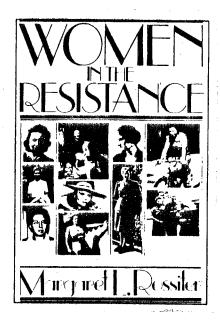
Mr & Mrs Clyde Martin Mr & Mrs Hank Gladys

Mr & Mrs Clayton David

Mr & Mrs Joe Warth

Ralph Patton

Dick Smith
Bob Laux & Son David
Paul Schlintz
Charlie Compton & son
David O'Boyle
Ruben Fier
Francis Heekin



After more than ten years of dedicated research Dr Margaret Rossiter will shortly see the fruits of her labor in print. By the time you receive this newsletter "Women In The Resistance" will be available in your bookstore. The following information regarding the book was sent to Heyward Spinks by Dr. Rossiter.

"I am happy to report that my book entitled Women in the Resistance, will be published in November by Praeger of New York. Members of the AFEES contributed to the book in many ways, and the organization is highlighted. In 1977, 132 members (60%) responded to my questionnaire asking for information about their escape experiences and the assistance which they received especially from women helpers. Many members who attended reunions in Birmingham, MI, Orlando, and Cincinnati, agreed to be interviewed and they provided me with additional exciting material. Members of the society appear in 4 different chapters of my book, but particularly in chapter 4, which tells the story of the Shelburne escape line, and chapter 3 which recounts the activities of women safehouse keepers and guides such as "Michou" Dumon Ugeux, Peggy Langley, Anne Brusselmans, Paulette Declercq, Dr. Dertranne Auvert, etc.

I could not have written such a full account of escape lines without the splendid cooperation of Ralph Patton. He answered countless questions, gave me the E & E number of numerous airmen, and provided me with many addresses, etc.

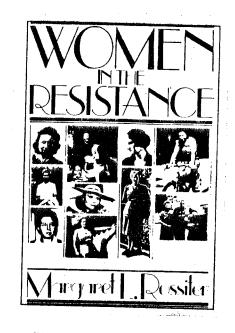
Because of space limitations, I was not able to include all of the names and material which I received. However everyone is included in the data about the average length of the evasion or escape of AFEES members, the percentage who were injured when they arrived in France, and the like.

I want again to express my appreciation to the members and officers of the AFEES for your wonderful assistance and cooperation."

(Signed) Margaret L. Rossiter
Professor of Modern European
History
Eastern Michigan University

DEDEE DE JONGH IS MADE A COUNTESS:

We have just learned from the Royal Air Forces Escaping Society Newsletter that on October 19th, during the reunion of Comete members and members of the RAFES in Brussels, it was announced that King Baudouin had made Dedee De Jongh, one of the founders of the Comete Line, a Countess. This is a well deserved honor accorded to a very brave women. Dedee is the current president of the Comete Line and was a very forceful speaker at our dinner for Belgian Helpers in Brussels last June.



The untold story of the valiant women of the French Resistance

WOMEN IN THE RESISTANCE

Margaret L. Rossiter

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T

IN MEMORIAN

As the years roll by more and more of our members, friends, and Helpers receive the last call from our maker, this has been an especially bad year for AFEES. We had to accept death as part of life during the war, and as we all age death again becomes an all too frequent part of our lives. We must accept the loss of loved ones but it never is easy.

PIETER (JIM) PRINS

Jim Prins 1896-1985 died in Holland after a long illness. Jim was a very active member of the Dutch Resistance during the war and was head of the Association of Allied Aircrew Helpers that organized our very memorable visit to Holland in 1969. He was part of the Dutch group that visited the U.S.A. in 1978. Our deepest sympathy to Jim's wife Mary who nursed and cared for Jim for several years of his prolonged illness.

CLYDE S. MANION

Clyde Manion a very active member of AFEES died in October two days after suffering a stroke. Clyde and Elly, his wife of three years, were with us in June as we toured Holland, Belgium, and France. Clyde and Elly met in January 1982 and were married in October of the same year. They were both a joy to be with and contributed significantly to our enjoyment of this wonderful pilgrimage.

ALBERT DIMINNO

Al DiMinno was a very supportive member of AFEES who joined us in Birmingham MI when we hosted the members of the Belgiam Comete Line in 1974. Al supported every appeal for funds to honor our Helpers. He died on April 17, 1986, cause unknown.

MIKE OLYNIK

Mike was one of the original members of AFEES who joined us in June of 1964 in Buffalo New York to honor the leaders of the French Canadian resistance network Shelburne. Mike died on Sept. 17, 1985 of unknown causes.



ANYONE KNOW THIS MAN ????

At one of our dinners to honor Helpers in Western France last June Mr. Robert Le Tanou gave me a large picture of this man requesting help in identifying him or locating him. Your editor was not able to do either therefore is calling for help. Mr. Le Tanou was eleven years old when his father helped two American Airmen in January 1944. The picture is of one of the airmen helped by his father.

Mr: PIERREFITTE, Marcel Biology Professor 14 rue de Puy-Gibault LOCHES 37600 FRANCE

I have come to contact you at the suggestion of the office of Air Force History-Air division Research Division, Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6678 because they think that you might be able to aid us in our research.

We would like to know what has become of three American aviators who had made bombing missions over France in 1943.

My father, a policeman, had met them at a place called St Catherine in the community of GARAT, department of CHARENTE in the morning of 15 February or 15th of March 1943 towards 10:00A, M. These were 3 American aviators who had participated in a bombing raid on ORLY. Their airplane, probably a Boeing B 17G Fortress based in England having been shot down over Normandy some days before.

Already dressed in Civilian clother, they were in possession of new French false identity cards of the region of Brittany and of Normandy, some packages of cigarettes and a concise map of the region of the South West of France.

They had been directed and conducted by my father towards the village of MALAVILLE (Charente) where they were received by a resistant who received parachute drops and clandestine landings provided by England.

These aviators had planned to by boat to England but before, in the absence of landings which were replaced by parachute drops, They decided to head towards Spain.

They were picked up again by the resistance and directed towards the small village of CHASSENEVIL en CHARENTE in order to cross the Line of Demarcation (occupied zone-free zone)

The passage was made under bad conditions because when they ran into a German patrol one of the aviators was killed north of CHASSENEVIL in the village of St Marv.

What has become of these two mothers?
Where they able to get back to England?
That is what we would like to know-----43 years after.

In 1946 my father still a policeman at ANGOULEME (Charente) had received a series of questions, but he had not attached any importance to it at this time

signed: Marcel PIERREFITTE

Dem Ralph - Therene sent to me by Loches le 27 yanvier 1986
Robins office with No comment FEB. - 4 1986

Ly can equitall what it about? - Is it anything of interest AH Intel

M2 PIERREFITTE Marcel Aerospace Historian Trofesseur en Biologie 14 Rue de Peny- Cibault Loches 37600 FRANCE

De Robin Higham, Editor
Der at Aerospace Historian Departement of History. Kansas State University. Manhattan KS. 66502

Je prenot, contact avec vous sur la suggestion de l'Office of Air Force History - Air Division Research Division Maxwell AFB AL. 36112.6678 car il jense que vous jouvez nous aider clans notre recherche.

Nous aimerions savoir ce qu'il est advenu de trois anateurs américains qui ont effectués des missions de bombardement en France en 1943.

Nous re connaissons ni leurs nons, ni leurs Etats d'origine et mous avons egaré leur nº matirale militaire. Voici ce que nous sources seulement.

Mon pere, gendame les a rencontré au lieu dit Ste latherine commune de GARAT, département de la CHARENTE olans la matrice du 15 février ou du 15 mars 1943 vers 10 heures. Il s'agissait de trois aviateurs américains ayant participe a un raid de bombardement sur ORLY. Leur avion probablement un Boeing B 17 G Forteres base en Angleterre, ayant été abattu au dessus de la NORMANDIE quelques jours avant.

Deja vêtus de vêtements civils, ils possedaient des cartes d'identités françaises neuves et fansses de la région de BRETAGNE et de NORMANDIE, quelques paquets de cigarettes et une carte sommaire de la région du Sid-buest de la FRANCE.

Ils ont été dirigés et conduits par mon pere vers le village de MALAVILLE (Charente) où un résistant réceptionnait parachetages et attenissages claudestins en provenance de l'Angleterre.

Ces aviateurs projettaient de s'embarquer vers l'Angleterre, mais devant l'absence d'atterissages remplacés par vies parachitages, ils obécident de se diriger vers l'ESPACNE. Ils sont alors recupérés et accompagnés vers la ptite nille de CHASSENEVIL en CHARENTE afin de franchir la ligne de démarcation [Zone occupée. Zone libre].

le passage s'effectua claus de mauroises conchitions car lors de l'accrochage avec une patronille allemande un des anateurs est tue au Nord de CHASSENEVIL au village de STE MARY.

Lue sont devenus les deux autres? Ont ils reussit à rejoinche l'Augleterne? Voilà ce que nous aimerions savoir. . . 43 ans après!

En 1946 mon pere alors gendame à ANGOULÉME (charente) a reçu une serie de questionnaires; mais il n'y a pras

en ce temps là attaché d'importance.

PS: ci joint extraits de son livret militaire. 1 photocopie d'identification de l'PIERREFITTE year. 2 photocopie de la citation à l'ordre de la 9 elegion en 1945.

Avec mes remerciements

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POUR LA TENUE DU LIVRET INDIVIDUEL.

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Le Président du Conseil d'administration,

livret qui est signé par le président du conseil d'administration (par le-Chaque sous-officier, brigadier ou gendarme reçoit, à son arrivée, un major dans les corps organisés régimentairement et sur lequel les renseignements qui constatent son état civil, son signalement, le titre sous lequel il a été incorporé et le relevé de ses services ont été exactement transcrits d'après la matricule du corps.

Tous les autres renseignements que présente cette matricule, à l'exception de ceux qui sont exclus par décision du Ministre, sont transcrits sur le livret, qui contient, en outre : les recettes et dépenses de la masse individuelle; le nom, le numéro matricule, le signulement et la provenance du cheval; le numéro des armes; la nomenclature des crimes et délits militaires et des peines qui y sont attachées; enfin, il rappelle les marques extérieures de respect.

L'homme qui vient d'un autre corps de gendarmerie conserve son livret, sur lequel sont faits les changements nécessaires.

Le livret est la propriété du militaire à qui il est délivre. Il ne peut lui être retiré, même lorsqu'il lui en est donné un nouveau ou qu'il quitte le service.

d'avoir intégralement satisfait à la loi de recrutement est complété par l'adjonction d'un fascicule du modèle général portant ordre de route en cas de mobilisation. Ce fascicule, dont les feuillets sont établis par le Le livret du militaire qui est raye des contrôles de l'activité avant commandant de recrutement dans la subdivision duquel se retire le réserviste ou territorial, est fixé en tête ou au verso du livret, au moyen d'agrases métalliques dites : « attaches parisiennes », soit avant son départ si le fascicule a pu être établi et envoyé au corps, soit après son départ. Dans ce dernier cas, le livret est envoyé par le corps au commandant de recrutement susvisé, qui, après l'avoir complété, le fait remettre au titulaire dans ses foyers.

Le livret est également complété par l'adjonction de quatre feuillets destinés à l'apposition des visas constalant les changements et déplacements successifs et du billet d'hôpital réglementaire.

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AIR FORCES

Escape & Evasion Society

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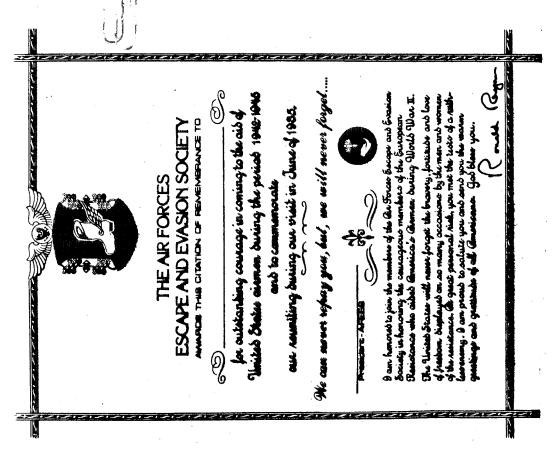
REPRESENTATIVE IN FRANCE

LESLIE ATKINSON 46 Bld. Edgard—Quinet 92700 Colombes France Left blank for Heyward

PART OF A LETTER OF TRIBUTE

"The loss of every Allied plane shot down over Europe was a tragedy — every member of a crew that was found and saved and sent back to us brought joy to all his comrades. To everyone who joined in this great work and to each member of his family and to all who shared, in those days, his risks and dangers I send assurances of my deep and lasting gratitude."

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER





FROM
AIR FORCES ESCAPE AND EVASION SOCIETY
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