

politician. He fed us well and gave me a map, which turned out to be very useful. He also told us to go to the village of Auzat. We left his house about 09.00 ^{hrs} a.m., December 19, arriving at Tarazon about noon. ^{12.00 hrs} From there we continued on to Capoulet, where ^{arriving} we arrived about 3.00 p.m. ^{15.00 hrs} After leaving there we were stopped by a French Gendarme and asked for identification papers.

Of course, we had none. He did not let us go on, but told us to go back and ^{without them} figure out some way to get around it. We turned back and decided to seek ^{answers to our problem.}

the counsel of a Priest. We found a Priest in the village of Miglos and asked him if he knew of a guide who could take us across the mountains. He did not know of such a person, but allowed us to sleep in his barn that night and gave us some fruit and bread. The next morning being Sunday we attended

Mass. We then found ^{an} a French family who took us in, and fed us and allowed us to ^a go to bed, which we did about 5.00 p.m. We got up at 02.00 ^{hrs} a.m. and started on a route that they had advised us to ^{follow} take. At this time ^w we were well supplied with food as almost everyone in the village ^{had} come and brought us food and wine the afternoon before. We walked to an intersection of the road

and took the one that lead to Siguer. We walked through this town which had many German troops stationed there, but, due to the hour, we did not see them. We went to the end of this road, where there is a large wireless station, turned back and took a path which branched off on the lefthand side of the road about 100 yards back. After going a short distance we were stopped by two French Gendarmes and we had a very hard time convincing them that we were Americans. We showed them everything we had and finally I was able to convince

them by ^{producing} showing them my GI. comb ^{which} ~~that~~ had U.S. Army printed on it. They told us to hurry on as a German patrol started about 07.00 ^{hrc.} ~~07.00~~ every morning and went up to ^{Etang} ~~Stg~~ de Peyre Grand and back. ^{at} We started to climb about 04.00 ^{hrc.} ~~04.00~~ a.m. and reached snow about 06.00 ^{hrc.} ~~06.00~~ a.m. We lost our way, but eventually reached

the summit of the mountains and were debating whether to go on or not when we discovered that we were standing next to a frontier marker, which was mostly covered by snow- the snow here was about waist deep. We went down the mountains, arriving at the village of LaSerrat. The people here were not very friendly so we went on to Lorts, where one family allowed us to dry our clothes for about an hour and, ^{they} also, gave us some food. We then con-

LaCORTINADA tinued on to LaCortinada, where we found a hotel. We had 1650 french francs