

Jim

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

E & E REPORT NO 1068
EVASION IN FRANCE

PL
(number?)
dir. B
Print by

(Date)

Ragnar E GUSTAFSON, 1st Lt, O-811635

TARGET: LA MANS

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
31 (No of Missions)

Date Missing in Action: 17 June 1944

367 Bomb Sq, 306 Bomb Group
(Squadron) (Group)

Date Arrived in UK: 19 August 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to
each man
and how you know

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|--------|----------------------|----------|
| PILOT | 0-809865 | 2d Lt | Joseph W PEDERSON | MIA |
| COP-PILOT | 0-818819 | 2d Lt | Leon J BLOOD | MIA |
| NAVIGATOR | 0-811635 | 1st Lt | Ragnar E GUSTAFSON | NARRATOR |
| BOMBARDIER & NOSE TURRET GUNNER | 0-725095 | 1st Lt | William A SMITH | E&E # ? |
| RADIO OPERATOR | 35691651 | T/Sgt | John E WONNING | MIA |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER | 18061280 | T/Sgt | Barney F ARNOLD | MIA |
| MID TURRET GUNNER | 39698014 | S/Sgt | Jack E BLACKWELL | MIA |
| WAIST GUNNER | 37002808 | S/Sgt | Warren E KERR | MIA |
| WAIST GUNNER | | NONE | | |
| TAIL GUNNER | 17081672 | S/Sgt | Herman P EHRHARD, JR | E&E # ? |

Were you wounded?

SECRET

E & E REPORT NO.... 1068

EVASION IN FRANCE

1

Ragnar E. Gustafson, 1st Lt. 08M1635
31 missions 8.11.632
367 Sq. 306 Bomb Grpup

TARGET: Rail installations N. France
MISSING IN ACTION: 17 June 1944
ARRIVED UK: 18 August 1944
19

MEMBERS OF CREW: See attached form

LANDING On the return trip after successfully bombing our targets the ship was set afire by flak and the entire crew bailed out over Brulon. ~~I observed nine other chutes open but I have no actual knowledge of the fate of the others. Frenchmen later reported three had been captured and the others had successfully evaded.~~ I landed in a field NW of ~~Laouez~~ Loue and almost immediately was met by two French farmers who directed me to a nearby wood and told me to stay there until help came. I ~~stayed~~ ^{stayed there} there two nights and three days while the French supplied me with food.

~~I~~ ^{to a chateau} I was then taken in a cart to Chateau Martigne, near Brulon, where my helpers provided civilian clothes and hid me in the home of a local woman who was a member of the Maquis. ~~I stayed here one month and moved when units of German mountain troops began passing steadily through the village, often stopping at the Chateau.~~

~~a month later~~
From there I went by bicycle to Juigne with another woman who was a leader of resistance groups in that area. ~~After I had been sheltered by a storekeeper in that town three of four days a German Panzer division moved in and remained in the village three weeks. During this time I remained securely hidden and all necessities were provided by the storekeeper. When the Americans advanced ~~they entered the village,~~ and the Germans moved out ~~the~~ soon after their departure the town was occupied by a lone Negro truck-driver who had lost his way. Soon afterward American Juigne was taken over by reconnaissance units of an ~~army~~ armored division.~~

(Over)

A PENDING B

Between one and three divisions of German mountain troops passed through Chateau Martigne between 15 and 20 July 1944. Morale of these troops was reported very low and many of them were quoted as saying they were on their way to Normandy to surrender at the first opportunity.

The German Panzer division that occupied Juigne ~~on~~ 25 July was Das Reich.

*Bill Tiffany
1st Lt, ADS*

APPENDIX C

In Chateau Martigne I stayed a month in the home of Madame Molnie, who provided me with food, clothing and drink. I also received here considerable help from Madame Monaid, a fierce 40-year-old leader of resistance groups in that area. Madame Monaid, well-known to the Gestapo, had directed considerable sabotage, often preparing demolitions herself, and had been instrumental in the successful evasion of many American flyers.

With Madame Monaid and M. Frea I bicycled from Chateau Martigne to Juigne.

Another helper in Chateau Martigne was Albert Durois, who brought me from the wood to the home of Madame Molnie. In Juigne I stayed with Eugene Ringiard, a storekeeper.

APPENDIX D

1. AIDS BOX: I used the sewing kit, matches, gum, tape and compass. ~~I suggest the box contain a toothbrush and a list of French phrases.~~
2. PURSE: I carried a red purse which was most useful. The 2000 franc I gave to the French.
3. PHOTOS: I carried ~~photos~~ ^{photos} but did not use them.
4. LECTURES: I heard evasion and escape lectures in the U.S. and England. They were valuable. It is important to stress the necessity of carefully hiding chutes. If a chute is found on a farmer's property he is shot.

RESTRICTED

EVE #1068

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

6 August 1943

SUBJECT: Amended Instructions Concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War, to Include Evaders of Capture in Enemy or Enemy-Occupied Territory and Internees in Neutral Countries.

TO: The Commanding Generals,
Army Ground;
Army Air Forces;
The Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area;
The Commanding Generals,
Theaters of Operations;
Defense Commands;
Departments;
Base Commands;
The Commanding Officers,
Base Commands;
Director, Bureau of Public Relations.

1. Publication or communication to any unauthorized persons of experiences of escape or evasion from enemy-occupied territory, internment in a neutral country, or release from internment not only furnishes useful information to the enemy but also jeopardizes future escapes, evasions and releases.
2. Personnel will not, unless authorized by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, publish in any form whatever or communicate either directly, or indirectly, to the press, radio or an unauthorized person any account of escape or evasion of capture from enemy or enemy-occupied territory, or internment in a neutral country either before or after repatriation. They will be held strictly responsible for all statements contained in communications to friends which may subsequently be published in the press or otherwise.
3. Evaders, escapees, or internees shall not be interrogated on the circumstances of their experiences in escape, evasion or internment except by the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations. In allied or neutral countries, American Military Attaches are authorized to interrogate on escape, evasion and internment matters.
4. Should the services of escaped prisoners of war, evaders, or internees be deemed necessary for lecturing and briefing, such services will be under the direct supervision of the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations.
5. Commanding Officers will be responsible for instructing all evaders, escapees, and internees in the provisions of this directive which supersedes letter, AG 383.6 (5 Nov 42) OB-S-B-M, 7 November 1942, subject: Instructions concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War and other previous instructions on this subject.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J. A. ULIO
J. A. ULIO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

1. Information about your escape or your evasion from capture *would be useful to the enemy* and a danger to your friends. It is therefore **SECRET**.
2. a You must therefore not disclose, except to the first Military Attache to whom you report, or to an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations, or by A. C. of S., G-2, W. D.
 - (1) The names of those who helped you.
 - (2) The method by which you escaped or evaded.
 - (3) The route you followed.
 - (4) Any other facts concerning your experience.
- b You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.
- c You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.
- d You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4.
- e No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of A. C. of S., G-2, W. D., or corresponding organization in the theater.

CERTIFICATE

I have read the above and certify that I will comply with it.

I understand that any information concerning my *escape* or *evasion* from capture is **SECRET** and must not be disclosed to anyone other than the agency designated by A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations, or to the Military Attache in a neutral country to whom I first report. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) RAGNAR E. GUSTAFSON Signed Ragnar E. Gustafson
 Rank 1st Lt A. S. N. 0-811635 Dated August 19, 1944
 Unit 367th Sig Bde 306 Sig Witness _____

RESTRICTED

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

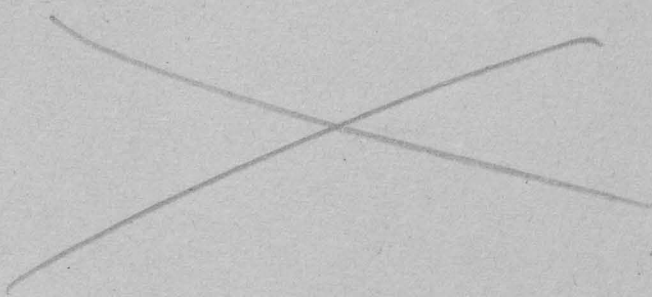
(Date)

(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT
OFFICIAL STATUS

- PILOT
- CO-PILOT
- NAVIGATOR
- BOMBARDIER
- RADIO OPERATOR
- TOP TURRET GUNNER
- BALL TURRET GUNNER
- WAIST GUNNER
- WAIST GUNNER
- TAIL GUNNER



Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

June 17, 1944 at B300 at Prulson France

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

on fire - flak

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

20,000'

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

No

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

all - yes

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

yes

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

No

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so, give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

Yes, that 3 were presumed - names unknown

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?

No

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

all O.K. - bailed

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

RAGNAR E. Gustafson 1st Lt 0-811635

(Name) _____ (Rank) _____ (ASN) _____
31 (No. of missions)
367 (Squadron) 306 (Group)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: June 17, 1944

Date arrived in UK: Aug 19, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions)

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT Peterson
CO-PILOT ?
NAVIGATOR Gustafson
BOMBARDIER Smith
RADIO OPERATOR ?
TOP TURRET GUNNER ?
BALL TURRET GUNNER ?
WAIST GUNNER ?
WAIST GUNNER ?
TAIL GUNNER ?

heard back in U.K.
Wasn't my crew

Decorations: Air Medal with clasp

Date of Birth: June 20, 1920

Private Address: 79 Reservoir Ave Revere, Mass

Length of Service: 20 months

Job as Civilian: clerk

From what field did you take off? Take off time. T. Donoghue about 10:00 AM

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? ?

Were you wounded? Give details.

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? No Yes - 2000 francs (as gift)

Do you speak FRENCH? No SPANISH? No GERMAN? No ITALIAN? No OTHER LANGUAGE? No

Did you have identity papers? No papers, just dog tags

(over)

Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom?

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air.

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

Remember that frigate Pilot Colonel
holed up near Jucigne - sur - Saiche

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-989 Pentagon

6 August 1943

SUBJECT: Amended Instructions Concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War, to Include Evaders of Capture in Enemy or Enemy-Occupied Territory and Internees in Neutral Countries.

TO: The Commanding Generals,
Army Ground;
Army Air Forces;
The Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area;
The Commanding Generals,
Theaters of Operations;
Defense Commands;
Departments;
Base Commands;
The Commanding Officers,
Base Commands;
Director, Bureau of Public Relations.

1. Publication or communication to any unauthorized persons of experiences of escape or evasion from enemy-occupied territory, internment in a neutral country, or release from internment not only furnishes useful information to the enemy but also jeopardizes future escapes, evasions and releases.

2. Personnel will not, unless authorized by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, publish in any form whatever or communicate either directly, or indirectly, to the press, radio or an unauthorized person any account of escape or evasion of capture from enemy or enemy-occupied territory, or internment in a neutral country either before or after repatriation. They will be held strictly responsible for all statements contained in communications to friends which may subsequently be published in the press or otherwise.

3. Evaders, escapees, or internees shall not be interrogated on the circumstances of their experiences in escape, evasion or internment except by the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations. In allied or neutral countries, American Military Attaches are authorized to interrogate on escape, evasion and internment matters.

4. Should the services of escaped prisoners of war, evaders, or internees be deemed necessary for lecturing and briefing, such services will be under the direct supervision of the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations.

5. Commanding Officers will be responsible for instructing all evaders, escapees, and internees in the provisions of this directive which supersedes letter, AG 383.6 (5 Nov 42) OB-S-B-M, 7 November 1942, subject: Instructions concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War and other previous instructions on this subject.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J. A. ULIO
J. A. ULIO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

1. Information about your escape or your evasion from capture *would be useful to the enemy* and a danger to your friends. It is therefore **SECRET**.

2. *a* You must therefore not disclose, except to the first Military Attache to whom you report, or to an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations, or by A. C. of S., G-2, W. D.

- (1) The names of those who helped you.
- (2) The method by which you escaped or evaded.
- (3) The route you followed.
- (4) Any other facts concerning your experience.

b You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.

c You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.

d You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4.

e No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of A. C. of S., G-2, W. D., or corresponding organization in the theater.

GERTIFIGATE

I have read the above and certify that I will comply with it.

I understand that any information concerning my *escape or evasion* from capture is **SECRET** and must not be disclosed to anyone other than the agency designated by A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations, or to the Military Attache in a neutral country to whom I first report. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) RAGNAR E. GUSTAFSON

Signed Ragnar E. Gustafson

Rank 1st Lt.

A. S. N. 0-811635

Dated August 19th, 1944

Unit 367th Sqd 306 Sup

Witness _____

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

RESTRICTED

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 0-811635 1st Lt. Ragnar E. Gustafson

Unit:- 367th Sqd 306 Gp 8th Air Force

Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training come largely from those who make use of them. Your report and comments will help others to evade capture or to escape.

1. AIDS BOX

- a. Did you use your aids box? *Yes*
- b. If not, why? *—*
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights".
 - Horlicks tablets. *No*
 - Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *No*
 - Milk (tube). *No*
 - Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *No*
 - Halazone tablets (water purifier). *No*
 - Matches. *While in woods*
 - Adhesive tape. *Yes, to tape up a tobacco pouch*
 - Chewing gum. *Yes, in woods*
 - Water bottle. *No*
 - Compass. *Yes, in woods*
 - Sewing kit. *Yes*
- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *No*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *Left it in a house of a friend*
- f. Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aids box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger? *Yes, include a tooth brush, also a list of French phrases*

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *Yes*
State color of stripes and letters. *Red*
If NOT, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse? *Yes*

(over)

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones? *Map of France*

Compass, *Yes*

File (hacksaw). *Had none*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *French 200*

How did you spend the money? *gave to Resistance*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *gave away as souvenirs*

Compass. *left it*

File (hacksaw). *Had none*

Surplus currency. *Had none*

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? *Yes*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? *Yes*
If so, how many? *6*

b. Did you use them? *Yes*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *Yes in the State*
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. *and in England*

b. Did you find the lectures of value? *Yes*

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?

None except to hide charts carefully

farmer said lay low
landed NW side Roue, slept field,
7 nights - 3 days. taken in uniform
to Chateau Martigne, ^{got uniform there} near Brulon =
said 1 month with MADAME
MOLINIE, MADAME MONAID; ^{assistance} ^{leaves}
moved out when 2 mountain troops ^{6 others}
passed thru steadily, horse drawn,
poorly equipped - used nearby woods
because, poor troops morale low -
saw normally to surrender.

by bike to Juigne with Madame
Monaid, lived with M. Ringcard Eugene,
struck up. 3 or 4 days. then Padgel
Dir. Das Reich moved in. stayed
3 weeks, moved out when d's advanced.
One Negro truck-driver. Eng. unit
arrived -

Martigne - M. Durois, Albert - brought
from field to Chateau.

Juigne - M. Prea, escorted from
Martigne - Juigne

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "B" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

List all military information which you observed or were told while evading. Give fullest possible details. (Airfields, troop encampments, coastal and interior defenses, AA batteries, radar installations, troop movements, results of allied bombing, location of enemy factories and ammunition dumps, enemy and civilian morale, etc., etc.,.....)

territory now in American hands.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

3674 Sgt 306 Bwp *Aug 17 1944*

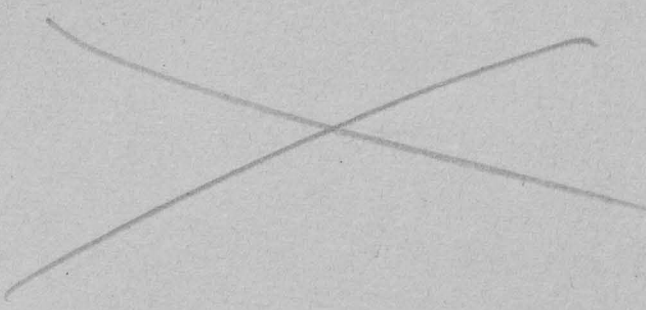
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)

(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS

- PILOT
- CO-PILOT
- NAVIGATOR
- BOMBARDIER
- RADIO OPERATOR
- TOP TURRET GUNNER
- BALL TURRET GUNNER
- WAIST GUNNER
- WAIST GUNNER
- TAIL GUNNER



Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

June 17, 1944 at 1300 at Prulson France

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

on fire - black

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

20,000'

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

No

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

all - yes

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

yes

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

No

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so, give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

Yes, that 3 were persons - names unknown

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?

No

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

all O.K. - Parachute