

S E C R E T

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

McCARTHY C G 1st Lt O-805941  
(Name) (Rank) ASN

25 August 1944  
(Date)

578 Bomb Squadron 392 Bomb Group  
(Unit)

E&E # 1144

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT  
OFFICIAL STATUS

PILOT	<u>O-805941</u>	1st Lt	<u>McCarthy C G</u>	RTD
CO-PILOT	<u>THOMAS M. GERBING</u>	2d Lt	<u>O-1635924</u>	RTD 1396
NAVIGATOR	<u>McSweeney</u>	John N.	2d Lt, O-811706	RTD 1397
BOMBARDIER	<u>HARDY</u>	1st Sgt	<u>O-16081869</u>	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	<u>KNIGHT</u>	1st Sgt	<u>O-12082787</u>	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	<u>HOUSER</u>	Byron M.	1st Sgt, 33366957	RTD 1574
BALL TURRET GUNNER	<u>NONE</u>			
WAIST GUNNER	<u>MORRIS</u>	John A.	1st Sgt 39319526	P/A
WAIST GUNNER	<u>ESCHER</u>	<del>1st Sgt</del>	<u>ELSLAGER, JOSEPH JR.</u>	Sgt, 33675561 -
TAIL GUNNER	<u>ACKART</u>	JAMES A.	1st Sgt, 35362976	RTD

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

22 June 1944; 2000 hours; LAON, France

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

Two motors out and controls out

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? from 22000 to 18000 Ft

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

I think so. One flak peice in right leg.

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

Radio operator, engineer and co-pilot for sure.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Yes and burned.

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.

One was taken prisoner

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.

No

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

Σ 4 Σ # 1144

Cherniss



SECRET

HEADQUARTERS  
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Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL  
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

my fighter field

TARGET:

Date mission in action: June 22/44

Date arrived in UK: Aug. 25/44

McCarthy CG 1st Lt. O-805941

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

(No. of missions)

578th Bm Gp 392 Bm Gp.

(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what  
happened to each man  
and how you know.

PILOT

McCarthy

CO-PILOT

NAVIGATOR

McSweeney

BOMBARDIER

Hardy

RADIO OPERATOR

TOP TURRET GUNNER

BALL TURRET GUNNER

No Ball

WAIST GUNNER

Morris

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

I don't  
know.

Decorations:

Air Medal D.F.C.

Date of Birth:

Oct. 31 1921

Private Address:

521 Daly Ave. Missoula, Mont.

Length of Service:

2 years.

Job as Civilian:

Student

From what field did you take off? Take off time.

Station 118  
Wendling

16:30

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

Ship Burned.

Were you wounded? Give details.

One flask piece in

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much?

Right leg

hot serum

no

Do you speak FRENCH?

SPANISH?

GERMAN?

ITALIAN?

OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers?

AGO Card.

(over)

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

*No*  
Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?

*No*  
Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

*No*  
Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

*No*  
Date of arrival in Spain: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: \_\_\_\_\_

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *9th A.F. Hdg.*

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.



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(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

(Date)

(Unit)

PRESENT

MEMBERS OF CREW

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.

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

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

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

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

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

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

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.

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

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?

# RESTRICTED

## 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 supercedes 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) McCarthy, Charles E  
Rank 1st Lt. A. S. N. 0-805941  
Unit 392 Bomb 578 sqdn

Signed Charles E McCarthy  
Dated Aug 25, 44  
Witness \_\_\_\_\_

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

# RESTRICTED



S E C R E T

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

Unit:-

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? *No*
- b. If not, why? *Lost it*
- 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.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box?
- 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?

2. PURSE

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

(over)

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

Maps. Which ones?

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

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

*Many Maps*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many?

*yes*

b. Did you use them?

*yes*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

*Topeka, Kansas.*

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?



McCarthy

1  
Leak on the bomb-ran, direct hit.  
put rudders + elevators out. Second burst  
put out 2 engines + ailerons. Gave order to  
bail out after trying in vain to work  
A5. When flight deck was clear I  
got out when ship leveled out second  
time. Leak hit my legs in plane. I spun  
around in falling + lost my escape kit +  
purse. I delayed jump + when I pulled  
cord at 2000 ft it wouldn't open. I  
rolled over + the pilot chute came out  
+ opened the chute right away.  
(Ralph L. Day <sup>T47 pilot</sup> with back pack fell on his  
back with chute unopened. -

Near Airfield  
3/4 mi from  
~~LAKE~~  
LAKE  
(near  
SOISSONS)

I landed in some bushes. I could  
hear German voices. I left my  
equipment + ran 100 yds, took off  
At 2000 hrs. flying boots, ran to a small  
road + lay down. 4 trucks of German  
soldiers passed. Then ran across  
road + up to a high spot. I waited  
until dark + got a few hours away.  
Slept in haystack that night.  
— My engineer, radio operator, copilot  
got out I know —  
Next morning a cart full of milk cans

came by. I waited + followed him. It was  
driven by a Pole. He gave me milk + told  
me that Germans were around + direction I  
should go. I walked 60 kms + ran  
into some Belgians who recognized me.  
(between ~~LAAN~~ + SOISSONS)

got  
civilian  
clothing  
They took me home to a workman's cottage,  
fed me, + put me into bed. Some Luftwaffe  
came in searching. So next day I left  
with a small RR map. I walked on RN  
2 to SOISSONS. Spent night in haystack  
S of SOISSONS. Next day walked to outskirts  
of CREPY + slept in haystack that night.  
Next day walked to CHANTILLY.

(RN 2 + 324 are marked T1)

Next day from Chantilly to Beaumont  
where I ran into a German control + stopped  
just in time + turned back and went  
around Beaumont to PONTAISE + from  
there to MANTES next day. There I got  
a ride in a rowboat rowed by 2  
German soldiers across the Seine  
then walked to Dreux where I got a shave +  
spent the night on other side of DR EX.  
Next day walked to LAIGLE. Here I was  
stopped by a German soldier but I walked  
away from him + got to ST EVROULT.

There I saw woman washing clothes +  
asked for water. She asked me whether  
I was American or English. I said American.  
(Large blonde woman about 50, married to an  
ex Captain in French army now in charge of refugees in  
region, + I am about 20 yrs old)



she took me in + kept me 4 days in the house. I  
 told them I wanted to get out + they took me  
 to a farm of family who spoke English  
 (Couple + daughter). I stayed 3 or 4 days  
 on the farm. Then I went to a town near by  
 + stayed in a barn. From here I went to  
 a barn 10 hours W. of Livarot right in  
 midst of German repair unit. After 6  
 days here my food gave out; I  
 went back to LIVAROT + was put up by  
 an electrician for a night who then  
 put me on a farm W of BELLOU <sup>sur Houve</sup> X roads  
 (RENE CHERELLE [? spelling]). I moved  
 back to hill top W of N. D. de Courson  
 to the farm of RENE's wife's ~~parents~~ (parents).  
 I stayed on this farm while all the  
 German stuff poured back through  
 Falaise - Trun gap. On 23 of  
 August I walked out on RN 199 +  
 met Canadians to whom I turned over  
 4 Russians. I found the Essex Scottish  
 who took me back to a Provost  
 Marshal. I got into hands of a  
 British major near a P/W cage who  
 interrogated me. They kept me in  
 handcuffs for a night with them because  
 I couldn't answer their questions. Next  
 morning they took me to an American unit.

I got down to air strip + had to go  
back to IX A.F. H.Q. where I saw  
Capt. Luria who gave me orders  
to 63 Brook St. I flew to U.K. 26  
Aug.