

Secret

E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9 (WEA) 8/521/528

TOP SECRET.
I.S.9 (WEA)

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVADED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

For All Personnel.

24E#1148

1. No. 0-695100 Rank 2nd Lt Name ELMER E. SPRINGER, JR
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 15 Missions
3. Were you wounded? Give details No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 514 Ftr. Sqn
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 406th Ftr. Gp 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Pilot
7. Date of Birth 23 May 1921 8. Length of Service 2 Yrs., 1 Mo.
9. Peace time occupation Machinist 10. Private address 407 21st Street, Altoona, Penna.
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Yes, Dog Tags, AGO Card
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

13. No. and location of O.T.U. //
14. No. and location of Conversion Unit //

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

15. Post in Crew Pilot
16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them. **DISTRIBUTION**
N.B.—Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.
PILOT Narrator
CO-PILOT //
NAVIGATOR //
BOMBARDIER //
RADIO OPERATOR //
TOP TURRET GUNNER //
BALL TURRET GUNNER //
WAIST GUNNER (R.) //
WAIST GUNNER (L.) //
TAIL GUNNER //

17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure p-47, Ashford, Kent, Eng., 5 July 1944, 1900 hrs.

18. Where and when did you come down? 2 Km NE BUELLPONT, EURE, 5 July 1944, 2115 hrs.

19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Chute got hung up in tree, hid mae west in bushes

20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Secret

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVASION CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

For All Personnel.

1. No. 6-297100 Rank 2nd Lt Name WALTER H. SPRINGER, JR.
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 17 Missions
3. Were you wounded? Give details No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 514 Tr. Sqn
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 400th Tr. Gp Job (Pl. Comb., Rtn., etc.) Pilot
6. Date of Birth 23 May 1921 Length of Service 2 Yrs., 1 Mo.
7. Peace time occupation Machinist Private address 407 2nd Street, Altona, Tenn.
8. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Yes, Dog Tags, AGO Card
9. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

10. No. and location of O.T.U. 11
11. No. and location of Conversion Unit 11

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

12. Post in Crew Pilot
13. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them:
14. N.B.—Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.
- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| I.S. 9 (WEA) Hq..... | 3 |
| Capt Devereux, Ops.. | 1 |
| Capt Arnold, 9th AF.. | 1 |
| G-2 FUSA (less "c").. | 1 |
| G-2 TUSA (less "c").. | 1 |
| File..... | 1 |
| | <u>8</u> |
15. CO-PILOT
16. NAVIGATOR
17. BOMBARDIER
18. RADIO OPERATOR
19. TOP TURRET GUNNER
20. BALL TURRET GUNNER
21. WAIST GUNNER (R.)
22. WAIST GUNNER (L.)
23. TAIL GUNNER
24. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure 47, Ashford Kent, Eng., 5 July 1944, 1900 hrs.

25. Where and when did you come down? 5 miles SW of Ashford Kent, Eng., 5 July 1944
26. Date 20 August 1944
27. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and map? Quite got hung up in trees
28. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes
29. Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)
30. Date 20 August 1944
31. Name Cameron J. LaClair, Jr.
2nd Lt AC

Disposal: Returned to unit.

Major

Secret.
S E C R E T

20 August 1944

E & E Report No. I.S. 9(WEA) /8/521/528

HIDES PAPERS

I landed about 50 yds from where my plane crashed near the edge of a thick woods at 2115 hrs., 5 July 1944. Immediately I buried my billfold containing my AGO Card and some papers. Having done this I continued on through the woods for 100 yds when I stopped to hide my pistol and mae west. I then took off again, running through fields until I came to a road running between HECOURT and BUEILLPONT. Seeing that the road was being rather heavily travelled by bicycles and vehicles, I decided to wait until it was dark~~er~~ to cross it.

WAITS TO CROSS ROAD.

RECEIVES HELP

As I lay in the thick rushes a young Frenchman came by and noticed me. Since he was young and not too well dressed, I decided to ask for help. After some discussion I got him to understand that I wanted him to return to the place we were in at 2400 hrs. He agreed to help telling me also that there were no Germans in the area. At 2400 hrs, he returned bringing food. When I had eaten, he took me to the CHATEAU BUEILLPONT, just recently vacated by the Germans (SS troops). He pointed out that there were plenty of beds, that I was to spend the night there, and that he would return at 0800 hrs. in the morning.

TAKEN TO CHATEAU JUST VACATED BY SS TROOPS, 6 JULY

GIVES UP DOG TAGS

In the morning he returned with a schoolmaster from the village and a man whom I considered to be about 60 yrs old who claimed to be a retired major in the Brit. Intelligence Service. They provided me with clothes, and I was foolishly persuaded to part with my dog tags. The plan was for the young chap and myself to walk to CONCHES.

7 JULY

SPENDS NIGHT IN ANOTHER CHATEAU

When we had gotten to 1 mile W of the village, the young Frenchman said we would wait here until 1900 hrs. when a friend of his, a doctor, would come by in a car to take us on. At 2100 hrs his friend still had not shown up, so he told me he was going to get additional help, returning at 2130 hrs. At 2230 hrs. a Frenchman whom I had never seen before came and took me to a rather large chateau not too far away. It was here that I spent the night.

MEETS ADDITIONAL U S AIRMEN AT CHAIGNES, THERE UNTIL 18 JULY

The following morning, JULY 8, a doctor was to come and take me away. He did not turn up so in the evening I was taken to a service station on the road from PARIS TO EVREUX, and from this deserted spot to CHAIGNES. It was in this town that I met Sgt. RIDER and CPL. POLASKI (See I.S.9(WEA) /8/522 and /523), who had been there since 27 May. I remained there from 8 July until 18 July when they moved Sgt. ~~Rider~~ RIDER and myself to MENIL GUYON. Cpl. POLASKI had been moved 13 July to VILLEGATS.

AT MENIL GUYON UNTIL 18 AUGUST

SGT RIDER and I remained at MENIL GUYON until 18 August when Resistance people came taking us by motorcycle to a town (name unknown) nearby where we made contact with the 5th Armored Div.

Secret.

S E C R E T

Top Secret.

TOP SECRET.
I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9(WEA)/B/521/528

If further circulation of this information is made, it is important that its source should not be divulged.

No. 0-695100 Rank 2nd Lt Name ELMER E SPRINGER, JR

Date of Interview 20 August 1944

Eveded in France.

Night of 7-8 July spent in a chateau called CHATEAU NEUILLY. The woman at that chateau was the president of the Red Cross for that district of France. ~~It~~ was her chauffeur who took me to the service station on the road from EVREUX TO PARIS.

I was helped in CHAIGNES by Mlle. FOUGERES. I was taken to CHAIGNES by a Doctor FRADIN, who paid Mlle. FOUGERES for my keep.

At MENIL GUYON, the people who helped me were M. & Mme. SAULE

Top Secret!

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

2-47

159
WEA

APO 696, U S Army
23 August 1944.

9th AF

SUBJECT: Travel Orders.

5145g 406 77r Gp

TO : 2nd Lieut. ELMER E. SPRINGER, O-695100, AC

MIA 5 July - 26 Aug UK

You will proceed on or about 23 August 1944 from Headquarters, Ninth Air Force to 63 Brook Street, London, England. Travel by motor transport, military or commercial aircraft (Par 3b, AR 55 -120, 26 April 1943) or rail is authorized. TDN Pursuant to the authority contained in Letter Hq. ETOUSA, 24 May 1944.

By command of Major General VANDEBERG:

V H STRAHM
Brig Gen, USA,
C of S

OFFICIAL:

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE
C R BIRBARI
Lt Col., AC
Asst Adj Gen.

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.

GERTIFICATE

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) ELMER E. SPRINGER, JR.
Rank 2ND LT. A. S. N. 0-695100
Unit 406TH FTR GRP, 514TH FTR SQDN.

Signed Elmer E. Springer Jr. 2nd Lt. AGC
Dated 26 August 44
Witness Daley G. Smith Capt AGC

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

RESTRICTED

SECRET

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

NO. OF MISSIONS - 15

TARGET - D.B. RR. TRACKS
AT CHARTRES
FRANCE

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

ELMER E. SPRINGER, JR. 2nd LT. O-695100

26th AUGUST, 1944

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

(Date)

406th FTR. GRP., 514th FTR. SQDN.
(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

(FIGHTER TYPE AIRCRAFT, SOURCE WAS PILOT)

P/47

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. JULY 5, 1944, 21:15 HRS.,
2 Kilometers NORTHWEST OF BUEILPONT

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

ENGINE BURNING, CONTROLS SHOT AWAY

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 1500 FEET

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? YES

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? YES

COMPLETELY DEMOLISHED

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?

If any further information is required concerning this report detailed application should be made to I.S.9 (WEA) G-2 Div S.H.A.E.F. giving the E and E Report No.

DISTRIBUTION:

Capt Devereux, Ops	1
Capt Arnold, 9 AF	1
G-2 FUSA (less "C")	1
G-2 TUSA (less "C")	1
File	1
Hq. I.S. 9 (WEA)	3
P/W & X Det. MIS ✓	
G-2 Div. SHAEF	
(Less App. "C" & "D")	
File	

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CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-695100 Rank 2nd Lt.

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Elmer E. Springer, jr.

Unit 514th Ftr. Sq., 406th Ftr. Gp.

has been fully/~~briefly~~/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 26 August 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate.

He ~~should~~/should not/be re-interrogated.

Cameron J. Schlain
2nd Lt. AIC.

Major.

IMPORTANT.

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH)
AN OFFICER OF M.I.9 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF PW. & X. DET.
M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

CONFIDENTIAL

CERTIFIED THAT:

This Officer ~~W.O./N.C.O.~~ has special information on the following subjects:—

NONE.

IF Returned to UK, this officer is to report to
Special Interrogation Center, 63 Brook St, London, U.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, this
officer is the person he represents himself to be.

Conrad J. Sobleski
2nd Lt. A.C.

M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.
AN OFFICER OF M.I.9 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & X. DET.
THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH)