

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

TOTARO, RICHARD H. 2nd LT. 0-757967
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

AUG. 26, 1944
(Date)

457th Bmb. Gr. 791st Sqdn.
(Unit)

PRESENT
OFFICIAL STATUS

MEMBERS OF CREW

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.

MARCH 16, 1944. TWENTY-EIGHT KILOMETERS SOUTH-WEST OF ABBEVILLE. TIME 1630

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

EXCESSIVE MACHINE GUN DAMAGE FROM THREE ME-109's.

#2 ENGINE HAD A SMALL FIRE AROUND PROP. HUB.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

5000'

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

THE NAVIGATOR WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEFT ARM.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? ALL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PILOT, CO-PILOT, AND ENGINEER. DID NOT SEE IF PARACHUTES OPENED.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?)

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.

A FRENCHMAN TOLD ME A PILOT WAS IN THE PLANE WHEN IT LANDED AND 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.

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

NOT HAVING SEEN OR HEARD FROM ANY OF THEM, NO OPINION.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

TARGET: AUGSBURG, GERMANY ¹⁹⁴⁴

Date mission in action: MAR. 16, ¹⁹⁴⁴

Date arrived in UK: AUG. 26, ¹⁹⁴⁴

TOTARO, RICHARD H. 2nd Lt. 0-752962
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

8 (No. of missions)

731st 452nd
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT GEORGE B. CALLOW, 2^d Lt, 0663698 P/W
CO-PILOT JAMES A. MORRIS, 2^d Lt, 0453712 -P/W
NAVIGATOR ALVIN L. KURZMAN 2^d Lt 0692323 -P/W
BOMBARDIER RICHARD H. TOTARO Narrator
RADIO OPERATOR ANTHONY J. CAPRIOLA, 1st Sgt. 13152112 P/W
TOP TURRET GUNNER ROBERT T. MAY, 1st Sgt. 13145937 P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER EMERSON W. LEE, cpl, 13680454 P/W
WAIST GUNNER BAILEY PULLEN, 5th Sgt, 14001041 MIA
WAIST GUNNER Paul A. Chaffee, 3rd Sgt, 12098509 P/W
TAIL GUNNER WILLIAM E. BURCHELL, cpl, 19076877 P/W

Decorations:

Date of Birth: MAY 1, 1921

Private Address: 1273 HAYES ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Length of Service: 2 yr.

Job as Civilian: SECRETARY

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

DEOPHAM GREEN. APPROX. 0800

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? NONE WITH ME

Were you wounded? Give details. NO

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? YES. 1000 FRANCS

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

Did you have identity papers? YES

(over)

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

YES. NINTH AIR FORCE IN FRANCE.

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.

19th T.A.C. LANDING STRIP, AUG. 26, 1944, BY 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.

Sgt. ROBERT COOPER

Sgt. LOUIS RAONA

Flight Lieutenant Robert Thorn

2d Lt. Richard Totaro 0-752962

1151

4526p

27 Aug

Lt. Totaro landed on 16^M March 1944 about 10 kms NE of BLANGY SUR BRESLE (S.I.). He walked until he saw a sign-post which read ABBEVILLE(SOMME) 23 kms. Here he stopped to consult his map. While he was doing this a little, old lady came up to him, asked him whether he was American, and told him to wait. She went off and returned with a resistance man from BLANGY and with civilian clothes for Totaro, The man worked as a forest guard at BLANGY where he lived with his wife and two daughters. He took Totaro home with him, kept him the night, and the next day took him by truck to LES GRANDES VENTS(18 kms SSE of DIEPPE) to the home of a man where Sgt Robert Cooper had been staying for three weeks. That evening Totaro was taken to another house in LES GRANDES VENTS, the home of a tailor and his wife(the man 55 years old, the woman 45; no children). Totaro lived here three weeks. At the end of the first week the resistance organization brought a Russian to stay here also. About 8 April Totaro, Cooper, and the Russian were taken to a maquis HQ near PONT AUDEMER(EURE), headed by ROBERT SURCOUF. They stayed here three nights and were then sent to one of the maquis sections, a camp of 15 or 20 men, 12 kms E of ST ETIENNE(9 kms S of PONT AUDEMER). ROBERT SURCOUF had six weeks before sent back through Spain four Americans, among them Sgts. Boone and Solomon. Totaro, Cooper, and the Russian lived with this maquis five weeks, moving with them after five days to ST GEORGES(EURE), thence to a chateau at PONT AUDEMER, thence to FOURMETOT(EURE), and then after many more moves back to the chateau at PONT AUDEMER ~~where they were on 6 June.~~ where they were on 6 June. They then moved from place to place again with the Germans always on their trail. By the 20 June they had picked up a number of British evaders and Lt. Frederik. Sgt. Lewis ~~Boone~~ Raona F/Lt. Robert Thorn and an RAF man named Philip--- had been picked up at FOURMETOT. On 20 June the chief put Frederik on a farm and the three other Americans and two Britons were placed in a house at LE BEC HELLOUIN(EURE) where they stayed for two weeks while the resistance people brought them food. Then the five were sent to ~~different~~ different places. Totaro was taken to MONTFORT, five or six kms away, where he was kept five days in a pigeon-loft, the maquis bringing his food to him. He was then

(over)

taken by a man in the resistance organization to MALLEVILLE (EURE). There he joined two English evaders and remained two days, after which the three evaders were taken to a small maquis near ELBEUF. The chief of resistance in the ELBEUF ~~SECTOR~~ sector who said that he was working for the British (his name was MAGNUS) arranged to have the two Englishmen, Totaro, and Cahill, whom they had met here, moved by cart to LA HAYE MALHERBE (EURE). There a man named PIERRE ~~+~~ (small, slim, with bad teeth, about 30 years old, an FFI man) with whom a P38 pilot, George Holland, was staying took Cahill to stay with him and took Totaro by bicycle to ECQUETOT (EURE), the others being distributed to other houses in the neighborhood of LA HAYE MALHERBE. At ECQUETOT after two days Totaro was joined by Cahill, with whose story from this point his own is identical.

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 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) RICHARD H. TOTARO
Rank 2nd Lt. A. S. N. 0-752962
Unit 452nd Bn. GP, 73rd Sqn

Signed Richard H. Totaro
Dated 27 August 1944.
Witness Charles A. Brown

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

RESTRICTED

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND F REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 0-752962 2nd Lt. RICHARD H. TOTARO

Unit:- 452nd Bmb. Gp., 731st Sqn.

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.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *USED WHILE WALKING AWAY FROM THE SPOT I LANDED ON.*

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass. *SAME AS BENZADRINE TABLET*

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *NO.*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *DISTRIBUTED IT AMONG THE FRENCH PEOPLE WHO AIDED ME.*
- 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?
NO.

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *YES*
State color of stripes and letters. *RED STRIPES. LETTER "F"*
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? *FRANCE*

Compass. *YES*

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money? *GAVE IT TO*

FRENCH WHO AIDED ME.

d. How did you dispose of:-

FRENCH 1000 FRANCS

HOLLAND ? GUILDERS

(1 NOTE)

BELGIUM ? FRANCS

(2 NOTED)

Maps. *GIVEN TO MEMBER OF FRENCH*

RESISTANCE GROUP

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

*GIVEN TO VARIOUS FRENCH
WHO AIDED ME.*

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

No.

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

*No. MY PHOTOS HAD NOT
YET BEEN DEVELOPED.*

b. Did you use them? -

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, APPROX. DEC. 15, 1943, WHOM?

b. Did you find the lectures of value? *NOT PARTICULARLY*

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

*AS SOON AS LANDING ON THE GROUND, GET AS FAR
AWAY FROM THE SPOT AS POSSIBLE.*

B-17

2nd R. H. TOTARO.

(1)

~~Target~~ AUGSBOURG on the 16 March 1944.
returning from target. on the French border
we had engine trouble we lost formation
small fire. 3 ME 109^(the ABBEVILLE kids) jumped at us they made
2 passes at us the plane started to wallow we
jumped out - we were 7 in the work at
that moment. I went out as 7. at 5000
feet. I saw one chute the french told
me they saw seven of us. - I did not delay
I landed in a field about 10 km NE
BLANCOY. I hid my chute in a bush and
ran in a forest 200-yards away. - (saw
farmers in a distance but did not if friendly)
walked south kept in forest all night.
walked the 17th until a sign post which
said abbeville ^(town) 23 km. - I stopped looked at
my map when a little old lady came to
me asked me if I was american. She
told me to wait, she went to Blancoy
got a resistance man ^{came} with her and civilian
clothes. - She stayed there at her farm at
BEAUMESNIL and I went to Blancoy with
the resistance man who was at forest guard
At his house ^{wife and 2 young ones} in Blancoy I stayed until
next morning, was given new clothes and

(a fellow in low known English acted as interpreter.)

he took me by truck to GRANDES VENTS.

(20 km SE of Mepe) He ~~and~~ took me to a house but the man was not there. Went to another house to wait for the man (in this house was another American Lt Robert Cooper). February 28, B-17 went down. had hurt his back had been in bed 3 weeks. was alright now). That evening ^{went to other house} they ~~stayed in the other house~~ ^{there} 3 weeks. (He was a ~~fighter~~ and his wife no children.) at the end of a week the resistance brought a Russian ^{A.C.} who stayed 2 weeks. - He only spoke Russian. - Around April 8. - The Mayors picked the Russian, Cooper and I. - We went to the Hq. of the Mayors near ^{AUDENES} ~~PONTER~~ at ST. ETIENNE (headed by Robert Surcouf) ^{chief of the district} we.

Stayed there 3 nights. Then Cooper the Russian and I were sent to one of the Mayor's

section (15 to 20 men) 12 km E. of St Etienne (4 or 6 weeks previously Surcouf had send 4 Americans back through Spain - one was called Lt SOLOMON and Lt BOONE). We stayed with the Mayor's section for 5 or 6 weeks. - Around May the 12th we were moved by them because they had German after them. - We moved with the Mayor and after five days ~~we~~ settled to St. Georges - (Elne). In this spot all the Mayor's sections agglomerated got to be almost 20 men.

(There was a holland kid who new English) (5)
with the maguin

After few days the whole band of us
moved to a Castle at ~~PONDREMORE~~^{AUDENOT} - we
stayed from the 17 on for 10 days in the
castles^{used also as German HQ.} - Moved ~~to~~ to a cage at ~~FOURMETOT~~^{at Fourmetot we picked up*}
(Eure) stayed there a few days, the Germans
got us we had to leave, the Germans killed
the owner his wife and child a daughter
of 17 and a great man of 21, killed them
with rifle bullets. - we kept moving around
until we ended up in ~~the~~^{at PONDREMORE} castle on Invasion
day - ~~early~~ the next day we went to St.
Georges again. The maguin was waiting for some
arms, usual to a plane but it was German
which dropped bombs. - From there on we
kept hopping around ^{until June 27th} but the Germans were
close even fired at us with mortars. - June
20th the English and Americans plus a
new one who was picked up by Maguin: ~~Federik~~
1st Lt. Federik we were angry waiting so
we left. The chief put Federik in a farm,
us 3 Americans and 2 Englishmen went to
a ^{small} house at Le BEC HELLOUIN (near BRIONNE)
^{Eure}
The five of us stayed there resistance fought

F/lt Robert Thorn and his ^{wellington} bomb aimer Philip?
and an A.S. Sgt. Lewis RAONA. (B-26)

us food and we were waiting ~~for~~ for
the allies - a few 2 weeks later we were
split because Germans were near -

The 2 Englishmen went to some farm, Cooper
and RAOON were sent another place and
I was taken by bicycle to the little town
of MONTFORT (5 or 6 kilometers away). I stayed
there for 5 days in a pigeon loft of a woman
arranged with maguis to bring me food,
from there, ^{I was turned over to} ~~the~~ resistance man ^{he took me}
to MALLVILLE (Eure) there I met the 2 Englishmen
stayed 2 days, then we moved by resistance
to the district of Elbeuf to a small maguis.
We did not had enough of maguis so the
head of resistance ^{of Elbeuf district} ~~showed~~ ^{was} up and he took
us away (I met here Cahill) Maguis arranged
for us to move to LA HAYE MALHERBE (Eure)

We went there to a house by horse cart
Cahill stayed behind in the maguis with
a P-38 pilot named called I think
Georges Holland the house was kept

by Henry — (he ^{small, thin, had teeth, ~~was~~ 50} walked in Elbeuf was an
agent looking for Evaders FFI man). We stayed
there a few hours - Robert Thorne stayed there
with 2 Englishmen who were there

(5)

Philip the other Englishman was taken
to another house. — I was bicycled by
Henri to ECQUETOT (Eue) LEWIS RAONA
and Cooper were fixed up by Henri in a nearby
house of Henri's. —

I ECQUETOT and stay for 2 days
at which point H. CHILL shows up
and stay with him until I get to

63 Bowk Meet. —

The people at ECQUETOT are called

APPENDIX B.

The day I left BLANGAI (~~June~~ 18 March)
I was told by Frenchmen that the Germans
were building anti-aircraft emplacements.
I saw ^{the} hole in the ground on the
side of the road. They were just started
digging in. - The Frenchmen thought it
would be an anti-aircraft emplacement.