

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

LAUX ROBERT J 2ND LT 0-685302

TARGET: RR Bridge near Paris

Date mission in action: 28-5-44

Date arrived in UK: 27-8-44

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

(No. of missions)

496

344

(Squadron)

(Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT

LAUX ROBERT J. 2ND LT

CO-PILOT

RITCHIEY MALVIN T 2ND LT

NAVIGATOR

BOYCE (UNKNOWN) 2ND LT

BOMBARDIER

RADIO OPERATOR

HENRY ROLAND W S/SGT

TOP TURRET GUNNER

RUIZ PHILLIP SGT

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

BUTTLER (UNKNOWN) SGT

P/w official.

Decorations:

NONE

Date of Birth:

16-11-18

Private Address:

1552 PINWOOD AVE TOLEDO, OHIO

Length of Service:

3 1/2 YRS

Job as Civilian:

MILK MAN & STOCK BROKERAGE

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

STANSTEAD APPROX. 10:40

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

YES

Were you wounded? Give details.

NO

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

NO GUIDE - PAID FRENCH ALL MONEY WE HAD

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?

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.

NORMANDY (LAVAL)
AIR - 8-27-44

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

LT BOYCE (BOMBARDIER)
S/SGT HENRY ROLAND W (RAD GUN)

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

SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-10-01 BY 1045

SECRET
HEADQUARTERS
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REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

(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.

28-5-44 BARQ NORMANDY NEAR CONCHES

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

LEFT ENG. OUT - PROP WINDMILLING - WINGS AND FUSILAGE
SHOT LIP - INTERCON OUT - NO FIRE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

400-500 FT

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

NO NOT THAT I KNOW

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

ALL MEMBERS BAILED OUT - DIDNT SEE

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?

CO-PILOT AND I HID TOGETHER

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.

PARTISANS STATED LT. BOYCE AND SGT HENRY
WERE 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?

LT BOYCE & SGT HENRY
SGT BUTTLER & SGT RUIZ OUT OK

IF RUIZ COULD HAVE CONTACTED THE
UNDERGROUND I THINK HE COULD HAVE GOT
ALONG ALRIGHT BECAUSE HE SPOKE SPANISH
AND WAS DARK COMPLETED

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- LAUX ROBERT J 2ND LT

Unit:- 496 BOMB SQDN 344 BOMB GROUPE

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. PUT ASPIRENS

1. AIDS BOX

- a. Did you use your aids box? NO
- b. If not, why? CONTACTED UNDERGROUND
- 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. YES - FOR MINOR SCRATCHES ETC OCCURRING DURING MYR STAY

Chewing gum. YES

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit. YES REPAIR & REMOVAL OF CLOTHING

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

SOME KIND OF PAIN KILLER FOR HEADACHES

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? YES
State color of stripes and letters. RED STRIPE
If NOT, State why not.

- b. Did you use the purse? GAVE MONEY TO PEOPLE
KEEPING HIS COPILOT AND I
(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?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many?

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

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

BY ALL MEANS DO NOT WALK AT NIGHT

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 883.6 (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 883.6 (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) LAUX ROBERT J Signed Robert J. Laux
Rank 2nd Lt. A. S. N. 0-685302 Dated Aug 29, 1944
Unit 344 Bomb Bn. 491 B. Sq Witness _____

AG P BR HQ SOS

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Loux and Ritchie

Hit by flak over target Salvaged bombs.
Hole in rt wing. Left engine out, left pumps
windmilling. Tried to make way back to
Etretat over landfall. ^{losing altitude}
^{lighter slip by jettisoning all equipment}
Pilot ordered bail out at 12000 feet.

Everyone out except navigator. Then navigator.
^{only we two in ship}
I was standing at bomb bay. Bomb bay door closed
in our face. So we went out waist window +
nose wheel door. We hit ground about 300
yds apart + ran to woods. Then
looking for us + an old man found us +
told us to hide. Gave us wine.

BARC
S 76
Beaumont
24 kms
WNW
of EVREUX

He returned at 10 PM. with M. DEDUIT,
^{20 kms WNW of EVREUX}
blacksmith of Barquet. He took us to
Val Galleraud (M. + Mme Coleman, sons
^{5 kms S of Beaumont Le Rogier}
names Raymond + Philémon(?)). Stayed
there 13 days. During that time M. ROBERTS
Lunch! D. from La Croisille ^{12 kms SW of EVREUX} came on 7th day
+ brought civilian clothes + told us to keep
dog tags + make plans for us to go to
Spain on the 12th ~~th~~ June. In a raid on
the 13th day on the RR viaduct near the
house, the house was hit. Sept in box pen
that night + next day moved to DEDUIT's
house with M. Ritchie of Barquet (had 2

RAF evaders in his house). Stayed with the
DEDOITS all day (had 2 English evaders in
his house too). Then moved to Berville
la Campagne by the same people. There
3 kms SE of Berville ^{Maurice}
stayed with M. ~~GR~~ GRESSANT for about
20 days. Relatives came to visit him &
so we moved to M. ARNOULT in same town
(who had 2 RAF evaders there). During this
time (13 Aug.) town was bombed & 3 people
killed, wounded 3, 1 seriously.

Stayed there until ~~23~~ 23 or 24
August. Then the son, Roland Arnault,
went out & contacted the 112th American
Infantry & brought one of the men to
us. We were taken to their C.P. We were
moved back & forth for 2 days. Then a
Red Cross director, BIGGAR, took us back
to a forward ammo. unit & they took
us to Col. Towne of IX A.F. & he told
us to go to Gen. Plesata at IX AF H.Q.
From there to Capt. Luria at Laval & he
gave us orders to 63 Brook St.
Flew to U.K. 27 August.
