

28 Aug

2d 8-815102

T-123005

1547172

Lt. Robert C. Disbrow, F/O Frank A. J. Champ, & Sgt. Alfred M. Campbell

3816p 1191

1192

1218

Disbrow, Champ, and Campbell came down on 15 June 1944. Disbrow landed near BUDOS (35 kms SE of BORDEAUX). Several French people were waiting for him when he landed; and one, ~~a~~ a woman about 30 years old, 5'9" tall, blonde, English-speaking, thought that he was an agent who had parachuted there purposely. When he disabused her mind of this notion she put him into the hands of a man who took him to a house about 4 kms to the north. There a woman treated his wounds and put him to bed. Shortly after noon Disbrow's pilot, Lt. Kelly was brought in, and the people told Disbrow that Wilczek, the bombardier, was safe also. That night he too was brought to this house. Then the three Americans were taken to VILLANDRAUT (GIRONDE) where they spent the night in the house of an espionage agent. The next day they were put into civilian clothes and led down the road to an automobile in which, MAURICE ADAMS, a Spaniard, was waiting for them. With MAURICE ADAMS they drove to SILLAS (13 kms SE of BAZAS, GIRONDE) to a house in which they found the other six members of their crew.

Champ landed in front of a farmhouse at CUDOS (5 kms S of BAZAS). The people there brought Sgt. Brooks to him and then took these two to another farmhouse where they found Sgt. Workman. After three hours several maquisards arrived in an automobile and drove the three Americans to LERM-MUSSET (8 kms SSE of CUDOS) to a house where they found Sgt. Campbell waiting.

Campbell had come down several miles from CUDOS. A man waiting for him motioned him to follow, led him into a house, and then this man's son with another man led Campbell some five miles to another house where an automobile was waiting. Here Campbell was fed and then was driven in this automobile with an armed guard to the house in LERM-MUSSET where Champ, ~~Brooks~~ Brooks, and Workman soon were brought. When the four Americans ~~were~~ had been brought together here a doctor and MAURICE ADAMS came in. At dusk they took the Americans to a house in SILLAS. The next morning ~~BRASE~~ Sgt. Brashear was brought to this house, and on the 17th MAURICE ADAMS brought Disbrow, Kelly, and Wilczek.

The nine evaders stayed for seven days on this farm which belonged to EMILE MERIC. They then went by automobile to a maquis camp with the chief and the young man who was the chief's aide, LUCIEN ROCHER whose home was in BORDEAUX. ~~After~~ After some days the Germans attacked the maquis with tanks, and the Americans were taken to a hut in the forest for safety. On 2 July Workman and Brooks left by themselves. On 6 July DUCCOSSE, a member of the maquis, said that he thought that he could get the Americans out of France. With his aid Disbrow, Champ, and Campbell were passed on from farm to farm until they reached ALLONS (30 kms SE of BAZAS). Here some maquisards put them into a lorry with a gendarme who took them to LENCOUACQ and from there in a maquisard convoy to LE HOUGA where he turned them over to another maquis chief, a blonde man about 35 years old and 5'11" tall, with a large nose, whose home is in BAZAS. They stayed with him for six days. He then sent them back to LENCOUACQ to a service station where they had stopped for a moment on their way down. Two men who had helped evaders before ran this service station. These two men took the three evaders to a farmhouse in the neighborhood of MAULEON ~~for a night and then led them into the woods~~ for a night and then led them into the woods where they met a French colonel and sergeant. These two men passed them through several hands until finally they reached an English major (a short man, slightly bald, about 50 years old, has his family in Spain) at HONTANX. The major put them into battle-dress, gave them full equipment, and took them to his camp. He had an English radio operator and two British women with him. In the camp the Americans also met Leslie Brown from New Zealand, a Sterling pilot, and John Johnson, a South African transport driver who had been taken prisoner in Tunisia and had escaped, and GUY, a Free French parachute captain who said that he was working with an American, Lt. Col. Fuller, in the Pyrenees. On 27 July ~~the~~ Disbrow, Champ, Campbell, Brown, Johnson, a Dutchman called HENRI, one of the British women, COLLETTE, and GUY went to ARTAGNAN to the house of M. LABORET, a stone-cutter. Here GUY got a lorry in which he took the party to ST. ~~BERT~~ BERTRAND DE COMINGES. Thence they walked into

the mountains to a rendezvous with LT. COL. Fuller. ~~At~~ They spent one night with him. ~~SA~~ GUY remained there, but the others moved into a maquis camp for three days, after which with two guides they walked across the mountains, a journey of 3 days. They entered CAVEJAN on 4 August and were arrested by the Civil Guards. The next day they were taken to VIELLA where they were kept four days. From there they went to Sort for two nights, thence to TUDELA by way of LERIDA. Three days later the Americans were taken to ALHAMA, and after nine days an American W. O. took them to Madrid and Gibraltar. They reached Gibraltar on 26 August and left by air for U. K. on 27 August.

There a woman treated his wounds and put him to bed. Shortly after noon Dr. Brown, St. Kelly and Dr. Brown, and the people told Dr. Brown that

Dr. Brown, the doctor, was also told. That night he too was brought to this house. Then the three Americans were taken to VIELLA (BIRN) where they spent

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Dibrow + Champ.

Dibrow: On way to IT hit by flak. Tried to jettison #4 but couldn't, pulled out of formation + dropped bombs. Order to bail out. #4 started to throw pistols. When I got ready to leave ship went into spin. I got it level. Ship clear. When I left #4 prop had fallen off + #1 throwing pistols; #4 on fire. I jumped at 12000 + free fell to 10000. Saw one

8 Am

chute below me + 5 above me. Hit ground near Budon (SE of Bordeaux). Plane hit ground + exploded 3 miles away.

3 men waiting for me + put me into wood shed + there were a score of people. A blonde woman (5'9", about 30 years old, spoke English well) asked me what my job was (She thought I was an agent). She put me into hands of a Frenchman + woman. He took me about 4 kms N. to a house where the woman treated my head + put me to bed. $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. later a half-truck came with 6 Germans + stopped

outside of house. Woman led me out back door + 2
into woodshed. Then to a wood for $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. She
then took me further into woods for 2 hrs. She
came + told me ^{WILCZEK} bombardier was in safe hands.
I stayed in woods till 1 PM. Then they brought
pilot (Kelly) to me. Then they brought 2
young men about 20 yrs old, dark, who
looked as if miles SE. Then put us into
woods. At 11 PM they brought the bombardier
+ took the 3 of us to VILLANDRAUT where
we were put to bed in a house in town.
(of an espionage agent)

There until 10 PM next day. Got civilian
clothes + took us to a rendezvous with
~~the~~ an automobile which Spaniard,
MAURICE ADAMS, was. He took us to
LERM + then SILLAS where we ate in a
farmhouse + then went to another house
where we met the 6 others of our crew.

Champ!

I landed in Cudoe in front of
farmhouse. Several people waiting for
me + they brought my R/O Brooks to
me + then took us to Workman in
a farm nearby. One man took us to
a barn where after 3 hrs a car with
magis came + took us to LERM + there
^{MUSSET} met Campbell. They brought a doctor + ^{here met Spaniard, Maurice Adams}
English speaking man. At dark they took
us to a house outside of SILLAS +

then to a house in town. Next morning they brought Brashear. ^{On 12th} ~~Next morning~~ Maurice Adams brought in his brow + the other two. Then all nine of us together.

Stayed for 7 days on this farm (EMILE MERIC, farmer) where an underground ammo dump of the maquis was. Then left in car to the maquis camp with the chief LUCIEN ROCHET, a young man was the chief's aide (House in BORDEAUX)

Then the Germans attacked the maquis at LERM with tanks. We hid in woods for a day + then taken to another hut in woods until 2 July (Workman + Brooks left then alone.) + then we stayed on until 6 July. Then BUCOSSE, a Frenchman in the maquis, said he could get us out. We (his brow, Champ, + Campbell) went to ST. MICHELE to a farm + there Campbell + Champ got civilian clothes. ^{farmer} ^{fearing} ^{onto} ^{farmer} Then some maquis people stopped us + said they'd take us out by car. They sent a truck in which was a gendarme + he took us large, heavy-set man, 5'10", dark hair; in his forties

to Lencouacq to a service station where
 were 2 men who helped evaders before.
 The gendarme (who knew everyone in town)
 put us into an inn here. At midnight he
 took us to a road + hid us + a convey of
 4 magnis trucks + on one of these the
 gendarme took us to a house in woods
 SW of Le Houga. Here we met another magnis
 chief who told us we'd have to stay for a
 (about 15-20 days) while. We stayed 6 days in this camp. Then
 they took us by car back to the service
 station in Lencouacq + the 2 men there took
 us to the neighborhood of MAULEON where
 we stayed 1 night in a farmhouse. They
 walked into woods + were met by a French
 colonel + a French sergeant. They took
 us to a hide-out in woods + at night
 a farmer + his son took us to a village
 where we met a French major + 2 women
 who spoke fluent English. The husband +
 another man then took us to a
 rendezvous with a French captain who
 took us to ~~see~~ an English major
 (had been a short man + all false teeth
 slightly bald, about 50 yrs old. Family in
 Spain) at HONTANX. This English major
 put us into British battle dress + full
 equipment. There we met a N.Z. flyer,
 Leslie Brown (Sterling pilot), John Johnson (a
 South African

14
July

transport driver taken T/O in Tunisia). ~~The major~~
~~but~~ The major had a British T/O + 2 British
girls with him. ~~was the~~ The whole camp
moved to ABERON-BERGELLE which was
their own town fully fortified. We lived in
schoolhouse here. ^(GUY, ~~Paratrooper~~ Capt. in ~~the~~ ~~French~~) Here we met a Frenchman
said he was working with an American
^(Lt. Col. Fuller) officer in Pyrenees. Then the three of us +
one of the British ^{women} (Colette) + the N.Z. +
^{Capt + a Dutchman (HENRI)} S.A. + Guy left on 27th went to ARTAGNAN
where we were put in to house of M. LABORET,
a stone-cutter. LABORET introduced us
to a man about 60, ^{dark hair going white, very quiet} very thin, 5'8", anaemic
who had helped a lot of evaders. Here Capt.
Guy got a truck + took us to the mountains
near ST. BERTRAND ^{de Compiègne}. There we walked
to mountains where we met Lt. Col. Fuller with
a few men. ^{Here Capt. Guy stayed} After one night we moved to
(At ASPIN German motor repair depot; at
LUZ a factory making ammunition for
Germans; at St. Giron a factory making
parts for JU88s; at LUZET a factory
making tank bogies. At MONT DE MARSAN
At LABRIT [N. of Mont de Marsan] + Parent's
German ammunition stored in farm houses
+ barns which are evacuated. At Arize +
Bareille the English major has fields for
English gliders.)

another maquis + after 3 days we got
two guides. We took 3 days to cross (sleeping
2 nights) + went into CANELAN on 4 August.
There Civil Guards took us + searched us.
Next day to VIELLA where we stayed 4
days, then to SORT. Here 2 nights. Then to
LERIDA whence we were taken to an aerodrome
near FUDELA. Three days here, whence to
Zaragoza + then to ALHAMA. Stayed nine
days here + from there a WO + 2 syts
took us to Madrid + thence to Gibraltar
26 Aug + left 27 Aug for U.K.

Campbell

7

On way to target plane hit #4 engine
+ we pulled out of formation losing altitude.
Detonated bombs. Engine on fire. We tried to
make Spain. Then order to bail out. Ball T. man
came up + was pulling at his chute + I helped him
put it on. W. gunner + R. D. pushed me through
waist down. I fell about 2000 ft + pulled
cord. I was drifting towards CUDOS but
stripped my chute + landed 2 or 3 miles
from CUDOS beside a main highway next
to a fence. A man was motioning to me
in field. I ran to him + he put me into
house + a boy brought my chute in. One
of the boys + a civilian took me 5 miles
to a house where a car was waiting. They
gave me food + put me into this armored
car + took me to LERM where I met
Champ.

About 2 weeks after the Germans attacked
LERM + destroyed the town with heavy
cannon. They captured one of the men who
had helped us there.

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) ROBERT C. DISBROW Signed Robert C. Disbrow
Rank 2nd Lt. A. S. N. 0-815102 Dated Aug. 28, 1944
Unit 381 Bn Gp. 534 Bn Sgdn. Witness _____

AG P BR HQ SOS 2-44/2M/22472

RESTRICTED

S E C R E T

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

ROBERT C. DISBROW ^{2nd Lt.} 0-815102

TARGET: June 15, 1944

Date mission in action: _____

Date arrived in UK: Aug-27-1944

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

2 (No. of missions)

534 381
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT C. H. KELLY - SAFE IN FRANCE July 1-1944
CO-PILOT R. C. DISBROW - Returned
NAVIGATOR F. A. J. CHAMP - Returned
BOMBARDIER S. WILCZEK - Safe in France July 1-1944
RADIO OPERATOR H. C. BROOKS - Returned
TOP TURRET GUNNER C. BRASHEAR - Safe in France July 1-44
BALL TURRET GUNNER WORTMAN - Returned
WAIST GUNNER A. M. CAMPBELL - GIBRALTAR
WAIST GUNNER -
TAIL GUNNER D. GRAHAM - Safe in France - July 1-1944

Decorations:

Date of Birth: DEC-16-1920

Private Address: NORTH BRANCH STA - N. J.

Length of Service: 3 yrs 1 mo.

Job as Civilian:

From what field did you take off? Take off time, Ridgeville - 06:00

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? yes

Were you wounded? Give details.

yes - three wounds on the head yes 1,000 francs @

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

Do you speak FRENCH? little SPANISH? little GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?
Did you have identity papers? no.

(over)

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

military attacks in Madrid (intelligence officer)
Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When? Gibraltar

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? yes (ZARAGOZA - A.H.A.M.A. (SP)

GIBRALTAR,

Date of arrival in Spain:

Aug 4 - 1944

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Aug 25 - 1944

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

Gibraltar Aug 26 - 1944

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.

Charles Kelly - 2nd Lt.

Donald Graham - SGT.

Charles Brashear - SGT.

Simon Wilczek - SGT.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 0-815102 - 2nd Lt. ROBERT C.
Unit:- DISBROW

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. *NONE*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *NONE*

Milk (tube). *NONE*

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *DID NOT USE.*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *FOR DRINKING WATER*

Matches. *FOR CIGARETTES.*

Adhesive tape. *FOR CUTS ON MY HEAD.*

Chewing gum. *GAVE IT AWAY*

Water bottle. *CARRYING OF DRINKING WATER*

Compass. *FOR TRAVEL IN FRANCE & MTS.*

Sewing kit. *MENDING OF CLOTHES.*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *no*
e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *yes*
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?

BETTER RAZOR FOR SHAVING.

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *yes*
State color of stripes and letters. *DO NOT REMEMBER*
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 - SPAIN

Compass, YES

File (hacksaw). NO

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. FRENCH 2,000
How did you spend the money? FRANCES

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. SPANISH AUTH. TOOK MAPS

Compass. —

File (hacksaw). —

Surplus currency. EXCHANGED FOR SPANISH MONEY

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? NO

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? YES

If so, how many? 9

b. Did you use them? NO

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? YES

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. AT SODN - ABOUT JUNE

b. Did you find the lectures of value? NO

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers? 7-1944
S2 OFFICER
DO OPPOSITE OF S2
IT WORKS

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

2nd Lt.
Robt. C. Disbrow *0-815102* *Aug 28, 1944*
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)
381 Bm Sq. 534 Bm 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

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. *June 15, 1944*
01800 - 3 miles EAST OF BODOS, FRANCE

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
#4 ON FIRE - PROP OF #4 ENGINE OFF #1 THROWING PISTONS #2 VIBRATING

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

12,000 FEET

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

CUTS ON MY HEAD

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

yes

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?

yes all alive & well

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.

all of us got together in 3-days

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

no - French said it was completely destroyed

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?