

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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

9 AUGUST 1944 1945
TAVERNAY - S.W. FRANCE

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.

Was it on fire, etc?

FLAK DAMAGE TO WHOLE PLANE AND RIGHT
ENGINE - RT ENGINE ON FIRE, EXPLODED IN AIR SOON
AFTER

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

10,000 - 11,000 FT.

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

• NONE KNOWN OF.

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

2 NAVIGATORS } ARMORER - GUNNER - UNKNOWN
Bombardier } Yes
Radio-Gunner }

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

RADIO-GUNNER AND BOMBARDIER

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.

Yes - ONE NAVIGATOR, SEND NOTE BY CIVILIANS
THAT HE WAS SAFE.
FRENCH SAID ARMORER-GUNNER WAS FOUND DEAD, NAVIGATOR
TAKEN PRISONER, AND PROBABLY TWO OTHERS.

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 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 reasons for his opinion?

Believe the pilot AND probably two
GUNNERS - CRASHED WITH THE SHIP. THE GUNNERS
WEREN'T WARNED OF THE FIRE AND THE PLANE
PROBABLY EXPLODED BEFORE THEY OR THE
PILOT COULD GET OUT.

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

ERBE ARTHUR C. 2nd Lt. 0-817644
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
12 (No. of missions)
585th 394th
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: 9 Aug 44

Date arrived in UK: 31 Aug 1944

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT Capt. D.R. Lindsey ? French told conflicting stories but we believe he went with ship
CO-PILOT 2nd Lt. A.C. Erbe
NAVIGATOR { 1st Lt. G. Hyson. Evaded -
1st Lt. W.J. Smith P.W. told by French civilians
BOMBARDIER 1st Lt. H.R. Hooper. Evaded
RADIO OPERATOR T/Sgt. R. Wylie ? UNKNOWN - Bailed out ahead of me.
TOP TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt D.R. Wilson - Killed - buried by Germans - told by French
BALL TURRET GUNNER
WAIST GUNNER
WAIST GUNNER S/Sgt Fells ? UNKNOWN
TAIL GUNNER S/Sgt. A.P. Lawson ? UNKNOWN

Decorations: AIR MEDAL

Date of Birth: 24 June 1924

Private Address: 49 MURIAM ST. VALLEY STREAM, N.Y.

Length of Service: 18 MONTHS

Job as Civilian: STUDENT

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

Homely South 1700

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

Yes

Were you wounded? Give details. Slight cut on right leg -

sprained right side in landing - Both healed

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

No

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

Did you have identity papers? No

(over)

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

Yes - IN FRANCE by: ADVANCE G-2 AT NEMOURS PW stockade

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?

Yes - to G-2 AT NEMOURS

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

Yes - SAME PLACE

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

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

31 AUGUST 1944 AIRSTRIP A-13 by AIR

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

Smith, W. J. 1st Lt.

Wylie, J.D. 1st TSgt

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

INDEX:

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
COMMUNIST
RECORDED

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 0-87644 and Lt. ARTHUR C. ERBE

Unit:- 394th Bomb Gp.

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? The French aided me immediately upon landing and I had no need for its contents
- 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? Gave it to French
- 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?
included one or two RAZOR blades A

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? Yes
State color of stripes and letters. Red
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? French

Compass.

Some, but not it wasn't an essential use.

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. French

How did you spend the money? Gave to French civilians who aided us.

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Gave to French.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

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

No

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? No
If so, how many?

b. Did you use them? No

5. LECTURES

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

Yes - June 1944 - Toomebridge Air F. Northern IRE.
IN GROUND School

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? Yes

Don't take evasion equipment so lightly
and always be prepared for the worst!

Secret.

E. & E. REPORT No. I.S. 9 (WEA) 8/184/522

TOP SECRET.
I.S. 9 (WEA)

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

EVASDED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) FRANCE

FE# 1264

For All Personnel.

- 1. No. 0-817644 Rank 2d Lt Name Arthur C. ERBE
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 12 missions
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details No
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) B-26, 585th Sqn.
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 394 B. Gp. 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Co-Pilot
- 7. Date of Birth 24 June 1922 8. Length of Service 18 mos
- 9. Peace time occupation Student 10. Private address 49 Miriam St.
Valley Stream, New York
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dogtags
- 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 CO-PILOT
- 16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.
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. Same as E & E Report 8/183
- PILOT
- 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 B-26, Pointoise, 9 August 44, 1700 hrs

18. Where and when did you come down? At Tauerny 1945 hrs

19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Taken by civilian

20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Secret.

Disposal:

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.

GERTIFIGATE

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) ARTHUR C. ERBE
Rank 2nd Lt. A. S. N. 0-817644
Unit 394th Bomb Gp

Signed Arthur C. Erbe
Dated 1 September 1944
Witness Charles A. Brown
1st Lt. AC

AG P BR HQ SCS 122472

RESTRICTED

EDE # 1264

RESTRICTED

1. Because disclosures of information regarding evasion from capture, escape, details of imprisonment, release from internment, and repatriation have been made, the lives and services of fellow soldiers and those who help them have been lost or endangered. All information which you possess on these subjects, including the experiences of others as well as your own, briefings and equipment for evasion and escape, and preparations and other activities in connection therewith, constitutes MILITARY INFORMATION which is classified SECRET by the War Department.

2. You will therefore disclose no information whatever, beyond the fact of your return to duty from "missing in action" or "prisoner of war" or "internment", to anyone except the following military officials:

- a. The first Military Attache to whom you report;
- b. An officer designated by the Commanding General of an overseas Theatre of Operations;
- c. The Prisoner of War Branch, MIS, Washington, D.C., the interrogating agency designated by the A/C of S, G-2, War Department General Staff;
- d. Certain other officers holding written authority from the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, to interrogate you.

3. You will particularly guard against disclosure of SECRET information to relatives, friends, representatives of the press and radio, and military officials, except as noted in a, b, c and d above.

4. In order to protect yourself against disciplinary action, any question involving publicity must be referred BY YOU PERSONALLY to the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, Washington, D.C.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that I have read and fully understand all of the foregoing and the Directive of the Secretary of War, 6 Aug 43 (on the reverse side), and will at ALL TIMES hereafter comply fully therewith.

I understand that all information concerning escape, evasion from capture, activities and equipment in connection therewith, and details of imprisonment or release from internment, is SECRET and must not be disclosed to anyone except the military officials specifically designated. I further understand that disclosure to any other person will make me liable to disciplinary action for failure to safeguard MILITARY INFORMATION.

I realize that publicity concerning my experiences, by word of mouth or otherwise, will endanger the lives of many persons and therefore it is my duty to take all possible precautions to prevent it.

I further certify that I have received a copy of the foregoing.

Name (Print) ARTHUR C. ERBE Signed Arthur C. Erbe

Rank 2nd Lt. A.S.N. 0-817644 Dated 27-8-44 Place Memours

Unit 394th Bomb Gp. Witness John Forsyth
2d Lt, CAE

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Departments;
Base Commands;
The Commanding Officers,
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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.

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By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J.A. ULIO
J.A. ULIO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

RESTRICTED

(See Reverse Side)

#1264
2nd Lt Arthur C Erbe

On the 9 August 1944, I landed ~~in-a-potato~~ in a field 20 feet from a road leading into St-Leu-La-Forêt. I hid ^dunder a peach tree for a while time while a little boy who saw me land took care of my chute. I beleive to have seen ~~from where I was~~, my radio man T/Sgt R Wylie, run but I am not sure.

A few minutes later the yǒng boy came with a man (Andre' Guelet) and they braught me food ~~and~~ civilian clothes. When it got dark M Guelet took me to a house inhabited by an old women and a yǒng one who spoke English. They put me ~~for~~ the night in an empty house next door to theirs. The next night M Guelet took me to his house in Taverny and after staying there a few minutes he took me to join Lt Harley R Hooper. From there on the rest of my journey is the same as his.

Byron

Erbe

Same as Hooper see his report.

I landed in a potato field 20 feet from a dirt road ^{East of it less} leading St Len - La Fayette. Everybody out of these houses, a kid took the shirt and Mary went and ran away. - I ran in a direction which a little told me to run and hid under a peach tree. - I saw another man run I thought to be our radio man WILEY. - A few minutes later a kid took me across the road hid me in thick grass brought sandwiches and peaches. a curfew came later with some food and clothes. I took off my murgua and put clothes over my uniform. When it got dark he (Auché) CUFLET. we went through one of these yards. we came to a large house banged to gate, got in there was an elderly woman and a young woman who spoke English. - they took for the night to an empty house next door. The next night pushing a wheel barrel I went to M. CUFLET house in TAVERNY. Ten minutes later I joined Hooper's wife.