

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
and QUESTIONNAIRE FOR I.S.9(WEA) PERSONNEL

SEPT 2-1944
(Date)

VEJDA CHARLES J T/SGT 37656545
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

BRIDGE-SIENE RIVER 28
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: AUG. 13-1944

Returned to UK: SEPT 2-1944

466 BOMB GR. 786 SQDN APO 558
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (List names by positions and indicate what happened to each one)

PILOT UNKNOWN 1ST LT. R.S. WOLLSTEIN, Richmond 0-692597 MIA
 CO-PILOT " 1ST LT. J.B. SMITH, 701007 - MIA
 NAVIGATOR " James C. OWENS C. 0-706963 - MIA
 BOMBARDIER " 1ST LT. F.A. RIEBE 0-701438 P/W
 RADIO OPERATOR MYSELF T/SGT C.J. VEJDA 3RD OWT.
 TOP TURRET GUNNER WOUNDED-BALED OUT PATIENT IN FR. HOSPITAL,
BERNARD TIGHE - T/SGT RAD (2752) #
 BALL TURRET GUNNER 1ST MAN TO BALE OUT. - (Joseph A. MELIN S/SGT
17051621 - MIA) RID 1353
 WAIST GUNNER S/SGT CLARK - 2ND TO BALE OUT. EVADED SUCCESSFULLY
 WAIST GUNNER S/SGT E.C. SCHAROEDER - READY TO FOLLOW S/SGT CLARK - UNKNOWN
Eldred 39556593 MIA
 TAIL GUNNER S/SGT A.W. PITTMAN - READY TO FOLLOW CLARK - UNKNOWN
Werk 18108816

8 SEEN BALED OUT - 2 PW'S ONE WOUNDED - 2 EVADED - 3 UNKNOWN

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. AUG-13-1940 NEAR SIENE RIVER

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
EXPLOSION - FIRE SWEEP NOSE AND FLIGHT DECK.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? ABOUT 16 THOUSAND FT.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? T/SGT B.H. TIGHE
BURNED AND FLAK INJURY. MYSELF BURNED - MODON FACE - EARS
3RD DEGREE ON BOTH LEGS. REST UNKNOWN

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open? EIGHT BAILED
OUT POSITIONS UNKNOWN, EXCEPT CLARK, J. MELIN, B.H. TIGHE
MYSELF.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? BELIEVED SO AS TO FR.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?
PEOPLE
S/SGT CLARK.

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.
B.H. TIGHE HOSPITALIZED. 2 TAKEN PW'S

(over)

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. NIL

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion? B.H. TIGHE RECOVERING

Were you wounded? YES - BURNED - MODERATELY ON FACE, EARS 3RD DEGREE ON BOTH LEGS.

Were you in German hands? NO

Did you kill any Germans in escaping? NO

Have you previously given the names of your helpers? YES

List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

What security briefing were you given? AT INTERIGATION

What souvenirs do you still possess? - NIL

Home address. 1548 7TH AVE SE. CEDAR RAPIDS IOWA.

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

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

1352
CONFIDENTIAL.



CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 37657545 Rank T/Capt

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) VEJDA, C. J.

Unit 786. Sqn USAAF 466-8

has been fully/~~briefly~~/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 31. Aug 1944.

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

Stamley
Major. *ph.*

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:

No. 37656045 Rank T/Sgt

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) VEJDA, C. J.

Unit 786. Sqn U.S.A.A.F.

has been fully/briefly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 11 Aug 1944.

and has signed a Security Certificate.

He should/should not/be re-interrogated.



Shamer Bay
11.20
Major. *[Signature]*

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.

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

EVADED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

For All Personnel.

- 1. No. 37656545 Rank T/Sjt Name Veida, C.J.
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) Air Medal, 3 oak clusters
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details. Face and legs badly burned.
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force)
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force)
- 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Radio Op
- 7. Date of Birth 2 Feb 23 8. Length of Service 1 1/2 yrs
- 9. Peace time occupation 10. Private address 1548 7th Ave. S.E. Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Discs, 9 photos
- 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 Radio Operator
- 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.

- PILOT See Report 2/292
- CO-PILOT
- NAVIGATOR
- BOMBARDIER
- RADIO OPERATOR
- TOP TURRET GUNNER
- BALL TURRET GUNNER
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) See Report 2/292
- WAIST GUNNER (L.)
- TAIL GUNNER

17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure

18. Where and when did you come down? Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Left in XXXXX tree. Attached: "B", "C", "D"

20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)
NWE 1:250,000 Sh.7

13 Aug 1. Our mission was to bomb bridge and rds in Rouen area, having two targets. After dropping bombs on first target we were hit by flak and there was an explosion in the a/c, and fire swept through the front half of the a/c and it went into a dive.

Hit by flak

Baled out on fire 2. I was on fire when I baled out, landed in some trees M.014008 NWE 1:250,000 Sh.7, took off my tunic and jumped to the ground. I started to run for 15 mins, when I met S/Sjt Clarke (2/292). My face and legs were badly burnt. We opened our escape kits, put ointment on my burns and got our direction from the compass.

Start walking 3. There was a circle of AA guns in the forest with a gap N.W. which we went through, and after an hour walked out of the forest.

Meet a Frenchman 4. We met a Frenchman with his son who spoke English, taking liquor in a wheelbarrow to the hills. I told him we were American aviators and I wanted medical attention but not German.

Fetches Dr. 4. He fetched a doctor who inspected my hip, broke the blisters and bound me up under a rly bridge.

Taken away That night some resistance men brought clothes for Sjt Clarke and took him away, fetching me later in a horse van covering me with straw. Here I re-met Sjt Clarke.

Delirious 5. I was delirious for two days during which Sjt Clarke looked after me. We remained with these helpers for 17 days, the last four days in their wine cellar as their roof was blown off by shelling.

30 Aug 6. On 30 Aug two Canadian engineers came along lifting mines whom we contacted. They took us to H.Q. where the O.C. Coy sent us to Caen where the civil affairs took us to Carpiquet.

31 Aug 31 Aug we were taken to I.S.9 (WEA)

Details of a/c 7. We were told by French helpers that they saw eight chutes from our a/c and that two were taken P/W, one in hospital - Clarke and myself, and three not accounted for. The woman doctor told me that an aviator burned and wounded, whom she called Bernard was taken to hospital, where the Germans took no action and handed him over to a young French Dr. I believe this man may be T/Sjt Bernard Tighe our Top Turret Gunner

FOR R.A.F. ONLY

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- WAIST GUNNER (L.)
- TAIL GUNNER

17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure

18. Where and when did you come down? Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date 31 Aug 44.

19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mask? Attached:

- Appendix "B"
- " "C"
- " "D"

20. Were aircraft and equipment destroyed?

Disposal: Major

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9WEA/2/291/941

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

No. 37656545 Rank T/Sjt Name Vejda, C.I.

Date of Interview 31 Aug 44

Para 5 main report

Helpers name unknown.

House, village of Couranne M.013009 (NWE 1:250,000 Sh. 7) bottom of hill.

Man has lost left eye and fingers left hand.

Housed, fed and nursed 13 - 30 Aug, 2 evaders (Reports 2/291 and 292

Daughter Madeline assisted and contacted help and woman doctor.

APPENDIX "D" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9WEA/2/291/941

No. 37656545 Rank T/Sjt Name Vejda, C.J.

Unit 786 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 or escape capture.

1. AIDS BOXES.

- (a) Did you use your aids box ? Yes
- (b) If not, why not ?
- (c) If you used it, state briefly when and where on landing
- (d) What did you use ? ointment for burns - no label
- (e) Did any of the items prove unsatisfactory ? No
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box ? Hidden by helpers
- (g) 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 it cannot be larger ?
Something good for burns and labelled.

2. PURSE.

- (a) Did you carry a purse ? Yes If not, why not ?
- State colour of purse Brown Mk.3
- (b) Did you use it ? Yes
- (c) If so which of the items in it were used ? Maps ? No
- Compass ? Yes File ? No
- Foreign currency Yes State countries and amounts used ? France 1,000 fcs.
- What was it spent for ? Part payment helpers
- (d) How did you dispose of : Maps Hidden File Hidden
- Compass Hidden Surplus currency 1,000 fcs ret'd. IS9 WEA

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

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS.

- Did you carry any passport size photographs ? If so, how many ? Yes, 9
- Did you use them? No

5. LECTURES.

- (a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape ? State where, when, and by whom if possible ? Yes
USA, England Lt. IO and evader
- (b) Did you find the lectures of value Yes
- (c) Do you have any suggestions based on your experience which will help other evaders and escapers ?

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WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 49) 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.

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) CHARLES JOSEPH VEJDA
Rank T/SGT A. S. N. 376 56545
Unit 466 GP 786 SQDN APO 558

Signed Charles J. Vejda
Dated Sept 3 - 1944
Witness _____

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WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-989 Pentagon

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Name (Print) CHARLES JOSEPH VEJDA
Rank T/SGT A. S. N. 37656545
Unit 466 GR. 786 SQDN A.P.O. 558

Signed Charles J. Vejda
Dated Sept. 3 - 1944
Witness _____

AG P BR HQ SCS

/22472

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