

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Lyberger, H. P. / 1st Sgt. 32277502

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

9/5/44

(Date)

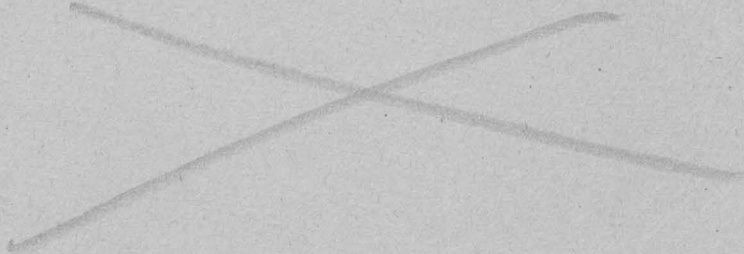
323 Bomb Sgd. 91 Bomb Gp.

(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.

Left plane just S. of St. Nazaire 16 Sept. 1400

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

Falling Apart. No Fire

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

16,000 Ft.

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

Don't know.

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

don't know 7 open

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Plane went out to sea.

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.

None

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.

Plane perhaps crashed in the Atlantic with no crew aboard.

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

Six of the other members probably alive because chutes opened.

SECRET

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

HAROLD LYBERGER T/Sgt 32277502
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: Sub base nr. Bordeaux

Date mission in action: 9/16/43

Date arrived in UK: 9/5/44

16 (No. of missions)

323 (Squadron) 91 (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions) Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

- PILOT Eldon, J. Smith, 1st Lt, 0792646 I saw 7 chutes
- CO-PILOT James, M. Cramer, 2d Lt, 0935059 in the air.
- NAVIGATOR Melbourne N. Banowetz, 1st Lt, 0735965 Contacted none
- BOMBARDIER Lloyd, S. Hansen, 1st Lt, 0731058 of the crew
- RADIO OPERATOR George, J. Smith, T/Sgt, 35335081 upon reaching
- TOP TURRET GUNNER Harold, R. Lyberger - Narrator the ground.
- BALL TURRET GUNNER Felix, A. Antonacchio, S/Sgt, 32432036
- WAIST GUNNER Thomas, B. Bone, S/Sgt, 14043437
- WAIST GUNNER LeRoy, M. Young, S/Sgt, 14001296
- TAIL GUNNER Joseph W. Mazzola, 11071993

all MIA

Decorations:

Date of Birth: JUNE, 1-1915

Private Address: 116 Summit Ave. Bloomfield, N.J.

Length of Service: April, 16-1942

Job as Civilian: Machine Operator

From what field did you take off? Bassingbourn Take off time: 9:AM

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes

Were you wounded? Give details. Injured Leg

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? No

Do you speak FRENCH? Some SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers? No

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

NO

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.

AIR. A-22-C

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

None

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

Don't know.

T/Sgt. Harold R. Lyberger — "C"

I was in the crew of a bomber shot down on 16 September 1943 ~~to~~ in the area of ST. NAZAIRE. I made my way on foot to ST. HILAIRE (about 22 mi. SE of NANTES). I spent one year on the farm of M. RENÉ GUILLET, LA PREVILLE, ST. HILAIRE DE LOULAY, VENDE. During this time, JOSEPH CAHIER (?) or CAILLER, of NANTES (about 50 yrs, very stout, about 5'9", light hair, slightly gray, livid complexion) came to GUILLET'S house several times to arrange to evacuate me. He was said to have helped other American evaders.

I was picked up in the American advance on 4 September, 1944.

Field

Bombing mission on 16 Sept 1943 to
St Nazaire area. Shot down & made
way to St Hilaire (about 22 mi
SE of Nantes. Was taken care of for
one year at the farm of M. René
Guillet La-Preuille, St Hilaire de Loulay,
Vende. Maguis in Nantes notified
Americans of his presence, and he was
able to join them, on 2 Sept. Saw
Dir G-2, who asked him no questions,
but sent him by jeep to the nearest
air corps field (ptr base at Rennes),
thence to 9th AF Hq. Thence to UK.
Was not interrogated until arrival in
London.

Joseph Cahier (?) who lived
in Nantes (about 50 yrs old, very stout,
~~was~~ about 5'9" light hair, slightly gray,
livid complexion). Came to Guillet's house
to arrange his trip several times. ~~Said~~
He was said to have helped other American
evaders.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

T/sgt. A. P. Lyberger

Unit:-

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? *No Box*
- 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?
- 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?

2. PURSE

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

File (hacksaw). *No*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money? *French - For food 2000 Francs*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *Lost*

Compass. *Souvenir*

File (hacksaw). *Thrown Away*

No 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?
If so, how many? *2*

b. Did you use them? *No*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *No*
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? *No*

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

List all military information which you observed or were told while evading. Give fullest possible details. (Airfields, troop encampments, coastal and interior defenses, AA batteries, radar installations, troop movements, results of allied bombing, location of enemy factories and ammunition dumps, enemy and civilian morale, etc., etc.,.....)

None

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 388.6 (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 388.6 (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) Lyberger Harold R
Rank T/sgt. A. S. N. 3227750 2
Unit 323 Bomb Sqd. 91 Bomb Gp

Signed Harold R Lyberger
Dated 5 Sep 44
Witness Field in 13th Lt 87

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

RESTRICTED