

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

9-6-44
(Date)

DARDEN, James L. S/Sgt. 19179063
(Name) (Rank) (ASIV)

St. Omer 34
(Target) (Number of missions)

92nd B. Gp. 326 B. Sqd
(Unit)

Date Missing in Action: July 8-44

Returned to UK: Sept. 6-44

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

PILOT - 1st Lt. Sabin, Myron E. 0-677579 - R+D 1699
CO-PILOT - 1st Lt. Dooner, James J. 0-709313 - MIA
NAVIGATOR - 2d Lt. Joseph (NMI) MARKEHho, 0-819132 - MIA
BOMBARDIER - 1st Lt. Johnson, Donald, 0-664776 - MIA
RADIO OPERATOR T/Sgt. Moyer, Frederick C. 15324800 - R+D 1700
TOP TURRET GUNNER T/Sgt. Nelson, Lawrence R. 17109346 - MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER Sgt. Ruckreigle, Lawrence 36563643 - MIA
WAIST GUNNER } S/Sgt. Kermie Cooksey - Returned (R+D) 1557 - R+D
WAIST GUNNER } 35647617
TAIL GUNNER S/Sgt. J. L. Darden - Returned (NARRATOR)

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

July 8-44 St. Omer
Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

Not on fire - totally destroyed

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

10,000

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

Yes

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

RADIO OPERATOR - Yes

TAIL gunner - Yes

WAIST gunner - 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?

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. Yes.

Lt. Dooner - Dog tags

T/Sgt. Nelson Dog tags

(over) others by the body

Sgt. Ruckreigle Dogtags

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

Yes - ~~It~~ totally 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?

Killed by flak when hit.

Were you wounded?

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.

Roger Cressent - Jacqueline Lafibre ^{Mile}
Maurice Marchille - St. Saire France

What security briefing were you given?

not fully.

What souvenirs do you still possess?

pictures - German helmet

Home address.

1352 14th St. San Pedro, Calif.

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.

T/Sgt. Moyer

CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 19179063 Rank S/Sgt.
Name (BLOCK LETTERS) DARDEN. J-L.
Unit 326 Sqdn 92 Wp. (B)

has been ~~fully~~/briefly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 4 Sep 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate. ✓

He should/should not/be re-interrogated.

Mervell Caples
Major.

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

NOTIFIED THAT:

This Officer/W.O./N.C.O. has special information on the following subjects:—

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) _____

Unit _____

has been fully/briefly interviewed by an Intelligence Officer of I.2.9 (WEA) on _____

and has signed a Security Certificate.

He should should not be re-interrogated.

Major.

IMPORTANT.

M.I.2. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.
AN OFFICER OF M.I.2 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & X. DET.
THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH)

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

EVADED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) FRANCE

For All Personnel.

1. No. 19179063 Rank S/Sjt Name DARDEN James L.
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) Air Medal + 3. 34 missions.
3. Were you wounded? Give details No.
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) A.A.F. 326 B. SQN.
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 1 Div. 92 B. Gp. 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.)
7. Date of Birth 29 Apr 1924. 8. Length of Service 23 months.
9. Peace time occupation Student. 10. Private address 1352, 14th St, SAN PEDRO CALIFORNIA.
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Dog Tags. No 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 TROOPSWHO BALE OUT

15. Post in Crew Tail Gunner.
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
- CO-PILOT
- NAVIGATOR
- BOMBARDIER See Report No. I.S.9 WEA/1/139.
- 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
18. Where and when did you come down? NISLE HODENG M 5442 NWE 4.
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Hidden.
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? A/c destroyed.

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)
EVASION CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country)
FRANCE
For All Personnel.

1. No. 1975063
Rank 2/3rd Lt
Name DAVEN James D.
(U.K.: Acting Temp. or W2)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) Air Medal + 3
3. Were you wounded? Give details 34 missions
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), 2nd (Air Force) No.
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 1 Div. 92 B. Gp. A.A.F. 356 B. Gp.
6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rtn., etc.)
7. Date of Birth 29 Apr 1924
8. Length of Service 23 months
9. Peace time occupation 2 student
10. Private address 1352, 14th St, SAN PEDRO CALIFORNIA
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? No 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 Tail Gunner.
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
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

18. Where and when did you come down?
Date 4 Sep 44
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and map case?
Briefly interrogated.

Attached:

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

Disposal: U.K.

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)
All papers and equipment destroyed?
Major G.S.

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9 WEA/1/144/976

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

No. 19179063 Rank S/Sjt Name DARDEN J.L.

Date of Interview 4 Sep 44.

(a) Did you use your aids box? Yes.

(b) If not, why not?

Map Used: NWE 4.

(c) If you used it, state briefly when and where. Lost out of flying boat when bailing out.

(d) What did you use? Helped by:

1. ROGER CRESSENT, Schoolmaster,

(e) Did any of the items prove unwanted? NESLE HODENG PAR ST SAIRE (M 5442)

(f) How did you use it? 2. M & Mme MAURICE MARSECH Farmer.

ST SAIRE (M 5441)

(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?

3. Mlle JACQUELINE LEFEBURE
NESLE HODENG.

2. PURSE.

(a) Did you carry a purse? If not, why not?

State colour of purse

(b) Did you use it?

(c) If so which of the items in it were used? Maps? Yes above.

Compass? File?

Foreign currency State countries and amounts used?

What was it spent for?

(d) How did you dispose of: Maps File

Compass Surplus currency

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? No.

Did you use them?

5. LECTURES.

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? State where, when, and by whom if possible? Yes, many

times by Sgt I. O. and Sgt B. A. B. (Capt. H. H. H.) Early 1944.

(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 escapees? Yes.

APPENDIX "D" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9 WEA/1/144. 976

No. 19179063 Rank S/Sjt Name DARDEN J. L.

Unit 326 SQN 92 Gp (B)

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 Lost out of flying boat when baling out.
- (d) What did you use ?
- (e) Did any of the items prove unsatisfactory ?
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box ?
- (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 ?

2. PURSE.

- (a) Did you carry a purse ? If not, why not ?
State colour of purse
- (b) Did you use it ?
- (c) If so which of the items in it were used ? Maps ? See above.
Compass ? File ?
Foreign currency State countries and amounts used ?
What was it spent for ?
- (d) How did you dispose of : Maps File
Compass Surplus currency

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 ? No.
Did you use them ?

5. LECTURES.

- (a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape ? State where, when, and by whom if possible ? Yes. Many times by Stn I.O.s and E & Es. (Capt. MONEYMAKER) Early 1944.
- (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 ? Yes.

E4E4 1550
CONFIDENTIAL.



CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 19179063 Rank S/Sgt.
Name (BLOCK LETTERS) DARDEN. JAMES J-L.
Unit 326 Sqdn 92 Gr. (B) 8th

has been ~~fully~~/briefly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9 (WEA) on 4 Sept 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate. ✓

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

MIA 8 July

Mervell Capello
Major.

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.

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.

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) Darden, James L.
Rank S/Sgt. A. S. N. 19179063
Unit 92nd B. Grp. 326 B. Sqd.

Signed James L Darden
Dated Sept. 6 - 44
Witness _____

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

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