

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Housey, Byron M. T/Sgt. 33366957
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

6/9/44
(Date)

587 BB Sq. 392 BB Gp. (H)
(Unit)

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

23 June '44 20:00 o'clock Liaon

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

Was it on fire, etc?

all controls and A5 were out - wings full of holes #1 eng. out.
* 4 eng. running away

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? from 18,000' to approx. 10,000'/16

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

2nd Lt. McSweeney - flak wounded left hand Sgt. Hardy - wounded
Sgt. Heckert - believed killed but not confirmed

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

all except ~~tail~~ gunner tail gunner - pilot's chute didn't open but
not confirmed

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 - co-pilot & navigator

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise. Same information as mentioned above

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions? 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 reason for his opinion?

3 Killed - 1 prisoner - 5 escaped with French Help.

SECRET

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

Houser, Byron M. T/sgt. 33366857
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

13 (No. of missions)

578 BB. Sqd. 392 BB. (H)
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: Airfield at
LAON
Date mission in action: 26/6/44
Date arrived in UK: 6/9/44

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

PILOT ^{1st Lt.} C. G. McCarthy - Believed Killed - but not confirmed - chute didn't open

CO-PILOT ^{2nd Lt.} T. Gerbing - in hands of French. - I saw him.

NAVIGATOR ^{2nd Lt.} J. McSweeney - " " " " " "

BOMBARDIER Sgt. E. Hardy - ~~killed~~ died due to flak wound. Report by French who took his dog tag.

RADIO OPERATOR T/sgt. Knight - believed P.W. Not confirmed

TOP TURRET GUNNER Myself.

BALL TURRET GUNNER None

WAIST GUNNER S/sgt. J. Morris - with french but not confirmed

WAIST GUNNER Sgt. J. Elsleger - with " " " "

TAIL GUNNER Sgt. Heckert - believed killed by Flak and was in plane when it crashed - not confirmed

Decorations: Air medal ^{cluster} ~~at~~ Eto ribbon

Date of Birth: Jan. 26, 1920

Private Address: 63 Main St. Beaver Meadows, Penna.

Length of Service: 1 yr. 10 mos.

Job as Civilian: Machinist

From what field did you take off? Take off time. Sta. 118 17:30

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? yes.

Were you wounded? Give details. dislocated finger - Muscles torn in left shoulder

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

Do you speak FRENCH? A little SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers? yes.

(over)

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? yes - 63 Brook St. London 6/9/44

Date of arrival in Spain: _____

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: _____

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. 6/9/44

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.

2nd Lt. Gertling
2nd Lt. McSweeney

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.

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) Byron M. Housey

Signed

Byron M. Housey

Rank Tsgt. A. S. N. 33366957

Dated

6/Sept. 44

Unit 578 BB. Sqdn. 392 BB. Gp. (H)

Witness

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

RESTRICTED

1574
T/Sgt. Byron M. Houser

Sgt. Houser came down about a mile NE of BRUYERES (AISNE) on 26 June 1944. He made his way through the woods and next morning approached a farm where he was given civilian clothes. The people here called a doctor to attend to Houser's injuries and kept him until the next morning when two gendarmes came for him, gave him an I/C, and took him to a bakery in BRUYERES which was kept by a man and wife and their 21 year old daughter. Houser lived here for six days, and during that time Lts. Gerbing and McSweeney were brought in. The three Americans were then taken to MARIZELLE (AISNE) where for $2\frac{1}{2}$ weeks they lived in the home of PAULETTE and ELIZABETH LAFONT, the first 25 and the second 20 years old, and an older woman whose husband was a P/W. During this time Houser was taken to the hospital in CHAUNY to have his finger set. The evaders were then moved to the home of M. & Mme. CARION in LUBEC. Here they remained until 1 September, although for a few days the woman who lived across the road from the CARIONS kept Houser for a few days and relatives of the CARIONS hid him in the woods for a few days while the Germans were rounding up men to work in Germany. On 1 September American troops came into Lubec. The next day Houser went to MARIZELLE and was passed back through Division, Corps, and Army to LE BOURGET whence he left by air for the U. K. on 6 Sept.

Chermes

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.,.....)

~~I~~ I had to hide most of the time. But the german fighters fly right down on the deck and form about 30 miles behind lines.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND F REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 33366957- *T/Sgt. Housey, Byron M.*

Unit:- *578 BB Sqd. 392 BB. Gp. (H)*

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~~ *yes*
- b. If not, why? *no*
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights". *chewed gum & ate few malted milk tablets the first and only night in woods.*
Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum. *good when thirsty*

Water bottle.

Compass. *used first night for direction*

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *destroyed and buried it.*
- 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?
I would like a little more gum & at least one pack of cigarettes put into it.

2. PURSE *gave money to people I stayed with.*

- a. Did you carry a purse? *yes*
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? *Maps. The one with northern France on it.*

Compass, *yes*

File (hacksaw). *no*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *yes French. 2000 Francs*
How did you spend the money? *Cigarettes and gave remainder to people I stayed with.*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *buried*

Compass. *buried*

File (hacksaw). *buried*

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? *yes*
If so, how many? *three*

b. Did you use them? *yes*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *yes*
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.
sta. 118 can't remember when or by whom

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?

to carry a small packet containing razor-blades - Tooth brush and a few packs of cigarettes.

Hansen

Peak just before target. All controls out. #1 engine out + #4 ran away. I bailed out at 10000 ft., dislocated finger, tore muscles in shoulder leaving plane. Hit the ground, couldn't use left arm, lay flat in woods.

1 mile
N.E. of
BRUYERE

German arrived. Stayed till dark, then went about 2 miles. Slept in woods + next morning approached farm, got civilian clothes + had a doctor look at my arm. Stayed until next morning when 2 gendarmes came + took me to ~~the~~ a baker-shop in BRUYERE where I stayed 6 days (Man +

got me
1/2

from
here to
1 Sept
Lt Gerbing
& McSwaney
were with
me. Now
with
troops.

wife + 21 yr old daughter) then I was moved to MARIZELLE ^(AUSNE) where I stayed 2 1/2 weeks with Paulette + Elizabeth LAFONT and an older woman about 50, her husband Pw. I was meanwhile taken to hospital in CHAVNY to have finger set. Then I was moved to a town 1 1/2 miles away, LUBEC, to M. + Mme CARION. Woman across the street kept me for a while. Relatives of CARION hid me in woods a few days when the Germans were rounding up men to take to Germany.

On 1 September the Americans came into town. Next morning to MARIZELLE + then on 3 September a Capt pilot took me to his HQ where I was given news to 63rd Troop ST. Next day to Division. Thence to Corps. Next day to VICTOR REAR. They took me to Le Bourget

air field + flew to U.K. 6 Sept.