

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

O'LEARY, Rawlin E. S/Sgt 19116035  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Sept. 8, 1944  
(Date)

390th Bomb. Gr. 570th Sqdn.  
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT  
OFFICIAL STATUS

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. *Aug. 1, 1944, 1500  
East of TOURS, FRANCE, APPROX. 4 miles.*

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
*NO. 3 ENG. ON FIRE, NO. 4 ENG HIT AND RUNNING AWAY.  
HIT IN WAIST, HIT IN PILOT'S COMPARTMENT.*

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? *22,000 ft.*

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?  
*Lt. Thomas R. Whitmore wounded right arm.*

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?  
*Co. pilot, Either Bomb. or Nav. Engineer, Ball Turret,  
Left Waist Gunner, Tail Gunner.*

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? *UNKNOWN.*

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?  
*YES, BALL TURRET MAN, Sgt. Donald E. Jirik*

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. *French-English intelligence man said that 6 shots had been counted that upon crashing two had been captured by Germans and one shot trying to escape.*

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. *\_\_\_\_\_*

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

*Two of them safe and O.K. returned to U.K. with  
Sgt. Jirik. Other member Co. pilot O.K. with Maquis  
Other three that parachuted in all probabilities  
picked up by French and O.K.  
Rest of crew - UNKNOWN.*

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

TARGET:

Rawlin E. O'Leary Sgt 19116035  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Date mission in action: 8-1-44

Date arrived in UK: 9-7-44

1st (No. of mission)

570th 390th  
(Squadron) (Group)

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

PILOT 2nd Lt. Anthony J. Forte - UNKNOWN

CO-PILOT 2nd Lt. Thomas R. Whitmore - Wounded by flak in right arm. Bailed out O.K. Met him at a Naquies camp later where he remained to have his arm taken care of.

NAVIGATOR 2nd Lt. Charles C. Arnaud - UNKNOWN.

BOMBARDIER 2nd Lt. Gregory W. Collins - UNKNOWN.

RADIO OPERATOR Sgt. Robert T. McKnight - UNKNOWN

TOP TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt. Rawlin E. O'Leary - Bailed out O.K. Successfully evaded Germans.

BALL TURRET GUNNER Sgt. Donald E. Jirik - Evaded together.

WAIST GUNNER L.W.G. Stephen C. Sideroff - UNKNOWN.

WAIST GUNNER Nine man crew - Radio Oper. acted as R.W.G.

TAIL GUNNER Sgt. John W. Craddock. UNKNOWN.

Decorations: —

Date of Birth: JUNE 9, 1922.

Private Address: 1795 So. 3rd East, Salt Lake City, 4, Utah.

Length of Service: 2 YRS.

Job as Civilian: Student at University of Utah.

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

FRAMLING HAM, ENGLAND 1000

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? UNKNOWN

Were you wounded? Give details.

No, sprained right ankle upon landing in chute.

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

Do you speak FRENCH?

SPANISH?

GERMAN?

ITALIAN?

OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers?

No. Only dog tags.

(over)



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

**Yes, LENANS, FRANCE, MAJOR MC BAKER  
LAVAL, FRANCE, Tech Sgt. P.W.X.**

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?

**LENANS, FRANCE - MAJOR MC BAKER  
LAVAL, FRANCE - Tech Sgt. P.W.X.**

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, England  
Sept. 8, 1944.**

Date of arrival in Spain: —

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: —

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. **LAVAL, FRANCE, Air**

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.

**Cpt. Blood  
Lt. Hershey  
Lt. Davis  
Lt. Frodenburg  
Lt. Jack Vienneses  
Lt. Fairweather  
Major. Leamer  
Sgt. Bebee  
Sgt. Sidney Mc Collum  
Sgt. John Nind  
Lt. Thomas R. Whitmore  
Sgt. Joseph Goerntz  
Pvt. Joseph Lochmodier  
Lt. Robbins  
Lt. Messiner  
Sgt. Edmundsons**

1708  
S/Sgt. RAWLIN E. O'LEARY — "C"

I was a crew member on a B-17 shot down about 4 mi. E. of TOURS, France, on 1 August. Farmers took me and Sgt. JIRIK, of my crew, to a man near BLÉRÉ who said he was a Captain in the Brit Intelligence. ~~He~~ He was about 45-50, average height, medium build, graying hair, did not speak perfect English. He asked us to write letters to our CO and to our family and give them to him, which we did. We then left to join the Maquis. On the way we were helped by VERGIL GIRAUD (?) near BLÉRÉ. We joined Maquis in the same neighborhood, staying with them one week, afterwards going to the Delorme's farm (see ETE No. — — Lt Bartholomew) west of BETZ-CHATEAU. We joined Lt. BARTHOLOMEW there, staying about 2½ weeks. Then all three of us went to a Maquis camp just south of LOCHES. While we were here we saw a colored soldier (US) in a jeep. He had somehow strayed here from the American forces at LE MANS. He drove us to LE MANS where we came under allied control.

held



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 Forces;  
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.

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(See Reverse Side)

## 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) Rowlin E. O'Leary.... Signed Rowlin E. O'Leary  
Rank S/SGT..... A.S.N. 19116035.... Dated 8 Sep 44..... Place.....  
Unit 390th Bomb Grp, 570th Sqn.... Witness W. H. Hildner.....  
1st Lt

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## O'Leary + Sirik

B-17 crew members shot down about 4 mi E of Tours, France, on 1 Aug. French farmers took them, passed them on to others. Met man who said he was a Capt in Brit Int. Near Bléré. Maybe 45-50 yrs old, did not speak perfect English, average height, medium build, graying hair, asked them to write letters to family & to CO, & give them to him. They did so. Then he had them sent to Maguis. ~~in the~~ On the way they were helped Vergil Giraud (?), near Bléré. Just SE of Bléré. Thence to Maguis in same neighborhood. With them 1 week. ~~Met~~ Were joined by Lt. Gabriel P. Bartholomew, P-47 pilot of 366 Fth Gp, 9<sup>th</sup> AF. Left Maguis, went ~~S.W. Farm~~ To farm of Marie-Louise and Martha Delorme. 6 Km West of Betz Chateau. ~~At~~ about 15 mi SW of Loches. Stayed about 2 1/2 weeks. Went with Maguis to camp just S of Loches. While in camp they saw a US colored soldier in a jeep. He was lost halfway across France from the American lines. Joined him & traveled to Le Mans. ~~Interrogated~~ Sent to Laval by CO of Fth Gp at Le Mans.



Were taken to something called PW and X Det at ~~Laval~~ near Laval (at Bangway)  
~~Capt~~ Tech Sgt took names + rank etc.  
Was going to send them to Paris to 15-9 for "thorough interrogation". Captain (name not known) member of PW + X Det, came in and said they should not be sent to Paris but should go to UK as soon as possible. He evidently did not approve of referring people to 15-9, but rather sending them all to UK immediately. This was not for reasons of expediency however, as evidenced by the fact that ~~he~~ Lt Bartholomew was permitted to visit + spend several days with his ftr gp. at Dreux, while the 2 sergeants were sent direct to UK. Sent by C-47. Not interrogated at all. No security certificate.



SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:— *19116035, S/Sgt, Rawlin E. O'Leary*

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? *Yes.*
- b. If not, why? —
- 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). *While traveling southward.*

Matches. *Lighting Cigarettes.*

Adhesive tape. *Tape blisters on feet.*

Chewing gum. *Used while enroute to Maquis*

Water bottle. —

Compass. *Used in traveling southward from Maquis*

Sewing kit. — *Used to sew buttons on my pants + darn hole in my sock.*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *No.*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *Retained 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?  
*Kit is O.K.*

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *Yes., MARK IV*  
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? *ONE of FRANCE*

~~Compass.~~

File (hacksaw). *not used*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *2000 FRANCS, French*  
How did you spend the money? *For food and lodgings*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *Retained*

Compass. *Lost my COMPASS.*

File (hacksaw). *Retained*

Surplus currency. *Given to French farmer as payment of our gratitude in keeping us and hiding us.*

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? *No.*

b. Did you use them? —

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *Yes. Kearney, Neb. June 25,*  
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

*1944, Southham, England JULY 12, 1944.*

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?

*Co-operate fully with your helpers.*

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.,.....)