

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

0-441850
MCCORMICK, WILLIAM A. JR. CAPT.
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
371 FTR. GRP. 405 SQ.
(Unit)

SEPT. 10, 1944
(Date)

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. 27, 1944-1300 - 6 MILES SOUTH EAST OF DITCH, FRANCE

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

PLANE WAS HIT WITH LIGHT FLAK, (20mm.) AND IMMEDIATELY GOUGHT ON FIRE.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

1000 FEET OR LESS.

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

PILOT BURNED ON RIGHT KNEE, RIGHT ANKLE, AND AROUND FACE.

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

PILOT - 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?

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.

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?

1991
Captain William A. McCormick, Jr. , "C" Report

My fighter plane was shot down near Dijon, on Aug 27, 1944. Helpers took me to a farm at Chevigny. From here I went to St Jean de Losne, where I ~~stayed~~ stayed 3 days with Coudor, a dairy man. After this I joined the Maquis in a camp north of St Cloud. From here I went to Grenoble, where I contacted a US Major who sent me to Ramatullet. Hence I was sent in a C-47 to Marcianise, Italy, and thence to Caserta, Hq MAAF.

NOTE: Mme Andrade, of St Jean de Losne, was a good helper.

Field

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) WILLIAM A. McCORMICK, Jr. Signed William A. McCormick, Jr.
Rank CAPT A.S.N. O-441850 Dated SEPT. 10, 1944 Place London
Unit 371 Ftr. GRP. 405 Sq. Witness R. B. Field
1st Lt. 2nd

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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-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.

RESTRICTED

(See Reverse Side)

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

0-441850

MCCORMICK, WILLIAM A JR CAPT.

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

76

(No. of missions)

405

(Squadron)

371

(Group)

TARGET: RAIL ROADS EAST
OF DIJON - FRANCE

Date mission in action: AUG 27 1944

Date arrived in UK: MARCH 1, 1945

9 Sep 44

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions)

Indicate what
happened to each man
and how you know.

PILOT MCCORMICK, WILLIAM A JR.

CO-PILOT

NAVIGATOR

BOMBARDIER

RADIO OPERATOR

TOP TURRET GUNNER

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

Decorations: AIR MEDAL - D.F.C.

Date of Birth: 3-27-1921

Private Address: MCDONALD, NORTH CAR.

Length of Service: 3 YEARS

Job as Civilian: COLLEGE STUDENT

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

Chateaudun, about 1030

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

YES
Were you wounded? Give details.

I WAS BURNED ON MY RIGHT KNEE, RIGHT ANKLE,
AND AROUND MY FACE

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

NO
Do you speak FRENCH?

SPANISH?

GERMAN?

ITALIAN?

OTHER LANGUAGE?

NO

NO

NO

NO

NO

Did you have identity papers?

NO

(over)

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

FRENCH 5-2 - GRENOBLE FRANCE

HQ ARMY AIR FORCES MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When? *MAT*

YES - HQ. ARMY A. F. MEDIT. THEATER. OF OP. ROYAUME

SEPT. 6-1944

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

SAME AS ABOVE.

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

SEPT. 10, 1944

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air.

CASABLANCA SEPT. 9, 1944

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.

NONE

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *McCORMICK, WILLIAM A. TR O-441850*
CAPT.

Unit:- *391 FTR. GRP. 405 SQ.*

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".

I USED THE ADHESIVE TAPE TO DRESS MY LEG.
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?

I HAVE IT NOW.

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? *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? **YES**

MAP OF FRANCE

Compass,

NO
File (hacksaw).

NO
Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

2,000 FRANKS

I USED THE MONEY GETTING OUT OF
d. How did you dispose of:- **FRANCE. (FOOD & SO FORTH).**

Maps.

I HAVE THE MAPS

Compass.

I HAVE " COMPASS.

File (hacksaw).

" " HACKSAW

Surplus currency.

NONE
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?

YES - 4

b. Did you use them?

NO
5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

371 FTR. GAP. - SEVERAL TIMES

b. Did you find the lectures of value? **EXACT TIME AND BY WHOM**
UNKNOWN-

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?

NO.