

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

DON FREEMAN Sgt. 19209770
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
351st 870th Sq.
(Unit)

Sept. 12, 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.

Sept. 8, 1944 Ground 1:00 P.M. outside village of
Thionville

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

Plane had lost power in all four engines

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

2000 ft.

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

No

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

I saw 3 men bail out - Sansack, Cooper, ?

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 - The French told me that 3 men were dead and 5 captured - also he said the pilot was dead - How he knew I don't know

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

Could not get close as Germans were there - but got within 200 ft and wing tip was beyond that distance

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?

The only information I have is that 3 were dead and 5 captured - I can account for 2 as being dead - one chute did not open one landed in the trees about 150 yds. From where plane hit could have been one -

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

Unit:-

Freeman

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. *while in The wood for one day*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube). *None*

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *No*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *No*

Matches. *yes - for a pipe*

Adhesive tape. -

Chewing gum. -

Water bottle. -

Compass. *yes - started for american lines*

Sewing kit. -

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
No
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box?
American Inv. Soldier wanted 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?

It seemed to be pretty well fixed for its purpose

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse?
State color of stripes and letters. *yes - Red*
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? *of France (Zones of France)*

Compass, *yes*

File (hacksaw). *did not have one*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

2000 F 50 marks gave the money to French

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *did not*

Compass. *did not*

File (hacksaw). *-*

Surplus currency. *none*
did not

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion?

yes - compasses pencil type

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.

yes - IN Kearny, Neb and at home base

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?

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.,.....)

TOP SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
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APPENDIX C, TECH. SHEET

1. Did you jump or crash land?

JUMP

2. What was the town or village nearest to which you jumped or crash landed?

Thionville, France

3. How long was it before you got help?

about 50 minutes. civies - walked till night then real help.

4. List the people who helped you and the location (city, town, or village) in which you were with them, including addresses where possible. After the name or description of each person with whom you stayed give the approximate dates between which you were with him.

M+M^{me} Emile Weisskopf

95 Rue de la chapelle

Nilrange

Moselle, France

Paul et Pamy Nicolas

6 Rue Franchet d'Esperay

Nilrange

Moselle

(I have photos of men)

*stayed in house, fed, hid
- 1 mt. + day. Shelling started
Sept 9*

(Bro-in-law) - sheltered from shelling

mt. 9 - morning of 11. Then

heard Americans in next

town. Put on civies.

talked 2 men to

meet Amer. inf. Sept 11

at CP - jeep to strips to go.

Sept. 11 - 12th - 13 - Breuck

5. List other American and British evaders whom you saw during your evasion and state where you saw them.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

DON FREEMAN, Sgt. 19209770
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

14 (No. of missions)

570 351
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: Ludwickshaven 1944

Date mission in action: Sept. 8, 1944

Date arrived in UK: Sept. 11, 1944

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

Indicate what
happened to each man
and how you know.

PILOT 2d Lt. Shera, George W. 2d Lt, 0819189 (MIA)
CO-PILOT Lt. Sweetnam, Le-Roy 2d Lt, 0702860 (POW)
NAVIGATOR F/O Loverde, Steven, F/O, T-125820 (POW) 5 P/W
BOMBARDIER F/O Mason, Richard, F/O, T-3264 (POW) 3 dead
RADIO OPERATOR Van Wirt, Wallace, 1st Sgt, 37553934 (MIA) (French sources)
TOP TURRET GUNNER Cooper, Dewey, 1st Sgt, 34652361 (MIA)
BALL TURRET GUNNER JANESACK, Edward, Sgt, 32922884 (MIA)
WAIST GUNNER HAGANS, Robert, Sgt, 35225544 (POW)
WAIST GUNNER None
TAIL GUNNER FREEMAN, Don W, Sgt, 19209770 (RTD 2010)

Decorations:

Date of Birth: Sept. 20, 1925

Private Address: Box 1315 Wallace, Idaho

Length of Service: 11 MOS.

Job as Civilian: aircraft mechanic

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

Po/brook, around 7:00 A.M.

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

yes

Were you wounded? Give details.

No

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

I did not pay them just gave them money to buy food

Do you speak FRENCH?

SPANISH?

GERMAN?

ITALIAN?

OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers?

dog-tags

(over)

Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom?
S-2 Yes - briefed at home base and at G-2 in France

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?
Yes - at home base Sept. 11-1944

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?
Yes home base Sept. 11, 1944

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

NO Yes. C3 BROOK 12/9/44

Date of arrival in Spain: -

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: -

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

Sept. 11, 1944 - supply base used by C-47 transport

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.

2010

R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS
AAF STATION 110
APO 557

12 September 1944.

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 255)

E X T R A C T

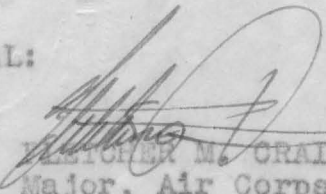
* * * *

2. PAC VOCC this date, Sgt DON W FREEMAN 19209770 510th Bomb Sq (H), WPGM and/or rail o/a 12 Sept 44 on TD to London, purpose carry out orders of CO. TD not to exceed one (1) day. EM will rpt to 63 Brooks Street. Reimbursement not to exceed \$5.00 per day is atzd if govt grs and subs are not avail in accordance with Cir 63, Hq, ETOUSA 5 June 1944. CTRS TCNT (under Ltr Hq, ETOUSA 24 May 44). TDN FSA 1942/45 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

* * * *

By order of Lt Colonel BURNS:

OFFICIAL:


FLETCHER M. CRAIG,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

FLETCHER M. CRAIG,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

R E S T R I C T E D

Sgt Don W. FREEMAN
19209770
510 Sqdn, 315 B Gp

12 Sept 44

2010

I bailed out on 8 Sept and landed near THIONVILLE, (Moselle), France. Within five minutes, Frenchmen had given me civilian clothes and indicated the direction in which I should walk.

That evening, I went to the home of M and Mme EMILE WEISSKOFF, 95(or 15) Rue de la Chapelle, NILVANGE (Moselle). I remained overnight with them and their three children. The next day the shelling of the village started, so we all went to home of Mme WEISSKOFF's brother, PANLY(or PAULEF) NICOLAS, 6 Rue Franchet d'Esperay, NILVANGE.

We stayed in his bomb shelter with his two children from the 9th until the morning of the 11th when I heard that American troops were in the next town. I put on civilian clothes again and walked with two Frenchmen until we met an American infantry unit. ~~We reported to their CP on 11 Sept and were sent to~~

I reported to their CP on 11 Sept and was sent to an air strip nearby. I was flown back to my group, then to the UK, arriving here on the same date.

HIGLENN

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.

RESTRICTED

(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) DON. W. T. FREEMAN Signed Don. Freeman

Rank Sgt A.S.N. 19209770 Dated 7-12-44 Place London

Unit 307 - 510 Witness Walter D. Henry Capt. USA

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