

T/Sgt Phillip B Latta 1084841
8016p

2066

14 Sept

I was in the same crew as Lt M.L. Simon. On the 6 May 1944, I bailed out and saw two chutes in the air. I landed two miles Sw of Marcigny (Soane et Loire) I hid until night, then got civilian clothes in a farm, ^{and then} slept there for the night. From the next morning on I walked until the 13 May 1944 (Once on the road near St Remi (P. de Dome), I was stopped by Gendarmes who, when they saw who I was, fed me and gave me directionstelling me the towns to avoid.) On the 13 May 1944 I was picked up by the maquis near Billon (P. de Dome) From the 13 May to the 26 May I was taken from one house to another waiting for a trip to Mont Mouchet. The first house I went was N of Clermont Ferrand the name of the people was: Amateur (the man lived with his daughter Suzanne, ~~his~~ he was a retired butcher, his daughter was a nurse in a Clermont Ferrand hospital). I stayed in this house five days after which I stayed at the Bakery for ~~one~~ night, then stayed with the shoemaker. On the 26 May I was taken to Mont Mouchet by truck with maquis recruits. From there on my journey is the same as Sgt Collier and Major Welnbrenner.

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. _____

No., Rank, Name:- *Phillips- B. Latta*

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 BOXa. 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 hiding in woods for night & day.*Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *While hiding in woods.*Milk (tube). *no - Did not know what it was.*Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *no - no use for them*Halazone tablets (water purifier). *yes*Matches. *no*Adhesive tape. *no*Chewing gum. *yes - give most of it to French kids.*Water bottle. *yes - but very unsuitable.*Compass. *yes - very useful.*Sewing kit. *yes - to repair civilian clothing.*d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *yes - water bottle.*e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *Destroyed at first helper's house.*

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?

*There should be some better way of closing water bottle.*2. PURSEa. 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? *France*

Compass, *yes*

File (hacksaw). *no*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *1000 France*
How did you spend the money? *for clothing food, etc.*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *FFA*

Compass.

File (hacksaw). *FFA*

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? *six*

b. Did you use them? *yes*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *yes. at base by*
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. *Bydn, state*

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*

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) PHILIPPS B. LATTA Signed Phillips B. Latta
 Rank T/SGT. A.S.N. 7084841 Dated Sept. 13. 44 Place London
 Unit HQ 6th Bomb Sq. 801st B. G.P. Witness Charles A. Brown
1st Lt. A.C.

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)

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Phillips B. Jatta T/SGT. 7084841
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Sept. 13 - 1944
(Date)

H06th Bomb Sqdn - 801st B. Grp.
(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. May 6 - 44 at
0045 - two miles north of Roenne

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
Tail + wings on fire no controls

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? - 5000 ft.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? navigator
hurt back when chute failed to open until
late - tail gunner wounded by blast

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

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. Saw two others
members about a month later

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition? one
member obtained picture taken by S+I - 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. all persons out

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion? all members escaped except two who
were taken prisoners - American + French intel

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

Phillips-B. Latta /Sgt. 7084841
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: Special

Date mission in action: MAY 6-44

21
(No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: Sept. 13-44

406 801
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT - Murray L. Simon - 2nd Lt. - Returned - chattel
CO-PILOT - French M. Russell - 2nd Lt. - Returned - chattel
NAVIGATOR - John A. Reitmeir 1st Lt. - Returned - chattel
BOMBARDIER John B. Mead 1st Lt. -
RADIO OPERATOR Phillips B. Latta /Sgt. -
TOP TURRET GUNNER - Leo F. Dumesnil /Sgt. - Prisoner - French: chattel
BALL TURRET GUNNER
WAIST GUNNER - Homer G. Collier S/Sgt. - Returned - with me
WAIST GUNNER
TAIL GUNNER Graham S. Hasty S/Sgt. - wounded Prisoner French chattel

Decorations:

Date of Birth: Sept. 18, 1914

Private Address: Route 2 - Durham, N. Car.

Length of Service: 4 yrs, 3 mos.

Job as Civilian: Mechanic

From what field did you take off? Take off time. - Harrington - 10:50

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Do Not Know

Were you wounded? Give details. No

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? - Spent 300 Francs in a seven day walk

Do you speak FRENCH? No SPANISH? No GERMAN? No ITALIAN? No OTHER LANGUAGE? No

Did you have identity papers? Obtained French identity card

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

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? *No*

Date of arrival in Spain: _____

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: _____

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *Caserta - Sept. 10-44*

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.

TOP SECRET

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

APPENDIX C. TECH. SHEET

1. Did you jump or crash land? - *Jumped*
2. What was the town or village nearest to which you jumped or crash landed? *Marcigny - Loire*
3. How long was it before you got help? *Seven days*
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.

Impossible to name the persons who gave me help during first and hardest part of escape because I took no note for security reasons - after seven days I was taken care of by FFI except for last week. For two weeks it was at Mont Mouchet with a large group of FFI. Afterwards by two small groups headed by Paul Coustel and one known only as Cobra - both near Brioude - Haute Loire. The last week I was taken care of by Madeline Madeline Peyrunes - Brassac, Les MINES, Puy de Dome

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>F/Lt. Ed. Mason - RCAF</i> | <i>Maj. George Weinbrenner</i> |
| <i>Sgt. George Hirst RAF</i> | <i>F/1st. A.P. Bell - RCAF</i> |
| <i>Lt. French M. Russell - AAF</i> | <i>Sgt. J.H. Hamell - RAF</i> |
| <i>F/1st. Brian Buchanan - AAF</i> | <i>Lt. John B. Mead</i> |
| <i>s/1st. Bob Carney - AAF</i> | |
| <i>Sgt. Eric Brearley RAF</i> | |
| <i>W/O Johnnie Nelson - RCAF</i> | |
| <i>Lt. James Cater - AAF</i> | |
| <i>Sgt. Garnet Colymbus - RCAF</i> | |
| <i>Sgt. Norman Lee - RAF</i> | |
| <i>Sgt. Herb Campbell - AAF</i> | |
| <i>s/1st. Don Dowler - AAF</i> | |
| <i>Sgt. Alfred Wendt - AAF</i> | |

Saw all these evaders at MONT MOUCHET

waste cunner on Cater crew.

killed saw none

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.,.....)

Nothing of Value

SAT. LATTA.

Same crew as Lt. M.L. SIMON. -

On 6 May^{0045 hrs.} I bailed out - about 5000 feet W. of.

Collier 5000 feet W. of

I saw 2 chutes in the air, did not delay,
landed 2 miles S.W. of MARCIANY. (same et. low),
I landed in wheat field. Hid my chute - and
walked a few miles SW by compass and stopped.
I hid until the night of 8 May - got civilian
clothes in a farm, got food left there for the
night. After that walked SW. during the
day and slept in houses during the night -
(got refused one). - I avoided all the big towns -
I was once stopped by Gendarmes once ^{they were from} St. Rémy (P. du Somme)
_{I stopped near there}
When they searched me and saw who I was
they fed me and gave me ~~food~~ ^{directions} - telling me
what towns to avoid. - I was picked up by the
mayor's near BILLON ^(P. du Somme) on the 13 May. - I had
stopped at farm house for the night. The
next day one of the boys took me aside
and ask me to go with him. - He took
me to another house. - I told them I was
trying to go to England through Spain. - He
said it was practically impossible but that there
was a camp with American and British
officers. - From the 13th May to 26th May
I was carried from one house to another

SAT. LATTA. -

(2)

waiting for a trip to take me to MONT MOUCHET.

The first place they took me on the 13th evening
was N of Clermont Ferrand in a suburb of
Clermont - (the man's first name is AMATEUR.
and his daughter first name is SUZANNE He
was a retired butcher, his daughter was a
nurse in a Clermont Hospital) after five days
moved in house 2 blocks away. - On the 21st May
went to another house in Pillou stayed at a
Barbery for one night, then with the shoemaker.
from there was taken to Mont Mouchet by
kuck with maguin records.

From there on my journey is the same
as Sgt Collier and Maya WELNIBRENER.