

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
and QUESTIONNAIRE FOR I.S.9(WEA) PERSONNEL

9-16-44
(Date)

SKAGGS, RYAL L. 2ND LT. 0-684067
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

FRANKFORT 8
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: 1-29-44

Returned to UK: 9-16-44

549TH Sq. 385TH GP.
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (List names by positions and indicate what happened to each one)

PILOT 1ST LT. RALPH H. PALMER PRISONER
CO-PILOT 2ND LT. RYAL L. SKAGGS EVADED
NAVIGATOR 2ND LT. WM POWELL EVADED
BOMBARDIER 2ND LT. FRANK F. WIECZERZAK EVADED
RADIO OPERATOR T/Sgt. ROBERT J. PIAROTE EVADED
TOP TURRET GUNNER T/Sgt. ARTHUR M. PACHA EVADED
BALL TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt. LESLIE J. REYNOLDS EVADED
WAIST GUNNER S/Sgt. WILLIAM J. WILLIAMS EVADE + WOUND
WAIST GUNNER S/Sgt. ALLEN D. PATTERSON KILLED
TAIL GUNNER S/Sgt. ELMORE S. LOVELAND EVADED

GOSSLIE
BELGIUM

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. 1-29-44 NOON
LOBBES, BELGIUM

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

NO. 4 ENGINE SHOT OUT - RIGHT WING HAD SIX LARGE HOLES AND SKIN PEELING OFF - RADIO COMPARTMENT FIRE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 18,000 FT.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? YES,
SGT. PATTERSON KILLED - SGT. WILLIAMS WOUNDED
SGT. PIAROTE STUNNED BY 20 MM EXPLOSION.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?
(9) NINE BAILED OUT ALL PARACHUTES

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

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.

I was shown pictures of all the men
I saw personally - Sgt. Reynolds, Pacha, and
Williams and Lt. Palmer.

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.

NO.

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

LT. PALMER was in the same village with me. The Germans found him in a Belgian home and killed the Belgian.

Were you wounded? I was badly shaken up by the parachute landing and leg sprained.

Were you in German hands? NO

Did you kill any Germans in escaping? NO

Have you previously given the names of your helpers? YES IN PARIS

List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

NONE

What security briefing were you given? YES REGULARLY

What souvenirs do you still possess? 1 BOOK (ENGLISH) 1 WALLET
1 RED CROSS NOTE BOOK

Home address. 110 W. PARK AVE., SHERMAN, TEXAS

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

1ST LT. RALPH H. PALMER

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

LEY 2158

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-684067 Rank 2/LT

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) R. L. SKAGGS.

Unit 385 GP, 549 SA

has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WMA)
on 15 Sept 1944 and has signed a Security Certificate.

He ~~should~~/should not be re-interrogated.

R. H. Davis
2/LT, CAC
Major

IMPORTANT:

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH) AN OFFICER OF M.I.9
OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & X DET.-M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

If E & E is returned to the United Kingdom, he will report to 63 Brooks
Street, London

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVADED CAPTURE ~~XXXXXX~~ FROM (Name of Country) BELGIUM.....

For all Personnel

1. No. **0-684067** Rank **2nd Lt.** Name **SKAGGS, RYAL L.**
(U.K. Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) **AIR MEDAL 7 MISSIONS**
3. Were you wounded? Give details. **LEG STRAINED**
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) **549th Sqn. 8th AF**
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) **385 GP** Job (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc.) **Co-Pilot**
7. Date of Birth **Nov. 25, 1915** Length of Service **34 months**
9. Peace time occupation **Student** Private Address **110 W. Park Ave.**
Sherman, Texas
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? **Ident. Discs**
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? **Little French**

FOR R.A.F. ONLY

13. No. and location of O.T.U.
14. No. and location of Conversion Unit

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS WHO BAIL OUT

15. Post in Crew **Co-Pilot**
16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.
N.B. - Airborne and Parachute Troops list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.
- PILOT **1st Lt. RALPH H. PALMER - prisoner (taken Feb. 1944)**
- CO-PILOT **2nd Lt. Ryal L. Skaggs - evaded**
- NAVIGATOR **2nd Lt. Wm. Powell - evaded**
- BOMBARDIER **2nd Lt. Frank F. Wiecezszak - evaded**
- RADIO OPERATOR **T/Sgt. Robert J. Piarote - evaded**
- TOP TURRET GUNNER **T/Sgt. Arthur M. Pacha - evaded**
- BALL TURRET GUNNER **S/Sgt. Leslie J. Reynolds - evaded**
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) **S/Sgt. William Williams - evaded & wounded**
- WAIST GUNNER (L.) **S/Sgt. Allen D. Patterson - dead Gosslie, Belgium***
- TAIL GUNNER **S/Sgt. Elmore S. Loveland - evaded**
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure ***buried at Gosslie, Belgium. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Saw & visited grave.**
B-17-F England from Sta. 155, near Ashfield. 0700. Jan. 29, 1944.
18. Where and when did you come down? **Lobbes, Belgium, Jan. 29, 44. Noon**
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and Mae West? **Belgians took them**
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? **Do not know**

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date **15 Sept. 1944**

I grade this evasion No.5

Attached:

Appendix "X"

Appendix "C"

Appendix "E"

Disposal: **Returned to unit**

DISTRIBUTION:

Hq. I.S.9 (WEA).....2

12th Army Group.....2 (less C)

9th AF.....1

R.H. DANA
2nd Lt. CAC

Major

I came down near Lobbe, Belgium on Jan 29 at noon. The people of Belgium took me in charge immediately and gave me civilian clothes.

I met the first Americans on Sept 4th near Marlanwelz, Belgium on a road that by-passes the village.

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9 (WEA) / 6/280/1748

If further circulation of this information is made, it is important that its source should not be divulged.

No. 0-684067 Rank 2nd Lt. Name SKAGGS, RYAL L.

Date of Interview 15 Sept. 1944

ROBERT POURBAIX - Morlan Welz, Bel. (Near La Louviere)
kept me 1½ months.

SATURNE HENNE, Morlanwelz, Belgium kept me six months. The Germans searched his home twice. Took him prisoner once - he was released.

GIRARD (WAR NAME) Morlanwelz, Belgium. He helped me the first day to evade and constantly (all my stay) warned me of the movements of the Germans.

Did not use my escape aid kit.

Carried an OD purse, money given to helpers.

I was regularly briefed on escape and evasion at the base.

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.

GERTIFICATE

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) SKAGGS, RYAL L.
Rank 2ND LT. A. S. N. D-684067
Unit 549TH SQ 385TH GP.

Signed Ry. L. Skaggs
Dated 9-16-44
Witness _____

RESTRICTED