

CONFIDENTIAL

2259

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 36156909 Rank Sgt  
 Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Robert T. Ritter  
 Unit 398 B Gp

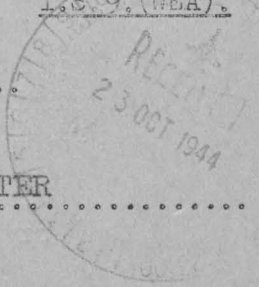
has been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WIAA)  
 on 21 Sept 1944 and has signed a Security Certificate.  
 He ~~should~~/should not be re-interrogated.

*Robert H. Bacon*  
 Major 2/Lt. Ac.

IMPORTANT:

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH) AN OFFICER OF M.I.9  
 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & X DEPT.-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). FRANCE

For all Personnel

- 1. No. 36156909 Rank. Sgt Name. ROBERT T. RITTER  
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions). 5
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details. no
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 601 Bomb Sqn
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 398 Bomb Gp Job (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc) Top Turret-Eng.
- 7. Date of Birth 20 October 1911 Length of Service 3 years (plus)
- 9. Peace time occupation Core-Maker Private Address 316 McOmber St.  
Dowagiac, Mich.
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? yes, dog tags
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? no

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 Top Turret Gunner - Engineer
- 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
- CO-PILOT 2258
- NAVIGATOR (See report No. 290 - William A Howell)
- BOMBARDIER
- RADIO OPERATOR
- TOP TURRET GUNNER
- PAI. TURRET GUNNER
- WAIST GUNNER (R.)
- WAIST GUNNER (L.)
- TAIL GUNNER
- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-17-G 8. Sept. 1944 0730  
Nuthempstead, Eng.
- 18. Where and when did you come down? 1200 8. Sept. 1944 - Bauzemont 25 KM Nancy  
France
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?  
Mae west on plane - french civilians disposed of parachute and harness
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? unknown

Interviewed by I.S. 9 (WEA)  
Date 21 Sept. 1944

- Attached:
- Appendix "A"
  - Appendix "C"
  - Appendix "D"

I grade this evasion No. 5

*Robert Bacon*  
ROBERT BACON Major  
2nd Lt., AC

Disposal: RETURNED TO UNIT

DISTRIBUTION:  
Hq. I.S. 9 (WEA) 2  
12th Army Group 2 (less C)  
9th AF 1 " "

Carried an Aids box and used it.

Carried a red stripe money purse and lost the money

Briefed on escape and evasion at the station 131 on July 1944

(For report on escape see report No.290 of William A. Howell)

Also for list of names  
for "C" Appendix  
see report No. 290

*My report is the same as that of Lt Howell*

*(E.E.#2280). ~~XXXX~~*

*2258*



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 (WIA) PERSONNEL

22 SEPT. 1944  
(Date)

ROBERT T. RITTER SGT. 36156909  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

LUDWIGSHAVEN 5  
(Target) (Number of missions)

398 GRP. 601 SQ.  
(Unit)

Date Missing in Action: 8 SEPT. 44  
Returned to UK: 22 SEPT. 1944

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

PILOT WARREN J. WADE - unknown.  
CO-PILOT THEODORE H. PREVOST - "  
NAVIGATOR BURT D. BREAM - "  
BOMBARDIER WILLIAM A. HOWELL - Evaded.  
RADIO OPERATOR JOHN H. REX - unknown  
TOP TURRET GUNNER - ROBERT T. RITTER - Evaded.  
BILL TURRET GUNNER - WILBERT Y. BURNS - unknown.  
WAIST GUNNER HARRISON F. BROOKS - "  
~~WAIST GUNNER~~  
TAIL GUNNER EUGENE (NMI) GAMBA "

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. NOT KNOWN  
But must have crashed approx 1200 - within 10 miles of Banzenmont  
Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

3 Engines dead.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 4000 feet.

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

No.

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

BOMBARDIER AND ENGINEER - CHUTES OPENED

OTHER CREW NOT KNOWN  
Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

NOT KNOWN

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

BOMBARDIER ALIVE - EVADED WITH ME,

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.

NO.

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?

No opinion - should have all survived but are perhaps P.W.'s - plane was headed for Nancy which was in German hands at that time.

Were you wounded?

No

Were you in German hands?

No

Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

No

Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

YES

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

None.

What security briefing were you given?

VERY BRIEF

What souvenirs do you still possess?

Knife.

Home address.

316 McOmber Street, Dowagiac, Michigan

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.

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) ROBERT T. RITTER Signed Robert T. Ritter  
 Rank Sgt. 36156909 Dated 22 Sept 44 Place.....  
 Unit 398 Bomb Grp. 601 Sq. Witness.....



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)