

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

John J. Chuck S/Sgt 17151559
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
452 B. G. 728 B. S.
(Unit)

Sept 30-1944
(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.

May 27-1944 - 11:30 AM approximately 35 miles from Swiss border.

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

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? Crash landed

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? None to my Knowledge

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

None

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? No-

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

Yes, as far as I could tell everyone got out ok.

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.

everyone alive except co-pilot. I know not what happened to him.

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?

3 men (Radio - Ball Gunner - Bombardier) Made it safely to Swiss
Co-pilot - unknown
Rest of crew Prisoners of Germans

SECRET

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

John J. Chuck S/SGT 17151559
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: Strausburg

Date mission in action: May 27, 44

Date arrived in UK: Sept 29, 1944

12 (No. of missions)

728 B.S. 452 Bomb
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT - Milton Mard - POW - Red Cross

CO-PILOT Atlas - (Unknown)

NAVIGATOR - ~~Do Not Recall Name~~ POW Red Cross

BOMBARDIER - L.T. Walton Wiggins - (Escaped to Swiss - I was with him there)

RADIO OPERATOR - Pvt. Royce Heath - Escaped to Swiss - Saw him there

TOP TURRET GUNNER - Do Not Recall Name P.O.W. Red Cross

BALL TURRET GUNNER - Sgt Joe Garbish - Escaped to Swiss - Saw him there

WAIST GUNNER Do Not Recall Name P.O.W. Red Cross

WAIST GUNNER myself

TAIL GUNNER Do Not Recall Name P.O.W. Red Cross

Decorations: Air Medal

Date of Birth: May 10 - 1923

Private Address: Brighton, Iowa, USA

Length of Service: 21 Months

Job as Civilian: Clerk-Typist

From what field did you take off? Take off time.
Attleborough - Approximately 7:00 AM

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes As far as I know.

Were you wounded? Give details. - Minor bruises - Sprained elbow.

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? 500 French Francs for Eats + Directions

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

Did you have identity papers? - ETO Card - AND Dog Tags

(over)

I do Not Recall Some of the boys Names as it was the first time I flew with them.

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

yes - ~~we~~ had to write a report for American Military Attache at Berne and also for Col. Hull at Annecy, France.

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

Question Above.

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. Sept. 29-1944 - Annecy, France by Air.

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

Rest of the crew I was flying with (omitting the co-pilot, Radio Man, Ball-turret, and Bombardier) are P.O.W's. The Ball Turret and I wrote the ~~Americ~~ International Red Cross in Geneva + Rec'd that information. The Ball Gunner knew their names as it was his crew - I was just a fill in.

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

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.,.....)

German Radio Aerial - in forest near Swiss border by Morteau.

German Army Camp by Swiss border between Morteau + border.

Civilian Morale of France was very good at the time and all seemed ready to fight the Germans on orders. They wanted guns if we had any, which we didn't.

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

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 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.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. For our food until we found some.

Milk (tube). did NOT have.

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). To keep going when Tired.

Halazone tablets (water purifier). To purify all our drinking water we took from streams etc.

Matches.

Adhesive tape. To tape blisters I rec'd from from walking in poor French shoes.

Chewing gum. - Chewed when we were hungry + had no food left.

Water bottle. had it filled with water ~~continuously~~ constantly.

Compass. the best article in the kit - had it in our hand constantly.

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? **No**
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? **Yes - giving what was left to the Swiss who took it away from us**
- 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?

Screw-Cork for water bottle,2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? **Yes**
State color of stripes and letters. **Do NOT Know**
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, 1

Compass, the Small round one

File (hacksaw). No

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. French Francs - About 500

How did you spend the money? To Give the French People who fed us + gave us clothes. or So

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. Buried those we didn't need.

Compass. Swiss Took IT away.

File (hacksaw). Buried.

Surplus currency. still have it.

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? 9

b. Did you use them? No

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? Briefly
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. When first reaching a.k. at Stone

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 escapees?

No.

Rt. Waist Gunner
John J. Chuck
452 B.G. 728 B.S.

Operational Report

Everything went well until we were somewhere in the vicinity of Nancy, I would judge, at this spot they threw up a barrage of flak. I checked off interphones to get a camera, I had, to snag a few pictures. When checking back in we were through the flak + I got no pictures. When checking in everyone was gabbling on interphones + calling in that their oxygen was going down fast. From what I could gather the pilot was having trouble with an engine. I heard the pilot call the navigator and ask for our location which the navigator gave him - I forget what it was. He then asked what our chances for Switzerland was and the navigator gave him the heading + time it would take so we headed for Switzerland. We were ordered to throw our ammunition, flak suits etc overboard which we all commenced doing. By this time we were down to I would say around 8,000 feet. While I was tossing things overboard I noticed everyone heading for the radio room + motioned me up so I take-off for the radio room. I just got well settled in it when we crash landed. As I took off I noticed the boys had a parachute in the gas tank + were setting fire to the plane by throwing hand bombs in the ~~the~~ waist.

"C" Report

2330

S/Sgt. John J. Chuck - 17151559

On the 27 May 1944 our target was Strasbourg. Hit by flak, we headed towards Switzerland and crash landed about 15 to 20 Km NW of Morteau (Doubs.). French surrounded us and told us to head for Switzerland. 2nd Lt Wiggins and I took to the woods and were joined by 2 French youths who stripped and gave us their clothes. We waited while one of the youths went home for clothes for themselves, and then followed them to a barn on the edge of a village. They got us shoes and then took us to a spot in the woods on the other side of the village. They left us for a short time and then returned. They took us on their cycles as far as another woods from which point we walked to the top of a rise from where they indicated the whereabouts of the Swiss border. We left on our own and walked until 19.00 hours when we met a woodcutter who took us to his house, fed us and gave us directions. After spending the night in the woods, we walked again SE, going through Morteau. We narrowly missed a German camp, and then encountered a farmer who pointed out the border about 1 mile away. We entered Switzerland on the outskirts of a village situated on the crossroads just SW of le Cerneux. I was evacuated from Switzerland on the 13 September.

R. Sarant
2nd Lt. AUS

Chuck.

~~We took us to ...~~

Hit by flak. Headed for Swiss
cross landed, about 15-20 Hrs
N of Morteau. Everyone out.
Surrounded by French who told us to
head for Swiss. Huggins & I headed
for Switzerland. 2 boys came up with
us. He swapped clothes with them. They
~~go~~ went home for more clothes. Came
back & took to barn on edge of village.
They got us shoes. They indicated a
Rendez-vous on the other side of the town
& met us there. They took us on their
bikes to a woods & walked with us thru
woods. They then gave us directions & left
us. He walked til 7 PM when met
a wood cutter. He took us to his house
& fed us. Gave us food & directions. Slept
in the woods. Next morning. walked
again S.E. going thru Morteau. Almost
reached border & walked into German
camp with Germans coming out from
chow. Back tracked. I stopped at a
farmer's who gave us directions. He
crossed border a mile further on. We
were in Switz at 20 PM. A Swiss couple
told us we were in Swiss & took us to P Station
He crossed S of le Cerneuf. Taken to Le Locle
(at a village commands the S of le Cerneuf) Spent 1st night here then

where stayed overnight. Next morning
to Paris to La Chapelle des Fonds where
stayed ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~the~~ ^{the} night. Then to Neu-châtel ^{Poly}
where interviewed by Military at ^{Stn}
Station. Same day left for Bgd hospital
for 21 days quarantine. Then to Besnie
for 4 days for check; Int at M a etc.
Then to Clion (Not de Clion) evacuated
on 13.

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) JOHN J. CHUCK Signed John J. Chuck

Rank S/SGT A.S.N. 17151559 Dated Sept 30, 1944 Place

Unit 452 B. D. 728 B. S. Witness P. Lavant 2nd Lt. AW

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)

JOHN J CHUCK S/Sgt 17151559 452 Bomb Gp. 728 Bomb Sq
Name Rank & Serial No. Organization & Air Force.

Shot down: May 27¹⁹⁴⁴ - S.W of Mulhouse
Date & Approximate Location.

Experiences after being shot down: Were given Food, Clothing,
and such aid by the French - however
had no guide in crossing. Crossed with
LT. Walton Wiggins (Bombardier of same ship)

Status: Escapee - ~~Evader~~ - Internee.

Date of Escape: MAY 28 - 1944

Date of Arrival at ~~MAAF~~ Annecey: Sept 13 - 1944

Physical Condition: O.K.

REMARKS: Treated well by the French in
coming across France. Treatment in Switzerland
Fair. Had our hair clipped off in Suisse -
for no good reason.

Home Address: BRIGHTON, IOWA

Departed Annecey MAAF Hq.: _____