

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

WILLIAM R. STROH T/SGT. 35595333
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

16 (No. of missions)

510TH 351ST
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:

FREDRICKESHAVEN (?)

Date mission in action: MAY 27, 1944

APPROX. DEC. 15, 1943
Date arrived in UK: _____

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT 1ST. LT. H.E. HOPKINS

CO-PILOT 2ND. LT. HALE

NAVIGATOR 2ND. LT. HABECKER

BOMBARDIER (TOGGELER) T/SGT. SUDDOCK

RADIO OPERATOR WILLIAM R. STROH T/SGT. - only man to bail out.

TOP TURRET GUNNER T/SGT. RICHARD ATWOOD

BALL TURRET GUNNER T/SGT. SNYDER

WAIIST GUNNER T/SGT. WILLHITE - L.W.

WAIIST GUNNER R.W. SPARE (I don't remember his name)

TAIL GUNNER T/SGT. NORMAN BRUNING

-K.I.A.

Observed plane crash with all hands aboard

-K.I.A.

Same as above

Decorations: AIR MEDEL WITH TWO CLUSTERS, ETO RIBBON, GOOD CONDUCT RIBBON

Date of Birth: AUG. 27, 1914

Private Address: 569 PORTAGE, ST. BARBERTON, OHIO U.S.A.

Length of Service: 2 YRS. 10 MO.

Job as Civilian: ENGINEERING DRAFTSMAN

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

STATION 110 351 GP.

POLEBROOK 510 SQ.

0800 AM.

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

DESTROYED IN FLAMING WRECKAGE

Were you wounded? Give details.

CUT BACK OF MY HAND IN BAILING OUT OF PLANE

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

THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT MONEY

Do you speak FRENCH?

SPANISH?

GERMAN?

ITALIAN?

OTHER LANGUAGE?

NONE

Did you have identity papers?

ONLY DOG TAGS

(over)

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

*at the American Legation at Bern, Suisse
by American Officers*

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

at the American Legation at Bern, Suisse

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

*at American Legation, Bern, Suisse to
American Officers*

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.

Amnezy, France by air, Sept. 29, 1944

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.

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WILLIAM R. STROH T/SGT. 35595333
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

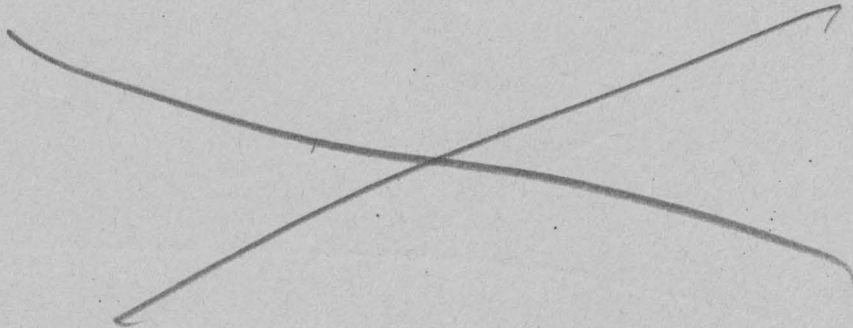
SEPT. 30 1944
(Date)

351ST GR. 510TH SQ.
(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 27 1944 AT 1215 HRS. CRASHED ABOUT 90 MILES NE OF BELFORT FRANCE NEAR GERMAN BORDER.

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

Plane was going down with all engines out completely out of control.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

at 4000 ft.

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

It is my opinion the crew in the forward part of the ship were killed or wounded by 20MM shells from ME-109 enemy fighters.

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

as far as I could tell I am the only member of the crew to bail out.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

It burst into flames from the gasoline.

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.

None

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

From a distance, just complete wreckage.

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?

all members went down with plane and crashed, this I saw while still floating down in my parachute.

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.,.....)

I observed a large number of German ^{seamen} sailors & soldiers at Gerardmer France located about 90 miles NE of Belfort, France. Bomb damage in Belfort, France appeared to be very heavy. Also there were a very great many German soldiers in Belfort where I stayed for several days at the home of a Dentist. There was a great deal of activity there in the way of troop movements, etc. Enemy morale seemed to be high, civilian morale was naturally low but hopeful. I stayed at a farm just outside of Belfort for several days and met many French men who wanted me to get word to the allies when I got to Switzerland to drop their arms and ammunition so they could wage an underground fight against the Germans. The Gestapo somehow found out about me in Belfort and the French quickly got me to the Swiss border one rainy night which I successfully crossed. I was told the Gestapo was just one jump behind me and so had to move fast.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *35595333 T/SGT. WILLIAM R. STROH*

Unit:- *351ST BOMB. GP. 510TH BOMB. SQ.*

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~~ ³ nights".

Horlicks tablets. *ATE SAME*

~~Chocolate or Peanut Bar.~~

Milk (tube). *MIXED WITH WATER*

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *USED ALL OF THEM UP, VERY GOOD*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *USED THESE ALL UP,*

Matches. *used some*

Adhesive tape. *used some*

Chewing gum. *very good*

Water bottle. *Best item yet*

Compass. *very important, would have got lost without this*

Sewing kit. *used to sew up torn clothing.*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?

no.

- e. How did you finally dispose of the box?

Gave some to French farmer.

- 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?

a wire neck for water bottle which could be slipped in place so water would not spill out and you could carry a supply of treated water.

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *yes*

State color of stripes and letters.)

If NOT, State why not.

I don't remember, I think it had MARK' something or other on it.

- 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). *none in my kit.*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

French money, gave some to French who helped me.

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. } *Swiss border guards confiscated*
Compass. } *same when I reached Switzerland.*

~~File (hacksaw).~~

Surplus currency. *Kept same.*

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? *5*

b. Did you use them?

yes.

5. LECTURES

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

Hearney, Neb. and at my place in the U.K.

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?

If possible the maps should contain more detail such as small towns, etc. also the compasses could be a little more accurate.

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 supercedes 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.

CERTIFICATE

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) WILLIAM R. STROH
Rank T/SGT. A. S. N. 35595333
Unit 351 GP. 510 Sq.

Signed William R. Stroh
Dated Sept. 30, 1944
Witness _____

RESTRICTED

BELFORT. I stayed ~~there~~ with
(married + the
young son, 16 yrs, +
daughter, 15 yrs)

dentist two nights. Then they took me
to a farm for 3 days (couple, daughter,
son, + 2 infants). The Gestapo was near
here looking for someone, so they took
me to Swiss border. <sup>(2 young friends
of the farmers
with 3 girls in hides)</sup>

~~Some~~ The 2 men put me in a wood next to
the border + at dark I crawled across
on my stomach bet. 2 sentry boxes. I then
got to a town + a Swiss soldier
picked me up + took me to a HQ
where I was searched + interrogated
me but I gave only name + no. Then
they put me into jail where I found
Sgt. Joe Stanley ~~Whitt~~ Woodis who had
walked out of Germany.

Then to PORONTREY for 4 days where
we met an English officer from the
M. A.'s office who talked to us + notified
Red Cross. Then to ~~ALTHE~~ OLDTEN for
~~4~~ 4 days + then to BAD LONSDORF for
rest of the 21 days quarantine. Then to
Gyligen where we stayed till 13 September.
Then Capt. Hoverkamp took the group
of 60 to Geneva + to ANNECY. Left
Annecy 29 Sept. by air for U.K.

Landed near LE THOLY (near Belfort)
hid in uto all night. In morning
approached farm where old couple
gave food + clothing. Walked to
Gerardmer where I entered a
cfe. The proprietress sent me
to a barn but I had to sleep in
hills that night. Next day I started
walking in direction of Paris. In
afternoon a man + his daughter came
along on bikes. They recognized me.
daughter gave me her bike + I followed
the father to their house. They fed
(wounded in last war, mustache, short)

me + let me sleep there + gave me
more clothes + packed a lunch for me
+ told me to go to Switzerland. I
walked most of night + then slept in
a barn. Then walked for 2 or 3 days
in uto towards Belfort. In Belfort
(got food + farm)

in a park I followed 2 priests + when they
separated I followed one of them to a
dormitory next to a church. I approached him + he took me
to an upper room + gave me food
+ doctored my feet. Then he brought
a dentist, V. CHEYLON, 122 Ave Jean
- JAORES.

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

E & E REPORT NO.
EVASION IN

(Date)

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

MIA: 27 May 1944
Arrived in UK: _____

(Number of Missions)

510 Bomb Squadron, 351 Bomb Group A/C #42-31975

(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

			Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-803206	1st Lt Horace E HOPKINS	✓✓	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-752059	2d Lt Everett M HALE	✓✓	MIA
NAVIGATOR	37217507	T/Sgt Dwight E SUDDOCK	✓✓	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-737933	1st Lt Carl W HABECKER	✓✓	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	15383073	T/Sgt Richard J ATWOOD	✓✓	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	35595333	T/Sgt William R STROH		INTERNEED 2336
BALL TURRET GUNNER	39534055	S/Sgt Avondle L WILLHITE	✓✓	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	17067093	T/Sgt Lyle A NORQUIST	✓✓	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	33168426	S/Sgt Samuel A SNYDER	✓✓	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	37658664	S/Sgt Norman J BRUNING	✓✓	MIA

Were you wounded?

*Check ~~with~~ K/A
P/W file 9 suspended*

T/Sgt William R. Stroh 35595333

2336

3516p

30 Sept

Sgt. Stroh landed 27 May 1944 near LE THOLY (VOSGES). He hid in the woods that night and the next morning approached a farmhouse where an old couple gave him food and civilian clothing. He then walked to GERARDMER (35 kms W of COLMAR) and entered a cafe, the proprietress of which let him sleep in the barn. The next day on the road a man and his daughter picked Stroh up, took him to their house where they fed him and gave him a bed for the night and in the morning gave him more clothing, food for his journey, and directions how to get to Switzerland. (This man was short, had a moustache, and had been wounded in the last war.) Stroh walked on to BELFORT. There he followed a priest to a dormitory next to a church. The priest, when Stroh asked him for help, took him into a room on the upper floor of the dormitory, gave him food, and doctored his feet, and then brought to him a dentist, V. CHEYLON (spelling?), 122 AVE. JEAN JAURES, BELFORT. This man took Stroh to his home and kept him there for two nights and then took him to a farm (a couple with a son, a daughter, and two infants) where he lived for three days. Two young men who were friends of the farmer and three girls on bicycles then led Stroh to the Swiss frontier which he crossed on 5 June.

Stroh was apprehended by Swiss guards and interned until 13 September when he left with the group which Capt. Hoverkamp took out of Switzerland to Annecy. He left Annecy by air for the U. K. on 29 September.

2336

WILLIAM ROBERT STROH ^{T/SGT.} 355953338th A.F. STATION 110 ENG.
351 GROUP, 510 SQ.

Name

Rank & Serial No.

Organization & Air Force.

Shot down: MAY 27, 1944, ABOUT 90 MILES NW OF BELFORT, FRANCE
Date & Approximate location.Experiences after being shot down: I walked to Suisse
receiving excellent help from the French
all the way.Status: Escapee - ~~Evader~~ - Internee.Date of Escape: JUNE 5, 1944Date of Arrival at ^{ANNACY} ~~MAAF~~: SEPT. 13, 1944Physical Condition: Arrived in Suisse with badly
blistered feet, O.K. now.REMARKS: The 21 days quarantine in Suisse
was a bad time, conditions during this
time should be looked into. The Suisse
cut our hair, but short, chicken I call it.Home Address: 458-17th St., N.W. Barberton, Ohio U.S.A.

Departed MAAF Hq.: _____