

19 October 1942

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO : Personnel concerned.

1. It is the duty of all Americans to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.
2. It is an offense, carrying heavy penalties, to publish or to communicate to any unauthorized person any information which might be useful to the enemy.
3. 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.
4. 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:
 - (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. 4a.
e. No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General EISENHOWER:

Ralph Pulsifer
RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGD, Ass't. Adj. Gen.

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 American Military Attache to whom I first report, or an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) Harold E. Thompson Signed Harold E. Thompson
Rank 1st Lt. A.S.N. 0-738291 Date Dec. 4, 1943
Unit 561st 388th Sp. Witness Walter J. S. [Signature]

561st Sq. 388 Gp.

MIA 9 Sept 43

- 1) 1st Lt. Adelbert P. PORTER (0-735657) MIA → RTD ^{70th}
 - 2) 2nd Lt. Harold E. THOMPSON (0-738291) KIA → RTD ^{70th}
 - 3) 2nd Lt. Henry C. ROWLAND (0-798883) → RTD
 - 4) 1st Lt. Vernon B. ADAMS (0-2043751) P/W → P/W
 - 5) T/Sgt John R. ASH (14064832) P/W → P/W
 - 6) T/Sgt John H. MOFFITT (34125582) P/W → P/W
 - 7) ~~S/Sgt Ralph MALICOTE~~ Mallicote
EIE# 688
 - 7) S/Sgt. Clement MEZZANOTTE (32414293) MIA → RTD
 - 8) S/Sgt Roswell MILLER, (35310260) MIA → RTD
EIE# 582
 - 9) S/Sgt ALPHONSE SULCHINO (32499151) P/W → P/W
 - 10) Sgt IVAN L. SCHARFEDER (16052287) MIA → RTD
EIE# 312
-
-

688 & 532 already
done - do others

(2)

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS (X)

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
PW and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank and Serial No. *HAROLD E. Thompson. Sublt. O-738291*
2. Decorations. *R. Air Medals Qual. for Air Medal, one cluster*
3. Unit or Squadron. *561st B. Sqdn.*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *388th B. Gp.*
5. Date of Birth. *Apr. 18, 1918*
6. Length of Service. *4 yrs. 9 mos.*
7. Private Address. *138 So. Main St.,
PALMER, MASS.*
8. If in A.F., on what operation were you engaged? State place, date,
and time of departure. Where and when did you come down?
Were aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed?
*Netshershal - Sept. 9, 0600 & bomb Benz engine
5 mi NW of PARIS - 0930
Did not carry any in A.C.*
9. What was your position in aircraft? *Co. Pilot.*
10. Were you wounded? *No.*
11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *No*
12. Do you speak French? Spanish? *Yes (French) None*
13. Did you have Identity Papers? *Yes A.G.O. Pilots Ind.*
14. Have you been questioned before to-day on your escape or evasion? If so,
where and by whom? Have you given anyone a written report on your exper-
iences. Where and when?
No
15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? *No*
16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about
your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? *No*
17. Date of arrival in Spain. *—*
18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *—*
19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *DEC. 2, 1943*
20. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *Dec 4, 1943.*

9th Inst
to c. 1330
This
1340-1500

started walking in last daylight at 11:30
of destination - first led me to the - then walked
at with him - S3 - S4 straight line - c 38
then Camille - leader - ours - salmon - opposite

to home to sister's house - got a new dress, gave
suit to wear - took me over to meet Ray at Box
Andre Dumaland Entrepren Veto
Took me up the, rock lands, led quiet
To leather shop, gave new & shoe
started to see present salmon - walking my down
to get glasses - C 1600
Had picture taken, for new drink, back to sister
slept the that night
next day walked to place where B was - walked
with Camille's wife - to Camille's
C - C 48 soldier in last war.

R When Ray said B to don first - trouble with don
jumped - started down into position - B to don
jumping - waited B not - jumping just first
not see place after that.
Arrived about 20 - saw first assembly & met his
sister - not asked the - pulled c 18,000
no trouble, date year 1914.
Arrived 3, the date to sentence - all to be
don's daughter from Paris not with guide club
C 30 people from Paris not with guide club
Pulled - 8 - 10, found houses, released - 5 - 10
In people assembled at, entered, watched no girl
up hill, which - c 10 yds - dragged db
in room veget at on, don is bit, 30 people
saw toward - Ray - 30

Took off 0600 - routine take off assembly - leading at
element lead sq - low group in wing - following 96 leading
division - (D) Berry - Becaus going in - flying
24000' - aircraft above - lead - 25,000 -
C40 FW + ME 109 out of stratus lead on - followed
through to egg behind us - just about that 12
on 1st in - shot down 2 - solid sq 109 - out of it
climbing - out ahead of us - on - in the same bomb run -
doors open slightly before bomb in - (P) - couldn't
see flash from ship - thought heavy cal gun - 40 mm
1 shot - hit in left wing - didn't realize yet
hit - pilot sq 109 shot
Immediately dropped from formation

Did
not
see
interaction
with
other
units
about
2 miles
down
R/R

Saw pair of aluminum c 1' sq - flew over us 1
res able. Commenced shell hit wing spar - main
spar joint - wing swept back, dropped down -
vibrating in air - P dropped controls over -
not seen leave of controls with ailerons - hit
or didn't start spinning.
Lossing air speed - tanking spin - pulling 23 G.
AB 1 miles - the other fell forward not pick up
air speed.
Saw high sq 1 + no 2 man on wing to go ahead -
very low level down at 140 - they level off
P order to pull up - make C.P. - in cut walk -
pulled shaly - gave P his - tried, put it on -
lead in my seat for him - P told engine jump P.T.
B - W at you very level at 'I said B - P.T.
B that engine out wing down flapping - hit out
fell off. P released bomb with engine release -
B already jumped - that gas in tank

had -

English boys & I am long forest down

2 ft / 1 ft 10 in Adams.

My last probably 1000' - c 23,000'

from back description on ground I must have got out -

1 Nov 1 when 6 AM jumped - no later - saw

my 4 chutes - jumped on middle P's

Some trouble for (B) back escape but do not

jumped back first - out escape but later - feel deluged
young to 15-18,000' Chute type chute - an escape

No hair at all.

Came down into small cypress tree - spread back

shot at from ground a 'right shot' when it hit

It told us B's shot it.

Landed back on

aided by faint that ground eye - pretty sure that

not see is from air - think that only seen

Landed in back eye - c 20' sq - under dust

It is swimming in foam - saw around 3 times -

not far down out - 7 times for chutes in air -

Down the length of a sitting jacket - light skin

wop - c 5000' - crawling on back's time

Under impression to come down set - 2 people

just sent them on

Anything quiet 3-4 min

little to say for foam - not much in to one back -

Some on back's time - took no into time at rest

to one back

about to in disint. clothes - 9 look of don't hesitate -

1 had now & 1 ft jacket - flying correctly, better

rank, most shirt - 6/10

summer 10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

10/10 10/10

his American - an woman for pick up with, with grubbing
& getting into, more but not good - saw him c 1/4 in
any. ~~headed for~~ headed for at day but - not
25 yds when G. Chantler d - mouth open - student of Paris
tall red headed c 19 yrs - works for some
person's parents around.

d To me with him stopped me - wanted to sit in - but c
20 yds from the ~~can~~ can down - he later reached to
I said w - pointed to him - he - trotted with me across road
fields - c 200 yds when shot me out - 3-4 - he told me later
c 1200 yds - he & man left way - I on - he, wearing - cap
now shot after the off. Went in: down pat h - just my like.

Robert - soldier in last war - fort worth
later told me c 15 h soldier's reaching around there - y at
motorist car - passed with 3 yds - turned other corner -
passed with in 2 yds - asked he where I go - pointed
opposite direction - to M

Stayed there on M - he by car back tossed my pack?
clothes - told me change stay there - changed - had to do in

gens - in quilt passed
he by car back - took in to car - yells c 50 yds away -
was, these soldiers - A Am cap - gratefully marked

Camille & ~~by~~ can back - extra light
yelled through trees through mouth to Portonville - c into
To Camille's cafe - agent of celebration - agent

agent - lunch.
met his wife, mother - to Andre's house - stayed
then next 8 weeks

told me another fellow described Tony I thought - gave
850 & note
Woman works for Andre cooks meal.
A N. Canadian had been there before.

1 had
English
by the door
shy - wounds
beetle wings
beetle feet
beetle mouth
1 had
shy
ch
lows

Andre's back
one follow work
for him - Paul -
c 5'9" - black
hair - married
child - all by
round shoulders

Feb a free loose man - showed R on day 6 pages of people listed
as collaborators - what does

On woman in denuded room 2 men - checks for those
Guy Chantard his friend in long to go where folks here hotel on
Seine - in to Paris. ^{Continuing scene} Is used to come before men - friends by his parents
Earlier had been to see them enthusiastic about to - Man of me
with Guy told is that Is capt had come to hotel - talked to Guy
2 long old man - Is finished - morale terrible - not expect
see his brother fighting in Italy - 3 days later Guy back -
my by told him Is come - plain folks man - also MP - set
up machine gun in lobby - Is capt's room - tell him come out
not - fired through door - not get - shot through window next
door - Said come & get him. Is shot 3 of Gestapo - killed 2

Is his ~~room~~ ^{intermediate} ^{in sp.} Burgundy -
Guy tell is that in N.E. France Is not take prisoners when airman
can down in parachutes.

Climbing in Paris pages 23 / 5 Sept - 10 men blown up in
mid air - came down with bits not dead -
We saw ship blow up in mid air ^{pts plane blown up by side up.} not far from us - only 1 parach -
most has been to

Ten boys in plane not one down
Saw parachutes coming out after target

Went
I had identity papers with this A has 2 items arrived -
Bachmann might have participated in

Went looking in Seine river

" not far walks

" visiting friends, cycling

To cafe

Very busy not done with M & M & LAPERDUNNE - printer -
average stamps - white lined, 62

'ADMIRAL' can see us - keeping Dutch press leaders for years

Bachmann looked p/w in to

Italian - hot as hot food, eggs

Greek in Paris - hot eggs

Butcher - Legros, Adolphe - (where T had picture taken)

& another

Chief of Police in Parisville furnishing
information - identity papers to others

French people seem believe in us Sept then Oct, Nov for
 afraid of Am. by Japan is - want Russians get 1st first
 Don't want R in it - but want to take on 1st - range about 10.

Had that man with
 I can't understand him, Birend - all out for D. B. and
 I dead sure they for 1st Russ after war -

Cramer - black hair black mustache - mei looking yellow.
 Talked to him about going to Spain - witness that wouldn't get through
 any more - 10 in event don't - 9 taken prison.

Kept telling us getting out soon
 today

Then after 8 wks - new papers - three during here - into P in 1890 -
 And took us to Paris - ready was near Montparnasse met station -
 early - walked up st.

Passed by 5 Gardens & 3 plain children a passer - checked up
 papers & And - Madame jolted me for papers - dit Vets go
 stopped everybody for identification papers - (by st.)

All 8 and m. - let in eyes - on finger gun
 All 8 and m. - let in eyes - on finger gun

THOUGHT LIST.

Follow with black mustache can - comid - & another - we walked
 behind 3 - saw some beautiful first waffle dots -
 Motivated across st - passed 15 soldiers - (to La Vallée above)
 met in by jrt - getting on train - in for
 Ville Chabot - cavalry, 1st Lt - on island with us - up
 English - helpful in buying up morals - oldest man remaining
 looked to him as leader - back in Paris - anxious to get out of it -
 Des wife.

2 Belgians, (1 long not yellow red to run English at from Paris
 (little 'mager')

2 Perri - on 1 chest - 1 escapes
 5'8" black hair - 120 lbs - nice looking Jap - fair English

Yellow who finally averaged escapes
 2 month 2 Sept 111 flat cars just through Sauterelle -
 had B-B wrecks - flat together yellow must be on red lines
 Tail no H-230234 - yellow P - all had flat against back.

" " -189 all 388th Gp.

Left Paris c 2200 TO LAVERGNEAU c 0930 next day -
200 G soldiers around - lot of young fellows - kids & old men - not the Germans!
B | Saw Spanish troops in Paris - small, poor fed - black with
dark hair like built - red lips & in uniform from rest
On train 'Am mesquignous' made us put purses for O Toct - checked
bed exhausters in with us

20th at Cannes in station
Put up at home with Dr St. Luch - on road out of town - walked
Haven camp outside of town
y & down c 20 min - small town - logged in - 4th c 21 out of
Americans 10 left Duane Lawhead, Lt Woodside, T & R
Honored Drew, Jim Wilson, Wm Dunning, Raymond Day (Woodside's
pilot) Charles Brummer, Clark
2 English boys Adams, Harold Hill
Just road with driver C 1500 - 1430
Through Lannilis - to small village - farm houses close together -
3 Ans & 2 - up with for more information
Clam - hunt - baskets - shoes & stockings - (One brought
then 1530 - 1400

November
12 Oct

Out to end of land - fish boat to island of Guernsey -
1 hidden there - boat expect 12-0000 - 0300 - boat not com (found at
later 1/2 mid down coast - cold
Next at about 2 dangers
3d mt we shot for 3 hrs - stayed there 5 day 5 nts - from 3d
day on no food - but skin head.
Sleeping in grass - cars but only 10 sleep in it - first night 1 day to bed it
Took us off island - back on the same way back - 'not guided'
Saw many pill boxes - c 200 yds apart
Went to farm house on shore - all went to cow shed (phon!) Car took us
to chateau near Brest Kew - husband Lt
Mme de la Maniere - there with dtr - 3 - set out big meal for
all 19 of us - there for mt - next day in automobile - 6 hrs -
while there - drew cards for fishing boat - 6 in - Turn -

(R) to Brest -

To another house after lunch next day - by car within walking - Chris then
Drover drove over in his truck till got who walked

Mme Gouestre - ~~never~~ Louette, & good further - c 77
On Sunday went over to dance at Col's house - saw (T)

C 1/2K ago fathers crashed there - pilot wounded in leg - not
dead - 50 miles away - kicked him in face - O came up & shot him
Walking around market
Had be transferred to M Clech - then mt - back again - then 7000
came back me to her house - sit Col's house -
then on

Signal - left at 1900 in dark - who then put (T) - daylight
again - 2000m.

Then at K three days - Paul de la Baron (went out with
whom) friend Dennis - went with him AF
Took back down to beach - waited at same place - fishing boat not com -
walked back to farm house - stayed in morning
Took us back to Plateau - back to Bust that afternoon - 6 July

John
O'Brien

July 6 Woodside, (T), Dunning, Dean - , Clark, ^{Brunner} ~~Brown~~

Back out - Bust - I to men with 2 small children - 1 from

11 year old in get above - couldn't understand ~~stage~~ ^{stage} ~~stage~~

M. J. J. Jarouch - who went. One night
Took us then to Col's house

Col B. Williams William Schienbauer - son

R/W G - RAF pilot free French - shot down 6 years ago.

Then Raymond By, Dunning, Wilson, & 1

TAGRE TILL met (P)

Christine etc who had lost her
from my car - 4 children

GT CHESSE ~~Prayer~~ - was 9-20-1-

Other etc comes

Number of visitors

Old On - naval O reported to us with 5 - Is ^{c45} Commandant
who led her in Tunis when Am's 35 miles away - G's took out
in transport plane - sent him home - not go

Another way was - near admiral

Shows us from Col - place where to see Gestapo has something
to do with

He thinks G's leaving his families being bombed

St number 5 women bombed at from 1 hour at Bust

2 Gyp submersibles at Bust - as Col said - Sarge between 55 & 8

(J) Saw lay, submarine - surprising & large - bigger than average Am,
sub - bigger than sub with plane. Gilt. - ^{dark} coming from 300 ft
Quite a few White Russians around Brest - wear blue uniforms
with Cap with white tassel - In uniform - like G's

(K) THINKS ONLY OT WEAR ARMBANDS WITH SWASTIKAS - in uniform

Col in charge of the defense of Brest - in war 1939-1940

Col took command after its arrival - with pistol at back.

S many - very smart uniforms - cloth from the navy stores in
Brest

People in Brest anti-German - expect & by friends in

Back. out truck at Dec 1 - walked through it in small gaps

Truck broke down 3 or 4 times - to same old place

Swapped boat in truck for kayak. To top of hill - 3/4 km from
beach.

2 in Indian file - carrying kayak - to our farmhouse - coffee, etc -
to beach new way -

Pierre contacted our boat with kayak - 3 days in - we in -
in 7 boats kept dragging back - don't know what happened -
I'm in leading boat red in on - on - difficulty with navigating
out -

Found 8 and 1 island, lot of reefs - tide, swell - impossible
much much progress - boat backed up into us - tough fight all way in - those
not coming back - English pitched in

On boat 0435 left 0500 - no sign of the 2 boats back to
England next morning - saw boat, rather old type - last was
2 in late afternoon - to England

Mme ROSE - liaison work around BREST.

The following information has been obtained from our interview with HAROLD E.
Thompson Lt. A.C. (O-758291) who escaped after capture
by the enemy/evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy/enemy occupied territory.

Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so it is important not
to divulge any particulars of source.

Statement of information covering period from Sept. 9, 1943.

to DEC. 1, 1943.

26-27 Nov

In Brest I had stayed with a French Colonel who
retired from active service before present war. He spoke
to me about the German rockets and how he thought
that the reason the Germans weren't using them ~~was~~ because they
weren't ready and stated that from what he could find
out, the Germans were at least 6 months in using
them due to British bombing of experimental works. But
he thought that they were preparing along the coast
for them. He said the rockets weighed 3 tons and
could hit anything in England but the Germans
themselves didn't know where the rockets would
land. His possible sources of this information might
come from what he already knew of the French develop-
ments in the rocket line and being able to speak
a understood German, he could listen to conversations
with Germans. As head of civilian defense in
Brest he was in a position many times to be around
Germans of higher rank. While staying in this house

E & E 242-243: Lts Thompson and Rowland

Lt THOMPSON:

KNETTISHALL
9 SEPTEMBER
1943

About 0600 on 9 September 1943 we took off from KNETTISHALL to bomb the Benz works near Paris. We made a routine take off and assembly and ~~flew in the lead~~ wing the second element in the lead squadron. We were the low group in the ~~division~~ and were following the 96th Bomb Group which was leading the division. We crossed the French coast near FECAMPS, flying at 24,000 feet with heavy cirro-stratus about a 1000 feet above us. About 40 FW 190's and Me 109's came out of the clouds straight upon ~~and~~ us and followed through ~~the~~ to the group behind. About 12 of our escort of P-47's came in and shot down two fighters.

FIRED ON
BY SOLITARY
ME 109

When we reached our IP and ~~when we~~ were just beginning ~~started slightly before~~ the bomb run, I saw a solitary Me 109 ~~out~~ climbing out on our right a little ahead of us. It fired ~~at us~~, a single shot, ^{at us,} which I thought came from a heavy ~~caliber~~ ^{of} gun ^{caliber} at least 40-mm. I could not see any flashes coming from the ship, ^{enemies} I did not realize we were hit until I heard the pilot say, "I'm shot." Our air speed dropped about 10 miles, and we fell back slightly from the group. ^{when} I saw a piece of aluminum about a foot square flop up over No 1 nacelle, ~~so~~ I figured that the shell had hit the joint between the wing and the main spar. Our ^{left} wing swept back slightly ~~and~~ and dropped down, vibrating in the air. The pilot did not seem to have any control ~~of the~~ with the ailerons, but we did not start into a spin. We were running at 2350 RPM and pulling 43 inches; though the throttle was full forward, we were not picking up any air speed. The wing had slowed down so that we could stay with them, but they were having trouble at the reduced speed. We signaled to number 2 man to go ahead, and they took off. The pilot ~~ordered~~ us into our parachutes. I ^{grabbed} mine and his from the catwalk and tried to put his on him. He ordered everyone to jump. ~~The~~ I remember the bombardier asking, "Did you say bail out." "I said bail out," the pilot replied.

PLANE
CRIPPLED

When
The wing was flopping badly, but it ~~had~~ not yet fallen off. The pilot released the bombs with his emergency release, the bombardier had already jumped and

I thought that the men in the back had also gone out. I put the pilot's parachute on the seat next to him. The pilot deserves a lot of credit for the way he held the plane until everyone bailed out. ^(A) I went out the escape hatch head first at about 23,000 feet, wearing a chest-type American make parachute. I thought that I delayed my jump to 15,000 feet or

BAILED
OUT

so. I saw only three other chutes in the air, but I figured that the six men had gone out early and were out of sight. I ~~think~~ ^{thought} we were aided by the fact that there was a heavy ground haze. I am sure that the Germans had a lot of trouble seeing us on the way down. [→] A couple of shots were fired at me from the ground, and the French told me afterward that Germans had fired.

Some English boys whom I met afterwards said that ~~they~~ saw my plane go into a spin soon after I bailed out. I did not see the pilot leave the ship, but from the descriptions the French gave of one of my crew members who was captured by the Germans, I ~~am convinced~~ ^{concluded} that the pilot got out.

~~I came down through a small apple tree and sprained my back~~

LANDED IN
SMALL BACKYARD

I was heading ~~straight~~ for a couple of houses, but I managed to miss them and land in a small backyard about 20 feet square. ^{— near SARTROUVILLE OUTSIDE PARIS.} I came down through an apple tree and sprained my back. ~~I came down in SARTROUVILLE, outside Paris.~~ Not far away [←] a French boy sitting on a fence was screaming at me. I ran around the little back yard about three times, but I could not find ~~my~~ ^{the} way out. I got down on my hands and knees and crawled about 100 feet through some chicken wire to a chicken coop where I hid. I heard noises out on the street, ^{had} and I figured that the Germans had come and been directed away by the French.

AT FIRST HID
IN CHICKEN
COOP

After everything had been ~~quiet~~ for three or four minutes, the little French boy on the fence motioned for me to come back, so I crawled over to him on my hands and knees. He pointed to my clothes, ~~so~~ I took off ^{all my flying clothes} everything down to a sweat shirt and kahki trousers. I was wearing GI shoes. He threw my mae west, flight jacket, and flying coveralls into the yard where my chute was and took me into the house right next to the one behind which I landed. He led me to another ~~back~~ ^{dangerous} yard and tried to hide me in some bramble bushes. I felt it was a pretty exposed position.

BUT FRE DIRECTED
TO ANOTHER
HIDING PLACE

Soon there were more noises ~~up~~ ^{who was} on the street. I saw the French people making way for a man in a black suit who was smoking a pipe or cigar and wearing a black bowler. He walked in to see where my parachute was. When he walked in, I walked

(4)

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

E & E REPORT NO. 242
EVASION IN FRANCE

Plane # 42-30362

Dec. 4, 1943
(Date)

Harold E. Thompson 2nd Lt. O-738291
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

561st 388th
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 25
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 4 yr. 9 mos
HOME ADDRESS: 158 So. Main St.
Palmer, Mass.

MIA: 9 Sept 43
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Dec. 2, 1943
Arrived in UK: 3 December 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT ^{Adelbert} 1st Lt. A.D. Porter	O-735657	
CO-PILOT ^{arold} 2nd Lt. H.E. Thompson		
NAVIGATOR ^{entry} 2nd Lt. H.C. Rowland	O-798883	NARRATOR ALL parachuted except
BOMBARDIER ^{ernon} 1st Lt. V.D. Adams	O-2043751	Pilot, P/W
RADIO OPERATOR ^{ohn} T/Sgt. J.P. Ash	14064852	P/W
TOP TURRET GUNNER ^{John H.} T/Sgt. J. Moffitt	34125582	P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER ^{Ralph} S/Sgt. R. Mallicoate	← 35473253	
WAIST GUNNER ^{Rossell} S/Sgt. R.M. Miller	35310260	MIA
WAIST GUNNER ^{oswell} New Man Ivan L.		
TAIL GUNNER ^{Ivan L.} Sgt. Schraeder	16052287	MIA
Photo. - New Man		
S/Sgt. Clement Mezzanotte	32414293	MIA
1st Lt. George Bartuska, Jr.	O-733513	

Were you wounded?

No.

S/Sgt. Alphonse Sulchino 32499151 P/W

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

E & E REPORT NO. 243
EVASION IN FRANCE

12/4/43
(Date)

Henry C. Rowland 2nd 0-798883
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

561 388
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 23
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 22 months
HOME ADDRESS: 67 Pleasant St
Arlington, Mass.

MIA: 9 Sept 45
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Arrived in UK:
3 December 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with FWIB)

PILOT Lt. A.D. Porter

CO-PILOT Lt. H. E. Thompson

NAVIGATOR Same as

BOMBARDIER

RADIO OPERATOR

TOP TURRET GUNNER

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

Official Narrators
Disposition Disposition

Lt. Thompson's
sheet.

Were you wounded?

No

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	0735657 1st Lt Adelbert D PORTER	MIA
CO-PILOT	0738291 2d Lt Harold E THOMPSON	NARRATOR
NAVIGATOR	0798883 2d Lt Henry C ROWLAND	NARRATOR
BOMBARDIER	0204375 2d Lt Vernon D ADAMS	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	14064852 T/Sgt John R ASH	P/W
TOP TURRET GUNNER	34125582 T/Sgt John H MOFFITT	MIA P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	32414293 S/Sgt Clement MEZZANOTTE	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	35310260 S/Sgt Roswell MILLER	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	32499151 S/Sgt Alphonse SULCHINO	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	16052286 Sgt IVan L SCHRAEDER	MIA
PHOTO		

35473253 S/Sgt RALPH MALLICOTE MIA

1. The following information has been obtained in an interview with two officers who evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy occupied territory.
2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but in that case it is important not to divulge any particulars about the source.

Statement of information covering the period from 9 September 1943 to 1 December 1943.

- a. According to a Paris newspaper of 15 September 1943, an American plane blew up in mid air, and 10 men came down in parachutes, but they were dead. We witnessed the raid in question, and saw one plane blow up in mid-air, with a German fighter plane blowing up beside it. ~~We did not see any chutes come from the plane~~ We saw only one chute come from both these planes, and from the information the French gave us it was a German who landed. In that same raid we saw parachutes coming out from another ship right after the target. The French believed that the 10 men referred to in the newspaper article were killed on the way down.
- b. A Frenchman who helped us told us that in northern France the Germans were not taking prisoners when American airmen came down in parachutes.
- c. In early September the French people believed there would be an invasion. When nothing happened, they thought it would come in October. By November they began to fear there would be no invasion this year.
- d. We talked to many Frenchmen who want the Russians to get into Germany before the English or Americans do. They seemed to think that the Russians understood how to treat the Germans better than the western powers do. The French would prefer not to have the Russians in France, but they want most of all to see that the Germans are properly taken care of. The French are very savage about the ~~Russians~~ Germans.
- e. The French can not understand what all the bickering about Giraud has been about. They are all out for De Gaulle because he stands as the symbol of French resistance.
- f. The French we met seemed to be dead sure that France would be a great power after the war, entitled to all the privileges of that position.
- g. The French seemed to be skeptical about the United States for two reasons: (1) the apparent American unfriendliness to De Gaulle combined with an apparent attempt to use Giraud against De Gaulle, and (2) the great number of casualties resulting from American high level precision bombing.
- h. The French seemed to be ^{much} very taken ^{on} back by what they believed ^{to be} the deliberate bombing of non-military targets in NANTES by American negro fliers.
- i. Some French ^{men} said that after the American bombing of NANTES there was considerable reluctance on the part of many French ^{men} to help American aviators who came down.
- j. In the month of September we counted ~~100~~ more than 100 flat cars of B-17 wrecks passing through SARTROUVILLE. We thought there must be a plant for reassembling the pieces somewhere on the railroad to the north.
- k. We saw the tail numbers on two planes and thought that both of them belonged to the 388th Bomb Group: H-230234-(Yellow)P and H-(last three numbers) 189

l. In Paris in November we saw Spanish troops dressed in kakhi, wearing ~~berets~~ dark hats like berets and having red lapels or red insignia of some sort.

m. In November there were in Brest many German women who had been bombed out of HAMBURG.

n. We saw two submarines in BREST which a reliable source told us were Japanese. He also told us that there had been many fights between the Japanese and the German sailors.

o. I saw a large submarine with a box conning tower, about 300 feet long. It was bigger than the average American submarine I saw when I was in Hawaii; and I believe that it was bigger than the Japanese submarine which carries a plane.

p. Quite a few White Russians were around BREST wearing dark blue uniforms and caps with white tassels. The French did not trust them and treated them like Germans.

q. I understood that only Organization Todt men around BREST wore armbands with Swastikas.

r. A Frenchman who helped us received letters ^{in late September} ~~in September and October~~ from a friend working in Berlin. The friend declared that he worked 10 hours a day, slept six hours, and spent the rest of the time in air raid shelters.

s. An American we met in Paris who had lived many years in France quoted letters from Germany to the effect that after the raid on Hamburg, trainloads of hysterical women and children arrived in Munich. The tenor of his letters was that German morale is low.

t. ~~When we~~ At Landreneau in November we saw some 200 German soldiers at the station. Many of them were young and undersized.

u. Going through the German defences on the French coast near LANNILIS, we saw a large mine field surrounded by barbed wire. On the bluff to the right of this position German sentries were parading around. This was on the section of the French coast that stretches out to the island of Guennoc.

v. I was told by an eyewitness that last year a B-17 crashed near Brest, one of the officers who was slightly wounded in the leg was kicked in the face by a German soldier and brutally beaten to death.

w. The German navy seemed to be very smartly dressed. Frenchmen told us that the cloth for the uniforms had been confiscated early in the war from the French naval stores in BREST.

x. In late November a reliable source in BREST told me that the Germans were preparing to use rocket guns against England.. I had participated in a raid on concrete ~~structures~~ structures in the Bois de Ham, and I realized for the first time that we had bombed an emplacement.. My reliable source told me that he thought that the only reason why the Germans had not yet used the rockets was because they were not yet ready.. He stated that from what he could find out the Germans were set back six months by British bombing of the experimental works for the rockets. He thought that the Germans were preparing along the coast.. He said the rockets weighed three tons and could hit anything in England, but the Germans themselves did not know where the rockets would land.. ~~My informant had two possible sources of information about which I knew:~~ My informant had two possible sources of information about which I knew: (1) what he already knew of French developments in experiments with rockets, and (2) that he was in a position

WALKED
OUT ON STREET

HID IN OPPOSITE
BLOCK

GERMANS
SEARCHED
BUT DID NOT
FIND

HELPED BY
FRENCH

TOURNEY
ARRANGED

BAILLED OUT

to the gate, crossed the dirt street, and walked along it a few houses. A lot of French people on the street watched me, but they did not seem to want to have anything to do with me. They made no effort to attract any attention to me, however. I saw a lane going to another garden much like the back yards I had come down in, so I thought I might go up there and find an easy hiding place. I passed a vineyard and some bushes and came to a sort of trough in the ground. I lay in it, covered myself with grass, and relaxed. I was in the block opposite the place where I had landed. ^{on the ground} I lay ~~there~~ from about 0945 to 1300. Meanwhile the Germans found my parachute, and searched all around for me. A ~~white-haired~~ woman walked up to the place where I was hiding and left me a note saying that I was safe where I was. That afternoon a man came to me bringing Lt ROWLAND's AGO card and a note from him that he hoped to see me soon. He took me to another place, and there I was given some bread and cheese which I ate, although I was not hungry. In the middle afternoon I walked with ^a ~~some~~ guide right through the center of a town, dressed in my kahki trousers, sweatshirt, and GI shoes. I was taken to a place where I was shaved and my hair was waved, and I received some civilian clothes. The next day I went to a place where Lt ROWLAND was, and from there our journeys were ~~arranged~~ arranged.

Lt ROWLAND:

When the pilot gave the order to bail out, the bombardier got to the door first. He had trouble with the ~~door~~ escape hatch but finally got it off and jumped out. The bomb bay doors were opening, so I waited until the bombs were away. Then I jumped out feet first. I did not see the plane afterwards.. I saw ~~some~~ ~~sort of~~ a factory below and some railroad lines, and I was afraid ^{I MIGHT} ~~land there~~ ^{blow in there} if I opened my chute immediately, so I did not pull the rip cord at first but held it to about 15,000 feet. It opened perfectly. I counted three other parachutes in the air. When I saw that I was drifting away from Paris, I did not bother to guide my chute. I saw about 30 people, farmers, ~~wife~~ and their wives and children, watching me come down.

LANDED IN
CARROT PATCH

I pulled myself up on my chute, bent my knees, and relaxed, just as I had been instructed for making a landing. I hit in a carrot patch ^{in the field outside MONTLUSON.} The French gathered around me and ~~stood~~^{ed} silently watching me pick up my parachute and unbuckle the harness. As soon as I had hid the parachute in some vegetation about 10 yards away, the French surged toward me. I turned to them and remarked, "Bonjour. Je suis américain." One woman went after the parachute, apparently to get the silk. All the French were talking and gesticulating, and I thought the noise ^{might attract attention.} ~~was not too good.~~ I saw some houses about a quarter of a mile away and headed for them.

STARTED
OFF

Before I had gone 25 yards, a couple of Frenchmen approached me and wanted me to hide in a hut about 20 yards from the place where I came down. It seemed too close to me, and I saw the Germans search ^{the hut} it afterwards, so I declined their invitation, ~~and~~ pointed to the houses, and walked on. They ~~trotted~~ men trotted across the fields with me.

FIRED AT

When I had gone about 200 yards, several shots rang out. The Frenchmen ducked away in different direction. I went on low and weaving. A couple of more shots sounded. The French told me later that some Germans were firing at 1200 yards. ^{went over a slight rise,} I ran on and came to a clover patch at a cross roads. I ducked in and found just enough ~~cover~~ cover to hide. The French told me later that 15 Germans searched three the area round about. One motorcyclist came up the road and passed about 3 yards from me; he turned the corner down the cross road and passed about two yards from me. He went up to some Frenchmen not far away, and asked them where I was. They pointed in just the ~~opposite~~ opposite direction, so he rushed off.

HID IN
CLOVER PATCH

MISSSED BY
SEARCHING
GERMAN

I stayed in the clover patch about an hour. Then a Frenchman came and tossed me a barley sack full of civilian clothes. While I was changing there in the clover, a French girl embarrassed me by walking past. A Frenchmen took me to a building and gave me a cheese sandwich and some wine and also four American cigarettes which I smoked gratefully. Then I bicycled to a place where I later met Lt THOMPSON. I had French identity papers within four hours of the time I landed.

Compiled By:

DEEMERSON

1st Lt, AUS

Appendices A-E

Approved by:

W STUE HOLT

Lt Col, AC

Commanding

W. Stue Holt

to be with many high ranking Germans.

y. A Frenchman who helped us told a story, which he knew to be true, about the execution of a German captain. The German captain had known a certain French family before the war. He had visited them after the fall of France and had then been enthusiastic about German successes. He visited them again in the late summer of 1943 and ~~was~~ was desperately pessimistic. He told them that Germany was finished and that German morale was terrible. His brother was fighting in Italy, and he never expected him to come out of the campaign alive. While this German captain was staying with the French family, some German plain clothesmen and soldiers came, set up machine guns outside the captain's room, and told him to come out. He told them to come after him if they wanted him. They fired through the door, but did not get him. They set up machine guns in the house next door and fired through his window. He killed two of his executioners, but ^{they} ~~he~~ also killed him. The remaining executioners then dismounted their guns, picked up the ~~bodies~~, and left quietly.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 242

No., Rank, Name:- *Harold E. Thompson, 2nd Lt. A.S. 0-258291*

Unit:- *501st Sgdn. 988th B. Gp.*

Please answer carefully the questions below. Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training must 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? *No.*
- (b) If not, had you one on you? *No*
- (c) If not, why had you no aids box? *GAVE IT TO PHOTO MAN. that morning*
- (d) If you used it, which of the following items did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g., "Lying up for 2 nights," etc.

Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect?
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box?
- (g) 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?

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? *YES.*
If so, state COLOR. *BROWN*
In NOT, State why not.
- (b) Did you use the purse? *YES*
- (c) If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances.

Maps. Which ones? *No*

Compass. *No*

File (hacksaw). *No*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money? *2,000 FRANCES, spent About 500/00 Books*
HAVE REST AWAY.

(d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *SOUVENIRS to French*

Compass. */*

File (hacksaw). *-*

Surplus currency. *-*

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS+) *None ISSUED*
(+Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following?
If you used any of them state briefly WHEN and WHERE.

Round compass. *-*

Stud compass. *-*

Swinger compass. *-*

Fly-button compass. *-*

Pencil clip compass. *-*

Tunic button compass. *-*

Pipe compass. *-*

Pouch */*

Special flying boots (and knife). *-*

(b) Were they satisfactory?

(c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions,
which would improve the above equipment?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

(a) Did you carry passport-size photographs?
If so, how many? *No - never bothered to carry them*

(b) Did you use them? *NO*
State how.

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *388 d. Sp. Intelligence*
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

(b) Did you find the lectures of value? *YES.*

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 243

No., Rank, Name:- Henry C. Rowland 12th 10-798885

Unit:-

561 Sq 588 GP

Please answer carefully the questions below. Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training must 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? *no*
- (b) If not, had you one on you? *yes immediate aid*
- (c) If not, why had you no aids box?
- (d) If you used it, which of the following items did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g., "Lying up for 2 nights," etc.

Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate. *French*

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect?

- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box? *French intelligence took it*

- (g) 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?

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? If so, state COLOR. In NOT, State why not. *yes*
- (b) Did you use the purse? *yes*
- (c) If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances.

Maps. Which ones?

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

2000 Fr fraves

gave money to French

(d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

French

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS+) *Not Issued*
(+Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following?
If you used any of them state briefly WHEN and WHERE.

Round compass.

Stud compass.

Swinger compass.

Fly-button compass.

Pencil clip compass.

Tunic button compass.

Pipe compass.

Pouch

Special flying boots (and knife).

(b) Were they satisfactory?

(c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions, which would improve the above equipment?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

(a) Did you carry passport-size photographs?
If so, how many?

(b) Did you use them?
State how.

yes
2
For French identification papers.
but photos should be a bit larger.

5. LECTURES

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

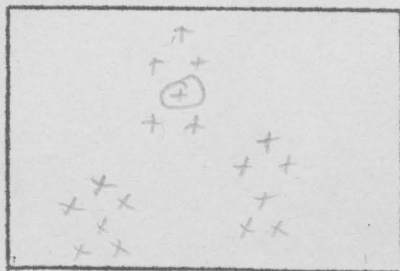
(b) Did you find the lectures of value?

yes.
Sioux City } American
England } Intelligence

yes.

NAME Henry C. Rowland RANK 2nd Lt ASN 0-798883 REPORT NO. 243

SQ 561 GROUP 388 A/C NO. 230265 Letter H Load 0-500 Date 9 Sept



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing:

not observed

Enemy Fighter Tactics:

Markings:

dived from clouds

Our Tactics:

Our Fighter Support:

*P-47 - saw two FW190
shot down by P-47*

Flak

Time

Place

Quality

none

Technical Failures

Motors:

none

Aarmor:

none

Armament:

none

Miscellaneous:

wing hit

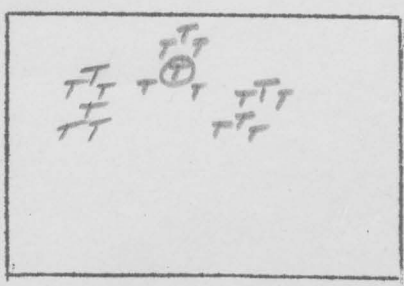
Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

none

not in

NAME Harold E. Thompson RANK 2nd Lt. ASN 0-738291 REPORT NO. 242

SQ 561 GROUP 388 A/C NO. 230565 Letter H Load 14500 Date Sept. 8, 1944



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing:

NONE

Enemy Fighter Tactics:
Markings:

Head on attacks

Our Tactics:

Our Fighter Support:

Overhead

<u>Flak</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Quality</u>
<u>YES</u>	<u>0910?</u>	<u>On Route</u>	<u>Not Accurate</u>

Technical Failures

Motors: NONE

Armor: NONE

Armament: NONE

Miscellaneous: WING SEVERELY HIT.

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

NONE

Mo Mo