

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO
EVASION IN

3 P/W; 4 in safe hands

OSS #47

(Date)

21 June 44

TARGET: LE MANS

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

(No of Missions)

Date Missing in Action: 17 June 1944

306 Bomb Group

Date Arrived in UK: _____

(Squadron)

(Group)

(Station #111) A/C #42-38163

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

3 P/W; 6 in safe hands - OSS (#53) 27 June 44

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know

PILOT	0-801865	2d Lt Joseph W PEDERSON	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-818819	2d Lt Leon J BLOOD	EVE 2439
NAVIGATOR	0-811635	1st Lt Ragnar E GUSTAFSON	EVE 1068
BOMBARDIER & NOSE TURRET	0-725095	1st Lt William A SMITH	EVE 1068
RADIO OPERATOR	35691651	T/Sgt John E WONNING	R+D
TOP TURRET GUNNER	18061280	T/Sgt Barney F ARNOLD	MIA
MIDDLE TURRET GUNNER	39698014	S/Sgt Jack E BLOCKWELL	EVE 2440
WALLET GUNNER	37002808	S/Sgt Warren E KERR	MIA
WALLET GUNNER			
TAIL GUNNER	17081672	S/Sgt Herman P EHRHARD, JR	EVE 971

Were you wounded?

*Check all MIA's in P/W file -
If not there, status remains same!*

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-989 Pentagon

6 August 1943

SUBJECT: Amended Instructions Concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War, to Include Evaders of Capture in Enemy or Enemy-Occupied Territory and Internees in Neutral Countries.

TO: The Commanding Generals,
Army Ground;
Army Air Forces;
The Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area;
The Commanding Generals,
Theaters of Operations;
Defense Commands;
Departments;
Base Commands;
The Commanding Officers,
Base Commands;
Director, Bureau of Public Relations.

1. Publication or communication to any unauthorized persons of experiences of escape or evasion from enemy-occupied territory, internment in a neutral country, or release from internment not only furnishes useful information to the enemy but also jeopardizes future escapes, evasions and releases.
2. Personnel will not, unless authorized by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, publish in any form whatever or communicate either directly, or indirectly, to the press, radio or an unauthorized person any account of escape or evasion of capture from enemy or enemy-occupied territory, or internment in a neutral country either before or after repatriation. They will be held strictly responsible for all statements contained in communications to friends which may subsequently be published in the press or otherwise.
3. Evaders, escapees, or internees shall not be interrogated on the circumstances of their experiences in escape, evasion or internment except by the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations. In allied or neutral countries, American Military Attaches are authorized to interrogate on escape, evasion and internment matters.
4. Should the services of escaped prisoners of war, evaders, or internees be deemed necessary for lecturing and briefing, such services will be under the direct supervision of the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations.
5. Commanding Officers will be responsible for instructing all evaders, escapees, and internees in the provisions of this directive which supersedes letter, AG 383.6 (5 Nov 42) OB-S-B-M, 7 November 1942, subject: Instructions concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War and other previous instructions on this subject.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J. A. ULIO
J. A. ULIO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

1. Information about your escape or your evasion from capture *would be useful to the enemy* and a danger to your friends. It is therefore **SECRET**.

2. a You must therefore not disclose, except to the first Military Attache to whom you report, or to an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations, or by A. C. of S., G-2, W. D.
 - (1) The names of those who helped you.
 - (2) The method by which you escaped or evaded.
 - (3) The route you followed.
 - (4) Any other facts concerning your experience.
- b You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.
- c You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.
- d You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4.
- e No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of A. C. of S., G-2, W. D., or corresponding organization in the theater.

GERTIFICATE

I have read the above and certify that I will comply with it.

I understand that any information concerning my *escape or evasion* from capture is **SECRET** and must not be disclosed to anyone other than the agency designated by A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations, or to the Military Attache in a neutral country to whom I first report. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) Leon J Blood Signed Leon J Blood
Rank 2nd Lt A. S. N. 0-818819 Dated 12 Oct. 1944
Unit 367 Sqdn 306 Bomb Group (H) Witness J. A. Ulio, 2nd Lt AUS

AG P BR HQ SCS

122472

RESTRICTED

2nd Lt. Leon J. Blood 0-818819

367/306 17 Jun - 12 Oct

2440

Flak hit our ship on the 17 June 1944 and we bailed out. I landed in a field 1 Km S of St. Pierre des Bois (SARTHE), and was immediately joined S/Sgt. Jack E. Blackwell. We walked S and on the 20th June we stopped at a farmhouse near Vion (SARTHE) on the road leading from Vion to Sables. An old man lived here with a younger woman. We were given clothes and ~~XXXX~~ shelter for 1 day. We travelled S for 4 days reaching ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ St. Mathurin (M. & L.) on the Loire midday on the 24 June. A boatman ferried us across to St. Remy (M. & L.) and took us to the schoolteacher, M. Forgeron, at a schoolhouse. He took us to Chemelliers (M. & L.) and turned us over to M. Paul Geanne, a schoolteacher and the Secretaire de Ville. He sheltered us 1 night in the schoolhouse and a second night at a Hotel. He gave us shoes ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. On the 26th June he took us to the home of an old couple in Alligny (M. & L.) where we stayed 5 days. On the 1st July Forgeron and Geanne took us to Doue la Fontaine (M. & L.) where we spent 2 nights at the Hotel de Faison owned by Mme. Landie (or Landy, or Landis). M. Remy Roblin, the area Resistance chief, then took us to his farm at Forges (M. & L.) where we stayed until the 24th August. While here we met M. Louis Fontaineau, his wife, his brother George and M. Roblin's son who were all active in the Resistance. M. Roblin's daughter worked for the Resistance in Poitiers (VIENNE). On about the 1st August we spoke to a French officer who had been dropped behind the lines by 'chute. He told us that Lt. Oliphant, a P38 pilot, had been snatched from the German occupied hospital at La Fleche (SARTHE) and, flown to safety together with 3 Frenchmen, in a Lysander. We learned that 2 other airmen passed through Doue la Fontaine in August. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ We became impatient and left M. Roblin's farm on the 24th August. On the 25th we met a M. Le Maitre Louis in le Champ (W. of THOUARCE (M. & L.)) He was a Belgian, had been in American, and worked for GMC in South America. He fed us, got us shoes, and told us where to cross the Loire. We left him and on the 26th reached Ste. Christine (M. & L.) where we met a man who with a friend took us on cycles which he had borrowed into La Chapelle St. Florent (M. & L.). We were stopped here by Germans and, having no papers, we were taken prisoner. On the 8th September the German troop train on which we were ~~being~~ travelling reached Belfort. A P47 strafed us there and we all ran for shelter. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ A R.R. worker hid us in the Usine de Gaz in the yards. We remained in hiding here until the 29th September. M. Boudvillain, a Director of the Usine, and his wife looked after us. A M. Henri Joye, a former teacher in Belfort, took us to his home in Boron (TER. de BELFORT) on the 29th Sept. Here we met Lt. George Hebbel, who was shot down on the 9th September. M. Joye told us of another airman who was in hiding at Montreux Chateau (TER. de BELFORT) He was to be taken to Switzerland on the next trip. On the 30th we crossed the border behind Delle (TERR. de BELFORT) and entered the Swiss village of Boncourt. There were 12 French who crossed with us including Mme. Janine Pierron, of 2, Ave. Famaul, Belfort who was _____

Read

a secret agent, 2 Priests, Pierre, and a M. Gilbert Berger, Granvillars(Belfort) who actually escorted us across the border. We were arrested by the Military Police in Bonnacourt, but were released 2 hours later through the intervention of Mme. Pierron who was a friend of a young Swiss Lt. We were taken by train to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Porrentruy where we stayed in a Hotel. The next morning we left with Pierre, Mme. Pierron and a Swiss Lt. in a taxi for Villars (Doubs) We were let through by the Customs officials. Later that day a French Army Captain drove us to Maiche(Doubs). 2days later a Frenchman drove us to Besancon where we reported to General Schwein who arranged our evacuation.

VILLARS LES B.
(DOUBS)

R. Sarant
2nd Lt. AUS

"C" Report

S/Sgt. Jack E. Blackwell

39898014

367/306

2440

17 June
12 Oct

On the 17th June our ship was hit by flak and we bailed out.
I landed in a woods 1 Km S of St. Pierre des Bois (Sarthe)
and immediately joined Lt. Leon J. Blood. The story of
my evasion and escape is the same as his.

2439

R. Sarant
2nd Lt. AUS

Ready
JS

2439

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

13 October 1944

Subject: Clothing for officer returning from MIA status

To: Capt Morgenthau, QM Sales Store

1. The following officer has recently returned from MIA status:
2d Lt Leon J BLOOD, 0818819, 306 Bomb Gp (H).
2. Request that he be issued complete uniform.

For the Commanding Officer:

D H EMMERSON
Capt, AUS

Lt Blood & Blackwell

Had dog tags

Met by plane on 17 June 1944, Free broke out
& were ordered out. Jumped at 20,000 &
land landed in fields 1 Km S of St. Pierre
des Bois (Sarthe) (NR. Le Mans).

Had chute & left other in trees. Had an wound
& walked S for 1st 3 nights; getting food
from helpers along the way. In the night we
declared ourselves to a farmer on the outskirts
of Vion. He lived on the road leading to Sable.
He was an old man & lived w a younger woman.
He gave us clothes & fed & sheltered us that day
& night. He left in the morning heading for
Spain. He traveled S for the next 4 days getting
food & directions from farmers & reached
the Loire at St Mathurin at noon. He
declared our self to the boatman who ferried
us across to St Kerm. He took us to
the schoolhouse where he were handed over to
M. Fourgeron, a school teacher. He escorted
us to another schoolhouse at Chemillies
where we were turned over to Paul Beanne,
also a teacher & the Secy de Ville. He ran

2

The town. He put us up 1 night in school & 1 night in a Hotel. Gave us shoes, soap etc & food. He was in contact with chief of Angou & he was going to arrange evacuation by plane. But at that time the Chief was hanged & about 30 others were caught by Gestapo. He took us on foot to Allegny where we stayed at old couple's house where we stayed 5 days. They were farmers. Genevieve & Fougereau moved us to Poué la Fontaine where stayed 2 night at Hotel de Faison, Mme. Landie (Landy). He met here M. Perry Roblin, the Res. Chief of the area. He told us he expected ^{in plane} in 5 weeks. He went to his farm at Forges. At Poué we met Louis Fontaineau, his wife, his brother George, Roblin's sons, who were all active. Roblin's daughter worked for org. in Poitiers. He stayed at Forges till Aug 24. About 1st of Aug a Frenchman who had been chuted down told us that he had put ~~had~~ had a P38 Pilot. Lt. Oliphant evacuated by Lyander. This pilot had been in German

Hospital in La Fleche. We escaped from hospital & came out with other 3 French men. He also learned the 2 other airmen passed through Doué while we were there.

On the 24 Aug. we got impatient & walked out on the Roblin. On the 3rd day of our ^{25 Aug.} travels we arrived in le Champ & met a M. ~~Le Maître~~ Le Maître Louis; he had worked for GMC in S. American. He was a Belgian, had been in state. He fed us, got us shoes & told us where to cross the Loire. He left his house, reached a farm near ^{an' maugre} Neuvy ^{at} evening & stayed overnight in barnhouse. Next A.M.

left & got to Ste. Christine where met a man who promised to help us. He left us in the Post Office. He arranged for us to cross the river. He returned with cycles. He rode behind him & a friend into town of St. La Chapelle St. Florent. They were stopped by German search party. He had no papers so we were held prisoners. He declared ourselves & were taken a Bg in a chateau. 2nd day interrogated at another Chateau near Nantes. 4 French of French Army were captured same day as we & were taken with us. Taken to Ligon in convoy. He stopped & shot by Magas

at Lizou, Sept 6, we & the 4 French
 were put on train with group of soldiers
 who were retreating. 2nd day reached
 Vesoul. We were continually stopped. We
 did not leave during day but took shelter
 in fields etc. On the 1st attack during 1st
 day our train was stopped & the 4 French &
 a German officer from Metz took off.
 On the 3rd day we reach Belfort in AM.
 Shot by P47. We detoured & we 3 slipped
 into a ~~low~~ Gas works for shelter ~~there~~
~~was a raid. But went to Gas house~~
 A Frenchman hid us. 1st day it was searched
 but they missed us. He stayed here until
 29 Sept. M. Boudvillain, a director of
 the Usine ^{in house} looked after us. All the workers
 also brought us food etc. M. Boudvillain
 made contact with Professor Denise Joire,
 a former teacher in Belfort. She lives in
 Boron. On 29 Sept. ~~we took us on foot to~~
 we entered town & acted like other trench diggers
 whose Germans conscripted. He walked away
 & went with Denise to his home in Boron.
 Here we P47 Pilot Lt George Hebbel
 who was shot down on Sept 9. He followed us
 there after. The next day we crossed the
 the border into Swiss behind hills. We were
 with 12 French, 2 Priest, a woman, an 2 operators =

5

He went with about 12 French agent & helpers
etc - 1. Mme. Janine Pierson, 2 Ave. Famaul,
Belfort,

she was a secret agent

2. 2 Priests

3. a Pierson

4. M. Gilbert Berger, Granvillars (Belfort)
who escorted us across.

After crossing we entered Boncourt &
were taken prisoner. We were released an hour
later. He understood that Janine interceded
with young Swiss Lt. 1, 3, 4. They
took Porrontruy by train where stayed
in Hotel overnight. There we met A.P. Correspondent
Tom Hawking. & other Correspondents

x x Henri Joye told us of another airmen kept
near Montre Chateau & they were going to
take him out next trip.

1st Oct
Met A.M. Swiss Lt. & Pierre & Janine.
got a trip & we drove to Villars. We were
let show Customs post. Stayed there till
P.M. when French Army Capt drove us
to ~~Mite~~ Maiche (Durb.). 2 days later (3 Oct)
left with a French to Besancon where.

turned over to Genl Schwein. Stayed
 overnight & army transportation to
 12 Tac AF. There got orders & clothes.
 & next day went by plane to Marseille.
 Stayed 3 day with A.T.C. Flown to
 Naples. Stayed there till 11 Oct. Interrogated
 by Col. Swan of Air Intelligence. Wrote
 him a brief report of our experience.
 Flown from Naples thru Lyon to
 England on 11 Oct.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 2nd Lt Leonard Blood 0-818819

Unit:- 367 Sqdn 306 Bomb Group

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. *yes while hiding in woods & ditches*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *before changing into civilian*

Milk (tube). *clothing*

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *NO*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *yes*

Matches. *NO*

Adhesive tape. *yes, for blisters on feet*

Chewing gum.

Water bottle. *yes while walking*

Compass. *yes, walking at night*

Sewing kit. *yes to repair clothes*

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *yes, ^{Rubber} water bag leaks*

e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *Threw it away*

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?

I had a type kit without razor which would have been helpful

2. PURSE

a. Did you carry a purse? *yes*
State color of stripes and letters. *Red stripes with 43 or 44 on*
If NOT, State why not.

b. Did you use the purse? *yes, used maps, compass & money*

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones? *France*

Compass, *yes*

File (hacksaw). *NO*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *2000 Francs*
How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:- *Gave 1000 to a boy who helped us into Switzerland
the rest after escape*

Maps. *Gave one to French, Germans took 2*

Compass. *Lost + gave them away*

File (hacksaw). *taken by Germans*

Surplus currency. *none*

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion?

*Yes compasses + ~~pictures~~, ~~pictures~~ + gave
compasses away*

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? *yes*
If so, how many? *6*

b. Did you use them? *No lost them before capture*

5. LECTURES

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

In U S + U K by escapees

b. Did you find the lectures of value? *Not much*

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapees?

No

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.,.....)

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Blood, Leon J. 2ndLTAC 0-818819
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Oct 12, 1944
(Date)

367 Sqdn 306 Bomb Group
(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.

June 17, 1944 at noon near Noyen

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

Very Bad fire in left wing

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

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

*20000 ft
Radio operator wounded in flight arm by flak*

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

Counted 6 chutes in the air

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Did not see

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

Yes Ball Turret gunner

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?

No

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

No

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

*Everyone had ample time + warning to bail out
+ I believe they were ready*

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

Blood, Leon J 2ndLTAC 0-818819
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
16 (No. of missions)
367 (Squadron) 306 (Group)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: June 17, 44
Date arrived in UK: Oct 12, 1944

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT Joseph Pedersen Unknown MIA
CO-PILOT Leon J Blood Parachuted safely
NAVIGATOR Gustafson Bailed out ahead of me RTD
BOMBARDIER William Smith unknown RTD
RADIO OPERATOR John Wanning wounded by Flak in arm unknown MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER Barney Arnold Bailed out ahead of me
BALL TURRET GUNNER Jack E Blackwell parachuted safely - met him on ground
WAIST GUNNER Kerr unknown MIA
WAIST GUNNER
TAIL GUNNER Erhard Unknown RTD

Decorations: None

Date of Birth: May 17, 1921

Private Address: 257 Pleasant St Brockton, Mass.

Length of Service: 2 years

Job as Civilian: clerk

From what field did you take off? Take off time. Thurleigh Approx 0800

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Don't know

Were you wounded? Give details. No

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? No

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

Did you have identity papers? Dog Tags

(over)

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

Yes, by Air Intelligence at Naples Italy

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

Yes, Air Intelligence at Naples

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

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: None

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: None

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air.

Oct 11 From Naples

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

None

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

None

Monsieur Berger Gilbert
Grand Place
Belfort

I Pierson Yanni

2 Avenue Genoul
Belfort

France