

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Stiles, Kenneth S Sgt 38366661
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
397th B.C. 599th B.S. Apo 140
(Unit)

Nov. 6, 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. August 9, 1944
near Chartre, France at 1400.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
Plane crashed with entire crew aboard with both engines inoperative.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

Did not bail

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

Pilot was injured by Flak in chest. He would have lived probably.

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

No one bailed.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Plane was demolished Lt. Engine + Tail section burning.

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

I saw Radio-Gunner, Tail gunner ALIVE. I saw co-pilot die on way to hospital. Pilot + Bombardier removed by Germans

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. I asked Germans in

Sign language about the other two and understood they were dead.

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

Yes - Plane was scattered for two hundred yards - Left Engine and tail section burned.

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.

Crashed on Land.

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

co-pilot dead - I was eyewitness

Pilot and Enlisted bombardier dead - Answer of Germans to Sign Language.

Radio-Gunner Tail gunner ALIVE - Back in England.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

Kenneth S. Stiles Sgt 38366661
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: 8/9/44

Date arrived in UK: 8/30/44

40 (No. of missions)

599th (M) 397th (M)
(Squadron) (Group)

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT - Jerome Cross - Severe flak wounds in chest probably killed in crash

CO-PILOT - Hesser - Died in first German Aid station - I was an eyewitness

NAVIGATOR None

BOMBARDIER Sgt Vincent J. Serio - Probably died in crash

RADIO OPERATOR - Richard V. Pass - Wounded in crash - Taken by Germans to Paris. I was with him

TOP TURRET GUNNER Kenneth S. Stiles - wounded and taken by Germans to hospital in Paris - myself

BALL TURRET GUNNER - None

WAIST GUNNER - Same as Radio operator

WAIST GUNNER - Only one waist gunner

TAIL GUNNER - John N. Deems - wounded and taken to Paris for hospitalization by Germans - I was with him

Decorations: Purple Heart - Air medal and clusters (40 missions)

Date of Birth: July 31, 1922

Private Address: Box 33 Route #2 Moore, Texas

Length of Service: 20 months

Job as Civilian: Civil Service Aircraft Engine Mechanic

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

Horn Air Base Near Bourne mouth + Christ church
Take off ground 0900.

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

Plane was demolished - Equipment probably destroyed in crash

Were you wounded? Give details. Yes

Unconscious for 2 hrs - Severe laceration of left forehead
and double fracture of pelvis

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

No guides

Do you speak FRENCH? SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?

I speak SPANISH

Did you have identity papers? - No - only dogtags.

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

We have not been interrogated.

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

No

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?

Not before present date

Date of arrival in Spain: _____

Date of arrival at Gibraltar: _____

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air. *Evac. by Hospital*

Aircraft on September Aug 30, 1944

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

Numerous Allied Personnel were held by Germans in "Hopital de la Pitie - Boulevard de Hopitals - Paris, France"

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

~~_____~~

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.,.....)

RESTRICTED

2624

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.

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) Stiles, Kenneth S
Rank Sgt A. S. N. 3836661
Unit 397th B.C. 599th B.S.

Signed Kenneth S. Stiles
Dated Nov. 6, 1944
Witness Robert J. Dukatz, 1st Lt. AC.

RESTRICTED

Kenneth S. Stiles S/Sgt. 3836661

397th Bom. Gp. 599th Sqdn. APO-140

2624

MIA Aug - UK 5 Nov.

by E.L.D.

On Aug. 9, 1944 our B-26-F crashed in enemy territory at Courtaulin, France near Chartres. We had been severely damaged by flak, both engines were inoperative and the pilot was wounded. No one bailed out.

The French reached the plane before the Germans but we were too badly wounded to escape. Lt. Hesser - co-pilot - died on way to hospital. The pilot and enlisted bombardier were said to be dead by the Germans. The remainder of the crew was taken to the Hospital de la Pitie, Boulevard de Hopital, Paris, France. The Germans asked name, rank and serial number but no more.

We were placed in care of the French when the F.F.S. found Paris. Food and medicine were almost non-existent - but Germans showed no cruelty.

When Americans arrived we were evacuated to U.K. on Aug. 30, 1944.

Stiles, Kenneth S. 38366661
397th B.G. 599th B.S.

near Chartres

Crashed Aug 9, 1944 in enemy territory

We were briefed for a mission to bomb a bridge across the Siene somewhere Northwest of Paris. Five minutes after "bombs away" we were hit at 12,000 ft. by flak. The pilot and the right engine were rendered in active. The co-pilot took over, feathered the engine and the ship came down to 800 ft. before it leveled off. At 800 ft the left engine went and the co-pilot tried a "dead stick" landing, but the right wing stalled out first, so that we struck the ground on our right wing. Enlisted "toggler" was in co-pilot's seat and wounded pilot was on back in radio compartment, Tail gunner was dumping excess weight out of tail section and I was standing on flight deck.

The French reached the plane before the German but we were too badly wounded to escape. I was sure of the death of Lt. Hesser - co-pilot on way to German Hospital. The Pilot and Enlisted bombardier were said to be dead by the Germans. Remainder of crew was taken to Hopital de la Pitie, Boulevard de Hopitals, Paris, France. The Germans asked our name rank and serial number, but did not ask more. We were placed in care of the French when the F.F.I. freed Paris. Food and medicine were almost non-existent, but they Germans did not show cruelty. Later when Americans arrived we were evacuated to UK.

Night of Day. Germans evacuated Hospital,
"Hospital de la Pitié" Me 109s divebombed hospital
even tho own mem. inside in hospital. Did hit
one other.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *Kenneth S. Stiles - 38366661*
Unit:- *397th B.C. 599th B.S. APO # 140*

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? *No. Removed by German captors*
- b. If not, why? - *Captured*
- 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.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box?
- 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?

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *No use for purse a captive in Hospital*
State color of stripes and letters. *Hospital*
If NOT, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse? *NO.*

(over)

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

Maps. Which ones?

Compass,

File (hacksaw).

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

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

Did not use

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

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

Yes - Nine

b. Did you use them? - *Taken by Germans*

5. LECTURES

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

By our group intelligence

*ALL thru training and later after became operations
we were briefed on escape before each mission*

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

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

was a wounded prisoner of war