

S E C R E T

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

MEAD, John B. Capt. O-733073

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

11-8-44

(Date)

492 Bombs GP.

(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-6-1944 - 0036 hrs. - NEAR MARSIGNY, FRANCE

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

Both wings and tail compartment on fire

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

1000'

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

TAIL-GUNNER

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

ALL-YES

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

YES

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

YES-REITMEIER, LATTA, COLLIER-ALIVE

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.

ALL CREW ALIVE-CONTACTED-REITMEIER, LATTA,
COLLIER, - SAW PICTURES OF HASTY + DAMINI + RUSSEL - SIMON

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

YES - COMPLETELY DESTROYED

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 alive - Pictures + word of people
who saw them

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "B" 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.,.....)

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

492 BOMB GP. (HV), I.V. Officer -

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

492 BOMB GP. (HV) - 11-6-44

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

492 BOMB GP. (HV) - Intel. officer

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. AIR-LYON, FRANCE

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.

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 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.

GERTIFIGATE

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) John B. Mead
Rank CAPT. A.C. A. S. N. 0-733073
Unit 497 Bomb Gr. 858 Bomb Sq.

Signed John B. Mead
Dated 11-8-44
Witness Elbert J. Dufford 1st Lt. A.C.

RESTRICTED

801st Bn. Sp. 406 Sqdn.

2638

MIA 6 May - OK 8 Nov. by CD.

I bailed out of aircraft and landed between Marsigny and Cheney le Chatel. I buried my parachute and equipment and proceeded in a southerly direction. About 2½ hrs later I passed through Cheney le Chatel and a bit beyond near the village of Vivans. It was just becoming light so I stopped at a farm house. The farmer was Mr Bion, Vivans, Loire, France. His daughter Marionette went to get a member of the underground.

I stayed at the farm for three days and was contacted by Br. Agent "Dodo" (John H. Coleman, Jr. RND)

I was moved from the farm to the home of M. Genet, 74 Rue Clarmont, Roanne, Loire.

At this time while I was awaiting special orders to work with the Br. Agent. I went with a number of Maquis to receive parachute arms and supplies. While there I contacted my Group.

After 15 or 20 days my orders came thru and I moved to the home of a Civil Engineer, M. Bassinard, Rue de Paris, Roanne. I began working with another Br. Agent Robert Lyon known as "Gigi". We established an arms depot in Roanne where I worked preparing guns and other equipment for use by the Maquis. While I was at this house I met Lt. Reitmeier, Nav. of our crew who had been brought to us

for help.

After 10 days we moved all prepared equipment to a new Maguin Hq. 16 Km. South east of Roanne and there established "Maguin Violette". The FFI name of which was "Groupe de Frangy".

My job with this group was organizational and training, instructing them in the use of american arms, ammunition and equipment and basic field training.

Sabotage activities were carried out from this Hq. by "Dodo" and "Lizi". I stayed behind commanding Hq. as a place of refuge for the saboteurs. We received parachutes here on July 15th containing complete equipment.

On July 25th our Hq. was approached by 15-20 Vichy Militia but action did not follow.

On July 26th we moved our Hq. 3 Km to the south east and two days later we received word that our position was being attacked by a force of from two to four hundred men. Composed of Vichy Militia, G.M.R. and Germans. At 11:15 our forces were surrounded. As I was C.O. in charge I ordered our men to attack a weak side of the circle. We broke thru and our forces escaped to the south. Only two men were killed. We had made arrangements for a later rendezvous.

While I was escaping from this action I was aided by a M.-Benoist, St. Polgues, Loire who later aided St. Reitmeier.

We regrouped at Pic de Rochefort and split into sabotage sections of 15 men each. I went with the north section stationed near Morsigny where a section of the Morsigny FFI was also placed under my command.

On Aug. 15 in company with "Gigi" our group blew up a section of track and R.R. bridge near Changy.

On Aug. 21, the Germans were evacuating Roanne. Gigi assembled all groups and attempted to intercept a German column leaving Roanne on foot. We contacted the enemy near Tarare but only slight action resulted.

On Aug. 22 a telegram was received reading "Inform St. Mead present work not in line of duty" so I returned to Roanne which was by this time clear of the enemy.

On Sept. 5th I went from Roanne to Lyon which had also been evacuated by the Germans. And from Lyon I proceeded to the nearest American air base at Ambrieville on Sept. 6th 1944.

S E C R E T

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

Unit:-

Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training come largely from those who make use of them. Your report and comments will help others to evade capture or to escape.

1. AIDS BOX

- a. Did you use your aids box?
- b. If not, why?
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights".

Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

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?
State color of stripes and letters.
If NOT, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse?

(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.

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?

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

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

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?

Landed between Massigny and Cheney
Le Chatel - landed parachute & equip.
proceeded in southerly direction.
after 2 1/2 hrs. passed thru Cheney Le Chatel
after. arrived near village of Virans
just hearing light - proceeded to
farm house. None of farmer.

M. Pion, Virans, France. Loire, -
asked for aid he summoned daughter
Marionette Pion who went to get
members of underground.

At farm for 3 days. Was contacted
by British agent "Dodge".

John H. Coleman S. R.N.R.

Was moved from farm house - to home
in Roanne - M. Senet - 74 Rue Clermont
Roanne Loire. -

At this time, while awaiting orders to
work with agent, source went up with
Maquis contacted group received parachute
supplies. - After 15-20 days orders
came thru. - At this time moved to house
of M. Bassinard, Rue de Paris, Roanne -
Civil Eng. - Began working under British
agent - Sie-lie - Robert Lyon - established
arms depot in town of Roanne where
source prepared guns & other equipment.

for use of Maquis. which at this time
ran into Lt. Reiter's Nav. on crew
who was evading capture - brought to
gp to be taken care of. After 10 days moved
prepared equip. to position (Maquis Hq.)
16 kts south east of Roanne, and
there established Maquis Violette FFI
name "Groupe De Franzy"

Job with Groupe de Franzy was
Organizational & Training. Instructing in use
Am. arms + ammunition. Basic field
trng.

Sabotage activities were carried out
from Hq. by Gigi and Dodo. Meade
stayed at Hq. commanding base as
place of refuge.

Parachutes received on or about
July 15th - all equip. recd.

July 25th. position attacked by 15 to 20
militia (Vichy) - action did not follow.

July 28th. position changed 3 kts SE,
for security. July 28th 10:45 AM word
recd position being attacked from 200-400
enemy - Incl. militia, G.M.R., & German. at
11:15 Am. forces started surrounding. Meade,
commanding Hq., ordered forces to attack one
side of forces and broke them escaping
to south. forces dispersed later reorganized.

While Meade was escaping from this action was aided by M. Bonoir St. Palgue Lise, who also aided St. Reitmeier later.

Regrouped Pic de Rochefort split into sabotage sections 15 men each. Went with north section Sta near Marseigny.

Sec. of Marseigny FFI also under Meade's command - commenced sabotage.

Aug 15 - with Gigi, blow RR bridge near Chazay -

Aug. 21 - Germans evacuating Roanne Gigi assembled all gps. and attempted to intercept German column. leaving Roanne on foot. Contact made near Savane, only slight action resulted.

Aug. 22 - Recd. telegram. inform St. Meade present work not in line of duty.

Returned to Roanne.

Sept. 3th Roanne to Lyon. Hotel Central

Sept 6th Lyon to Ambériev - nearest Am. air base.

First contacted our forces at Lyon. Passed on to Casserta - Reported to Gen Cabell MAAF Int. - Cabell requested Spaatz by telegram to put Meade on D.S. & return to France. Air Corps Recovery Unit #2

orders. Rec'd. Sept 10, 44 to this effect.
Proceeded to Army France. 11th Sept.
Reported for Duty.

Since was reassigned to old Gp.
492 Bn Gp. 858 Bn Spdn. Placed on T.P.
with O Dir. Int. U.S. TAAF.