

#277

10

AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

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:

(signed) 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) Thomas C. Shaver Signed Thomas C. Shaver  
 Rank T/sgt. A.S.N. 14072911 Date Dec. 15 1943  
 Unit 305th BOMB GP Witness Wm. W. Smith  
C.I. G.S.C.

AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

9 April 1943.

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 ANDREWS:

*Ralph Pulsifer*  
 RALPH PULSIFER, *R.T.S.*  
 Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

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) Thomas C. Shaver Signed *Thomas C. Shaver*  
 Rank T/sgt. ASN 14072911 Date Dec. 18 1943  
 Unit 305 Bomb Gp 366 Bomb Sqdn. Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Dumont's (Vinegar) (Bacon) (Bread)

filter gone out - 20 mm in left wing - controls of cv. action gone -  
 a/c fuel of holes - into cloud 12000 - out of vert - flight indicator crazy -  
 controls gone - stick not working - BT gun up to see drug - told  
 him to get out everybody ready to go - he said no injuries -  
 saw head in mid leg but they had misunderstood - I went back to waist  
 to see all got out - saw head word above chute - 20 mm had  
 drug it - I looked at it + it looked ok. - he decided to jump with  
 it the extra chute was in a/c - no time - McK has jumped -  
 Dorke still in waist + saw head - Dorke lost - 2 made delayed  
 jump from 11000 - 3000 ft - got to twisting so fast thought  
 I had better pull - saw 2 chutes - saw a/c pull into stall +  
 then crash + explode - while going down saw an B-17 sitting  
 above - didn't imagine where it had come from - 5 chutes 1/2 mile  
 from me - tried to keep out of trees - landed in tree - 3 ft off  
 ground - 7 farmer ran up + helped me down - flew him to house -  
 saw head coming up from other side -

with saw head - people frightened -

1st house - young couple - brings out knife - ylling thru door - yllid Am -  
 let me in - wntd water - brot wine - wash basin - everything but water -  
 trd to explain had word friend - kept saying doctor - didn't understand -  
 gave me bread + cheese + nervous - trd to get him to follow me - wldnt - wife  
 dppd him -

2nd house - old man - he understood wife joined us - didn't want to  
 understand - he puts to barn - wife said 'no'

3rd house - good door - saw me closed door -

To Barn - stayed hour - saw head wldnt. let me carry him -  
 didn't stand gain - that people who help if they saw him - wldnt go with  
 me - risk too great - trd not to go ahead + he wld look for help -  
 I left barn - got out compass - heading south - went around little village -  
 flew thru these fields + woods - dugrs because of Berma uncapnits  
 strand later - climbed 10000 fences - nite not too dark

Came to a lake - crossed it - after daylight came to farmhouse -  
 open country - cross several highways - fatigue trousers & leather  
 jacket - green sweater - G.I. shoes - at farmhouse saw 2 girls in  
 yard milking + mother carrying in wool - told them who was -  
 kept shaking heads - walked on their fields - south - 10:00 am  
 another farmhouse - lighthouse - asked for father in trench - stood  
 behind barn till father came - paid money for food - got bread &  
 glass water bottle with milk - took me to bed - walked 3 or 4 miles  
 after that - came to settlement - sceptical of crossing - slept in pasture -  
 girl milking - found me - woman + dog woke me - told them - they  
 went into milk - I had to sleep - not word - they back with 8 yr  
 old son + father - son read + wrote Eng - asked about self - hungry? -  
 fed me at house - asked me to spend duration with them - said must  
 go on - told me to wait few days - they who get help - put me in  
 barn to sleep - hay - stayed three weeks - boy trying every  
 day to make contact - boy not yet up for conscription - he back  
 4th unit with of back to VR in G.C. - I must wait till they called for  
 me - ~~last~~ week passed - he contacted someone else - End of 2nd  
 week man and son came in auto to see me - he worked out of Rouen  
 Commissaire - next day they had Eng spoke found hotel keeper from  
 Dieppe + his wife + escaped French P/W from Germany - + photographer  
 from village near Beauvais - Hotel keeper lived in Forges -  
 hot city - told among selves 2 hrs - dedd wld get me in two days -  
 2 days into a week before they come - took me to Forges - stayed with  
 hotel keeper + wife - hunted by Jerry - we in woman's house - escaped P/W  
 lived here too - stayed three days - slept in bed with man + wife -  
 diarrhoea from crab pears - they ~~and~~ took me to photographers (30 Sept) -  
 said I was to go to a large castle where was RAF man badly burned - on 2nd Oct -  
 wagon to farm 5 miles from Forges - went 4th to road into Beauvais in  
 buggy - got in trench - photogrp (Rene + wife Renee) with me - to village -  
 to Inn or service station - two men there - one spoke Eng - to cart to Beauvais -  
 taking for M. Belay (chemist) (big shot in Org) (Veterinary Dr.) - he  
 got in auto to to suburb of Beauvais - old man + son - Thauriere  
 + Albert - met Ronald Dench (RAF) + Wm Todd (RAF) - wanted  
 5 weeks - walked around in city at - heard all time when someone was  
 coming for us - did calisthenics 3 or 4 hrs a day - good for Pyrenees -

Armond  
 Dumont  
 +  
 Andre  
 Dumont

new clothes but us week before departure - black market appt at  
our house - Lawyer from (A-6) <sup>32nd Nov</sup> small village who said will be in  
England in few weeks came & took us to farm few miles from where lawyer  
lived - farm of Mr. ~~St. Roger~~ - Stayed 2 days - walked to lawyer's  
house & spent nite - driven into PARIS by Capt. Lawyer - left  
car & went to church by underground - man came to interrogate us -  
talked to Deuch - phoned a boy to get - left Deuch - taken to a Dr's  
home in PARIS (his name) - stayed 3 days - picture at Bonne Marche -  
Boeck went to station & met short woman, 30 yrs old, 5'2",  
not fair - she took us to cafe - train - about 8 AM - to BORDEAUX  
with Todd & self - this woman took us - at Bordeaux met young man -  
on train to Dax - find here by Sgt Allen & Betty (Clark) - on  
bikes to Bayonne - Clark & Betty took train - met girl who  
took us to her home so of Bayonne 5 miles - Allen & Clark  
find us again - nite here - next aft - elderly man & 2 rock  
bikes to rendezvous 10 miles from Bayonne toward Border -  
waited for guide off of main road - <sup>with</sup> guides walked (Allen, Todd,  
Clark & self) over mts - 10 Nov crossed border - to farmhouse -  
in stables & night - walked toward small Spanish village (Aenea)  
Allen & Todd into village - gave selves to police - Clark & I walked toward  
Elizondo - Clark did sp. Spanish - Clark had some fr. money - changed  
fr. francs into pesetas with guides - walked to village 5 miles from Elizondo -  
Clark called Brit consulate at San Sebastian - asked him if they could  
send someone - said yes - wait - left word we would be in hotel of  
village with woman at store - got hotel room & next am. came  
down - 2 Sp. police waiting for us - took us to local jail - bked w -  
mid afternoon to Elizondo jail - next aft. bus to Pamplona -  
names & given I card - sent to hotel in Pamplona - stayed that  
night & next day train to Lumbombere - ~~that~~ Brit consulate  
at San Sebastian called & at Lumbombere - called Madrid - Mr.  
Wanamaker, vice consulate at Bollogues, came - he up - to  
100 pesetas - then saw nothing more of consulate for 2 weeks -  
no money or cigs - Mr. Wanamaker & Sp. AF took me to Alhama 3 weeks  
after Lumbombere - Arr. Gibraltar 15<sup>th</sup> - Arr. U.K. 18<sup>th</sup> -

Shaver

The following information has been obtained from our interview with .....  
..... (.....) 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 .....  
to.....

Bombing Results. - The French have a poor opinion of American bombing. I was told by one Frenchman, that they believe Americans do not aim. In three raids on Rouen they say the target was not touched, many homes and hospitals were bombed and civilians killed. The same thing happened on one raid on Paris. One raid on Beauvais was very effective. I didn't get the date.

ENEMY AIRFIELDS - I saw FW 190's take off and land east of Dose <sup>3 miles</sup> Bordell, and north west of <sup>10 miles</sup> Beauvais. I couldn't get the exact locations. (aptul. saw takeoff to attack fort)

Troop movements - I was told that there was much shifting of troops in the Dieppe area young men being replaced by older ones.

Targets - One Frenchman told me of a target 10 miles south west of Strasbourg, Alsace, which included, a viaduct, locks, a dam, railroad, and highway all within a radius of 100 yds. He seemed to think this target was important.

I was confined most of the time, therefore my observations were very limited

(3)

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. *Thomas COLIN Shaver T/sgt. 14072911*
2. Decorations. *AIR Medal 2 clusters*
3. Unit or Squadron. *366 BOMB. Sgdn.*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *305 BOMB. Gp.*
5. Date of Birth. *July 12 1914*
6. Length of Service. *1 year, 11 months*
7. Private Address. *HARMONY, N.C.*
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?  
*Fredrickshaven, GERMANY, Sept. 6 Chelveston, 5:00,  
NEAR Bushy FRANCE 11:30,  
Yes, BOM PLANE CRASH AND BURN*
9. What was your position in aircraft? *Top Turret Gunner, Engineer*
10. Were you wounded? *NO*
11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *NO*
12. Do you speak French? Spanish? *NO*
13. Did you have Identity Papers? *Yes, Made in FRANCE*
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 experiences. Where and when? *BRITISH INT. in Gibraltar Dec. 16  
NO WRITTEN REPORT.*
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?  
*Lecumberry, Spain Consul, Madrid M. Attache, Gibraltar Col. Forstere*
17. Date of arrival in Spain. *NOV. 10* *Dec. 14* *Dec 16*
18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *Dec. 15*
19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *Gibraltar - Dec 18  
By air*
20. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *Bristol Dec. 18*

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

Want to see approval (5)  
copy when typed JFW

E & E REPORT NO. 277  
EVASION IN FRANCE

Dec. 18 1943  
(Date)

T/Sgt. 14072911  
Thomas C SHAVER, S/Sgt, 14022911  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

366 Bomb Squadron, 305 Bomb Group  
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 29  
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 year 11 months  
HOME ADDRESS: HARMDNY N.C.

*delete*  
MIA: 6 September 1943  
Arrived in Spain: Nov. 10  
Arrived in Gibraltar: Dec. 15  
Arrived in UK: Dec. 18

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with FWIB) 15 Dec

			Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	T-181	F/O	Raymond E HALLIDAY	<del>P/W</del>
CO-PILOT	0-743310	2d Lt	Russel M BROOKE	<del>EYE# 241</del>
NAVIGATOR	0-795210	2d Lt	Robert J CURTIS	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-733003	2d Lt	Clarence F VEACH	<del>P/W</del>
RADIO OPERATOR	14072911	T/Sgt	Thomas C SHAVER	NARRATOR
TOP TURRET GUNNER	32362173	T/Sgt	Joseph F McKEGNEY	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	13113347	S/Sgt	Anthony (NMI) MARANDOLA	<del>EYE# 209</del>
WAIST GUNNER	10601165	Sgt	Alfred A JAWAROWSKI	<del>EYE# 208</del>
WAIST GUNNER	36190512	S/Sgt	Duane J LAWHEAD	<del>EYE# 245</del>
TAIL GUNNER	15320346	S/Sgt	Stephen A DGRKO	MIA

Were you wounded? No



Before leaving ~~us~~

The farmer warned us not to travel until after dark and ~~when~~ when he <sup>was gone</sup> had ~~left~~ us

we changed our hiding place. From a thicket of brush ~~we hid~~ <sup>on bicycles, motorcycles and coal,</sup>

atop a knoll, we watched the Germans, <sup>during</sup> traveling up and down the country road ~~all~~

the afternoon. There was no search made in the fields, and, it is doubtful that the

Germans knew <sup>any</sup> ~~anything~~ more than that ~~two~~ parachutists had landed in that vicinity.

We <sup>wanted</sup> ~~didn't~~ move until activity on the road had quieted and, <sup>down</sup> ~~at~~ dusk, <sup>when</sup> we

thought it safe to travel, Sgt LAWHEAD found that his leg <sup>was too painful to</sup> ~~was~~ support ~~would~~

him. It was obvious, then, that he was not going to be able to travel. I left him

in the brush <sup>while I went</sup> to go in search of food and help, and, at the first house where I

knocked a man came to the door but <sup>he</sup> would not open it. We yelled <sup>at each other</sup> ~~back and forth~~

through the closed door. When he understood that I was an American he let me in

but I noticed that he carried a long knife in his hand. I wanted water and got

wine. I tried every sign-language trick I could think of to let him know that

I needed water, and, in the end I got everything but water, including a wash basin.

When I tried to explain that I had a wounded companion, he and his wife couldn't

or wouldn't understand. They gave me some food to take away, and, once I almost

had the man ready to follow me to see Sgt LAWHEAD but his wife put a stop to that.

At the second house, after I had taken food to Sgt LAWHEAD, an old man

came out to talk to me. He understood <sup>immediately</sup> ~~that I was an American airman~~ <sup>who I was</sup> immediately, but, after his wife

~~came out to join us~~ <sup>and in the yard</sup> I saw that we would get no help from these people. The man

pointed to his barn once, but, the wife shook her head vigorously and would not

hear of our <sup>hiding in</sup> ~~going~~ ~~into~~ the barn. At the third house the door was opened <sup>at my</sup> ~~at my~~

but, when the man saw me he slammed the door in my face.

I went back to Sgt LAWHEAD and tried to <sup>persuade</sup> ~~get~~ him to let me carry him to <sup>some of</sup> the

<sup>French</sup> houses because I thought the people would help <sup>if</sup> they saw the condition <sup>of the sergeant's</sup> ~~he was~~

<sup>leg</sup> ~~in~~. I <sup>picked him up</sup> ~~tried to~~ carry him but he couldn't stand the pain ~~in his leg~~ when he was

moved. <sup>By moving short distances at a time I got</sup> ~~we ended by~~ getting him to the barn of the second house I had <sup>gone to that night for</sup> ~~visited~~ <sup>help</sup>

~~thought getting him there was a long and painful trip.~~

I <sup>stayed</sup> ~~was~~ in the barn with <sup>Sgt LAWHEAD</sup> ~~him~~ ~~long~~ for several hours. We were worried about

infection in his leg, and, after he had been made comfortable, <sup>I left him</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>he said</sup> ~~had stated~~ that

WATCHES  
GERMAN  
SEARCH

DIFFICULTY  
WITH SIGN  
LANGUAGE

HE GETS  
HOT AFTER  
DARK

After <sup>the first</sup> fighters had attacked <sup>our</sup> us the inter-phone was dead, and, all controls were shot away. When we <sup>went</sup> got into cloud cover at 12000 feet I came out of my turret and <sup>to tell</sup> ~~got~~ told the ball-turret operator to get everyone in the waist ready to jump. He came back <sup>after notifying other crew members and said</sup> to say that no one was injured, ~~but~~, Later, I learned that he had misunderstood Sgt LAWHEAD'S gestures. Lawhead had <sup>when</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>tried to tell him</sup> he (Sgt Lawhead) had a badly injured leg. I went back <sup>to</sup> in the waist <sup>after that</sup> to see that everyone <sup>jumped</sup> got out ~~all~~ right. Sgt LAWHEAD was worried about his chute which had been damaged by a 20 mm shell. I examined <sup>the</sup> ~~his~~ chute and saw that none of the shroud lines had been cut. We were discussing whether it would be advisable ~~to change~~ for him to change <sup>in</sup> to the extra chute we carried, when the plane got out of control. <sup>There</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was no time left for a decision about the chute,</sup> decided that his chute was all right, and, it is doubtful that <sup>Lawhead</sup> ~~he~~ could have changed before the plane went into its final spin.

PLANE OUT OF CONTROL

Delays Jump To 3000 FEET

Sgt MCKEGNEY jumped first; I followed him out with Sgt LAWHEAD and Sgt ~~DORKO~~ DORKO lined up behind me. My jump was delayed down to 3000 feet, and, I would have held it longer had I not fallen into such a violent spin that I was having difficulty watching the ground. There were seven chutes above me, and I watched our plane pull into a stall and go spinning down to ~~explode~~ <sup>appeared</sup> explode when it ~~hit the ground~~ crashed. ~~There was~~ <sup>Not under attack, nor, seemingly in a hurry to get anywhere,</sup> A other B-17/above the chutes. It was just sitting ~~up~~ up there and, I couldn't imagine where it had come from.

5 MEN INJURED CREW MEMBER

I landed in a tree, suspended about three feet off the ground. While I was struggling to get down a French farmer ran up to help. I followed him toward his house, <sup>about 100 yards away,</sup> and met Sgt LAWHEAD (E and E Report No.     ). <sup>as he came limping out of the orchard</sup> Although the people in <sup>the</sup> ~~this~~ house <sup>after we got inside,</sup> were frightened, <sup>they let us stay</sup> we were there long enough to bathe and bandage LAWHEAD'S injured leg.

The farmer <sup>took</sup> got rid of our flying equipment <sup>to hide from</sup> and tried to remove all <sup>traces</sup> evidence of our having been at his house. Sgt LAWHEAD had left a trail of blood <sup>into the house</sup> ~~which~~ over <sup>and</sup> which we spent a few anxious moments <sup>cleaning it up.</sup> We were taken into the fields, not very far from the house, but, we understood that we could not expect further help.

Hides INJURED  
COMPANION;  
STARTS OUT ALONE

he would look for help in the neighborhood the next morning, ~~I left~~. I got out my compass and walked south - ~~avoiding the small village which lay in my path.~~ <sup>circled the small village which had parachuted near</sup>

All ~~night that~~ <sup>this</sup> night I walked through the fields and woods. ~~It was not a very~~ <sup>Had it been a bank</sup> dark night ~~as~~ <sup>walking in fields</sup> I would have had trouble with this kind of travel because there were so many fences to cross. Later I discovered that it is not always wise to walk through woods at night because ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> German encampments. There were several large bivouacs in this neighborhood which I narrowly missed without knowing it.

Before daylight I circled a large lake and from there ~~was~~ had nothing but open country ahead of me. I was careful when there ~~was~~ <sup>were</sup> roads to cross because ~~anyone coming upon me suddenly would have recognized me~~ <sup>I didn't want to be observed too closely since I was dressed in fatigue trousers, and leather jacket, green sweater and G.I. shoes.</sup>

Just as the sun was coming up I walked by a farmyard and ~~met~~ <sup>approached</sup> the younger members of a family <sup>who were</sup> milking. The mother was carrying ~~in~~ <sup>in the house</sup> wood. When I walked up ~~to~~ <sup>did nothing but shake</sup> the children they called to the mother who ~~kept shaking~~ her head when I asked for help. They were not unfriendly but wanted me to be on my way as soon as possible. From then until 1000 hours I ~~kept my course, south,~~ <sup>walked in southerly direction,</sup> through the fields, and, at another farmhouse spoke to a little boy. I asked

GIVEN FOOD;  
NO FURTHER HELP  
OFFERED

for his father, in French, and hid behind the barn until the boy brought his father. I offered money, ~~for food~~ which the man would not take, for food, and, after ~~I was given~~ <sup>giving me</sup> some bread and ~~my~~ <sup>filling</sup> water-bottle/filled with milk, the man motioned for me to leave at once.

Three or four miles further along I came to a small settlement, <sup>through</sup> which I dared not walk ~~through~~. <sup>because of activity at that time of day, and the country beyond and around the settlement was well patrolled</sup> Being tired, I crawled into some ~~fields~~ <sup>weeds</sup> and was found there asleep by a girl. ~~who was making soap milk.~~ She was on her way to work in the fields. I told ~~her~~ <sup>would</sup> her who I was and she said she would bring ~~me~~ <sup>bring me</sup> some food later if I stayed there. After she left I went back to sleep, unworried, because of her friendliness. She came back sooner than I expected, and brought with her an English-speaking Frenchman who told me that if I would stay there several days they would see if they could help me. From there my journey was arranged.

Journey  
Arranged

(White)

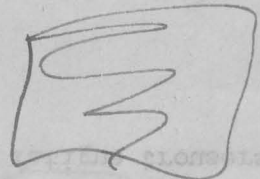
time  
Sept - Oct. Nov

APPENDIX B:

- a. French stated that American bombing was not very good. They said that in three raids on ROUEN the target was not touched and that many homes and ~~hospitals~~ hospitals were damaged. An ~~estimated~~ <sup>estimated</sup> number of civilians, the French stated, were killed in these raids. They said that one raid on PARIS had been very bad, but, one raid on BEAUVAIS had been very effective. (Evader did not know the dates of any of raids).
- b. Evader saw FW 190's take-off from airfields at ~~BOSC BORDELL~~ <sup>BOSC BORDELL</sup>. In both cases the fighters took-off to attack 'Forts'. Exact locations were undetermined but the field at BOSC BORDELL was about three miles east <sup>of there</sup> and the field at BEAUVAIS was about ten miles northwest.
- c. Evader was told that there had been much shifting of German troops in the DIEPPE area with ~~the~~ older men being replaced by younger troops.
- d. A Frenchman told the evader that 10 miles south west of STRASBOURG, ALSACE there was an important air target which included a viaduct, locks, a dam, railroad and main highway. All of these were within a radius of 100 yards.

BOSC BORDELL & BEAUVAIS

652740



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

12 January 1944

E & E REPORT NO. 277  
EVASION IN FRANCE

Thomas C SHAVER, T/Sgt, 14072911  
366 Bomb Squadron, 305 Bomb Group

MIA: 6 September 1943  
Arrived in UK:  
18 December 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	T-181	F/O	Raymond E HALLIDAY	P/W
CO-PILOT	0-743310	2d Lt	Russel M BROOKE	E&E RPT 241
NAVIGATOR	0-795210	2d Lt	Robert J CURTIS	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-733003	2d Lt	Clarence F VEACH	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	32362173	T/Sgt	Joseph F McKEGNEY	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	14072911	T/Sgt	Thomas C SHAVER	NARRATOR
BALL TURRET GUNNER	15320346	S/Sgt	Stephen A DORKO	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	13113347	S/Sgt	Anthony (NMI) MARANDOLA	E&E RPT 209
WAIST GUNNER	10601165	Sgt	Alfred A JAWAROWSKI	E&E RPT 208
TAIL GUNNER	36190512	S/Sgt	Duane J LAWHEAD	E&E RPT 245

PLANE OUT  
OF CONTROL

After the first fighter attacks our inter-phone was dead, and, all controls were shot away. When we went into cloud cover at 12000 feet, I came out of my turret to have the ball-turret operator get everyone, in the waist, ready to jump. He came back, after notifying other crew-members, and said that no one was injured. Later, I learned that he had misunderstood Sgt LAWHEAD's gestures, when LAWHEAD had tried to tell him, <sup>that</sup> he (Sgt LAWHEAD) had a badly injured leg. I went into the waist after that to see that everyone jumped. Sgt LAWHEAD was worried about his chute, which had been damaged by a 20 mm shell. I examined the chute, and saw that none of the shroud lines had been cut. We were discussing whether it would be advisable for him to change into the extra chute we carried, when the plane got out of control. There was no time left for a decision about the chute, and, it is doubtful that LAWHEAD could have changed before the plane went into its final spin.

DELAYS JUMP  
TO 3000 FEET

Sgt McKEGNEY jumped first; I followed him out with Sgt LAWHEAD and Sgt DORKO lined up behind me. My jump was delayed down to 3000 feet, and, I would have held it longer, had I not fallen into such a violent spin that I was having difficulty watching the ground. There were seven chutes above me. I watched our plane pull into a stall, and go spinning down to explode when it crashed. Another B-17 appeared above the chutes. It was just sitting up there, not under attack, nor, seemingly in a hurry to get anywhere, and I couldn't imagine where it had come from.

I landed in a tree, suspended about three feet off the ground. While I was struggling to get down, a French farmer ran up to help. I followed him toward his house, about 100 yards away, and met Sgt LAWHEAD (E & E Rpt 245), as he came limping out of the orchard. Although the people in the house

were frightened, after we got inside, they let us stay long enough to bathe and bandage LAWHEAD's injured leg.

The farmer took our flying equipment to hide for us, and tried to remove all traces of our having been at his house. Sgt LAWHEAD had left a trail of blood into the house and we spent a few anxious moments cleaning it up. We were taken into the fields, not very far from the house, but, we understood that we could not expect further help. Before leaving the farmer warned us not to travel until after dark, ~~and~~ when he was gone we changed our hiding place. From a thicket of brush atop a knoll, we watched the Germans, on bicycles, motor-cycles, and cars, traveling up and down the country road during the afternoon. There was no search made in the fields, and, it is doubtful that the Germans knew any more than that parachutists had landed in the vicinity.

WATCHES GERMAN  
SEARCH

We waited until activity on the road had quieted down, and, at dusk, when we thought it safe to travel, Sgt LAWHEAD found that his leg was too painful to support him. It was obvious then, that he was not going to be able to travel. I left him in the brush while I went in search of food and help, and, at the first house where I knocked, a man came to the door, but he would not open it. We yelled at each other through the closed door. When he understood that I was an American he let me in, but I noticed that he carried a long knife in his hand. I wanted water and got wine. I tried every sign-language trick I could think of to let him know that I needed water, and, in the end, I got everything but water, including a wash basin. When I tried to explain that I had a wounded companion, he and his wife couldn't, or wouldn't understand. They gave me some food to take away, and, once I almost had the man ready to follow me to Sgt LAWHEAD, but his wife put a stop to that.

DIFFICULTY  
WITH SIGN  
LANGUAGE

At the second house, after I had taken <sup>the</sup> food to Sgt LAWHEAD, an old man came out to talk to me. He understood immediately that I was an American airman, but, after his wife joined us in the yard, I saw that we would get no help from these people. The man pointed to his barn once, but, the wife shook her head vigorously, and would not hear of our hiding in the barn. At the third house, the door was opened at my knock, but when the man saw me, he slammed ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> door in my face.

GETS VERY  
LITTLE HELP  
AFTER DARK

I went back to Sgt LAWHEAD and tried to persuade him to let me carry him to some of the French houses, because I thought the people would help us, when they saw the condition of the sergeant's leg. I picked him up, but he couldn't stand the pain when he was moved. By moving short distances at a time, I got him to the barn of the second house I had gone to that night for help.

HIDES INJURED  
COMPANION  
STARTS OUT  
ALONE

I stayed in the barn with Sgt LAWHEAD for several hours. We were worried about infection in his leg, and, after he had been made comfortable, I left him. He said, that he would look for help in the neighborhood the next morning. I got out my compass and walked south - circling the small village <sup>NEAR</sup> which I had parachuted ~~near~~. All this night I walked through the fields and woods. Had it been a dark night I would have had trouble walking in <sup>the</sup> fields, because there were so many fences to cross. Later I discovered that it is not always wise to walk through <sup>the</sup> woods at night, because of German encampments. There were several large bivouacs in this neighborhood, which I narrowly missed without knowing it.

Before daylight I circled a large lake and, from there, had nothing but open country ahead of me. I was careful when there were roads, to cross because anyone, coming upon me suddenly, would have recognized me in fatigue trousers, leather jacket, green sweater and GI shoes.

Just as the sun was coming up, I walked by a farmyard, and approached the younger members of a family, who were milking. The mother was carrying wood in the house. When I walked up to the children, they called to the mother who did nothing, but shake her head, when I asked for help. They were not unfriendly but wanted me to be on my way as soon as possible. From then until 1000 hours I walked in a southerly direction, through the fields, and, at another farmhouse spoke to a little boy. I asked for his father, in French, and hid behind the barn until the boy brought his father. I offered money, which the man would not take, for food, ~~and~~ After giving me some bread, and filling my water-bottle with milk, the man motioned for me to leave at once.

GIVEN FOOD:  
NO FURTHER HELP  
OFFERED

Three or four miles further along, I came to a small settlement, through which I dared not walk, because of <sup>the</sup> activity at that time of day. ~~and~~ The country beyond and around the settlement was well inhabited. Being tired, I crawled into some weeds, and was found there, asleep, by a girl. She was on her way to work in the fields. I told her who I was, and she said she would bring food later, if I would stay. After she left I went back to sleep, unworried, because of her friendliness. She came back sooner than I expected, bringing with her an English-speaking Frenchman, who told me, that if I would stay there several days, they would see if they could help me. From there my journey was arranged.

JOURNEY  
ARRANGED

Compiled By:

*JFW*

JOHN F WHITE, JR  
Capt, AC

Approved By:

*W.S. Holt*

W S HOLT  
Lt Col, AC  
Commanding

APPENDIX "B" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 277

a. French stated that American bombing was not very good. They said that in three raids on ROUEN the target was not touched, and that many homes and hospitals were damaged. A large number of civilians, the French stated, were killed in these raids. They said that one raid on PARIS had been very bad, but a ~~an~~ raid on BEAUVAIS had been very effective. (Evader did not know the dates of any of the raids)

b. Evader saw FW190's take-off from airfields at BOSC BORDEL and BEAUVAIS. In both cases the fighters took-off to attack 'Forts'. Exact locations were undetermined, but the field at BOSC BORDELL was about three miles east of the <sup>town</sup> and the field at BEAUVAIS was about ten miles northwest.

c. Evader was told that there had been much shifting of German troops in the DIEPPE area, with older men being replaced by younger troops.

d. A Frenchman told the evader that 10 miles southwest of STRASBOURG, ALSACE, there was an important air target, which included a viaduct, locks, a dam, railroad and main highway. All of these were within a radius of 100 yards.



SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 277

No., Rank, Name:- Thomas C. Shaver 140 72911 T/Sgt.

Unit:- 305 Bomb. Gr. 366 Bomb sqdn.

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? yes
- (b) If not, had you one on you?
- (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. gave away to french children

Chocolate. " " " " "

Milk (tube). did not know what it was

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). while walking 12 hrs. on first night

Halazone tablets (water purifier). Used water <sup>for</sup> taken from stock trough

Matches. - Cigarettes

Adhesive tape. not needed

Chewing gum. - gave away

Water bottle. - while walking at night

Compass. - " "

- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? yes, water bottles  
If so, in what respect? no good, needs a lid to hold the water in.
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box? Gave it to family that aided me
- (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. ?  
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? FOR ORIENTATION - France; to discover my whereabouts

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *France*

How did you spend the money? *gave to org. helpers*

(d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *left them with <sup>FRENCH</sup> family that first aided me*

Compass. *gave to member of org. helpers*

File (hacksaw). " "

Surplus currency. " "

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS+) *NONE*  
(+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. *NONE*

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? *NO; badly organized at SgdN*  
If so, how many? *Have camera and acquire too many at action*

(b) Did you use them?  
State how.

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *yes*  
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. *SgdN. About once a month by S-2*

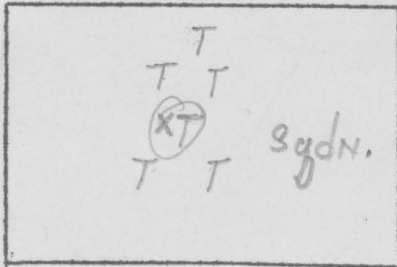
(b) Did you find the lectures of value? *yes*

*Loos*

*to family  
of 200 franc  
Cantons*

NAME Thomas C. Shaver RANK T/sgt. ASN 14072911 REPORT NO. 277

SQ 366 GROUP 305 A/C NO. ~~591~~ Letter 6 Load ? Date Sept. 6 1943  
591



Position in formation.  
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing: NO

Enemy Fighter Tactics:

Markings:

ATTACKED <sup>Attacks made</sup> FROM all directions  
?

Our Tactics:

Violent evasive Action

Our Fighter Support:

NONE

Flak

slight

Time

?

Place

over target.

Quality

?

Technical Failures

Motors:

NO. 3 engine stopped <sup>out of gas</sup> FROM Lack of Fuel

Armor:

O.K.

Armament:

O.K.

Miscellaneous:

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

lost Formations when NO. 3 ENGINE stopped FROM lack of Fuel, Fighters ATTACKED FROM all directions shot Controls away. Crew bailed out