

C Sewach 422

As soon as I landed a ~~gent~~ asked me if I was English or American, he also ~~part~~ part of the crowd around St. Beulstein (now in Spain) but never said a word. While we were in the farmhouse a man brought us English cigarettes and a swap from the priest. We met the priest in the cellar the next day and learned that we would leave for Spain.

At 0400 hours on 18 September the English-speaking boy who had been acting as interpreter brought a French General to us in the woods. He spoke no English, but

took us through the fields
in which the priest was
waiting. We were hidden
under the seat and taken to
a woods at Ginjury (S of Rennes)

That night Bernard,
lead of the Ginjury organization,
who had been waiting for us when
we got out of the carriage, took
us to his home. A young girl
then took me to the home of
an elderly couple Met Mme
Gerard of Messac. I was
there from 18 September to 6
October. On 21 September I was
joined by Lt Gleckman & 2
Rpt # and my story is
the same as this until 15
October.
From 15 October to 3

December I stayed with Julio
on a farm near St Jean (6 km
SE of Ploermel) Lt Glickman was
in Ploermel during this period.

I rejoined Lt Glickman in
a café. Sgt Minor E & E Rpt 421
was with them. We went to
stay with the mayor's sister
in Guhervo. Then I travelled
in Guhervo. Then I travelled
with Lt Glickman until 21 December.
From then ^{with the} ~~two following exceptions~~ I travelled
with Sgt Minor.

a) In Jaunper I spent 3 nights
~~across the~~ with a French family
connected with the post office

Lt Schneider E & E Rpt #, and
Lt Hugonnet E & E Rpt #, lived across
the street

b) While Sgt ^{Minor was at the} Borrossé's after
the fiasco with Muckey, I stayed

4

Salone in Guagucamp at the
home of the daughter of the people
with whom Lt Schneider and
Sgt Minor were staying for three
days.

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

E & E REPORT NO. 422
EVASION IN FRANCE

FEB 28, 1943
(Date)

SEMACH, JOHN S/SGT - 15320292
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Mante

524 379
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 20
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 18 MO

HOME ADDRESS: 2667 TAYLOR ST
YOUNGSTOWN OHIO

MIA: 16 Sept
Arrived in Spain:

Arrived in Gibraltar:

Arrived in UK: FEB 27, 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with FWIB)

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT ^{2LT} <u>FLOYD JAMERSON</u>	- - - - -	- - - - -
CO-PILOT ^{2LT} <u>EARL Guyette</u>	- - - - -	- - - - -
NAVIGATOR ^{1LT} <u>BILSTEIN</u>	- - - - -	- - - - -
BOMBARDIER ^{1ST LT} <u>JOE Burkowkis</u>	- - - - -	- - - - -
RADIO OPERATOR <u>John Pagner</u>	- - - - -	- - - - -
TOP TURRET GUNNER <u>S/SGT RAY BURN</u>	- - - - -	- - - - -
BALL TURRET GUNNER <u>T/SGT GREY</u>	- - - - -	- - - - -
WAIST GUNNER <u>S/SGT MOODY</u>	- - - - -	- - - - -
WAIST GUNNER <u>S/SGT JAMES REID</u>	- - - - -	- - - - -
TAIL GUNNER <u>SEMACH</u>	- - - - -	- - - - -

Official Disposition: KILLED
Narrators Disposition: P.W. {Seen his picture while there with the underground in Paris}
P.W. - WAS Told by the PERSON who had the picture

Were you wounded?

5 chute town
Jamerson dead by French bombardier
Guyette P/W wounded saw picture in Remond's
Bilstein Safe Hands Paris by Jearson
Moody P/W in picture with Guyette wounded with
Reid P/W " " " " " " " " " " " "
grey
Rayburn
Pagner
no means Jearson 2 chute
did not open

Bill 94th GP MIA 29 MAY

Tail Gunner on way to Revere with Org
early ~~late~~ November

Blond 6 ft

Had been working on a farm & waiting for
a plane joined our Org in middle Sept

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 422
EVASION IN FRANCE

28 February 1944

(Date)

John SEMACH S/Sgt 15320292

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

524 Bomb Sq, 379 Bomb Group

(Squadron)

(Group)

TARGET: NANTES

MIA: 16 September 1943

Arrived in UK:

27 February 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-734095	2d Lt	Floyd H JAMERSON	MIA KIA	
CO-PILOT	0-734675	2d Lt	Earl H GUYETTE	MIA PW	
NAVIGATOR	0-733514	1st Lt	John N BEILSTEIN	MIA	
NAVIGATOR	0-794097	2d Lt	Joseph F BURKOWSKI	MIA	
RADIO OPERATOR	37271654	T/Sgt	John F PAZNER	MIA	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	18103146	S/Sgt	Alvin M RABUN	MIA P/W	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	38148633	T/Sgt	Charles T GRAY	P/W	
WAIST GUNNER	34128635	S/Sgt	Howard E MOODY	MIA P/W	
WAIST GUNNER	31140922	S/Sgt	James P REID	MIA P/W	
TAIL GUNNER	15320292	S/Sgt	John SEMACH	NARRATOR	

Were you wounded?

P/W

#16

288
#

Rocket
Attack

I heard the pilot say: "There goes Hont - he's on fire". We were still on the way into the target, and our escort, which had been dog-fighting most of the way, must have just turned back. ~~at this time~~. Seven German planes came in abreast at six o'clock low, and started lobbing rockets at us. Our aircraft peeled out of formation and started to climb, nearly colliding with two planes in the formation above us. When we started to circle, I thought we were rejoining the formation. We ^{had} circled five times, however, when I called over the inter-com ^{to let the pilot know} that another wing ^{which we could join} was coming up. ~~There~~ There was no answer. ~~I heard~~ ^{over the inter-com} the wing gunner called for help because he had been hit. Dark

(2)

up the tail, and had reached
the door to the waist when we went
into a dive. I pulled the tail hatch
release and looked out. The
aircraft levelled out, and I did
not dare continue on into the waist
for fear of being trapped by the
control. I returned
to the tail and told them this. I
had just realized that something
was very wrong, when I heard
the bombardier on the inter-com.
He gave the bale-out order.

Later I learned that the
rocket attack had killed the pilot
and knocked the co-pilot unconscious.
The bombardier had tried to take
over, but the pilot was wedged in
his seat. As Lt Bielstein (2) was
off oxygen, and we were at
21,000 ft, he could not pull

the pilot out quickly enough to
~~be able to gain the controls~~
~~before the aircraft ran away completely~~
 reach the instruments while the
 plane could still be ~~control~~ kept
 under control.

I was wearing my chute,
 and went out the already open
 hatch. I pulled the rip-cord
 immediately. When the canopy
 opened, I saw that there was a
 big hole in it, but I do not know
 how it was made, and it did not
 effect my jump. Fighters were
 going in to attack our aircraft.
 There was one chute below
 me and four above. On the
 way down, I made four different
 plans as to where I would ^{each time} rein
 on landing, but the air stream
 kept pushing me beyond the
 point of landing on which I
 calculated.

Hole in
 Chute

(4)

I landed hard in a field and bruised my face. When I took off my chute, I rolled it quickly and tucked it under a tree, ~~for~~ because I could hear a plane flying low and wanted to hide quickly. ~~Scout~~ a clump of nearby bushes seemed a suitable spot, and I hid in them. People started to arrive on the scene. They were all crying "cawarade" and pointing north. I tried to get the idea across to them that they must turn or burn my equipment. I did very little talking for the crowd seemed to know just what they were about. Many were wearing extra pieces of clothing which they clated for gave me and I was soon properly disguised as a civilian. A man led me north a half mile to another crew member. Here a second crowd was passing him clothing in the

(3)

same manner that I had received mine. I asked if there were any Germans about. The crowd misunderstood and thought that I was declaring myself to be a German. I quickly showed them the uniform which I had retained under my disguise and all was well again. As soon as my crew member had changed his clothes, we were led away from the crowd to a distant field. We were fed, and arrangements were made for us to spend the night at a nearby farm.

When we started to get up, after eating, it was found that my comrade could no longer walk. His harness was very loosely fitted, and he had been badly injured in the groin. We carried him to another field, and laid until nightfall. After that we were taken inside and slept until 0400 hrs on the 17th. It rained all the next day.

Join
Crew
member

Loose
Harness
cause
injury

(6)

A day
in the
rain

We were hidden in a small woods
and felt quite miserable. We had
been given a loaf of bread and butter
and a bottle of wine, so we were not
hungry. At dusk we were ~~led~~
taken to a cellar. Here we
met two people who told us
that our journey was arranged,
and that we would set out the
next day. After dinner we were
hidden in a haystack for the
night.

Patience
Rewarded

at 0400 hours on 18 September
we went back to the woods. We
lay hidden here for ten more
hours before our guides appeared.
An hour later, after a good walk,
during which my companion
had to be supported, we were
hidden under a wagon seat.
Our journey back had begun

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:--

Unit:--

Sewach

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*

b. If not, why?

immediate aid
~~The / franc MADE us TURN it over To them~~

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? *yes*

State color of stripes and letters.

If NOT, State why not.

~~DID NOT CARRY THE PURSE~~
~~JUST THE MONEY~~ *Red*

b. Did you use the purse?

~~NO~~ *yes*
(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. *2000 French francs*

How did you spend the money?

cigarettes, pipe, belt, medicine 300 pooled for escape

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

to help
to help

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? *no*

*I used to keep
fly clothes. I had a
bag with me. I
had someone take my
fly clothes.*

5. LECTURES

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

Base S2 & Lt Patterson (evader)

b. Did you find the lectures of value? *Oh yes!*

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

*Had G.I. with one little tail
but had to leave to fast & take team
then when I was given shoes that were too large & blistered
my feet*

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

16 March 1944

E & E REPORT NO. 422
EVASION IN FRANCE

John SEMACH, S/Sgt, 15320292
524 Bomb Squadron, 379 Bomb Group
(21 Missions)

TARGET: NANTES

MIA: 16 September 1943
Arrived in UK:
27 February 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	0-734095	2d Lt	Floyd H JAMERSON	KIA
CO-PILOT	0-734675	2d Lt	Earl H GUYETTE	P/W
NAVIGATOR	0-733514	1st Lt	John N BEILSTEIN	MIA IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
BOMBARDIER	0-794097	2d Lt	Joseph F BURKOWSKI	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	37271654	T/Sgt	John F PAZNER	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	18103146	S/Sgt	Alvin M RABUN	P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	38148633	T/Sgt	Charles T GRAY	P/W
WAIST GUNNER	34128635	S/Sgt	Howard E MOODY	P/W
WAIST GUNNER	31140922	S/Sgt	James P REID	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	15320292	S/Sgt	John SEMACH	NARRATOR

SEE EXERPT

409

ROCKET
ATTACK

I heard the pilot say: "There goes HOYT - he's on fire." We were still on the way into the target, and our escort, which had been dog-fighting most of the way, must have just turned back. Seven German planes came in abreast at six o'clock low, and started lobbing rockets at us. Our aircraft peeled out of formation and started to climb, nearly colliding with two planes in the formation above us. When we started to circle, I thought we were rejoining the formation. We had circled five times, however, when I called over the inter-com to let the pilot know that another wing, which we could join, was coming up. There was no answer.

AIRCRAFT
OUT OF
CONTROL

A waist gunner called over the inter-com for help, because he had been hit. I started up the tail, and had reached the door to the waist, when we went into a dive. I pulled the tail hatch release and looked out. The aircraft levelled out, and I did not dare continue on into the waist for fear of being trapped by the oleo, if we dove again. I returned to the tail and told them this. I had just realized that something was very wrong, when I heard the bombardier on the inter-com. He gave the bale-out order.

BOMBARDIER
HAD TRIED TO
SAVE A/C

Later I learned that the rocket attack had killed the pilot and knocked the co-pilot unconscious. The bombardier had tried to take over, but the pilot was

wedged in his seat. As Lt BEILSTEIN was off oxygen, and we were at 21000 feet, he could not pull the pilot out quickly enough to reach the instruments while the plane could still be kept under control.

HOLE IN
CHUTE

I was wearing my chute, and went out the already open hatch. I pulled the ripcord immediately. When the canopy opened, I saw that there was a big hole in it but I do not know how it was made, and it did not effect my jump. Fighters were going in to attack our aircraft. There was one chute below me and four above. On the way down, I made four different plans as to where I would run on landing, but each time and air stream kept pushing me beyond the point of landing on which I ~~where~~ calculated.

I drifted

I

I landed hard in a field and bruised my face. When I took off my chute, I rolled it quickly and tucked it under a tree, because I could hear a plane flying low and wanted to hide quickly. A clump of nearby bushes seemed a suitable spot, and I hid in them. People started to arrive on the scene. They were all crying "Comarade" and pointing north. I tried to get the idea across to them that they ^{should} burn or bury my equipment. I did very little talking for the crowd seemed to know just what they were about. Many were wearing extra pieces of clothing which they gave me and I was soon properly disguised as a civilian.

QUICKLY HIDES
EQUIPMENT

CLOTHED FROM
THE CROWD

A man led me north a half mile to another crew member. Here a second crowd was passing him clothing in the same manner that I had received mine. I asked if there were any Germans about. The crowd misunderstood and thought that I was declaring myself to be a German. I quickly showed them my uniform, which I had retained under my disguise, and all was well again. As soon as my crew member had changed his clothes, we were led away from the crowd to a distant field. We were fed, and arrangements were made for us to spend the night at a nearby farm.

JOINS CREW
MEMBER

LOOSE
HARNESS
CAUSES
INJURY

When we started to get up, after eating, it was found that my comrade could no longer walk. His harness ^{had been} was very loosely fitted, and he had been badly injured in the groin. We carried him to another field, and hid until nightfall. After that we were taken inside and slept until 0400 hrs on the 17th. ~~17th~~ ^{17 SEPTEMBER.}

A DAY IN
THE RAIN

It rained all the next day. We were hidden in a small woods and felt quite miserable. We had been given a loaf of bread and butter, and a bottle of wine, so we were not hungry. At dusk we were taken to a cellar. Here we met two people, who told us that our journey was arranged, and that we would set out the next day. After dinner we were hidden in a haystack for the night.

PATIENCE
REWARDED

At 0400 hours on 18 September we went back to the woods. We lay hidden here for ten more hours before our guides appeared. An hour later, after a good walk, during which my companion had to be supported, we were hidden under a wagon seat. Our ^{return} journey ~~back~~ had begun.

P.S.

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

10 March 1944

APPENDIX "B" TO E&E REPORT NO. 422

1. The following information has been obtained after an interview with an Officer who evaded capture by the enemy, while in enemy-occupied territory.
2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so no information as to the source may be divulged.

Statement of information covering period from 16 September 1943
to 24 February 1944

- a. On 4 October 1943 a warehouse was observed 4 miles south of RENNES in the town of BRUZ. The warehouse is used to supply the nearby ST JACQUES airfield. A pill-box and 4 AA guns guard the warehouse.
- b. At MESSAC traffic on the railroad was observed from 19 September to 6 October 1943. Every hour or so all day and all night troops passed north through MESSAC toward RENNES. There were one or two flak cars on every train. There were a great number of First Aid units being moved, and much of the equipment appeared to be horse-drawn artillery and dummy wooden tanks painted black.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND F REPORT NO. 422

No., Rank, Name:- John SEMACH, S/Sgt, 15320292

Unit:- 524 Bomb Sq. 379 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? No - immediate aid
- 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? Yes
State color of stripes and letters. Red
If 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?

Maps. Which ones? No

Compass. No

File (hacksaw). No

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. 2000 French francs

How did you spend the money? Cigarettes, pipe, belts, a Frenchman's
medicine - 300 pooled for escape

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. To helpers

Compass. To helpers

File (hacksaw). To helpers

Surplus currency. To helpers

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? No

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? No - I used to keep them in my
If so, how many? flying clothes. While I was at the rest
home someone took my flying clothes.

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

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

Base by S-2 and Lt PETERSON (evader)

b. Did you find the lectures of value? Oh yes!!

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

Had GI shoes with me in the tail, but had to leave too fast to take
them with me. I wished I had them when I was given shoes that
were too large and blistered my feet.

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

Maps. Which ones? No

Compass. No

File (hacksaw). No

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. 2000 French francs

How did you spend the money? Cigarettes, pipe, belts, a Frenchman's medicine - 300 pooled for escape

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. To helpers

Compass. To helpers

File (hacksaw). To helpers

Surplus currency. To helpers

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? No

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? No - I used to keep them in my flying clothes. While I was at the rest home someone took my flying clothes.

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

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

Base by S-2 and Lt PETERSON (evader)

b. Did you find the lectures of value? Oh yes!!

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

Had GI shoes with me in the tail, but had to leave too fast to take them with me. I wished I had them when I was given shoes that were too large and blistered my feet.

I heard the pilot say there goes
Hort's helo on fire. We were still on
our way ~~off~~ the target. Our escort had
been dog fighting and must have turned back
at about this time. 7 German planes at
6 o'clock low came in abreast and
started lobbing rockets at us. Our
A/C peeled started climbing & nearly
collided with 2 other A/C in the formation
above. Then she started circling, I
thought we were going to the formation (but after
circling five times I called on the intercom
to say another wing was coming up which
we could join. There was no answer.
Then I heard a waist gunner call for
help, he had been hit. I started
up the tail & when I reached the door
by the waist the A/C started to dive.
I pulled the tail switch release
& looked out at this point the A/C
levelled out but I did not dare continue
into the waist for fear of being trapped by

~~By~~ the way, if we done again. I returned
back to the ~~tail~~ & told them so. I was now beginning
to have an idea of what was wrong.

The bombardier gave the bale-out order.

I later learned that the rocket attack
had killed the pilot & knocked the co-pilot
unconscious. The bombardier tried to
take over but the pilot was wedged in his
seat. ~~But~~ he was off oxygen and we
were at 21000 feet he could not
pull him out quickly enough to be
able to control the aircraft on time.

I had my chute on and went out
the already open hatch. I pulled the
rip cord immediately. ~~The~~ When I looked
up I could see a hole in my chute but
don't know where it came from. An
enemy plane was going in to attack our
A/c as three circled above.
I looked down and could see a chute
below me. There were four more chutes
above me. As he went down I made
four different plans as to where I would
survive but the air stream kept pushing
me beyond any point of landing that
I picked. I came down head

(2)

in a field
and bruised my face. Took off my
chute & put it under a tree cause I don't
hear a low plane flying near & I wanted
to hide quickly. I saw some bushes
& hid in them. People started to
come ^{converging & pointing north} ~~arrive~~ on the scene. They ~~found~~ civilian
clothing ^{even giving me some} and had me change right
I said ^{very little} ~~very little~~ ^{and seemed to know just} ~~what to do~~ ^{what to do} ~~in the field~~ ^{in the field} was been taken to my
navigator who had landed a 1/2 km away.
I ~~had~~ tried to ask if there were any ~~of~~
about, they thought I meant that I was a
G but I showed them my uniform under
my heated clothes & they were convinced.
On the way to him we met a priest who could
speak English. He asked if I was by name
then he also went to the crowd around to
navigator but never said another word. A
young man of 19 or 20 was in the second crowd
& when the navigator had changed his clothes
he told us to come with him.

I tried to tell the people
to know I was my equipment
& left it with them

He led us to a field about 1/2 a km away
where we were given something to eat and a bag

(3)

to carriage, took us to his home.
We waited and a young girl came &
took me with her to Messac & the
home of an elderly couple. (Gerard Mr & Mme)
I stayed here 17 days 18 Sept to 6 Oct.
On the 21st I was joined by Lt Gleckman
& I left. I stayed with
him until 15 Oct ~~December in St Car~~
~~From 15 Oct to about 3 December~~ I
stayed on a farm near St Jean (6 km
SE of Ploermel) with Julio. Lt Gleckman
was in Ploermel.

I rejoined him ^{& mine} in Ploermel at a
café and we went to live with the mayor's sister
in (Gulehenno). Lt Gleckman & I then
travelled together until 21 Dec. From
then on I travelled with Sgt Minor until
I reached G.K. on 27 Feb 1944.

Except for 3 nights in ~~Jaumpe~~ ^{when I stayed}
acrossed by Lts Schneider & Hagonnet ~~to~~ with a
French family connected with the post office
while Sgt Minor was at the Bodrossés (laager)
after Meckan had dumped us.

(3)

to carriage, took us to his home.
We waited and a young girl came &
took me with her to Messac & the
home of an elderly couple. (Gerard Mrs Mme)
I stayed here 17 days 18 Sept to 6 Oct.
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& I left. I stayed with
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~~From 15 Oct to about 3 December~~ I
stayed on a farm near St Jean (6km
SE of Ploermel) with Julio. Lt Gleckman
was in Ploermel.

I rejoined him ^{& minor} in Ploermel at a
café and we went to live with the mayor's sister
in (Gulehenno). Lt Gleckman & I then
travelled together until 21 Dec. From
then on I travelled with Sgt Minor until
I reached Gik on 27 Feb 1944

Except for 3 nights in ^{when I stayed} ~~Jaumet~~
acrossed from Lts Schneider & Hagonnet ~~to~~ with a
French family connected with the post office
while Sgt Minor was at the Bodrossé's / (Lange)
after Meckan had dumped us.

I'm going to camp I stayed alone at the
home of the daughter of the people with
whom Mind & Schneider stayed for 3 days
when I repaired them.

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. *JOHN SEMACH 956715320292*
2. Decorations. *Air medal*
3. Unit or Squadron. *524 Bomb Sq*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *379 Bomb Group*
5. Date of Birth. *June 28, 1923*
6. Length of Service. *18 months*
7. Private Address. *2667 Taylor St. Youngstown OHIO*
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?
On our way to Nantes Sept 16, time of departure 1:15 PM. - A small town about 20 miles south of Rennes called Messac the time 3:30 to 4:00 PM aircraft was destroyed
9. What was your position in aircraft? *Tail Gunner*
10. Were you wounded? *Cuts*
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*
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? *No*
15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? _____
16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? *Yes*
17. Date of arrival in Spain.
18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar.
19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *Place of departure for UK Paimpol*
20. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *date Feb 27, 8:00 AM*

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND F 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.,.....)

~~Seen a~~ ~~Wearhouse~~ just 4 miles south
of Rennes which was used for the Air field
~~Gate~~ There The name of the Air is St. Jack
It is well guarded by pillboxes seen
(4) A.A. around it - only a few feet from
The Gate is the Railroad AND on
the same R.R.

Oct 9, 1943

Seen a wearhouse just ^{about} 4 miles south
of Rennes in a small town called Bruy. which
is used for the airfield St Jack (or St Jacques)
the wearhouse is well guarded by pillbox
and a few AA. seen 14 guns
not far from the main gate is a
Railroad By which they receive their supply

while in a town (mesage) 25 miles
south of Rennes. Every hour or so all day
and night for 17 days The enemy was moving
her troops north to Rennes ^{by railroads} (date Sept 19, 1943)
to Oct 6, 1943) and from there to be sent East

Oct 6, 1943

1st Aid

mostly horse-drawn artillery was mostly equipment
one or two flat cars per train
black wood

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.

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 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 SEMACH

Signed John Semach

Rank S1S6T A. S. N. 15320292

Dated Feb 28, 1944

Unit 524 BOMB SQ 379 GIP

Witness Atty C. Smith Capt WAC

RESTRICTED