

~~SECRET~~

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

ERS
Proff

20 June 1944

E & E REPORT NO. 755
EVASION IN FRANCE

TARGET: FRANKFURT

John KATSAROS, Sgt, 11130671
(8 Missions)
612 Bomb Squadron, 401 Bomb Group

MIA: 20 March 1944
Arrived in UK:
15 June 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	0-745054	2d Lt	John A DUNAWAY	P/W
CO-PILOT	0-690106	2d Lt	Henry KANE	P/W
NAVIGATOR	0-811775	2d Lt	William G MOCK, Jr	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-688595	2d Lt	Theodore J KROL	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	34613370	T/Sgt	Francis MASTRONARDI	P/W
TOP TURRET GUNNER	33289777	S/Sgt	Harry C HORST, Jr	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	39125747	Sgt	Walter R RUSCH	P/W
WAIST GUNNER	11130671	Sgt	John KATSAROS	NARRATOR
WAIST GUNNER	34601869	Sgt	John W CROWLEY	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	37231127	Sgt	Marvin H BENZ	MIA

*WOUNDED
BY ME
HORST*

A Fort in the high box dropped out of formation and nearly hit us. To avoid a collision our pilot pulled away, and, due to the bad weather, we never saw the formation again. We had bombed the target and were over France again, at 24,000 feet when the weather cleared and the ME's found us. The first burst hit me, and from then on everything was very confused. I remember the radio man motioning to me to bail out and I did. When I regained consciousness I was between 2000 and 3000 feet. I pulled the ripcord and blacked out again, as it jerked.

*USES
LEARNED
FRENCH
AT SQ*

When I came to I was lying on the ground and 2 ME's were circling overhead. A farmer was plowing the field, and he kept right on plowing. As I released my chute a crowd gathered. I told them I was thirsty, ^{as} I had learned to say "J'ai soif" in the French lessons at ~~squadron~~. Then I saw how my arm was bleeding and got two boys to take the first aid kit off my harness, and then ~~started to say~~ "docteur", ^{but} the crowd just stood. Finally a truck drove up, and I fainted again as I was put into it and was taken to a nearby farmhouse. Here the people were very frightened and immediately called the doctor.

*DOCTOR
REPORTS
TO GESTAPO*

The doctor came immediately and put my arm in a light plaster cast. Then he telephoned local Gestapo headquarters to tell them where I was. He said I must be taken to the hospital immediately, and I understood enough French to know that he was going to cut my arm off. Half an hour later two plainclothesmen drove up and came in. I saw one go over and cut the telephone wires, but the French did not, as their attention was all focused on the other man. He had a revolver and brought in a Frenchman with his hands up. This victim winked at me, so I was not too disheartened when the others announced that they were Gestapo and had come for the American airmen. ~~THEY~~ ^{and} dragged me out to the car.

*WOUNDED
CANNON
EVASION*

Once in the car I realized I was in the hands of friends, but when we passed four German soldiers coming for me, only 50 yards from the house, I knew what a close shave it had been. My friends saw to it that I received good care and when I was strong enough to travel the rest of my journey was arranged.

Compiled by
Dolly E. Smith
DOROTHY A SMITH
Capt, WAC

Approved by
W S HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

of

- a. Hearsay that there is an airfield at JUZANCOURT (N, Reims) where as many as 125 A/C of all types can be seen on the ground at a time.
- b. The results of Allied bombing at COURCY and JUVINCOURT (NW, Reims) in early May were good. On 23 May 15 new JU88's were observed on the field at COURCY, while up to 43 FW 190's were flying formation over the field earlier in the week. Many ME 109's with belly tanks were observed at COURCY.
- c. Early in May a gun emplacement 1 mile E of COURCY was destroyed by a P-47. The gun has since been replaced.
- d. When the RR station at REIMS was bombed on 1 May a trainload of Germans was hit and many killed. However, many bombs missed the target by 1 mile. The station was in operation 3 days later. There is usually an ammunition train on a siding, but 1 May was an exception. The Fortress bombing of 23 May had much better results.
- e. Light AA guns, with very little camouflage, are stationed along the left ~~and~~ side of the RR tracks from EPERNAY to PARIS (At intervals of a few miles).
- f. Hearsay that Red Cross RR cars in PARIS are equipped with AA guns which have been used against the USAAF.
- g. The RAF bombing of the TOULOUSE munitions plant and bridges south of TOULOUSE was a thorough job. The plant is believed to have been permanently knocked out of production.

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 755

1. AIDS BOX: } My aids box and purse were taken while I was unconscious.
2. PURSE; }
3. PHOTOGRAPHS: I carried 8 photographs. I used one and gave the rest as souvenirs, which meant that I had to be rephotographed later.
4. LECTURES: I was lectured by my ⁵⁻² IO at squadron and by evaders. I was given help before I had time to ~~put~~ anything they taught me to practice.
5. SUGGESTIONS: I carried my GI shoes on my harness and I think this a good arrangement. Mine were taken while I was unconscious and I often wished for them later.

NUMBER OF COPIES: (THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE FURNISHED TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE UNIT TO WHICH THIS REPORT IS BEING SUBMITTED)

TO: [REDACTED]
 FROM: [REDACTED]
 DATE: 30 JULY 1947

CLASSIFICATION: [REDACTED]

BY: [REDACTED]

APPROVED: [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

30 JUL 1947

Received by
Happert
[Signature]

Original

Unit

Requisition for Foodstuffs

N.A.A.F.I.

Please supply the following items:

Add to 755 per. 3 & 4.



The doctor soon came and put my arm into a light plaster cast. He then ~~the~~ called up the local Gestapo HQ, reported my case, and said that I must be taken to the hospital at once, as he had to amputate my arm. Half an hour later two men in plain clothes came in, one of them ^{armed} ~~pushing~~ with a revolver, ^{and} pushing a Frenchman in front of him - while the frightened people of the house watched, the man with the gun, the other ~~quietly~~ slipped over and cut the telephone wires. Meanwhile, the Frenchman, with the gun in his back and his hands still over his head, tipped me a wink ^{and} while his guard ^{held} ~~set~~ the people that they were Gestapo men come for the American. ~~I saw that something was up~~

Medical
care

②

Requisition for Foodstuffs

then
They supply the following items:-

They hustled me out, to a
 waiting car, ~~missing~~ and we
 drove off, missing by fifty
 yards a detail of four German
 soldiers who were coming
 for me. My friends saw to it
 that I received good care
 until my arm was well enough
 for me to travel, and then
 they arranged the rest of
 my journey.

Journey
Arranged

Comment on #755:

"Trust your helpers!"
could well have been one of
this evader's suggestions in
Appendix D. The daring and
ingenuity of his rescue by
helpers are one of the high
spots in E + E adventures.
Note the value of the French
lessons evader received at
his base. Note also the need
of guarding photographs
from souvenir hunters.

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) JOHN KATSAROS

Signed John Katsaros

Rank Sgt A.S.N. 11130671

Date JUNE 12 1944

Unit 401 Bomb GP.

Witness H. W. Forster

HORACE W. FORSTER,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
U. S. Mil. Lia. Off.

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 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.

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 Katsaros Signed John Katsaros
Rank Sgt. A. S. N. 11130671 Dated June 15, 1944
Unit 612 Bomb Sqdn, 401 Bomb Gr. (H) Witness Dolly G. Smith Capt WSC

AG P BR HQ SOS 2-44/2M/22472

RESTRICTED

Sgt Katsaros C 755 typed
Pt of landing near Rheims

My friends drove me
to a farm ~~at~~ 3 km from Rheims
The farm belongs to Félix René,
who is the man who welded the
revolver. The man who cut the
telephone wires was Jean Jolly.
Pierre, the only baker in Chaumazy
(Marne), was the man who had
his hands up. I was the 29th
owner whom Pierre had helped.
He is a shot man with a long nose,
an ex-soldier who escaped from the
Germans after 20 mos. He distributes
and stores ammunition. He kept his
guns under a fake rabbit hutch. It
was Pierre who had seen me
parachute and immediately phoned
the word to his chief in Rheims,
asking for help. It was this
quick action which saved me.

2

The next morning (21 March)
a Mme Ramogé, who could speak
some English, came to find out
if I wanted to stay with the French,
or be turned over to the Germans
because of my arm. I asked if
they could get me medical treatment,
and she promised to find out.
She returned with a Belgian
nurse, who gave me a shot of
morphine. Mme told me that I
was going to be taken to a
clinic. A horse and buggy,
driven by Polo, came. Polo
~~had to pay~~ ^{is the regular} ~~tax~~ ^{themselves}
tax. I was driven into Rheims
of the ~~the~~ clinic. The head
nurse here, Mme Levi is married
to the Jewish doctor who used to
be in charge of the place. The
Germans but a collaborator,
in his place, but left her.

The night nurse³, and
I believe, the patients were
also collaborators. I was
muffled into a separate room
by the use of the back elevator,
and a doctor came from out
of town to operate. The operation
lasted one and a half hours.
I stayed in bed there for 2 days
being fed by the Belgian nurse.
A second operation was then
necessary. That night I
accidentally rang the bell when
I was trying to switch out the
light. The night nurse never
came in, but it seems she
was terrified for she knew
the room was empty. My
friends came in and I was
moved immediately. In any
event, I would have had to
move to ~~my~~ next day to avoid
a periodic German check-up

H.

Pollo's buggy took
me to the home of M. Dumas
He ~~used to~~ ^{was} be a Gendarme, is
71 yrs old, and lives alone
in his house in Rheims. He has
killed 7 Germans by hanging
around a bridge in Rheims and
pushing over ~~to~~ any solitary
Breughen soldier who passes
by. I stayed with them for
2 months and a day.
A man, who always wore
reding clothes, and was about
35 yrs old, often came in. He
was in charge of paying the
members of the organization.
He paid M. Dumas for me
although the latter did not
want the money. A Frenchman
named Robert who was

6

avoiding forced labor, also

stayed here from 0900 hrs to

The butcher helped out with the dog for us, while there I met Jack who was also around.

1900 hrs. It was taken by confession the day before Easter,

and the priest was very friendly.

Then we went on and his wife Madeleine

Felix Reue, who were leaving

a big Easter party. We left

it after curfew in Polo's ~~car~~ ^{car}

The Germans chased us

all around town but we

got away and I got home safely.

When Polo started home

the Germans caught him and

he spent the night in jail. But

he was ~~so~~ ^{so} drunk that the Germans

ended up by giving him

the gas to get home.

The Rhein's chief of Police drove me to Pierrot's house at Chauxuz. I stayed here for almost two weeks. While I was ~~there~~ I met Pierrot's two chiefs. They were both cavalry officers, a colonel, ~~old~~ who was chief of resistance in Rheims and a major captain. One of them was tall, ~~and~~ well built and looked a real soldier. He had a moustach and wore good clothes. He asked me identifying questions Jolly, who was in charge of the men in Rheims, although he was not the chief, said I would go out by air ^{to} Saturday after Easter. There

usually was a Halifary of
 Lancaster dropping supplies
 in the area at night. One day
 Jolly, the Chief of Police, and
 the butcher came for me, saying
 that I was to leave that night.
 The butcher is tall, heavy set,
 has 3 children, wears glasses
 and has light-colored hair.

Five hours after I left
 the Gestapo came.
 Chammy, Pierre was in Rheims with me,
 but they took his wife. She
 was kept in prison until after
 I left but was not being
 ill-treated. A German soldier,
 in contact with the underground,
 acted as courier between
 her and Pierre. Someone in the

Resistance movement had
been caught and given Pierre's
name. When the Germans searched
the house, they took his car
and radio, but they did not
find the ammunition. Pierre
lived in Rheims after that.

The Chief of Police
drove me to the Café de
Bourgogne in Bourgogne. It
belonged to a man named Era
Before Dunkirk the Gestapo had
a "Raaf" in his back yard.
I had joined Jack Hoar. The
next day Robert came to
tell us about Pierre's wife
and we were moved immediately.
Era put us in his buggy
and we drove 9 km.

A little forest full of
 trenches where a Pole named
 Bronis (Brunce Carack) had
 the only house. We stayed with
 him for two weeks, hunting
 during the daytime and after-
 noon returning to the café for parties.
 Bronis is also a butcher by
 trade.

In the middle of May
 Bronis took us to Bougogne
 to meet a school teacher
 from the environs of Rheims
 who was a representative of
 the organization that takes people
 out over the Pyrenees. The
 teacher, who looks Spanish
 or Portuguese, gave me an
 I card, and said we

would leave soon. We
 returned to the Pole. Finally
 a former detective told us
 that another American had
 been found, and that two
 of us would leave together.
 Kra and Brown picked up
 Lt Tates (Lt & Rpt) and
 brought him to stay with me,
 while Jack Hoast went back
 to Kra. The next day (23 May)
 we both went into Bourgoigne
 and met Lt Ray Hol (Lt & Rpt).
 We took the train
 from Epernay to Paris.
 In Paris I stayed with
 a landlady named Villanot
 of 151 Blvd Davout Paris
 X^{eme}. I was here Wednesday,

11

while Lt Thatcher stayed
with a gendarme named Gabby
Gabby gave me a new I card
because an English-speaking
girl, whom I met in Paris, said
that mine was no good. Villenot
~~arranged~~ had us next door
neighbor / a painter with a store,
who has led 29 Americans, arranged
with a woman I have had
photographed. The English-speaking
girl had met us with two
men when we arrived in Paris.
She is 20 plus years old, a very
business-like Brunette (General)

One night we made
rendez-vous at Gabby's, and
took the metro to an electrical
building, in which classes are
also held. The English-speaking

girl, and several Frenchmen were here. One was a heavy-set lunch-buck, and he gave us our instructions. Our Khams-Paris guide, who was inseparable from the English-speaking girl, was also here.

We were turned over to the Toulouse guides. One, a girl, was a short nice-looking brunette. The other, who may have been her husband, was slender, sickly, wore heavy glasses, and looked the typical book worm. We were supposed to go to Pau but everything got very mixed up at Pau because our guides weren't wearing proper identification. Some men, who recognized us by our shoes came up to us to warn us

I keep clear of Pau. We thought
 they were Gestapo, and played
 dead and dumb. Lt McLean ~~the~~
 Rpt #, whom we had met
 at the electric school (with Capt
 Burgess ~~the~~ Rpt # ^{of the} ~~and~~ someone
 the RIF) took off on his
 own. Finally everything
 got straightened out and
 our party broke up properly.
 Holl, Stead and I went
 with a crippled, wooden leg,
 man, who spoke good English,
 of an apartment house in
 a back street. ~~at~~

At 1900 hrs we
 all (except McLean) made
 ready - rows at the RR
 platform. On the platform

we met our Pyrenees guide,
 a short man with glasses who
 does not look the part at all.
 On the train we were joined
 by another Frenchman named
 Jean who had been to
 parachute school in England,
 and claimed he was taking
 information out of France.
 We got off the train at
 Montreuil and spent the night
 outdoors in the hills. The
 rest of the story is told by
 Lt J. Hatcher

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO 755
EVASION IN

6/15/44
(Date)

John KATSAROS Sgt 11130671

TARGET: FRANKFURT

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
8 (No of Missions)

Date Missing in Action: March 20, 1944

6/2 Bomb 401
(Squadron) (Group)

Date Arrived in UK: June 15, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know

PILOT	LT.	JACK DUNAWAY	
COPILOT	LT.	HENRY KANE	I DO
NAVIGATOR	LT.	MOCK	NOT
ENGINEER	LT.	Theodore KROL	KNOW
RADIO OPERATOR	T/Sgt.	FRANK MASTRONADI	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	S/Sgt.	HARRY HORST	
BASE TURRET GUNNER	Sgt.	WALLY RUSCH	
R WAIST GUNNER	Sgt.	John KATSAROS	
L WAIST GUNNER	Sgt.	John CROWLEY	
TAIL GUNNER	Sgt.	MARVIN BENZ	

Were you wounded?

YES.

BELIEVE IT WAS A 20mm FROM ME 109. UPON EXPLOSION 7 OR 8 PIECES HIT ME IN R-ARM AND 1 PIECE IN BACK. RETURNING FROM FRANKFURT. OVER FRANCE.

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Wm Katsaras Sgt. N136671 6/15/44
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)
60 Bomb Sq. 401 Gr. #755
(Unit)

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

MARCH 20, 1944 2:00 PM.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.

Was it on fire, etc?

I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW IF IT WAS ON FIRE BUT IT WAS REALLY FULL OF 20mm HOLES

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

20,000 ft.

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

I DO NOT KNOW.

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

I DO NOT KNOW

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

I DO NOT KNOW

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

NO

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

FRENCH PEOPLE SAW 4 CHUTES BESIDES MINE. ALL 4 TAKEN PRISONERS.

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

NO

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

NO

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

I DON'T KNOW AS I WAS WOUNDED SERIOUSLY AND PASSED OUT AS SOON AS I BAILED OUT. WAS FIRST MAN OUT OF PLANE

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 755
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

John KATSAROS, SGT, 11130671

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

8 missions

612 Bomb Squadron, 401 Bomb Group
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: FRANKFURT

MIA: 20 March 1944

Arrived in UK:
15 June 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWID)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-745054	2d Lt	John A DUNAWAY		P/W
CO-PILOT	0-690106	2d Lt	Henry KANE		P/W
NAVIGATOR	0-811775	2d Lt	William G MOCK, JR		MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-688595	2d Lt	Theodore J KROL		MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	34613370	T/Sgt	Francis MASTRONARDI		P/W
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WAIST GUNNER	11130671	Sgt	John KATSAROS		NARRATOR
WAIST GUNNER	34601869	Sgt	John W CROWLEY		MIA
TAIL GUNNER	37231127	Sgt	Marvin H BENZ		MIA

Were you wounded?

A fort in the high box dropped
out of formation and nearly hit us.
To avoid a collision our pilot
pulled away, and we ~~were~~^{due} to the
bad weather we ~~never~~ saw the
formation again. We had bombed the
target and were over France again,

at 24000 ft when the weather cleared and the ~~me~~
found us. The first burst hit
me and from then on everything was
very confused. I remember the radio
was ~~watering~~ ~~of~~ me & ~~bit~~ out
and I did. When I regained consciousness
I was between 2000 ft and 3000 ft. I
pulled the rip-cord and blacked out
again as it jerked.

When I came to I was lying on
the ground and 2 ~~me~~ were
circling overhead. ~~to~~ a farmer was
plowing the field, and he kept right
on plowing. As I released my chute
a crowd gathered. I told them I was
thirsty so I said ~~can't~~ to say
"J'ai soif" in the French lessons at
squadron. Then I saw how

my arm was bleeding. I got two boys & take to first aid kit off my harness, and then started for my "doctor". The crowd just stood. Finally a truck drove up and I fainted again as I was put into it. I was taken to a nearby farmhouse where the people were very frightened and immediately called the doctor.

The doctor came immediately and put my arm in a light plaster cast. Then he telephoned local Gestapo headquarters & told them where I was. He said I must be taken to the hospital immediately, and I understood enough to reach & know that he was going to cut my arm off. Half an hour later two planebushmen drove up and came in. One I saw one go over and cut the telephone wires, but ~~was~~ the French did not. Their attention was all focused on the other man. He had a revolver and brought in

3
a Frenchman with his
hands up. This victim
looked at me, so I was not
too disheartened when the others
announced that they were
going to come for the American
airman. I was dragged out
of the car.

~~Fifty yards from the
house we passed four German
soldiers coming to get me.
~~Then~~ I was driven to a
farm and after I had
been nursed back~~

Once in the car I realized
I was in the hands of friends,
but when we passed four
German soldiers, coming for
me, only 50 yds from the house,
I knew what a close shave
it had been. My friends owe
to it that I received good care

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and when I was strong
enough to travel the rest
of my journey was arranged.

182 My aids, box and purse were taken while I was unconscious.

3. I carried 8 photographs. I used one and gave the rest as souvenirs ~~later~~ which meant that I had to be rephotographed later.

4. I was lectured by my I.O. at a squadron and by evaders, I was given self before I had time to put anything they taught me to practice.

5. I carried my G.I. shoes on my harness and I think this a good arrangement. Mine were taken while I was unconscious and I often wished for them later.

News that there is an airfield
at Juzancourt (NW Reims) were as many
as 125 A/c of all types can be
seen on the ground at a time

The results of allied bombing
at Courcy and Juzancourt (NW Reims)
in early May were good. On
23 May ~~only~~ 15 new Ju 88 were
observed on the field at Courcy
while up to 43 FW 190 were flying
formation over the field earlier in
the week. Many ME 109 with belly tanks
were observed at Courcy

Early in MAY a gun emplacement
1 mi E Courcy was destroyed by a
P47. The gun has since been
replaced

While the RR station at Rheims
was bombed on 1 May a trainload
of Germans was hit and many killed

However many bombs missed the target by 1 mi. The station was in operation 3 days later. ~~The ammunition~~ There is usually an ammunition ~~train~~ train on a siding, but 1 May was an exception. The Fortress bombing of 23 May had much better results.

Light AA guns, with ~~a~~ very little camouflage are stationed along the left hand side of the RR tracks from Epervier to Paris at intervals of a few miles.

Hearsay that Red Cross RR cars in Paris are equipped with AA guns which have been used against the 4SAAF.

The R. A. F. bombing of the Toulouse munitions plant and bridges south of Toulouse was a thorough job. The plant is ~~is~~ believed to have been permanently knocked out of production.

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 11130671 John KATSAROS

Unit:- 612 Bomb Sqdn. - 401 Bomb Co.

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.

Improvement should be made on water

1. AIDS BOX *bag as it is difficult to carry water and not spill it.*

a. Did you use your aids box? *NO*

b. If not, why? *Was Unconscious when I hit ground. French people threw them away*

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. *had none else*

Compass.

Sewing kit.

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *WATER BAG SHOULD BE IMPROVED*

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*
State color of stripes and letters.
If NOT, State why not. *taken by French upon landing*

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.

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

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? *Yes*
If so, how many? *8 PICTURES*

b. Did you use them? *YES* *One rest documents*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *YES*
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. *had no time to put anything in practice as picked up unconscious*

612 Bomb Sqdny Feb, Intelligence OFFICER & OTHER ESCAPED MEN

b. Did you find the lectures of value? *YES*

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers? *NO*

*Wear G. I. shoes and more on barbed
but vanished while unconscious,
Wished I had had warmer clothes in mtd*

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS (X)

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank, and Serial No. JOHN KATSAROS Sgt. 11130671
2. Decorations. Air Medal
3. Unit or Squadron. 612 Bomb Sqdn (H)
4. Division (Army) or Group. 401 Bomb Gr. (H)
5. Date of Birth. July 6, 1923
6. Length of Service. 1 1/2 years.
7. Private Address. 24 Forest Ave. Haverhill, Mass.
8. Job as civilian. Student
9. From what field did you take off? Doornik Airbase
10. Take off time. Around 9:00 AM.
11. Date and target. March 20 FRANKFURT.
12. Where did you land? COVILLE (NEAR REIMS).
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES
14. What was your position in aircraft? R.W.G.
15. Were you wounded? YES
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? NO
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? LEARNED VERY LITTLE FRENCH WHILE IN FRANCE.
18. Did you have Identity Papers? YES
19. 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?
YES - Gibraltar - British -
20. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? NO
21. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? Gibraltar - June 13, 1944
22. Date of arrival in Spain.
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. MAY 27, 1944
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. JUNE 12, 1944
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. GIBRALTAR - BY AIR
BRISTOL JUNE 15, 1944

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.,.....)

I was told by French that many ^{N. of Rheingau} planes were seen at an airfield near Juvencourt sometimes up to 125 ^{all types} were counted on the ground there. ^{North of Rheingau}

Saw ^{with me} the airfields at Corsi and Juvencourt dive bombed by Thunderbolts, Spitfires and also bombed by forts. Damage was very heavy on both places. When I left ^{23 May} there were still 4 hangars up although damaged. at Corsi. 15 ^{HEW} JU-88 were on ground. Saw up to 43 FW 190^s flying formation over Corsi in middle of May also many ME 109^s with Betty tanks.

One gun emplacement one mile east of Corsi airfield was knocked out in early May by P-47 but was replaced after a few days.

Railroad at Raine bombed by Forts on May 1. Knocked out one German train loaded with many German soldiers. killed many. Some bombs missed target by almost one mile. Train station was in operation 3 days after bombing it.

There is a German ammunition

train at the station but another train
at St. Miens - 3 groups of F-5s again
bombed Paris train station with mixed
better results than the first time. Many
houses were hit ^{on the first raid}. A few killed.

^{off hand side of}
Along train tracks from Epemay to
Paris Light AA installations were seen by
one way few miles (one gun at each place)
(not much camouflage)

French report that ^{some} Red Cross ~~cars~~
train cars ~~in~~ in Paris are equipped ~~with~~
with AA guns ^{to} have seen them in use
against U.S.A.A.F.

Ammunition factory in Toulouse was
really blown up by R.A.F. also a ^{large} ~~number~~
bridges south of Toulouse. Ammunition factory
is still not in operation and I don't
think it will be by the way it looked ^{and}

Weather had climbed to 24000 ft
of still bad. Another part in the high
had dropped out of formation &
nearly hit us. Other pilot pulled
away to avoid collision and we
never saw the formation again they aborted
(I found in U.K) we went to target & bombed.
On the way back the weather cleared over
& some of the men found us. Three
came in from 7 o'clock, 1st one hit
down back of me and stopped some
me and from then on everything was
turning. Attack kept up till 10:15 when
had been cut. Next thing I knew the
radio man motioned to me to bail
out. The A/c was going down fast
but not down. I opened the ejection
trouble & jumped. I bled out
immediately. Came to close to the
ground & pulled up - cord with left
hand (regular view of everything at 3000 ft)
As it got dark I went out again.
When I came to I was

lying on the ground with two
shells ending me to mark my
position as chite still following
in breeze tho not enough wind to
blow my tape but the release
of camera a farmer was
plowing the field he kept on plowing
for 15 min I guess he was frightened
to admit this I was wounded,
and by the time he did at least 200 feet
had gathered.

A group gathered around I was
to work to move or pull in chite, told
crowd I was thirsty I knew j'ai soil
from 7 or 8 lessons at squadron. and
I asked for a doctor ~~cause~~ then
realizing how my arm was bleeding
asked one of men to pull my first
aid kit out of chite for me I bandaged
arm. The crowd just stood
I finally brought a truck and moved
me to a nearby farmhouse off my
chite. But asked about 6 pm
they were 1 km away. The farmhouse
belonged to collaborators or were
frightened people & they sent
for the doctor immediately & he
came he looked at my arm & put
it in a cast plaster cast

He had cut the arm
with a knife & I
was in pain

and then he called the local Gestapo & understood enough of words that he said I must go to the hospital immediately as he was going to cut my arm off. (I am a family doctor - I am a doctor) After that I planned to get away. One had his arms up ^{he winked} ^{he did not even see me jump} ^{got on} behind them had gun in his back. Third man went over to cut the telephone wires but only saw him later. The other two men said they were the Gestapo come for the American woman picked me up and dragged me to car. Drove off and 50 yds from house passed 4 soldiers coming to house to get me. They saw us & caught on but by the time they had unslung their rifles we were far off. Drove me to a farmhouse 13 km from Rheims

P9 was
P9 was 29 to
shot of soldier and 20+
mos & P/w was asked
how nose. Distributes
dono has store of it.

3
had to leave hosp as they getting
to hot. Had my bed bell &
when want to turn off light. Night
nurse (knowing room was empty)
~~thought~~ was frightened. See never came
in but when came for me immediately
But would please to take me early next
a m in all events to avoid regular
to check on hosp.

Took me by Polab's bus to
home a condormie ^{had suitcases} ^{also about passing} M. Dumas ^{times}
^{over bridge as would pass from SW 11.}
It lived alone w Rheims. Stayed
here in a little room for 1 mo 7 days
~~One man~~ One man always in riding
clothes 35 yrs used to come to
house his job in org was paying
of men. Paid gendarme for me to
gendarme didn't want money.
Also 9^{AM} - 7^{PM} a Frenchman fleeing
forced labor Robert would come to house.
Got evies here. Day before Easter
Took me to confession. Priest very kind

then to visit Felix Reule who was
having a big Easter party. They had
white & blue. Left in Polo's car after
a few so got chased by G crowd
too but we got away & got home,
but when Polo started for his
home they caught him. Spent night
in jail but talked way out again
& they gave him gas & gave some
food + care. Town butcher
helped out.

From post office

Went to Chammy with Chief
of Police for Rheims in his car
St Pierre's. Here almost 2 weeks
were met by two chiefs. One
was chief of Rheims district other his
assistant. Both in cavalry one was a Col
other capt or major. One tall well built real
soldier good clothes mustache dark hair
asked position in crew etc. Said after
Easter I had told me I was
going to fly out he seemed to be
in charge of Rheims men but wasn't
the chief.

While at Chammy met Jack
Hoad & Sgt Reiff he was visiting
around. Usually Halifax or Lancaster, what
section at night. Rheims
around. One day came
bombing.

4

Maddeline Felix's wife

FD 111-3

tall heavy
set glasses
grey hair

and Jolly & Police Chief & butcher
said I would leave that night.
5 hrs after I left Chaumont, Costello
came but Pierre was with
me in Rheims, they took his wife
kept her in prison till after I left but was
ill treated. Fr. soldier in contact with
underground acted as courier. Some
members of Resistance caught had talked
& given name. Searched house for
cars radios but didn't find ammo
He stayed in Rheims then.

Took me to Rheims & say
good-bye & then in Police Chief
Jean de Bourgogne to a cafe.
Cafe de Bourgogne Bra? Fr. name
English had had Maafi in his back yard.
Spent night here next AM Robert ^{comb} Fr
came & told me about Pierre's wife.
Jack Head was with me & we were
moved immediately. Bra took us 9
km by buggy to a little forest

full of trawlers here a Pole
named ^{Carach} Brown had only house
stayed here two weeks rabbit
deer & wild boar hunting. often
went to Bourgogne for parties.
Crafa butcher too cut off my cast
as we couldn't get hold of a doctor.

About middle of way Cra took
us to Bourgogne and met one
that takes you to P. in Rennes. He
one was a teacher near Rennes. He
got me my I card Looks Portuguese
or Sp
said we leave soon.

but back to Rennes. Finally a
former detective told us he had
found another american (burnt) Thatcher
of that he & us would leave together
Cra & Brown's picked him up and
he was brought to us at Brown's
while Jack stayed with Cra
Next day Sat 23 way to Bourgogne
& met Ray Holf

Train from Epervan to Paris
In Paris met with Thatcher
stayed with Villamont's 151
Bld de Davout Paris xx one
for 3 days. He is a Gendarme
Thatcher with another Gendarme Gaby

Gaby gave me a I card as one
 from Rhems no good. In Paris
 met girl ~~that was in the~~ good
 Eng she was one who said I card
 no good + Villomont end his
 friend ^{painter, esp a store} next door who had helped
 29 U.S. arrange with a woman about
 my pictures. Met ready-vous
 with her + 2 men when left

RR station very business like
 wood + yrs brunette shorter than we

all made ready-vous
 at Gaby metro to the Electrical
 Bldg classes here to
 also met the girl, ^{several} ^{any} + 2 men
 the heavy set bench back gave
 us instructions. Also Rhems-Paris
 guide was here he was always
 with the girl. here met Toalove
 guide one a girl short brunette
 also looking of a short man with heavy
 glasses could be her husband.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE A. C. OF S., G-2

755

DATE: 15 June 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, W. B. FRY, Major, AC, O-477426

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

JOHN KATSAROS, Sgt., AC, 11130671

prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory.

The person whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon is the individual referred to above.

John Katsaros

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



W. B. Fry

=====
The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as JOHN KATSAROS,

Sgt., 11130671 (612 Bomb Squadron - 401 Bomb Group)

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

W. F. Maranda
W. F. MARANDA, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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