

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO 812
EVASION IN

(Date)

713 Bomb Squadron, 448 Bomb Group
(Name) (Rank) (No of Missions)

TARGET: 1 April 1944

Date Missing in Action: _____

Date Arrived in UK: _____

(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

			Indicate what happened to each man and how you know
	0-428403	1st Lt Harrison C. MULLOR	MIA
PILOT	0-800071	2d Lt Douglas J. JAMES, JR	MIA
COP-PILOT	0-692016	2d Lt Frank H. JACOBSON	IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
NAVIGATOR	0-688343	2d Lt Marvin T. COFF	MIA
BOMBARDIER	32533995	T/Sgt Francis C. MARX	IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
RADIO OPERATOR	18028026	T/Sgt William A. WARRIN	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	20702227	S/Sgt Nelson A. BRANCH	IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
MID TURRET GUNNER	39908551	Sgt Ira R. ALLEN	NARRATOR
WAIST GUNNER	33195801	S/Sgt Mike LITTLE	E&E #719
WAIST GUNNER	13146208	Sgt Walter T. BRESSLER	NARRATOR
TAIL GUNNER			

Were you wounded?

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

NELSON, A. BRENNH SGT. 20702277 JUNE 20, 44
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)
448 GROUP 713 S.A.D. #812
(Unit)

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

LEFT PLANE AT 145 P.M. APRIL 1, 44
DIDN'T SEE PLANE HIT THE GROUND

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

Was it on fire, etc?

NO FIRE
FLYING ON TWO ENGINES GOING DOWN

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

10,000'

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

NO

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

FRENCH REPORTED THAT TOP TURRETS CHUTE
DIDN'T OPEN

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

DO NOT KNOW

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

YES NAVIGATOR ESCAPED
WITH SAME

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.

NO

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.

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

ONE CREW MEMBER DEAD FRENCH
IDENTIFIED HIM TO RADIO OPERATOR
SIX CREW MEMBERS ESCAPED OTHERS
UNKNOWN

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO
EVASION IN

JUNE 30, 1944
(Date)

NELSON A. BRANCH SGT.
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) 20702227
8 (No of Missions)
713 448
(Mission) (Group)

TARGET:

Date Missing in Action: APRIL 1, 44

Date Arrived in UK: JUNE 30, 44

DETAILS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIR)

Indicate what happened to
each man
and how you know

PILOT H. C. MELLOR - HEARD NOTHING ABOUT HIM
COPILOT EAMES - HEARD NOTHING ABOUT HIM
NAVIGATOR JACOBSON - ESCAPED ALL THE WAY WITH ME
BOMBARDIER JOFF - HEARD NOTHING OF HIM
RADIO OPERATOR F. C. MARX - ARRIVED IN U.S. ON SAME DAY
TOP TURRET GUNNER WARREN - RADIO OP. SAID HE WAS KILLED
MID TURRET GUNNER WHEN HIS CHUTE FAILED TO OPEN
WAIST GUNNER BRANCH
WAIST GUNNER I. R. ALLEN ESCAPED AND GOT TO UK BEFORE I DID
TAIL GUNNER MIKE LITTLE - ESCAPED
W. T. BRESSTER - ESCAPED

Were you wounded?

FELL INTO TREE CAUGHT MY
LEG AND HUNG FOR THREE HOURS KNEE
WAS SORE A FEW DAYS CUT ON RIGHT HAND
WAS O.K. WHEN I LEFT PLANE

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.

You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.
- b. 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) NELSON A. BRANCH Signed Nelson A. BranchRank Sgt. A.S.N. 20702227 Date June 26, 44Unit 448 Bn 713 Lfd. Witness H. W. Forster

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

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND F REPORT NO. 812

No., Rank, Name:- 20702227 SG.T. NELSON A. BRITAIN

Unit:- 448 GROUP 713 SQD

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? **YES**
- 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. **I ATE ALL OF THEM WHERE O.K.**

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. **O.K.**

Milk (tube). **O.K.**

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). **DIDNT USE THESE**

Halazone tablets (water purifier). **DIDNT NEED THEM USED A FEW WHERE O.K.**

Matches. **COULD HAVE USED MORE MATCHES**

Adhesive tape. **LOST**

Chewing gum. **O.K.**

Water bottle. **DIDNT LIKE IT WHEN WALKING**

Compass. **YOU HAD TO HOLD IT UP TO KEEP WATER IN**

Sewing kit. **O.K.**

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? **WATER BOTTLE**

e. How did you finally dispose of the box? **YES**

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?

PUT CARKE IN WATER BOTTLE

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse?
State color of stripes and letters. **YELLOW**
If NOT, State why not.

b. Did you use the purse?

BOUGHT YES (over)

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

Maps. Which ones? *NO*

Compass. *YES*

File (hacksaw). *YES*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *1000 FRENCH*

How did you spend the money? *YES*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *GAVE AWAY*

Compass. *LOST ONE GAVE OTHER AWAY*

File (hacksaw). *BROKE THEN AWAY*

Surplus currency. *TURNED IN AT G.I.B.*

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

NO
4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many? *NO*

b. Did you use them? *HAD ONE TAKEN IN PAIRS*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM. *YES IN STATES AT TAIRD PHASE SCHOOL IN ENGLAND AT BASE*

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?

TAKE YOUR G.I. SHOES

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.

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) NELSON A. BRANCH

Signed Nelson A. Branch

Rank SGT. A. S. N. 20702227

Dated _____

Unit 448 GROUP 713 SQD

Witness _____

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

RESTRICTED

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. NELSON A BRANCH
SGT. 2070227
2. Decorations. SHOULD HAVE AIR MEDAL HAVN'T
3. Unit or Squadron. RECEIVED
713 S.D. 448 GROUP
4. Division (Army) or Group.
5. Date of Birth. OCT. 31, 1918
6. Length of Service. 3 YEARS 9 MO.
7. Private Address. WEBSTER CITY, IOWA.
8. Job as civilian. FARMER
9. From what field did you take off? 448 BOMB GROUP BASE
10. Take off time. 6 A.M.
11. Date and target. APRIL 1, 44 LUDWIGSHAFEN
12. Where did you land? BY CANOE IN FOREST OF COMPIEGEE
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? DO NOT KNOW
14. What was your position in aircraft? BALL THREAT
15. Were you wounded? NO
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? NO
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? NO
18. Did you have Identity Papers? DOG TAGS IN PAIRS FRENCH
GAVE ME IDENTITY CARD
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, AT GIBRALTAR ENGLISH INTEL.
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? YES
22. Date of arrival in Spain. MAY 29, 44
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. JUNE 26, 44
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. BY AIR JUNE 30, 44
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. BRISTOL

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "B" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 812

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.,.....)

NONE

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

DATE: 30 June 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

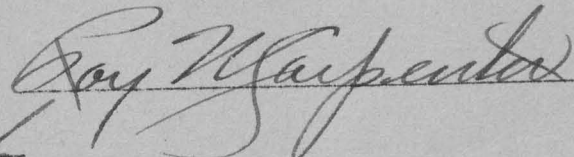
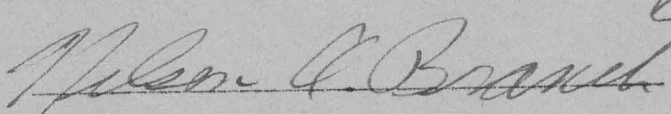
I, ROY W. CARPENTER, 1st Lt., AC, O-690546

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

NELSON A. BRANCH, S/Sgt., AC, 20702227

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.

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as NELSON A. BRANCH,

S/Sgt., AC, 20702227 (713 Bomb Squadron - 448 Bomb Group)

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

J. F. CARROLL, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.O.


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