

HQ, ETOUSA

SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH  
MIS(X)

OFFICE OF AC OF S, G-2

MIS DETACHMENT

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL  
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank and Serial No. *William F. CROWE S/Sgt 17033526*
2. Decorations.
3. Unit or Squadron. *453rd Bomb Sqd 323rd Bomb Group*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *323rd Bomb Group*
5. Date of Birth. *July 23rd, 1922*
6. Length of Service. *1 year 8 months*
7. Private Address. *315 20th St. Sioux City, Iowa*
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?  
*Bombing of airfield at Ploeghe France, July 31st  
Aircraft and all equipment were destroyed*
9. If in AF, give names of other members of crew and what happened to them.
10. Give details and full story of your trip on attached sheets.
11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *We paid them nothing*
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 experience? Where and when? *Maj Clark - Madrid Maj Lewis - Gibraltar  
Donald Darling's asst.*
15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?  
*Maj Clark - Madrid*
16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? *Maj Clark - Madrid Aug 17, 1943  
Maj Lewis - Gibraltar Aug 22, 1943*
17. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *Gibraltar Aug 24, 1943  
By air*
18. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *London Aug 27, 1943*

HQ, ETOUSA  
Office of AC of S, G-2  
MIS Detachment

5 September 1943

E & E REPORTS NOS 83 & 84  
EVASION IN FRANCE

William F. CROWE, S/Sgt, 17033526  
453 Bomb Squadron, 323 Bomb Group

AGE: 21 years  
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 8/12 years  
HOME ADDRESS: 315 20th Street  
SIoux CITY, Iowa

MIA: 31 July 1943  
Arrived in Spain:  
14 Aug 1943  
Arrived in Gibraltar:  
23 August 1943  
Arrived in UK:  
27 August 1943

Joseph M. HAGER, S/Sgt, 33168527  
453 Bomb Squadron, 323 Bomb Group

AGE: 25 years  
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 1/12 years  
HOME ADDRESS: RD No. 1  
PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

POSITION	NAME	GRADE	STATUS
PILOT	John P. HIPS COMB	Capt	MIA
NAVIGATOR	George P. EDWARDS	1st Lt	MIA
BOMBARDIER	Roger (MIL) MORWOOD	2d Lt	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	Roland E. CLARK	S/Sgt	MIA
TURRET GUNNER	James P. BERRY	S/Sgt	MIA
WING GUNNER	Joseph M. HAGER	S/Sgt	NARRATOR
TAIL GUNNER	William F. CROWE	S/Sgt	NARRATOR

CHUCK  
CHOLE 31 July 1943  
SEES TARGET: POIX

VIEWED  
JOHN

DELAYED  
JUMP

SEVEN  
VACID GIBNA

We left our Base during the morning of 31 July 1943 to bomb an airfield at POIX, FRANCE. About three minutes before reaching the target we ran into heavy flak. Normal evasive action was taken but as we settled into our run on the target our aircraft was hit in the left engine-nacelle, and tail section and wing. There was a violent lurch. We started into a spin but the plane went into a wide loop after that. Sgt BERRY, top-turret gunner, was the first to bale out. I followed him and Sgt HAGER went out third. As we left the ship, it was in a steep glide and the interior of the fuselage was filled with thick smoke and flames. The last thing I remember hearing over the "inter-com" was the bombardier saying, "Well, I guess I'm hit." After leaving the plane at 3000 feet I delayed to 2000 feet and saw one chute below me which I think was Sgt BERRY. I landed, uninjured, in a wood not far from HORNAY. My chute was so entangled in a tree I had to leave it. I was running out of the wood when I saw a truckload of Germans, about 500 yards away, coming toward the wood. I ran back into the wood and heard the Germans coming

AVOIDS GERMAN  
SEARCH

1000  
DRIVARD

JOURNEY  
ARRANGED

SEES TWO CHUTE BOIX  
CHUTES AND PLANE  
CRASH

from the other side. I crawled into a depression under a clump of bushes just before they reached me. It was an organized search with the men about ten feet apart. One soldier passed so near I could have touched him. For three or four hours I could hear them talking in the wood and not until late in the afternoon did I dare move.

5000 feet away was one single person. I waited until I saw him. When I finally crawled out of the forest I followed a cowpath that led to a house. I had hidden in a small field of wheat in the backyard when a man came out to rake the yard. I thought I had watched the house long enough so I whistled to him. After looking around he whistled back and later came over to speak. He asked if I were English. I nodded and asked for help. After telling me to wait he returned an hour later with a man who took me to his home. Sgt HAGER arrived there shortly after and our journey was arranged.

SGT HAGER'S STORY UNTIL JOINING SGT CROWE.  
I bailed out of the plane at 6500 feet and pulled the ripcord immediately. There were two chutes below me. The plane crashed before I hit the ground and was a ball of fire and smoke.

LEAVE COMBINE  
MAYBE COMBINE  
LARGE COMBINE  
BADIO COMBINE  
BOWYDIEH  
MVAICWOB  
BIPOL

IMMEDIATE HELP

MEMBERS OF CREW

HOME VDDKE22:

REASON OF SEBAI'E

VGE:

JOINS CREW  
MEMBER

I landed about 300 feet from the burning plane in an oat field. I hit hard and was out for a minute. After unbuckling my chute I saw two Frenchmen in the next field working with a binder. They gave me a 'down' sing. I left my rolled chute and crawled about a hundred feet away before hiding. An hour later several Frenchmen came to me and covered me with oats. They tried to give the appearance of working in the field. I had a wound in my leg which they treated before allowing me to move. One of them was wearing two suits of civilian clothing and gradually while they pretended to be working I put the extra suit on. I had the impression that Germans were searching in the neighborhood and might appear on the scene at any moment.

After they left me I crawled from the field and went into the wood to hide. My friends had said they would return late in the afternoon and two of them did. One walked ahead about 300 feet as a lookout while the other helped me walk. I was taken to a house where I met Sgt CROWE and from here my journey was arranged.

Compiled By:

HOME VDDKE22:

REASON OF SEBAI'E

VGE:

JOHN W. WHITE JR.  
1st Lt, AC

Approved By:

W.S. HOIT

Lt Col, AC

Commanding

NAV: 21 2174 1042

222 200p 2000000' 252 200p 20000  
MUTTER E. CROWE 2/24/42 11022250

REVISION IN SERVICE  
E 4 E 21000000 002 82 4 82

THIS DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF VC OF 2' G-5  
HQ, ELONDA

NOEL SECKEL - BRILLIANT  
SECKEL - BRILLIANT

5



SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

HQ, ETOUSA  
Office of AC of S, G-2  
MIS Detachment

5 September 1943

APPENDIX "B" TO E & E REPORTS NOS 83 & 84

1. The following information has been obtained after an interview with two Sergeants who evaded capture by the enemy after being 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

1. Between CORBIE and PARIS three to four train loads of tanks (containers) were observed. They were shaped like buoys and appeared to be carrying green and white liquids. They were chained to flat-cars. The trains were heavily armed (six to eight flak guns and one big gun). Some of the flat-cars were well-camouflaged as houses and gardens. 8 August 1943
2. Were told that the day of our (USAAF) raid on the POIX airfield that thirty aircraft took off from the field shortly before the raid. They moved off so rapidly that there was a collision in which four FW's burst. 31 July 1943
3. German troops observed were badly dressed but very healthy looking. They were either very young or very old. August 1943
4. On same train with observers, large numbers of troops were being moved to BAYONNE. 12 August 1943
5. Told of an airfield at BAYONNE (training field). Also told that a new type of Italian fighter had been seen on this field. 12 August 1943
6. Were told of eighteen flak guns located two miles west of POIX.
7. On day of leaving PARIS approximately 200 balloons were over the city. 11 August 1943

down at 1100

3

Before 3 min. mid Ck. - height 1000 - wave actn - seth  
for breaking run - before run - but - left engine - nacelle & wing  
& part tail but - violent lurch - down - then looped &  
then we tumbled out - T.G. out first - T.G. out 2<sup>nd</sup> & W.G.  
out 3<sup>rd</sup> - A/c down in glide - 1/2 full of fire smoke -  
front was in flame - cowe - heard Barbra say "Well,  
further, I guess in it" - I saw chute below me  
think was Sgt. Berry - had seen him leave plane -  
8000 ft & delayed to 2000 - I landed in woods  
outside Hornay - left chute in trees - uninjured -  
started to run out of woods - saw Germans about 4-500  
yds - truckload - ran into woods & heard German  
coming other way - Hid in clump of bushes -  
walked by me - org. search - 6-7 feet apart -  
for 3-4 hrs could hear them talking - walked out of woods  
about 3 pm - on back road - cow path - RR - crossed RR.  
2 houses - went in backyard of one under fence -  
into garden - wheat patch - got in it - there 2 hrs - an  
old man came out - raking yard - had watched  
house - whistled at him - later after looking  
around he whistled back - asked if Eng -  
yes - asked for help - said he knew of help -  
He later brought back an American  
(Belle, Joe) - he told me to stay - went after  
clothes - back in hr - 7:30 pm. changed  
into clothes - walked to R.R. where a train with  
2 bikes & rode into this house in village -  
chief of Police of Hornay - Then went to cafe - about  
30 minutes later Hager arrived

Hager - out at 6500 - pulled rip immediately -  
saw 2 chutes - saw 1/2 crash - ball of fire smoke -  
landed 300 ft from 1/2 - in oak field - but had to wait for a  
minute - picked up - took off chute - saw 2 farmers working under  
they gave me a 'down sign' - left chute in field - hid 50-100 ft

~~conceal~~ diving in oil field - here 1 hr 2<sup>hrs</sup> boys 1 man -  
crime - told me to lie down - covered with dirt -  
one man went for dr. - 2 boys with me - before long -  
man back with bottle of ether - wore 2 suits -  
washed leg with ether & tied with bandage from my  
shirt - put in clothes - 1 boy gave me cap  
& I crawled out of oil field - walked thru  
woods - hid in woods - said good at 3<sup>00</sup> a'clock -  
man came to see me - had in satchel egg-shaped  
& brown - tin - 2 inches high - 3 long - L O I -  
at in woods - 6 pm - had bike - man went ahead  
300 ft - & whistle if anything wrong - went to his  
home - met his wife - tea - in village - took me  
2 blocks & met Belle on bike - went with  
another boy to cafe & met Crowe - 8 p.m.

think my  
being in  
circles  
so  
quickly  
help

Belle took us to village 2 miles away - at farmhouse -  
slept there - next <sup>10<sup>th</sup> am</sup> a.m. to another house - empty -  
for 5 days slept in farmhouse - empty house  
during day - left on 5<sup>th</sup> - Belle came to see  
us everyday - Belgian boy (23) - 5'5" - Sgt in  
Belg. army - worked at airport a POW helped  
Touch on 5<sup>th</sup> - Belle's son & Belgian boy took us to  
AMIENS - house (apt) - barber shop - to wife & child -  
2 days - 7<sup>th</sup> Aug - ~~left~~ 6<sup>th</sup> Joe B. came & said son would  
take us next day to Oise - 7<sup>th</sup> son & Belgian took us  
by R.R. to CORBIE - and on 7<sup>th</sup> - village just outside  
oil farmhouse - Nanette, hired man (Russian),  
stayed 2 days - 9<sup>th</sup> - ~~man~~ man came &  
asked questions, identification - to PARIS with this  
man & took us to a church - told us we would meet  
a woman - followed behind him - In church we gave  
him our pictures - she carried newspaper & gave  
us to follow person she gave paper to - A boy  
followed him to Wallpaper shop with apt.



We stayed in hidden room - family a young man & wife  
+ lowland wife mother & father - woman from Belgium  
Another boy had an artificial ear -

Man who had let us the PPS returned on  
10th with clothes & papers - told us next day boy  
would take us to woman at R.R. station - 12th  
Cruz went to BORDEAUX - <sup>woman rode with us</sup> out of station & back looking  
for Franco - at another station caught train to  
DAX - got three bikes - met 2 Belgians & 1 Frenchman -

We looked to Bayonne - outside of city to  
cafe - stayed upstairs to 13th to ST JEAN DE LUZ  
Franco checked bikes - followed him to a  
woodside <sup>14th</sup> That night guides came & we walked  
Spain <sup>14th</sup> till 6 a.m. - farmhouse - stayed till 3 p.m.  
walked to train & in to San Sebastian 7.30 p.m.  
San Sebastian 2 days x Crosswell came on 16th  
to drive us to Madrid - 18th on 17 August -  
stayed 5 days Brit Embassy - left 21st Madrid - arr.  
Gib 22nd & left Gib 24th & arr U.K. 27  
via Marrakech -

(red cross  
~~FFA~~ FFA)

While in hands of Belf - a woman  
of French nurse corps called on us and  
took pictures. She wanted to guide us  
to Switzerland. Belf sent her word not  
to com for us because the other org seemed  
more efficient -



## Technical Failures

Motors

Armor

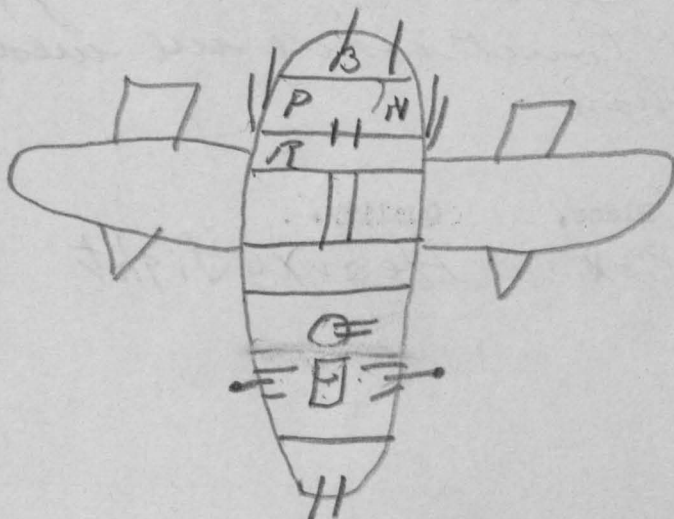
*none*

Armament

Miscellaneous

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

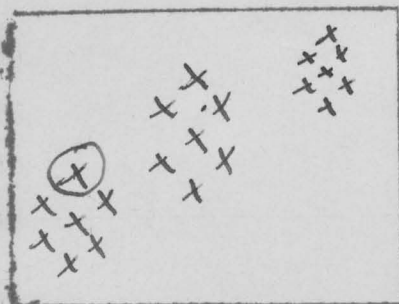
*Bungee Cord on waist guns caused trouble in our bailing out. They kept the doors from remaining open. These Cords should be changed to a different position*



Crow

4

GROUP 323 SQ 453 A/C No. 134706 Letter H Load 2400lb Date July 31, 1949



Position in formation.  
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing

24 direct hits on paved runway Here say

Enemy fighter tactics:

markings: none

Our Tactics

look screw evasive action

Our fighter support. Good. Not one enemy plane got through our cover while we were still in the formation

Flak

Time,	Place,	Quality.
1058	Pick	Heavy & Light

(over)

SECRET  
EQUALS BRITISH

MOST SECRET

APPENDIX "B".  
HIS(X).....

The following information has been obtained from our interview with  
..... ( ..... ) who escaped  
after capture by the enemy/evaded capture by the enemy after being  
in enemy/enemy occupied territory.

Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so  
it is important not to divulge any particulars of source.

Statement of information covering period from .....  
to .....

Between Combi & Paris - saw 3 or 4 trainloads of tanks (shaped  
like buoys) seemed to be carrying green & white liquid - chained  
to flat-cars, very heavily armed (6-8 flak guns) &  
a very big gun x Some of the flat cars very well  
camouflaged as houses, gardens, etc -

Between 30-40 left airfield before raid (31 July) - guns.  
Crash 2 1/2 7.45 -

German were ill-behaved but healthy looking - very  
young & very old -

Large numbers of troops moved toward Bayonne  
on same train -

Airfield at Bayonne - training field - had new Italian  
fighter .....

HIS(X).



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

No., Rank, Name :-

Unit :-

*Crowe, William F, S/Sgt, 170 33526*  
*453 Bomb Sqdn, 323 Bomb Gp.*

Please answer carefully the questions below. Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training must come largely from those who make use of them. Your report and comments will help others to evade capture or to escape.

1. AIDS BOX

- (a) Did you use your aids box? ~~no~~ *yes*
- (b) If not, had you one on you? ~~yes~~
- (c) If not, why had you no aids box?
- (d) If you used it, which of the following items did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g. "Lying up for 2 nights", etc.
- (i) Horlicks tablets. *to quench my thirst*
- (ii) Chocolate. *to I had nothing else to eat for 10 hrs.*
- (iii) Milk (tube).
- (iv) Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).
- (v) Halazone tablets (water purifier).
- (vi) Matches.
- (vii) Adhesive tape.
- (viii) Chewing gum.
- (ix) Water bottle.
- (x) Compass.
- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect?
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box. *I gave it to a Frenchman.*
- (g) Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aids box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger? *no*

2. PURSE

- (a) Did you carry a purse? If so, state COLOR. If NOT, state why not. *no yes - Tan*
- (b) Did you use the purse? *no yes no*
- (c) If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances. *we gave it to our guide across the*
- (i) Maps. Which ones? *mountains*
- (ii) Compass.

(iii) File (hacksaw).

(iv) Foreign Currency. State countries and amounts.  
How did you spend the money.

(d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *not I gave it to my guide.*

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS\*)

(\* Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following?  
If you used any of them, state briefly WHEN and WHERE.

(i) Round compass.

(ii) Stud compass.

(iii) Swinger compass.

(iv) Fly-button compass.

(v) Pencil clip compass.

(vi) Tunic button compass.

(vii) Pipe compass.

(viii) Pouch.

(ix) Special flying boots (and knife).

(b) Were they satisfactory?

(c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions  
which would improve the above equipment?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

(a) Did you carry passport-size photographs?  
If so, how many? *yes three*

(b) Did you use them? *yes on my French*  
State how. *identification card.*

5. LECTURES

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

*at my station No. 358 by Maj D. A. Curtis*

(b) Did you find the lectures of value?

*yes. We knew just what to do to get help.*

During my descent in parachute I was fired upon by ground troops with machine guns. This was confirmed by a Frenchman who later helped me to escape. He told me he saw them shooting at ~~me~~ and that the French women stopped the Germans from shooting.

Sgt. Wm. F. Crowe

During my descent in parachute I was fired upon by the ground troops and was hit in my left leg by a tracer bullet.

This was confirmed by a French man. He told us that the Germans were firing at us as we came down and that they had ordered to shoot us on sight.

S/Sgt. Joseph M. Hager



(8)

PRELIMINARY WARNING AGAINST GIVING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR  
ESCAPE, EVASION OF CAPTURE, OR REPATRIATION.

This applies to Members of all Services.

1. It is the duty of all persons to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.
2. The Defence Regulations make it an offence, punishable with imprisonment, to publish or to communicate to any unauthorised person any information or anything which purports to be information on any matter which would or might be directly or indirectly useful to the enemy.
3. This document is brought to your personal notice so that you may clearly understand information about your escape or how you evaded capture is information which would be useful to the enemy, and that therefore to communicate any information about your escape or how you evaded capture is an offence under the Defence Regulations.
4. At the earliest possible moment you will be interrogated by an Officer or Officers specially appointed for this purpose, who will instruct you how to deal with questions by your family, friends, and members of the public, whether in the Services or not.

TO BE COMPLETED IN THE PERSON'S OWN HANDWRITING, AND WITNESSED BY AN OFFICER.

I have read the above paragraphs, and I understand that I must on no account disclose any information about my escape, evasion of capture, or repatriation, to any unauthorized person, and I undertake to maintain a strict secrecy about my experiences.

Signed. S/Sgt W. F. Crowe

Date.....

Full Name. (Block letters) W. F. CROWE

Rank and Number. S/Sgt 17033526

Unit. 453rd Bomb Sqd 323 Bn GRP

Witnessed by.....

S. Brownell

R.S.M.

LONDON ASSEMBLY CENTRE,

9 April 1943

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO : Personnel concerned.

1. It is the duty of all Americans to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.
2. It is an offense, carrying heavy penalties, to publish or to communicate to any unauthorized person any information which might be useful to the enemy.
3. Information about your escape or your evasion from capture would be useful to the enemy and a danger to your friends. It is therefore SECRET.
4. a. You must therefore not disclose, except to the first Military Attache to whom you report, or to an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations:
  - (1) The names of those who helped you.
  - (2) The method by which you escaped or evaded.
  - (3) The route you followed.
  - (4) Any other facts concerning your experience.b. You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.c. You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.d. You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4a.e. No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General ANDREWS:

*Ralph Pulsifer*  
RALPH PULSIFER,  
Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

## CERTIFICATE

I have read the above and certify that I will comply with it.

I understand that any information concerning my escape or evasion from capture is SECRET and must not be disclosed to anyone other than the American Military Attache to whom I first report, or an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) CROWE W F Signed William F Crowe  
Rank S/Sgt ASN 17033526 Date Aug 27, 1943  
Unit 453rd Bn. Sgd 323rd Bn GRP Witness John F White, Jr.  
1st Lt. I.C.

19 October 1942

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

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- 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.

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Name(Print) CROWE, William F. Signed Wm. F. Crowe  
 Rank S/Sgt A.S.N. 170.33526 Date August 23, 1943  
 Unit 453<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Sq. 323<sup>rd</sup> Bn. GPR Witness Gray