

S E C R E T  
HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
P/W and X Detachment  
Military Intelligence Service

SECRET  
By Authority of  
AC of S, G-2  
Initials...*W.A.H.*...WSH  
Date...11 August 1944:

11 August 1944

E & E REPORT NO. 841 (IS9(WEA)7/11/24)  
EVASION IN FRANCE

Frank J TROWBRIDGE, T/Sgt, 13044092  
(17 Missions)  
846 Bomb Squadron, 489 Bomb Group

MIA: 24 July 1944  
Arrived in UK:  
30 July 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

|                    |           |                          |          |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------|
| PILOT              | 0-790501  | 1st Lt Edwin A FLOROYK   | MIA      |
| CO-PILOT           | 0-699399  | 2d Lt Raymond C DEATS    | MIA      |
| NAVIGATOR          | 0-698347  | 2d Lt Gilbert R ROBERTS  | MIA      |
| NAVIGATOR          | 0-801391  | 1st Lt Harry POMLES      | MIA      |
| BOMBARDIER         | 0-1287387 | 1st Lt Eugene E MOSS     | MIA      |
| RADIO OPERATOR     | 13044092  | T/Sgt Frank J TROWBRIDGE | NARRATOR |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER  | 34164188  | S/Sgt William E LOWTHER  | MIA      |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER | 39566372  | Pvt George A SCOFIELD    | MIA      |
| WAIST GUNNER       | 6948978   | T/Sgt Albert W KAPNICK   | MIA      |
| WAIST GUNNER       | 32850955  | S/Sgt Virgil E DEYO      | MIA      |
| TAIL GUNNER        | 38366300  | S/Sgt Bob H LOVELY       | MIA      |

**HIT BY FLAK** We were flying at 15,000 feet and were just about to release bombs on our secondary target, when the left wing and the number two tank got direct hits. The wing blew off and the flames came back to the bomb-bay. An explosion followed and blew me clear of the plane. Not knowing how far I dropped nor whether I was clear of the burning plane, I pulled the cord as soon as I could get hold of it and the chute opened at about 11,000 feet. (I noticed when the chute opened it was 1315 hours on my watch and it took me about 10 minutes to descend.) After the chute opened I shed my flak suit and discarded my helmet and flying boots. On the way down I was fired upon by seven Germans with rifles and sub-machine guns but was not hit. Spilling my chute to avoid some buildings, I managed to make a good landing in a small grass field. Without stopping to bury my chute and mae west, I ran as quickly as I could, crossing three fields and keeping close to the hedges.

**HIDES OUT** I found a good place in some thick brush along the side of a dirt road. There I buried my personal papers, mae west and head set. I stayed in hiding about eight hours. Some search parties came along the road but didn't go into the fields, and after a few hours they disappeared. Just before it got dark and when all seemed quiet, I left my hiding place and made my way through fields to the edge of MARIGNY. There were some Germans about, but I worked my way around them and hid in the garden of a deserted house. There, and in another house close by, I found some old pants, a coat and a hat which I put on over my flying suit. As there were Germans and a few civilians walking around, I kept hidden in the deserted gardens.

**AVOIDING  
GERMANS**

HEAVY AMERICAN FIRE      That night and toward dawn, the American shelling was particularly heavy, so I took off for the fields west of MARIGNY. I was right between the German and American lines and could not make much progress. I hid in fields the rest of that day and all day Wednesday in a concealed corner by a fence and hedgerow. The next morning, about 1400, I made my way to the outskirts of LE LOREY and hid in the garden of a house back of a church. The Germans were moving out of the village. I found some potatoes in the garden, which I ate raw, and while I stayed in hiding to make my next move I saw a priest come into the garden to feed his rabbits. I spoke to him and told him I was an American. He immediately took charge of me and arranged my return to Allied lines.

MOVES TO NEW AREA

HELPED BY THE PRIEST

Compiled by

Approved by

FRANK A WRENSCH  
1st Lt, MIS

*W S HOLT*  
W S HOLT  
Lt Col, AC  
Commanding

"A" Distribution  
SF, G-2, Division, SHAEF - Report, Appendix B and D

APPENDIX "D"

1. AIDS BOX: I did not have my aids box with me.
2. PURSE: I carried a yellow purse. I used the naps and some of the French francs.
3. PHOTOGRAPHS: I had seven passport-size photographs, but did not use them.
4. LECTURES: I was lectured at three bases in the UK and four or five times in the US. I found the lectures very helpful.
5. SUGGESTIONS: For self defence suggest crews be armed with side-arm. Be careful in approaching civilians - preferably approach men.

S E C R E T

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

11 August 1944

APPENDIX "B" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 841

1. The following information has been obtained in an interview with a sergeant who evaded capture in enemy occupied territory.

2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but in that case it is important that any details as to the source are not divulged.

Statement of information covering period from 24 July 1944  
to 30 July 1944

- a. Period 25 to 28 July, informant saw 6-wheeled German trucks going back and forth on the roads. They had white cloth covers on the hoods and also on the bodies with the Red Cross on them. The cloths flapped in the breeze. They were not the customary ambulances.
- b. Germans were seen wearing a brown type of battledress, similar to the English battledress and with this uniform they wore black field boots. The uniforms had insignia on them which could not be identified. Informant states that this was a new type of uniform to him.

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVADED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) FRANCE

For All Personnel.

*Handwritten signature/initials*

1. No. 130/1092 Rank T/Sgt Name Frank J. Trowbridge  
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) Air Medal - 17 missions
3. Were you wounded? Give details. No
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 846 Bn Sqn
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 489th Gp 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Radio Op
7. Date of Birth 26 Oct 1916 8. Length of Service 2 1/2 Yrs
9. Peace time occupation Salesman 10. Private address 66 Court Sq,  
Harrisonburg, Va
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Photos, dog-tags, bracelet
12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

13. No. and location of O.T.U.
14. No. and location of Conversion Unit

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS  
WHO BALE OUT

15. Post in Crew Radio Operator
16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.  
N.B.—Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.
- PILOT 1st Lt E.A. Florczyk - believed KIA
- CO-PILOT 2nd Lt R.G. Deats " "
- NAVIGATOR 2nd Lt G.E. Roberts & 1st Lt Harry Pomeles, believed KIA
- BOMBARDIER 1st Lt E.E. Moss - believed KIA
- RADIO OPERATOR Narrator
- TOP TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt W.E. Lowther - believed KIA
- BALL TURRET GUNNER Pvt Scoefield " "
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) T/Sgt A.W. Kapnick " "
- WAIST GUNNER (L.) S/Sgt Virgil Deyo " "
- TAIL GUNNER S/Sgt Bob Lovely " "
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B24-D, Houlton Air Base, Suffolk,  
England, 24 July 44, 0850 hours.
18. Where and when did you come down? 3 to 4 mi SW of Marigny
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Left chute on ground - buried  
mae west and flying clothes.
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes when plane exploded and burned.

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVASION CAPTURED FROM (Name of Country) FRANCE

For All Personnel.

Name Frank J. Trowbridge

Rank T/Sgt

No. 13014092

(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)

Air Medal - 17 missions

Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions)

Were you wounded? Give details No

Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), 2nd (Air Force)

Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), 2nd (Air Force)

Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 18th Gp

Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 18th Gp

Date of Birth 20 Oct 1916

Date of Birth 20 Oct 1916

Peace time occupation 10. Private address

Peace time occupation 10. Private address

Harrisonburg, Va

Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph, or photos, dog-tags, bracelet

DISTRIBUTION

No

Do you speak French, or any other foreign language?

Hq, IS9(WEA) 3  
Capt DEVEREUX, Ops 1  
Capt ARNOLD, 9th AF 1  
G-2, FUSA 1  
G-2, TUSA 1  
File 1

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

Radio Operator

Post in Crew

Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.

N.B.—Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.

1st Lt E.A. Wloszyk - believed KIA

PILOT

2nd Lt R.G. Deats

CO-PILOT

2nd Lt G.E. Roberts & 1st Lt Harry Pomeles, believed KIA

NAVIGATOR

1st Lt E.E. Moss - believed KIA

BOMBARDIER

Navigator

RADIO OPERATOR

2nd Lt W.E. Lowther - believed KIA

TOP TURRET GUNNER

" " 1st Lt Scofield

BALL TURRET GUNNER

" " T/Sgt A.W. Kapnick

WAIST GUNNER (R)

" " 2nd Lt Virgil Devo

WAIST GUNNER (L)

" " 2nd Lt Bob Lovely

TAIL GUNNER

17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-17, Houlton Air Base, Suffolk

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date 29 July 1946

Attached: Appendix "B" ✓  
" "C" ✓  
" "D" ✓

How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and map case? I left chute on ground and map case in plane. I destroyed it.

FRANK A. WRENSCH  
1st Lt, MIS

Disposal: Taken to 9th AF Hqs

major

~~SECRET~~DIRECT HIT\$  
BY FLAK

Our target was area bombing of enemy lines 1,000 yards from the American lines at Marigny (387617) and from there on back. Due to cloud cover, just after we hit the IP, we passed the primary target and were going on to the secondary target when we were hit by heavy flak but of light intensity. We were flying at 15,000 feet and were just about to release bombs when the left wing and the No 2 tank got direct hits. The wing blew off and the flames came back to the bomb-bay. on our secondary target

BAILING OUT,  
BUT BLOWN OUTSHED CLOTHES  
DURING DESCENT

GOOD LANDING

HIDING OUT

5  
AVOIDING THE  
GERMANSHEAVY AMERICAN  
FIREMOVE TO A  
NEW AREAHELPED BY  
POTATOES AND  
THE PRIEST

I started to struggle out of my flak suit and the ship went into a spin. An explosion followed and seemed to blow me clear of the plane, as I knew I had not made a jump. Not knowing how far I dropped nor whether I was clear of the burning plane, I pulled the cord as soon as I could get hold of it and the chute opened at about 11,000 feet. (I noticed when the chute opened it was 1315 hours on my watch and it took me about 10 min to descend.) After the chute blossomed, I shed my flak suit and discarded my helmet and flying boots. On the way down when I was within range I was fired upon by seven Germans with rifles and sub-machine guns but was not hit. Spilling the air out of my chute to avoid coming down on some buildings, I managed to make a good landing in a small grass field. Without stopping to bury my chute and mae west, I ran as quickly as I could until I found a place to hide, crossing three fields and keeping close to the hedges.

I found a good place in some thick brush and bramble along a fence on the side of a dirt road. There I buried my personal papers, mae west and head set. I stayed in hiding about eight hours. Some searching parties came along the road but didn't go into the fields, and after a few hours they disappeared. Just before it got dark and when all seemed quiet, I left my hiding place and made my way through fields to the edge of Marigny. There were some Germans about, but I worked my way around them and hid in the garden of a deserted house. There, and in another house close by, I found some old pants, a coat and a hat which I put on over my flying suit. As there were Germans and a few civilians walking around, I kept hidden in the deserted gardens.

That night and toward dawn, the American shelling was particularly heavy, so I took off for the fields west of Marigny on Tuesday, 25 July. I was right between the German and American lines and could not make much progress. I hid in fields the rest of that day and all day Wednesday in a concealed corner by a fence and hedgerow. I saw a farmhouse not far away where there were some civilians, but there were Germans there too so any contact for help was impossible. The next morning, about 1400, I made my way to the outskirts of le Lorey (385615) and hid in the garden of a house back of a church. The Germans were moving out of the village, judging by 35 to 40 tanks which I saw going south—some under their own weakened power, some on horse-drawn carts.

I found some potatoes in the garden, which I ate raw, and while I stayed in hiding to make my next move I saw a priest come into the garden to feed his rabbits in a pen. I spoke to him and told him I was an American. He immediately took charge of me and arranged my return to Allied lines.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~  
I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "B" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)7/11/24

List of all military information which you observed or were told while evading. Give fullest possible details. (Airfields, troop encampments, coastal and interior defences, A.A. batteries, radar installations, troop movements, results of Allied bombing, location of enemy factories and ammunition dumps, enemy and civilian morale, etc., etc.).

No. 13044092 Rank T/Sgt Name Frank J. Trowbridge

Date of interview 29 July 1944

N.B.—It is of the utmost importance that when giving information on the above subjects you state clearly:—

- (1) Date, time and place where you obtained the information.
- (2) Was it the result of personal observation or a report by someone else?
- (3) If not from personal observation who was the source (i.e., waiter, farm labourer, hearsay, cafe rumour, etc.), and how accurate do you estimate the source to be?

Evaluation of informant's credibility.

Key.

- 1.—Reliable.
- 2.—Credible.
- 3.—Questionable.
- 4.—Undetermined.

1. Period 25 to 28 July saw German medium-sized tanks and one or two heavy tanks which seemed to be in very bad condition as far as motors were concerned. One was being towed, and a few were hauling field guns.
2. Below Marigny, the Germans placed their guns in a circle spaced about two to three hundred yards apart. There were some heavy artillery pieces, but most of them were light and all were well camouflaged.
3. Period 25 to 28 July, informant saw 6-wheeled German trucks going back and forth on the roads. They had white cloth covers on the hoods and also on the bodies with the Red Cross on them. The cloths flapped in the breeze. They were not the customary ambulances.
4. German artillery fire was continuous on 27 and 28 July and informant states there seemed to be ample supply of ammunition.
5. Germans were seen wearing a brown type of battledress, similar to the English battledress and with this uniform they wore black field boots. The uniforms had insignia on them which could not be identified. Informant states that this was a new type of uniform to him.

Reliable

Reliable

Reliable

Reliable

Reliable

With the exception of items.....above, information herein has been given verbally by E. & E. to Capt McCauley, 4th Cav Regt

~~SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET.~~  
I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)7/11/24

If further circulation of this information is made, it is important that its source should not be divulged.

No. 13000092 Rank T/Sgt Name Frank J. Trowbridge

Date of Interview 29 July 1944

The name of the priest who came into the garden at le Lorey is M l'Abbe Dufeur, Cure du Lorey. I showed him my identity card and gave him my name. About 0900 hours he took me to the house of two Frenchmen not very far away from the church. He told me they would take me to the American lines. One man was quite old and the other was younger, but I did not learn their names.

They conducted me a unit of the 4th Cav Div, a recon unit. There I was turned over to Capt William S. McCauley of C Company, 4th Cav Recn. I gave him what information I could about German gun emplacements. He reported by RT to his command that he had me and I was sent back a few miles from le Lorey to 1st Div Hqs where I was interrogated briefly by Major Gale. From there I was sent to an air-strip evacuation point where the security control sgt notified Capt Arnold of IS 9(WEA) who picked me up and took me to Hqs for interrogation.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "D" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S. 9(WEA)7/11/24

No. 13044092 Rank T/Sgt Name Frank J. Trowbridge

Unit 846th Bombr Sqn, 189th Gp

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 or escape capture.

1. AIDS BOXES.

- (a) Did you use your aids box ? ..... No .....
- (b) If not, why not ? ..... Did not have aids box with me. .....
- (c) If you used it, state briefly when and where ..... // .....
- (d) What did you use ? ..... // .....
- (e) Did any of the items prove unsatisfactory ? ..... // .....
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box ? ..... // .....
- (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 it cannot be larger ? ..... // .....

2. PURSE.

- (a) Did you carry a purse ? ..... Yes ..... If not, why not ? .....
- State colour of purse ..... Yellow .....
- (b) Did you use it ? ..... Yes .....
- (c) If so which of the items in it were used ? Maps ? ..... Yes .....
- Compass ? ..... No ..... File ? ..... No .....
- Foreign currency Amt unknown State countries and amounts used ? ..... France-approx 1000francs .....
- What was it spent for ? ..... Given to Frenchman for help. .....
- (d) How did you dispose of : Maps Still have File Still have .....
- Compass Given away Surplus currency about 500 francs .....

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion ? ..... None issued .....

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS.

- Did you carry any passport size photographs ? If so, how many ? ..... 7 .....
- Did you use them ? ..... No .....

5. LECTURES.

- (a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape ? State where, when, and by whom if possible ? .....
- ..... 3 bases in UK - 4 or 5 in US .....
- (b) Did you find the lectures of value Very helpful .....
- (c) Do you have any suggestions based on your experience which will help other evaders and escapers ? .....
- ..... For self defence suggest crews be armed with side-arm. Be careful in approach of civilians - preferably approach men. .....

~~SECRET~~

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

E & E REPORT NO. 841 - I.S.9(WEA)7/11/24  
EVASION IN FRANCE

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Frank J TROWBRIDGE, T/Sgt 13044092  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

17 Missions  
(Number of Missions)

MIA: 24 July 1944  
Arrived in UK:

30 July 1944

846 Bomb Sq, 489 Bomb Group  
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

|                    |           |        |                    | Official<br>Disposition | Narrators<br>Disposition |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| PILOT              | 0-790501  | 1st Lt | Edwin A FLORCYK    | MIA                     |                          |
| CO-PILOT           | 0-699399  | 2d Lt  | Raymond C DEATS    | MIA                     |                          |
| NAVIGATOR (        | 0-698347  | 2d Lt  | Gilbert R ROBERTS  | MIA                     |                          |
|                    | 0-801391  | 1st Lt | Harry POMLES       | MIA                     |                          |
| BOMBARDIER         | 0-1287387 | 1st Lt | Eugene E MOSS      | MIA                     |                          |
| RADIO OPERATOR     | 13044092  | T/Sgt  | Frank J TROWBRIDGE | NARRATOR                |                          |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER  | 34164188  | S/Sgt  | William E LOWTHER  | MIA                     |                          |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER | 39566372  | Pvt    | George A SCOFIELD  | MIA                     |                          |
| WAIST GUNNER       | 6948978   | T/Sgt  | Albert W KAPNICK   | MIA                     |                          |
| WAIST GUNNER       | 32850955  | S/Sgt  | Virgil E DEYO      | MIA                     |                          |
| TAIL GUNNER        | 38366300  | S/Sgt  | Bob H LOVELY       | MIA                     |                          |

Were you wounded?

~~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.

GERTIFICATE

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) FRANK J. TROWBRIDGE

Signed Frank J. Trowbridge

Rank T/SGT. A. S. N. 13044098

Dated 31 July 1944

Unit 489TH. BOMB. 846TH. B. SQ.

Witness Charles A. Byron

1st Lt. A.C.

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

~~RESTRICTED~~

SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO.  
EVASION IN

7/31/44  
(Date)

FRANK J. TROWBRIDGE T/SGT. 13044092  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

846 SQ. 489TH. B. GP.  
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:

MIA: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrived in UK: 7/29/44

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Official  
Disposition

Narrators  
Disposition

PILOT 1ST. LT. E. A. FLORCYK

CO-PILOT 2ND. LT. R. E. DEATS

NAVIGATOR 2ND. LT. G. E. ROBERTS - 1ST. LT. HARRY POMELLS

BOMBARDIER 1ST. LT. E. F. MOSS

RADIO OPERATOR T/SGT. F. J. TROWBRIDGE

TOP TURRET GUNNER S/SGT. W. E. LOWTHER

BALL TURRET GUNNER PVT. SCOFIELD

WAIST GUNNER T/SGT. A. KAPNICK

WAIST GUNNER S/SGT. VIRGIL DEYO

TAIL GUNNER S/SGT. BOB LOVELY

Plane blew up in  
the air, none have  
bailed out, I was only  
one out when plane blew  
up.

Were you wounded? NO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS  
NINTH AIR FORCE

APO 696, US Army  
29 July 1944

SUBJECT: Return of MIA Personnel

TO : PW&X Detachment, MIS Headquarters, ETOUSA, APO 887, US Army  
Attention: Captain White

1. T/Sgt Frank J. Trowbridge and S/Sgt Frank DeGiovanni are Eighth Air Force gunners who have returned to duty from enemy territory.
2. Sgt Trowbridge has been interrogated by I39 on the Continent. Sgt DeGiovanni has not been so interrogated.
3. Neither has been identified; both groups have been notified of their status.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, A-2:

*Joseph Luria*  
JOSEPH LURIA,  
Captain, AC,  
Assistant, A-2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 13044092 Rank T/Sgt

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) FRANK J. TROWBRIDGE

Unit 846<sup>th</sup> Sgt. 489<sup>th</sup> CP.

has been fully/briefly/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 29 July 1944  
and has signed a Security Certificate.

He ~~should~~/should not/be re-interrogated.

*Frank A. Wrensch*  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. M15  
Major.

IMPORTANT.

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH)  
AN OFFICER OF M.I.9 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF PW. & X. DET.  
M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

CONFIDENTIAL

CERTIFIED THAT:

This Officer/W.O./N.C.O. has special information on the following subjects:—

none.

upon arrival in U.K. you are  
instructed to report to PW/X Det. M15  
at 63 Brook St., London, to  
Capt. White.

IMPORTANT.

M15. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.  
AN OFFICER OF M15 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF PW & X DET.  
THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH)

~~RESTRICTED~~

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS  
NINTH AIR FORCE

APO 696, US Army  
29 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Travel Orders.

TO : T/Sgt Frank J. Trowbridge, 13044092, 489th Bomb Gp.  
846th Bomb Sq.

*24 July*

1. You will proceed on or about 29 July 1944 from Advanced Headquarters, Ninth Air Force to 33 Brooke Street, London, England.

2. Travel by motor transport, military or commercial aircraft (Par 3b, AR 55-120, 26 April 1943) or rail is authorized.

By command of Lieutenant General BRERETON:

V H STRAHM,  
Brig Gen, USA,  
C of S.

OFFICIAL:

WILLARD W GARVEY,  
Captain, AGD,  
Asst Adj General.

*True Copy*

*Charles A Brown*

*1st Lt A.C.*

- 1 -

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

841

DATE: 1 August 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, IRVIN W. SCHILDKNECHT, 1st Lt., AC, O-704134

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

FRANK J. TROWBRIDGE, T/Sgt., AC, 13044092

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.

*Frank J. Trowbridge*

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:

*Irvin W. Schildknecht*



The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as FRANK J. TROWBRIDGE,  
T/Sgt., AC, 13044092 (846 Bomb Squadron - <sup>489</sup> Bomb Group)  
previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

*John B. Furey*  
JOHN B. FUREY,

SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.O.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

If any further information is required concerning this report detailed application should be made to I.S.9 (WEA) G-2 Div S.H.A.E.F. giving the E and E Report No.

Distribution:

|                     |       |              |
|---------------------|-------|--------------|
| Capt. DEVEREUX, Ops | ...   | 1            |
| Capt. ARNOLD        | ..... | 1            |
| G-2, FUSA           | ..... | 1 (less "C") |
| G-2, TUSA           | ..... | 1 ( " " )    |
| File                | ..... | 1            |
| I.S. 9 (WEA)        | ..... | 3            |

PW & X Det., MIS ✓  
G-2 Div., SHAEF  
(Less App. "C" & "D")  
File