

SECRET

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 74 WSH
Date 15 August 1944

15 August 1944

E & E REPORT NO. 872 - IS9(WEA)8/1/32
EVASION IN FRANCE

Wilbur H TURNER, 1st Lt, O-792356
(15 Missions)
705 Bomb Squadron, 446 Bomb Group

TARGET: Airfield near RENNES

MIA: 11 June 1944
Arrived in UK:
4 August 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	O-792356	1st Lt	Wilbur H TURNER	NARRATOR
CO-PILOT	O-808995	2d Lt	Willard A HILL	E&E 905
NAVIGATOR	O-703422	2d Lt	Blaine H BARRITT	MIA
BOMBARDIER	T-123619	F/O	Hyman (NMI) NUTKIE	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	12098859	S/Sgt	Waldo W GLASS	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	13022777	S/Sgt	Joseph J SABARICH	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	38519103	Sgt	A C (IO) BIOSSETT	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	36346674	S/Sgt	John L BOROWSKI	E&E 906
WAIST GUNNER	36480191	Sgt	Dean G AITKEN	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	39411433	S/Sgt	Harry F MEEKER	E&E 907

SHOT DOWN
OVER TARGET

We were hit by flak and fighters shortly after dropping our bombs. We lost our formation after feathering one engine. The center compartment and bomb bays were a mass of flames. The plane turned over and began to fall out of control. When the ship turned over again I dropped out of the hatch. The first thing I remember after this I was about 1000 ft up and my chute had just opened. I landed in a tree near a farmhouse. There were two Frenchmen standing there, but they made no move to help me. I got rid of my chute and made west but was too confused to remember about hiding them.

HIDES IN
HEDGEROW

I found a place to hide in a sunken lane and stayed there until that evening. (It was about 1100 when I came down.) I could see Germans in the next field, but I don't think the search for me was very thorough. I moved to another hiding place in a field nearby, where I stayed until early next morning.

GETS HELP
AND ADVICE

In the morning I started to walk north. At the first farmhouse I stopped and asked a woman for something to eat. She took me into the house and gave me some cider and bread, and also washed my face. I hid in a loft there that night. She brought the local priest to see me, together with a Frenchman who spoke a little English. They drew a map for me, and outlined a route north to ST LO. The priest was strongly in favor of going north towards our lines rather than south to Spain. He told me that no trains were running and many Allied airmen and Resistance supporters were being caught.

WALKS NORTHEAST

I started out next day and travelled northeast, mostly by day. The Frenchmen had advised me to walk at night, but I found there were more Germans out then and it is easy to get caught by a German who sneaks up on a bicycle. I hid in fields at night and got some food at farmhouses whenever I had to. I avoided villages.

CONTACTS
RESISTANCE

I reached a town where I saw a young girl of thirteen or so who smiled at me. I went up to her and said, "Je suis Americain." She spoke a little English and took me to her grandmother's house nearby. I stayed there all that day. They fed me and offered me civilian clothes, but I refused them, as I remembered from briefing that I might be taken for a spy if caught out of uniform. A young Frenchman who was in the

NO DOG TAGS

Resistance came to see me that evening. He questioned me and was worried because I had no dog tags or passport photos. Finally he was satisfied that I was an American flyer and promised to help me. He came back later with his brother and a bottle of wine and a topcoat. The we started off to the next town.

ESCAPES PATROL
AND HIDES 3 DAYS

The two men I was with took me around the next town and told me about several shortcuts which avoided others on my way north. I went on like this without stopping anywhere very long until 18 June. I passed through several places where there were airfields, but managed to keep out of sight of German patrols, though I had several close calls. At night I kept hearing German horsedrawn vehicles passing by, and it got harder and harder to make progress. I was trapped for three days in one field because of this, and the weather was bad all the time. Often I got lost, as I had no compass. Finally I got desperate and started walking openly on the main roads, following the road signs north and hiding whenever I saw a German.

Thirteen days after landing I ran into a German patrol dressed in camouflaged uniforms and carrying machine guns. They saw me and started after me down the road, but I ducked into the hedge and they went by. There seemed to be too many Germans in this area for safety, so next day, June 25, I headed north.

HIDES WITH
REFUGEE

The Forts had raided this place and it was all smashed up. I met an old man searching the ruins. He spoke German and seemed a bit suspicious to me, but he helped hide me in a shelter in the woods. He had no food except what the neighbors gave him, but when they heard I was there we were swamped with presents. Two French aviators were hiding nearby and used to come over and help us drink the wine and eat the food.

HELPED BY
YOUNGSTERS

One kid who brought us food got me a compass from the family radio set. He also gave me better directions for the rest of my trip north. I found out where the lines were from him, as he listened to the BBC every night. Through him I met two young medical students from RENNES, who had been caught there when the invasion started and could not get back. They helped me to hide during the next three weeks and took very good care of me.

UNDER U S FIRE

On 30 July we saw a lot of Germans going southwest on the main road, and for the first time heard the American artillery in the distance. We spent the next forty-eight hours in slit trenches in the woods, waiting for our troops to overrun the place. There were Germans in the fields all around us, and they had set up a battery of 88s about two hundred yards away. The American fire put most of the guns out of commission before the Germans withdrew around 1700 on 31 July. Once the Germans came and looked in our trenches, but the Frenchmen hid me under a mattress and I got away with it.

BACK IN U S AREA

We walked into PONTAUBAULT that evening and made contact with an American infantry unit. They sent me on to divisional Hq, and from there to CHERBOURG before I met Col DILLON and was sent back to Third Army for interrogation. I had already given all tactical information to the commanding general at division.

Approved by

W S HOLT
W S HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

A No Appendix "D". - 2 -
1 Report, Appendix "B" and "D" to SF,
G-2 Div, SUPREME Hq AEF

S E C R E T

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

15 August 1944

APPENDIX "B" TO E&E REPORT NO 872

1. The following information has been obtained in an interview with an officer 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 11 June 1944
to 1 August 1944

- a. French helpers told informant strong German armor now located in South Central France near CLERMONT-FERRAND was being employed against Maquis. Diversion of this armor to front against Allies would be impossible unless Germans preferred to lose all of Central and Southern France.
- b. Attitude of all French contacted by informant was friendly. On several occasions young Frenchmen risked their lives during searches by German patrols in order to warn him. Numerous other examples were in evidence in region where informant was hiding.

DISTRIBUTION:

A No Appendix "D"
1 Report, Appendix "B" and "D" to
SF, G-2 Div, SUPREME Hq AEF

29 E #872
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) WILBUR H. TURNER
Rank 1st Lt A. S. N. 0-792356
Unit 705 Sgd. 446 Gp.

Signed Wilbur H. Turner
Dated 8 Aug. 1944
Witness _____

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

RESTRICTED

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

E & E REPORT NO. 872 - I.S.9(WEA)/8/1/32
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

Wilbur H TURNER, 1st Lt. O-792356
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

15 missions
(Number of Missions)

705 Bomb Squadron, 446 Bomb Group
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET: Airfield near RENNES
MIA: 11 Jun 1944
Arrived in UK:

4 August 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

			Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	O-792356	1st Lt	Wilbur H TURNER	NARRATOR
CO-PILOT	O-808995	2d Lt	Willard A HILL	MIA
NAVIGATOR	O-703422	2d Lt	Blaine H BARRITT	E&E #905
BOMBARDIER	T-123619	F/O	Hyman (MMI) NUTKIF	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	12098859	S/Sgt	Waldo W GLASS	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	13022777	S/Sgt	Joseph J SABARICH	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	38519103	Sgt	A C (I.O.) BIOSSETT	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	36346674	S/Sgt	John L. BOROWSKI	E&E #906
WAIST GUNNER	36480191	Sgt	Dean G AITKEN	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	39411433	S/Sgt	Harry F MEEKER	E&E #907

Were you wounded?

SECRET

E. & E. REPORT No. I.S. 9 (WEA) E&E/8/1/32.**TOP SECRET.**
I.S.9 (WEA)(Applies to all **BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL**)EVADED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) FRANCEFor All Personnel.

1. No. 0-792356 Rank L 1st Lt Name WILBUR H. TURNER
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) Air Medal; 15 Missions
3. Were you wounded? Give details No; burns on face and hands
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 446 Hvy Bomb Gp, 705 Sq
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 446 Gp 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) 1st pilot
7. Date of Birth 27 March 1917 8. Length of Service 2 yrs, 6 mos
9. Peace time occupation Student & pipefitter 10. Private address 116 West Weber Rd
Columbus, Ohio
11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? AGO card only, no dogtags or photos
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 TROOPSWHO BALE OUT

15. Post in Crew 1st Pilot
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 | <u>(Narrator)</u> | |
| CO-PILOT | <u>2d Lt Hill</u> | <u>Probably captured</u> |
| NAVIGATOR | <u>F/O Nutkis</u> | <u>Killed</u> |
| BOMBARDIER | <u>2d Lt B. H. Barrett</u> | <u>"</u> |
| RADIO OPERATOR | <u>S/Sgt Glass</u> | <u>Wounded, probably captured</u> |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER | <u>S/Sgt J.J. Sabarich</u> | <u>"</u> |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER | | <u>"</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (R.) | <u>Not sure of name</u> | <u>Probably captured</u> |
| WAIST GUNNER (L.) | <u>Not sure of name</u> | <u>"</u> |
| TAIL GUNNER | <u>Not sure of name</u> | <u>"</u> |
17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-24 Liberator; 11 June, early A. M.; from Bungay
18. Where and when did you come down? near Chartres de Bretagne, 5 km S. of Rennes
19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? Left in field
20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Probably burned with plane

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E & E Report No. I.S. 9 (WEA)/8/1/32.

SHOT DOWN
OVER TARGET

~~My fifteenth mission on July 11th did not go very well. We were to bomb an airfield near Rennes (0154) but had to make 3 runs over the target before dropping our bombs. We were hit shortly after by flak, which came up through the bomb bay. Fighters also appeared and peppered us. The intercom went out and we lost the rest of our formation after feathering one engine. I looked back and saw that the center compartment and bomb bay were a mass of flames. The co-pilot tried to go out the top hatch but couldn't make it until the plane turned over and began to fall out of control. Then he was thrown out. The last I saw of the engineer and bombardier they were standing dazed with their oxygen masks off, trying to figure some way to get out. When the ship turned over again and I dropped out of the hatch, I must have blacked out, because the first thing I remember after this I was about 1000 ft up and my chute had just opened. I landed in a tree near a farmhouse. There were two Frenchmen standing there, but they made no move to help me, although I was exhausted and had been burned quite badly. I got rid of my chute and made west but was too confused to remember about hiding them.~~

~~GETS NO HELP~~

HIDES IN
HEDGEROW

~~I walked 300-44 ft. to a sort of lane between two high banks of earth, with bushes on top. (I found a place to hide there. I stayed there until that evening. (It was about 1100 when I came down.) Several Frenchmen walked by, and one of them had a dog. The dog discovered me and began barking. I was worried because I could see Germans in the next field, but they went by without paying any attention. I don't think the search for me was very thorough.~~

~~NO FOOD~~

~~I moved to another hiding place in a field nearby, where I stayed until early next morning. I had nothing to eat but did not feel hungry. I think I was still too stunned to realize what was happening.~~

GETS HELP
AND ADVICE

~~In the morning I felt a little better and started to walk north. At the first farmhouse I stopped and asked a woman for something to eat. She took me in the house and gave me some cider and bread, and also washed my face, which was covered with the scabs from my burns. She was friendly but could not understand any thing I said. I hid in a loft there that night. She brought the local priest to see me, together with a Frenchman who spoke a little English. They drew a map for me, and outlined a route north to St. Lo, which they thought had just been taken by the English. The priest was strongly in favor of going north towards our lines rather than south to Spain. He told me that no trains were running and many Allied airmen and Resistance supporters were being caught. I figured he was in the underground, and decided to take his advice. The woman who owned the house told me that her husband was a PW in Germany. I think she was not very well off, as she had little food in the house and let the neighbors feed me. Later I found out that this place was called Chartres de Bretagne (9946).~~

WALKS
NORTHEAST

~~I started out next day, and travelled northeast, mostly by day light. The Frenchmen had advised me to walk at night, but I found there were more Germans out then and it was more dangerous. If you can't see, it is easy to get caught by a German who sneaks up on a bicycle. I still did not feel very well and could only make a few miles a day. I hid in fields at night and got some food at farmhouses whenever I had to. I avoided villages.~~

CONTACTS
RESISTANCE

~~I reached a town. I think it was St. Aubin (0770) where I saw a young girl of thirteen or so who smiled at me. I went up to her and said, "Je suis Américain." She spoke a little English, like most of the younger generation, and took me to her grandmother's house nearby. I stayed there all that day. They fed me and offered me civilian clothes, but I refused them, as I remembered from briefing that I might be taken for a spy, if caught out of uniform. A young Frenchman who was in the Resistance came to see me that evening. He questioned me, and was worried because I had no dog tags or passport photos. Finally he was satisfied that I was an American flyer and promised to help me. He came back later with his brother and a bottle of wine and a topcoat. Then we started off to the next town.~~

NO
2-6
TAGS

SECRET

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MORE ADVICE

The two men I was with did not agree with the advice of the priest. They said St. Lo had not been taken by the English, and that it was dangerous to go north through so many towns where there were lots of Germans. So they took me around the next town and told me several shortcuts which avoided others on my way north.

ESCAPES A
PATROL AND
HIDES 3 DAYS.

I went on like this without stopping anywhere very long until 18 June. I passed through several places where there were airfields, but managed to keep out of sight of German patrols, though I had several close calls. Once, at a place called Vergency (2402) I had to hide in a field all day because there were so many Germans around. At night I kept hearing German horse-drawn vehicles passing by, and it got harder and harder to make progress. I was trapped for three days in one field because of this, and the weather was bad all the time. Often I got lost, as I had no compass. Finally I got desperate and started walking openly on the main roads, following the road signs north and hiding whenever I saw a German.

TRIES TO
FIND PRIEST

Thirteen days after landing I had reached a spot (245100) between Ceaux and Courtille when I ran into a German patrol dressed in camouflaged uniforms and carrying machine guns. They saw me and started after me down the road, but I ducked into the hedge and they went by. I had been told that there was a priest at Ceaux who was from England and that he helped several aviators to escape. I walked into the town and asked for the church, but found the priest was not there. There seemed to be too many Germans in this area for safety, so next day, June 25, I headed north to Pontaubault (2810).

HIDES WITH
HOMELAND
REFUGEE

The Forts had raided this place and it was all smashed up. I met an old man searching the ruins. He spoke German and seemed a bit suspicious to me, but he helped teach me in a shelter he had dug for himself in the woods near the town. He had no food except what the neighbors gave him, but when they heard I was there we were swamped with presents. Two French aviators were hiding nearby and used to come over and help us drink the wine and eat the food, which we were given.

HELPED BY
YOUNGSTERS

One kid who brought us food got me a compass ^{from} chopped out of the family radio set. He also gave me better directions for the rest of my trip north. I found out where the lines were from him, as he listened to the BBC every night. Through him I met two young medical students from Rennes, who had been caught there when the invasion started and could not get back home. They helped me to hide during the next three weeks, and took very good care of me.

UNDER U/S/
ARTILLERY
FIRE

On 30 July we saw a lot of Germans going southwest on the main road, and for the first time heard the American artillery in the distance. We spent the next forty-eight hours in slit trenches in the woods, waiting for our troops to overrun the place. There were Germans in the fields all around us, and they had set up a battery of 88s about two hundred yards away. The American fire put most of the guns out of commission before the Germans withdrew around 1700 on 31 July. Once the Germans came and looked in our trenches, but the Frenchmen hid me under a mattress and I got away with it.

BACK IN U/S/
HOLD AREA

We walked into Pontaubault that evening and made contact with an American infantry unit. They sent me on to divisional Hq, and from there to Cherbourg before I met Col. Dillon and was sent back to Third Army for interrogation. I had already given all tactical information to the commanding general at division.

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TOP SECRET

I.S.9 (WEA)

IS9 (WEA)/8/1/32.

APPENDIX "B" TO E. & E. REPORT No.

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. 0-792356 Rank 1st Lt Name WILBUR H. TURNER
 Date of interview 3 August 1944 (Evaded in France)

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. **X**
- 2.—Credible.
- 3.—Questionable.
- 4.—Undetermined.

1. On 30-31 July columns of German troops were seen by informant retreating towards Pontorson (1602), passing through Pontaubault (2810) on the main road from Avranches. Men and equipment (mostly horse drawn vehicles) appeared to be in good condition, and retreat was not disorderly. These troops were German, not Georgian or Czech units. Small groups of deserters and stragglers were in this area for several days preceding, and may be hiding out in abandoned houses or in the woods. Many deserters asked French for aid, but few were hidden by inhabitants, most of whom were evacuated by Germans on 29 July.

OBSERVATION AND HEARSAY

2. French helpers told informant strong German armor now located in South Central France near Clermont-Ferrand was being employed against Maquis. Diversion of this armor to front against Allies would be impossible unless Germans preferred to lose all of Central and Southern France.

HEARSAY

3. Secondary defensive line was being prepared by Germans along axis Antzain (1892) St. Brice (2686) Fougères (3879) preceding retreat of 31 July. They expected to hold Rennes several weeks longer, according to French informants who had talked with the retreating German officers. Rapid advance of U.S. armor made this impossible. (Information given to C.G. 4th Armored Div. on 31 July).

HEARSAY

4. Attitude of all French contacted by informant was friendly. On several occasions young Frenchmen risked their lives during searches by German patrols in order to warn him. Numerous other examples were in evidence in region where informant was hiding.

OBSERVATION AND EXPERIENCE

5. Germans had small garrisons in all towns visited by informant. In Brittany only Naval and work troops remained. All armor has been pulled out. This was universal report during period 15 June-30 July.

OBSERVATION AND HEARSAY

6. Germans in Pontaubault region appeared to fear strafing by American P-47's more than artillery fire from other side of Selune River. Gunners left battery of 88's and hid in woods when planes came over. Counterbattery fire was carried on only at night, when planes did not come over. Majority of guns in battery were knocked out by bombing.s.

OBSERVATION

SECRET

With the exception of items.....above, information herein has been given verbally by E. & E. to.....

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS 9 (WEA)/B/1/32.

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

No. 0-792356 Rank 1st Lt Name WILBUR H. TURNER

Date of Interview 3 August 1944.

I stayed in a number of small villages northeast of Rennes after leaving Chartres de Bretagne (9946). Although I was helped in minor ways in all of them, I never found out the names of my helpers. The two men who guided me after I stayed at St. Aubin (6770) were brothers. One was about twenty, five foot seven in height, stocky, and with dark hair. The other was more slender, scholarly, and taller. He weighed only about 130 lbs., wore glasses, and was thirty or so. He spoke good English.

The priest from Courtils and Ceaux was named Father Dixon. The French said he was English, and that there had been a branch of an English monastery near there before the war.

The two young medical students from Rennes were called Louis Ravalet and Leon Rannon. The former came from Ceaux, near Ponterson. The latter was a Breton and came from a seaside town near Brest, called Brignogan Plage, where he lived in the Villa Ker-an-Trez. Both these boys were very anxious to help Americans, and the latter thought he might be able to go back to Brest and aid Americans in Brittany to escape by sea to England. They were about twenty, very intelligent, and already experienced in underground activities. Leon speaks good English.

The house where I stayed at Ceaux belongs to Louis's father, who is a cattle dealer. It was not damaged in the fighting and might possibly make a good base for some organization working to get people out of occupied France.

While at Pontaubault after contacting an American unit, I was told that there was an American captain in the Hospital there who had escaped from the Germans. I went to see him. He was called Capt. Watson, and was a B-17 pilot, shot down just after D-Day. He had gotten in touch with ¹⁶elements of the Fourth Armored Div. near Avranches on 30 July, and had given them some information. They had gone on south, leaving him to make his way to Avranches alone. Apparently some Germans were in ambush near the spot where he first met the Americans, and he was recaptured by them as soon as the tanks had gone away. The Germans knocked his teeth out, cut him about the face and body, and seriously injured him, then left him for dead in the road where he was just picked up by another American unit a little later.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
446TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
AAF 125 APO 558

SPECIAL ORDERS)

7 August 1944

NUMBER 220)

E X T R A C T

*** ** ** ** **

10. The fol O 705th Bomb Sq 446th Bomb Gp (H) WP W/o delay to London on TD for a period of two (2) days:

Lt Col (1092) Solomon (n) Cateher 0417688 AC 1st Lt (1092) Wilbur H Turner
0792356 AC Sgt (345) Wolf (n) Ordan 12073133 460th Sub-Depot
Monetary alws will be paid in accordance with USSTAF Reg 30-3 dd 29 June 1944 while traveling only. O will contact Billeting O CBS 5 North Audley St for govt billets. Govt messing facilities are available at Grosvenor House Upper Grosvenor St and 44 Grosvenor Sq. CTRS. QMNT. MTO furn nec T. TDN. 60-136 P 432-02 A 212/50425.
Auth: Ltr Hq EFOUSA dd 27 May 1944.

*** ** *** ** ** ** **

By order of Colonel BROGGER:

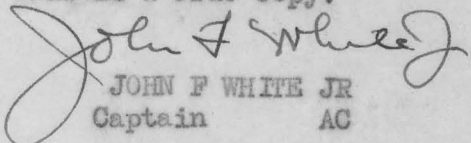
ALFRED D. NEWHART
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

sgnd
ALFRED D. NEWHART
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION: "D"

This is a True Copy:


JOHN F. WHITE JR
Captain AC

R E S T R I C T E D

CONFIDENTIAL.

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 0-792356 Rank 1st Lt, AC

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) WILBUR H. TURNER

Unit 705 SQ 446 HEAVY BOMB GP

has been fully/~~briefly~~/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 3 AUGUST 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

Theodore M. Purdef. Jr.
Capt. CE
for Major. Inf.

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.

(OVER)

CONFIDENTIAL

CERTIFIED THAT:

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

None.

→ Officer is to the best of my knowledge and belief the person he represents himself to be.
(See also AGO card 267554.)

Theodore M. Purdy, Jr.
Capt CE

→ Officer is to report to Capt. White at 63 Brook St., London, following arrival in U.K.

M.I.2. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.
AN OFFICER OF M.I.2. OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF PW. & X. DET.
THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDLED TO (BRITISH)

IMPORTANT

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO.
EVASION IN

8-8-44

(Date)

TURNER, W.H. 1st 0-792356
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET:

MIA: 11 June 1944

Arrived in UK:

4 Aug. 1944

705th 446
(Squadron) (Group)

1
MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWID)

Official
Disposition

Narrators
Disposition

PILOT W.H. TURNER
CO-PILOT W.A. HILL
NAVIGATOR H. NUTKIS
BOMBARDIER B.H. BARRITT
RADIO OPERATOR W. GLASS
TOP TURRET GUNNER J.J. SABARICH
BALL TURRET GUNNER D. ATKINS
WAIST GUNNER A.C. BROSETT
WAIST GUNNER J.L. BOROWSKI
TAIL GUNNER H. MEEKER

bailed out

?

?

?

?

?

?

French saw 6 chutes - ship next to me
saw 7 chutes.

Were you wounded?

Burned.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

872

8 August 1944

DATE: _____

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SOLOMON CUTCHER, LT. COL. AC

I, _____

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

WILBUR H. TURNER, 1st. Lt. AC 0792356

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.

Wilbur H. Turner Solomon Cutcher W.H.C.

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



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

WILBUR H. TURNER 1ST. Lt. AC 0792356 705 Bomb Squad. 446 Bomb Group

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

John B. Furey

SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

Target: Airfield,
near Rennes.

MIA 11 June 1944—

Returned to UK

⁴
~~2~~ Aug 1944 ~~2~~

P/W & X Det. MIS, ETOUSA
(For attention of Col. HOLT).

/ Attached please find I.S.9(W.E.A.) E & E Int. Report
No.32, together with App. B. & C.

I.S.9(W.E.A.)
10 Aug 1944.



W. D. Langley
Lieut.-Colonel.

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)
EVASION CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country)

For All Personnel.

Name: WILSON H. TUNNICLIFFE

Rank: Lt Col

No. 0-123256

(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/2)

Decorations: U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions: 15 Missions

Were you wounded? Give details: No; burns on face and hands

Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force): 440 Hvy Bomb Gp, 705 Sd

Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force): 440 Gp

Date of Birth: 27 March 1917

Peace time occupation: Student & pipelitter
Private address: 110 West Weber Rd
Columbus, Ohio

Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? AGO card only, no dogtags or photos

Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? No

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

No. and location of O.T.U.

No. and location of Conversion Unit

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

Post in Crew: Lt Pilot

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 (Narrator)

CO-PILOT: 2d Lt Hill

NAVIGATOR: 10 Lt. ...

BOMBARDIER: 2d Lt B. H. Barrett

RADIO OPERATOR: 2d Sgt Glass

TOP TURRET GUNNER: 2d Sgt J. J. Sabatich

BALL TURRET GUNNER

WAIST GUNNER (R): Not sure of name

WAIST GUNNER (L): Not sure of name

TAIL GUNNER: Not sure of name

Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure: B-24 Liberator; 11 June, early A.M.; from ...

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date: 3 August 48

Attached:

Appendix "B"

"C"

"D"

Disposal:

Major