

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

918  
by  
Sint A  
Proof  
by

E & E REPORT NO. 918-919  
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

THOMAS H SCOTT, 2d Lt, 0-687639

JOSEPH GROSS, T/Sgt, 13153161

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: MERINGAC

(Number of Missions)

MIA: 5 January 1944  
Arrived in UK:

10 August 1944

339 Bomb Squadron, 96 Bomb Group  
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

			Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-421049	Capt Donald C COLE		MIA
CO-PILOT	0-687639	2d Lt Thomas H SCOTT		NARRATOR
NAVIGATOR	0-803203	2d Lt Harold V WIGGINS		P/W
BOMBARDIER	0-726116	1st Lt James M BRADLEY		E&E #882
RADIO OPERATOR	13153161	T/Sgt Joseph GROSS		NARRATOR
TOP TURRET GUNNER	19091460	T/Sgt Harland J HENDRIX		MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	13012941	S/Sgt Richard J GATESMAN		MIA
WAIST GUNNER	14134415	S/Sgt Clarence C NORTON		E&E #883
WAIST GUNNER	33477359	Sgt Harold THORNE		P/W
TAIL GUNNER	6394292	S/Sgt Robert FINNEY		E&E #628

Were you wounded?

SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH  
MIS (X)

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
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Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL  
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank, and Serial No. *Scott, Thomas H., 2nd Lt. O-687639*
2. Decorations. *None*
3. Unit or Squadron. *339th Sqdn*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *96th gp.*
5. Date of Birth. *Dec. 16, 1919*
6. Length of Service. *2 yrs 3 mo.*
7. Private Address. *218 E. Liberty St. Savannah, Ga.*
8. Job as civilian. *Paper Maker*
9. From what field did you take off? *Sutton-Heath*
10. Take off time. *Approx 07:15*
11. Date and target. *Jan. 5, 1944 - Airfield near Bordeaux*
12. Where did you land? *Bailed out*
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? *Yes*
14. What was your position in aircraft? *Co-pilot*
15. Were you wounded? *No*
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *No*
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? *French, very little - learned in France while evading.*
18. Did you have Identity Papers? *No DOB TAGS*
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?  
*No*
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. *Aug. 10, 1944* in London war office
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *—*
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *BON-BON Airfield near Villamont Aug. 10, 1944, AIR*
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *Aug. 10, 1944, Near North Hampton on Bomber base*

Scott  
1000  
1000  
1000  
1000  
1000  
1000

+7 escort to Marignac - Flak hit No 1 after bombs away  
+ BT, wounded BTG, & something happens to BT - wouldn't fly properly  
out into Big Biscay Flak hit No 3 - shell burst - no  
hit - wouldn't fly - leading dog - 4 planes with us when  
pass wait. FW's hit us. Followed us up went to La  
Rochele. 6 guns go out. Norton down in BT. Going to ditch

became very behind - threw out guns & anything possible. Found  
practically impossible to ditch (washed in bushes) - turned  
to west - but was S. of Rochele & Pigeon - down to 7000'

8 out  
wait  
the  
by

Saw lot flak - still being hit - my load to wait but  
by - hit gun - to going with Sgt. Col. - c. 10 miles in - FW  
go in back - shot of at horizontal - struggle strip. 2 bottles  
going out: FW sweep & turn - can look at strip - my body  
out as far as till (80th lbs)

Had pull ditch of hand - plan done on left wing - work, exploded.  
Rolled y. ditch struck in landing gear - ran 600-700 yds.  
wheeled into some bushes - at yard 1st Plous search  
for 3 all pm.

When man go to start walk SE - until 0700

T. jambar for food - taken in - put to bed.

Jeune Rene - (W<sup>31km</sup> prison) - Pull home -

Bro. wife, father, mother.

<sup>0700</sup> headed in played field - was in 2 sides - had crew work  
with woods - hid chit & MW - 2 ft down road on bicycle -  
Stop & put on boots  
The tree - it just - ran 1/2 hrs - to have partly bombed -  
Start haul of clothing - too much for carrying. - Man can with 2  
gigs - proved me & more. Picked up at 11 & walk SW.

Couldn't go SW because main road - go SE - c 1730 sun 7  
C down road with somebody in between the - to for - to rearing -  
but from walking. After they disappear I was left - and  
edge, some Royal - edge, football field - head S - SE / SW.

Sun 2330 - found main road / with some with the Bigyels  
with C, pass on road (open or take) but don't turn - start pull  
by to alley in field. Somebody yell for wood - saw grass -  
I grabbed like dog & fly - to go away - I crawled there.

Up c 0430 - disposed chair - saw got on road on bike - 1000?  
then - notice the heat - found road to Pisay (later) -

Saw on farm in distance - walk toward it - meanwhile blocks  
for electric shoes - To farmhouse - look to big - circle - Men  
are not for books, see, call me, I go - to take to home.

Met to find the with 2 men, 2 women & boy at farm. Show  
books all around - Fed. Show in my who was. Perceptions.

Toward a town. Around edge of town - man led Scott by your name  
as I pass gate - call - I told some people to take in - ask  
how Scott - take go. Slight.

Somebody go through stuff.  
Late that you were from Pisay - Dubois / on by - come. We  
not understand - but gather go... next an.

c 0400 from Pierre put in on road till is walk - we go 2 hrs.  
to town very small - go first here with light - that expect - no one  
answer. Tried 2-3 hours - no one answer.

And rd - found big piece antler, - left - to small woods.  
Then until 1300 - old man & woman come by wood.

We talk to them - they say return 2000 - but 2 figures - we walk  
to town with them. But is suppose that not. In car & got -  
Bouchet came & took to home. / later picked up

Silverman - Dec 43 raid.

We took to you from S. P. fishy - 2 men & girl of A. South, M, 2 men, 2  
1 of them - next night who come - took to his home.

Ville Fagnon

Scott driving out with M Clavier

Guess across street from Cote Central with old woman, Norton there.

Next out to Chateau de Chivion.

Missin - Scott guarding jeep - Tomlin at an early mission, Brady took that out.

Is for all day long at my shadow & look.

Scott with Brady on trip to L. Dreat

Also on research for Capt Samuels.

Left between Villenot - Harris

Does work with radio.

Spent at Base La Tremouille.

Steve, Bell, Dan & S J's.

Scott  
with  
79 R<sup>th</sup> de Portiers  
Montmarillon (Vicennes)  
to get supplies.

Under Hawthorn - near <sup>secured.</sup> North Longton

Met by Major Boney, Lt Col Collins (Eng)

P/O Burt & Plow when pick up my jeep - the base.

SCOTT:

After we had been hit by flak and fighters and were out in the Bay of Biscay, we were going to ditch. but when we found that we would have trouble getting out of the ship we turned into France again. We were hit <sup>again</sup> by flak and fighters. ~~At~~ After I jumped the pilot's order I gave the signal to bail out. I had to pull my parachute out by hand. ~~Soon after I landed I hid my parachute, ran some 600 yards, crawled into some bushes and stayed there until night. Planes searched for us all afternoon.~~

When the moon came up I started <sup>off</sup> to go SE and walked until 0700 the next morning. I stopped at a farmhouse for food and was taken in and put to bed.

~~NOTION~~ GROSS:

I landed in a ploughed field, hid my parachute and mae west, and <sup>went</sup> ~~crossed a~~ road to go into <sup>the</sup> woods. Two Frenchmen coming down the road <sup>a</sup> stopped to pat me on the back, but I ran on almost immediately, continuing until I came to a partly bombed house. While I was taking off some of my clothing some Frenchmen gave me ~~some~~ wine. I continued SW until a road blocked progress in that direction and then went SE. About 1430 I saw four Germans going down a road with someone among them; I was too far away to be recognized. After they were out of sight I <sup>about</sup> ~~crossed~~ a field and went around the edge of a town, continuing until 2330 when I found myself with a main road on one side and a town on the other, with a German sentry on the road. I pulled into a field to sleep. Someone yelled from the road and I thought that I saw the dark. I growled like a dog and lay still. After the sentry moved on I crawled to some trees and stayed there until 0430.

I noticed that the sentry was still patrolling the road. After I discovered his routine I continued my walk and head <sup>ed</sup> for a farmhouse in the distance. When I came close it looked to me much bigger than the kind we had always been briefed to approach, so I circled it. A man ~~came~~ <sup>coming</sup> out of some bushes recognized me, called me, and took me to the house and fed me. He showed me where I was and gave me direction. ~~When I continued my journey I went around the edge of a town. As I was passing a gate a man called me. When I told him that I was an American parachutist he asked me whether I knew Lt SCOTT, I was taken in to the house where I discovered Lt SCOTT.~~

SEE E&E 628  
882-883  
BAILED  
OUT

WALKED  
SHELTERED

WALKED

AVOIDED  
SENTRY

TAKEN  
IN

SCOTT and GROSS

MISUNDERSTANDING

The next afternoon a Frenchman came and talked to us, but we could not understand what he said. The next morning we were put on a road and evidently told to be on our way. We went to a small town and stopped at the first house with a light, understanding that the people there expected us, but no one answered us. We tried a couple of other houses, still without response. In one yard we discovered some heavy artillery, so we moved quickly to a small woods and stayed there until midday when we approached an old man and woman who came to chop wood. They said that they would return that night. They took us into town and we were taken to a place from which the rest of our journey was arranged.

HELP  
SCOTT  
882-883

Later we met Lt BRADLEY and Sgt NORTON and traveled with them the rest of the way.

Compiled by

D E EMERSON  
Capt, AUS

Approved by

W STULL HOLF  
Lt Col, AC  
Commanding

## Appendix B

Military information outdated because of occupation by the FFI

## Appendix D

SCOTT

1. I used all of the contents of my escape kit except the water bottle and adhesive tape.
2. I used my red purse.
3. I did not use my 8 passport size photos.
4. I was lectured at group. The lectures were definitely of value.

GROSS

1. I used all of the contents of my aids box except the halazone and benzadrine tablets. I would suggest including a razor and blades.
2. I used my red purse.
3. I carried 8 passport size photos and used one for identification.
4. I was lectured at base in November 1943. The lectures were of a little value.

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO 918  
EVASION IN FRANCE

Aug. 10, 1944  
(Date)

SCOTT, THOMAS H. 2<sup>ND</sup> LT 0-687639

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

4 (No of Missions)

339<sup>TH</sup>

(Squadron)

96<sup>TH</sup>

(Group)

TARGET:

Date Missing in Action: JAN, 1, 1944

Date Arrived in UK: Aug. 10, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWLB)

Indicate what happened to  
each man  
and how you know

PILOT CAPT. D.C. COTE

CO-PILOT TH. T.A. SCOTT Returned to U.K.

NAVIGATOR H. V. Wiggins, Lt.

BOMBARDIER J. M. Bradley, Lt.

RADIO OPERATOR Joe Gross, T/sgt. Returned to U.K. Saw Leave France with me

TOP TURRET GUNNER J. J. HENDRICKS, T/sgt.

BALL TURRET GUNNER Thorne s/sgt. Wounded before bailing out

WAIST GUNNER C.C. Norton s/sgt. Returned to U.K. Saw Leave France

WAIST GUNNER Gates MAN s/sgt.

TAIL GUNNER Finney s/sgt.

Were you wounded?

No



SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 0-687639 2nd Lt. Scott, Thomas H.

Unit:- 339th Sqdn. 96th 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 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. *first night in woods*

Chocolate or Peanut Bar. *same as above*

Milk (tube). *No*

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *yes. walked 11 hrs night 5-6*

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *No. was very tired + sleepy.*

Matches. *yes for smoking.*

Adhesive tape. *No*

Chewing gum. *yes on the march*

Water bottle. *No*

Compass. *yes on the march*

Sewing kit. *yes many times for repairing clothes*

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *No*
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *Burned it*
- f. Can you suggest any way in which the contents of the aids box might be changed to make it of greater use, bearing in mind that the size of it cannot be larger?

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *yes*  
State color of stripes and letters. *Red F*  
If NOT, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse? *yes*

(over)

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

Maps. Which ones? Southern part of France

Compass. Yes

File (hacksaw). No

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. French, 2000 francs  
How did you spend the money? Yes

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. Give to Maguas

Compass. Have Now

File (hacksaw). Have Now

Surplus currency. Have Now

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

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

b. Did you use them? No

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? Yes  
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

Approx Nov. 15, 46. Bondage -

b. Did you find the lectures of value? Yes - definitely

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapees?

No, it was all common sense

APPENDIX "B" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

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

Had 23 155mm west gas at Royan - point to  
see - ND Royan west mined.  
Status of Beach 5 Cassin Royan barbed wire & MG  
emplacements  
at Cassin mined - barbed wire - heavy gas behind.  
Big observation tower look like water tower - Vaux sur Mer  
40,000 G 6 months ago Chateau Mar - 2000 Royan.  
Royan & 2 points below with gas...  
250000 Portiers - trucks packed loaded on Louis & mounted.  
if do - Mattak.  
AF at Portiers not in use  
detachment A/F with 85 planes.  
Some 2000 Lorraine.  
Grand Champs Royan Mattak -  
15,000 M with 2000 G, either way.  
11 and Div passed close to going N - last had  
at Tons - CS by eye.  
CS-6 km W town <sup>st</sup> Ruffec. FW's Me 109's - c 2-3 months  
ago.  
See various yellow transparent planes - thin eyes.

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

SCOTT, THOMAS H. 2nd Lt. 0-687639

Aug. 12, 1944

(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)

339th Bomb Sq. 91st Bomb Grp.

(Unit)

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

Jan 5, 1944, 1200' Near Boyan - Marine Islands NNE

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

Was it on fire, etc?

#1 engine on fire, #1 & #3 engine out propo wobbling, right half of horizontal stabilizer shot off.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

4000 ft

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

Bail. Lieutenant injured.

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

CP, N, B, TG, LG, RG, RC, BT, one other - but also 4 parachutes open

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Yes!

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

Yes - B, Radio, L W G.

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.

By Rank Capt. Cole. Believed crashed with plane

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

No. But complete wreckage confirmed by underground.

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?

Rumors two dead, two wounded + prisoners

# RESTRICTED

## WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

6 August 1943

SUBJECT: Amended Instructions Concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War, to Include Evaders of Capture in Enemy or Enemy-Occupied Territory and Internees in Neutral Countries.

TO: The Commanding Generals,  
Army Ground;  
Army Air Forces;  
The Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area;  
The Commanding Generals,  
Theaters of Operations;  
Defense Commands;  
Departments;  
Base Commands;  
The Commanding Officers,  
Base Commands;  
Director, Bureau of Public Relations.

1. Publication or communication to any unauthorized persons of experiences of escape or evasion from enemy-occupied territory, internment in a neutral country, or release from internment not only furnishes useful information to the enemy but also jeopardizes future escapes, evasions and releases.
2. Personnel will not, unless authorized by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, publish in any form whatever or communicate either directly, or indirectly, to the press, radio or an unauthorized person any account of escape or evasion of capture from enemy or enemy-occupied territory, or internment in a neutral country either before or after repatriation. They will be held strictly responsible for all statements contained in communications to friends which may subsequently be published in the press or otherwise.
3. Evaders, escapees, or internees shall not be interrogated on the circumstances of their experiences in escape, evasion or internment except by the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations. In allied or neutral countries, American Military Attaches are authorized to interrogate on escape, evasion and internment matters.
4. Should the services of escaped prisoners of war, evaders, or internees be deemed necessary for lecturing and briefing, such services will be under the direct supervision of the agency designated by the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department General Staff, or the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations.
5. Commanding Officers will be responsible for instructing all evaders, escapees, and internees in the provisions of this directive which supercedes letter, AG 383.6 (5 Nov 42) OB-S-B-M, 7 November 1942, subject: Instructions concerning Publicity in Connection with Escaped Prisoners of War and other previous instructions on this subject.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/ J. A. ULIO  
J. A. ULIO  
Major General,  
The Adjutant General.

1. Information about your escape or your evasion from capture *would be useful to the enemy* and a danger to your friends. It is therefore **SECRET**.
2. *a* You must therefore not disclose, except to the first Military Attache to whom you report, or to an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations, or by A. C. of S., G-2, W. D.
  - (1) The names of those who helped you.
  - (2) The method by which you escaped or evaded.
  - (3) The route you followed.
  - (4) Any other facts concerning your experience.*b* You must be particularly on your guard with persons representing the press.  
*c* You must give no account of your experiences in books, newspapers, periodicals or in broadcasts or in lectures.  
*d* You must give no information to anyone, irrespective of nationality, in letters or in conversation, except as specifically directed in Par. 4.  
*e* No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of A. C. of S., G-2, W. D., or corresponding organization in the theater.

### GERTIFIGATE

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

I understand that any information concerning my *escape or evasion* from capture is **SECRET** and must not be disclosed to anyone other than the agency designated by A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, the corresponding organization in overseas theaters of operations, or to the Military Attache in a neutral country to whom I first report. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) THOMAS H SCOTT Signed Thomas H. Scott  
Rank 2nd Lt A. S. N. 0-687639 Dated Aug. 10, 1944  
Unit 339th Bomb sqdn, 96th Bomb Grp Witness L J. Cameron Capt SWS

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

# RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL

918

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

DATE: 10 August 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, JAMES M. BRADLEY, 1st Lt., AC, O-726116

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

THOMAS H. SCOTT, 2nd Lt., AC, O-687639

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.

Thomas H. Scott James M. Bradley

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



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

THOMAS H. SCOTT, 2nd Lt., AC, O-687639, 339 Bomb Sq., 96 Bomb Group  
previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

Felix S. Verity  
FELIX S. VERITY SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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

918

DATE: 10 August 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, JAMES H. BRADLEY, 1st Lt., AC, O-726416

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

THOMAS H. SCOTT, 2nd Lt., AC, O-657639

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.

Thomas H. Scott James M. Bradley

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



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

THOMAS H. SCOTT, 2nd Lt., AC, O-657639, 333 Bomb Sq., 96 Bomb Group  
previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

Philip S. Verity  
SPECIAL AGENT, G.I.C.  
PHILIP S. VERITY

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