

Target & E 18 #1 on Crew  
List

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

THORNTON BLINE DWO LT 2-815813  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

AUGUST 14, 1944  
(Date)

100 BOMB GP. 418 SQD.  
(Unit)

932

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT  
OFFICIAL STATUS

PILOT  
CO-PILOT  
NAVIGATOR  
BOMBARDIER  
RADIO OPERATOR  
TOP TURRET GUNNER  
BALL TURRET GUNNER  
WAIST GUNNER  
WAIST GUNNER  
TAIL GUNNER

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

JUNE 25, 1944 NOGENT LE-ROUFRON FRANCE 0835

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

FIRE 4 HITS BY FLAK

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

13,000

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

ONE WAS KILLED IN THE JUMP

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

ALL ONE WAS A STREAMER

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

HEARSAY YES

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

I KNOW OF 4 OTHERS BESIDES MYSELF

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so, give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

OTHERS WITH ME FOR A TIME

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

DO NOT KNOW

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

LAND

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

NOT KNOWN

S E C R E T

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL  
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

THORNTON BLINE 2ND LT. 0-815813  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

20 (No. of missions)

418 100 BOMB.  
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: JUNE 25 1944

Date arrived in UK: AUG. 13, 1944

932

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions)

Indicate what  
happened to each man  
and how you know.

PILOT KENNETH HOUGHTON

P.W. HEAR SAY

CO-PILOT THORNTON BLINE

MYSELF

NAVIGATOR STANLEY B. GREEN

UNKNOWN

BOMBARDIER WILLIAM A. LITCHSTERN

UNKNOWN

RADIO OPERATOR DAVERNE DEATRICH

WITH ME NOW

TOP TURRET GUNNER JAMES MARION

DEAD. JUNE 25

BALL TURRET GUNNER 390TH BOMB. GP.

UNKNOWN

WAIST GUNNER MALCOLM ECKLEY

P.W. HEARD SAY

WAIST GUNNER

TAIL GUNNER

MOORE

UNKNOWN

Decorations: AIR MEDAL, OUR GROUP HAD PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

Date of Birth: AUGUST 22, 1917

Private Address: ROBINSON, ILLINOIS R.R. 2

Length of Service:

2 YEARS 3 MONTH

Job as Civilian:

CLERK

From what field did you take off? Take off time.

390TH BOMB. GP. FRAMINGHAM 4 A.M.

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

AIRPLANE CRASHED ON FIRE, SO WOULD SAY YES

Were you wounded? Give details.

MY RIGHT EYE WAS HURT, AS SOMETHING HIT IT

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much?

Do you speak NO FRENCH?

SPANISH?

GERMAN?

ITALIAN?

OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers?

NO

(over)



Have you been questioned before on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom?

9TH AIR FORCE FRANCE CAPT. LERIA

Have you given any one a written report on your experiences. Where and When?

NO

Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?

3RD ARMY FRANCE ~~SAFETY G-2~~

Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, Where and When?

NO

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

Place and date of departure for UK. By sea or air.

9TH AIR FORCE FRANCE AIR  
List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

KENNETH HOUGHTON

MALCOLM ECKLEY

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

WILLIAM A. LICHTENSTERN

STANLEY B. GREEN

MOORE

Lt. Blin and Sgt. Deatrich came down on 25 June 1944 N W of NOGENT LE ROTROU.

Lt. Blin was picked up at once by a woman and two young men, one of whom was 20 years old, 5'10" tall, well built, spoke English, and had been a University student. This young man hid Blin in a barn for two days. On the second day he told Blin that the top turret gunner, Jame Marion, had been killed when his chute failed to open and that the French ~~had~~ were burying him in NOCE(Orne). On the afternoon of the second day two chiefs of resistance came to the barn to interview Blin and Lt. Kenneth Houghton who had been brought into the barn that morning. In the evening the son of the chief of police of NOCE (11 kms NW of Nogent le Rotrou), a 16 year old boy who spoke some English, took the two Americans down the road to a rendezvous with DR. GIRAUD of NOCE. Dr. Giraud took them in his Ford car to a deserted farm which was the H Q of the resistance organization of NOGENT LE ROTROU. The next morning Sgt. Malcolm Eckley ~~and Sgt.~~ was brought here and in the afternoon Sgt. Deatrich.

Sgt. Deatrich had been found ~~at~~ outside of ST JEAN DE LA FORET ( 4 kms W of NOCE) by three men, one of whom was ROGER BELLINGER, 22 years old, of LE GUE DE LA CHAINE( 4 kms W of BELLEME), Orne. These men took him to the farm of the oldest of the three, fed him and hid him for the day; and then ROGER BELLINGER ~~to~~ brought him civilian clothes and took him to the farm where he was staying. There Deatrich was put into an improvised room in the barn. The next day a young man and woman came with a dictionary and interrogated him, and two days later DR. GIRAUD and his brother-in-law ( who was later captured by the Germans who killed the Doctor's father) arrived and took him by car to the farm where Blin, Houghton, and Eckley were already assembled.

The chief of this resistance group was ANDRE DUCLOS, and his second in command was ROBERT TAPIER, a dentist from NOGENT LE ROTROU. Most of the members were professional men and intellectuals from NOGENT. The four Americans lived here for a week. Then the Germans located the retreat; and so Dr. GIRAUD, his brother-in-law, and ROBERT TAPIER took the



Americans to another resistance camp. The chief of this unit was called ANDRE; he was about 50 years old, 5'6" tall, fairly heavy, and wore a small moustache. MOHELLE, the French bicycle champion, was a member of this group, all the members of which were ex-soldiers who had escaped from German prison camps. They had some of the munitions and arms dropped by the mission on which the present evaders had been shot down: seven Garand rifles, 1000 rounds of ammunition, a Browning Automatic Rifle, and a number of Sten guns.

After four days here the Americans were again moved. Houghton and Eckley were taken out together to a farm unknown to the present evaders who were later told that they had been captured by the Germans in the following manner. A Frenchman and two Gestapo agents dressed in the uniforms of American officers appeared at the farmhouse where the two Americans were being kept and asked for entrance. The Frenchman sheltering the Americans supposed that ~~the~~ American troops had reached the neighborhood and admitted the spurious American officers who then took the two evaders prisoner, burned down the house where they had been staying, and killed the family which had sheltered them.

Bline and Deatrich were taken from the second resistance unit by ROBERT CHOUANARI, a former lieutenant of infantry in the French army, 26 years old, 6'1" tall, 200 lbs., blonde) who lives in the home of LT. AVELINE (now a P/W) between NOCE and VERRIERS. It was to this house that CHOUANARI took the two Americans. There a schoolmistress of VERRIERS (26 years old, married) ~~CAME FOR THEM AND TOOK THEM TO ANOTHER~~ came for them and took them to another resistance group near ST. COSME DE VAIR (10 kms SE of MAMERS). There they were put into the house of HENRI JANVIER who lived with his parents one mile N of ST COSME DE VAIR. Here they lived for five weeks, during which time they met and were helped by the following people:

Mme. RENEE MOREAU, 200 RUE CHAMPIONNET, PARIS XVIII, sister of HENRI JANVIER. ~~SRs~~  
Mme. ODETTE TESSIER, 142 AVENUE DES BATIGNOLLES, ST. OZEN, SEINE.

ROGER BOZAGE (spelling?) whose home is in Paris.

A wealthy woman and her daughter who live in a large chateau in the district of ST COSME. This woman's husband is the owner of a large factory in Paris and was the ring-leader of the resistance movement around ST. COSME. He is now a prisoner of the Germans.

While Bline and Deatrich were living here a P 51 crashed in the neighborhood; the pilot,

Robert Hall, was killed in the crash and is buried at MAMERS.

On 12 August Bline and Deatrich walked down the road and met a reconnaissance patrol of the 106 th Cavalry. This patrol took the evaders back to ~~and~~ its squadron, whence they were sent to III Army H Q where they were questioned for military information. They were then taken to IX Air Force HQ and saw Capt Luria who gave them orders. They flew to England on 13 August and reported to 63 Brook St., London.

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

E & E REPORT NO. 932-933  
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

Thornton BLINE, 2d Lt, O-815813 - 20 missions  
LaVERNE H DEATRICH, T/Sgt, 13157962 - 15 missions

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

(Number of Missions)

MIA: 25 June 1944

Arrived in UK:

13 August 1944

418 Bomb Squadron, 100 Bomb Group

(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	O-806987	2d Lt	Kenneth L HOUGHTON	B&E #	
CO-PILOT	O-815813	2d Lt	Thornton BLINE	NARRATOR	
NAVIGATOR	O-1103660	2d Lt	Stanley B GREEN	MIA	
BOMBARDIER	O-757664	2d Lt	William LICHTENSTERN	MIA	
RADIO OPERATOR	13157962	T/Sgt	LaVerne H DEATRICH	NARRATOR	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	15340157	T/Sgt	James E MARION	MIA	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	?	(Extra man - from 390 Bomb Group - Neither PWIB nor Maj Sedgwick has his name listed as part of this crew)			
WAIST GUNNER	NONE				
WAIST GUNNER	13091275	S/Sgt	Malcolm K ECKLEY	B&E #	
	34663791	S/Sgt	Warren G MOORE	MIA	
TAIL GUNNER					

Were you wounded?



E & E Rpt  
Lt. Bline and Sgt. Deatrich

FLAK

Lt. Bline: Four bursts of flak blew off our chin-turret, hit the ~~radio~~ radio room, and set our left wing afire. ~~The ailerons were burnt off and the end of the left wing flapped loosely in the air.~~ Everyone was ready when the ~~order~~ order to bail out was given; but, after I had checked the ship to see that all the crew had left, the engineer still hesitated, afraid to jump. The pilot ~~standing behind him~~ <sup>him</sup> looked at me; I nodded and he shoved ~~the engineer~~ <sup>him</sup> out, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> the pilot and I then left the ship together.

SHIP CLEAR

IMMEDIATE  
AID

I delayed my jump and landed near a house. A woman came up to me as soon as I struck the ground. She helped me gather up my chute, and two boys then led me to a ~~farm~~ barn where they gave me civilian clothes and told me to remain until their return. All this occurred within ten minutes of my landing. Since I was still not sure whether I should trust my helpers, I left the barn and dug myself into a briar patch from which I could observe the door of the barn. That afternoon the boys returned with food and alone, and so I crawled out to meet them. I remained in the barn that night, and the next day I was visited by two men who arranged ~~the~~ my journey. Within a ~~few~~ few days Sgt. Deatrich joined me.

EXEMPLARY  
CAUTION

JOURNEY  
ARRANGED

FOUND  
BY  
HELPERS

Sgt. Deatrich: I delayed my jump about 5000 feet and landed in ~~a field~~ an abandoned orchard. I got my chute off and ran with it into a deep, well covered gully. As I was hiding my chute under the bank three Frenchmen came up the gully looking for me. They led me to a farmhouse, fed me, and then took me to another gully where they told me to remain hidden. I got into the middle of a wheat-field where I could watch the gully without being observed myself. ~~In the house~~ That afternoon the wife of the farmer ~~at whose house I had been fed that morning~~ came out and took me back to the house. From there my journey was arranged. Three days later I joined Lt. Bline.

JOURNEY  
ARRANGED

APP. B

No ~~M~~ military information.

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS  
NINTH AIR FORCE

APO 696, US ARMY,  
13 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : 1ST LT WILLIAM A SMITH, ✓ 0725095, 306th Fighter Group.  
2ND LT THORNTON BLIN, ✓ 0815813, 100th Fighter Group.  
T/Sgt Laverne H Deatrich, 13157962, 100th Fighter Group.  
S/Sgt Herman P Ehrhard, ✓ 17081672, 306th Fighter Group.

You will proceed on or about 13 August 1944 from Headquarters, Ninth Air Force to 63 Brook Street, London, England. TDN by MT, mil acft or rail. 60-114 P 432-02 A 212/50425.

By command of Major General VANDENBERG:

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

OFFICIAL:

C R BERBARI,  
Lt Col, A.C.,  
Asst Adj Gen.

R E S T R I C T E D

Lt. Bline:

Aids Box: I used the Horlicks tablets, chocolate bar, chewing gum, compass, and sewing-kit.

Purse: I had a red purse. I used the map of France and the compass and gave the 2000 French francs to my helpers.

Photographs: I had six photographs but had no occasion to use them.

Lectures: I heard lectures on evasion given at my base ~~in the U. K.~~ They were very helpful.

Sgt. Deatrich:

Aids Box: I used the chewing gum and the razor. Immediate aid made further use of the box unnecessary.

Purse: I forgot to take the purse on my mission.

Photographs: I forgot to take my photographs.

5-2  
Lectures: I heard my Group ~~Intelligence Officer~~ lecture on evasion. The lectures were very helpful.



# RESTRICTED

## WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

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

KLS/el-2B-839 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) THORNTON BLINE  
Rank 2ND LT. A. S. N. 0-815813  
Unit 100 BOMB. GP. 418 SQP.

Signed Thornton Bline  
Dated AUGUST 14, 1944  
Witness \_\_\_\_\_

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

# RESTRICTED

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND F REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

0-815813 2ND. LT. THORNTON BLAINE

Unit:-

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 DAY HIDING

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

FIRST DAY HIDING

Milk (tube).

NO

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

NO

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

NO

Matches.

STILL HAVE

Adhesive tape.

NO

Chewing gum.

GAVE TO FRENCH

Water bottle.

NO

Compass.

YES

Sewing kit.

YES. SEVERAL TIMES TO SEW ON BUTTONS

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?

NO

e. How did you finally dispose of the box?

STILL HAVE 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?

NO

2. PURSE

a. Did you carry a purse?

State color of stripes and letters.

If NOT, State why not.

YES

RAKHI MARK II Red

b. Did you use the purse?

YES

(over)

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

Maps. Which ones?

YES  
Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

YES FRANCE. SPENT AND GAVE TO PEOPLE 2000 FRANKS

d. How did you dispose of:-

DID NOT  
Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

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

NO

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many?

YES 6

b. Did you use them?

NO.

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

YES. BOXINGTON, MARCH, 1944, 100TH BOMB GP, APRIL, 44

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

YES VERY MUCH

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

YES. THEY SHOULD BE BETTER POSTED ON

WHERE TO GO AS THE OLD METHOD OF SPYIN

IS NOT SO GOOD NOW



CONFIDENTIAL

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

932  
DATE: 15 Aug 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, THOMAS A. TOOLEY, JR., Capt., AC, O-562220

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

THORNTON BLUM, 1st Lt., AC, O-813813

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.

Thornton Blum

Thomas A. Tooley Jr

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



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

THORNTON BLUM, 1st Lt., AC, O-813813, 100 Bomb Group, 418 Sq.

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

F. S. VERITY,

SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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CONFIDENTIAL

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

932

DATE: 15 August 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, THOMAS A. TOOMEY, JR., Capt., AC, O-562220

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with  
THORNTON BLINE, 1st Lt., AC, O-815813

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.

Thornton Bline

Thomas A. Toomey Jr.

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



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

THORNTON BLINE, 1st Lt., AC, O-815813, 100 Bomb Group, 418 Sq.

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

F. S. VERITY,

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SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

CONFIDENTIAL