

13. 8. 44.

NOMINAL ROLL.

1st Lt., William A Smith. ASN 0-725095. - 17 June  
2nd Lt., Thorton Bline . ASN 0-815813. . 25 June  
T/Sgt., Laverne H. Deatrich. ASN 13157962. - 25 June  
S/Sgt., Herman P. Ehrhard. ASN 17081672. - 17 June  
F/Officer, Thomas A. Matassa. ASN T2898. - 9 or 10 Aug -

To report to 63, Brook Street, London.

Security Control Office,  
Heston Airport.



SECRET

#933

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL  
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

LAVERNE H. DEATRICH / SGT. 13157962  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

15 (No. of missions)

418 100  
(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: JUNE 25

Date arrived in UK: AUG. 13

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

Indicate what  
happened to each man  
and how you know.

PILOT KENNETH HOUGHTON P.W. - (HEARSAY)

CO-PILOT THORNTON, BLINE

NAVIGATOR STANLEY GREEN

BOMBARDIER WILLIAM LITHEENSTERN

RADIO OPERATOR LAVERNE H. DEATRICH

TOP TURRET GUNNER JAMES MARION

BALL TURRET GUNNER NAME UNKNOWN

WAIST GUNNER MALCOLM ECKLEY

WAIST GUNNER ONE WAIST GUNNER ONLY

TAIL GUNNER WARREN MOORE

Decorations: AIR MEDAL PURPLE HEART PRESIDENTIAL CITATION (GROUP)

Date of Birth: DEC. 30, 1923.

Private Address: 1114 BROAD ST. HONTOLSVILLE, PENNA.

Length of Service: 21 MONTHS

Job as Civilian: TRUCK DRIVER, SALESMAN

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

390TH GRP. FRAMINGHAM

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

DESTROYED, FALSIES DESTROYED.

Were you wounded? Give details.

NO  
Did you pay your guides? If so, how much?

Do you speak FRENCH? SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?

SOME  
Did you have identity papers?

(over)

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

YES. 714 A.F. CAPT. LARIER

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?

NO

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.....

BY AIR AUG. 13TH FRANCE

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

MALCOLM ECKLEY  
KENNETH HOUGHTON

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

STALEY GREEN  
WILLIAM LITCHENSTERN  
WARREN MOORE



CONFIDENTIAL

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

933

DATE: 12 August 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, THOMAS A. ZOOMEY, Jr., Capt., AO, G-562220

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

LAVINUS HENRY DEATREN, T/SGT., AO, 13157962

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.

Lavinus H. Deatren

Thomas A. Zoomey Jr.

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



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

LAVINUS HENRY DEATREN, T/SGT., AO, 13157962, 100 Bomb Group, 418 Sq.

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

F. S. Vasey

F. S. VASEY,

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

933

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

LAVERNE HENRY DEATRICH, T/Sgt., AC, 13157962

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.

Laverne H. Deatrach

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

LAVERNE HENRY DEATRICH, T/Sgt., AC, 13157962, 100 Bomb Group, 418 Sq.

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

F. S. Verity

F. S. VERITY, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

LOVERNE H. DEATRICH 7/SGT. 13157462 AUG. 14, 1944  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)  
100TH GRP 418 SODN.  
(Unit)

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 0830 NEAR NOGENT-LE-ROTOU

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

DIRECT HITS ON CHIN TURRET, RADIO COMPARTMENT,  
& LEFT WING WHICH CAUGHT FIRE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

13,000 FT.

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

NO

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

ALL, ENGINEER'S CHUTE DID NOT OPEN  
(STREAMER)

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

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

~~THAT~~ KENNETH HOUGHTON, MALCOLM ECKLEY  
ALIVE

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.

JAMES E. MARION KILLED, ABOVE NAMED  
ALIVE

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

NO

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.

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

HEARD OF ONE KILLED, SAW TWO ALIVE  
OTHERS UNHEARD FROM OR OF AND UNSURE

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 13157962 TSgt. LAVERNE H. DEATRICH

Unit:- 100TH GRA. 418 SQDN.

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.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum. TO ~~ADD~~ RELIEVE THIRST WHILE HIDING IN WHEAT FIELD.

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit.

RAZOR

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?

NOT SUFFICIENT BLADES.

- e. How did you finally dispose of the box?

SOVENIER TO PEASANTS

- 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? NO
- State color of stripes and letters.
- If NOT, State why not.

FORGOTTEN

- b. Did you use the purse?

(over)



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

Maps. Which ones?

Compass,

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

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

YES

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many?

NO

b. Did you use them?

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM

100TH GRA. INTELLIGENCE

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

VERY GOOD HELPED NO-END

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

AFTER ONCE CONTACTING PROPER PEOPLE FOLLOW  
THEIR ORDERS AND BE PATIENT



2 boys captured.

Lt. Houghton (Kenneth)

Lt Malcolm Eckley. -

captured by Gestapo dressed in U.S. officers  
uniform with a frenchman - the Gestapo  
came and did this in a farm house. took  
the american PW and came back  
buried the house with 3 frenchmen -  
(we were going to move to that  
house in district ~~of~~ 10 km from  
where we were St Cosme. -

The Resistance with whom we were  
staying held us. - Happened about  
10 days ago. -

# RESTRICTED

## WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

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

KLS/el-2B-989 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.

### 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) LAVERNE H. DEATRICH  
Rank T/SGT. A. S. N. 13151962  
Unit 100 GRP 418 SQDN.

Signed Laverne H. Deatrach  
Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness \_\_\_\_\_

AG P BR HQ SCS

122472

# RESTRICTED

Blaine + Deatrich

1st. Blaine: Took off at 4: <sup>1/2</sup> Burst off  
Sweet. 1st wing burning + Radio Room  
hit. Side slipped plane down to  
12000 feet. Left aileron had burnt off  
+ last 5 feet of left wing flapping off.  
Exploded = 1 engine. Order given to  
bail out. All were ready. Dumped  
everything we had. Engineer was afraid  
to jump. I checked rest of ship. Pilot  
slipped engine out but his chute  
didn't open. Rest of ship clear. Pilot  
+ I went out at same time.

I delayed jump + landed behind  
house. Woman waiting, helped me  
gather up chute. Two boys took me  
across field + brought me civilian  
clothes in a barn by 8.55 Am. When  
they left I hid in a briar patch  
near the barn all day. They came  
back with food at 4 PM. Boy told me  
engineer had been killed in jump + French  
would hurry in NOCE, France. Stayed  
in barn that night. Next day the  
boy returned + told me that they'd  
found another member of my crew  
(~~Deatrich~~). They brought the pilot in  
about 10 Am. That afternoon 2 resistance

one boy 20 yrs old, spoke  
English, 5'10", well  
built. Had been  
univ student.



chief came + talked to us. That evening

the son of the police chief of NOCE  
(about 16 years old, spoke a little English)

came + took Houghton + me + took

GIRAUD

us to road where the doctor ~~was~~  
from NOCE (fugitive from Gestapo now: <sup>German</sup> ever  
killed his father + captured his brother-in-law)  
was waiting with his Ford. They

told us that they'd also found

26  
June

Beatrich. ~~On 26 we were to~~ They  
took us to a deserted farm where  
the NOBENT resistance was.

The next morning they brought in  
Malcolm Eckley + in the afternoon  
Beatrich.

STEVEAN  
FOREMAN

Beatrich: I delayed my jump about  
5000 feet. landed in a field with  
scattered trees. Got off my chute + went into  
deep gully + hid my chute. 3 men came  
up gully (one 22 years, one 35, + one  
65). They took me down gully + they  
told me some one else had hidden near  
by. They took me to the farm of the  
65 yr old man. They fed me, then the  
22 yr old took me out + hid me in

ROGER BELLINGER  
PHR-LE-GUE-DE-LA-CHAIINE  
(CORNE, France)

Here lived a young couple  
ELLEN, LILLIAN, a small boy  
MICHEL.

another gully. When he left I got into  
middle of wheat field. He returned at  
11 o'clock + told me to stay till 4 PM.  
during afternoon the wife of farmer where I'd  
eaten came + took me back to farmhouse.  
Then the young man came + took me  
to his farm house. I had supper with family. At 11 PM the  
35-45 year old man came in + they put  
me on a bed in the barn. There I stayed  
until next noon. A young man +  
woman came with dictionary + told me  
I'd have to stay for 2 weeks. That afternoon  
I worked + next morning the two yr. old  
who had Lt Blin came in + told me  
I'd leave that night. He didn't come till  
next morning + that afternoon he took  
me to his brother in law who could  
speak English came + took me to where  
Lt Blin was.

Now 4 of us with the resistance:-

Chief ANDRE DUCLOS  
Asst. ROBERT TAPIER (dentist in NOGENT)

We stayed about week. Dr. Girard, his brother in law, Robert + Tapiar, and  
(On 27 June we saw 3 German fighters planes shot down  
about in afternoon.)  
and the others then took us to another

resistance camp. The chief of this place was called ANDRE. We stayed there 4 days.

(About 50 yrs. old. About 5'6" fairly heavy; small mustache.)

All ex-soldiers who had been escaped German prisoners. They had some of the American munitions which had been dropped by our mission.

(MOCHELLE, French bicycle champion, was there. He was wounded at the time).

We had Garand rifles (7 + 1000 rounds), 30 cal. Browning MG. + Sten guns.

After 4 days we ~~two~~ were moved,

Easily + Houghton <sup>elsewhere</sup> together - and we two went on bicycles <sup>with</sup> ROBERT CHOUVANARI

(former Lt in French <sup>infantry</sup> army) to a peasant's house for one night. Then Robert

Chouvanari took us to his house where we stayed one day. Then schoolmistress

(26 yrs. married) at VERRIERS came for us + took us <sup>to another</sup> resistance camp.

~~took us to~~ ST COSME DE VAIR <sup>TO Kms SE of</sup> where we stayed <sup>MAMERS</sup>

with HENRI JANVIER (mother, father +

sister Renée <sup>Moreau</sup> worked for resistance) who

lived 1 mile N. of ST Cosme. Met Roger Bogong (or Bozage) whose home is in ~~Paris~~

Paris. + Mme Odette Tessier

142 Ave des Batignolles, St. Ouen Seine.

Lived in home of Lt AVELINE (a PW now) between NOCE + VERRIERS.

200 Rue Championnet



5  
Stayed here for 5 weeks.

(A P51 crashed near here 2 or 4 days after 6 June, Pilot Robert Hall, buried in Namers) when Americans got close

Wealthy woman + daughter lived in chateau in district came frequently, furnished supplies (speak English! Husband is P/W of Germans, owns big factory in Paris, + ring leader of resistance in this section)

12 Aug. we slipped down and found an American Recce patrol (106 Cavalry). Took us back to squadron, + from there to III Army A.C. where we were questioned for military information. Sent us to 14<sup>th</sup> Liaison unit which flew us to Strip 2<sup>nd</sup> of IX. A.F. Saw Capt. Luria who got us clothes + ~~sent~~ gave us orders to come here. On 13 Aug flew over to field in England + came to 63  
Brook St.