

I was leading 72 B-24s of 92 Combat Wing on a mission to bomb marshalling yards at CHAUMONT. I had a crew of 11 including Lt. DUER who was riding as observer in the tail turret. I ran into moderate to intense flak, and received considerable damage to my ship. I gave the order to bail out about 5 mi N of CHATEAUDUN and everyone succeeded in jumping except Lt. DUER who had not received the alarm. I took over the controls and a few seconds later the ship went into a spiral dive at 12,000 feet. I bailed out at 10,000 feet, and as I left the cockpit I rang the bell again. I jumped and pulled the rip-cord as I went out the hatch and tore a complete panel out of the chute. In landing I got a crack on the back of my head and wrenched my right knee. Many Frenchmen appeared as soon as we landed and asked us what we wanted to do.

We hid out in a patch of trees. We later crawled through the field and hid in a hayloft where we stayed two days. The French brought us food and civilian clothes. They advised us to go toward SPAIN and gave us detailed instructions on the location of the German troops.

On the 13 May 1944, we left and started cross-country in a westerly direction. After walking all night our feet started going bad. I advise anyone to take shoes and socks off in crossing a stream. We contacted a Cure in a small town but he would not assist us. We were stopped by a German soldier but after brief questioning we were released. Shortly a French farmer approached us and took us to his house and fed us. A few minutes later Germans approached the house and while we were hidden under the bed, the farmer was questioned by the Germans. The Germans left and the next day we left this place. We again entered a church and knelt down to pray. The Cure appeared and we told him we were Americans. He took us in and fed us and gave us a bed. We stayed here two days and the Cure brought a farmer to us who went to the village to contact the Resistance Groups, but with no results. The next day we left and travelled for ten days. We were aided and fed by various French farmers.

We then contacted another Cure in a village where we were helped by a French woman, formerly an employee of Lord Fitz-ireland in England. She took us to another house and put us in contact with the Resistance Group, where we stayed 12 days. We were taken in a car to a farmhouse 15 mi NW of VENDOME. For two months we were part of the farmer's family. He advised us against going toward the lines. On 13 August, the Germans started leaving VENDOME. On this day we were picked up in two cars by seven members of the Resistance Group. They were armed with weapons which had been hidden at the house of the farmer where we stayed. We were taken to a town near the American line, and then contacted the advance platoon of the 5th Inf.

DISTRIBUTION:

P/W & X DET.....1
G-2, COM Z.....1 (less C)
AIR STAFF, SHAEF..3 (less C)
FILE.....1



CONFIDENTIAL

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

DATE: 15 August 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

939

I, MILTON M. TURNER, Col., AC, O-234228

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

Beirne LAY, JR., Lt. Col., AC, O-309771

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.

Beirne Lay Jr. Milton M. Turner.
Col. A.C.

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



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

BEIRNE LAY, JR., Lt. Col, AC, O-309771, 487 Bomb Gp

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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

939

DATE: 15 August 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, WILTON M. TURNER, Col., AC, O-234228

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

BELMUS LAY, JR., Lt. Col., AC, O-309771

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.

Belmus Lay Jr.

Wilton M. Turner
Col. A.C.

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



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

BELMUS LAY, JR., Lt. Col., AC, O-309771, 487 Bomb Gp
previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

P. S. Verity
SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

P. S. VERITY,

CONFIDENTIAL

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

EVADIED CAPTURE/~~ESCAPED FROM~~ (Name of Country) France.....

939

For all Personnel

- 1. No.....0-309771... Rank:....Lt Col..... Name LAY, Bierne, Jr......
(U.K: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions).....
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details.....
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 487th Fighter Gp.....
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 8th AF.... 6. Job (Pl.Cmd., Rfn., etc) Pilot.....
- 7. Date of Birth..... 8. Length of Service.....
- 9. Peace time occupation... ..10. Private Address.....
-
- 1. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph?.....
- 2. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language?.....

FOR R.A.F. ONLY

- 3. No. and location of O.T.U.....
- 4. No. and location of Conversion Unit.....

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

- 5. Post in Crew..... Pilot.....
- 6. 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.....
- NAVIGATOR.....
- BOEMARDIER..... Lt Walter A. DUER - Observer in Tail Turret.
(See E & E Report No. I.S.9(WEA)/6/808/2725).
- RADIO OPERATOR.....
- TOP TURRET GUNNER.....
- BALL TURRET GUNNER.....
- WAIST GUNNER (R.).....
- WAIST GUNNER (L.).....
- TAIL GUNNER.....

- 7. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure.....
-
- 18. Where and when did you come down? 5 mi. N. of CHATEAUDUN, 11 May 1944.....
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?.....
-
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?.....
-

Interviewed by I.S. 9 (WEA)

Date... 1 September 1944.....

I grade this evasion No. 3

Edward P. Arnold
Jaw

EDWARD P. ARNOLD
Capt., AC

- Checked:
- Appendix "B"
- Appendix "C"
- Appendix "D"

Disposal:..... To U.K......

I was leading 72 B-24s of 92 Combat Wing on a mission to bomb marshalling yards at CHAUMONT. I had a crew of 11 including Lt. DUER who was riding as observer in the tail turret. I ran into moderate to intense flak, and received considerable damage to my ship. I gave the order to bail out about 5 mi N of CHATEAUDUN and everyone succeeded in jumping except Lt. DUER who had not received the alarm. I took over the controls and a few seconds later the ship went into a spiral dive at 12,000 feet. I bailed out at 10,000 feet, and as I left the cockpit I rang the bell again. I jumped and pulled the rip-cord as I went out the hatch and tore a complete panel out of the chute. In landing I got a crack on the back of my head and wrenched my right knee. Many Frenchmen appeared as soon as we landed and asked us what we wanted to do.

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G-2, COM Z.....1 (less C)
AIR STAFF, SHAEF..3 (less C)
FILE.....1

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

EVADED CAPTURE/~~ESCAPED FROM~~ (Name of Country) .. France.....

939

For all Personnel

1. No.....0-309771... Rank....Lt.Col..... Name LAY, Bjerne, Jø.....
(U.K: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions).....
3. Were you wounded? Give details.....
4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 487th Fighter Gp.....
5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 8th AF... 6. Job (Pl.Cmd., Rfn., etc) Pilot.....
7. Date of Birth..... 8. Length of Service.....
9. Peace time occupation... 10. Private Address.....
-
1. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph?.....
2. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language?.....

FOR R.A.F. ONLY

3. No. and location of O.T.U.....
4. No. and location of Conversion Unit.....

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

5. Post in Crew.....Pilot.....
6. 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.
PILOTNarrator.....
CO-PILOT.....
NAVIGATOR.....
BOMBARDIER..... Lt. Walter A. DUER - Observer in Tail Turret.....
(See E & E Report No. I.S.9(WEA)/6/808/2725).
RADIO OPERATOR.....
TOP TURRET GUNNER.....
BALL TURRET GUNNER.....
WAIST GUNNER (R.).....
WAIST GUNNER (L.).....
TAIL GUNNER.....
7. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure.....
-
8. Where and when did you come down? 5 mi. N. of CHATEAUDUN, 11 May 1944.....
9. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west?.....
-
0. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?.....
-

Interviewed by I.S. 9 (WEA)

Date...1. September 1944.....
I grade this evasion No. 3

Edward P. Arnold

EDWARD P. ARNOLD
Capt., AC

Checked:
Appendix "B"
Appendix "C"
Appendix "D"

Disposal:.....
To U.K

SECRET

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

24054 939
2049

NATOUSA

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

LAY, H. Col.

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

(No. of missions)

(Squadron) (Group)

TARGET:

Date mission in action: _____

Date arrived in UK: _____

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

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT H. Col LAY (W. Co)
CO-PILOT Lt. Duer
NAVIGATOR Lt. Richter \leftarrow 81036 H. VRATNY
BOMBARDIER Capt HODGE
RADIO OPERATOR Sgt Alich
TOP TURRET GUNNER Sgt Watson
BALL TURRET GUNNER Sgt Hymerman
WAIST GUNNER Sgt Peterson 15118P
WAIST GUNNER Sgt Pabedian
TAIL GUNNER Capt Wilson (ride, as NAV.)

Decorations:

Date of Birth:

Private Address:

Length of Service:

Job as Civilian:

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

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

Were you wounded? Give details.

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

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

Did you have identity papers?

(over)

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

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

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

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

Date of arrival in Spain:

Date of arrival at Gibraltar:

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

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL.

939

MIA 11 MAY

UK. 15 August. -

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 3 Rank Lt Col Beirne Lay Jr

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) BEIRNE LAY JR. O-309771

Unit 487th Bomb Gp

has been fully/~~briefly~~/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on 14 Aug 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

Edward Arnold
Capt ac Major.

IMPORTANT.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

CERTIFIED THAT:

This Officer/W.O./N.C.O. has special information on the following subjects:— No. 5

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) *BEVERLY A. J. ...*

Unit *185th ...*

has been fully ~~interrogated~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.(WEA) on *19 ...*

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

Major

IMPORTANT.

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

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.

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)

Signed

Blairne Lay Jr.

Rank A. S. N.

Dated

Unit

Witness

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

APO 696, US Army,
14 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : Lt Col Beirne Lay, Jr., 0309771, 487th Bomb Gp (H).
2d Lt Walter A Duer, 0691484, 487th Bomb Gp (H).

You will proceed from the Headquarters, Ninth Air Force,
on or about 15 August 1944 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 BIRBARI
Lt Col, A.C.,
Asst Adj Gen.

R E S T R I C T E D