

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

Geno. (NMI) Di Betta 1st Lt 0741890 TARGET: 11 Feb 44
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) Date missing in action: 44
16 (No. of missions) Date arrived in UK: 15 Aug
423rd Sq 306 Gp 8th AF
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions) Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

PILOT - Narrator

CO-PILOT - Lt Wolf - In England now

NAVIGATOR - 1st Lt Fielbach - ~~jump~~ bailed out, but no further info.

BOMBARDIER - Lt Saunders - bailed out, " " "

RADIO OPERATOR - Sgt Hewitt - Same camp - believed to be in London

TOP TURRET GUNNER - Sgt Chiccarelli - wounded - bailed out -

BALL TURRET GUNNER - Sgt Coleman - killed - believed prisoner

WAIST GUNNER - Sgt Bergeron - In England

WAIST GUNNER - Sgt Golden - Returned to England

TAIL GUNNER - Sgt Weseloh - " " "

Decorations: Air medal

Date of Birth: 3 March 1921

Private Address: Warthmore Ave, Parkersburg, W. Va.

Length of Service: 2 yrs 5 mos

Job as Civilian: accountant

From what field did you take off? Take off time, Thurlough, Near Bedford
About 0700

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?

Were you wounded? Give details. Yes
Slightly, in hand, (shrapnel), 20 mm, while in plane

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? Yes - all.

Do you speak FRENCH? No SPANISH? No GERMAN? No ITALIAN? No OTHER LANGUAGE? No

Did you have identity papers? No DOG TAGS 2 carried I

(over)

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

No

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.

*15 Aug by air
(hospital plane)*

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

None known

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

Di Betta

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
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REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

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

(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.

11 Feb, about 1500, near Beauvais, about 15 km N of St Juste

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

Hit by flak over target (Frankfurt). Big holes in wings. Tail almost gone. Out of gas - leaked out.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

at 2000 ft.

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

Yes - Sgt Coleman, ball turret gunner

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

All except Coleman

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

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.

6 others. See other list.

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?

Was with 6 others. Hearsay in regards to others

962

1st Lt Geno DiBETTA, 0741890, 423/306 Bomb Gp (H), MIA 11 Feb 1944
 - Intrvd 19 Aug 1944

On 11 Feb 1944 DiBETTA landed in the vicinity of Beauvais N of Catillon. An escaped Russian P/W picked him up; some other men disposed of his equipment. He was taken to a farmhouse and hid in a chicken coop while the Germans searched. After a couple of hours a farmer took him to a car with two men in it, one heavy set, short, young. They went to St Just en Chausee to a cafe where they met a resistance chief who looked like a criminal, thin lips, long nose. He took casualty information and also maps and wanted dog tags. Of the latter DiBETTA thoughtfully gave only one. In a room upstairs he met his CoP, Wolf, E&E.

That night they drove to a house where they spent a night and then they (short, 45, nice looking, spoke some English) went to Clermont to Dr Edouard, 16 Rue Amiens, where they stayed about 10 days.

A little girl took them to a constable or a justice of the peace in Clermont where they met Hewitt, Golden, Weseloh, and others, E&E. They went in a truck to Veneuil St Firmin. Weseloh and DiBetta stayed with Louise Guyjer (sic), who was either wife or secretary of the maire. They then walked to Henri Les-tienne, a game keeper with whom they stayed six weeks. The gendarmes of Chantilly gave them I/P. A gendarme took them by car to Neuilly en Thelle where they went with Rene d'Aline, a machinist. At Chantilly they picked up Bone, Carrono, Hailman, Solomon, E&E, and two others. DiBetta stayed three weeks with d'Aline, Solomon, Weseloh, and Hailman. Then Weseloh and Solomon moved out. A new doctor with whom Hewitt and Golden stayed came. He met Gaston of Cler-mony, short, heavy set, with whom Hewitt and Golden had stayed..

About April the plane Lucky Strike crashed nearby. The doctor tended to some of the wounded and the Gestapo got him with some of the men in his car. Eight men then moved to Bornel by car and stayed with a mechanic who ran a garage. After three nights they went to Mesnil Terbis (Chaumont) with a tall man about three weeks or a month and a Swiss named Friari. They stayed with Mme Bonin (questionable spelling) who lives with her son. A man who sounds like Gilbert Thibault told them that they were in a military organization and would probably not leave for a month

or two. They were then to go to Paris and on to Spain.

They went to Chaumont or Beaumont for a train with a short fellow who was a teacher and who spoke some English and who wore a leather coat. They went by train to Pontoise, were met with a truck by M Bonnat or Bonnet, 40-45, and went to a school house in Argenteuil. Bonnat took their names and arranged that they leave by twos. Hewitt and DiBetta went to the house of Mme Villeneuve, 6 Rue Belin, and stayed about five weeks. A man named Bredecche (questionable spelling who lived across the street was keeping Goff and Yanzek, ⁹⁹⁹ ¹⁰²⁷ H&E.

Pierre, black horn rimmed glasses, took Goff, Hewitt, Yanzek, and DiBetta ^{three} to Paris to a flower shop. He stayed at an apartment off the Eiffel Tower (sic) on the seventh or top floor.

Then Paul/Philip (Lake), Virginia, and a tall thin married Anne took him to the latter's apartment. He saw a shorter blond Anne later at Chateaudun. He went to Chateaudun with Hewitt, Goff, and some others about 25 May. A new guide took them to meet Lucien and Andre. They walked to the farmhouse of a Pierre and stayed there until the day after invasion, apparently Hewitt, Gerono, and a New Zealander named Spears. They met Lucien and his RO Francois. They moved to the camp SW of Cloyes with Gilbert. About 40 were there. N of Busloup About two weeks later six moved to the Foret de Freteval, Claytor, Bone, Goff, and a French Canadian Bob Harty (spelling questionable). Eventually about 63 were there including Jean, who was in charge, and Louis.

Jean did a most excellent job. DiBetta criticises Lucien and Pete, the British F/Lt for permitting an unequal division of food at the older camp; the complaint is that the men in the kitchen took the choice food.

In late July the French resistance people used up a parachute operation and the Germans came into the woods, endangering the camp.

M Rideau brought food almost every day. M Rene who lives near the church in Busloup also brought food.

About 10 Aug a Belgian Spitfire P, Jean Croquet, said that the older camp had been liberated. Lucien had got in touch with the Americans at Lemans.

Jean was annoyed because Lucien had not told him about arrangements. Trucks were to come in that day, so the men broke camp and gave the equipment to M Rideau. They went to the road and waited all day for the trucks which never came. That night they slept in a barn at Rideau's place. Some went to Busloup to sleep. Lucien came that night and said that he had gone to Lemans; Jean was annoyed that he had gone without him. The men sat and waited and became restless, waiting all the next day. They waited until about 1200 the next day and then some of the men began to take off for the lines. They ran into a Tank Destroyer battalion and brought back Capt Wheeler of the 818 TD Bn. He loaded up all the men that he could. Jean in the meantime had gone off to arrange with Neave for evacuating the camp, so there was more than a bit of confusion. DiBetta was on a truck that went part way to Lemans, stopped for the night, and went on in the morning. On the way they passed Neave and Thornton. Beyond Laval the truck hit a rock in the road and turned over. The 10 or 12 men in the truck were sent to a nearby hospital and were then evacuated by medical channels to England. The hospitals, perhaps wanting to perpetuate the sort of confusion which only WEA could originate, sent the men to as many different hospitals as possible. Eventually DiBetta found his way to 63 Brook St.

DEE

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

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

6 August 1943

KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

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) DiBetta Geno
Rank 1st Lt A. S. N. 0-741890
Unit 306 Bomb Grp

Signed Geno DiBetta
Dated 18 Aug 1943
Witness W. C. Dineen Capt W. C.

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS

122472

Di Betta
SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

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.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier). *yes*

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit.

d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *No*

e. How did you finally dispose of the box? *Burned*

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? *yes*
State color of stripes and letters.
If NOT, State why not.

*Don't remember
just French money*

b. Did you use the purse? *yes*

(over)

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

Maps. Which ones? *No*

Compass, *No*

File (hacksaw). *No*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *2000 fr*
How did you spend the money? *Gave to helpers*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

Taken by French

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?

2 or 3

Yes

b. Did you use them?

One for ident. card.

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

Yes

*at 6p. by S-2 many times
2 by outside lecturers*

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

Yes

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

Myril
2/10/77
Then place ^{Lucy's} car - 2nd & 3rd provided.
Must go get on bus - had some boys in his car.
We have to move - over to Bonnet in car with me from there - 8/10/77.
a mechanic - new garage.

3 nts
To Alenil Terbis (Choumont) with tall man with artificial v
Suis Franci - by truck - 2 days for 8/10/77.
Stay with Mme Bonnet - his with boy & son.
C 3 who is with the ^{most} tall man looking, long set, well
built (Billbut) ^{from shop} tell that we in military - probably
not out for months 2. C 3 who.

c 1 Mrs
here
Then my bag for Paris - to go to S by Spain.
To Choumont & Beaumont for train with short fellow who teaches
maths - wears leather coat (touch in)
In Paris to school home - met at entrance by M Bonnet - 40-45
Argenteuil.

He took names - arrange to leave by train. 6 Rue Belin
I to him with Hunt - Mme Villeneuve & dty - C 3 who then
Follow across street but Hoff & Yangch - Bredeche (?)
To Paris with Perri - glasses black kommand - with Hoff,
Hunt, Yangch. Stay get Eiffel Tower - 7th top floor -
3 rooms.

Then Paul/Philips - Virginia - & some - tall thin, married -
To her apt. (Saw with states, blond some at Chateaufort).

To Chateaufort with Hunt, Hoff, &
Met new guide - played school teacher - he took us to meet
Lucien & Andre - spent on sp at road junction.
Walk to farmhouse - then until d'Alto in basin. ^{RAF MA} ^{apparent S/Ldr}
Hunt, Brown, NZ specs
Francis Rv

To camp then with Billbut - SE Claye)

40
C 2 who later - 6 more on then - Front de Fretural - N Bruey
(Cleyton, Bonn, Giff, Boff) only for Amador.

D, B + 1/2

hit by flake - A FW jump. near Abbeville - out gasoline
wings like sieve. Out c 1500'.

W hen ^{escape} hit Russian PW pick up - some other man took ch +
is buried. Took to farmhouse - hid in chicken coop.

G - come & look

Farmer say he can do who speak English.

C 2 hrs farmer took to car - 2 men - one heavy set shirt, young.

To St Just en Chausee - met a resistance chief - look like criminal,
thin lips, long nose.

Took casualty data & maps - wanted day tags - gave only 1
for some yesterday with Wolf.

That night we drove to house where I met - not to Clermont - both / us -
with Dr Edward. 16 Rue Damiens - c 15 days there.

short, c 45, nice looking, speak little G.

To countable or justice of peace in Clermont taken by little girl.

The Hunt, Golder, Werseloh, & others

To Verneuil St + Firmin in truck - Werseloh & I entered
house - ^{M. Marie} Guyger - secretary to maire.

Walk to Henri Lestienne - gun keeper. c 6 weeks
long - got 9/P with good names of Chantilly.

Took casualty data.

1st chief picked up when we to go

Goodman took by car to Verneuil in Thelle - with Rene d'Almeida
Machinist.

At Chantilly pick up Bone, Gervais, Hurlman, Solomon,
& others.

Stay 3 weeks with d'Almeida, Solomon & Werseloh, & Hurlman.
Werseloh & Solomon move out.

A man Dr with whom Hunt & Golder stay, come - we many &
want leave. Gervais of Clermont - short, heavy set man (Hunt & Golder stay
with him).

2
Cms 63 at an camp in leading Jean & Louis.

Je and
excellent
not

Criticaas Lucien's camp for not staying equally - also Pete - F/44
Belgium
Kitchen gets things.

On V2 eat 14 eggs.

Preservation message point question - late July - Is come into woods -
shot

M Rideau got is food - can very dry
also M Rene - lives at Boulogne near church.

A boat 10 Aug Jean Croquet - Spirit his pilot - say - then any liberated

Sy Lucien got in touch with Louis at Leman

Jean annoyed because Louis not here

Trucks to us that day. Trucks say - gave to M Rideau.

Je
left to
in Mgr
Nave
C
Want to road - wait all day. That not slept in bus at Rideau's -
and Boulogne to sleep.

Lucien was that not say to wait to Leman - Jean annoyed because
gas with not here.

We not wait - says nothing - Wait all day. Next day c/200

one days back for Louis - as go some TD bus.

Can work with Gyt Wheeler or Wheeler 818 TD bus.

Food all y that week - 1800 -

Jean had annoyed with Miss to wait to - as hit infection
only 5-6 other camp.

Trucks to San Gilet - stay for it - then next come to Leman.

Pass Nave & Thantou.

Part Laval hit rock in ^{the} ditch - two over.

C 10¹² in truck that two over.

To need help. Next time over in (47) - landed Tanton - plenty
to help.

Sister Pauline - French / boy, Shaftesbury Ave
^{Made}
Mme Dehaut (?) is all right.

Di Betta

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "D" 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.,.....)

near (at Rothschild Chateau)

↓
I used
Telephone station for S/C warning system - in woods near where
at you.

M. Maine
(Underground fighting dug - in woods between Chantilly, Senlis,
La Chapelle)