

SECRET

EYE #1399

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
and QUESTIONNAIRE FOR I.S.9(WEA) PERSONNEL

September 3, 1944
(Date)

WELLS, Richard A. Sgt. 37296069
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Frankfort - NINE
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: Feb. 11, 1944

384th Bomb Group, 546th B. Sqd.
(Unit)

Returned to UK: Sept. 3, 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (List names by positions and indicate what happened to each one)

PILOT Clifford O. Moore Lt. - EVADER
CO-PILOT NAME UNKNOWN Lt. - EVADER
NAVIGATOR NAME UNKNOWN Lt. EVADER
BOMBARDIER PAUL E. KENNEY Lt. EVADER
RADIO OPERATOR NOAH L. PUCKETT Sgt. PRISONER
TOP TURRET GUNNER JAMES P. TRAYNOR Sgt. EVADER
BALL TURRET GUNNER JACK M. BROWN Sgt. PRISONER
WAIST GUNNER (L.) RICHARD L. WELLS Sgt. - Yours Truly -
WAIST GUNNER (R) DONALD R. LEE Sgt. Killed -
TAIL GUNNER Joe T. Humble Sgt. With me

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

Feb. 11, 1944 (NOON) NEAR SOLESMES - FRANCE
Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

2 engines on fire - wings curled up - bomb on fire - shot to hell - exploded after banking
At approximately what altitude did source bail out? We crashed

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

Yes, the right waist gunner

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

none

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

No, approximately one minute after

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

yes, all were alive but one

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.

We know all but one were alive but two were badly wounded

(over)

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?

We heard from the free french that our Pilot, Navigator and engineer had been in the same ~~down~~ one week before us.

Were you wounded?

Yes, nine small wounds

Were you in German hands?

No.

Did you kill any Germans in escaping?

No.

Have you previously given the names of your helpers?

Yes.

List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

What security briefing were you given?

I am instructed as to what I may say about my experience

What souvenirs do you still possess?

I also have pen and paper security ~~clips~~

None -

Home address.

Doland, South Dakota.

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

S. Sgt. Noah L. Puckett -
Sgt. Jack M. Brown

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

CONFIDENTIAL.

C + C
1399

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. *37296069* Rank *Sgt.*

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) *WELLS. R. L.*

Unit *384th Grp 546 Sq. USAF*

has been fully/~~briefly~~/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on *Sept 15th* 19*44*

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

Charly. Brown
Major. *F/OT*

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.

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

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

For All Personnel.

- 1. No. 37296069 Rank Sgt. Name WELLS Richard L.
(U.K.: Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) Air Medal - Nine Missions.
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details. Yes. A direct hit with a 20 m.m. cannon.
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 384 Bomb Gp. 546 Bomb Sqn.
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 384 Gp. 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.)
- 7. Date of Birth 4 Nov 21 8. Length of Service 2 yrs.
- 9. Peace time occupation Salesman. 10. Private address Doland, S. Dakota.
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Yes, a photo
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? Yes. French.

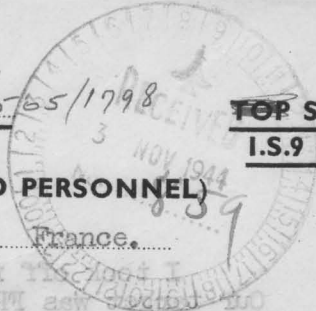
FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

- 13. No. and location of O.T.U.
- 14. No. and location of Conversion Unit

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

- 15. Post in Crew Radio Operator - Gunner.
- 16. 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 Lt. Clifford O. Moore
- CO-PILOT Alive - name unknown.
- NAVIGATOR Alive - name unknown.
- BOMBARDIER Lt. Paul E. Kenney.
- RADIO OPERATOR S/Sgt. Noah L. Puckett - alive - prisoner
- TOP TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt. James P. Traynor.
- BALL TURRET GUNNER Sgt. Jack M. Brown - alive - prisoner.
- WAIST GUNNER (R.) Sgt. Donald R. Lee - dead.
- WAIST GUNNER (L.) Sgt. Richard L. Wells.
- TAIL GUNNER Sgt. Joe T. Humble.
- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure Fortress - Grafton Underwood - 1000 hrs.
- 18. Where and when did you come down? Near Solesmes (Northern France) 11 Feb 44.
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? They were burned with the plane.
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes.



Appendix
"B"
"C"
"D"

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

EVASDED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

I took off from GRAFTON UNDERWOOD on 11 Feb 44 at 2200 hrs. Our target was FRANKFURT on MAINE. Shortly after bombing we encountered oxygen trouble and had to descend to between 10 - 12,000 ft. which left us all by ourselves. It was around 10 minutes after we left FRANKFURT that we were attacked by 3 E.a/c, 2 F.W. 190s and 1 M.E. 109. I shot down the M.E. 109, but the two F.W.s managed to pump us full of shots, the wings crumpled and the a/c was one mass of flame. We crash landed in a field somewhere the town of SOLESIMES (S. 5 N 9080). Sgt. HUMBLE and myself made off for QUILEVY (sheet 5 N 9080). A labourer in the field told me we were in France. We made off to CAUDRY (S. 5 N. 9070). It was at CAUDRY we were looked after and our journey arranged.

- 1. No. of decorations (U.S. Army or Gp. (Air Force) or Gp. (Army) or Gp. (Navy))
- 2. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) or Gp. (Navy)
- 3. Were you wounded?
- 4. Ship (Navy) or Unit (Army or Air Force)
- 5. Date of Birth
- 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rtn., etc.)
- 7. Length of Service
- 8. Private address
- 9. Peace time occupation

- 10. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Yes, a photo
- 11. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? Yes, French

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

- 12. No. and location of O.T.U.
- 13. No. and location of Conversion Unit

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

- 14. Post in Crew
- 15. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.
- 16. 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.
- 17. PILOT Lt. Clifford G. Moore
- CO-PILOT Alive - name unknown.
- NAVIGATOR Alive - name unknown.
- BOMBARDIER Lt. Paul E. Kenney.
- RADIO OPERATOR Sgt. Wosh I. Pickett - alive - prisoner
- TOP TURRET GUNNER Sgt. James P. Traynor.
- BALL TURRET GUNNER Sgt. Jack M. Brown - alive - prisoner.
- WAIST GUNNER (R) Sgt. Donald R. Lee - dead.
- WAIST GUNNER (L) Sgt. Richard L. Wells.
- TAIL GUNNER Sgt. Joe T. Humble.
- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure Fortress - Grafton Underwood - 1000 hrs.

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

18. Where and when did you come down? Near Solesmes (Northern France) - 11 Feb 44.

Date

19. How did you dispose of parachute, harness and misc. gear? They were burned with the plane.

- Attached: Appendix "B"
- " "C"
- " "D"

20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes.

Disposal:

Major

APPENDIX "B" TO E. & E. REPORT No. 1.59 (WEA) 16/50.5/1798

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

No. 37296069 Rank Sgt. Name WELLS Richard L.

Date of interview 1 Sep 44.

N.B.—It is of the utmost importance that when giving information on the above subjects you state clearly:—

- (1) Date, time and place where you obtained the information.
- (2) Was it the result of personal observation or a report by someone else?
- (3) If not from personal observation who was the source (i.e., waiter, farm labourer, hearsay, cafe rumour, etc.), and how accurate do you estimate the source to be?

Evaluation of informant's credibility.

Key.

- 1.—Reliable.
- 2.—Credible.
- 3.—Questionable.
- 4.—Undetermined.

Whilst in JUEMONT from 2 Apr to 1 Aug we saw a large number of A.A. guns being taken by rail from Northern France and Belgium. The track I saw being used was the one around MAUBEUGE, leading into Germany.

Personal observation.

Between MAUBEUGE and JUEMONT I noticed around 200 flying bombs being taken Westwards. The track had been bombed but was then put back into repair. The French said they were being sent from Germany.

Personal observation.
Hearsay.

It was rumoured that the Germans were building bomb sites near VILLERS sur NICOLE. Many high ranking officers were surveying sites around this area. The officers I saw myself, the reason for their being there is questionable.

The use of Red X flags on trucks and gun carriers was evident on all roads.

With the exception of items.....above, information herein has been given verbally by E. & E. to.....

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. 1.5.9 (WEA) 16/505/2298

If further circulation of this information is made, it is important that its source should not be divulged.

No. 37296069 Rank Sgt. Name WELLS R.L.

Date of Interview 1 Sep 44.

15 Feb

Madame QUINNINE, CAUDRY (She was taken prisoner by the German Gestapo the night we were supposed to leave for Spain). We then left and went to a small village named CATTENIERS where we stayed with M. and Mme. SAVARY.

10 Mar

We left by truck and went to DOUAI where we stayed with M. and Mme LANSE.

2 Apr

We went by train to JUEMONT where we were helped by Capt. WOUSSEN, a French custom officer, who took us to a farm near VILLERS-sur-NICOLE where we stayed on a farm. We stayed here until it was possible to come to PARIS. On the farm we were helped by BAILLEULS and M. LA METTE.

1 Aug.

We left with a truck and came to PARIS where we were housed and helped by Mme. de BIEVILLE until it was possible to get with the Americans. She took us to Paris. Her husband is in a French tank Div. attached to the U.S.A.A.

APPENDIX "D" TO E. & E. REPORT No. 159 (WEA) 6/505/1098

No. 37296069 Rank Sgt. Name WELLS Richard L.

Unit 384 Bomb Group, 546 Bomb Sqn.

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 or escape capture.

1. AIDS BOXES.

- (a) Did you use your aids box ? Yes
- (b) If not, why not ? -
- (c) If you used it, state briefly when and where We lived for four days on the emergency rations, also the bandages for my wounds.
- (d) What did you use ? All.
- (e) Did any of the items prove unsatisfactory ? No.
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box ? Threw it in a hole.
- (g) 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 it cannot be larger ?
No.

2. PURSE.

- (a) Did you carry a purse ? Yes If not, why not ?
State colour of purse Brown
- (b) Did you use it ? Yes
- (c) If so which of the items in it were used ? Maps ? Yes
Compass ? Yes File ? No
Foreign currency Yes State countries and amounts used ? All. France
What was it spent for ? It was necessary for food.
- (d) How did you dispose of : Maps Burned File Burned
Compass Burned Surplus currency -

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

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS.

Did you carry any passport size photographs ? If so, how many ? Four
Did you use them ? Yes

5. LECTURES.

- (a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape ? State where, when, and by whom if possible ? Yes, at our home base in England.
- (b) Did you find the lectures of value Yes
- (c) Do you have any suggestions based on your experience which will help other evaders and escapers ?
Trust no-one until you have proof that they can help you.

EE# 1399
CONFIDENTIAL.

February 11, 1944
8th Air Force

CERTIFIED THAT:

No. 37296069 Rank Sgt

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) WELLS, R. L.

Unit 384th Group - 546 Sq. USAF.

has been fully/~~briefly~~/interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S.9(WEA) on Sept 15th 1944

and has signed a Security Certificate.

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

C. Morley Brown
Major. *MB*

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.

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 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.

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) Richard L. WELLS

Signed Richard L. Wells

Rank SGT. A. S. N. 37296069

Dated Sept. 3, 1944

Unit 384th B.Gr., 546 B.Sgd.

Witness [Signature]

AG P BR HQ SOS

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