Safeguarding of P/W Information.

TO: Personnel concerned.

1. It is the duty of all Americans to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.

2. It is an offense, carrying heavy penalties, to publish or to communicate to any unauthorized person any information which might be useful to the enemy.

3. 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.

4. a. You must therefore not disclose, except to the first Military Attaché to whom you report, or to an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations:
   (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. 4a.

e. No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General ANDREWS:

Ralph Pulipher
Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

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 American Military Attaché to whom I first report, or an officer designated by the Commanding General of the Theater of Operations. I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action.

Name (Print) John Smith
Rank 1st Lt.
ASN 23048107
Unit 544th Sq
Signed John Smith
Date 8/1943
Witness Joe Baker
HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
FW and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank and Serial No. Des Roches, John M., 32484032, T/S

2. Decorations. [Handwritten: 'HIA - Medal']

3. Unit or Squadron. 541st Bomb Sq. - 384th Bomb Gp.

4. Division (Army) or Group. 541st Bomb Sq.

5. Date of Birth. Feb. 26, 1921

6. Length of Service. 1 yr. 6 mos.

7. Private Address. 1330 Washington Ave, Huntington, Penna.

8. If in A.F., on what operation were you engaged? State place, date, and time of departure. Where and when did you come down? Were aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed?


9. What was your position in aircraft? Radio operator?

10. Were you wounded? No

11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? No

12. Do you speak French? Spanish? No

13. Did you have Identity Papers? Yes

14. Have you been questioned before to-day on your escape or evasion? If so, where and by whom? Have you given anyone a written report on your experiences. Where and when?

   [Handwritten: N.O.]

15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? No

16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when?

   [Handwritten: Yes - L/M.]

17. Date of arrival in Spain.

18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar.

19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. Nov 7, 1943

20. Place and date of arrival in U.K. Nov 8, 1943 - Unknown.
HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

F & E REPORT NO. 192-193
EVASION IN FRANCE

Des Rochers, John M. - Tsgt. 33248462
(Date)

541st
(Squadron)

384th
(Group)

AGE: 22
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 16 yrs.
HOME ADDRESS: 1330, Washington St., Huntington, Penn.

MIA:
Arrived in Spain:

Arrived in Gibraltar:

Arrived in UK:

Nov. 8, 1943

Members of Crew: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT 1st Lt. Clayton Wilson — Very Good - Arm Wound - Arm to Duty

CO-PILOT 2nd Lt. Dewey Brown — Very Good - Arm to Duty

NAVIGATOR 2nd Lt. Fred Blech — Very Good - Arm to Duty

BOMBARDIER 2nd Lt. Herman Stevens — Very Good - Arm to Duty

RADIO OPERATOR Tsgt. John M. Des Rochers — Very Good - Arm to Duty

TOP TURRET GUNNER Tsgt. Vern P. Long — Very Good - Arm to Duty

BALL TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt. George Kendall — Very Good - Arm to Duty

WAIST GUNNER S/Sgt. Ellis H. Klein — Very Good - Arm to Duty

WAIST GUNNER S/Sgt. Eugene Pevick — Very Good - Arm to Duty

TAIL GUNNER S/Sgt. Jack F. Hook — Very Good - Arm to Duty

6 are P/W 2 are free —
but all names undeclared

Were you wounded? No
We left Grafton Underwood at 12:00 on Monday.

I bomb Schweinfurt. This was our 18th mission. There was enemy opposition as soon as we hit the coast. Then fighter followed us 3/4 way to target. We had air support for 10 minutes after hitting the coast. We were dropped. Group of 4 + two squadrons of 4 planes, not flying with our own wing. Five ships were knocked out, but we were left alone. We were hit by flak as we rose to join the group. One squadron, leader was knocked out. We continued straight at 300 feet. The bomb bay was filled. Two openers off the bomb. Continued on to target. Another five minutes. Ganged was done when target was reached. After bombs away, dropped rapidly to 1000 ft. Straight down from 20,000 ft. Bomb arrival was 3588. Attached us. We continued to drop down to 500 ft. They chased...
They were shot down by tail gunner and only badly damaged to have up to chase. We had been badly shot up in were 1 type 4 planes came up and the gunners had passed us going in the opposite direction just kept flying. The original plan was to crash in the channel and we knew all the loose equipment. Papers of instruments were destroyed. We were on three engines as one prop had been shattered over the target. Discovered we hadn't enough gas to make the channel. Started looking for a good spot to crash landing. All the pilot and engineer got in the radio room and the landed in a potato field. Successful landing more injured was standing in the field with his back up to us.
Many turned around. We could see a camp on a nearby hill. We split into two parties of two each. We walked about a 1/4 of a mile away.

Brock at night right there. We met as soon as we landed—got settled. We left plane. On the R/W B & T/B—All of us had just taken off. We re-ran toward a strip of woods. Ran in opposite direction. Nighthawk had said that we were 50 miles N. of Paris. Ran 14 miles to wood. There was both of us, healed and exhaustion. Underbrush. Used back in common flying clothes—wood was west. Cool strip to the south in eastly direction. Wood 1/4 mile came to heavy underbrush. I stopped because open fields—intense German camp from far—1/2 hr to get underbrush. Within an hour signs of search across a valley in another section of wood. Never saw them. Had this for an hour until 5:30 p.m. We were moved 6:20. Stood in underbrush until 10:30. Opened escape but I looked at maps. Compass all nothing that night. We wanted to go south. While it was still light we studied situation. From a hill we could see across valley toward another wood a mile away. Planned to go there—sleep at 16:30. Stood across fields. Crawled across strip—moon coming up. We would be the most of us here. Everything we could wear. German—We kept seeing planes coming very thin. Threw duffel into air. Moon right was a car with lights, at voices. Fifteen minutes look to get under cover.
Old to woods of very heavy underbrush--found our way to best place to sleep--fern patch--needed a fine fern patch--find in fern near & clearing I chipped post to--went down to western edge of woods & hid game--talking in fields--layin' wait for one of them--waited until noon--hid few people & sent you this post & gave him a bow & whistle & kept going & then they'd see Cain card came back with kid & old man & whistle at old man ask they came close to woods--we called out 'American'--'American?' He looked around--heard a man come, ope, place in the area--old man & card went away after giving us food--that from his gestures that he would return--we motioned to show hunger & thirst--stay in same spot all day & calm in afternoon went to edge of wood because I had thought he coming back--filled our flasks--name of branch came back (called our name--) price books & he wished they were near--but it was other people of same man instead us back in wood--we stayed till 8:30 pm in some 3/4 mile away & we started toward it--this along edge of wood--gazed old way & benches--got to the fence & Jack could not face women heard me coming--I was calling woman heard me coming--the woman stood out--man & dog was barking--the woman stuck out the back door & I called, can you help me? & got from her place card, we go win--tried to please from place card--we go win--tried to explain there were hungry--but us in hutch.
Her own paper & phrases came in handy. She gave us 40 pints of water & asked for clothes & asked where it is were. They said: No E/O. We got old maps & they pointed out we were 50 km north of Reims. We asked if we could sleep in barn no. They told us to have had house right before we were killed. Given clothes & food - overalls & jacket - on the back - they said go so west - started walking in field - staying in shadows - got to edge of woods at 11 p.m. - started walking at night because might run into people - slept til 5 a.m. - fled nacreulling Must - changed all our clothes on over our flying suits - heavy ground for next 4 a.m. - went out thru fields - went 5 kms in valley & find farmhouse on other side - we had gone down a side road & had someone coming but fell in bushes - man passed - we apprehended - asked them with our papers - he gave us extra - south - he went off & so we did - all told at farm man saw us & we got in house - man came up looking for us - we whistled - held us by their arm - went a cross field & suddenly he came up to us asked his papers - asked for lemonade - then he pulled a directed she was to walk to the left in a moment & as we got to top of hill we heard a strong whistle - saw man
making frantic motions for us to get down - we did in
brushes & he smashed up to us & said "Non Non" &
put to live from 10 am/6pm. - Then 3 min later
another wagon arrived - theory fairly - he told us to the
man & another wood & brick & at noon they will
bring food - We stayed & he came at noon with food.
Another wagon with him - came from 6pm - we can
come trying to dry our clothes - at 6pm back with
food - asked for shoe dye - he said 6 were.
P/W - said back at 4/5 to pick up & to start at
10:30pm - drugged old man with him - Old man led us
village & we were away were his two arey stopped
followed man & RR tracks & put to REIMS - I motioned
to get going - gave us an address & paper with five names -
we went to point of name as man who said us. We walked
5 hours down tracks - took fatigue tablets - got to me place -
when addition house - asked to go further - & to cross
fields & dog running & down airport & light out 6 we walked
& slept along fence - next am got into beds which was
my tracks - looking for water - found feed trough with
pump - filled water bottles - got off flying clothes - with
fatigue suit & buried them - water after water leads
to tracks & saw farmer in flat wearing horse & we were
eating apples from someone if man disappeared.
Back on tracks & saw village ahead - tried to

around it to ended in middle of village
Walked thru village boldly. Pressed girl who said man + we guided - outside town found steam + walked. Old water bottle. Walked home to St. Germanen - Before getting there met a man sitting along track - got out map + to paper - told we were 30 km from Reims - yellow tracks to other end of town + woods by funny & we contacted a man by low whistle on wood - told him Ann's hungry - he said back in min. went to house - girl's boy back with 2 doughnuts & cheese - little boy & boy said back at 7 pm. To take a nap, then slept 6 days - he did lend with in his house across from factory - 3 1/2 km further came in - we showed - then footed - came around 20 after in few mins. Mr. Bordeneur came to see us & said we need to his home at 7 p.m. - did three words to factory & contain whistle. Let us safe a pass bridge then into house - heard someone say "Cannot see..." good English - 70 of the way from Reims. - heard idea dog. For identify - he in Mr. Bordeneur will go to Reim to find help. He would fix us I.E. - pane Auron for chine - to cold...
We went to bed in house — in noon next day.

Fellows who were to see about I.C. came to say he had to go to PARIS — wait fu cards — 2d Nile awakened at 2ndril he taken to another house — here till 23rd card for man wife — M. Bordeau took us to REIMS on 23rd by car — then to a pub for day + 2 meal. Who spoke perfect English came 6 she told us what to do & said something in French. FISMEs told us how to behave — told us not to look out of windows — remain quiet. Man took us in car to FISMEs — takes us to Hotel Moderne — 6:30 min move us in country of pick up man who excel chemical hearing American — Back to Moderne Hotel — Big man 6’6” fell all comin in door to说: — Eng. style — wild come — She took (Simone later) told us — man took us.

Maurice, town mile copy, led us to house when Simone lived — told would stay till papers fixed — next A.M. cop takes picture — Simone works at bank + Lucienne past, dressmaker x 2° times to stay there.

Two days later return with our papers — the papers said we were Spaniards doing good jobs — never had to show it — they said we’d be leaving there (26) but didn’t — Sunday 24th went to St. Remi can’t see cop — met Name Perril — Paris lawyer — she said why we travelling with husband — we were not to recognize him.
In train — In Paris if the road fellows took
She took us to a room by Luxembourg Gardens, I had there
We called Miss McIntosh - She came (Suzie) spoke English
They dressed what do with us — She took us to her 17-18
17 Avenue Felix Faure — She told us of Miss Watson, head
I did lunch there — Came to see us — For two
Two weeks lived with Miss McIntosh, well for talent
Form — Contact man who was to fall in touch with him
Want. Gave her half a card — She had other half
Man came — She didn’t have the other card — She
Didn’t tell him we were there — This one Gentile
Came here — We moved to Gentile’s home until
Our case restarted and stayed with her in Trocadero
For 3 days — Agreed didn’t return for us —
Back to McIntosh’s house — Mrs. Perrill had
That we on way to Spain — McIntosh called Perrill —
And the 2 were not very friendly — Mc took
Irish army help — She went to friend Roger D. to
Beau — He said someone went once to
See us one (26 Sept. In meantime Marten came to see
us because Perrill told him — He said wouldn’t
leave by airplane — papers renewed —
Woman from France came to see us & said we got up on Tues. am that the business is not true -

Matte told me that everything must be in his head of the brothers - They (the Foreigners) didn't show -

Friday we went home to Martin's house with the home - with Paris - Martin there with Syd & Ralph -

He said there a week before leaving & on the 20th went to Biarritz.

The Fins were with us & a woman met us in car & drove us to her farm - (RR station - Marquet - Quievy to go to Biarritz) - that note message failed -

in case of came - didn't want to furnish 3 & back in village. I came home for 2 days - went to Paris to mom Barlow in 1813 -

Three Englishmen + Ann - (H. Carroll, 94 yr) -

in a car - next day we went to Fismes -

with Martin (head of Police) - stayed at Simon's -

stood week - found cop caught for forged papers -

Coun. J. B. under moved us 21st to home til 3rd - family named Gougeon - On 2nd we left for Paris with M. Gallet - head F7 as stayed two yrs.
MOST SECRET

APPENDIX "E"
M.I.9.(s)/S.P.G.  

The following information has been obtained from our interview with

(  ) who escaped after capture by the enemy or evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy-occupied territory.

Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so it is important not to divulge any particulars of source.

Statement of information covering period from to

1944

25th

23rd

26th

Obs. Huge Factory in Germannont, France

Obs. Airfield - N.E. Reims - Very few Aircraft - Huge hangars

Obs. German soldier morale - Fair

Forced to sing & smile - seem to be well equipped -

Obs. French morale - very high - Anxious for invasion - definitely dislike Germans -

Obs. Paris Raid - Sept. 14th - 7.45 pm


Between St. Germainmont & Reims there is only one German in the area (obs here)

Reims crowded with Germans 23 Sept 44

42

Lieut. Colonel, G.S.

Conferees crowded with German officials & appear to be a D.T. transfer point. Take any train from Paris down here takes best train from Amiens to
Large troops train observed 4 hours at Compiegne headed west.
French blew troops train up on this route in 1st week of Nov., possibly 2nd Mon. (thereon)

Hereon Sept 14 raced wiped out 3 hangars and cratered field. Obs Factory (Renault) burning all night.

German troops marching in Paris are forced to sing marching songs, shoving songs. (Obs hereon)

Sept 17 43
SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name: Des Rochers, John M. - 332484627
Unit: 544th QM - 384th Bomb Gp.

Please answer carefully the questions below. Suggestions for improvement of escape equipment and training must 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, had you one on you? -
(c) If not, why had you no aids box? -
(d) If you used it, which of the following items did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances, e.g., "Lying up for 2 nights," etc.

Horlicks tablets. Yes
Chocolate. Yes
Milk (tube). Very Little
Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). Yes
Halazone tablets (water purifier). Yes
Matches. Yes
Adhesive tape. No
Chewing gum. Yes
Water bottle. Yes
Compass. Yes

(e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect?

(f) How did you finally dispose of the box? Burnt

(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 the size of it cannot be larger?

2. PURSE

(a) Did you carry a purse? Yes
   If so, state COLOR. Brown
   In NOT, State why not.
(b) Did you use the purse? Yes
(c) If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use? Put a dash (-) against each item used and state briefly the circumstances.

   Maps. Which ones? France
   Compass. Yes

PAPER - WITH FRENCH PHRASES - PUT OUT BY GROUP. Was a very useful.
File (hacksaw). Yes - as a knife.
Foreign currency, State countries and amounts. French - souvenir.
How did you spend the money for travel?

(a) How did you dispose of:-
Souvenirs.
Compass. - souvenirs.
File (hacksaw). - burned.
Surplus currency. - given to helpers.

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS+)
(Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following?
If you used any of them, state briefly when and where.
Round compass.
Stud compass.
Swinger compass.
Fly-button compass.
Pencil clip compass.
Tunic button compass.
Pipe compass.
Pouch.
Special flying boots (and knife).

(b) Were they satisfactory?

(c) Can you suggest any improvements, additions, or substitutions, which would improve the above equipment?

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

(a) Did you carry passport-size photographs? Yes - but not large enough.

(b) Did you use them? No.
State how.

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? Yes.
State when, where and by whom.

(b) Did you find the lectures of value? Yes - what to do on landing.
Observed results of Bombing:

NOT OBSERVED

Enemy Fighter Tactics:
Markings: ATTACKED ALL POINTS

Our Tactics:
NORMAL EVASIVE ACTION

Our Fighter Support:
10 min. support over enemy territory

Flak
Heavy

Technical Failures
Motors:

Armor:

Armament: Short rounds

Miscellaneous: Oxygen knocked out by Flak

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:
BLACK OUT - NO
Bail out bottles - NO