

AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

9 April 1943.

SUBJECT: 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 Attache 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 Pulsifer*  
B. T. S.

RALPH PULSIFER,  
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 Attache 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) Des Rochers, John M. Signed John M. Des Rochers  
 Rank T/SGT ASN 33248107 Date Apr 8, 1943  
 Unit 544th Sq - 384th Bombrly Witness Dolley P. Smith at Puloc

(2)

SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH  
MIS (X)

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
PW and X Detachment  
Military Intelligence Service

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL  
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank and Serial No. *Des Rochers, John M. - 33249462 - T/507*
2. Decorations. *AIR-MEDAL*
3. Unit or Squadron. *544th Bomb Sq. - 384th Bomb Grp.*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *544th Bomb Sq.*
5. Date of Birth. *Feb. 25, 1921*
6. Length of Service. *1 yr. 6 mo.*
7. Private Address. *1330 - Washington St. - Huntingdon, 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? *Griffin Underwood*  
Were Aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed? *Schweinfurt - AUG 17, 1943 - (12-noon) CAME DOWN NEAR ARDENNES FRANCE - 6:15 - INSTRUCTED TO LEAVE PLANE FOR WOODS - PLANE BELIEVED DESTROYED BY OFFICERS. CRASH LANDING*
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? *NO*
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? *YES - LAC*
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*

*30KM  
NE of  
GERMANY  
MONT*

approval <sup>(3)</sup>  
copy made

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

use attached  
crew list

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

Nov. 8, 1943  
(Date)

Des Rochers John M. - T/Sgt. 33248462  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

544th 384th  
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 22  
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 1/2 yrs  
HOME ADDRESS: 1330 - WASHINGTON ST.  
HUNTINGDON, PENNSA.

MIA: Aug - 17, 1943  
Arrived in Spain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrived in Gibraltar: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrived in UK: NOV. 8, 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT 1ST LT. CLAYTON Wilson	Very Good	ARM - wound
CO-PILOT 2ND LT. Dewey BROWN	Very Good	RET TO DUTY 165
NAVIGATOR 2ND LT. FRED BLEOCH	Very Good	
BOMBARDIER 2ND LT. HERMAN STEVENS	Very Good	
RADIO OPERATOR T/Sgt. John M. Des Rochers	Very Good	NARRATOR
TOP TURRET GUNNER T/Sgt. VERN P. LONG	Very Good	RET TO DUTY 165
BALL TURRET GUNNER S/Sgt. GEORGE KENDALL	Very Good	
LEFT WAIST GUNNER S/Sgt. ELLIS H. KLEIN	Very Good	NARRATOR
RIGHT WAIST GUNNER S/Sgt. EUGENE PERWICK	Very Good	
TAIL GUNNER S/Sgt. JACK F. HOOK	Very Good	

6 are P/W & are free  
but all names unknown

Were you wounded?  
NO

Ms Rochers  
Kleen

Kleen

We left Grafton Underwood at 12:00 on 17<sup>th</sup> August  
of bomb Schweinfurt, This was our 13<sup>th</sup>  
mission. There was enemy opposition  
as soon as we hit the coast. Their fighters  
followed us 3/4 way into target. We had  
flak support for 10 miles after hitting the coast. We were  
~~low~~ low group of wing & low squadron of  
group & not flying with our own wing.  
Five ships were knocked out behind  
us & we were left alone. We were  
hit by flak as we rose to join the group  
each squadron. Dyer was knocked out  
& ~~flak~~ hit but the bomb bay & took two  
openers off the bombs. Continued on to  
target. Another five minutes Dyer was  
down when target was reached. After  
Bombs away dropped rapidly to  
1000 ft (straight dive from  
20,000 ft). On arrival 4 5088  
attacked us. We continued to drop  
down to house top level. They chased

One was shot down by tail-gunner another  
badly damaged & gave up the chase.  
We had been badly shot up in wings  
& fuselage. We were in Germany  
all this time and could see the Germans  
watching the fight. Just kept following  
the contour of the land. Passed over  
an airfield. They were watching  
for us with all their machine  
guns but no planes came up, and the  
one memo that passed us going in the  
opposite direction just kept going.

The original plan was to crash  
in the channel and we threw  
out all the loose equipment. Papers  
& instruments were destroyed.  
We were on three engines as one  
prop had been feathered over the  
target. Discovered we hadn't  
enough gas to make the channel  
& started looking for a good spot for a  
crash landing. All but the Pilot  
& Engineer got in the radio  
room and we landed in a potato  
field. Successful landing in one  
injured. A farmer was standing  
in the field with his back to us. He

2) Never turned around. We could  
see a camp on a nearby hill. We  
split up into pairs & ran to the woods  
about a 1/4 of a mile away

Bombardment night started to destroy us - Pilot said as soon as we  
land - get out of going - We left plane after  
the RWG & BTG - all of us had put on our G.I. shoes x  
Ran toward a strip of woods - Ran in opp. direction - Night had  
said that we were 50 miles N. of PARIS x - Ran 1/4 mile to wood &  
there took off & heeled out & buried it under brush - Took back  
on summer flying clothes - wood was west - East strip &  
we started in easterly direction - ~~wood~~ 1/4 mile came  
to heavy underbrush - stopped because open fields -  
Had seen German camp from air - 1/2 hr to get to underbrush -  
Within hr heard signs of search across a gully in another  
section of wood - never saw them - had this for an hour  
until 8:30 pm - we were down at 6:20 - Stayed in underbrush  
until 10:30 - opened escape bit & looked at maps & compass  
all night that night - we wanted to go south - While it was  
still light we studied situation - from a hill we could see across  
valley & fields to another wood a mile away - planned to go there  
after dark - at 10:30 started across fields - crawled & gave  
a jump - moon coming up & would be the moon & get one field -  
Everything we saw was a German - we kept seeing flares  
coming up & then ducked into dirt - on our right was a car with  
lights & voices - Fifteen minutes took to get under cover -

Had to woods of very heavy underbrush - forced our way ch  
to ~~the~~ lkd place to sleep - few ft in - brain patch - next m  
found berry patch - found we were near a clearing & changed  
position to - went over to western edge of woods & heard farmers  
talking in fields - lay in wait for one of them -  
waited until noon - had few people to see you his  
jars & gave him a low whistle & kept going to them  
they - later car came back with him & old man x  
whistled at old man and they came close to woods -  
we called out 'American' - 'American?' He looked  
around - a heard a German Obs. plane in the area -  
Old man & car went away after giving us food - that  
from his gestures that he would return - we noticed  
to show hunger & thirst - Stayed in camp all that  
day & later in afternoon went to edge of wood because  
I had ~~then~~ him coming back filled our Fr. Gen-  
phase book & he indicated they were near - But it  
was other people of farmer invited us back in wood -  
stayd til 8:30 p.m. In forest 1/2 mile away & we  
started toward it ~~then~~ along edge of wood - found old man  
tranches - Got to the farmhouse & Jack crawled under fence  
to get to house no lights on & had people talking -  
woman heard me coming - ~~I started~~ I was calling  
name & dog was barking - The woman stld out  
the back door & I called, 'Can you help me?', got  
phrase from phrase card - we got wine - tried to  
explain we were hungry - brot us in kitchen

Then our paper of the phares came in handy - She gave us  
 flour & water - asked for clothes - asked where they were -  
 they said - No E & W - We got oil maps & they  
 pointed out we were 50 kms north of Reims. We asked  
 if we could sleep in barn - no - Wrote to TG had been at this  
 house night before & were fed there - given clothes & food - overalls  
 & jacket - an hat here - they said go so west - started walking  
 in flos - staying in shadows - got to edge of a wood at  
 11 p.m. - afraid of walking at night because might run into  
 people - slept til 5 a.m. - fld nice cooling on us - ~~changed~~  
 pulled every clothes on over our flying suits - heavy  
 ground fog next am - went out thru flds - went  
 5 kms E in valley. Found farmhouse on other side - we  
 had gone down a side road & hid someone coming but got in  
 bushes - man passed - we approached - asked dirtn with our  
 papers - He gave us letters south - he went off as we did -  
 at hill at farmhouse man saw us <sup>subsequently</sup> & we got in bushes - man  
 came up looking for us - we whistled - he told us to follow  
~~him to west across fld & suddenly~~ he came up to us  
 showed his papers - asked for names etc - Then he pulled a  
 direction we were to walk & he left us a moment & as we  
 got to top of hill we heard a heavy whistle & saw man



making frantic motions for us to get down - we lived in  
bushes & he sneaked up to us & said "Bon Bon" &  
put to his gun & said Berwan - then 3 min later  
another man arrived - being quiet - he sat down  
and got out watch - started signaling - He told us to follow  
man to another wood & hide & at noon they would  
bring food - We stayed & he came at noon with food -  
another train with him - saw him at 6pm - we lay  
around trying to dry out clothes - at 6pm back with  
food - asked for shoe dye - he had it - he said 6 were  
P/W - said back at H to pick us up & he started at  
10:30pm - bump old man with him - Old man led us  
to village & we went to say were his two arms of stopped -

Followed man to RR tracks & put to REIMS - & motioned  
to get going - gave us an address & paper with five names -  
we were to point to one name as man who sent us, <sup>in PARIS</sup> We walked  
5 hours down tracks - took fatigue tablets - Got to one place  
where addition house - wanted to go further - started to cross  
field & dogs barking & door opened & light out & we were in  
field & slept along fence - next am. got into beds which was  
my tracks - looking for water - found feed trough with  
pump - filled water bottles - got rid of flying clothes - took off  
fatigue suits & buried them - P/Water - after water had  
to tracks & saw farmer in field withing horses - we were  
eating apples from orchard farmer disappeared -  
Back on tracks saw village ahead tried to  
go around it & ended in middle of village

Walked thru village boldly - passed girl who said  
Man + we jumped - outside town found  
stream & waded - (old water bottle & walked  
2 kms to St Germainmont - <sup>11 kms N.E. of NEUFCHATEL SUR AISNE</sup> Before getting there  
met a man sitting along track - got out maps &  
fr paper - told we were 30 kms from Reims -  
followed tracks to other end of town & woods by  
fence & we contacted a man by low whistle on  
road - told him we were hungry - he said back  
in main - went to house - girl & boy back with  
cider, bread & cheese - little 10 yr old boy said back at  
8pm. to take us to haystack to sleep - he did but took us to his  
house across from factory - 1/2 hr later father came in -  
we shaved - Klein fainted - came around all night in  
few mins - ~~stay~~ M. Bordeaux came to see us & said  
we would go to his home at 10 pm. - did three words  
to factory & sentinel whistled to let us safe to pass bridge  
thru into house - heard someone say "cannot speak  
good English" - 1/2 hr off the stand from Reims -  
showed them dog tags for identity - told us M. Bordeaux  
would go to Reims to find help & he would fix us  
I.C. - gave him our pictures - too small

We went to bed in house <sup>20th</sup> — in room next day  
Fellow who was to see about I.C. came to say he had to go  
to PARIS — wait for cards — 2<sup>d</sup> night awakened at  
midnight & taken to another house — here til  
23<sup>d</sup> came for by man & wife — M. Bordeaux took us  
to REIMS on 23<sup>d</sup> by car — there to a pub for  
day & 2 men <sup>to see</sup> who spoke perfect English came to  
she told us ~~to~~ what to do & said might be taken to  
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 — &  
after 30 min moves us into country & picks up man  
& ~~she~~ he excited when heard American — Book  
to Moderne Hotel — Big man 6'6" feet tall came  
in to see girl - Eng - speaking ~~book~~ - would come - she  
~~took~~ (Simone Ladue) ~~took us to~~ — Man took us  
Maurice, town milk cop, led us to house where Simone  
lived — Told would stay til papers fixed — next  
am - cop takes pictures - Simone works at bank &  
Lucienne, costur, dressmaker x 1<sup>st</sup> arms to stay there —  
Two days later return with our papers — the papers  
said we were Soviets doing odd jobs — never had  
to show it — they said we'd be leaving Thurs (26) but  
didn't — Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> ~~we~~ went to station with cop &  
met Mme Perill — Paris lawyer — she said we'd be  
travelling with husband — we were not to recognize him

9

on train - In PARIS she said follow him ~~to where~~  
He took us to apt in off Luxembourg Gardens, 2 hrs there  
He called Miss Mcintosh - She came (50 yrs old) speaks English -  
they discuss what do with us - She took us to her home -  
17 Avenue Felix Faure - She told us of Miss Watson, head  
of Int. Youth hostel - Came to see us - ~~BB~~ For two  
weeks lived with Miss Mcintosh, whd for talent med  
form - Contact man who was to get in touch with her  
was to give her half a card - she had other half -  
Man came - she didnt have other part of card - she  
didnt tell him we were there - Shisland Gentile  
came to see us & we moved to Gentile's home until  
our case istrated out - Stayd with her in TROCADERO  
for 3 days - Agent didnt return for us -  
Back to Mcintosh's house - Mrs Perrill had  
that us on way to Spain - Mcintosh called Perrill -  
Another 2 was of nothing happened - Mc took  
it on self to get help - she went to friend Roger <sup>UMAGE</sup> Damage -  
leather master - he said someone wd come to  
see us on (26 Sept) In meantime Martin <sup>25 Sep</sup> came to see  
us because Perrill's sent him - He said we wd  
leave by airplane - papers renewed -

Woman from Dumage came to see us & said we'd get us on Tues a.m. - that % business is not true - Martin told M<sup>c</sup> that everything must be in his hands if he took us - Tues (the <sup>good stream</sup> Org) didn't show - Friday with <sup>Mme Bastin</sup> ~~women~~ from Martin came & took us to his home - with PARIS - Martin there with Englishman <sup>(Ralph Johnson, Sgt, RAF)</sup> - He said there a week before leaving & another am coming - On 7 Oct went to Bellancourt - ~~with~~ Sgt Fred Murray was with us - a woman met us in car & drove us to her farm - (RR <sup>station</sup> Marost-Quieray to go to Barancourt) that night message failed - to field in case % came - didn't - went to furniture & back to village to James home for 2 days - went to PARIS to Mrs Bastin on 10<sup>th</sup> - Three Englishmen & am - (Lt Carroll, 94<sup>th</sup>) - 8 of us at apt - next aft. we went to FISMES - with Martin (head of Org) - stayed at Simon's - stayed week - <sup>12-21<sup>st</sup> Oct - Maurice</sup> found cop caught for forged papers - Cousin of Simon's moved us 21<sup>st</sup> to home til 3rd - Family named Boigis - On 3<sup>rd</sup> we left for PARIS with M. Gallet, head of FISMES Org - found two sgts -

Des Rochers

MOST SECRET

APPENDIX "B"  
M.I. 9.(b)/S/P.G. ....

The following information has been obtained from our interview with  
..... ( ..... ) who escaped  
after capture by the enemy/evaded capture by the enemy after being  
in enemy/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 .....

*only 1 German here*  
*he is in charge workers*  
*see French*  
*center of town*  
to .....

19 Aug Obs - *ST.* HUGE FACTORY IN GERMAINMONT, FRANCE

25 Aug Obs - AIRFIELD - N.E. REIMS - VERY FEW *obs planes*  
AIRCRAFT - HUGE HANGARS

23 Aug *tearfully* Obs - GERMAN SOLDIER MORALE - FAIR  
*Nov* FORCED TO SING & SMILE - SEEM  
TO BE WELL EQUIPED -

Obs - FRENCH MORALE - VERY HIGH - ANXIOUS  
FOR INVASION - DEFINITELY DISLIKE  
GERMANS -

Obs - PARIS RAID - SEPT - 14th - 7:45 pm,  
*can* AMERICAN PARACHUTISTS *French camp* SHOT BY  
GERMAN - ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNNERS.  
*on way down*

Between St Germainmont & Rheims  
there is only one German in the area  
*obs & heresey* August 19-23

Rheims crowded with Germans 23 August Obs  
M.I. 9. / / 42. Lieut. - Colonel, G.S.

Compeigne crowded with German - appears  
to be a subtransfer point. Take any train here  
from Paris then here take by train to Amsterdam etc

Large troop train observed 4 hours later  
at Compiègne headed north

French blew troop train up  
on this route in 1st week of November  
probably 2nd Nov (Thursday)

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

German troops marching in  
Paris are forced to sing (marching  
songs, stirring songs) Obs 8 Thursday

Sept Oct 43

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- Des Rochers, John M. - 33248462 - T/4

Unit:- 544th Sq. - 384th Bomb Gr.

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? - NO  
If so, in what respect?

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

- (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. GREEN 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 VERY USEFUL.



File (hacksaw). *YES - AS A KNIFE*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *FRENCH - 200<sup>0</sup> FR*  
How did you spend the money? *FOR TRAVEL*

(d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps. - *SOUVENIERS*  
~~SOUVENIERS~~

Compass. - *SOUVENIERS*

File (hacksaw). - *BURNED*

Surplus currency. - ~~GIVEN TO ORGAN~~ *TRAVEL*

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. ~~NO~~

Stud compass.

Swinger compass.

Fly-button compass.

Pencil clip compass.

Tunic button compass.

Pipe compass.

Pouch - ~~NO~~

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*  
If so, how many?

(b) Did you use them? *NO*  
State how.

5. LECTURES

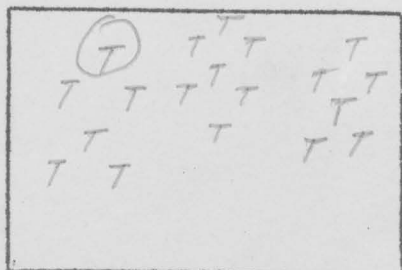
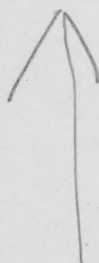
(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *YES*  
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

(b) Did you find the lectures of value? *OFFICERS - 52*

*YES - what to do when on  
Landing - ~~when in~~ hiding out.*

NAME Des Rochers John RANK T/Sgt ASN 33248462 REPORT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SQ 5468 GROUP 384th A/C NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Letter ✓ Load 10/500lb Date Aug 17, 1943



Position in formation.  
Make Diagram

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

Time ?

Place

Quality

COAST on way TO TARGET -

Technical Failures

Motors:

Armor:

Armament:

SHORT rounds. (fally)

Miscellaneous:

OXYGEN KNOCKED OUT BY FLAK

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

BLACK OUT - NO

BAIL OUT BOTTLE - NO