

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

SECRET

By Authority of
A.C. of S. G-2.

Initials.....

Date.....

14 December 1943

E & E REPORT NO. 251
EVASION IN FRANCE

Louie F WEATHERFORD, S/Sgt, 34337979
545 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

AGE: 22 years
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 15 months
HOME ADDRESS: Route #1
SAMSON, Alabama

MIA: 6 September 1943
Arrived in Spain:
15 October 1943
Arrived in Gibraltar:
28 November 1943
Arrived in UK:
3 December 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

PILOT	0-524542	2d Lt	Lester H AUFMUTH	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-680668	2d Lt	James G McMATH	E & E RPT 183
NAVIGATOR	0-678624	2d Lt	Charles C DOWHE	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-671365	2d Lt	James C JENSEN, Jr	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	34337979	S/Sgt	Louie F WEATHERFORD	NARRATOR
TOP TURRET GUNNER	15111188	T/Sgt	Robert K PRICE	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	18160097	S/Sgt	James L WAGNER	E & E RPT 141
WAIST GUNNER	32462898	S/Sgt	Carl D. BACHMAN	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	14052781	S/Sgt	Joseph H SMITH	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	13041301	S/Sgt	Charles A FISHER	E & E RPT 140

We were on our return from the raid on Stuttgart and had

LOW ON GAS

had ~~we were having~~ no trouble ^{with} our aircraft when I heard the engineer call to the pilot. He told him that we were so low on gas that we could not make England. We tried to get to the channel. When it was seen that this too was impossible, the pilot gave the crew the choice of baling out or crash-landing. We all went down with the ship after everyone, except the pilot and co-pilot, had taken crash-landing positions in the radio room. While we were diving, two fighters came in to attack. I heard the pilot say that they were hitting us in the wing. We landed, without injury, in a field where the hay had just been cut. A farmer, standing 300 yards away, ignored our arrival completely.

CRASH-LANDING

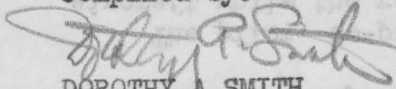
RETURNS TO
FIRE EQUIPMENT

The pilot, co-pilot and Sgt WAGNER stayed behind to destroy the aircraft while the rest of us took to the woods. When I reached the trees I looked back. I could see the three men running towards me from the plane, but the plane was not even smoking. I later learned that this was because the incendiaries would not go off. I ran back to make sure that my equipment in the radio room was destroyed. Piling my papers in the center of the radio room I made a fire with my chute and left. This fire ended by setting the whole aircraft aflame.

JOINS CREW
MEMBERS

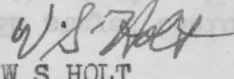
I returned to the woods and pulled off my heated suit. I packed it under some bushes and started to run. After running for an hour and a half, I caught up with Lt AUFMUTH and Lt McMATH. From here on my story is the same as that of Lt McMATH (E & E Rpt No 183).

Compiled by:



DOROTHY A SMITH
1st Lt, WAG

Approved by:



W S HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

APPENDIX "B"

a. Four flak cars were observed on the railway siding in GISORS. There was one gun per car. The gun occupied half the space, and a covered section, probably for ammunition, filled the rest of the space. (Observation 12 September 1943)

b. Most of the flak guns in PARIS appeared to be located on the west side of the city. This is judged from the sound of their fire on 15 September 1943 and two weeks later. (Observation)

c. German AA guns are being manned by women. (Hearsay)

d. Many soldiers of the Luftwaffe and Afrika Korps were observed in PARIS during September 1943.

SAVIGNON IN SERVICE
E & E BELONGING TO...

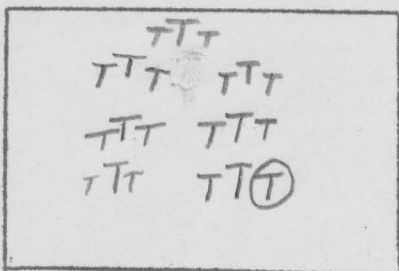
17 December 1943

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE RELATES
BY THE X DEPARTMENT
EUROPEAN THEATRE OF OPERATIONS
RE-DOCUMENTS

NO. 1 STORE - PULLER
NO. 2 STORE - PULLER

NAME LOWIE F. WEATHERFORD RANK S/Sgt ASN 34337479 REPORT NO. _____

SQ 545 GROUP 384 A/C NO. -720 Letter P Load ? Date 6 Sept 43



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing: Unobserved

Enemy Fighter Tactics:
Markings: Unobserved

Our Tactics:

Our Fighter Support: Part way in, and picked up on way out.

Flak

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Quality</u>
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Technical Failures

Motors:

Armor:

Armament:

Miscellaneous: no gasoline

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

None

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- 34337979 - S/Sgt. LOUIE F. WEATHRFORD
Unit:- 545 Spt. 284th GROUP.

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. *No food first day and food scarce latter.*
-Chocolate. *// " " " " " " "*
-Milk (tube). *// " " " " " " "*
Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). *" " " " " "*
Halazone tablets (water purifier).
- Matches. *for cigarettes*
Adhesive tape.
- Chewing gum.
Water bottle.
- Compass. *to make ^{my} way through ^{the} forest before I had help*

- (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 it.**
(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? **no.**

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? **OF FRANCE - To make sure of our movement**
-Compass. *until help could be obtained.*

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

(d) How did you dispose of it?

Maps. Burned them

Compass. LOST

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

2000 French francs
~~FRANCS~~ gave to
GIVE GIVE and helped people

~~etc. put it away~~ 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.

not issued

Round compass. Making way through forest before help was given.

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? No.

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

(a) Did you carry passport-size photographs?
If so, how many?

three

yes. ~~three~~ but not of passport size

(b) Did you use them?
State how.

yes, for identity card, but others were taken in France for passport used. French photos had to be used for passports.

5. LECTURES

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

YES.
at 384 group.

(b) Did you find the lectures of value?

YES.

line of qualification

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 EISENHOWER:

(signed) RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGD, Ass't. Adj. Gen.

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) LOUIE F. WEATHERFORD Signed Louie F. Weatherford
 Rank S/Sgt. A.S.N. 34337979 Date Nov. 28, 1942
 Unit 384 Bomb Group Witness Alan W. Dresh
Col. G.S.C.

2

R E S T R I C T E D

MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN CONSULATE
GIBRALTAR

28 November 1943

E-X-T-R-A-C-T

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : Personnel named below.

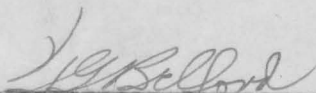
Staff Sgt. LOUIE F. WEATHERFORD, 34337979, 384th En. Grp. having reported at this station on 28 November 1943, you are placed on temporary duty this office. Upon completion of this temporary duty you will proceed by first available transportation to (X X X X X X X) where you will report without delay to the Commanding General, (X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X) U.S. Army. Under authority of WD Cablegram, Number 45, 4 February 1943, in lieu of subsistence, a flat per diem of \$6.00 is authorized while traveling on official business (except by belligerent or government vessel) and while on temporary duty this station, in accordance with existing law and regulations. TDN FSA 1-5600 P 432-02 A 0425-24.

/s/ Horace W. Forster
/t/ HORACE W. FORSTER,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Mil. Lia. Off., Gib.

Distribution.

MIS
Hq, ETOUSA (A.C. of S, G-2)
Personnel concerned
File

A TRUE COPY:


T G BELFORD, 1st Lt, WAC

R E S T R I C T E D

RESTRICTED

MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN CONSULATE
GIBRALTAR

28 November 1943

E-X-T-R-A-C-T

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : Personnel named below.

Staff Sgt. LOUIE F. WEATHERFORD, 34337979, 6384th Bm.Grp.

having reported at this station on 28 November 1943, you are placed on temporary duty this office. Upon completion of this temporary duty you will proceed by first available transportation to (X X X X X X X) where you will report without delay to the Commanding General, (X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X) U.S. Army. Under authority of WD Cablegram, Number 45, 4 February 1943, in lieu of subsistence, a flat per diem of \$6.00 is authorized while traveling on official business (except by belligerent or government vessel) and while on temporary duty this station, in accordance with existing law and regulations. TDN FSA 1-5600 P 432-02 A 0425-24.

Horace W. Forster

HORACE W. FORSTER,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Mil. Lia. Off., Gib.

Distribution.

MIS
Hq ETOUSA (A.C. of S., G-2)
Personnel concerned
File

RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL

CG, USAAF, in UK.

MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN CONSULATE
GIBRALTAR

28 November 1943

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : Personnel named below.

*Weatherford left off,
needs order to get
per diem*

1st Lieut. OLDF N BALLINGER, O-736459, 381st Bm. Grp.
2nd Lieut. JACKSON T. CLARY, O-888969, RCAF 403 Sqdn.
2nd Lieut. SEBRON A. McQUEEN Jr., O-743061, 92nd Bm. Grp.
2nd Lieut. ARTHUR (NMI) STRINMETZ, O-803154, 92nd Bm. Grp.
Tech Sgt. HEDLY E. CASSIDY, 15114879, 92nd Bm. Grp.
Tech Sgt. RODOLPHE H. RICHER, 31128306, 94th Bm. Grp.
Tech Sgt. JOHN M. WAGNER, 33237317, 100th Bm. Grp.
Staff Sgt. JAMES L. BERRY, 32382034, 92nd Bm. Grp.
Staff Sgt. BEVERLY C. GEYER, 31152049, 94th Bm. Grp.
Staff Sgt. JOSEPH E. MANOS, 12145982, 94th Bm. Grp.
Staff Sgt. PETER (NMI) SKNIANSKY, 12060630, 384th Bm. Grp.
Staff Sgt. PAUL F. SHIPE, 33152298, 381st Bm. Grp.
Staff Sgt. WILLIAM S. WOOD, 19065441, 8th AAF Combat Camera Unit.

having reported at this station on 28 November 1943, you are placed on temporary duty this office. Upon completion of this temporary duty you will proceed by first available transportation to LONDON, ENGLAND, where you will report without delay to the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army. Under authority of WD Cablegram, Number 45, 4 February 1943, in lieu of subsistence, a flat per diem of \$6.00 is authorized while traveling on official business (except by belligerent or government vessel) and while on temporary duty this station in accordance with existing law and regulations. TDM FSA 1-5600 P 432-02 A 0425-24.

Horace W. Forster
HORACE W. FORSTER,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Mil. Lia. Off.

Distribution.

MI
Hq ATOUSA
Personnel concerned
File

CONFIDENTIAL

4

PRELIMINARY WARNING AGAINST GIVING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR
ESCAPE, EVASION OF CAPTURE, OR REPATRIATION.

This applies to Members of all Services.

1. It is the duty of all persons to safeguard information which might, either directly or indirectly, be useful to the enemy.
2. The Defence Regulations make it an offence, punishable with imprisonment, to publish or to communicate to any unauthorized person any information or anything which purports to be information on any matter which would or might be directly or indirectly useful to the enemy.
3. This document is brought to your personal notice so that you may clearly understand information about your escape or how you evaded capture is information which would be useful to the enemy, and that therefore to communicate any information about your escape or how you evaded capture is an offence under the Defence Regulations.
4. At the earliest possible moment you will be interrogated by an Officer or Officers specially appointed for this purpose, who will instruct you how to deal with questions by your family, friends, and members of the public, whether in the Services or not.

TO BE COMPLETED IN THE PERSON'S OWN HANDWRITING, AND WITNESSED BY AN OFFICER.

I have read the above paragraphs, and I understand that I must on no account disclose any information about my escape, evasion of capture, or repatriation, to any unauthorized person, and I undertake to maintain a strict secrecy about my experiences.

Signed *Laurie F. Weatherford*... Date *12-3-43*...

Full Name (Block letters)... *L. AURIE F. WEATHERFORD*.....

Rank and Number *S/Sgt. 34237979*.....

Unit... *584th Bomb Group*.....

Witnessed by.....

19 October 1942

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 EISENHOWER:

Ralph Pulsifer
RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGD, Ass't. Adj. Gen.

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) LOWIE F. WEATHERFORD Signed *Lowie F. Weatherford*
Rank S/SGT. A.S.N. 54337979 Date Dec. 16, 1942
Unit 384th. GROUP Witness *Staley P. Smith*

6

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. *LOUIE F. WEATHERFORD - S/Sgt
34839979*
2. Decorations. *NONE*
3. Unit or Squadron. *545th Sqd.*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *385th GROUP*
5. Date of Birth. *FEB 7, 1921*
6. Length of Service. *15 MONTHS*
7. Private Address. *SAMSON, ALABAMA. R.F.D. 1*
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?
*STUTTGARD, GR. Departed from 384 group Sep. 6-43 at 6:00
(NORTH WEST OF PARIS)
Came down at Gisors (FRANCE) 11:30 hours. Aircraft
was 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? *SOME GUIDES AMOUNT? - ORG 700 FRAN*
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? *YES, BY THE BRITISH AT GIBRALTAR.
NOV. 28, 1943*
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. SPAIN, GIB. & ENGLAN*
17. Date of arrival in Spain. *ABOUT OCT. 14 OR 15.*
18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *OCT. 28*
19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *GIB. DEC. 3. BY AIR*
20. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *PLACE ? DEC. 3.*

Sgt Weatherford

~~I was a pilot~~ The first
 that I knew that something was wrong
 in the aircraft was when I heard the
 engineer/pilot talking on the interphone
 The engineer said our gas was so low
 that we couldn't reach the channel. We tried to
 get to the channel but when we saw that
 this too was impossible the pilot
 gave us a choice of bailing out or crash
 landing. We all went down with
 the ship. The whole crew except the
 pilot & co-pilot leaving later crash landed
 posterior into radio room. While
 we were coming down 2 flbs came
 in & I heard the pilot say that they
 were hitting us in the wings but
 I couldn't see it. We all landed
 without injury in a field where the
 ear had just been cut. A farmer
 working 300 yds away ignited the
 whole thing. The last trouble
 destroying the plane as the incendiary
 wouldn't work.

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

to.....

During the time I was in France I saw
very little activity. I saw four flat guns
mounted on railway cars, and some provisions
but I could not tell what for
the Germans had it covered.
MS *one gun per car*
on 1/2 car other 1/2
covered for ammo?

In Paris I saw many soldiers
of different fields. Most of the
flat guns seem to be on the west
side of the city. By hearsay some
of the AA guns are being manned by
women.
applied to
her corps
around
15th Sept
4 weeks later

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

E & E REPORT NO. 251
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

LOWIE F. WEATHERFORD S/Sgt. 34337979
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

546th 384th
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 22
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 15 MONTH
HOME ADDRESS: ROUTE ONE
SAMSON, ALABAMA

MIA: SEP. 6, 1943
Arrived in Spain:
OCT. 14 OR 15 - 1943
Arrived in Gibraltar:
NOV. 28, 1943
Arrived in UK:
DEC. 3, 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Official Narrators
Disposition Disposition

PILOT AFTMOUTH
CO-PILOT MC MATH
NAVIGATOR DAWN
BOMBARDIER JENSEN
RADIO OPERATOR L. F. WEATHERFORD
TOP TURRET GUNNER PRICE
BALL TURRET GUNNER WAGNER
WAIST GUNNER FISHER
WAIST GUNNER ?
TAIL GUNNER ?

*All safe when last
seen in France.*

*see Mc Math
for E & E
crew 183*

crash land

Were you wounded? NO.

~~At~~ We were having
no trouble in our aircraft
when I heard the engineer call
of the pilot. He told him that we
Low on gas were so low on gas that we
could not make England. We
tried to get to the Channel. When
it was seen that this too was
impossible, the pilot gave the
crew the choice of bailing out
or crash-landing. We ~~all~~ all
went down with the ship after
everyone, except the pilot and co-
pilot, had taken crash-landing
position in the radio room. While
we were diving ^{two fighters came in to attack} I heard the pilot
say that they were hitting us in
the wing. We landed without
injury in a field where the
hay had just been cut. A farmer,
standing 300 yards away, signaled
our arrival completely.

Returns
to fire
equipment

The pilot, co-pilot and
Sgt Warner stayed behind to
destroy the aircraft while the
rest of us took to the woods. When
I reached the ~~top~~ trees I looked
back. I could see the three
men running towards me
from the plane, but the
plane was not even smoking.
I later learned that this was
because the incendiaries
would not ~~make~~ ^{make} off. I ran
back to ~~my~~ ^{be} sure that my
equipment in the radio room
was destroyed. Hiding my papers
in the ^{center of the} radio room I made a
fire with my chute and left. This
fire ended by setting the whole
aircraft aflame.

I returned to the woods and
pulled off my heated suit. I
packed it under some bushes and

started to run. After running
for an hour and a half I caught
up with Lt Cufmale and Lt McMath.
Brew member of crew now here on my story is he
same as that of Lt McMath
(E & E Rpt 183)

B Weatherford

Four flak cars were observed on the railway siding in Gisors. There was one gun per car. The gun occupied half the space, and a covered section, probably for ammunition, filled the rest of the space. 12 September 1943

Most of the flak guns in Paris appeared to be located on the west side of the city. This is judged from the sound of their fire on 15 September 1943 and two weeks later.

German A.A. guns are being manned by women. Heresay.

Many soldiers of the Luftwaffe and Afrika Korps were observed in Paris in September 1943