

15

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

E & E REPORT NO. 270
EVASION IN FRANCE

DEC. 18, 1943
(Date)

Willard D McLAIN S/Sgt 17088525
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Target: STUTT GART
Take-off time: c. 1030, 6 Sept 1943
Station: GRAFTON UNDERWOOD

547 384
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 21
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 YEAR 3 MTHS.
HOME ADDRESS: BRISTOW, OKLAHOMA
RT. 3 BOX 201

DR ()
MIA: 6 September 1943
Arrived in Spain: ~~NOV. 17, 1943~~
Arrived in Gibraltar: ~~DEC. 15, 1943~~
Arrived in UK: DEC. 18, 1943

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with FWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-665337	1st Lt	Ralph R PULCIPHER	E & E #168	
CO-PILOT	0-741911	2d Lt	Merle JOHNSON	E & E #220	
NAVIGATOR	0-735983	1st Lt	William EUDEY	MIA	
BOMBARDIER	0-729423	1st Lt	Paul S GIVENS	MIA	
RADIO OPERATOR	6284668	T/Sgt	Asbury L PERKINS	E & E #221	
TOP TURRET GUNNER	13043315	S/Sgt	Thomas E FURREY	MIA	
BALL TURRET GUNNER	17088525	S/Sgt	Willard D McLAIN	NARRATOR	
WAIST GUNNER	14978782	T/Sgt	^{on} Juds L DACUS	MIA	
WAIST GUNNER	15117276	S/Sgt	Joe M HAWKINS, JR	MIA	
TAIL GUNNER	35328989	S/Sgt	Albert F GASE	MIA	

Were you wounded? YES. HIT IN HAND. PIECES OF GLASS AND BULLET IN FACE RECEIVED MEDICAL ATTENTION

TARGET: STUTTGART Take Off: c. 1030, 6 September 1943

Station: GRAFTON UNDERWOOD

SEE E&E
168, 220-221

I was ball turret gunner in the crew of which Lts PULCIPHER and JOHNSON were pilot and co-pilot and Sgt PERKINS the engineer. When the pilot gave the order to bail out, I came out of the ball turret. One waist gunner had been hit in the leg, but he already had ~~medical attention~~ ^{received} been given first aid. We made certain that he could get out all right. The assistant engineer went out the main entrance door first, and the engineer, ~~at~~ top turret gunner, and I followed him out.

BAILED
OUT

I shoved myself head first into the slip stream, rolled over three or four times, saw that I was clear of the ship, and pulled the rip cord. ~~The parachute~~ ^{Although} ~~opened~~ ^{opened} gently, my helmet was jerked from my head. I think I went out at 3000 feet. I floated smoothly to the earth and hit ~~the ground~~ ^{in a ploughed field} as easily as if I had jumped from a chair. I slipped off the harness, rolled up the chute, and hid it ^{and my hunting knife} in some bushes beside a dirt road. I ran about 100 yards to some woods and kept running and walking through them. I had come down about 1230.

RAN off

I ~~began~~ became thirsty. About 1500 I saw a woodman and approached him, asking for a drink. He gave me some cider. By the help of a phrase sheet which I had been given at our group I asked the man if he could help me. He replied that he could not give me any help. When I asked him where the Germans were, he pointed towards the north east, so I started off in the opposite direction. This phrase sheet proved most useful.

USAE
USED
PHRASE
SHEET

When I came to the edge of the woods through which I had been running, I saw ~~that the next woods was~~ ^{another} some distance away, ~~so I decided that I had better wait un-~~ [†] til dark to cross the open place. About 1900 I ~~continued~~ ^{went on.} my walk. After three hours I came to ~~a barn~~ an isolated barn in the fields, ~~it was~~ filled with grain, I slept in it.

WALKED
THROUGH
WOODS

About 0600 the next morning I walked ~~off the~~ ^{on to} continue my journey through the woods. I passed a farmhouse with a woman out in front of it. I approached her

7 SEPT
1943

for help, but she obviously did not want to have anything to do with me. After that I walked through the woods until 1400. Then I came to a large clearing, and again I decided that I had better wait until dark to cross. While I was waiting, I saw a Frenchman hauling hay through the woods. After I had seen him go back and forth a number of times, I saw another Frenchman with him. I had a chance to approach this man by himself. When I asked him if he could help me, he assured me that he could. ~~He went~~ left me and soon returned with some food. After a few minutes some other Frenchmen came, bringing some more food and also some civilian clothes. I put on a black jacket, which was much too big for me, ~~and~~ a pair of black ~~pants~~ trousers, and some slippers. I had had GI shoes in the plane with me, but in the excitement of bailing out I completely forgot about ~~bringing~~ bringing them with me.

APPROACHED FRENCHMAN

FOUND HELP

About 1700 a Frenchman came, gave me a pitch fork, and indicated that I should follow him. We walked about 20 kilometers, passing a number of German soldiers along the way. We went to a house at which I was given little better clothes. I was given a note which said that I would be back in England in ten days.

From there my journey was arranged, but not nearly as quickly as I hopefully believed at first.

JOURNEY ARRANGED

I was given rope shoes for crossing the Pyrenees. I had a lot of trouble wearing them and would far rather have worn GI shoes if I had only been able to get them. Our walk was a pretty stiff climb, but we were fairly fortunate in not having too rough a journey.

CROSSING PYRENEES

Compiled by;

D E EMERSON
1st Lt, AUS

Approved by:

W. J. Holt
W STULL HOLT
Lt Col, AC
Commanding

Appendices A-E

RECEIVED: CIVILIAN INTERVIEW

RECEIVED: BUREAU

1945 OCT 10 10:30 AM

RECEIVED: SAC

Appendix B

1. The following information has been obtained from an interview with a sergeant who evaded capture by the enemy after being in enemy occupied territory.

2. Further circulation of this information may be made, but in that case it is important not to divulge any particulars about the source.

Statement of information covering the period from 6 September 1943 to 17 November 1943.

a. A Frenchman who helped ^{the sergeant} me told me that on 16 September 2000 infantry soldiers were withdrawn from ~~CHAILL~~ CHAUNY and sent to Italy. ^{him} I was not able to find out anything about the unit concerned or insignia worn. ^{that sergeant did not}

b. A Frenchman told me in Paris that the July 1 raid on Le BOURGET killed about 500 cadets. ^{informant}

c. Frenchmen in Paris told me that the Boston raid on an electric plant about the last part of October was a success and that great damage to the Renault works was done on the raid of September 15. ^{informant}

at CREIL

d. The ammunition dump referred to in Lt HAWES and Sgt HAMBLIN's report (SEE Appendix B, E&E 210-211, ~~P~~/~~P~~ d and X on attached sketch.) is on the side of a hill at the end of the marshalling yard just before the canal runs into the river.

AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

19 October 1942

#270

①

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) WILLARD McLANE Signed Willard Mc Lane

Rank S/SGT A.S.N. 770 98525 Date 15 DEC 1943

Unit 384TH Bomb Group 547TH Witness Don W. [Signature]

Col. G.S.C.

19 October 1942

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Ralph Pulsifer
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Name (Print) WILLARD McLAINE Signed Willard McLain
Rank S/SGT A.S.N. 17188525 Date DEC. 18, 1943
Unit 384TH Bomb. Group. 547TH SqD Witness D. Munson 1st Lt AUS

(3)

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. *WILLARD DOUGLAS McLAIN-17088525*
2. Decorations. *AIR MEDAL, 2 OAK LEAVE CLUSTERS, STAR FOR SCHEIFFENFORT.*
3. Unit or Squadron. *547TH*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *384TH*
5. Date of Birth. *MAY 13, 1922*
6. Length of Service. *1 YEAR 3 MTHS*
7. Private Address. *BRISTOW, OKLAHOMA, RT. 3, BOX 201*
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?
*~~ST~~ KETTERING SEPT 6, 1943, ABOUT 10:30 AM.
STUTTGARD FELL ABOUT 30 KIL. NORTH WEST OF BEAUVAIS*
9. What was your position in aircraft? *BALL TURRET*
10. Were you wounded? *YES. HIT IN HAND PIECES OF GLASS AND BULLET IN FACE. RECEIVED MEDICAL ATTENTION*
11. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *NO*
12. Do you speak French? Spanish? *NO*
13. Did you have Identity Papers? *~~NO~~ YES FRENCH MADE*
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 - GIBRALTOR - BRITISH INTERROGATORS - 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 - GIBRALTOR - DEC. 16 1943*
17. Date of arrival in Spain. *NOV. 17, 1943*
18. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *DEC. 15, 1943*
19. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. - *GIBRALTOR - DEC 17, AIR*
20. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *BRISTOL, DEC 18, 1943*

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

E & E REPORT NO.
EVASION IN FRANCE

DEC. 18, 1943
(Date)

WILLARD MCLAIN S/SGT. 17089525
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

547TH 384TH
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: 21
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1 YEAR 3 MONTHS
HOME ADDRESS: BRISTOW OKLAHOMA
RT. 3 BOX 201

MIA: NOV. 17, 1943
Arrived in Spain: DEC. 15, 1943
Arrived in Gibraltar: DEC. 18, 1943
Arrived in UK: _____

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with FWIB)

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT		
CO-PILOT		
NAVIGATOR		
BOMBARDIER		
RADIO OPERATOR		
TOP TURRET GUNNER		
BALL TURRET GUNNER		
WAIST GUNNER		
WAIST GUNNER		
TAIL GUNNER		

Were you wounded? YES. HIT IN THE HAND. GLASS AND PIECES OF BULLET IN FACE. RECIEVED MEDICAL ATTENTION

McLaren C1030 To ST. TART - rky; clouds
over city - not fts tall city - little flake till then -
long flake over T. In 88, ME109, PW 190's after
us. Take next run - not make this - believe used 3
times - take off strip come to return - by hand
dragged back field outside city - no danger.

Shots of flake shortly after T knocked out us!
again - others were not much. That morning at
I yes. Infection to D - No 1 fthd. C18 run
after T fts left - then no fts in hole in front;
C30-40 run after T question who shot in front -
getting low on gas. No A out - began throwing
ammunition, lightning. Flew quite well out of
junction - then 5 PW - shot us up back - knocked
out No 2 - flew while on 1 again. Saw no clear -
Pader bailed out. Came out BT - on W6 hit in
leg - already had medical attention. Made sure he
could bail out. Laid up Asst Ey first out then
1. Went out back entrance - main entrance door

Some more photos

C3000

Ey next - injured man - amine gunner, then myself.
Shoved myself head first into rky stream - rolled over
3-4 times - saw clear rky - pulled up and
opened canopy - helmet jerked off head
floated down smoothly - hit ground easily - unhooked
harness - slipped over legs, used up chute -
fell in plywood field, hid chute in bushes behind

chute type
as made

road - hid hunting thing with it. Ran c 100 yds
to woods -

Down c 1230 ran to c 1900 - thirsty - c 1500
met woodman - approached him - ask drink - gave
me little cider - Ask help - no. Ask him
when I - very phony but from you.
He pointed NE - I took my gun. c 1500 yds to
woods you got to another woods - waited till
dark. On c 1900 - 3 hrs - to town with
gun - in d. rlyst.

C 0600 - to woods. Saw farmhouse - woman at
I approached - she have nothing do with me.
On thru woods to 1400 - another clearing - wait.

Old man c 60 barely leg thru woods -
little boy ahead of you - ask him if help.
He got fatter - old man - I said to could help -

At 5 when I was.
Little boy had no food, get milk - also boy c 16.
c 10 man & woman - show food, ew. clothes.
Showed them with 2 bags says that I want go
Spain - by my help.

Stay in woods - get in next day take to Paris
Changed clothes - coat, slippers, pair black pants -
no shirt

Boy can after me c 1700 - note that I follow behind
in bicycle - I saw just a fish - with down man. hung
about 3 hrs gets passed. Walked c 20 km - to Ardenville
To home - no one by. Note that I had in by c 10 days
Thus c 1600 2 men - note that I had in by c 10 days
Es. with them.
Changed into better pants.

No G.I. shoes - had been in
planned - but when jumping
I don't think about

Wed
at

Then 2 men took men into to Clement - met 3
crew members from Jankovic's crew.
Hambler, Jankovic, Haves - assumed no in good luck.
They left in boat - told me I leave Mon
slept upstairs most / time.

B / In morning parade of B - c 3 35 men
So M G - So - 75 men

Saw several MG at house - put B, had grenades
8600 Mon - to M G's house. 1100 boy came 1200 to
station train Ceil - 1st MG no to papers - but not
asked. Went at Ceil to 22 August (??) K St
Then Mon mt. Tuesday, 1300 to train station - to
Changy - met 3 Amys - Hambler & went to same
place - 2 who with M Dromas - lives in town
hall

B / 12000 soldiers pulled out, taken to Italy - infant
13 pchrs dropped by G
Got identity papers - girl had taken picture.
Traveling cert of flight

Hambler & I to Changy - met Haves & Jankovic -
all A to Paris. Stayed in Paris - had lunch with
ans - French plain clothesmen look at head back.

No mt to notes - to Paris - c hr. Women in black.
Took Jankovic - back - took 10 + 10, I went with
by from Changy - To home when met Prosser &

27 Paulkuni - Mrs. Mani came & took us to Mankhā.
She took us to Jinteng sun - Bros.
6 weeks there.

Given rope sandals for P crossing - ropes on feet

B | At Crail saw when building. Am dump in
side of hill - edge marshy. 2d - just before coast
was right main

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.

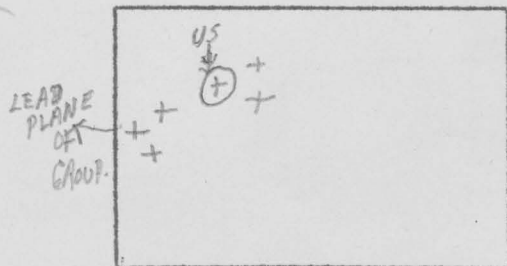
Further circulation of this information may be made, but when doing so it is important not to divulge any particulars of source.

Statement of information covering period from
to.....

TO MY KNOWLEDGE WE MISSED THE TARGET AT STUTTGARD. I FELL NEAR
BEAUVERTS. I SAW NOTHING TILL I GOT TO CLERMONT. I SAW ABOUT
60 SOLDIERS THERE WITH 6, 35MM. CANNONS AND ABOUT 50
MACHINE GUNS. THIS WAS SEPT. 11. AT CREIL ON SEPT 14.
I SAW THEM BUILDING A LARGE AMMUNITION DUMP LOCATED
NEAR THE MARSHINGLY YARDS ON THE CANAL. AT CHAUNY
I HEARD FROM THE MAN I WAS STAYING WITH THAT ON
SEPT. 16, 2,000 SOLDIERS IN THE INFANTRY LEFT THERE
FOR ITALY. ON SEPT. 31 I LEFT FOR PARIS. I DID NOT
SEE ANYTHING ON THIS TRIP. WHILE AT PARIS I
HEARD FROM THE FRENCHMEN THAT ON THE
RAIDS ON LA BOURGET IN JULY I BELIEVE, THAT THERE
WAS 500 CADETS KILLED. ALSO THE BOSTON RAID
ABOUT THE LAST OF OCTOBER ON THE ELECTRIC
PLANT WAS A SUCCESS ALSO THE RAID ON SEPT. 15 ON
THE RENAULT WORKS WAS A SUCCESS GREAT DAMAGE
WAS DONE. I LEFT PARIS THEN IN THE NIGHT SO
I SAW NO MORE AND HEARD NO MORE AS I COULDN'T
TALK FRENCH OR SPEAK ON THE ROUTE.

NAME WILLARD D McWAIN RANK S/Sgt. ASN 170 88525 REPORT NO. 270

SQ 547 GROUP 384 A/C NO. 843 Letter P Load Bombs Date Sept 6, 1943



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing: YES — NO GOOD, & looked to me as if bombs landed in open field.

Enemy Fighter Tactics: SAME AS ALWAYS — MOSTLY HEAD ON.
Markings:

Our Tactics: NONE

Our Fighter Support: DID NOT SEE THEM

Flak

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Quality</u>
	OVER TARGET	HEAVY

Technical Failures

Motors:

Armor:

Armament:

Miscellaneous:

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

RAN OUT OF GAS NO NO

Print

HAD GI SHOES WITH ME BUT LEFT THEM IN THE PLANE IN THE EXCITEMENT OF BAILING OUT

SECRET

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:- *S/Sgt. WILLARD McLAIN 17088525*

Unit:- *384TH BOMB GROUP 547TH SBJ.*

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.

Chocolate. *- Save to ^{each} _^ - made him happy*

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

- Halazone tablets (water purifier). *USED TO PURIFY THE WATER*

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum. *Save to ^{each} _^ - same results as chocolate well*

- Water bottle. *TO CARRY WATER - WORKED GOOD*

- Compass. *TO TELL DIRECTION OF TRAVEL*

(e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? *NO*
If so, in what respect?

(f) How did you finally dispose of the box? *BURIED IT IN THE GROUND*

(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. *RED*
If 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?

- Compass. *TO TELL WHAT DIRECTION I WAS GOING*

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. **FRENCH, 1800 FRCS.**
How did you spend the money? **CIGARETTES AND CLOTHING.**

(d) How did you dispose of:-

Maps. **BURIED IT.**

Compass. **BURIED IT.**

File (hacksaw). **BURIED IT.**

Surplus currency. **GAVE IT TO MY GUIDE**

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS+) **NONE**
(+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**.

OMIT

Round compass.

Stud compass.

Swinger compass.

Fly-button compass.

Pencil clip compass.

Tunic button compass.

Pipe compass.

Pouch

Special flying boots (and knife).

NOT ISSUED

(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**
If so, how many? **3**

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

**French did not say anything
was wrong with the photos,
they just did not use them.**

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? **YES**
State **WHERE**, **WHEN** and by **WHOM**. **ON MY BASE ABOUT EVERY
WEEK BY ESCAPED AVIATORS.**

(b) Did you find the lectures of value? **YES**
**I learned a lot of things from
the lectures, such as hiding the para-
chute, getting away from the landing
place as quickly as possible, the dir-
ection to head, approaching Frenchmen,
etc.**

**17th
chute - didn't lead
Am approach - from
low down - not do it
Get away from spot where he**