

+ E 647

Lt Witt

App. c.

Witt

Original

Unit

Registration for

N.A.A.F.I.

Please supply the following

Lt. Witt landed at ~~BRUCAMPS~~

BRUCAMPS (ESE of ABBEVILLE) on

4 March 1944. ~~He was hidden by a~~

~~farmer here~~ A farmer picked him up

at once, hid him until dark in his

house, and then moved him to

another house in the village. This

was the house of a woman who has

a son of eight years, and a daughter of

ten and whose husband is a P/W

in Germany. At this house Witt

stayed for several days, during

which time Sgt. Leach was brought

in. Here they met MISS THOMPSON,

a schoolteacher in BRUCAMPS, and an

Englishman (45 or 50 years old; medium

height; black, bushy hair; wears horn-

rimmed glasses) who was making all

arrangements for them. After several

days the Englishman took Witt and

Leach down a road ~~down~~ to a

point where they found a cart waiting

(next)

(about 24 years old; short; dark; had been in French army; his wife was pregnant; and they had one baby who wore a cast on its leg)

for them. In this cart was Fernandez. The Frenchman who had originally helped Witt took the three Americans to HONGPRE and then took them by train to PARIS via AMIENS. In PARIS he bought them tickets and put them on to a train for TOULOUSE.

Witt, Leach, and Fernandez had to leave the train at ORLEANS in order to avoid a German patrol. In ORLEANS they were arrested by a gendarme who, however, when he discovered that they were Americans took them to the gendarmerie where the police chief and other gendarmes fed them and took them out of town in a police wagon. The three Americans then walked to a tavern on the road about 10 kms N of Vierzon on RN 20. The tavern-keeper, a young and handsome man, got in touch with a man in the resistance organization in VIERZON, an athletic-looking man with medium height and ruddy complexion; these two men took the Americans to a house next to the railway yards in VIERZON, the home of FERNAND (45 years old, short, pudgy, slightly bald; married to a younger woman and has a daughter eleven years old). That night

(next)

they slept in the stable of another house
 (man with light, wavy hair; his wife a
very large, dark woman; a daughter of
eighteen years); and the next morning
 they returned to FERNAND's. That
 night ~~was~~ the driver of an electric
locomotive, a man of 55 or 60 years,
 took the three Americans and
 FERNAND in the cab of his locomotive
 to TOULOUSE. There FERNAND waited
 with the Americans in a restaurant
 until the engine driver brought to them
a tall, thin-faced man, brunette,
about 45 years old. This man ~~took~~
~~Witt, Leach, and Fernandez,~~
 (who was arrested ~~by~~ by the Gestapo
 eleven days later) took Witt,
 Leach, and Fernandez to the home
 of FERDINAND BENEZET (wife:
 FRANCINE; son: ROBERT, whose right
 index finger is missing; mother-in-law).
 Here they met FRANCOISE and
 PHILIPPE (tall man who speaks English),
 and received identity cards. After
 twelve days at BENEZET's
 Witt, Leach, and Fernandez were
 moved, ^{for a night,} to the room of PAUL
 (18 years old; 5', 10"; fair, wavy hair), a

student at the University of Toulouse. The next morning ANITA (5'2"; dark; wears glasses; daughter of a French diplomat) led the three Americans to a restaurant which the organization uses. From there another student took them to MONTAUBAN. There Witt stayed with an elderly couple whose son GEORGES is in the French army in Morocco and can be ~~be~~ reached % Pastor BERNARD, 51 RUE DE LA REPUBLIQUE, MEKNES, MOROCCO. Here Witt also met an Englishwoman, Mrs. JACOBS, whose husband is interned in PARIS.

Witt remained here for two nights and a day, ~~while~~ Leach and Fernandez staying ~~so~~ elsewhere in MONTAUBAN during this time. Then the three of them were taken back to TOULOUSE by the student who had brought them ~~from MONTAUBAN~~ to MONTAUBAN. In TOULOUSE ANITA took them to the railway station where they met PAUL and another student called JAKE (5'10", incipient beard) who had with them Patterson and Beck. PAUL and JAKE ~~too~~ took the five Americans by train to MONTREJEAU where they met Krengle and Waddington (RCAF); and then a lorry carried them
(next)

up to a field where they joined a large group of Dutchmen with two Frenchmen and a Belgian captain (about 31 years old, 5 years in German prison camp). After dark ~~the~~ lorries took the whole party up into the foothills where they joined Seidel, Nall, Yeager, Ross, Negro, Gabouay, Walley, Malasko. From this point on Witt's journey was the same as that of Seidel and Nall.

12 MISSIONS.

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 647
EVASION IN

5-18-44
(Date)

FRANCIS J. WITT, JR. 1st Lt. 0-665749
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: BERLIN

MIA: 3-4-44
Arrived in UK:

5-18-44

547th
(Squadron)

384th
(Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWID)

	Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT ——— 1 st Lt. LOUVORN P.W. (RUMORED)		
CO-PILOT		
NAVIGATOR P.W. (RUMORED) ——— KAZMERSKI 2 nd Lt.		
BOMBARDIER P.W. - WOUNDED BY FLAK ——— 1 st Lt. C. FIFENOR		
RADIO OPERATOR P.W. (RUMORED) ——— T/Sgt. WILSON		
TOP TURRET GUNNER " " ———		
BALL TURRET GUNNER " " ———		
WAIST GUNNER AT IN SPAIN ——— S/Sgt. K. LEACH		
WAIST GUNNER " " ——— S/Sgt. FERNANDEZ		
TAIL GUNNER — P.W. (RUMORED) ———		

Were you wounded?

HURT LEFT ANKLE - + HAD CUT ON LITTLE FINGER

E&E # 647

INTERROGATOR

Cheriss

Witt, Francis J.

(Name)

1 Lt

(Grade)

0-665749

(ASN)

547

(Squadron)

384

(Group)

3-4-44

(Missing in action)

18 May 44

(Returned to duty)

Message to be broadcast over BBC:

The snow is falling, the snow is falling,
the snow is falling. MERCI BEAUCOUP

Language French

Time The two news programs on B.B.C.

Person requesting message Miss Thompson - BRUCAMPE

Date of contact with this person 4-5 March 44

Description of this person: School teacher, ~~about 55 years~~ about 55 yrs
old, dignified woman.

(unorganized)

Services Rendered: This is message for all helpers who
helped informant to escape.

AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

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:

(signed) RALPH PULSIFER,
Colonel, AGC, 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) FRANCIS J. WITT, JR. Signed Francis J. Witt, Jr.
Rank 1st Lt A.S.N. O-665749 Date MAY 15, 1947
Unit 384th Bomb Group - 547th Bomb Group Witness Ben W. Smith
Col G.S.C.

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 647
EVASION IN FRANCE

18 May 1944
(Date)

Francis J WITT, JR, 1st Lt, O-665749
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

547 Bomb Sq, 384 Bomb Group
(Squadron) (Group)
12 missions
(Number of missions)

TARGET: BERLIN

MIA: 4 March 1944

Arrived in UK:
18 May 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-748706	1st Lt	Hollie R LOVVORN		P/W
CO-PILOT	0-665749	1st Lt	Francis J WITT, JR		NARRATOR
NAVIGATOR	0-750198	2d Lt	John KAZMERSKI		MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-746873	1st Lt	Charles T FLEENOR		P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	36065853	T/Sgt	James C SCHWARZ		MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	20953468	T/Sgt	Gerald E WILSON		P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	32382781	S/Sgt	Robert L MILLER		MIA
WAIST GUNNER	15339125	S/Sgt	Kenneth LEACH		IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
WAIST GUNNER	31110682	S/Sgt	Severino J FERNANDEZ		IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY
TAIL GUNNER	16086702	S/Sgt	Homer W TAYLOR		MIA

Were you wounded?

E + E 647

Lt. Witt.

~~Heavy flak~~

HEAVY
FLAK

Almost immediately after we had dropped our bombs heavy flak riddled ^{our} ~~the~~ tail-section ~~of~~ ~~our ship~~ and hit #2 engine. Soon afterwards #1 engine began to leak oil and could not be feathered. We jettisoned our guns ~~and~~ but could not salvo the ball turret, ^{and when} ~~the~~ navigator decided that he could not get a heading home we took a SW heading and prepared to bail out. ~~I jumped~~

~~At 6500 feet~~

At 8000 feet I ordered the crew to leave the ship. At 6500 feet I jumped, the ship then being clear save for the pilot who was preparing to jump when I left.

IMMEDIATE
HELP

I landed near a barn, my chute tangled in a tree. A farmer ~~came running to~~ ran to me at once, cut down my chute, and led me into the
(next)

house where he hid me under the rafters. ~~That~~ That evening I was brought out of hiding, given an overcoat and beret, and led to another farmhouse. One of my waist gunners ~~was~~ ^{was} brought to me here, where for several days we were hidden in the barn by day and brought into the house only at night, for the Germans were ~~making~~ searching the neighborhood for us.

JOINED BY
CREW
MEMBER

After several days we were taken into town. On the way there

JOINED BY
ANOTHER
CREW MEMBER

~~my other~~ my other waist gunner joined us, and all three of us ~~were~~ went by train to Paris led by ~~the~~ the farmer who had first helped me. In Paris our helper apparently lost his way, for after he had taken us back and forth and all around the city on the subway he led us to a railway station, bought us ~~and~~ tickets to TOULOUSE, and left us.

TAKEN TO
PARIS

LEFT ~~THE~~
TO PROCEED
ALONE

the
yards
at

we boarded the train
by ourselves and rode ~~to~~ to
ORLEANS without ^{trouble} ~~adventure~~;
but in ORLEANS ~~we~~ all
passengers with tickets for
destinations S of VIERZON,
which is on the line of
demarcation, were herded
into a forward car, and
~~then~~
we saw a German control
preparing to get aboard this
car. We therefore left the
train, hid in a ~~small~~
slit fence beside the line,
and when the coast was
clear climbed over a fence
and ~~trudged off across~~
hurried away from the
railway yards. The night
was very dark, which ~~made~~
~~it~~ increased ~~the~~ the difficulty
of finding our way out of the
city. ~~Finally we came~~
~~upon a bridge which~~ leading
~~S from the city~~
We avoided one bridge which
was guarded and were about
(next)

to cross another when a gendarme stopped us and demanded our papers. ~~Since~~ Since we had none he arrested us and marched us up the street.

ARRESTED FOR LACK OF PAPERS

I decided then that ~~nothing~~ there was nothing to lose by declaring ourselves, and I told him that we were American airmen. As soon as he heard this he stopped short, motioned to us to be very quiet, and ~~led us~~ ^{leading} us

HELP FROM THE POLICE

~~past the German~~
past a German headquarters to which he had apparently intended to deliver us took us to the French police station.

The gendarmes welcomed us with food and wine and then took us out of town in a patrol wagon with a bicycle escort. They put us into a haystack and told us to start walking S at 0500 hrs. For

THREE DAYS ON FOOT

We walked S, the next two days, never stopping until sun-down and then

(next)

getting food and a place to sleep at the first farmhouse which we approached each evening. On the third day we were ~~to~~ very tired and our feet were in bad condition. ~~We~~ We therefore approached several people during the day but got no response until late in the afternoon. Then we met a villager who was on his way to saw firewood. As soon as we had told him that we were Americans he took us ~~to~~ into a road-side tavern for a drink. ~~There~~

HELP
FOUND
AGAIN

~~was~~ Several men who were drinking there ^{put} us ^{into} a truck ~~which~~ ~~they~~ ~~was~~ ~~had~~ and drove us to the outskirts of VIERZON, where we helped them load wood until the tavern-keeper appeared with a man whom he had gone to fetch from VIERZON. This man took us to a house in town, and from there our journey was arranged.

JOURNEY
ARRANGED

on 47:

Comment A There seems to be no protection against the well meant plans of casual helpers. Crews might ~~well~~ be briefed to question casual helpers in sending the wisdom of ~~being sent~~^{them} to Paris, which is the hottest spot in France.

A French man, naturally, thinks that Paris holds the remedy for all ills.

A647 showed good judgment in declaring himself to the French police, ^{but only} when the alternative was the Gestapo.

E+E 647

H. Witt

App. B

- a) There is an airplane component factory for HE and FW just SW of TOULOUSE. It employs a large number of French workers. (Hearsay March 1944)
- b) About seven miles out of TOULOUSE on the western side of the railway line running to MURET there is an airfield with large hangars. Twin-engine, four-engine, and six-engine ships were observed on this field in March 1944.
- c) The bombing of ~~Saint~~ AMIENS in the first week of March achieved excellent results. The railway station itself was not hit, but the marshalling yards were wrecked. On 6 March 1944 only one track was serviceable and there
(next)

were many freight cars overturned and smashed in the yards.

(Observation)

- d) Wings and fuselages of B17s and P47s and the intact fuselage of a B25 were seen loaded on railway cars and lorries in Amiens and Paris in March 1944.
- e) There was a permanent German garrison of 1,000 in MONTAUBAN in March 1944 (Hearsay).

E + E 647

H. Witt

App D.

Aids Box:

I used the Honlickes tablets, ^{and} matches, chewing gum, ^{and} water bottle, ^{and} gave the Benzadrine ^{to 51/2} to a comrade who needed them. The Honlickes tablets and peanut bar were stale.

Purse:

I had a red purse, ~~it~~ I used the compass and the map of France and spent the 2000 French francs on food, railway fare, and guides.

Photographs:

I had five photographs, all of which were used for French identity papers.

Lectures:

I heard ~~Mr.~~ Picard and Taylor lectures on evasion ^{at base} and found ^{them} these lectures valuable to me.

Hit by leak on way back from Berlin (105 flak) broke up tail section. Hit #2 engine, feathered, #1 oil leak. We were leading 19. Lost #1 and couldn't feather it. Threw out guns + everything to lighten plane. I told eng. + w.g. to get ball turret ready to salvo but we couldn't get rid of it. Nav. decided couldn't get heading home. Took SW heading + told get ready to bail out. At 8000 ft gave order to crew to get out. I left ship at about 6500 ft (1230 PM). I was next to last out. Pilot getting ready when I left. I landed between barn + tree + chute caught in tree. Sprained ankle. French farmer came over at once + cut my chute off + made me follow him. He hid me under rafters of his house + his wife had sent me food. Stayed here till dark. They gave me overcoat + beret. Moved me to another house where I stayed that night + next. (Here met Sgt. Leach. Woman's husband P/w in Germany, had son (8) daughter (10). Here we hid in barn + would then come into house, for Germans were searching everywhere. Left here Mon. morning. Walked to outskirts of farm with Eng. ^{man} ahead on bike. Got into a farmer's cart in which Fernandez already was.

BRUCAMPS
 ESE of
 Esp. ^{not} ~~where~~
 Miss Thompson, school teacher.
 An Englishman here
 also
 (incl. height, beard, hair, hair - nine glasses)
 About 45-50
 she was busy arranging the
 net.

(23 or 24 yrs old, dark, sharp 12
eyes, dark hair)
I, Leach, + Fernandez. The short Frenchman - had been
in army -
who had picked me up (wife (pregn.) and a
baby with cast on leg) came with us to hangfire
in wagon. Here Farmer + Eng. left us. Then
the short Frenchman got us tickets + took us
by train to Amiens. Here Py state had been
bombed. Here I saw German officers
(inc. Rommel) inspecting damage
while we walked around city waiting for
train. Then got train for Paris. In Paris on
Mets our friend couldn't find his way. So
he got us tickets for Toulouse + left
us here. I, Leach, + Fernandez got on
train + rode to Orleans where everyone
who had tickets for S of Verzon were put
on a front car + then the Germans
came through for papers; so we left the
train in the yards and lay in a trench
along the bank on which the line was. ~~We~~
I then noticed the boys + we got over
the fence + took off across country, then
circled to get out of Orleans. Finally we
got to guarded bridges leading S. out of town.
We started across one + a French gendarme
stopped us for papers + he started to take
us to German H.Q. I said we were Americans,
and he at once motioned us to be quiet
+ took us to French police station where all

6 March

it was after
curfew

with
#647

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.
MARCH 4th 1944 - 1225 - SOUTH, SOUTHEAST OF ABBEVILLE - 100 MILES

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.
Was it on fire, etc?
MANY FLAK HOLES - NO. 1 + NO. 2 ENGINES GONE - FEATHERED NO. 2
COULD NOT FEATHER NO. 1 - NO FIRE VISIBLE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?
6500 FT.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?
LT. FLEENOR - BOMBARDIER - FLAK WOUND IN LEG - NOT SEVERE

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?
ALL BUT PILOT I AM SURE - ALL CHUTES OPENED - RUMORED
PILOT BAILED OUT ALSO

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? RUMORS SAY "YES"

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground? YES - THE TWO PREVIOUS MENTIONED WHO DRE IN SPAIN
S/Sgt. LEACH + S/Sgt. FERNANDEZ

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. ALL ALIVE (RUMORED)

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 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 reasons for his opinion?
ALL P.W.'S BUT MYSELF, S/Sgt. LEACH + S/Sgt. FERNANDEZ (RUMORED)

all the gendarmes gave us food, wine, + put us in patrol wagon + took us with bike escort out of town (they couldn't find a house for us to stay) and put us in a haystack. They told us to start South at 5 AM but we didn't waken until 8. Then we started S. + walked 25 kms. the first day + then stopped a farmer at 6.30 PM. He put us up in a stable on his big farm with blankets + fed us. Next morning gave us food to take with us. We then walked 25 kms, then we sat down to rest, saw a truck going N. + the truck turned + came past us.

Never stopped
until
11 km. down

A big piece of pork fell out in front of us. Truck kept on going. We took pork to a farm house + gave it to farmer who fed us + put us up in stable. Next morning walked again. After 18 kms we could hardly go any further. We had approached several men but got no help. Now we approached villager going out to saw wood. He took us to a restaurant about 10 kms N. of Vierzon + gave us drink ^{young good looking prop. to Tavern and} 3 men on truck here put us on truck + took us to outskirts of Vierzon

2

we helped 3 men load wood while ~~at~~ tavern
proprietor went on into Vierzon + got hold of
a man who came out with him to see us. They
(in resistance organization: ruddy comp. med. det. athletic looking)

9 March
night

took us to a house in Vierzon belonging
to Fernand (short, slightly bald, pudgy, 45 yrs -
married, wife younger, slender, small daughter about
11 yrs old) right beside RR yard. They had a
small drink stand in back of house where we
talked with Fernand + 2 men who came with us.
Tavern keeper left. Stayed with Fernand ~~that~~
night. A German soldier came into drink stand
we mentioned to house + the German left.

That night we slept in a stable at another
house: husband ~~+~~ wife, a large woman +
(light wavy hair)

very dark; daughter about 18. Next morning,
had breakfast here + then went to Fernand's
where we spent day. Last evening, a man bet.
55-60, an eng. on electric train, came in. About
10 we left for RR station with Fernand + engineer
who took us into engine + took us to Toulouse.

They took us to restaurant + Fernand
stayed with us while engineer went and brought
a man who took us to →
(tall, thin faced, business, - 45 yrs old)

perhaps
picked him
up after
we had been
11 days
at Berzet

Fernand Benezet, ^{A.H. man} wife ^{FRANCINE} + son, Robert - 3
fingers on rt hand (index missing) + mother-in-law
(very large). After 7 days here we were
visited by Francoise + Philip (tall man,
spoke English). After 12 days we were taken

to the room of a student at Univ. of Toulouse.
(PAUL, 18 yrs, 5'10", fair, wavy hair)

Gave us
10 cards

The next morning Anita (daughter of Fr. diplomat)
→ short, 5'2", dark, wears glasses

came + took us to the organization restaurant +
went by train to MONTAUBAN (taken by student)

I stayed with an elderly couple (seen in
French Army ^{George's} ^{has spent long time in England} c/o Pastor Bernard, 51 Rue de
la Republique, Meknes, ^{Morocco} [say that
George's family is well]

I stayed here two nights + one day - Here met
(the two others stayed at other homes in
Montauban)

English woman Mrs. Jacobs, husband interned in
Paris. (They are from London).

Then all three of us met next morning went
back to Toulouse with the student who had brought
us. Went back to org. restaurant, got our satchels,
went to train with ANITA,
and took train. Paul + his friend, JAKE
(growing beard, smokes pipe, 5' 10", student)

met us at ^{MONTREJEAU} station with Patterson + Beck.

We went to town ~~to~~ in the Pyrenees. There
we found ~~Americans~~ (Lt. Kringle +

F.O. Wadlington from Bermuda (RCAF).

Then truck took us up to a field where we

found ^{about} 20 Dutchmen, 2 Fmen (1 boy + ~~one~~ 1 about 45)

and Belgian capt (5 years in German prison) about 31. 6

After dark Luck took us up into foothills
+ met Seidel, Wall, Jaeger, Ross, Negro, Gabony,
Walley, Malaska. Then started walking
up to sheep herders - Trip from here same as
Seidel's.

Jaeger practically carried Patterson
while I carried a pack across.
Seidel was in bad shape + Wall + Ross
were largely responsible for getting him across.
Jaeger should get some recognition.

WITT

App. B

- a) Airplane component factory for HE and FW S.W. of Toulouse, employ a large number of French people. (Hearsey, March 44)
- b) Airfield S. of Toulouse, W of Ry tracks about 7 miles out of town, large hangars, FW. 4 engines + 2 engines, six engine ship in air over field (~~was present~~) - Observation March 1944.
- c) Raid on Amiens last week in Feb. or 1 week in March was good. They station not hit but marshalling yards were wrecked, only one track serviceable. A number of freight trains had been destroyed (Observation 6 March 44)
- d) Wings + fuselage of B17a and P47a and an intact fuselage of B25 on railway cars + truck in Amiens + Paris, (Obs. March 44)

e) Large German garrison at Montauban
(1000 permanently) - March 44.

~~Point of Tordouze Area~~

1 Lt. Donald P. Ogilvie } Capt Rathmussen
2 Lt Bruce Kilmer } now in Spain
saw them in
SW France in
hands of organ.

S. Sgt
Brewer
now in
gib
reported

^{cauld}
Sgt. Robert Leslie - was in Belgium
in hands of organization.

Lt Golder was reported to be safe in
Belgium

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND F REPORT NO.

No., Rank, Name:-

Unit:-

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 capture or to escape.

1. AIDS BOX

- a. Did you use your aids box? **YES**
- b. If not, why?
- c. If you used it, state briefly the circumstances in which you used each item, for example, "While hiding in woods for two nights".
- IMMEDIATE AID**
 Horlicks tablets. **YES.**
- Chocolate or Peanut Bar. - **NO LOUSEY**
- Milk (tube). - **DID NOT HAVE ONE**
- Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). **GAVE TO AT. PATTERSON WHO NEEDED THEM**
- Halazone tablets (water purifier). **NO**
- Matches. **YES**
- Adhesive tape. **NO**
- Chewing gum. **YES**
- Water bottle. **YES**
- Compass. **YES**
- Sewing kit. - **NO (VERY GOOD IDEM)**
- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? **YES HORLICKS + PEANUT BAR STALE**
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? - **DESTROYED**
- f. 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?
PUT FRESH CANDY IN PACK

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? **YES**
 State color of stripes and letters. **RED**
 If NOT, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse? **YES**

(over)

c. If so, which of the following items in the purse did you use?

Maps. Which ones? FRANCE + NORTHERN SPAIN

Compass. YES

File (hacksaw). NO

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. FRANCS 2000 francs

How did you spend the money? TRAIN FARE, GUIDES + FOOD ALL OF MONEY

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency. None

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion? - No

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs? YES 5
If so, how many?

b. Did you use them? YES

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? YES - GRAFTON - WYERWOOD
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM

SEVERAL TIMES FROM JUNE 1943 TO MARCH 1944
LT. PICARD + LT. TAYLOR - S-2 OFFICERS IN THE GROUP

b. Did you find the lectures of value? YES

c. Do you have any suggestions to make which, from your experience, you feel will help other evaders and escapers?

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 supercedes 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.

GERTIFICATE

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) FRANCIS J. WITT JR.
Rank 1st Lt. A. S. N. 0-665749
Unit 347th Spd. 384th GROUP

Signed Francis J. Witt Jr.
Dated May 18, 1944
Witness _____

AG P BR HQ SOS 2-44/2M/224.72

RESTRICTED

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS (X)

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank, and Serial No. FRANCIS JOHN WITT, JR. 1ST LT. 0-665749
2. Decorations. AIR MEDAL
3. Unit or Squadron. 547th
4. Division (Army) or Group. 384th
5. Date of Birth. NOV. 15, 1920
6. Length of Service. 31 MONTHS
7. Private Address. 24 NORTH OSBORNE, AVE. — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO
8. Job as civilian. STUDENT
9. From what field did you take off? GRAFTON UNDERWOOD — STA# 106
10. Take off time. _____
11. Date and target. MARCH 4, 1944 — BERLIN
12. Where did you land? FEW MILES — S-E of ABBEVILLE FRANCE
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES
14. What was your position in aircraft? — CO-PILOT
15. Were you wounded? — SLIGHT HAND CUT + SPRAINED ANKLE
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? 400 FRANCS
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? NO — NO
18. Did you have Identity Papers? NO
19. 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?
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE — GIBRALTAR — NO WRITTEN REPORT
20. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom? — NO
21. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when? GIBRALTAR — MAY 15th 1944
22. Date of arrival in Spain. MARCH 28th 1944
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. MAY 15th 1944
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. GIBRALTAR MAY 17. AIR
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. BRISTOL — MAY 17th

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE A. C. OF S., G-2

647

DATE: 19 May 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, LEE B. COLEMAN, 1st Lt., AC, O-32726

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

FRANCIS J. WITT JR., 1st Lt., AC, O-665749

prior to his being reported missing in action over enemy territory.

The person whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon is the individual referred to above.

Francis J. Witt Jr.
RIGHT THUMB PRINT:

Lee B. Coleman



The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as FRANCIS J. WITT JR., 1st Lt., AC, O-665749 (547 Bomb Squadron - 384 Bomb Group) previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

W. F. *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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