

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 677
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

Kenneth LEACH, S/SGT, 15339125

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

547 Bomb Sq, 384 Bomb Group

(Squadron)

(Group)

(Number of missions)

TARGET: BERLIN

MIA: 4 March 1944

Arrived in UK:

27 May 44

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		E&E #647
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		NARRATOR
WAIST GUNNER	31110682	S/Sgt	Severino J FERNANDEZ	R+D	in medical custody
TAIL GUNNER	16086702	S/Sgt	Homer W TAYLOR		MIA

Were you wounded?

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Kenneth Leach S/Sgt. 15339125
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
384 Bomb Sq 547 Bomb Sq
(Unit)

May 27, 1944
(Date)

#677

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

March 4, 1944.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.

Was it on fire, etc?

no 1 & no 2 engines were shot out
Tail also damaged

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 8,500

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

Bombardier injured

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

everyone Bailed out & parachutes opened

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

yes

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground? yes

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise. yes Co-pilot seen Bombardier

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions? 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 reason for his opinion?

E+E #677

Sgt. Leach

SEE E+E
647

DELAYED
JUMP

OVERTAKEN
BY HELP

When I heard the order to bail out I passed it on to the tail gunner and ball turret gunner. They jumped ^{at 8000 Feet;} and I followed them ~~and~~ ^{and} fell ~~for~~ 1500 feet before I pulled my rip cord. I landed ~~on the~~ ~~ground~~ just outside of a village, ~~and~~ ^{my} chute hung up in a tree. I unhooked the harness and ran for a thicket ~~as~~ ^{quickly as I could,} but before I could hide two Frenchmen had got my chute and overtaken me. They told me to hide until they ~~came for me~~ ^{came for me.} ~~later~~ ^{later} A few minutes they returned, took me to a farmhouse where they fed me, and then hid me in a barn. At 1900

(next)

has another man came ~~to the~~
~~here~~ and led me to another
 farmhouse. Later that night
 Lt. Witt was brought ⁱⁿ ~~to this~~
~~house~~, and the rest of
 my story is from this point
 the same as his.

SEE E+E #
 647

APP. B

This ~~is~~ ^{spader} ~~former~~ has no military
 information beyond that given
 in E+E # 647.

Original 3
was brought ~~here~~ to this house, and
Leache's journey from that point
was identical with Witt's (E+E647)

App. C

Leach #677

Sgt. Leach landed on the edge of
BRUCAMP (ESE of ABBEVILLE) on
4 March 1944. Two Frenchmen took
him to a farmhouse and fed him
and then hid him in a barn. That
evening an Englishman who married
a Frenchwoman after the last war and
has lived in France ever since
took Leach to another farmhouse.
Here ~~there~~ lived a woman whose husband
is a P/W and who has a young son and
a young daughter. That night Witt

App D

AIDS BOX: Immediate aid made use of the aids box unnecessary.

PURSE: I had a red purse; and from it I used the French map, compass, and 2000 French francs, which I spent for railway tickets.

PHOTOGRAPHS: I had four photographs, which were used on my French papers.

LECTURES: I heard ~~lectures~~
~~swaders~~ and my S2
officer at base lecture
on evasion. These
lectures were of great
value to me.

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, 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) KENNETH LEACH Signed Kenneth Leach
Rank S/Sgt A.S.N. 15339125 Date May 22, 1944
Unit 384 Bomb Gp Witness Horace W. Forster

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

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. *Kenneth Leach, S/Sgt. 15339125*
2. Decorations. *air medal + two clusters*
3. Unit or Squadron. *547 Bomb Sq.*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *384 Bomb Sq*
5. Date of Birth. *April 8, 1923*
6. Length of Service. *18 mo.*
7. Private Address. *Webbs Cross Roads, Ky.*
8. Job as civilian. *Student*
9. From what field did you take off? *Grafton Underwood*
10. Take off time. *8:00*
11. Date and target. *March 4, Berlin*
12. Where did you land? *France*
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed?
14. What was your position in aircraft? *Waist Gunner*
15. Were you wounded? *no*
16. Did you pay your guides? If so how much? *no*
17. Do you speak French? Spanish? *no*
18. Did you have Identity Papers? *yes*
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?
yes, British Interrogated, Sib. May 22
20. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?
21. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when?
22. Date of arrival in Spain. *March 28 1944*
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. *May 22*
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. *May 26 - 1944*
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. *May 27,*

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND F REPORT NO. 677

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 Immediate Aid*
- 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".

Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzadrine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches. ✓

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass.

Sewing kit.

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box?
- 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?

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? *yes Red*
State color of stripes and letters.
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? *French*

Compass. *yes*

File (hacksaw). *no*

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. *French*

How did you spend the money? *Drawn tickets*

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps. *turned in at Liff.*

Compass. *Spanish police*

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

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*
If so, how many? *4*

b. Did you use them? *yes*

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape? *yes*
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.
at home base, evaders + S2 officer.

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 escapees? *no*

^{Leach}
^{PO}
- ~~BAU RAIN~~ CAMP
E.S.E of Abbeville

When C.O. order came & told tail g. & Lt. gunner & saw them go out the door. Then I went out & Fernandez after me. After 1500 ft I opened chute. I landed on edge of village where Witt landed. My chute was hung up in tree so I just unhooked it ran to thicket. 2 Finen got my chute, came to me, & told me to hide until they returned. They came back in a few minutes took me into a farmhouse & fed me. Then one took me to barn & told me to hide until 7. At about 7 an Englishman (small, English accent, married to French wife, living there since last war) took me to another house. Woman there (husband P/W - 2 children boy & girl) kept me two nights. Witt was brought in that night. — Fernandez the next day.

Francoise & Philippe in Toulouse.

I stayed at house of an old lady in Montauban - daughter a typist.

App B.

In Amiens there was only one line going out (7 March). Freight cars blown up. German

soldiers working on wreckage.

Heard that powder plant was hit in raid
on Toulouse & that the cadet fields in
Toulouse had been hit (heard from evaders
later in Spain)

SECRET - AMERICAN
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APPENDIX "B" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 677

List all military information which you observed or were told while evading. Give fullest possible details. (Airfields, troop encampments, coastal and interior defenses, AA batteries, radar installations, troop movements, results of allied bombing, location of enemy factories and ammunition dumps, enemy and civilian morale, etc., etc.,.....)

*Railroad yards at Amiens were
bombed & was out of commission.*

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 supersedes 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.

GERTIFIGATE

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) KENNETH LEACH

Signed Kenneth Leach

Rank S/SGT A. S. N. 15339125

Dated May 27, 1944

Unit 364 Bomb Sq 047 Bomb Sq

Witness _____

RESTRICTED

AG P BR HQ SOS 2-44/2M/22472

CONFIDENTIAL

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

DATE: 27 May 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

677

I, CARL E. BACHMANN, S/Sgt., AC, 32462898

hereby certify that I have known and have been associated with

KENNETH LEACH, S/Sgt., AC, 15339125

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.

Carl E. Bachmann

Kenneth Leach

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as KENNETH LEACH,

S/Sgt., AC, 15339125 (547 Bomb Squadron - 384 Bomb Group)

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

W. F. MARANDA W.F.M.
SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

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