

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH
MIS(X)

HQ, ETOUSA

OFFICE OF AC OF S, G-2

MIS DETACHMENT

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1. Full Name, Rank and Serial No. *WINGERTER - FRANK - J. 15090270*
2. Decorations. *NONE*
3. Unit or Squadron. *544 BOMB SQUADRON*
4. Division (Army) or Group. *384 BOMB GROUP*
5. Date of Birth. *JULY, 25, 1913.*
6. Length of Service. *1 YEAR - 7 MONTHS.*
7. Private Address. *118 WEST 22ND ST, ERIE - PENNA.*
8. If in A.F., on what operation were you engaged? State place, date, and time of departure. Where and when did you come down?
Were Aircraft and all instruments and papers destroyed?
*BOMBED LE MANS - FRANCE.
GRAFTON UNDERWOOD - ENGLAND - JULY 4 - 11:00
NEAR MORTREE, FRANCE.
YES.*
9. If in AF, give names of other members of crew and what happened to them.
10. Give details and full story of your trip on attached sheets.
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 - ONLY Dog TAGS.*
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 - MADRID - MAJOR CLARK - No.
SIB DONALD DARLING*
15. Did you report on your operations? If so, where and to whom?
MADRID - MAJOR CLARK
16. Did you sign a security certificate warning you against talking about your escape or evasion? If so, where and when?
YES - GIBARLTOUR + MADRID.
17. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air.
AUGUST - 16.
18. Place and date of arrival in U.K.
PLYMOUTH - ENGLAND.

HQ, ETOUSA
Office of AC of S, G-2
MIS Detachment

E & E REPORT NO. 65
EVASION IN FRANCE

26 AUGUST 1943
(Date)

FRANK J. WINGERTER / S/SGT 15090270
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

544 384
(Squadron) (Group)

AGE: _____
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 17 1/2 years
HOME ADDRESS: 118 WEST 22 ST
ERIE PENNA

MIA: 4 JULY 1943
Arrived in Spain: 1 AUGUST 1943
Arrived in Gibraltar: 13 AUGUST 1943
Arrived in UK: 16 AUGUST 1943

OTHER MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Official Narrators
Disposition Disposition

- PILOT
- CO-PILOT
- NAVIGATOR
- BOMBARDIER
- RADIO OPERATOR
- TOP TURRET GUNNER
- BALL TURRET GUNNER
- LEFT WAIST GUNNER
- RIGHT WAIST GUNNER
- TAIL GUNNER

SEE # 65

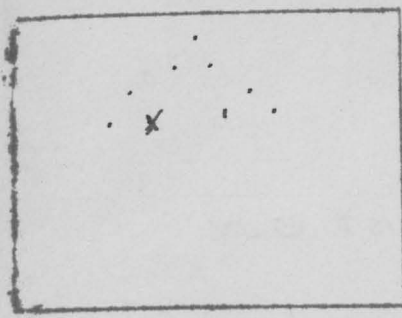
5/sqt Hingert - Frank J.

We left Grafton Underwood at about 11:00 A.M. on July 4 to bomb an ^{engine} factory and airport at Le Mans, France. As we were nearing our target we encountered heavy flack and as the bomb bay doors were open I could see enemy fighters in the distance. Shortly after flack got our #4 engine in the propeller hub. Oil was flowing all over the ~~the~~ right wing and spraying on our tail surface. Our pilot could not feather the propeller so had to let it wind-mill. Due to that drag of #4 engine we fell behind and out of the formation. Enemy fighters then seemed to concentrate on us. My gun, right waist, failed to operate so I began to work ~~with~~ it. Most of the attacks were made from the left. They seemed to make a circle and attack it from left front side and spray bullets from the nose to the tail. I received a wound, from a bullet, in the left leg between the ankle and the knee. It was only a slight flesh wound but it ripped my flying coveralls, electric heated suit and pants. Shortly after I heard our pilot give the command to jump because ^{the oxygen tanks had been hit and} the nose had started afire inside. I told the other waist gunner to bail out and I immediately put on my chute. I noticed the other waist gunner couldn't get on his chute so I helped him with it. I had an oxygen bail-out bottle strapped to my leg and I began using it. I went to the main door and tried to pull the pins out of the hinges but it wouldn't work. By that time our ball turret man, Sgt. Freeman,

was at the entrance and was ready to jump. I told them I was going to the tail and go out that escape door. As I was going to the tail I saw our tail gunner, sitting with his feet out the hatch, and I motioned him to jump; and just before I reached the door I looked back and saw ~~our~~ Sgt Freeman and Sgt Ashworth force their way out the door and leave the plane. I then jumped myself and it seemed as if I pulled the rip-cord immediately. On my way down one fighter circled me once and then went out of sight. They did ~~not~~ ^{not} shoot at me. I could see great clouds of smoke in the distance. I counted 5 chutes in the air besides my own. I landed in a farmer's yard and the French were there to meet me. There were about 4 men and 2 women and they at once put my chute in a burlap bag and took me to the barn. There I took off my flying coveralls and electric suit and kept only my khaki pants and my green woolen sweater I was wearing. I put my escape kit in my pocket, with the money and then was taken to a ^{not far away} hedge row. As I was leaving the barn I saw two Frenchmen carrying Sgt Freeman because he broke his ankle when he hit the ground. He too was put in the hedge row with me. They told us to stay under cover and that they would be back later. About 2 hours later ~~two~~ ^{two} Frenchmen brought Sgt Erickson and Sgt Ashworth to the hedge row with us.

Wingenter

42-29960
GROUP 384 SQ 544 A/C No. ~~15090270~~ Letter SU J Load 10-500 Date July 4



Position in formation.
Make Diagram

Observed results of Bombing

NOT UNTIL AFTER I PARACHUTED OUT OF PLANE AND THEN SAW LARGE COLUMNS OF SMOKE.

Enemy fighter tactics: markings:

Most of the fighters approached from the front left side and sweep our ship from nose to tail. FW-190 but didn't notice any markings.

Our Tactics

SLIGHT EVASIVE

Our fighter support.

NONE

Flak

Time,	Place,	Quality.
12:30	LE MANS	HEAVY

(over)

Technical Failures

Motors

No 4 HIT by FLACK.

Armor

None

Armament

RIGHT NOSE GUN - RIGHT WAIST GUN

Miscellaneous

BALL TURRET OUT OF AMUNITION

Comments and Suggestions on any of the above:

No.

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 61.

No., Rank, Name :- S/Sgt Frank J Wingerter 15090270

Unit :- 544 Sq 384 Sq 2084 July

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.
- (i) Horlicks tablets. GAVE TO FRENCH
- (ii) Chocolate. " " "
- (iii) Milk (tube). " " "
- (iv) Benzadrine tablets (fatigue). SAME
- (v) Halazone tablets (water purifier). "
- (vi) Matches. FOR CIGARETTES AND BUILDING FIRES
- (vii) Adhesive tape. GAVE TO FRENCH
- (viii) Chewing gum. - QUENCH THIRST.
- (ix) Water bottle. GAVE TO FRENCH
- (x) Compass. " " "
- (e) Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? If so, in what respect? YES - FOR STARTING FIRES TO COOK AND FOR SMOKING - GUM TO QUENCH THIRST.
- (f) How did you finally dispose of the box. GAVE ALL TO FRENCH PEOPLE WHO HELPED US.
- (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.
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.
- (i) Maps. Which ones? GAVE TO FRENCH
- (ii) Compass. " " "

(iii) File (hacksaw). GAVE TO FRENCH

(iv) Foreign Currency. State countries and amounts.
How did you spend the money.

(d) How did you dispose of:- FRENCH - 2000 FRANCS - PHOTOS AND EXCHANGE TO SPANISH MONEY.

Maps. GAVE TO FRENCH

Compass. " " "

File (hacksaw). " " "

Surplus currency. FRENCH EXCHANGED IT FOR SPANISH MONEY

3. AIDS TO ESCAPE - (GADGETS*)

(* Issued separately from aids boxes and purses.)

(a) Did you carry or wear any of the following? No.
If you used any of them, state briefly WHEN and WHERE.

- (i) Round compass.
- (ii) Stud compass.
- (iii) Swinger compass.
- (iv) Fly-button compass.
- (v) Pencil clip compass.
- (vi) Tunic button compass.
- (vii) Pipe compass.
- (viii) Pouch.
- (ix) 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? YES
If so, how many? 3

(b) Did you use them? No
State how. GIVEN TO HELPERS - RE-PHOTOGRAPHED LATER

5. LECTURES

(a) Were you lectured on evasion and escape? YES.
State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.
INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AT OUR BASE. MAJOR DOLAN.

(b) Did you find the lectures of value?

YES.

19 October 1942 5

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) FRANK J. WINGERTER Signed Frank J. Wingerter
 Rank S/SGT A.S.N. 15090270 Date 8/11/43
 Unit 544 B. Sgo- 384 B. Group Witness Grady Lewis
 GRADY LEWIS,
Major, A.C.



AG 383.6

Hq ETOUSA

9 April 1943

SUBJECT: Safeguarding of P/W Information.

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- e. No lectures or reports are to be given to any unit without the permission of the War or Navy Department.

By command of Lieutenant General ANDREWS:

Ralph Pulsifer
 RALPH PULSIFER,
 Colonel, AGD, Adjutant General.

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Name (Print) FRANK J. WINGERTER Signed Frank J. Wingarter
 Rank S/Sgt ASN 15090270 Date 8/17/43
 Unit 544 B. Sgd - 384 B. Group Witness Richard R. Nelson
major a.c.