

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

E & E REPORT NO. 1084-159(WEA) 8/17/44
EVASION IN FRANCE

*for
Sgt B
Proof
by*

(Date)

Arne G ZIER, S/Sgt, 32768319

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

8 missions

TARGET: RR Bridge at NANTES

L23 Bomb Squadron, 306 Bomb Group

MIA: 15 June 1944

(Squadron) (Group)

Arrived in UK:

19 August 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

			Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-810204	1st Lt. Wilbur B O'BRIEN		MIA
CO-PILOT	0-819164	2d Lt George C ERICE		MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-709238	2d Lt William D ALLEN		MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-703538	2d Lt William B UHLHORN		MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	39694079	T/Sgt Odis G PEARSON		MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	39554327	T/Sgt Richard F BOOZER		MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	16056912	S/Sgt David F GIESON		MIA
WAIST GUNNER	18213638	S/Sgt John S SUTTON		MIA
WAIST GUNNER	NONE			
TAIL GUNNER	32768319	S/Sgt Arne G ZIER		MIA NARRATOR

Were you wounded?

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E. & E. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)/8/117/114

SECRET

I.S.9 (WEA)

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

EVADED CAPTURE/ESCAPED FROM (Name of Country) France

For All Personnel.



- 1. No. 32768319 Rank S/Sgt Name Arnie G. ZIEM
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) None, 8 missions
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details No
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 423d Bomb Sq
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 306th Bomb Gp 6. Job (Pl. Comd., Rfn., etc.) Tail Gunner
- 7. Date of Birth 20 March 1923 8. Length of Service 18 Months
- 9. Peace time occupation Machinist 10. Private address 331 Main Street, Madison, N.J.
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? Yes, Dogtags and E & E photos
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? Some Swedish

FOR R.A.F. ONLY.

- 13. No. and location of O.T.U. / / /
- 14. No. and location of Conversion Unit / / /

FOR ALL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND/OR AIRBORNE OR PARACHUTE TROOPS

WHO BALE OUT

- 15. Post in Crew Tail Gunner
- 16. Other members of crew, and information about what has happened to them.

N.B.—Airborne and Parachute Troops: list below names and units of other occupants of plane, including R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.

PILOT	<u>W.B. O'Brien</u>	<u>Think killed in Maquis fight</u>
CO-PILOT	<u>W. Price</u>	<u>Told by French he is POW</u>
NAVIGATOR	<u>William Allen</u>	<u>Machine gunned while coming down in chute</u>
BOMBARDIER	<u>unknown</u>	<u>Told by French he is POW</u>
RADIO OPERATOR	<u>George Pearson</u>	<u>Told by French he is POW</u>
TOP TURRET GUNNER	<u>Richard Boozer</u>	<u>Told by French he is POW</u>
BALL TURRET GUNNER	<u>David Gibson</u>	<u>Told by French he is POW</u>
WAIST GUNNER (R.)	<u>John Sutton</u>	<u>Told by French he is POW</u>
WAIST GUNNER (L.)	<u>one only</u>	<u>* * *</u>
TAIL GUNNER	<u>Narrator</u>	<u>* * *</u>

- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure B-17, Thurligh, Bedford, England;
0545 15 June 1944

- 18. Where and when did you come down? Bougenais, near Nantes, 0815 15 June 1944

- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and mae west? I put everything in a hole and covered it up.

- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Dont know - Plane crashed but did not burn.

SECRET

SECRET

TOP SECRET

AME G. ZIEM

(Applies to all BRITISH, CANADIAN, U.S. & ALLIED PERSONNEL)

Our target was the railroad bridge at Nantes. We did not hit it, because of poor bombing. At about 18,000 feet anti-aircraft guns knocked out three of the four engines, and the plane started to go down. The pilot gave the order to abandon ship, and I jumped at about 17,000 feet. I delayed opening the chute until 4,000 feet, landed safely, buried my stuff, and walked across country about a mile before hiding in a bush.

After a while I contacted a French boy, and he took me to his house. During the next week I was moved several times from one house to another, then to the town of LaPellerin for a couple of hours, and finally to a small island in the Loire, where I found the pilot, Lt O'BRIEN. We stayed there five days, during which time three R/A/F/ airmen were brought in from a Lancaster which had dropped on 12 June. They were Capt BOLENGER, Sgt WOLMINGTON, and a Lt who was the navigator.

We were moved from the island to a Maquis farmhouse in the woods near Saffre, and there we stayed four days, and met an American Captain and three French officers from SHAEF who had been dropped by parachute to help organize the Resistance. At about 0600 27 June the woods were surrounded by 1400-1600 German troops from Chateaubriant, of whom we later heard that 96 were Kriegsmarine from Nantes, and the farmhouse was attacked. We all took off into the woods and hid during the day, and at about 0200 28 June the SHAEF officers decided to try to shoot their way out of the trap. The American Captain anyway made it, for I later met him in Treillieres. At 0300 29 June Sgt WOLMINGTON and I sneaked through and made our way to a farmhouse where we ate and slept, and from which we later walked back to LaPellerin. The next two weeks we spent at a farmhouse near Belle Isle, and then thinking that the Germans were wise to us, we moved to another farmhouse. After three days there, we went back to LaPellerin, and finally back to Belle Isle, where we stayed until the morning of 15 August.

I left Belle Isle with a French Resistance man, and we rowed down the Loire at night as far as Corderais, and then bicycled the rest of the way to Nantes in daytime through the German lines. We were stopped and asked for our identity cards once, but the German soldier was young and very casual, and we got through very easily. At Nantes the French Resistance men gave some information about the German defenses to an American Colonel, and then he started back through the German lines, and was taken first to the 2nd Cavalry at Treillieres, and then to the Third Army PWB at Sens del Bretagne.

PILOT	W. D. ...	Told by French ...
CO-PILOT	...	Told by French ...
NAVIGATOR	...	Told by French ...
BOMBARDIER	...	Told by French ...
RADIO OPERATOR	George ...	Told by French ...
TOP TURRET GUNNER	...	Told by French ...
BALL TURRET GUNNER	...	Told by French ...
WING GUNNER (R)	John ...	Told by French ...
WING GUNNER (L)	...	Told by French ...
TAIL GUNNER	...	Told by French ...

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date 16 August 1944

Attached: I have reviewed this report

Appendix "B"

"C"

"D"

Returned to unit.

Disposal:

SECRET

I grade this evasion # 5.
Robert Bacon
2nd Lt. AC

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET.
I.S.9 (WEA)

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. IS9(WEA)/8/117/114

If further circulation of this information is made, it is important that its source should not be divulged.

No. 32768319 Rank S/Sgt Name Arne G. ZIEM

Date of Interview 16 August 1944

It was M. le Brun who took Lt O'BRIEN ~~to~~ and me to the island in the Loire. He also put us up several times in LePellerin.

The man with whom we stayed at the farmhouse near Belle Isle was named M. Lotard, and it was M. Trelau who came to see us and brought us food during the two weeks that we were there.

The French Resistance man who guided me through the Germans to Nantes was named Marcel and was about 33 years old.

Top Secret!

Mis - X - Files
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