

SECRET

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
and QUESTIONNAIRE FOR I.S. 9 (WEA) PERSONNEL

Sept 7
(Date)

ROE S WOODIS 14041959
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

Ludwigshafen 3
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: May 17-20 ^{27 May}

457 Bomb Sq. T46 Sqd.
(Unit)

Returned to UK: Sept 6

MEMBERS OF CREW: (List names by positions and indicate what happened to each one)

- PILOT ^{2nd} Artie J. Whitlow - Unknown 0-748488 - MIA
- CO-PILOT Robert Cunningham, 2nd Lt, 0815091 = PW
- NAVIGATOR 1st Lt MC Laughlin, Daniel S - 0754972 - MIA
- BOMBARDIER S/sgt Robert V. Towle - P.O.W. 19139802 - PW
- RADIO OPERATOR S/sgt Paul R. Clark - P.O.W. 87656579 - MIA
- TOP TURRET GUNNER S/sgt Paul R. Isker - ~~Unknown~~ 17153929 - MIA
- BALL TURRET GUNNER Sgt. Roe S. Woodis - N.K. 14041959 - Rtd
- WAIST GUNNER Sgt. Lowell D. Masters - unknown 39412000 = MIA
- WAIST GUNNER - none
- TAIL GUNNER - S/sgt James V. Ambrose, 11069828 - PW

May - 17-20 close to target
Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
It was on fire
At approximately what altitude did source bail out? - 20,000

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?
I don't think so.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?
all I saw were the Radio operator and Waist gunner their chutes opened
Did the plane explode on striking the ground? I didn't see it hit the ground

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?
no.

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.
R. V. Towle is prisoner of War and also the Bombardier (over) Radio operator. Red Cross.

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 by 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?

I seen the waist gunners chute open I ~~know~~ do not know what happened to him.

Were you wounded?

no.

Were you in German hands?

no

Did you kill any Germans in escaping? *no*

Have you previously given the names of your helpers? *no*

List any names previously omitted, showing what help was given.

What security briefing were you given?

What souvenirs do you still possess? *money is all*

Home address. *R. S. Woodis Allsboro, Ala*

List names of American or British personnel believed to have been arrested by Germans.

List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

Wood

Got by flat near T - hauled out c 20,000' - delay ~~some~~ -
Landed on side of mt outside city. to NE ^{within 5 mi.}

C1330

Got out mt - went E - by dm - to soldiers get patch -
went to where others had - not know what happened.

had had
CR & gun

Walk E all mt -

28

Not on slope mt c 1100m - Walk all day & mt - pretty
wed -

OD pants & shirt - banjoed - lost ^{my} boots when jump - left -
lost ^{leather} shoes when not
leaving.

Not by eat - drink from streams.

29

C14430

5 days get to Gpical - eat vegetables - raw potatoes - drink from
streams.

Some for take - for mt - give clothes -

Start at next dy - by direct to Surt - from D off mt.

Follow me by dm - to Belfort - 2 days to Swiss frontier -
on bike - ride down with another for man - mt c. 25 km

5 down
c mid mt

from Gpical. ^{man}
Cross at Boncourt - took across.

Frontier gets patch - jail

Then to Pontenay - police ask B Gp - T, plane, mt.

Answer me - escaped P/W Question Wm Struck

Sent Olten c 3 dys.

Then Bad Lutzsch - 21 dys.

Then Bern. Writint experim.

Prison

Signed slip not to leave until 5 M's permission

Decide by p invasion of S France

Sgt Roes S WOODIS, 14041959, 748/457 Bomb Gp (H), MIA 27 May 1944
Itrvd 7 Sept 44
' ship

WOODIS was hit by flak near the target, which seems to have been Ludwigshaven and he soon bailed out at 20,000' feet, delaying his jump somewhat, and landing on the side of a mountain NW of some city which may well have been STRASBOURG rather than some German town, inasmuch as in five days walking he reached EPINAL. WOODIS is more than a bit foggy about places and he thought that he was shot down on 17 rather than 27 May, so the point of landing needs to be established from some other source. He got out of his harness, went W, and hid. Within five minutes German soldiers had his parachute and moved on to the place where others landed. WOODIS does not know what happened then. That night he walked W all night, without food because he had lost his escape kit as well as his purse in parachuting. He had also lost his flying boots when he jumped and his heated boots did not wear up well under the walk. The next morning he slept until noon and then walked the rest of that day and night. He found it pretty cold, for he was dressed only in OD pants and shirt. He still had nothing to eat, but he got water from streams. After five days like this he reached EPINAL, eating raw potatoes and other vegetables as he could find them and drinking from streams.

At last some Frenchmen took him in for a night and gave him civilian clothes. They directed him toward Switzerland and he started out the next day, expecting to fly out from that country. He followed the main highway down to BELFORT and took two days to reach the Swiss frontier, somehow having found a bicycle. He had also picked up a Frenchman about 25 km from EPINAL. The details of this story are not too evident.

near BONCOURT

About ~~five~~ 5 June he crossed into Switzerland apparently guided by this man upon whom he had come. Frontier guards put him in jail and then took him to Porrentruy where the police asked him his bomb gp, target, plane, and subsequent route. He answered none of these questions except to declare that he was an escaped P/W. Some William STROH comes in in connection with this questioning.

He was sent to Olten for three days, to Bad Lostock for 21 days, to Bern to write out his experiences, and on to Glion. He signed some paper not to leave the country without the MA's permission. After the invasion of France he made up his mind to leave Switzerland.

DEE

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

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

For
Capt
Emerson

E & E REPORT NO.
EVASION IN

(Date)

Roe S WOODIS, ~~S/Sgt~~ Sgt,

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: LUDWIGSHAVEN

(Squadron) 457 Bomb Group
(Group)

MIA: 27 May 1944
Arrived in UK: _____

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

				Official Disposition	Narrators Disposition
PILOT	0-748488	1st Lt	Artie J WHITLOW		MIA
CO-PILOT	0-815091	2d Lt	Robert H CUNNINGHAM		MIA
NAVIGATOR)	0-754972	1st Lt	Daniel G McLAUGHLIN		MIA
BOMBARDIER)					
RADIO OPERATOR	17153929	S/Sgt	Paul R ISKER		MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	19139402	S/Sgt	Robert V TOWLE		P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	39412000	Sgt	Lovell O'MASTERS		MIA
WAIST GUNNER	11069828	S/Sgt	James V AMBROSE		P/W
WAIST GUNNER					
TAIL GUNNER		Sgt	Roe S WOODIS		NARRATOR

Were you wounded?

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.

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) ROE S. WOODS Signed Roe S. Woods
Rank Sgt A. S. N. 14041959 Dated 7 Sept 44
Unit 457 B. GP. 748 sqd Witness [Signature]

AG P BR HQ SCS

/22472

RESTRICTED

Ede# 1579

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
Office of A.C. of S., G-2
APO 758 US ARMY

C E R T I F I C A T E

31 August 1944
(Date)

1. This is to certify that Roe S. Woodis
(Name)

14041959, Sgt., has undergone a preliminary interrogation and
(ASN) (Rank)
will not be further interrogated pursuant to paragraph 4b, NATOUSA letter,
AG 383.6 P-0, 12 July 1944, subject: "Repatriation of American Personnel".

2. Above named individual has been cautioned concerning his security obligations and has not signed a security certificate.

T. R. Bruskin
T. R. BRUSKIN,
Lt. Col., Cav. *AB*
Asst AC of S, G-2 (CI)