

*JS*

SECRET

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

*by  
Proof  
PS*

E & E REPORT NO 810 7-800-309  
EVASION IN FRANCE

(Date)

Laymon M MAHAN, T/Sgt 37232064

TARGET: AIRFIELD AT NANCY

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
11 (No of Missions)

Date Missing in Action: 25 April 44

750 Bomb Squadron, 457 Bomb Group  
(Squadron) (Group)

Date Arrived in UK: 30 June 1944

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWIB)

Indicate what happened to  
each man  
and how you know

PILOT	0-728547	Capt Edward M BENDER	P/W
CO-PILOT	0-438016	Major Roderick L FRANCIS	E&E #806
NAVIGATOR	0-729604	Capt Arthur T CAVANAUGH	E&E #807
	0-678659	1st Lt Earl E WOODARD	E&E #808
BOMBARDIER	0-676250	1st Lt Edwin K FULLER	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	37232064	T/Sgt Laymon M MAHAN	NARRATOR
TOP TURRET GUNNER	34441214	T/Sgt James L FREE	P/W
MID TURRET GUNNER	33236947	S/Sgt Michael WOYURKA	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	17109426	S/Sgt John P SARICO	P/W
WAIST GUNNER	0689387	<del>2nd Lt</del> Bill (NMI) SOULES	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	0-563353	1st Lt Monroe J HOTALING	E&E #809

Were you wounded?

(See E&E 806-809)

I bailed out at 21,000 feet and must have become unconscious, for the next thing I knew my chute was open. I landed in an open field, threw my chute in <sup>to</sup> an old cellar and covered it with vines, and started running. ~~I kept on running past a woman who looked up from picking something.~~ Then I <sup>met</sup> ~~saw~~ Capt CAVANNEIGH and we ~~scared each other~~ <sup>together</sup> to death. We ran down a creek for a bit. About three quarters of a mile from the place where I had left my chute we separated, hiding in the bushes about 200 yards from each other. About 2200 that night I went to look for him but I could not find him. I slept out that night.

FIRST DAY

The next morning I started walking through woods and along hedges. I stopped three or four people, but they were afraid and did not want to have anything to do with me. I met a farmer who indicated that I should go to some town. Before I reached ~~the town which he meant~~ <sup>it</sup> I came to a village. I hid and watched it for a couple of hours. After a couple of wagons had driven past I stopped a boy bicycling by himself. While he gaped at me I made him understand that I had parachuted and that I wanted civilian clothes. He took me to a house.

HELPED SECOND DAY

Later I was taken to meet Lts WOODARD and HOTALING and ~~we were taken~~ the rest of our journey was arranged.

JOURNEY ARRANGED

Compiled by

D E EMERSON  
Capt, AUS

Approved by

W STULL HOLT  
Lt Col, AC  
Commanding

Appendix B

Informant has no information to add to that given in Appendix B, E&E 806-809 with which sources he traveled.

Appendix D

1. I used my chocolate bar for hot chocolate. I used the halazone tablets, matches, adhesive tape, chewing gum, horlicks tablets, water bottle, compass, and sewing kit. Two or three small adhesive plasters might replace the chewing gum.
2. I carried a yellow purse. The French would not take my money, but the Spanish police did. I bought two packs of cigarettes in France at 200 francs each. I spent around 200 francs in Spain for food. ~~The maps were old style and no good.~~
3. I had one small compass and a phrase card.

- 4. I had five or six passport-size photographs and used them on identity papers.
- 5. I was lectured by ~~RAF~~ at Orlando, Florida, and Grand Island, Nebraska. Men who evaded also gave lectures there. The lectures were valuable.
- 6. Suggestion: If you are not moved in two or three weeks ~~start~~ start out on your own.

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

LAYMON M. MAHAN 1st Lt. 3723206H  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
750TH BOMB SQ. 457TH BOMB GP.  
(Unit)

JUNE 30, 1944  
(Date)

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

APRIL 25, 1944 - 11:35 - NEAR GAGE

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.  
Was it on fire, etc?

ON FIRE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

2,000 FT.

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

LT. HOTALING BURNED

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

SAW 6 OTHER PARACHUTES - 4 OFFICERS ARE HERE

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

I DID NOT SEE IT

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

YES 4 OFFICERS (HERE)

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.

FRENCH SAID CAPTAIN & ANOTHER WERE CAPTURED

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.

ON LAND

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

(4 OTHERS HERE)

2 SAID TO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED

SECRET

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

E & E REPORT NO. 810  
EVASION IN

JUNE 30, 1944  
(Date)

LAYMON M. MAHAN T/Sgt. 3723206H

(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
11 (No of Missions)

TARGET:

Date Missing in Action: APR. 25, 1944

Date Arrived in UK: JUNE 30, 1944

750 BOMB H57 BOMB  
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (This information checked with PWs)

Indicate what happened to  
each man  
and how you know

PILOT REPORTED CAPTURED BY FRENCH

CO-PILOT HERE

NAVIGATOR HERE (~~2~~ 2 NAVIGATORS)

BARBARDEN ←

ENGINE OPERATOR SELF

TOP TURRET GUNNER ←

MIDDLE TURRET GUNNER ←

WAIST GUNNER ←

WAIST GUNNER ←

TAIL GUNNER HERE

Were you wounded?

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".
- **WHILE HIDING IN THE WOODS FOR 30 HRS**  
 Horlicks tablets.
- Chocolate or Peanut Bar. **FOR HOT CHOCOLATE**
- Milk (tube). **NO**
- Denzadrine tablets (fatigue). **NO**
- Halazone tablets (water purifier). **WHILE HIDING IN WOODS**
- Matches. **FOR SMOKING**
- Adhesive tape. **USED BY FRENCH**
- Chewing gum. ✓
- Water bottle. ✓
- Compass. **USED AT VARIOUS TIMES WHILE IN THE WOODS**
- Sewing kit. **USED AT VARIOUS TIMES**
- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory? **YES - old style MAP**
- e. How did you finally dispose of the box? **LEFT IN A FRENCH HOME.**
- 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?  
**TOO OR THREE SMALL AdH. PLASTERS FOR SMALL SCRATCHES MIGHT BE ADDED IN PLACE OF GUM**

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? **YES**  
 State color of stripes and letters. **Yellow**  
 If NOT, State why not.
- b. Did you use the purse? **NO FRENCH WOULD NOT TAKE MONEY BUT SPANISH (over) POLICE DID**

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

Maps. Which ones?

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts.

How did you spend the money?

d. How did you dispose of:-

Maps.

Compass.

File (hacksaw).

Surplus currency.

old style MAPS WERE NO GOOD

BOUGHT 2 PACKS OF CIGARETTES 200 FRANKS  
AROUND 200 FR. IN SPAIN TO EAT

SPANISH POLICE TOOK THEM

3. Were you issued any extra compasses or further aids to evasion?

ONE SMALL COMPAS & A PARASE CARD

4. PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many?

b. Did you use them?

YES 5 OR 6  
YES

5. LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM.

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

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

A.A.F. S.A.T. ORLANDO FLA.

AND GRAND ISLAND NEBR. BY ESCAPES

YES

IF YOU DONT GET  
HELP IN TWO OR THREE WKS. MOVE ON

SECRET - AMERICAN  
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO. 810

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.,.....)

*Marshaling yard before Paris - close to Versailles.*

*Plane factory near Paris, over Pyrenees.*



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, ACD, 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) LAYMON M MAHAN Signed Laymon M Mahan  
 Rank 1st Lt A.S.N. 37232064 Date June 26-1944  
 Unit H57th Bomb. GP Witness [Signature]

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

March

① Schafar

Bailed out 26,000' - must have been unusual - next  
knew it open

handed in your field - there it is old cellar - covered  
with vines - start running

1st person saw a woman - look up from picking - eyes -  
keep going

Then saw Capt. Caranoff - near each other death -  
ran down a creek a bit

C 3/4 mile from my dirt no report - I had -  
looked for a 200 yds. to meet that at 2200

But when I got there I found  
slight that it

Next am start through woods down ledges

Stop 3 of people but they afraid - not  
have anything to do with me

Met farmer - I made signs for me to go to town -  
before arrived at his town - to north - mixed up -

stay - watched couple hours - only few wagon out -  
but wagon pass, stay by on hill - 4 eyes at me

Only indicated pick a few clothes - I took to home

One man told me I a lot like, Emil the who lets  
me named as Kromm - eyes hit eye - it must have been  
from Paris

3 - 4 hrs by me - Cloter come (claim to be Canadian)

Old man come - with cart - through Schafar

Hotel the - woman up eye - Cloter say you with pick eye

Then to Boudoir - I look to picket main where Hotel

to Woodland.

With Woodland from the ...

Fanned out with history when wait for revision.

Some letter from some institution on ... which is  
Legende - something about shooting Bertogio / Ass.

Coyote, Las Villa, Sant, Loida, Allan,  
Madrid, etc.

Cira + 6th.

# RESTRICTED

## WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 383.6 (31 Jul 43) OB-S-B-M

6 August 1943

KLS/el-2B-939 Pentagon

**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) LAYMON M. MAHAN Signed Laymon M. Mahan  
Rank T/SGT. A. S. N. 37232064 Dated JUNE 30, 1944  
Unit 750<sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQ. 457<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GP. Witness [Signature]

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

# RESTRICTED

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

DATE: 30 June 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, EARL E. WOODARD, 1st Lt., AC, O-678659

HEREBY CERTIFY that I have known and have been associated with

LAYMON M. MAHAN, T/Sgt., AC, 37232064

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.

Laymon M. Mahan

RIGHT THUMB PRINT:



Earl E. Woodard

The individual whose signature and right thumb print appear hereon has been identified to the satisfaction of this office as LAYMON M. MAHAN,

T/Sgt., AC, 37232064 (750 Bomb Squadron - 457 Bomb Group)

previously reported missing in action over enemy territory.

John E. Parish  
JOHN E. PARISH, SPECIAL AGENT, C.I.C.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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. LAYMON M. MAHAN /Sgt. 37232064
2. Decorations. AIR MEDAL
3. Unit or Squadron. 750<sup>TH</sup> BOMB
4. Division (Army) or Group. H57<sup>TH</sup> BOMB
5. Date of Birth. MAY 7, 1921
6. Length of Service. 18 1/2
7. Private Address. MORRISON OKLA. RR 2
8. Job as civilian. FARMER
9. From what field did you take off? G/ATTON
10. Take off time. AROUND 6:00
11. Date and target. APRIL 25, 1944 - NANCY (AIR FIELD NEAR)
12. Where did you land? NEAR ECHAUFFOUR
13. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? WENT DOWN WITH PLANE ON FIRE
14. What was your position in aircraft? RADIO OPER. 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 D46 T665 1 French I/P
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 INTELL. AT GIBRALTER
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? YES - SPAIN - AROUND JUNE 23
22. Date of arrival in Spain. MAY - 29, 1944
23. Date of arrival at Gibraltar. JUNE 26, 1944
24. Place and date of departure for U.K. By sea or air. JUNE 29, 1944 GIBRALTER BY AIR
25. Place and date of arrival in U.K. JUNE 30, 1944 BRISTOL