

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(WEL) PERSONNEL

SEPT 24, 1944,
(Date)

JOEL D. PUNCHES Lt. 0682366.
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

OSNABRUK 23
(Target) (Number of missions)

Date Missing in Action: FEB 21, 1944,

Returned to UK: SEPT 24, 1944,

385 BOMB GP.
(Unit)

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

PILOT CAPT BINKS - ESCAPED.
CO-PILOT UNKNOWN. CAPTURED
NAVIGATOR HAUPT, PUNCHES - BOTH ESCAPED.
BOMBARDIER UNKNOWN. - CAPTURED
RADIO OPERATOR UNKNOWN - CAPTURED
TOP TURRET GUNNER UNKNOWN - CAPTURED PALHFINDER
BILL TURRET GUNNER UNKNOWN - CAPTURED 13 ABOARD.
WAIST GUNNER SGT BOOTH - ESCAPED. 9 - CAPTURED
WAIST GUNNER UNKNOWN - CAPTURED 4 - ESCAPED.
TAIL GUNNER UNKNOWN - CAPTURED.

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing. FEB 21, 1944 - 1530,
IN ZUPER ZEE
HOLLAND.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
TWO UNFEATHERED ENGINES, NO ELECTRICITY OR OXYGEN.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 6000 FT.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? NO.

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

ALL BAILED OUT AND ALL CHUTES OPENED.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? NO.

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

10 DAYS LATER SAW 3 MEMBERS

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.

9 MEMBERS CAPTURED & TWO OF THESE WERE
SHOT, BUT NOT FATALLY, BY GERMANS.

(over)

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. CRASHED APPROX. 1 MILE OUT IN ZUPER ZEE.

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

3 ESCAPED AND SAFE, AND 9 P.W.' INFORMATION FROM UNDERGROUND.

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? YES. - PARIS

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

FRANCIS
12 NASSASTRAAT 15 DAYS IN HOME
HERLON
HOLLAND.

What security briefing were you given? PARIS WRITTEN MATERIAL.

What souvenirs do you still possess? GOLD SHOE FROM HOLLAND
STATUE " BELGIUM

Home address.

WYMORE, NEBR.

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

9 MEMBERS OF MY CREW.

3 AMERICANS IN LIEGE BELGIUM
NAMES UNKNOWN.

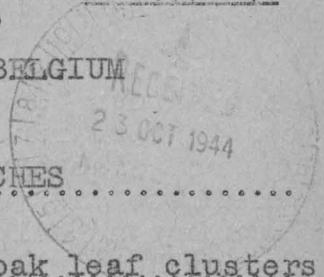
List names of American or British personnel believed to be evading.

NONE KNOWN.

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

EVASION CAPTURE ~~XXXXXX~~ FROM (Name of Country) HOLLAND & BELGIUM

For all Personnel



- 1. No. 0-682366 Rank. 2nd Lt. Name. JOEL D. PUNCHES
(U.K. Acting, Temp. or W/S)
- 2. Decorations: (U.S.A.A.F.: No. of missions) 23 Air Medal 3 oak leaf clusters
- 3. Were you wounded? Give details. no
- 4. Ship (Navy), Unit (Army), Sqn. (Air Force) 319 Bomb Sqn.
- 5. Div. (Army) or Gp. (Air Force) 385 Gp. 6. Job (Pl. Cmd., Rfn., etc) Navigator.
- 7. Date of Birth June 22, 1915 8. Length of Service 2 1/2 years
- 9. Peace time occupation School Teacher 10. Private Address Wymore, Nebraska.
- 11. Did you carry any form of identification, or photograph? yes, dog tags & E & E photos
- 12. Do you speak French, or any other foreign language? no

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 AIRCRAFT OR PARACHUTE TROOPS WHO BALE OUT

- 15. Post in Crew. NAVIGATOR
- 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. Capt. Binks - evaded with me for few days
CO-PILOT. unknown
NAVIGATOR. Haupt - evaded with me for few days. 2109
BOMBARDIER. unknown (told by underground that...
RADIO OPERATOR. " 2 were shot and wounded
TOP TURRET GUNNER. " by Germans and taken away
BALL TURRET GUNNER. " in German train.
WAIST GUNNER (R.) Harold Booth - evade with me
WAIST GUNNER (L.) unknown (4 evaded, 9 captured, of whom 2 were shot)
TAIL GUNNER. and 3 additional
- 17. Type of aircraft, place, date, time of departure. B-17 Path Finder - Ashfield Feb. 21, 1944, 0800
- 18. Where and when did you come down? 25 mi. N.E. Amersfoort, Holland, 2M-E. 1500 - Feb. 21 1944 - Zuder-Zee
- 19. How did you dispose of your parachute, harness and Mae west? under-bush
- 20. Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? Yes, plane crashed in Zuder-Zee

Interviewed by I.S.9 (WEA)

Date... 24 Sept. 1944

Attached:
Appendix "X"
Appendix "C"
Appendix "D"

I grade this evasion No.5

Robert Bacon
ROBERT BACON Major
2nd Lt., AC

Disposal: Returned to Unit
DISTRIBUTION:
HQ. I.S.9 (WEA).....2
12th Army Group.....2 (less C)
9th AF.....1 " "

Dropped our bombs on airfield at Onsnabruk, Germany. On way back two Engines run away and couldn't be feathered. Electricity went out and also oxygen. Baled out at 6,000 ft. Landed in field. Ditched parachute and walked. SE asked Lady for help. ~~WALKED~~ and eat. Gave me eats but no help. Walked for four more hours. Stopped man who returned in one hour with underground man who took me to his home. Later discovered I walked through German training woods; at Roermond, Holland attempted to secure Frenchman to go thru with me but unable to. At Liege, Belgium I was made ready to catch plane from England in field. Plane did not arrive. In Liege 5 Americans returned from Switzerland border unable to cross. Underground claimed lack of cooperation from England.

During 1st. week of Aug. at Liege. 300 Germans were dressed in American uniforms and taken to peoples homes and told their duty to house them. Before underground could notify people several families were baited and killed.

I contacted civil affairs office at Liege after Americans arrived. Was given no help. Secured private car and went to Brussels, and reported to English. Secured ride on American transport but English refused to allow. Was transferred to Paris two days later and reported to American authorities there.

On 21 September 1944 we reported to British I.S.9(WEA) at Brussels and requested that we return to units in England. They said that English airmen had been shipped from Paris to Brussels in an open truck with inadequate clothing, and that therefore they would retaliate in a similar method. They sent us to Paris as soon as an American PW and X truck arrived. Major Elwes and a South Staffordshire Army Captain were in charge. They gave us 800 Belgian Francs but no cigarettes.

signed. ✎ Lt. Joel D. Panches
Lt. Lester B. Godwin

APPENDIX "C" TO E. & E. REPORT No. I.S.9(WEA)/6/345/1774

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

No. 0-682366 Rank 2nd Lt. Name JOEL D. PUNCHES

Date of Interview 24 Sept. 1944

Helped by -

E.H. BREMMERS - Architect - Roermond, Holland
stayed 3 months.

Melle LEOPOLDIN NAHON - Rue de la Metallurgie 12 Brassoux,
Liege, Belgium
brought me across Holland - Belgium frontier and into
Liege Belgium. I then stayed at her home for 2 months.

Very active in underground and excellent help.

Melle Mabel Fraipont - Rue Monulphe 45, Liege, Belgium.
stayed for 2 months at her home.

Did not use an aids box.

Carried ~~amoney~~ money purse, left the money with the first family.

Briefed in England on Escape and Evasion.

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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 Forces;
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.

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(See Reverse Side)

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1. Because disclosures of information regarding evasion from capture, escape, details of imprisonment, release from internment, and repatriation have been made, the lives and services of fellow soldiers and those who help them have been lost or endangered. All information which you possess on these subjects, including the experiences of others as well as your own, briefings and equipment for evasion and escape, and preparations and other activities in connection therewith, constitutes MILITARY INFORMATION which is classified SECRET by the War Department.

2. You will therefore disclose no information whatever, beyond the fact of your return to duty from "missing in action" or "prisoner of war" or "internment", to anyone except the following military officials:

- a. The first Military Attache to whom you report;
- b. An officer designated by the Commanding General of an overseas Theatre of Operations;
- c. The Prisoner of War Branch, MIS, Washington, D.C., the interrogating agency designated by the A/C of S, G-2, War Department General Staff;
- d. Certain other officers holding written authority from the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, to interrogate you.

3. You will particularly guard against disclosure of SECRET information to relatives, friends, representatives of the press and radio, and military officials, except as noted in a, b, c and d above.

4. In order to protect yourself against disciplinary action, any question involving publicity must be referred BY YOU PERSONALLY to the A/C of S, G-2, WDGS, Washington, D.C.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that I have read and fully understand all of the foregoing and the Directive of the Secretary of War, 6 Aug 43 (on the reverse side), and will at ALL TIMES hereafter comply fully therewith.

I understand that all information concerning escape, evasion from capture, activities and equipment in connection therewith, and details of imprisonment or release from internment, is SECRET and must not be disclosed to anyone except the military officials specifically designated. I further understand that disclosure to any other person will make me liable to disciplinary action for failure to safeguard MILITARY INFORMATION.

I realize that publicity concerning my experiences, by word of mouth or otherwise, will endanger the lives of many persons and therefore it is my duty to take all possible precautions to prevent it.

I further certify that I have received a copy of the foregoing.

Name (Print) JOEL D. PUNCHES Signed Joel D. Punches
 Rank P^{MB} Lt A.S.N. 0-682366 Dated Sept 24, 1944 Place London
 Unit 385 BOMB GP Witness

CERTIFIED THAT:No. 0-682336 Rank2/Lt

Name (BLOCK LETTERS)

Joel D. Panches

Unit

385B Gphas been fully/~~briefly~~ interrogated by an Intelligence Officer of I.S. 9 (WEA)on 24 Sept 19 44 and has signed a Security Certificate.He ~~should~~ should not be re-interrogated.

Robert H Bacon
 Major 2/Lt, AC.

IMPORTANT:

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE RETAINED AND HANDED TO (BRITISH) AN OFFICER OF M.I.9
 OR (AMERICAN), AN OFFICER OF P.W. & X-DET.-M.I.S. ON ARRIVAL IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

If E & E is returned to the United Kingdom, he will report to 63 Brooks Street, London.

Note position on crew

Gerald D Binks, Capt, 0662727	P/W	Command Pilot
Joel D. Panches, <u>narrator</u>		Nav.
Halcombe, Ralph W, 1st Lt, 0677742	P/W	Pilot
Babers, John W, 2d Lt, 0682761	(452) P/W	Barnd
Warner, Edward H, 1st Lt, 0724647	P/W	Co-pilot
Wm. Barrett, 2d Lt, 0683105	(452) P/W	obs.
Charles Haupt, 1st Lt 0432504	(2109)	Nav.
Thomas D. Kennedy 1st Lt 18189754	P/W 482	R/O
Steven F. Martin 1st Lt 39108878	P/W 482	T/G
Jerry Rasmussen, 1st Lt 13137183	P/W 482	BTG
Bryce Long, 1st Lt 39854150	P/W 482	W/C
Harold M. Booth, 1st Lt 6578178	(2195)	W/C
Wm M. Blake, 1st Lt 32284616	P/W 482	T/G