

SECRET

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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL
EVADING OR ESCAPING FROM ENEMY OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

ELEVELAND, ROBERT F/O T1547
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

TARGET: BERLIN

Date mission in action: MARCH 1944

3 (No. of missions)

Date arrived in UK: SEPT 6 1944

D 54 458
(Squadron) (Group)

MEMBERS OF CREW: (Please list names next to positions)

PILOT	THAYER HOPKINS	ESCAPE	OBSERVED
CO-PILOT	TOM HERNON	CAPTURED	UNDERGROUND
NAVIGATOR	SAMUEL ROBERTS II	ESCAPE	OBSERVED
BOMBARDIER	MYSELF		
RADIO OPERATOR	JAMES PETERSON	CAPTURED	UNDERGROUND
TOP TURRET GUNNER	WARREN	CAPTURED	UNDERGROUND
BALL TURRET GUNNER	JAMES HOBSON	CAPTURED	UNDERGROUND
WAIST GUNNER	LAMBOUSK	CAPTURED	UNDERGROUND
WAIST GUNNER	EARL KNIGHT	CAPTURED	UNDERGROUND
TAIL GUNNER	ERIC HILDITCH	ESCAPED	OBSERVED

Indicate what happened to each man and how you know.

Handwritten notes:
- "The last seen in the..."
- "make bag of... out of the... new line..."
- "after invasion in Belgium"

Decorations: ETO RIBBON

Date of Birth: JULY 22, 1923

Private Address: 314 SOUTH OAK SAPULPA, OKLAHOMA

Length of Service: 2 YEARS

Job as Civilian: THEATER USHER

From what field did you take off? Take off time.
HORSHAM ST. FAITH 0800

Were all secret papers and equipment destroyed? YES

Were you wounded? Give details.
NO

Did you pay your guides? If so, how much? NO

Do you speak FRENCH? NO SPANISH? GERMAN? ITALIAN? OTHER LANGUAGE?

Did you have identity papers?
HOLLAND & BELGIUM.

SECRET - AMERICAN
MOST SECRET - BRITISH

APPENDIX "D" TO E AND E REPORT NO.

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.,.....)

EXTENSIVE TRENCHS BUILT ALONG HOLLAND
GERMAN FRONTIER. IN HOLLAND THE TOWN
OF NI MEEGAN? WAS BOMBED BY A SINGLE
ALLIED PLANE DURING DAYLIGHT. (AIR ROAD
STATION) THE PEOPLE WERE VERY
ANXIOUS TO KNOW IF IT WERE A PURPOSE
FUL RAID OR MISTAKEN FOR A GER
MAN TOWN THE DATE WAS
EARLY MARCH OR FEBRUARY, MORALE IN
HOLLAND WAS VERY GOOD (CIVILIANS)

RETREAT OF GERMAN OBSERVED.
VERY POOR EQUIPMENT, MORALE WAS VERY
POOR

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
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REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

CLEVELAND ^{ROBERT} #10 71547 SEPT 7, 1944
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)
9544 SQD 458 GP
(Unit)

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRESENT
OFFICIAL STATUS

PILOT
CO-PILOT
NAVIGATOR
BOMBARDIER
RADIO OPERATOR
TOP TURRET GUNNER
BAIL TURRET GUNNER
WAIST GUNNER
WAIST GUNNER
TAIL GUNNER

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

MARCH 6, 1944 15:30 NYKERK HOLLAND

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

TWO ENGINES OUT GAS GAVE OUT OVER ZUIDER ZEE

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

7000

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 MEMBER BAILED OUT

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

YES

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

YES

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.

PILOT, NAVIGATOR, TAIL GUNNER ESCAPED. ENGINEER
BROKEN LEG CO, PILOT BROKEN ANKLE REST CAPTURED

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 WAS WITH PILOT, NAVIGATOR & TAIL GUNNER
FOR TWO MONTHS WHILE ESCAPING. REST OF
CREW WERE CAPTURED. THIS INFORMATION
PROVIDED BY HOLLAND UNDERGROUND.

254, -458
Capt Hopkins, ^{Thayer} 1966 R+D 0-738395 2/4t

Capt Herndon, Ernest T - 1st Lt, 0081415 P/a

Mr Roberts, ^{SAMUEL W.} 1967 R+D 2nd Lt 0-810504

Sgt ^{name} 1596

R.O. James Peterson, 15071021, Sgt, P/w

ITG. Bewell E. Warren, Sgt, 18187492 P/a

B+G. James W. Hobson, Sgt, 16150359 P/a

W.G. Harold F Lambousy, Sgt, 18171365 P/a

W.G. Carl L. Knight S/Sgt, 34099306 P/a

T.G. ^{White}, 2114 R+D Sgt 32488990

ERIC J.

REPORT ON ESCAPE EQUIPMENT.

Rank, Name: - T/SGT F/O ROBERT LIECHMAN
 Unit: - 458 UGR 754 USG

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 avoid capture or to escape.

1. AID 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".

Horlicks tablets.

Chocolate or Peanut Bar.

Milk (tube).

Benzamine tablets (fatigue).

Halazone tablets (water purifier).

Matches.

Adhesive tape.

Chewing gum.

Water bottle.

Compass. ✓ TRAVELING AT NIGHTSewing kit. ✓ HIDING PATCHING

- d. Did any of the above items prove unsatisfactory?
 e. How did you finally dispose of the box? UNDERGROUND
 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?

2. PURSE

- a. Did you carry a purse? YES
 State color of stripes and letters. DO NOT REMEMBER
 If NOT, State why not.

- b. Did you use the purse? YES

(over)

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

Keys, which ones? FRANCE

Compass, YES

File (hacksaw), NO

Foreign currency. State countries and amounts. FRENCH 2000
How did you spend the money? MODIFING LETTER TO PILOT AS HQS

d. How did you dispose of:-

Keys, WAS LOST EXCHANGED FOR BELGIUM

Compass, 3

File (hacksaw), UNDER GROUND

Surplus currency, 3

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

NO

PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS

a. Did you carry passport-size photographs?

If so, how many? NO

b. Did you use them?

LECTURES

a. Were you lectured on evasion and escape?

State WHERE, WHEN and by WHOM
HORSHAM STEALTH FERRY BY THE S-2 OFFICER

b. Did you find the lectures of value?

YES

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

1596

710 Cleveland

I landed near Raarix, Holland
 on ~~March~~ ^{about} 25 feet from Sgt James Peterson of
 my crew. Lt Roberts ~~27~~ ²⁸ E Rpt # 1967 Sgt
 Warren, and Sgt Hobson, and Sgt
 Lamboury had all landed within
 a block of us. I set off with Lt
 Roberts and we hid until sunset.
 We went to a farmhouse; told our story,
 were given warm milk, and allowed to
 sleep in the hay loft.

The next day a man came
 and told us he had transportation to
 Barcelona. We went to another farmhouse
 where we were given civilian clothes and at
 the end of four hours the head of the
 Amersfoort organization came with
 questionnaires. We were joined by
 Sgt Hildley ~~27~~ ²⁸ E Rpt # and that night
~~we~~ were all driven to the chiefs home
 in Amersfoort. Two days later Lt
 Hopkins ~~27~~ ²⁸ E Rpt # 1966 joined us.
 We stayed here three weeks;
 The chief's name was Gehalms Otten
 and he is in the police force. He took our
 pictures and got us ~~sent~~ ^{sent} our I cards.
 We then went to Deventer where
 we spent two days with an English-
 speaking architect. Then, after a

Three hour stop in Lindlöven we
went on to Derina. Here we met
Jose, a smuggler, who promised
us much ~~but~~ who never did
more than continually ask for our men's
rank and serial numbers, so that
he could send a radio message.
It took us to stay with a young
man in the Kappel fire department. We
were here three weeks.

Jose now moved us to a
cave at Amerika. We were here
two weeks. Jose had twenty one
aviators hidden here, ~~but~~ ~~some~~
~~of~~ ~~whom~~ were Lt. ²⁰¹¹ ~~Edward~~ Taylor, ^{Sgt. Edward} Taylor,
Sgt. ¹³⁸ Taylor, and Sgt. Tom Park, all ^{total}
one of us were here, moved ^{clerk}
Jacques, Jose's henchman at
Hawran. After two weeks here, we
moved on to farmers at Derina for
another two weeks. In this farm
we met Sgts Jack Loub and Axel
of the officers. He had been
shot down on his last mission.
We were all thoroughly fed up
with Jose. He had ~~sent~~ ~~sent~~ ~~sent~~
the border in bicycles, and ~~then~~

a stout man with a moustache, took
six by train to Waastrecht amongst
ten. Hopfius & Roberts, six
more were to follow, but Jacques
had a friend connected with
a Belgian line and we wanted to
leave José.

A truck took us to an
underdykers shack in the woods
near the German border. Five of us were
here three days. The truck driver,
a member of the Armée Blanche,
gave us Belgian I cards. We next
went to Gubbeworst for three days
and lived with a wood worker (first week
in June). A car took us to Sevenham
where we lived in chicken houses.
We met a Dutch army captain who thought
he could send us out on a line intended
for Frenchmen escaping from Germany.
During the three weeks that we were held
he took our pictures near Koermond.
We cycled to Grootbedlam
and stayed in a chateau here. The
chateau had belonged to a Prév. Dubois,
now deceased, and his elderly daughter
~~was~~ lived there. Lt Leo Williams

2022 referred to before

Edie Taylor & E Rpt# & Hilditch & E Rpt# & ST
Tom Garry were all here. At Harpt, a
navigator, was here with J. W. Ford and
Mansell Williams, both English. A
few days later, Richard Garity & CAT joined
us. We were here two weeks, and
during this time our pictures came
from Severnham. The young
schoolmaster here looked after us. Three underdykers were also present.

At midnight on 4 July, with
skins and an underdyker as
guides, we crossed the border
20 km S Grootbedlar. There was
a full moon, and as we walked through
the woods we were stopped by two
Belgian police, but no one was
hurt and after being an hour we
joined the White Army. The talk
of ten of us to a place in the woods
8 km from Mosaic (sic). We were
about ten days, 150 Russians were
supposed to be hiding nearby.

Richard Garity was our
spokesman and a member of the
White Army told him that five
of us could take the train to Ferrara.

Our old I cards, were collected
and we were given new ones
which used the Severnham photos. We
went to a house nearby and caught
a tram. Two of us were following
a man and the other three the
girls in the White Army.
We ~~went~~ ^{19 Garvey, Firth, Leo and Russell Williams and} arrived in Kiev
and went to a restaurant. The first
time it was closed, so we walked
about here for four hours. We returned
and went upstairs where we met a
slut blond woman named Marie. She
had been tortured by the Germans
who had put an iron mask on her
face and it had taken out the
teeth on one side of her mouth.
She told us we were going to France
to meet a British intelligence officer
in the Ardennes. She took us
by tram through Mamyre
to the border near Givet. She was
doing this on her own initiative,
because the magus of Givet,
which was to give us papers, had
been caught and the line was
therefore broken at the border.
We crossed the border

in broad daylight by just following the road on past a stone marker.

We stopped at the first café and met a man in the Belgian army and Claire, a 5'4" 5" in Brussels. Then we went on to a little town for three days. Marie had no contacts, she just stopped a milkman and asked them for help. As they were talking a maquisard appeared who warned him that he would be shot if he did not stop selling milk to the Germans. Marie left two men with the milkman and the other two of us with a French family.

All these people were afraid of the Germans and felt that it would be better that we be POW than that they be shot for keeping us. When Marie returned three days later, she was still without contacts and we went back to Belgium. This time we followed a railroad track across the border, and although a German was standing here, he said nothing. Marie took me into a maquis who claimed

I have a line to Switzerland. I left
to find if we were here, and went
back to Messire (sic) & collected the
remaining five. The Magusard took
us to Elaine. We slept in the woods
in the open under her care. For a week,
The Swiss line was no good it appears
Elaine contacted Ernest of
Agmont and he set us ~~off~~ ^{up} ~~to~~
in his barn for three or four days.
A White Army man came to us one
day in the woods for a talk. Then
Elaine returned and sent Garrett
& Firth off on a new line, we were
to follow them.

A day later Elaine took us
to meet the White Army man who
had already talked to us in the
woods. He led us further into
the woods and turned us over to
another man. He took us to a
small town to a man named Ernest
to whom Leo Williams stayed. There
we met Nic local chief of the
White Army. He took one of our
doctors, Mansell Williams and I
went on to Flavon where he

joined Fort and Gurdet, I went on
to another house where I joined
St Robert Grace & Elphinstone. He
had already been here ~~two~~
months. I stayed a month until
the Americans troops arrived.
While I was here Angèle Hubot
rue de Perry (Paris?) & Clavier, was
wonderful to us. From here on
my stay is the same as St Grace's.

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT The Adjutant General's Office Washington

AG 288.6 (21 Jul 48) OB-S-B-M

KLS/el-2B-959 Pentagon

6 August 1948

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 288.6 (6 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.

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 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) ROBERT CLEVELAND
Rank F/O A. S. N. T1542
Unit 754th Spd 454th CP

Signed Robert Cleveland
Dated Sept 2 1948
Witness Delroy G. Smith Capt WAC

AG P BR HQ SCS

/22472

RESTRICTED

(1)

Flew over Berlin knocked
out #4 lost formation #3 went out
& would not feather gas leaked from
boots. 38473 formed escort but over
Quicker gas not enough gas turned
back as other 2 engines quit, fuel
out order 6-7000 ft. Pulled landed
near Bagin in a field 25 ft from R.O.
Was in today feet when order came change shoes
put them under arm & got them down about
Cars drove up. So said cars 6-10 just
rolled chute & turn in water & R.O. left
his. But people kept away. ~~Halted~~ ~~at~~
~~flight~~ Within area of blood Roberts warden then
Kamboua. I went with navigators
cross field mid till dark flat
in field in green flying boots,
at sunset & some farmhouse
explained 4 arm mill & 4 chaffcut
that day (7 March) was can't find
had transportation of Barcelona. Went
to another farmhouse ^{one here} & its when head
of underground at Amersfoort came
into questionnaires. Hoofd tail-gunner.
That night my car & his house
in Amersfoort just two days later by
topping. Gebalung Otters in
police force. Here three weeks.

Got us ~~could~~ papers, pictures etc. I can't
 remember for two days with English - looking
 arrested. Then 3 hrs in Lindloven at
~~to~~ Derna. Here met Jose a
 smuggler who promised much but was
 got nothing done - - - all he has for
 radio. Then 3 weeks at Bakel with
 your man in fire dept. Then Jose moved
 us to ~~Amberley~~ for 2 weeks in a cage.
 He had 21 in all here - some where
 at East Caribben / ~~border~~ to Eldo Taylor (pilot)
 at Eldo Taylor / ~~runner~~ of Tom Jarrin
 Then all 21 to Jacques. Jose's ~~Stadium~~
 at Nera, for 2 weeks. We went to Derna
 for 2 weeks with farmers. Here met Sgt Ed Jack
 Lamb on his last mission with ~~two~~ of
 his officers, all of were fed up with
 Jose. He took 4 over border by bike,
 and then Jim, seat man with mountain
 took 6 of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~measurment~~ ^{measurment}, 6 others were
 to follow - but fed up with Jose
 & Jacques had a friend with other
 land of Belgium. Truck took us to
 underdylens. stuck in woods near
 to border - 5 of us here for 2
 days. Truck driver was from Brussels
 and Blanchet had given us Belgian
 papers. Then Gubbangord for 5 days
 from here we could see Germany. We lived with

heard
 will
 could
 know

Wagner's diary

wood-workers, I see ear ^{both} left
 Sevenham; Here stayed in chicken
 houses. met Walter army captain
 He said there had been a fine for
 4 men escape & they could send us
 by it. We were here 3 weeks
 took our pictures, left & went to
 Grootbedlar - a chateau on a lake -
 belonged to a Prof Dubois now dead.
 His only daughter lived there, near
 Roermond # Leo Williams, Hilditch
 & Eddie Taylor + Tom Garry all
 here. Here met Aunt Haupt
 (Mary) 2 Aug J. W. Fort Mansell Williams
 at few days later Richard Garry ^{RAF} ^{RAF}
 Here 2 weeks. Pictures from
 Sevenham came. Schoolmaster
 here worked hard for us, ^{Mary}
 3 underdykers here
 Full midnight crossed border
 skins for guide and underdyker. Crossed
 20 km S of Grootbedlar walked
 through the woods full moon set
 at by Belgian police into O. K. the
 near by low for us. met by
 White Army to peace in
 woods 8 km from ^{100 ft} ^{100 ft} ^{100 ft}
 here 10 days or so

3 Left name & address
with everyone.

in shelter here. Said 150 Russians
died nearby.

Member of White Army led Richard
Garrett (spokesman) told 5 of 10 could
go by train to France. Here took

old papers & gave them ones with
work papers using Savannah photo.

Went to house nearby & caught
train. Two with on Belgian
into 2 Wilmy girls. Trains to

Liege. Here restaurant closed
so walked around Liege & vis. Park
of restaurant upstairs met short
blond man had been tortured
by G with iron mask on face which
took out teeth on one side. He
is Belgian [said entrance would meet but
reason officer in Ardennes] left Liege
with Marie by train above member
of Manner-Berthant Border near

Givet. She was doing her own as
she had been broken at border
because 'magins' when was papers
papers at Givet had been caught
just walked across border on road
(in daylight / only stone marker).
Stopped in a cafe and met man
from Belgian army & Elan

They didn't cross with us however,
Reached little town here 3 days
Marie had no contacts she just
stopped a man who sold milk as
he talked to him. Magus warned
him to stop selling milk or he
shot up Marie left 3 horses parked
two of us with another of a family
all these people scared of and
said better for us to be with them
they be shot. She set no contacts
crossed back into Belgium. This
time crossed R.R. zone & always
look but said nothing. In Belgium
contacted a magus who said
he had line to Switzerland left
5 of us with him. She set
messing for other 5.

~~Marie~~ Magus men took us
to France. We kept in open in
book for week in her care. Magus
man found Swiss line N.G. Marie
found man at Agimont Ernest
care for us kept in his farm
3-4 days. While long man interviewed
no anytime in book

4 of God's will
see in Dept of Ag.

Claine not sent forth
of Gwory; on a new line we
here follow. Day later
Claine took us to woods to
meet man who had interviewed us
& took us further in woods. Another
man took us ~~to~~ to another
Forest nearby to small town. Here met
Victor head of Amble Blanche
He took one of his tags. Leo Williams
slayed here. I went on with
Marcell Williams to a cavern
MW got with Gwory. Went to
place where 1/4 of Robert Grace
lived. He was here 5 mos.

From here on see Grace
Here Angle Hubot same des Perry
Mrs J Carion Wonderful to us!
Here till USI came

Story same as St. Grace's after
arrival at Flavion.

(Field)